



January 13, 2022

TO: Lieutenant Governor Randy McNally
Speaker Cameron Sexton

CC: Chairman Richard Briggs, Senate State & Local Committee
Chairman Ed Jackson, Senate Corrections Subcommittee
Chairman Kelly Keisling, House State Government Committee
Chairman Bud Hulseley, House Corrections Subcommittee
Eddie Weeks, Legislative Librarian

FROM: Lisa Helton, Interim Commissioner *Lh*

SUBJECT: *Tenn. Code Ann. §40-35-323(f)* Report relative to the grants awarded pursuant to Public Chapter 1051 (2018)

For its 2021 end-of-year report, the Department submits the following budgetary information:

GRANTEE	BUDGET DRAW DOWN	REMAINING BUDGET
Franklin County	\$163,640	\$86,359
Knox County	\$249,999	\$0
Dyer County	\$187,500	\$62,500
South-Central Tennessee Workforce Alliance (SCTWA)*	\$177,688	\$73,312

** For the SCTWA, the proposal partner is Maury County Jail, but the alliance is a consortium of Wayne, Lawrence, Giles, Marshall, Maury, Lewis, Perry and Hickman counties.*

While recidivism is a three-year measurement, since inception of the grants, the following offender returns suggest positive strides toward impacting re-incarceration for those justice-involved individuals who have benefited from programs funded through these grants.

The current data on program outcomes is as follows:

FRANKLIN COUNTY

- 165 of 410 grant enrollees assessed during the course of the grant have returned; approximately a fourth did not receive services after assessment due to COVID restrictions and releases.
- Grant supports assessment of offenders to identify needs in areas of gainful offender employment by focusing its program efforts on moral reconation

January 13, 2022

therapy, job readiness training, trauma needs, developing parenting skills, and substance use treatment.

- The program has assessed 410 offenders since program inception.

KNOX COUNTY

- 90 of 163 grant enrollees have returned.
- Grant used to focus on an Intensive Treatment Program (90-day program) designed to attain and maintain sobriety as well as focus on life skills and reentry planning that includes employment/job readiness, housing, and finances.
- To date Knox County has served 163 individuals with 163 graduating from Reentry Services and returning to communities with plans that promote successful reentry.

SOUTH-CENTRAL TENNESSEE WORKFORCE ALLIANCE (SCTWA)

- Consortium of Wayne, Lawrence, Giles, Marshall, Maury, Lewis, Perry and Hickman counties.
- 67 of 296 grant enrollees have returned (15 new convictions and 52 Violation of Parole).
- SCTWA continues to focus on high school equivalency, programming, developing parenting skills, anger management skills, gainful offender employment, and recovery programming. The program has served 296 individuals during the course of the grant.

DYER COUNTY

- No outcomes to report at present.
- Grant was awarded for infrastructure expansion to expand a reentry work release program to include female offenders. Grant draws are being held in escrow by the County.
- The county has contracted with an architectural firm after a competitive bid process for the design and construction of a 10-bed female reentry addition to the existing jail. The addition will allow Dyer County to expand its successful male reentry work-release program to their female population.
- Research and planning for preparatory site work is in process; however, the County has had challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic that have delayed their progress.

January 13, 2022

It is important to relay supplemental and relevant information that has been reported by the grantees. The reentry grants, and the work in establishing the relevant infrastructure and best practices, have allowed the grantees to accomplish additional positive milestones in addressing recidivism in their respective jurisdictions. Highlights are as follows:

- The grantees have had training in administering the validated risk needs assessment to assess the dynamic and static factors that drive criminal behavior—that was part of the Public Safety Act of 2016. The use of the validated risk needs assessment helps with case planning and developing an individual’s reentry plan. See *Tenn. Code Ann.* §41-1-126.
- The grantees have been able to use their established best practices to seek additional grant funding from other sources in order to continue their work of breaking the cycle of criminality.
- SCTWA continues to enhance their reentry programs with resources to assist all counties that are part of SCTWA by providing a project director, community liaison, and business services manager who work all 5 counties. They were able to receive permission to use their Victims of Crime Act Grant (VOCA) in all 5 jails to provide licensed mental health professionals. Additionally, SCTWA assisted Lawrence County in securing a grant from OCJP to buy tablets and hire a part time instructor to teach SMART recovery and Thinking for a Change and partner with TCAT for Manufacturing. Similarly, SCTWA is partnering with General Motors, TCAT Pulaski, Maury and Giles County jails to offer a Certified Production Technician class. The GM Partnership brings \$250,000 for staffing and funding of the class.
- Franklin County received a Victims of Crime Act Grant (VOCA) for \$670,000 over a 3-year period to provide services to victims of trauma. Franklin County continues to receive the 2nd Chance grant to ensure post-release offenders have reentry services necessary to be successful. Participants are followed for a period of 12 months.

Finally, this report will further be placed on the Department’s website in accordance with the statute. The link: <https://www.tn.gov/correction/redirect--rehabilitation/reentry-services.html>

LH:TSG