

Synopsis of Pinebrook Family Answers' Second Chance Act Comprehensive Community-Based Adult Reentry Program (BJA-2017-11540/CFDA # 16.812) Application:
Leaving Jail: A Comprehensive, Regional Reentry Program for Women

The Problem Being Addressed: Since 1970, there has been a 14-fold increase in the number of women in this country's jails. One-half of all incarcerated women in the United States are in jails. Many of these women are poor, or low income. They are survivors of trauma and have high rates of mental illness and substance abuse. Eighty percent are mothers; typically, single mothers. The incarceration of these women, even for relatively short periods of time, has a negative impact on their children, their entire family networks and their communities. Having an incarcerated parent is considered an Adverse Childhood Experience; an experience exacerbated by a parent's recidivism. When women are released from jail, if they have not acquired new skills, they are likely to rely on the same coping mechanisms that contributed to their incarceration and ultimately return to jail.

The Program Goal and Design: The primary goal of *Leaving Jail: A Comprehensive, Regional Reentry Program for Women* is to reduce recidivism among women incarcerated in three county jails: Carbon; Lehigh; and Northampton. The *Leaving Jail* program is designed to support a reentry process among adjudicated women that begins during their incarceration and ends when they have been successfully reintegrated back into the community as law-abiding citizens and responsible mothers. A validated risk/needs assessment tool will be used to identify a target population of women serving their sentences at the jails who are at moderate to high risk of recidivating. Services currently available to women will be enhanced or improved by facilitating evidence-based programming including, but not limited to, the gender-responsive, trauma-informed *Seeking Safety* and the job readiness training curriculum *Crossroads JOBTEC*. In addition, Reentry Case Management services will be provided pre-release to assist in each woman's reentry planning, and post-release to support the successful implementation of those plans. The families of the women, especially the caregivers of their children, will receive Case Management services during the women's incarceration to address their needs and the needs of the children, whenever possible facilitating successful family reunification. Working with academics affiliated with the Lehigh Valley Research Consortium, the program will undergo a rigorous, independent evaluation.

The Award: The Bureau of Justice Assistance estimates it will make seven to eight awards of up to \$1,000,000 each for a 36-month performance period beginning on October 1, 2017 with a six-month planning phase.

The Agency: Pinebrook Family Answers is the result of a culmination of two mergers: Pinebrook Family Services and Family Answers merged on October 1, 2014 to form Pinebrook Family Answers, and on July 1, 2015 THE PROGRAM for Women and Families merged with Pinebrook Family Answers to form the agency's Forensic Services Department. Pinebrook Family Answers is licensed by the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare's Offices of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services. It also is nationally accredited by the Council on Accreditation. The agency's Director of Forensic Services and Forensic Grant Writer and Project Coordinator, both formerly part of THE PROGRAM for Women and Families' leadership team, played a pivotal role in the successful implementation of two consecutive BJA Second

Chance Act grants in 2011 and 2012 that supported Lehigh County's *Family Reunification Reentry Initiative*.