

# FY16 Promise Zone Benefits from Partnering Agencies

**Agency:** Department of Labor  
**Branch:** Employment and Training Administration

**Programs with PZ Benefits:**  
Reentry Employment Opportunities

## **Reentry Employment Opportunities (REO)**

**Website:** <https://www.doleta.gov/REO/aboutREO.cfm>

**Benefit Type:** Grant Competition

**Eligible Communities:** Urban, Rural, and Tribal

**Funding Availability:** In 2016, the U.S. Department of Labor will award \$88 million in grants to community-based organizations that will provide job training, education and support services to successfully re-integrate formerly incarcerated adults and youth involved in the juvenile justice system into their communities. Award announcements are anticipated in June 2016.

**Benefits to Promise Zone:** Priority Consideration

**Program Description:** The Reentry Employment Opportunities (REO) program, formerly RExO, provides funding, authorized as Research and Evaluation under Section 166, of the Workforce Opportunity Investment Act (WIOA) of 2014 for youth, young adults and adults who were formerly incarcerated (returning citizens). Our mission is to develop guidance to the public workforce system on how best to serve this population within the guidelines of our regulatory authority. These pilots and demonstration projects are designed to test the effectiveness of successful models and practices found in community and faith-based environments and other government systems, but have not been tested for its adaptability in the public workforce system.

**Eligibility/Target Population:** Participants in youth programs range in age from 14 to 24 and have been involved in the juvenile or adult criminal justice system. Adult reentry programs focus on service to individuals 18 years old and older who have been convicted as an adult and imprisoned.

**2016 Continuing Grants:** REO will be awarding grants under new funding opportunity announcements (FOA) for two existing programs:

**Linking to Employment Activities Pre-Release (LEAP) Demonstration** places One Stop Career Center/American Job Centers services directly in local jails. These specialized services will prepare individuals for employment while they are incarcerated to increase their opportunities for successful reentry into their communities upon release. These pilot projects link participants to the AJC in their communities upon release. The FOA is available here: <https://www.doleta.gov/grants/pdf/FOA-ETA-16-03.pdf>.

**Training to Work** helps strengthen communities where the majority of formerly incarcerated individuals return. The program provides workforce-related reentry opportunities for persons still under DOJ supervision age 18 and older participating in state and/or local work-release programs. The focus of the program is on training opportunities that lead to industry recognized credentials and job opportunities along career pathways. It also encourages life-long learning and helps participants develop strategies for career advancement. Programs partners are expected to provide supportive services such as housing, substance abuse programs and mental health treatment. The FOA is available here: <https://www.doleta.gov/grants/pdf/FOA-ETA-15-07-A.pdf>.