

**Due:** [Assigned as an end of the semester assignment]

**Submission:** BlackBoard

**Criteria:** 1,000 words or more

**Points:** \_\_\_\_\_

Next step, on December 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, you will pitch your program in a short elevator speech (think a lightning round of [Shark Tank](#)): 20 points

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The New York City Mayor’s Office of Criminal Justice (MOCJ) has released a grant solicitation for programs for people transitioning from jail or prison. Programs selected by the City of New York may receive up to **\$50,000** in assistance to operate the program per year for 5 years.

**Your assignment – win this \$50,000 (total \$250,000) award! You will write a proposal to support your application for New York City’s Mayor’s Office of Criminal Justice Grant Award. Your peers will vote on**

About the **New York City Mayor’s Office of Criminal Justice (MOCJ)**: This [agency](#) advises the Mayor on solutions to the City’s public safety problems by looking at the criminal justice system as a whole – and beyond.

Link: <https://criminaljustice.cityofnewyork.us/>

**What is a grant?** A sum of money given by an organization, especially a government, for a particular purpose.

**Specifically, what is a reentry program?** [Reentry programs and reentry](#) courts are designed to assist returning citizens with a successful transition to their community after they are released, thereby reducing recidivism, improving public safety, and saving money.

**Be creative!**

For this assignment, you are to **write a proposal** of at least 1,000 words (about 4 pages double-spaced) in support of the program that you have designed to assist people transitioning from jail or prison to the community and/or their network (i.e. family, children, etc.).

Think about the type of services that should be made available for people returning to the community.

- What does the research say about their *most pressing needs*? What do they need now? What will they need in 1 year? What are the most significant programming and treatment needs for people returning to the community from prison?

1. **Identify the group you want to assist:** You must set eligibility criteria for your program. *Who can participate?* Explain why you selected this group to the award committee. Here, you should refer to research in the field (peer-reviewed academic publications) for supporting information and empirical evidence (knowledge gained by indirect/direct observation) as to why this specific group requires special attention.

The program should target at least **one of the specific groups** highlighted in your readings and our class discussions as requiring specialized attention -

- a. Juveniles and young adults (provide age of group)
- b. Women (also, pregnant women and those who recently gave birth)
- c. Racial and ethnic minorities (be specific)
- d. People who are unable to afford bail
- e. People who were wrongfully convicted
- f. People who were detained in immigration detention centers
- g. Individuals housed in super-max security
- h. Individuals who spent extended time periods in solitary confinement
- i. Individuals with substance use histories
- j. Individuals with mental health needs

- k. Individuals with physical health needs
- l. LGBTQ population
- m. Geriatric/older individuals
- n. Children of parents who are incarcerated (provide age range)
- o. Family members of people who are incarcerated (spouse, parent, sibling, friend)
- p. Other – *you can propose a group*

**Question to respond to:** *Why did you select this group as your target population? What does the research say about the “needs” and/or “challenges” of this group?*

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**2. What area or concern do you plan to help your specific group with? What type of services, treatment, or resources will your program provide?** The program should focus on at least one of the following areas considered to be significant challenges for those returning to the community from prison or jail -

- |                             |                                  |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| a. Disenfranchisement       | f. Treatment for drug use        |
| b. Housing and homelessness | g. Mental health treatment       |
| c. Employment               | h. Social service benefits       |
| d. Financial literacy       | i. Community supervision         |
| e. Family reunification     | j. Other – must justify the need |

**Question to respond to:** *Why did you select this area/need as your focus?*

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**3. Questions/elements to consider** as you develop your program and consider the implementation schedule:

- a. **Name your program.** The name of the program should reflect the services being provided.
- b. How **long** will individuals be enrolled in the program (some weeks, months, years)? Justify.
- c. What is the **goal** of your initiative/program (what do you hope to achieve)? Justify.
- d. What **type of services** will your program provide (what will you do – ex: mentoring, job readiness, education)? Justify the services offered using empirical evidence (peer-reviewed academic publication). Does the research find these services to be most effective in reducing recidivism?
- e. When will the program start to provide services to your specific group - **while individuals are incarcerated or in the community**? For those individuals who have been **released and currently residing in the community**? Will your program with the family member of the person who is incarcerated? Justify.
- f. Will the program work with those who have been **recently** released or those who have been released and in the community for **one year or more**? Provide a range. Justify.
- g. Will you work with **other state and/or local agencies**? What type of agencies (hint: review online resources to learn more about the purpose of different NYC agencies [nyc.gov](http://nyc.gov))
- h. What type of **credentials or training** will you require of your staff? Remember, training is crucial.
- i. How will you spend the money each year? You may require money just to get the program up and running. Are you providing funding to the people enrolled in your program? How many staff members will be paid with this funding?
- j. Justify **why the City needs your program** and why it will be **successful!**
- k. **References:** Use at **least 2 academic peer reviewed publications** to support the development and/or needs for your program.
  - i. Two (2) articles from peer-reviewed academic publications. In addition, you can include online newspaper articles.
  - ii. Date range: 2010-2019. The articles you select must fall within this date range.
  - iii. Citation format: APA format

Respond to the questions in an essay format (1,000 words or more; intro, body, conclusion/use headers).  
Explain to the committee why your program deserves this funding of \$250,000 –

**How does your program stand apart from the other 30 submissions?**

*Yes, this is a sales pitch!*

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**Helpful Checklist**

<b>Introduction</b>	History, review of the literature – what does it say about your group of focus and proposed services? What have others done in this area?
<b>Problem/Opportunity</b>	Why is the program needed?
<b>Goal/Objectives</b>	Who will be changed by participating in this program? How?
<b>Method/Activities</b>	How will you accomplish the goal or changing or helping these individuals? What existing agencies can you partner with?
<b>Obstacles</b>	What obstacles do you anticipate? How will you address these challenges?
<b>Personnel</b>	Key people who will be involved. What qualifications will they need?