Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction

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John R. Kasich, Governor

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Gary C. Mohr, Director

November 9, 2012

The Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (ODRC) are currently seeking a consultant to provide Rural Reentry Specialist services. The consultant will be responsible for the development of a standardized collaborative approach to addressing reentry issues and to synthesize all existing local supportive services into an offender-focused delivery model. This consultant will assist with coordinating case management services and administrative consultant services for all counties included in the Ohio Rural Recidivism Reduction Project.

This project will be funded through a reentry grant in effect through September 30, 2013, with anticipation of extending the project for an additional 3 to 6 months. The Rural Reentry Specialist consultant services are funded through this grant for an amount not to exceed $40,000. The grant application is attached for review.

The candidate selected to provide the services shall have a minimum education and/or experience of a Bachelor's degree from four-year College or University in human services, criminal justice or related field and one year experience in human service or offender/criminal justice field; or two-year associates degree with two years experience in a human service or offender/criminal justice field; or five years of experience in human service or offender/criminal justice field.

If interested in providing these services, please submit a detailed resume by November 19, 2012. Resumes will be screened for minimum qualifications and selected candidates will be contacted for interviews during the week of November 26, 2012. A tentative schedule to award a contract for this position is December 1, 2012.

Please submit your resumes by e-mail to Yolanda.Cooks@odrc.state.oh.us or fax them to Ms. Cooks at 614-995-5013.

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I. Statement of the Problem

The problem addressed in this proposal is the lack of coordinated, targeted programmatic interventions that reduce rates of commitments and recidivism in selected rural, predominantly Appalachian Ohio counties. Research conducted on offender reentry from a rural perspective has found that offenders who are returning to rural communities face challenges and barriers distinct from their counterparts who are transitioning back into urban or suburban areas.[1] Specifically, offenders transitioning back into rural communities encounter daunting issues such as a lack of access to services, geographical remoteness, and other barriers that impede successful reintegration. Though research on rural reentry is limited, rural communities with sparse resources must develop reentry practices that are practical and sustainable and tailored to the specific needs and challenges of the offenders and their communities.

To effectively address the issues identified above, the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (ODRC) proposes to use SCA grant funds to expand its reentry capacity to provide programming and services to predominantly high-risk offenders returning from prison in a ten county area of Ohio identified in Table 1 below. The counties were targeted because of their rural and/or Appalachian characteristics. This rural, Appalachian region is characterized by distressed economic conditions that place many of its residents 'at-risk' based on poverty, unemployment and net market household income.

Recidivism in Ohio is defined as inclusive of individuals who return to prison within 3 years of their last release from prison. Recidivism statistics gathered by ODRC show that, on the whole, the rural counties to be targeted in this grant have a higher percentage of offenders returning to prison after 3 years than the statewide average. The proposed project will serve

[1] A study conducted by the University of Nebraska found offenders returning to rural communities were more likely to face poverty, high unemployment, and were less likely to have access to services and community resources. The studied concluded that promising practices implemented in urban areas may not be applicable or practical in rural communities because they lack resources necessary to develop and implement successful reentry models. Wodahl, E J (2006). The Challenges of Prisoner Reentry from a Rural Perspective. *Western Criminology Review 7(2)*, pp 32–47.

nearly 400 moderate to high-risk individuals transitioning back into the communities through judicial release, transitional control, post-release control, or parole over the grant period.[2] (See **Appendix A - Glossary of Terms**). Table 1 illustrates the respective recidivism rates and number of offenders by type of release for the ten counties in Ohio to be targeted through this proposed project.

Table 1: Offender Recidivism Rates and Type of Release† by Targeted County

COUNTY	Recidivism Rate*		Judicial Release (County Probation)		TC/Post Release Control (Adult Parole Authority)	
	Count	*%*	*Count*	*%*	*Count*	*%*
Athens	*60*	40.2	*38*	44.2	*18*	20.5
Fayette	*52*	39.7	*1*	1.8	*30*	49.2
Highland	*62*	44.9	*3*	4.3	*26*	33.8
Hocking	*29*	35.8	*17*	37.0	*15*	30.6
Jackson	*37*	32.5	*7*	18.9	*12*	30.0
Pickaway	*62*	38.9	*4*	5.3	*8*	44.6
Pike	*9*	18.8	*3*	14.3	*2*	52.8
Ross	*82*	37.7	*11*	10.3	*52*	46.0
Scioto	*152*	37.4	*40*	20.8	*64*	31.1
Vinton	*15*	36.6	*8*	57.1	*2*	13.3
TOTAL / AVG	*560*	37.1	*132*	19.3	*267*	36.4
STATEWIDE	*28059*	31.2	*1273*	9.2	*5087*	36.6

