The U.S. Department of Labor has continued to focus on providing opportunities for the formerly incarcerated to participate in employment and training programs that support reduced recidivism, promote successful reentry, and help eliminate barriers to economic opportunity. To date, the Department has awarded 3 rounds of Training to Work (T2W) grants.

Training to Work grantees are working in communities across the country developing and implementing career pathways programs in demand sectors and occupations for men and women, including veterans, and people with disabilities, who are at least 18 years old and who are enrolled in work release programs. Additionally, current grantees are providing a strategy to prioritize services to veterans that are in work release programs, and new applicants will also be expected to develop this strategy. Career pathways are frameworks that help to define and map out a sequence of education, training and workforce skills training resulting in skilled workers that meet employers' needs. Career pathways link and coordinate education and training services in ways that enable workers to attain necessary credentials and, ultimately, employment. Training to Work aligns with the Department's goal of making our Federal employment and training programs more job-driven.

Grantee must include each of the following components: case management; mentoring services; education activities; training that leads to industry-recognized credentials; workforce activities; and, follow-up services. Recipients of these grants must be located in an area with high poverty and high crime rates, including Promise Zones that have a large proportion of returning citizens in these communities and typically experience higher rates of recidivism.