



Alaska Native Justice Center
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TOGETHER, WE CAN CHANGE LIVES.

History of the Alaska Native Justice Center:

The Alaska Native Justice Center (ANJC) was established in 1993 as a tribal non-profit to address Alaska Natives' unmet needs regarding the Alaska civil and criminal justice system in response to the devastatingly disproportionate rates of victimization, incarceration and other justice-related issues impacting Alaska Natives throughout Alaska.

Since that time, the Alaska Native Justice Center has dedicated efforts through its mission to *promote justice through culturally-based advocacy, prevention and intervention initiatives to restore dignity, respect and humanity to all Alaska Natives.* The Alaska Native Justice Center has continued to work in a dedicated effort, through its programs and services, assisting those most in need.

How the Alaska Native Justice Center Provides Services Through Priority Programs & Initiatives:

The Alaska Native Justice Center serves as a bridge between Alaska Natives and the justice system. Although services are provided to all ethnicities culturally-based advocacy, preventative and intervention programs are offered to assist victims of sexual assault/domestic violence, youth with Minor Consuming Alcohol (MCA) violations and adults reintegrating into the community from incarceration. Services are provided to clients and participants at no cost.

The Alaska Native Justice Center's Adult Reentry Program:

The Alaska Native Justice Center's Adult Reentry Program promotes effective reintegration of offenders back into the community upon release from incarceration. Reentry programming, which involves a comprehensive case management approach, is intended to assist participants acquire the life skills needed to successful transition into the community.

Program services are used to assist offenders in the reentry process, including pre-release planning, individualized case management, peer-to-peer and support groups, cognitive behavioral training, safe housing, employment assistance, referrals for substance abuse/alcohol abuse treatment services and behavioral and healthcare services.

- The Adult Reentry Program offers pre-release program services and individualized transitional planning to individuals who are within 90-180 days of release. The ANJC currently coordinates pre-release services with Hiland Mountain Correctional Facility and

Palmer Correctional Center.

- The ANJC is currently coordinating with Goose Creek Correctional Center to provide pre-release program services.
- The ANJC provides comprehensive integrated wrap-around services with Cook Inlet Tribal Council and Southcentral Foundations for those participants who are identified as Alaska Native and in need of alcohol/substance abuse treatment, mental health treatment, primary care, vocational rehabilitation, housing, and employment/ education services.
- Alaska Natives/American Indians (AN/AI) have the highest rate of recidivism (75%) within a three-year period of release in Alaska.
- Participants enroll in ANJC's Adult Reentry Program, which is a 6-month post release transitional support program offering participants a new beginning to become productive members of society.
- Forty-one percent (41%) of enrolled participants are of AN/AI heritage. This percentage mirrors the current State of Alaska, Department of Corrections (ADOC) statistics representing incarcerated AN/AI within the state.
- The Alaska Native Justice Center has collaboratively partnered with the ADOC since 2008 to successfully transition and offer comprehensive reentry services to individuals transitioning for incarceration into the Anchorage services area, (51% of offenders in the Alaska are released into Anchorage each year).
- In 2014, the ANJC Adult Reentry Program provided intensive integrated case management services to over 325 re-entry participants. Services included weekly individualized case management sessions, weekly support groups, peer to peer support groups, life skills training, linkages to community-based treatment including behavioral health services, substance abuse addition/alcohol treatment services, primary healthcare services, education and vocational training and employment services, Moral Reconation Therapy (MRT), safe & sober housing, transportation and general assistance stipends.
- The ANJC's Adult Reentry Program has a 21% recidivism rate; 79% of program participants do not re-offend.
- The ANJC Adult Reentry Program saves the State of Alaska \$31,575 per day or \$11,524,995 per year for participants to stay out of incarceration and successfully complete the program and continue living safe and sober lives. (State cost per inmate is \$158.67 from 2013 ADOC data).

The Alaska Native Justice Center's Family Law Program:

The Family Law Program provides comprehensive civil legal representation and advocacy to victims of domestic violence/sexual assault who struggle with issues related to family law such as divorce, separation, child custody/support, safety planning or protective orders. This program is designed to offer victims of domestic violence/sexual assault legal services in a holistic and culturally – sensitive approach.

- Services provided are available without regard to race, yet the cases represented continue to be predominately for Alaska Native female victims (91%).
- Pro-se legal advocacy support and assistance, court accompaniment, emergency protective orders, referral services for emergency housing and assistance, as well as monthly pro se divorce and child custody legal clinics are staffed and offered by the program's Legal Advocate.
- In 2014, the Alaska Native Justice Center provided comprehensive services to more than 131 clients through legal advocacy and civil legal representation.
- 14 Legal Clinics assisted over 98 clients in filing paperwork and court documents for child support, custody/visitation and divorce/dissolution.
- The Alaska Native Justice Center coordinates comprehensive victim services with partner agencies to include: Southcentral Foundation, Cook Inlet Tribal Council, Cook Inlet Housing Authority, The CIRI Foundation, Alaska Native Heritage Center, Koahnic Broadcasting Company (KNBA) Alaska Legal Services Corporation, Standing Together Against Rape, Inc. (STAR), Abused Women's Aid In Crisis, Inc. (AWAIC) and Alaska Network on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault (ANDVSA).

The Alaska Native Justice Center's Youth Advocacy Program:

The Youth Advocacy Program is a State approved Community Diversion Panel (CDP) providing free monitoring, case management and treatment services for minors (those under 21) convicted of a first time Minor Consuming Alcohol (MCA) violation. The program offers State of Alaska certified Alcohol Drug Information School, *Prime for Life*.

Youth charged with a first time MCA offense are referred to ANJC by the Minor Consuming Alcohol Court for screening, monitoring and if required, attend the monthly *Prime for Life* course. PFL is an evidence-based, therapeutic education program with demonstrated success in significantly altering attitudes, increasing abstinence, reducing high-risk drinking and drug use, and reducing recidivism.

- The Youth Advocacy Program also offers a holistic culturally approach to youth who are Alaska Native/American Indian.
- 67% of youth enrolled in the program are self-identified as Alaska Native/American Indian.
- A cultural component is offered through the *Prime for Life* course with Talking Circles, Learning Circles and the mentorship of elders.
- The recidivism rate of re-offense tracked over a three-year period is 33% for youth who have successfully completed the Youth Advocacy Program and the *Prime for Life* course.
- In 2014, the Youth Advocacy Program provided case management and *Prime for Life* course to 165 youth in the Anchorage services area.
- In 2014, 75% of youth program participants were 18-20 years of age; 25% of youth program participants were 14-17 years of age.