



Funding Opportunity
Re-Entry Programs to Assist Pre- and Post-Release Justice Involved Individuals
LOI Deadline March 21, 2025

The Patrick P. Lee Foundation invites eligible organizations serving the eight counties of Western New York to submit workforce proposals for programs and initiatives that support pre-release and/or post-release justice involved individuals.

I. About the Foundation

The Patrick P. Lee Foundation (Lee Foundation) is a private foundation committed to achieving an immediate and measurable impact in the areas of education and mental health.

In education, we envision a community where individuals achieve economic self-sufficiency without experiencing undue financial burden. Our work primarily focuses on post-secondary scholarships for students studying engineering and other STEM majors. We also fund scholarships for students training in mental health fields.

In mental health, our vision is for people living with mental illnesses to be engaged and supported members of the community. To achieve this, we work to strengthen the mental health workforce, invest in community programs and services, advocate for increased public funding and build the mental health literacy of the community.

II. The Funding Opportunity

The Lee Foundation invests in educational and training opportunities so residents of the eight counties of Western New York can achieve economic self-sufficiency.

Individuals released from incarceration face substantial obstacles to accessing workforce opportunities in their communities and the Lee Foundation is interested in partnering with organizations to remove these barriers.

The Foundation will consider funding existing or new programs that provide programming pre-release and/or post-release from incarceration. Types of program services may include but are not limited to:

- Creating career plans and addressing possible employment barriers
- Internships and apprenticeships
- Occupational training that leads to industry recognized credentials
- Skill building and job preparation
- Strengthening ties between pre-release services for those in local jails and state correctional facilities and post-release services available in the community
- Vocational and employability skills training in high demand industries

III. Eligibility and Funding Guidelines

Applicants must be a 501c3 or be partnered with a 501c3. Past grantees as well as new organizations are welcome to apply. Individuals are not eligible to apply.

To be eligible, your organization must provide services in one or more of the eight counties of Western New York (Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Niagara, Orleans, Wyoming).

Funding requests may range from \$50,000-\$150,000 and the expected grant period is 12-24 months. Awards will be announced in August 2025.

IV. Application Process

The Lee Foundation uses a grant management system (Foundant). From the [Foundation's home page](#), applicants have the opportunity to 1) preview the application questions, 2) create a registered account and 3) submit an application.

1. **Preview the LOI questions** by following the instructions in the gray box on the Foundation's homepage. When prompted to Enter Code, type the word **Partners**. Next, select the LOI process "Re-Entry Workforce Initiative - 2025."

2. **Applicants must have a registered account to submit a LOI.**

For New Users: To register, follow the directions for "new users" in the gray box on the right side of the [Foundation's home page](#). Please note, you will be required to enter a federal tax identification number.

For Existing Users: Visit the [Foundation's home page](#) to enter your credentials and log in. If you forgot your password, select the "Forgot your Password?" link to reset your password.

3. **To submit a LOI**, you must be logged into a registered account. On your dashboard, select the Apply Page and type the word **Partners** when asked for the Enter Code. Click on the blue Apply button for the "Re-Entry Workforce Initiative - 2025."

V. Timeline:

- February 28 – LOI process opens
- March 21 (4pm EST) – LOI submission deadline
- May 2 – Select organizations invited to submit a full application
- June 6 (4pm EST) – Full application submission deadline
- August 4 – Grant awards announced

For technical assistance registering an account or applying, please contact Chris Allaire at 716-844-3100, or by email at callaire@lee.foundation