*2008 Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (ODRC) Exits 3-year Recidivism Rates
†The numbers for type of release include only higher than low risk offenders released back into the community

Ohio's Recidivism Reduction Strategy-To-Date: Ohio has implemented many departmental changes to policies and procedures that have contributed to reduced recidivism during the past decade. The three year, back to Ohio prison, return rate (*Ohio's primary recidivism measure*) was 39.5% in 2003, but has declined to 31.2 % in 2008, and the trend was steadily downward between 2003 and 2008. The specific strategies implemented are detailed more specifically in **Appendix B – Planning and Capacity Building Response Matrix**.

[2] The targeted area has a higher than average utilization of Judicial Release (shock probation). For example, the Common Pleas courts in Athens, Hocking, Scioto and Vinton counties make particularly high use of Judicial Release and thus will be targeted. Other offenders targeted through this project will step down from prison either on transitional control (about 50 offenders), post release control (PRC), or parole (about 217 offenders. These offenders are scattered across the region with the highest concentration being in Fayette, Highland, Ross and Scioto counties. These 4 counties account for about 65% of the transitional control/PRC/parole population for the targeted area.

Information included herein also details how the rate is calculated on a regular basis and reported to policymakers periodically so that changes can be routinely and effectively tracked over time.

Evidence of an Established Historical Baseline Recidivism Rate: Though urban recidivism rates have been reduced during the past several years, smaller and rural counties and communities have shown increased rates. The focus on additional program efforts and funding in the larger urban areas and cities resulted in commitments from Ohio's largest urban counties dropping from 60% in 2001 to 53% in 2006 and to 49% in 2011. The proportion of new inmates from the other 82 counties in Ohio grew during the same ten year period. Additionally, the major urban counties such as Hamilton (Cincinnati), Cuyahoga (Cleveland) and Franklin (Columbus) all have declining recidivism rates of 29.9%, 34.7%, and 30.3% respectively, while most of the targeted rural Appalachian counties have much higher rates (*See Table 1*).

The model and strategies for successful reentry which contribute to the reduction of recidivism in the more highly populated urban communities are not easily adaptable to the rural environment. Individuals released from prison to the rural communities have the same varied needs as most other offenders, and encounter a multitude of obstacles, including a paucity of individual and pro-social skills and competencies necessary for successful reintegration, difficulty finding or maintaining housing or employment, lack of access to services, and poor to non-existent community linkages, yet they experience substantially greater difficulty in achieving successful reentry as evidenced by higher than average recidivism.

II. Program Design and Implementation

Phase I: Statewide Planning and Capacity Building

The current solicitation requires planning and capacity at the state level. Ohio has already achieved some of these prerequisites. This proposal intends to build on past achievements to further reduce recidivism. Ohio's definition of recidivism is presented in the Statement of the

Problem section (*see page 1*). **The goal of this project is to reduce the recidivism rate by 20%, over the course of two years, in the counties identified in Table 1.** To accomplish this, the proposed project will adapt the model of reentry developed for Ohio's urban counties to the state's rural, Appalachian counties. If proven by the proposed project to be effective, the model will be implemented throughout all of Ohio's rural counties and regions.

Ohio's Statewide Strategic Effort: For over a decade, Ohio has been committed to assisting offenders during reentry as they strive to become law-abiding and productive citizens. There has been tremendous **interest and staunch support among leaders and other key stakeholders in Ohio**. In December 2008, the Ohio General Assembly passed historic reentry legislation, House Bill 130 (HB130). A key component of the bill called for the formation of the Ohio Ex-Offender Reentry Coalition (OERC). (See **Appendix C – HB 130 and the Statutory Authority for the Ohio Ex-Offender Reentry Coalition and Membership.**)

The OERC is comprised of state cabinet level directors, representatives from community-based organizations, service providers, local governments, offenders, victims, and individuals[3]. The Director of the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction serves as the Chairperson of the OERC. From its inaugural meeting in January 2009, the OERC has served as a guiding hub to aid expansion and reentry improvement efforts for state/local agencies and communities Its goals are to reintegrate offenders back into society, reduce recidivism, and maintain public safety. The Coalition is committed to reducing recidivism by 50% over a 5-year period. Working in a collective fashion, the Coalition's member agencies are well-positioned to address the impact of incarceration on Ohio citizens and families.[4]

[3] A complete membership list of the OERC with contact information for each agency, office or board is provided in Appendix E.

