



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

The Alaska Reentry Partnership supports the Department of Corrections (DOC)'s efforts to expand opportunities for inmates to access digital technology for access to rehabilitative programming and activities, including: vocational training, education, treatment, recovery, reentry planning, housing and employment assistance, peer support, faith-based, tribal, and visitation—all of which increase the likelihood of success in the community and reduced recidivism. Successful reentry means safer communities.

Since COVID, Alaska's prisons and halfway houses have been challenged with staff shortages. Improved access to digital technology will offer more options for rehabilitative programming and activities when staff aren't available.

In today's world, people need to be 'digitally literate' for basic functioning—filling out applications, applying for jobs, banking, communication, etc. People who have been incarcerated for decades may not have the skills to operate and be successful in a digital world, all critical for reentry success.

The Partnership also recommends updating institutional policies and infrastructure inside Alaska's prisons, halfway houses, and therapeutic court settings to better provide safe and secure video conferencing, closed circuit education channels, telehealth, digital tablets, computer labs, and more.

[HB 35](#) (Rep. Himschoot) and [SB 19](#) (Sen. Myers) have introduced bills that will remove a barrier in state law that restricts inmates inside Alaska's correctional facilities from utilizing certain electronic devices, such as computers or digital tablets.