



**NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
DIVISION OF WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS**

DWS Operational Guidance Number: OG 06-2023

Date: June 19, 2023

**Subject: American Rescue Plan Act Reentry Grant Additional
Funding Available for Fierce Fellows Enrollments**

From:

Chet Mottershead
Assistant Secretary for Workforce

Purpose: To announce and provide guidelines for the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Reentry Grant additional funding available to Local Area Workforce Development Boards (WDBs) for Fierce Fellows enrollments.

Background: The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) was enacted on March 11, 2021, to provide relief to address the continued impact of COVID-19 on the economy, public health, state and local governments, individuals, and businesses. A component of ARPA is the State Fiscal Recovery Fund (SFRF), which provides \$5.4 billion to North Carolina to help turn the tide on the pandemic, address its economic fallout, and lay the foundation for a strong and equitable recovery.

The N.C. General Assembly appropriated SFRF in Session Law 2021-180. The N.C. Pandemic Recovery Office (NCPRO) is responsible for overseeing and monitoring the use of the SFRF, as well as reporting to the U.S. Treasury on behalf of state agencies.

The Division of Workforce Solutions (DWS) has been allocated \$2 million for expanding Reentry Jobseeker Services. This program is keeping with the spirit of both North Carolina's ["First in Talent" Plan](#) and Governor Cooper's [NC Job Ready initiative](#).

Action: The DWS has allotted \$30,000 in ARPA Reentry Grant funding to be utilized by WDBs to assist individuals enrolled in the Fierce Fellows Reentry Pilot Program.

Local Area WDBs that participate in the Fierce Fellows Reentry Pilot Program are eligible to receive additional grant funding in the amount of \$500.00 for each participant that is enrolled in training. Each WDB should contact the state Reentry Coordinator with participant enrollment information.

The additional funding that is awarded may be used to assist Fierce Fellows enrollees with supportive services costs for items such as transportation, living expenses, and clothing. The supportive services, as well as all activities provided, must be recorded in

NCWorks.gov. Keying instructions for Fierce Fellows enrollments may be found in NCWorks.gov on the Staff Online Resources page.

Effective Date: Immediately

Expiration: June 30, 2024

Contact: State Reentry Coordinator