[4] In 2011 a commitment was made to host the OERC's quarterly meetings in community locations across the state to include as many individuals as possible from the surrounding counties and areas nearby. Since then, meetings have been held in Cleveland, Springfield, Toledo, and Dayton with Akron scheduled for June 2012.

The 5-Year Strategic Plan of the Ohio Ex-Offender Reentry Coalition: Shortly after its statutory creation, a comprehensive 5-Year Strategic Plan was developed and endorsed by the Ohio Ex-Offender Reentry Coalition. Since its initial adoption, the 5-year Strategic Plan has been revised reflecting both change and continuity. Several new strategic goals have been included, while a number of original goals have been rescinded. Ohio's plan remains comprehensive in focus demonstrating a continuing commitment to recidivism reduction and to productive offender reintegration into communities across the state (See **Appendix D - Ohio Ex-Offender Reentry Coalition - Comprehensive, Five Year Strategic Plan)**.

Ohio's Comprehensive, 5-Year Strategic Plan and the multi-agency capacity of the OERC offers an established structure to recommend changes in reentry policies and practices, develop a work plan to implement those changes, and build statewide support for them.[5]

Process of Reviewing Ohio's Strategic Plan: By April 1st of each year, the Director of ODRC, who by statute serves as chair of the OERC, must submit a written report to the Governor and legislators describing the Coalition's accomplishments and progress in advancing reentry projects. This comprehensive report also contains performance outcomes describing the effects of the State's reentry endeavors, as well as work at the local level that contributes to the overall public safety and vitality of Ohio's neighborhoods (See **Appendix E - Ohio Ex-Offender Reentry Coalition: Annual Report 2011**).

Local Reentry Coalitions: In a significant development, the Ohio Association of Local Reentry Coalitions (OALRC) was formed in 2011. The general purpose of the OALRC is to provide connectivity and mutual support among established and newly forming local reentry coalitions throughout the state. Recognizing the need to be inclusive yet sensitive to significant

[5] For example, as part of its statutory mission, OERC has provided leverage for the design and adoption of *The Civil Impacts of Criminal Convictions* (CIVICC) *Database* to allow legislators, legal practitioners, and lay persons to access the collateral sanctions and consequences that present barriers to offender reentry. This database which may be accessed at http://opd.ohio.gov/CIVICC offers an invaluable tool relative to ex-offenders seeking opportunities for employment.

