

Partners Reentry Center

A **grassroots** approach to reducing recidivism through community-based collaborative reentry programs



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PartnersforProgressAK.org

August 2019

Why We Should Care

The Facts

- **9,348** Alaskans under the jurisdiction of the Department of Corrections in 2018-2019
- **95%** of all prisoners are released.
- When they re-enter without community support, the odds are **stacked against** them.
- **61.33% recidivism rate** for those released three years ago.
- The odds of recidivism are **much higher** for those who are homeless.

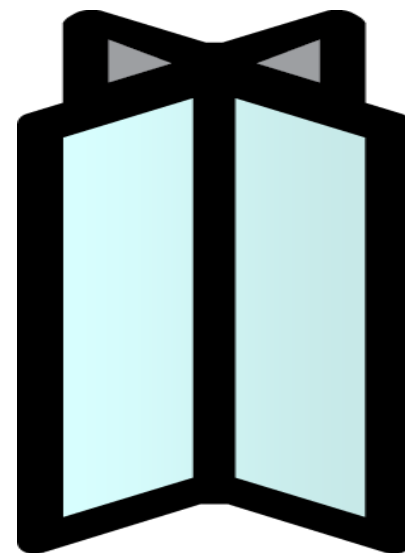
No one benefits when we marginalize a significant segment of Alaska's population.



Alaskans want to

- Reduce Incarceration Costs
- Improve Public Safety

To reach these goals,
we must **close the
revolving door** to prison.



We Must Close the Revolving Door

In a community setting, closing the revolving door requires three keys:



By welcoming them into the community the day they are released and offering housing, employment and a base of support, **everyone gains**.

1. Incarceration costs are reduced.
2. Public Safety is enhanced.
3. Employers and families benefit.



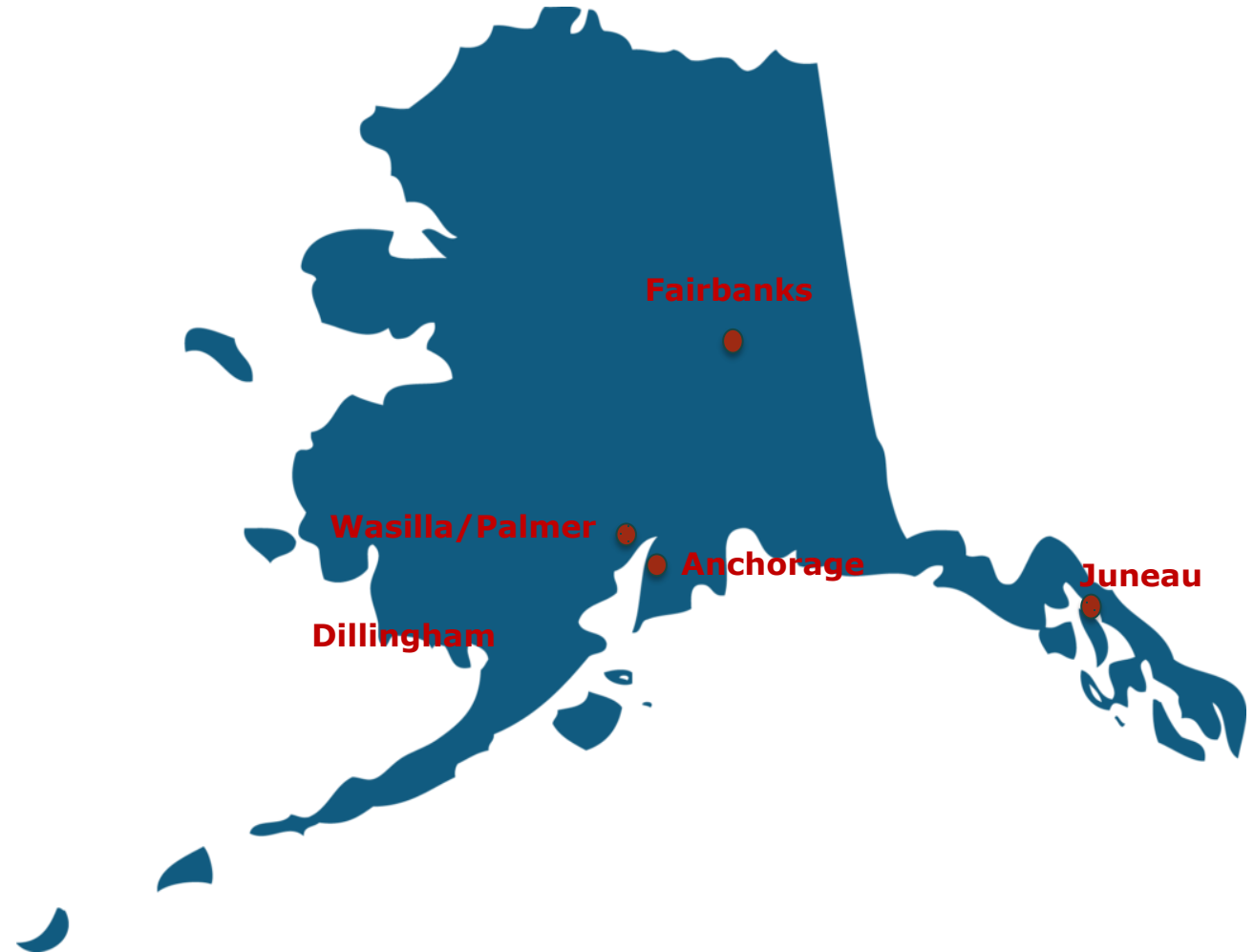
A Statewide Effort

Reentry Coalitions

- Fairbanks
- Anchorage
- Dillingham
- Juneau

Referrals to Partners Reentry Center from:

- Anchorage
- Hiland Mountain
- Lemon Creek
- Wildwood
- Mat-Su Pretrial
- Goose Creek
- Spring Creek



DOC Reentry Process



Role of Community Reentry Center

1. Referral from parole officers
2. Coordinating reentry services with Institutions, Supervision and Halfway Houses
3. Individual "risks and needs" assessment with parole officers
4. Helping reentrants achieve requirements of supervision



Unassisted Reentry - What Happens?

- Prisoners released in the parking lot of the Anchorage Jail face:
 - **Instant, basic barriers** – no housing, no source of support, inadequate clothing, no transportation.
 - Substantial Employment Barriers.
 - Community condemnation - Stigma.
 - Barriers to Mental Health Care.
- **Being homeless after release doubles the odds of recidivism.**
- **Often, homeless reentrants recidivate right after release.**



Reality without Community Reentry Assistance



Collaborative Reentry Assistance



- **419 Barrow St., easy walking distance of the prisoner release point.**
- Created in 2013 by Partners for Progress.
- Receives homeless Reentrants referred by Department of Corrections.
- Also Accept walk-in and halfway house clients.



No Agency Has It All:

Assistance to Match Individual Needs

- Assessments from the DOC Reentry Probation Officer are used to guide Center staff to **match services to each person's situation and risks or recidivism.**
- At Partners Reentry Center, participants receive:
 - Temporary housing **same day as release** from prison.
 - Onsite Employment assistance.
 - Support groups and cognitive behavioral training (MRT®).
 - Assistance to reunite with family, friends and healthy support systems.
 - Referrals to Department of Labor and other resources to meet special needs.



Collaborative Reentry Assistance: Participants Are Partners

Obligations of Center Participants:

- All people at the Center must show respect for each other.
- Participation is voluntary, not an entitlement.
- Center provides 1-6 months of housing assistance.
- To continue in the program, participants **must obtain employment within 45 days to start supporting their own housing.**
- Participants must address criminogenic needs.
- Center is not a place to hang out.



Collaborative Reentry Assistance: Participants Are Partners

Obligations of Staff and Volunteers

- All people at the Center must show respect for each other.
- Everyone is part of the same community.
- Remember that **participants come first.**
- Keep a positive attitude and be a team player.
- Provide one-on-one attention.
- Never deny a service without giving the reason and/or another option.



Outreach and Collaboration

The Center has developed a broad network of supportive partners and referral resources, including:

- Dept. of Health & Social Services
- Dept. of Corrections
- Alaska Housing Finance Corporation
- Dept. of Labor and Workforce Development
- Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority
- Ninestar Education & Employment Services
- RurAL CAP
- Access to Recovery
- Anchorage Community Mental Health Services
- Clinicians and Treatment Professionals
- Alaska Native Justice Center
- New Life Development
- Money Management International
- Alaska Correctional Ministries
- Case Managers at Halfway Houses
- Anchorage Reentry Coalition
- Goodwill Industries
- Southcentral Foundation
- Cook Inlet Tribal Council
- Zonta Club
- Lions' Club
- Volunteers of America



Collaborative Reentry Assistance: Inclusiveness

Through weekly case coordination meetings with all who work directly with participants, services are tailored to fit individual risks and needs.



Developing a Welcoming Community

- In August 2019:
 - There were **101 new participants**
 - Each workday, on average **46 people** received assistance at the Center
 - **41 reentrants** were hired in August
- Since opening in 2013, the Center has:
 - Provided transitional **housing to 3634 clients**
 - **Assisted 8711 clients** with employment, housing, support groups or referrals
- Community Response:
 - More than **750 employers** have hired program participants
 - More than **135 landlords** have rented to program participants
 - **Innumerable individuals** donated clothing, time and support



Costs

Total Budget Costs:

- 1713 Participants Served in FY19
- \$1,684,000 Total Cost
- **Average Cost Per Participant: \$983**

Average Long-Term Participant Costs:

- **First month:** Housing (\$650), transportation (\$88), ID/Clothes/Misc: \$40
- **Second month:** Part-pay housing (\$400), transportation (\$60 for monthly bus pass), clothes/work gear (\$100)
- **Third month:** part-pay housing (\$400)
- **Fourth/Fifth months** (\$250 housing cost)
- Sixth month: Permanent placement (\$800).
- **6-month program participant cost (services only): \$2788**



You Are Invited to Visit the Center



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