



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.

Community In-Reach Programs and Activities in Alaska Prisons and Halfway Houses

Support resources and policies that promote community rehabilitative programs and activities inside Alaska's prisons and halfway houses, such as substance abuse treatment and recovery, education and vocational training, reentry and transition planning, parenting and life skills, faith-based and cultural activities. Community in-reach has shown to increase the likelihood of success after release and reduce the likelihood of recidivism (the commission of new crimes).

Before COVID, community service providers were providing a broad range of valuable rehabilitative programs and activities inside Department of Corrections (DOC) facilities. With the exception of chaplaincy, all of these efforts were suspended during COVID, and while some work-arounds were introduced, such as self-study books and video presentations, residents in DOC facilities were without access to community in-reach opportunities for more than two years.

Today, as most COVID restrictions have been relaxed, and while some in-reach efforts have returned, it is a small percentage compared to the spectrum that was once available.

Community providers support returning to a robust array of community programs and activities inside DOC facilities (prisons and halfway houses) statewide. Community in-reach can be provided in person, as it was previously, and through expanded safe and secure digital technology, that may include video conferencing, distance learning, and closed-circuit educational programming.

Recommendations:

- Support policies that ensure community providers are able to safely and securely enter DOC facilities to provide approved programs and activities to incarcerated individuals.
- Support resources for contracts and staff support in providing valuable rehabilitative programs and services, such as behavioral health assessments, treatment and recovery, education and vocational training, life skills, finance, and parenting classes, faith-based and cultural activities, recreation and arts, and more.
- Support resources and policies that promote expanded use of safe and secure digital technology to incarcerated individuals in Alaska's prisons and halfway houses, such as video conferencing, distance learning, and closed circuit educational channels.

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