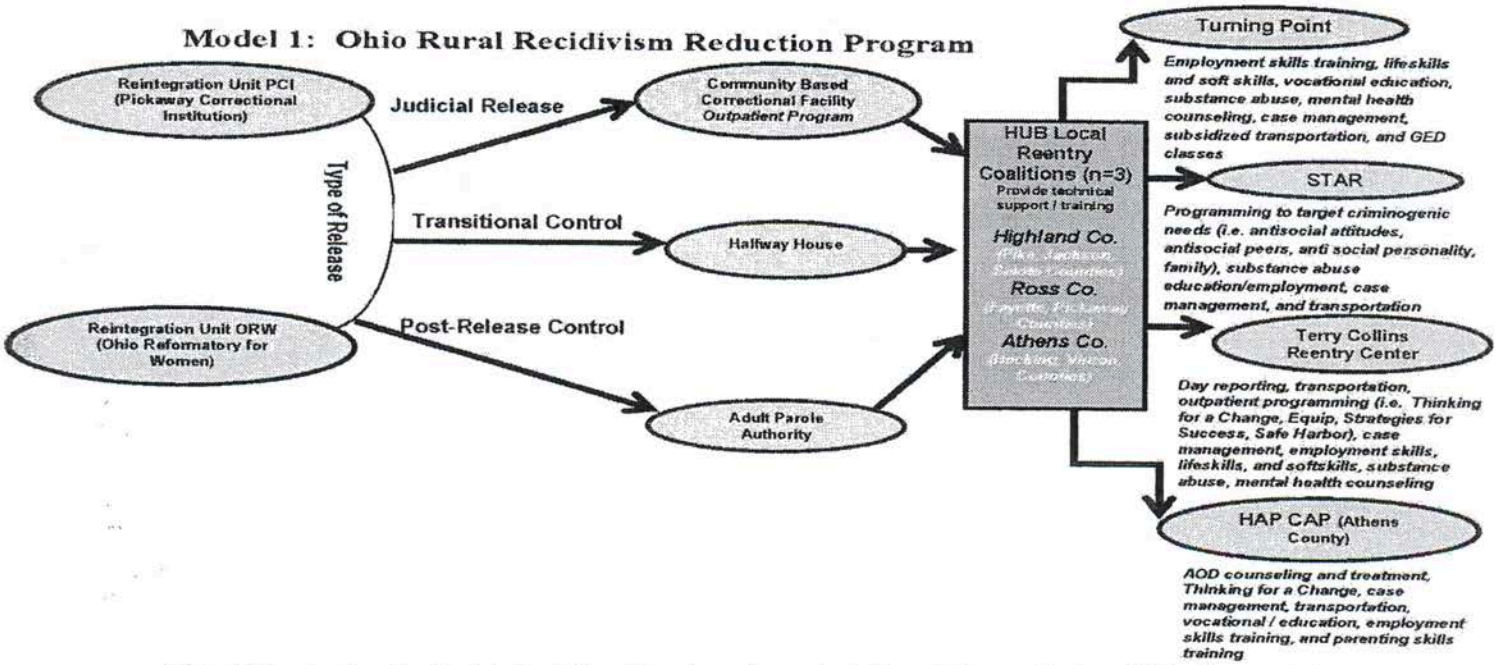
geographic variation and resource availability, the OALRC has since agreed to establish two categories of functioning for local reentry coalitions and an additional category for single contact sites.[6] The OALRC is committed to the creation of local reentry coalitions reflective of the variation discussed herein in all of Ohio's eighty-eight counties. Recently electing new officers to guide the Association, its inaugural report and recommendations for its substantive work and organizational structure have been endorsed as a full partnership by the Ohio Ex-Offender Reentry Coalition (See **Appendix F – Ohio Association of Local Reentry Coalitions – Final Report**).

Ohio's Response to Six Mandatory Planning and Capacity Building Phase Criteria: The respective responses to the six mandatory criteria related to planning and capacity building are included in **Appendix G – SCA Ten Mandatory Requirements of a Comprehensive Reentry Program Response Matrix**. Ohio's previous efforts in recidivism reduction have yielded substantive planning and capacity building changes in the area of risk/need assessment, the systematic incorporation of evidence-based practices in policies and programs adopted by ODRC institutions and parole regions, and through support for the development of the infrastructure needed for effective supervision strategies. The purpose of this proposed project is to augment the statewide efforts by providing technical assistance and leveraging resources to enhance the effectiveness of already established local reentry coalitions and to facilitate the growth of new coalitions and their transitional service capacity in the targeted area. The model for accomplishing this is described below.

[6] The first category, **Local Reentry Coalitions**, includes groups who have completed a local needs assessment to determine the profile and issues associated with the offender population in their region or county, have submitted a 5-year strategic plan, have diverse representation of members, and a commitment to reduce recidivism in the county by at least 50% over the 5 year period. The second category, **Reentry Alliances**, refers to groups functioning collaboratively with multiple stakeholders, but have not submitted a 5-year strategic plan and may not have a defined hierarchy in leadership. A third recognized category, **Community Reentry Partner**, refers to those groups who offer a primary contact point with the ability to connect to other local agencies and individuals providing reentry-related services in that area or region.

Phase II: Implementation

The Ohio Rural Recidivism Reduction Model will function as a collaborative effort among ODRC, local courts, community corrections entities, local reentry coalitions and local service providers, and the implementation stage for the proposed project can begin immediately upon notification of the award.



