

Bureau of Justice Assistance

Second Chance Act

Statewide Adult Recidivism Reduction Strategic Plan Implementation Program

October 1, 2018 through September 30, 2020

\$1,000,000 Award

\$342,398 In-Kind Match

Background

- In 2017, Alaska Department of Corrections (ADOC) received the Statewide Recidivism Reduction (SRR) 2nd Chance Act Strategic Planning Grant of \$100,000
- Goal was to develop a statewide strategic reentry plan to address the challenges reentrants face
- Task Force was formed to develop the 5-year plan and to apply for the Implementation Grant of \$1 million
- Pilot project established to provide reentry services to 50 males ages 18-34 leaving Spring Creek Correctional Center for Anchorage
- Status of Planning Grant: target completion date of September 30, 2018; extension granted to September 30, 2019

Implementation Grant Goal

To reduce recidivism by 10% within two years and 50% within 5 years

Objectives:

- Enhance individual case and release planning—ADOC Reentry Program Manager will work with probation officers in the institutions and the field to improve communication and completion of the Offender Management Plans
- Expansion and improvement of programming and services available pre- and post-release
- Integration of community partners and individuals with lived experiences in the transitional process through peer mentoring
- Increase collaborative efforts between state, local, and tribal entities

Year 1 Tasks and Allowable Uses of Funding (\$378,640 through Sept. 30, 2019)

- Hire a Grant Manager – the only new position currently required by the grant. We have determined the other positions identified in the grant will be filled with existing probation officer positions and the Reentry Program Manager's position, with portions of their time and personnel costs used for the in-kind ADOC match of 34% of the grant's total.

- Contract with the University of Alaska, Alaska Justice Information Center (AJIC) (\$35,000) for program monitoring and data analysis
- Contract with a technology firm to assist with upgrading database to increase data and information sharing capacity (\$70,000)
- Contract with a consultant for evaluation of the risk assessment tool and implantation of more effective use of the tool for guiding case planning and program referrals ((\$100,000)
- Through community service providers agreements, provide direct support to reentrants (\$72,265) for housing, transportation, employment, and other reentry needs

Year 2 Tasks and Allowable Uses of Funding (\$621,360 through Sept. 30, 2020)

- Grant Manager position continues to the end of this grant and may continue if we are approved to receive a second implementation grant
- Contract with UAA AJIC continues (\$65,000)
- Contract with technology firm to upgrade the database continues (\$130,000)
- Contract with a program evaluator to do a Correctional Program Checklist, to determine if ADOC programs are evidence-based and effective (\$100,000)
- Continue offering direct service support to reentrants through community providers (\$211,326)
- Establish training to connect the institutional probation officers with the institutional probation officers to build relationships and understanding of the reentry process; includes education about community partners and other reentry services, interviewing techniques, working with special populations, ethical guidelines, emergency services, and reporting information and working with the police (\$13,659)

Outcomes and Looking Forward

- Improved communication between the Institutions and Probation/Parole Supervision
- Establishing a targeted reentry referral process with the supervising probation officer at each institution regularly generating a list of individuals preparing for release within 6 months, allowing the reentry process to start much earlier than is currently done
- Increased partnership between ADOC, community service providers, other state agencies, and federal agencies resulting in care coordination for reentrants
- Building a peer-support and mentorship program, providing inmates the opportunity to work with mentors while they are still incarcerated and continuing with peer support post-release
- Promoting quality evidence-based programming targeted to the identified risks and needs of inmates
- Generating the capacity for moving into the next phase of a 5-year strategic plan and continuing to see successful reentrants, reduced recidivism, and an increase in public safety
- Applying for the next Implementation grant from BJA. By successfully completing the scope of work in this grant, we may be eligible for two additional \$1 million grants. This could give us four more years of funding a reentry strategic plan.