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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NJDOC ANNOUNCES AWARDEES OF \$3M NJ LEADS REINTEGRATION GRANT

March 25, 2022 - TRENTON, NJ- The New Jersey Department of Corrections (NJDOC) today announced the seventeen awardees of its innovative New Jersey Locally Empowered, Accountable, and Determined (NJLEAD) grant. This innovative new program is intended to provide \$3M in grants to support the growth of reentry programs across the state, helping community reentry organizations develop and enhance critical wraparound services for individuals exiting the state correctional system in communities where individuals will return.

Funding categories and award winners include:

Category A: Reintegration Service Coordination in Urban Communities

This category supports a Municipal Reintegration Service Coordinator who will serve as the lead convener of interagency interdisciplinary service coordination for the Mayor's Office and the Chief liaison to the New Jersey Department of Corrections, Office of Community Engagement, and Reentry Initiatives.

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| 1. City of Paterson | \$100,000 |
| 2. City of Newark | \$100,000 |

Category B: Reentry Supportive Services in Urban Communities

This category supports nonprofit community-based corporations or associations by providing comprehensive post-release case management and wraparound supportive services for people returning home for incarceration.

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| 1. Urban League of Union County | \$200,000 target area: Union County |
| 2. The Kintock Group-Vantage Point | \$200,000 target area: Cumberland, Salem, Cape May Counties |
| 3. Helping Arms | \$100,000 target area: Mercer County |
| 4. NJ Association on Corrections | \$100,000 target area: Middlesex County |
| 5. Communities in Cooperation-
Leading Ladies Program | \$100,000 target area: Justice-Involved
Women in Northern NJ |
| 6. SCORES | \$100,000 target area: Justice-Involved
Women in Southern NJ |

Category C: Innovative Reentry Career and Entrepreneurial Initiatives in New Jersey

This category will support nonprofit community-based corporations or associations by providing Innovative Reentry Initiatives that will increase and improve the ability of the formerly incarcerated to achieve economic stability.

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| 1. Newark Workforce Investment Board | \$200,000 target area: Newark |
| 2. Mid-Atlantic States Career and
Education Center | \$100,000 target area: Cumberland,
Gloucester, Salem Counties |
| 3. Urban League of Essex County | \$199,691 target area: Essex County |
| 4. Ideal Institute of Technology | \$100,000 target area: Atlantic County |
| 5. The WOW Center | \$100,000 target area: Justice-Involved
Women in Camden County |
| 6. Generation X Community
Associations | \$100,000 target area: Middlesex County |
| 7. Second Chance | \$50,000 target area: Ocean, Monmouth
Counties |
| 8. African American Chamber of Commerce | \$100,000 target area: State-wide |
| 9. Office of Returning Citizens
City of Trenton | \$100,000 target area: Mercer County |

“Reentry services provide critical resources for those on their second-chance journey, long after they leave our system, and we know ensuring people start on the right foot takes a community-wide effort,” said NJDOC Acting Commissioner, Victoria L. Kuhn, Esq. “I commend the efforts of the awardees and Assistant Commissioner Dr. Darcella Sessomes for her innovation in creating this statewide program to expand services to vulnerable populations and in addressing the needs of at-risk individuals and reducing systemic barriers that will enable formerly incarcerated individuals to successfully reintegrate back to the community.”

“Reentry programs provide critical foundational support for those reintegrating into society,” said Assistant Commissioner Divisions of Programs and Reintegration, Dr. Darcella Sessomes. “The grant funding for local community-based agencies will assist in providing a myriad of transitional needs from mental health, physical health, employment, housing, and other basic needs. Congratulations to the awardees who will expand these critical services across the state, ensuring community safety, reducing recidivism, and supporting this vulnerable population.”

“Providing individuals returning to society with jobs and employment training has been one of the highest priorities of my administration,” said Newark Mayor Ras J. Baraka. “It is imperative that we break the cycle of recidivism and the needless tragedy it creates. We are grateful to the New Jersey Department of Corrections for these two important grants. They will enable us to fund the appointment of a Reintegration Coordinator who will help us to develop a strategic plan to empower our reentry programs and enable our Newark Workforce Development board to create an entrepreneurship training program for returning citizens seeking self-employment in transportation, culinary, construction, or other industries. These two awards will create more opportunities for our residents, and keep Newark moving forward.”

“We’re a city of second chances, and we’re here to pick each other up when we make mistakes,” said Trenton Mayor W. Reed Gusciora. “The grant will fund training sessions to hone some very practical skills for our returning citizens. With services like resume help and interview preparation, we’re sending residents onward toward success.”

"We are honored to have been awarded this grant through the New Jersey Department of Corrections’ New Jersey Local, Empowered, Accountable, and Determined Reentry Initiative,” said John E. Harmon, Sr., IOM Founder President and CEO of the African American Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey. “The funding will allow us to instruct and mentor a cohort of formerly incarcerated individuals who aspire to be owners of successful and sustainable businesses and furthers our mission to economically empower and sustain African-American communities and businesses through entrepreneurship and capitalistic initiatives, which ultimately makes New Jersey an economically competitive state."

Community reentry providers are encouraged to visit NJDOC.gov for upcoming NJ LEADS funding opportunities.

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