



Alaska Federation of Natives  
2014 Legislative & Litigation Committee  
Resolution 14-11

- TITLE:** SUPPORT OF A STATEWIDE INITIATIVE TO REDUCE RECIDIVISM AND PROMOTE SUCCESSFUL RE-ENTRY FOR ALASKA NATIVES WITH CRIMINAL RECORDS
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 151 federally-recognized tribes, 134 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** There are 138,312 Alaska Native people in Alaska, comprising 19.5% of the state's total population; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska Natives are dramatically overrepresented within the correctional system, comprising 37% of institutionalized adult offenders in the Alaska Department of Corrections institutions; and
- WHEREAS:** From 2008-2012 the number of Alaska Natives in Alaska Department of Corrections institutions increased by 17.4%; and
- WHEREAS:** In 2012 there were 2,146 Alaska Native adults institutionalized within Alaska Department of Corrections, including 377 housed in out-of-state facilities, and an additional 1,580 on probation or parole; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska has highest number of state-created legislative and regulatory barriers to successful re-entry for individuals with criminal records of any state in the U.S., and these collateral consequences disproportionately affect Alaska Natives; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska Natives have the highest recidivism rate among all ethnic groups in Alaska, at 73.8%; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska Natives have been impacted more than any other ethnic groups by issues that have a direct bearing on justice including unfamiliarity with the justice system, poverty, homelessness, substance use, domestic violence, and a cultural adherence to honesty which equates to guilty pleas; and

WHEREAS: Over half (51.4%) of all incarcerated Alaska Native adults are released to urban areas such as Anchorage, disconnected from family, culture, subsistence lifestyle, and vital support systems.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the AFN Legislative & Litigation Committee of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., a Standing Committee authorized to act on behalf of the AFN Board of Directors, that there be a statewide initiative to reduce recidivism and improve re-entry outcomes among Alaska Natives involved in the correctional system; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED it be a priority to create and implement culturally relevant community-based re-entry services and establish best practices for effective reintegration of Alaska Natives with criminal histories; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN endorses the Alaska Native Justice Center to lead a statewide effort to examine and develop recommendations regarding sentencing practices, collateral consequences, pre- and post-release re-entry processes, and other factors that affect recidivism among Alaska Natives; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN hereby endorses the Alaska Native Justice Center's proposal to the United States Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance for a Second Chance Act Statewide Adult Recidivism Reduction Strategic Plan Implementation Program grant for the fiscal years 2014-2017; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall be the policy of AFN until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

Passed on July 14, 2014

