



Alaska Reentry Partnership

A statewide coalition of individuals and organizations promoting success for justice-involved Alaskans at all phases of their involvement—pretrial, incarceration, reentry. Members include people with lived experience, family members, reentry coalitions, community providers, state and local agencies.

Access to Digital Technology to Better Serve Justice-Involved Alaskans

Support expanding access to digital resources in Alaska’s corrections and therapeutic court systems to better serve justice-involved Alaskans at all phases of their justice-involvement—pretrial, incarceration, and reentry. Jurisdictions across the United States are using digital technology to safely and securely deliver rehabilitative programming and activities through video-conferencing, closed circuit channels, tablets, distance learning, computer labs, and more. Improved digital technology means more access to treatment and recovery services, education and training, housing and employment assistance, reentry and transitional planning, faith-based, peer support, tribal, visitation, and more.

Justice-involved Alaskans continue to experience difficulty accessing rehabilitative programs and activities after the pandemic. While the Department of Corrections (DOC) and community providers have worked hard to provide these services, there simply are not enough staff or infrastructure to accommodate the demand. Access to supports and services improves the likelihood of success, fulfills the necessary conditions of release/probation/parole, and increases the likelihood people returning to their communities after incarceration will be successful and not commit future crimes (recidivate).

Additionally, individuals releasing after decades of incarceration often do not have expertise or experience using computers and digital technology, seriously impacting their ability to function in the modern world and putting them at greater risk for relapse, homelessness, and/or recidivating.

Correctional systems across the United States are using digital technology to provide video-conferencing, closed circuit educational channels, tablets, distance learning, secure computer labs, and more, to improve rehabilitative programs. Advocates are asking for approved, safe and secure technological solutions, NOT open access to Internet, social media, or email.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Support resources for digital infrastructure that provide safe and secure access to digital technology—video conferencing, closed circuit education channels, digital tablets, computer labs, software—inside Alaska’s prisons, halfway houses, and therapeutic court settings.
- Identify technological gaps and barriers in current systems that impact timely access to rehabilitative programming that could be improved through digital technology.
- Support laws, regulations, and practices that allow access to digital technology (including approved safe and secure tablets and computers) for rehabilitative programming and activities that increase the likelihood of success and reduce the likelihood of recidivism.

To contact your personal state legislators (Senator and Representative), go to www.akleg.gov and scroll to WHO REPRESENTS ME and type in your home address. Say you are a constituent!