The **400 moderate to high-risk offenders targeted for this project** will be housed in a Reintegration Unit at either the Ohio Reformatory for Women (ORW) or Pickaway Correctional Institution for at least six months prior to release[7]. They will be assessed using a newly-validated and appropriate risk assessment tool under the Ohio Risk Assessment System (ORAS). Offenders who are released back into any of the targeted counties either through judicial release, transitional control, or post-release control/parole will be recruited for inclusion in the program. Depending on their release type, offenders will go to a community-based correctional facility, a

[7] Unit managed prisons are essential for effective service delivery because unit management places key resources in direct contact with the offender. This allows staff to be more responsive to the needs of staff and offenders. When all essential services are effectively delivered the responsibility of personal growth and rehabilitating is transferred to the offender. A three-tier realignment of the ODRC prison system is currently underway. The goal is to treat offenders differently and to relocate those not willing to accept responsibility for their rehabilitation to Control Prisons. General population prisons will house offenders offering programming and other supportive services. However, a major emphasis will be placed on the realignment towards prisons that will house Reintegration Units for offenders that will deliver evidence-based training and programming at least eight hours a day that will effectively prepare them for release to the community. (See **Appendix H – Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction – Three Tier Prisons**).

halfway house or will be supervised by the Adult Parole Authority. Regardless of the county to which they return, the offenders will be connected to one of three Local Reentry Coalition hubs, and thereafter referred to one of four key programs located within the targeted area. The programs include Turning Point, the STAR Community-Based Correctional Facility, the Terry Collins Reentry Center, or HAPCAP – the Hocking-Athens-Perry Community Action Programs. Each of the latter offers evidence-based programming that will be tailored to address the criminogenic needs of offenders stepping-down from prison to supervision in a ten county region in Southern Ohio as noted in Table 1.

Use of Actuarial-based Assessment Instruments for Reentry Planning: The Ohio Risk Assessment System (ORAS) will be used to determine offenders' risk and criminogenic needs and assign supervision levels and services so that appropriate interventions can be delivered throughout the proposed project.[8] Several assessment tools were originally created using items that were found to be directly related to recidivism. (See **Appendix I – University of Cincinnati - The Ohio Risk Assessment System: Final Report** and **Appendix J – Mapping of Ohio Risk Assessment System**). Based on feedback from ORAS users, additional tools have since been created that include a Prison Screening Tool (PST), which is a four question tool completed on all offenders admitted to ODRC at reception centers assessing offenders as low or moderate/high risk. A Supplemental Reentry Tool (SRT) is completed on offenders who have served between six months and four years in prison. This is used as a reentry tool to determine offender needs prior to release.

The ORAS provides a comprehensive roadmap of the needed intensive pre-and-post release services while strengthening offenders' pro-social and community networks. Offenders have the

[8] This actuarial risk/needs assessment instrument was developed with the University of Cincinnati (UC) Center for Criminal Justice Research. It incorporates both static and dynamic criminogenic risk factors of the individual that include criminal history, residential/employment stability, pro-social associations, family relations, substance abuse, mental health, aggression, and impulsivity.

opportunity to participate in appropriate, reentry-approved programming in the reintegration units as identified by the ORAS and in acquiring skills to begin reestablishing their lives in the community prior to release. Inclusive in the instrument is the ability to identify and populate recommended service needs at different junctures of the offender's transition from prison to the community. ORAS has been adopted statewide and is presently used by all ODRC institutions and parole field offices, community-based correctional facilities, half-way houses and probation departments. With the recent passage of sentencing reform under HB 86 in Ohio, ORAS is now codified as a required assessment tool for these facilities and agencies throughout the state (See **Appendix K – HB 86 – Summary of Sentencing Reform in Ohio**).

Offender Transition services: ODRC case management staff within the institutions will begin working with one of 3 identified hub **Local Reentry Coalitions**[9] to identify appropriate evidence-based, out-patient programming for offenders in the targeted counties. Counties adjacent or in close proximity to the identified hub coalitions will be connected so that resources can be leveraged and utilized efficiently. Technical assistance will be provided by ODRC to the local reentry coalitions serving as a hub to assist in assessing the available services in the respective counties. In addition, ODRC will provide training to the staff of the local hub coalitions on the Ohio Risk Assessment System.

The training is necessary to improve the local coalitions' capacity to determine appropriate program/ service placement, inform the release decision, set supervision conditions and reporting requirements, and inform the response to non-compliance or violation behavior. Better identification of offender risk and needs will increase the effectiveness of supervision. In addition, technical assistance will be provided to improve program quality assessment and

[9] Based upon overall capacity to serve an oversight function for this project, the three hub Category I Local Reentry Coalitions to be included are Athens County Reentry Coalition, Highland County Reentry Coalition, and Ross County Reentry Coalition.

facilitate evidence-based practices so that outcomes related to recidivism reduction can be improved.

Specific offender service programming along with vocational programs and connections to other local services will be offered at various sites located throughout the targeted area. Case management services will be available at these sites to facilitate prioritization of participation in multiple programs and access to services. The development of the service delivery infrastructure for the rural communities will increase access to necessary services responsive to the needs of the offender.

The key sites delivering services to program participants were selected based upon their current capacity to serve the higher-risk offenders returning to the community. The underlying philosophy of the Ohio Rural Recidivism Reduction Model is that long-term sustainable programming is dependent on augmenting and aligning existing resources/local infrastructures so that effective strategies can enhance and improve what the community already has to offer. The key programs with documented success that will be relied upon for this phase of the project include the STAR Community Based Correctional Facility (CBCF), Turning Point, the Terry Collins Reentry Center (with services provided through Alvis House and the Ross County Sheriff Department), and the Hocking-Athens-Perry Community Action Programs in Athens County (see **Appendix L – Key Program Sites**).

Though the Adult Parole Authority in the targeted region offers some programming, its parole staff are mainly focused on the supervision of offenders in the community drawing on strategies grounded in evidence-based practice. However, transportation remains a barrier to offenders accessing the modest amount of programming currently being offered because of difficulty traveling to where the programming is being offered.

Agencies selected to provide direct programming and services to those individuals returning to the targeted counties will target offenders' criminogenic needs assessed by ORAS.[10] Moderate and high-risk offenders will receive programming at varying levels of intensity and number of hours commensurate with their assessed level of risk. The agencies will also provide case management services for offenders participating in the program. These case management services will be coordinated closely with each offender's supervising officer in the community. Additionally, a vocational education program from the region, Turning Point, will collaborate with both STAR and the Reentry Center, offering offenders the opportunity to learn both marketable hard skills and the soft skills involved with obtaining and maintaining employment. Transportation has been noted as a primary deterrent to successful outpatient programming. STAR and the Reentry Center will provide facilitation of transportation to attend programming by either providing the actual transport to and from programming or through the incentive of (and provision for) gas cards.

Finally, for moderate and high risk offenders requiring the additional focus of residential programming, the STAR Community-Based Correctional Facility and the Alvis Halfway House will serve offenders judicially released from prison. In addition, the Alvis Halfway House is positioned to serve those released from prison on transitional control, parole or post-release control (see **Appendix M – Range of Comprehensive Services to be Delivered**).

Priority Considerations: Ohio DRC is requesting PRIORITY consideration given this project's incorporation of the four key areas identified for response in the solicitation. This project draws on an established and documented baseline recidivism rate, the targeting of high-risk offenders as determined by the ORAS, the inclusion and ambitious commitment to reduce

[10] Evidence-based programs such as Thinking for a Change, Equip, Strategies for Success, Crossroads, Safe Harbor, the University of Cincinnati's Substance Abuse and Sex Offender Programs, and Job Readiness will all be offered on an outpatient basis to address issues such as attitudes, associates, personality traits (such as impulsivity), substance abuse and employment.

recidivism reflected in Ohio's comprehensive, statewide five-year strategic plan, and the specific recidivism reduction goals established herein, and the provision of an independent project evaluation by the Voinovich School of Leadership at Ohio University.

III. Capabilities and Competencies

The Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction will serve as the grantee for this solicitation and will also serve as the fiscal agency responsible for the grant administration. Additional information regarding ODRC staff responsibilities and capabilities are noted below.ODRC, the lead agency in this project, operates 27 correctional facilities for adult offenders and supervises nearly 28,000 paroled offenders. ODRC currently incarcerates 49,800 offenders. Annually, ODRC releases approximately 24,000 offenders to the community. Overall, DRC administers approximately $12-15M in grant funds each year from a myriad of resources.

Management Structure and Staffing Plan

Organizationally, DRC will commit one reentry administrator to manage the project design, implementation and grant program. DRC will also provide a fiscal manager, one APA regional administrator, one administrative assistant, one chemical dependency counselor, one sex offender specialist, one reentry coordinator, the equivalent of eight parole officers and one justice reinvestment officer. DRC will also provide one research evaluator to assist the independent evaluator with data collection. DRC will sub-contract the majority of the federal grant award to community partners under this project. DRC will hire, via contract, one rural reentry specialist.

Organizational Capacity

Continuous quality improvement is more than collecting data on agreed upon measures. It is also necessary to assess organizational relationships, policies and procedures. The Ohio Ex-

Offender Reentry Coalition's five-year strategic plan will be the standard for assessing organizational and policy performance. The Quality Improvement Research Committee formed through the Coalition will oversee this grant project and, once completed, issue a report showcasing a reentry model for rural and Appalachian Ohio. It will meet on a quarterly basis throughout the grant to monitor and track the goals, activities and outcomes explained in the **Logic Model** (see **Appendix N**), and the **Project Timeline** (attached to this application).

IV. Impact/Outcomes, Evaluation and Sustainment and Plan for Collecting the Data Required for this Solicitation's Performance Measures

Ohio University's Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Affairs (GVS) will serve as the external evaluator on the SCA Ohio Rural Recidivism Reduction model. Drs. Lesli Johnson (GVS) and Solveig Spjeldnes (College of Health Sciences and Professions - Social Work Program) will serve as the lead evaluators (see **Letter of Support** and **Curriculum Vita** attached with application). The ODRC Bureau of Research and Evaluation will provide internal support and assistance with data-collection and retrieval drawing on the DRC's Departmental Offender Tracking System (DOTS), and other resources.

The evaluation will focus on three areas; the development and implementation of rural reentry initiatives, the intermediate outcomes for individuals reentering the community and the ultimate goal of reduced recidivism. The evaluation will inform continuous improvement efforts of participating organizations, document the effectiveness of the reentry efforts, monitoring, service provision and community support, and determine the impact on recidivism.

In the planning phase, the evaluation will focus on the development and implementation of a coordinated reentry system across all stakeholders. To assess variations among the participating counties reentry efforts, the evaluators, in concert with DRC staff and the local reentry coalitions will create a rubric to rate each of the ten participating local reentry coalitions against model

criteria informed by evidence-based practices. This rubric will be used to rate the local reentry coalitions at the beginning of the project, at the end of the planning and the implementation phases. Information collected in the planning phase will include: documentation of the key components of the reentry strategic plan and how the plans are modified over time, how data will be collected, stored and shared, the composition of the local coalitions, and the cooperation between partner organizations. Additionally, baseline data describing the target population, including demographics, risk assessments using the ORAS tools and offense types and status will be collected.

The Implementation phase will focus on individual and county level outcomes. On an individual level, the ORAS will be used at multiple points and each individual's participation in services will be tracked. The evaluators will work with the local reentry coalitions to develop protocols and procedures for collecting, sharing and tracking quantitative information. Qualitative information will be gathered from participants and stakeholders to provide insight into how the reentry experience is perceived.

The ultimate outcome of this demonstration project is a reduction in recidivism. Two comparisons will be used to evaluate this outcome. At a county level, counties with similar demographics will serve as comparison counties to check differences between recidivism rates. At the individual level, each participant will be matched with another reentry individual in a non-participating Appalachian county on the variables of their offense and their risk assessment profile upon release. Other matching variables will be considered depending on availability and appropriateness of the comparison sample size. The evaluators will request de-identified data on the risk assessment profile and recidivism data on the comparison sample.

The primary purpose of this evaluation is to generate internal program improvements and to meet the core GPRA performance measurement requirements of the funder for Phases I and 2. The progress on the project goals will be tracked through the usage of the logic model attached to this application. The applicant can submit quarterly performance metrics through BJA's on-line performance measurement tool. The data will be collected in DOTS, in addition to the data furnished through the evaluation process.

The results may have application for a broader audience and therefore meet the definition of research. The evaluators will seek approval from the Institutional Review Board at Ohio University and the Human Subjects Research Review Committee under ODRC as well. All participants will be involved in the evaluation and will be provided the opportunity to consent to be involved in the research component. Only information and data that meets IRB requirements will be disseminated as research.

In terms of sustainability, if successful, this project will be replicated elsewhere with the support of the Ohio Ex-Offender Reentry Coalition, and the Ohio Association of Local Reentry Coalitions. Both OERC and the Association will provide leverage and support, alongside and in partnership with ODRC, to ensure the model designed and implemented under this grant will be expanded to other rural and Appalachian areas and counties across the state.

V. Budget and Budget Narrative – (See Appendix O)

The costs of the proposed program are reasonable and justified in terms of number of high risk offenders to be served, types and quantities of services to be provided, and the anticipated results and benefits. As presented on Standard Form 424A, the program is proposed at the funding level of $1,332,920. We are requesting a $666,460 grant and will provide matching cash and in-kind, non-cash funds of $413,488, and $252,972, respectively. ODRC's request for $666,460 represents only 50% of all resources for the program as specified in the solicitation.