

Anchorage Reentry Coalition




Presentation Objectives

1. Inform you about the Anchorage Reentry Coalition.
2. Stimulate your thinking about what “reentry” entails.
3. Better understanding of why this is important to Anchorage.



**What do you think of
when you hear the word
“reentry”?**



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- Reentry into the community is oftentimes a complex issue.
 - There are common themes, but every situation is unique.

- Generally, the majority of people that become incarcerated are of lower socioeconomic status (e.g. lower levels of educational attainment, low income, low skill).¹
- Those with lower SES are more at-risk for living in poverty, experiencing violence and trauma, living in poor neighborhoods, and experiencing environmental hazards.²

1. Prison Policy Initiative - <https://www.prisonpolicy.org/reports/income.html>

2. American Public Health Assoc. - https://www.apha.org/-/media/files/pdf/factsheets/advancing_health_equity.ashx?la=en&hash=9144021FDA33B4E7E02447CB28CA3F9D4BE5EF18

REENTRY-RELATED SECTORS



Anchorage Reentry Coalition

Vision - Each returning citizen has the opportunity to successfully integrate into the Anchorage community.

Mission - To provide transformative, participant centered reentry resources and opportunities beginning the day of incarceration.

Values - Integrity, Inclusiveness, Collaboration & Cooperation, Transparency, and Respect & Equity.



Housing, Homelessness, and Reentry

- Assumptions:
 - Shelter is a basic human necessity.
 - Individuals that leave incarceration (jail, prison; state, Federal) need a place to live and be sheltered.

Prison Policy Initiative

- “Formerly incarcerated people are almost 10 times more likely to be homeless than the general public.”
- “People who have been to prison just once experience homelessness at a rate nearly 7 times higher than the general public. But people who have been incarcerated more than once have rates 13 times higher than the general public.”
- Housing Insecurity - unsheltered, sheltered, and marginally housed.

Housing, Homelessness, and Reentry

- For a variety of reasons finding a safe, stable place to live post-incarceration is challenging for this population:
 - \$
 - Housing Stock & Availability
 - Credit Checks
 - Deposit/First Month Rent
 - References
 - Background Check
 - Programmatic/Policy Exclusions (Formal & Discretionary)
 - Meeting Eligibility Criteria
 - Location & Proximity to Social Networks
 - Identifying Housing Opportunities
 - ID

AK - Anecdotal Evidence

- ARC Steering Team concerns: Housing & Employment
 - Affordability & Access
- Transitional housing providers: confirm residents would otherwise be homeless or marginally housed
- Priorities frequently identified by inmates: Housing & Employment

Inmate Reentry Survey

76% - Clothing

73% - Employment/Work Training

73% - Housing/Safe Place to Live

72% - Transportation

72% - Food

63% - Identification

57% - Job Preparation

43% - Dental Services

37% - Tx for Alcohol/Drugs

37% - Financial/\$ Management

35% - Mental Health Services

30% - Computer Classes

29% - Education

28% - Phys. Health/Primary Care

24% - Religious Faith-Based Serv.

20% - Legal Services

Why should reentry matter to me?

- In CY19, 46% (n=3,248) of all Alaska DOC inmates were released to Anchorage, many of whom were high need/high risk.¹
- The average cost for one prison inmate in Alaska: \$61,590 per year.²
- There is over representation of Alaskan Natives and African Americans in the Alaska correctional system.

1. DOC Data provided to the Coalition.

2. Alaska DOC, 2019.

Why should this matter to me?

- Facilitating successful reentry and reducing recidivism risks are forms of public safety.
- Housing & prisoner reentry is a salient topic. Housing providers in Anchorage that accept individuals releasing from incarceration are also part of the housing safety net and protect against homelessness.

The Cycle Can
Be Broken

Recidivism Rate in
Alaska Appears to Be
Decreasing:
67% → 60%

The Cycle Can Be Broken

“After spending **17 years in prison** on the installment plan, I had an epiphany about what needed to be done to better myself...10 years ago, **self-awareness gave me a new life and a clear path to the present** with the ability to cope with any challenges. This has allowed me to grow and help the community that I used to poison with drugs and violence. **This was my turning point.**”

Thank You!

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