Sample Grant Application -

RE: Request for County Financial Support for Pardon Project of Beaver County

**Project Summary**

To support the new Pardon Project of Beaver County, by providing funding for a Project Coordinator, whose primary job will be connecting eligible low-income clients who deserve a pardon with people and organizations who have been trained in the pardon process and forms (“Pardon Coaches” and “Pardon Hubs”).

**Context/Background Information**

People who have committed a crime and repaid their debt to society (by having fully served their sentences) remain forever branded a criminal, no matter how long ago it was, no matter how much they have changed since then, no matter the good they have done or could do for themselves, their families and their communities. That makes no sense to anyone.

As the chief executive of JPMorgan Chase wrote in a recent op-ed, “these Americans, who were incarcerated or have a conviction on their record, are essentially unable to secure good jobs in this country. Nearly half of formerly incarcerated people are unemployed one year after leaving prison. That is a moral outrage. This group is ready to work and deserves a second chance.”

[Opinion | If You Paid Your Debt to Society, You Should Be Allowed to Work - The New York Times (nytimes.com)](https://www.nytimes.com/2021/08/04/opinion/clean-slate-incarceration-work.html?campaign_id=39&emc=edit_ty_20210804&instance_id=37047&nl=opinion-today&regi_id=4166779&segment_id=65296&te=1&user_id=17702f019e5766ff45c9547b600151ce) Beyond that, the Economy League recently proved that giving them second chances is really a “a no-cost workforce development and neighborhood investment tool” because pardons bring millions of dollars into communities across the state at no cost to anyone:

<http://economyleague.org/pardonimpact>

The only way to get a criminal conviction erased in Pennsylvania is by a pardon from the Governor; and the only way to get that is by first receiving the recommendation of the PA Board of Pardons (BOP). Since early 2019, under the leadership of Lt. Gov. Fetterman and Attorney General Shapiro, the BOP has totally changed the process for applying for a pardon. The process is free, the application form relatively straightforward, and the processing time far shorter, and lawyers are NOT necessary. The Board of Pardons is recommending over 83% of all pardon applications they hear, and the Governor is signing over 97% of them. That is a huge opportunity for our neighbors, and our County.

The Pardon Project of Beaver County is at the forefront of a statewide effort in Pennsylvania that is bringing neighbors together to help neighbors obtain the second chance that only a pardon can provide. Our Steering Committee (list attached) includes [leading representatives of] our Court, District Attorney, Public Defender, and Bar Association, community activists and agencies serving the poor, elected officials and business leaders. We have identified the people we are eager to help (our eligibility criteria are attached). We have held at least one training program for volunteers (called “Pardon Coaches”) and have already started to connect eligible clients with Coaches. We are conducting outreach efforts to people and neighborhoods that are feeling the burden of criminal history records, and to people and service organizations whom we hope will be trained as Coaches. We are creating a website that includes information about criminal records and pardons, including peer-to-peer videos on the process. And we have created flyers (examples attached) that explain who we are and what we do.

We estimate that there are at least 1000 people in our community who have turned their lives around and deserve the second chance that only a pardon can provide. What we need is someone to keep track of Pardon Coaches and potential clients, connect them, and keep track of them. This grant request therefore seeks funding for the first “Pardon Project Coordinator”.

**Participating/Endorsing Agencies**

**DA**

* **Beaver County District Attorney Office:** David Lozier, District Attorney
* **Beaver County Clerk of Court:** Judy Enslen, Clerk of Courts
* **Beaver County Sheriff’s Office:** Tony Guy, Sheriff
* **Beaver County Public Defender:** Kevin Kindred, 1st Deputy
* **City of Aliquippa:** Dwan Walker, Mayor
* **Career Links – Beaver County**: Dianne Funkhouser, Site Administrator
* **Neighborhood Legal Services:** Nikki W. Christopher, Managing Attorney
* **Community College of Beaver County:** Mark Joyce, Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice
* **Penn State University**: Dr. Jill Valentine, Education Program Associate, Continuing Education
* **Job Training for Beaver County:** Harry Angelo, Program Manager
* **Franklin Center of Beaver County:** Dr. Cheryl King, Executive Director
* **Uncommon Grounds Café:** Andrenna Williams
* **Americans For Prosperity - PA:** Emily Greene, Community Engagement Director
* **Beaver County Domestic Relations:** Gina Farzati, Asst Director; Denise DiVittis, Pay Up Coordinator
* **NAACP,** Rico Elmore, Community Organizer

**Request**

The Franklin Center of Beaver has agreed to serve as the start-up host for the Pardon Project of Beaver County offering office space, phone, internet and office support for a part-time Pardon Project Coordinator for three years.

* $35,000 annually for a supported 28 hour max part-time project coordinator for three years, salary range from $13 - $18 per hour depending upon qualifications.
  + @$13 per hour gross cost would be $20,411 [$18,928 pay; $1,173 FICA; $275 MC; $65 W Comp]
  + @$18 per hour gross cost would be $29,000 [$26,208 pay; $1,625 FICA; $380 M/C; $100 W Comp]
  + $500 per month to Franklin Center for personnel support and logistics

My hope is that the federal relief funds may provide a means with which to start this project.

Very truly yours,

David J. Lozier

District Attorney

Cc: Dr. Cheryl King, Executive Director Franklin Center of Beaver County

Judy Enslen, Clerk of Courts

Dianne Funkhouser, Site Administrator, Career Links – Beaver County