



HUD NEWS

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development – Julián Castro, Secretary
Region VI: Tammye H. Treviño, Regional Administrator

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FOR RELEASE

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**HUD AND JUSTICE DEPARTMENT AWARD \$100,000 TO HELP
JUSTICE-INVOLVED YOUTH IN NEW ORLEANS FIND JOBS AND HOUSING**
Juvenile Reentry Assistance Program will reduce barriers to housing, jobs and education

NEW ORLEANS – In an effort to help young people involved in the justice system find jobs and housing, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Department of Justice (DOJ) today announced a \$100,000 grant to the Housing Authority of New Orleans (HANO) and Southeast Louisiana Legal Services to address the challenges justice-involved youth face when trying to find work and a place to call home.

The announcement was made by Lourdes Castro-Ramirez, HUD Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing; U.S. Attorney Kenneth Polite; Judy Reese-Morse, Deputy Mayor for Citywide Initiatives; and HANO Executive Director Greg Fortner at a press event held at the Columbia Park Educare Facility in New Orleans today.

Under the Juvenile Reentry Assistance Program (JRAP), which is funded through DOJ's Second Chance Act funds, HUD and DOJ are teaming up to help young Americans who've paid their debt to society to rehabilitate and reintegrate back into their communities. JRAP funding is awarded to public housing agencies that have a partnership with a nonprofit legal service organization with experience in providing legal services to juveniles.

"Reconnecting young people who've paid their debt to society to decent jobs and housing allows them to turn the page and become active, productive members of their communities," said HUD PDAS Castro-Ramirez. "These grants offer a helping hand to those who deserve a second chance so they have a real opportunity to reach their full potential."

"The future of our nation depends upon the future of our young people – including young people who have become involved with our justice system," said U.S. Attorney Polite. "By helping justice-involved youth find decent jobs and stable housing after they return home, these critical grants provide a foundation for a fresh start and offer a path towards productivity and purpose. In the months ahead, the Department of Justice will continue helping justice-involved youth enrich their lives and improve our country."

(more)

New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu said, "Public safety is our top priority. And since taking office, we have been focused on connecting our young people with jobs and opportunities so that their futures are bright. When our youth enter the criminal justice system and pay their debt to society, it is important that we are there to support them so they don't make the same mistakes again. I want to thank HUD and DOJ for teaming up with HANO and Southeast Louisiana Services in this effort through the Juvenile Reentry Assistance Program. Together, we can make a difference in the lives of our young people and build a stronger New Orleans."

Having a juvenile or a criminal record can severely limit a person's ability to seek higher education, find good employment or secure affordable housing. Today, there are nearly 55,000 individuals under age 21 in juvenile justice facilities, and approximately 185,000 young adults aged 18 to 24 in state and federal prisons. These collateral consequences create unnecessary barriers to economic opportunity and productivity. President Obama and members of his Cabinet, via the Federal Interagency Reentry Council, continue to take impactful steps to ensure those exiting the justice system become productive, law-abiding citizens.

Today's announcement is consistent with HUD's [recently released guidance](#) on the application of *Fair Housing Act* standards to the use of criminal records by providers of housing and real estate-related transactions, and the [recent guidance](#) for public housing authorities and owners of federally assisted housing on excluding the use of arrest records in housing decisions.

To help alleviate collateral consequences associated with a juvenile or criminal record, JRAP assists young people up to age 24 residing in public housing, or who would be residing in public housing but for their record, by:

- Expunging, sealing, and/or correcting juvenile or adult records; as permitted by state law;
- Assisting targeted youth in mitigating/preventing collateral consequences such as reinstating revoked or suspended drivers' licenses;
- Counseling regarding legal rights and obligations in searching for employment;
- Providing guidance for readmission to school; and
- Creating or modifying child support orders and other family law services, and more.

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HUD's mission is to create strong, sustainable, inclusive communities and quality affordable homes for all. More information about HUD and its programs is available on the Internet at www.hud.gov and <http://espanol.hud.gov>.

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