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Second Chance Act Offender Reentry Demonstration Projects

Perceived Successes and Sustainability Strategies



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This report is one in a series from the Cross-Site Evaluation of the FY 2011 Bureau of Justice Assistance Second Chance Act (SCA) Adult Offender Reentry Demonstration Projects (AORDPs). This report describes perceived systems-level outcomes attributed to the SCA funding and strategies for sustaining program operations. Findings are based on information collected in 2015 through in-person, semi-structured interviews with AORDP staff and organizational partners, and telephone interviews conducted in 2016.

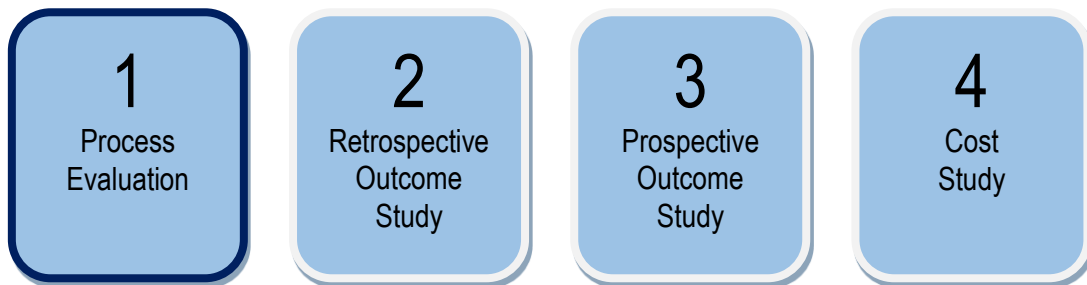
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The primary goals of the evaluation are to

- describe the implementation and sustainability of each AORDP project through a **process evaluation**,
- determine the effectiveness of the programs at reducing recidivism through a **retrospective outcome study** and at reducing criminal behavior and substance use and improving other outcomes through a **prospective outcome study** that includes participants' self-reported information, and
- determine the per capita program costs of each AORDP project through a **cost study**.



This report describes systems-level outcomes attributed to SCA funding and strategies for sustaining program operations, as documented in the process evaluation component.

The Legacy of the AORDP Programs

The AORDP grants appear to have produced a lasting impact on the agencies' reentry work. This section summarizes the programmatic and systems-level successes that stakeholders attributed specifically to the AORDP grants—successes that can be considered as the “legacy” of the AORDP programs in the systems in which they were implemented.

Increased Support for Reentry Work and Reentry Populations

In all seven of the AORDP sites, stakeholders felt that a key success of their program was increased recognition of their reentry work and broader support for reentry efforts generally. In some sites, increased attention to the population served by the grant was also considered an important outcome. Grantees cited not only increased word of mouth about their programs (from clients as well as criminal justice stakeholders), but also more formal recognition and support for their work in their communities. Grantees cited the following outcomes:

