



LETTER OF INTEREST

**Department of Corrections Division of
Health & Rehabilitative Services**

Reentry Program Services (Multiple)

The Department of Corrections (DOC), Division of Health and Rehabilitative Services (HARS), is seeking letters of interest from qualified parties capable and interested in providing reentry services to individuals released from correctional institutions.

Service Area and Community: Anchorage, Alaska

Expected Duration of Services: September 1, 2020 – September 30, 2021 (13 months).

I. About the Project

Background:

Recidivism reduction programming promotes rehabilitation through transitional support services for individuals recently released from Alaska correctional centers. The department seeks to provide community-based services that provide linkage to care for those who have been released from correctional institutions, with the goal of reducing recidivism rates. Common linkages to care include, housing, transportation, employment services, and treatment.

Major goals include:

- Reinvestment in evidence-based, community-based reentry services
- Enhancement of public safety through collaboration among stakeholders
- The realization of appropriate and responsible cost savings

The Alaska Department of Corrections (ADOC) was awarded funding through the Bureau of Justice Assistance Second Chance Act (SCA) Statewide Recidivism Reduction Grant that will provide funding for housing and support services to eligible reentrants transitioning from incarceration to the community. SCA participants receive help to reenter the community by providing participants with necessary services and skills to become productive members of society. The ultimate goal of this program is to reduce recidivism and prevent additional victimization.

This program connects SCA participants with ADOC staff who use evidenced-based tools to determine what services and resources participants need to be successful and remain in our community. This program aims to have housing, treatment, and any other community-based services set up for each participant prior to release. These targeted community interventions are based on the individual's risk and needs as determined by an evidenced-based risk and needs assessment, the Level of Service Inventory-Revised (LSI-R). The target beneficiaries for this program are 18-35 years old, who are Medium to High Risk as determined by the LSI-R, and on probation or parole upon release from incarceration. This population is the most in need of additional wrap-around services and support to successfully reintegrate to our community.

II. Scope of Services

The Department of Corrections (DOC) Division of Health and Rehabilitative Services (HARS) Reentry Unit will work with Anchorage service providers to reduce recidivism while providing reentry services in Anchorage, Alaska for probationers, parolees, or individuals who are within thirty (30) days of release from a correctional institution. The goal of the program is to increase public safety by reducing the amount of repeat felony crimes committed by offenders returning to the community.

Multiple service providers will work with DOC's Reentry Unit to provide the following to Anchorage reentrants:

- Safe, stable housing (rental space)
- Transportation (bus, taxi, cab service)
- Job readiness training and job search assistance
- Substance abuse and mental health treatment services (either in-house or by referral)
- Other reentry program services and supplies

Stable housing and employment are two significant factors in reducing recidivism; emphasis must be placed

on providing these services as part of the Second Chance Act grant program.

Service providers are asked to demonstrate the following.

1. Ability to perform relevant services or provide supplies for individuals.
2. Must have a location suitable for reentry services, including for individuals that have committed high-risk offenses and/or are currently under supervision with the Department of Corrections, by the expected start date of the program. The location must be accessible to transportation preferably near a high-use bus line.
3. Ability to invoice DOC for payment. DOC expense approval documentation must be attached to invoice as condition for vendor payment.

Outcomes

The above reentry services will be implemented in order to achieve the following outcomes:

- Alignment of program structure and deliverable implementation with the nationally accepted, evidence-based components of the Risk-Needs-Responsivity (RNR) Principles, specifically:
 - Match the intensity of individuals' interventions to their level of risk for criminal activity (Risk Principle)
 - Target criminogenic needs—factors that contribute to the likelihood of new criminal activity (Need Principle)
 - Account for barriers to reentry success – such as an individual's abilities and learning styles when designing supervision and service strategies (Responsivity Principle)
- Utilization of risk assessments and reentry plans, when available and provided by DOC staff, to apply RNR Principles when designing service strategies.
- Frontload resources – focus community supervision resources in the first days, weeks, and months when offenders are most likely to violate conditions or commit a new crime.
- Development of additional reentry program services that can be used to implement the program in other communities in the future.

III. Service Providers and Deliverables

The service provider shall serve participants referred through the DOC Reentry Unit staff and Anchorage Reentry Probation Officer(s).

Each relevant service provider will plan for the following deliverables for a total of approximately 30 to 80 reentrants that are individually released from incarceration during the period September 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021:

a) Housing

The service provider will provide immediate housing for reentrants that would otherwise be homeless. Housing is designed to help individuals and families find, obtain, or retain suitable housing. Transitional housing and halfway houses are included. Housing can include transitional housing, such as group homes and long-term shelters.

Housing providers must be able to have a location suitable for reentry services, including for individuals that have committed high-risk offenses and/or are currently under supervision with the Department of Corrections, by the expected start date of the program. The location must be accessible to transportation and preferably to a high-use bus line.

Housing providers responding to this request will provide:

- The number of available housing units
- A description of the unit sizes and layout
- A description of onsite amenities offered (laundry, on-site staff, etc.)
- The rental rate structure, to include a day rate
 - o Monthly rent amount. (cannot exceed \$1,000, utilities included)
 - o Shared room. (cannot exceed \$500 per month, utilities included)
- A description of any additional services that may be provided
- A description of any local, State, or Federal funding supporting the housing
- Eligibility for housing
- Any criminal background prohibiting individuals from residing in the housing

b) Transportation

The service provider will accept transportation vouchers for reentrants to travel to work and appointments. Monthly bus pass or taxi, uber, cab, or vehicle assistance.

c) Education

Educational services foster knowledge and help participants obtain a high school diploma, GED, vocational certificate, and/or higher education. Food handler training/card, peer mentoring training, testing, etc.

d) Document Processing Services

Participants will receive assistance for identification cards, certifications, driver license, social security card, birth certificate, documents, Medicaid and public assistance applications, etc.

e) Job Training / Employment services

The service provider will provide job or technical skills training classes and assistance based on individual strengths and weaknesses. Employment services provide job assistance to participants to help find employment. Increase opportunities for ex-offenders to find jobs and stay employed. Participants are considered to have maintained employment if a job is lost and a new job is found within 30 days.

f) Therapeutic Services

Assessments, cognitive-based services, mental health services, substance abuse services, or other services paid by Medicaid or other available funding sources. The service provider will coordinate services for reentrants that require substance abuse and/or mental health treatment services. The service provider will participate in getting timely assessments and treatment to reentrants by assisting participants in securing Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT). Proposers that plan to directly provide substance abuse and/or mental health treatment intervention services must also meet the following:

- Hold a DOC - Division of Health and Rehabilitative Services approval as a Community Behavioral Health Services Provider, as defined in 7 AAC 70.030, for the provision of both clinic and rehabilitation services.
- Have at least three years of experience providing the same or similar types of services in Alaska.

Services administered to participants who are Medicaid eligible should be billed to Medicaid. The service provider will ensure that all eligible program participants are enrolled in Medicaid and Public Assistance, provide assistance and support for:

- Determining eligibility, the application process, and any follow up necessary to confirm enrollment, during the timeframe that the participant is engaged in the program.
- Assist with identification of appropriate medical, substance abuse, and mental health treatment referrals.
- Assist elderly and disabled individuals identify long-term services and supports.

Support services information must include the following.

- A description of the type of services available through your agency
- The number of participants that you can provide services and frequency of services
- A fee structure:
 - Structure must include out of pocket costs for uninsured, Medicaid, or private insurance
 - A breakdown of service costs, ie: groups, individuals sessions, single class rates, etc.
- The hours of operation
- A description of any local, State, or Federal funding supporting the services
- Eligibility for services
- Any criminal background prohibiting individuals from receiving services through the organization

g) Personal Services

Service providers will provide haircuts, clothing, gym membership, etc.

h) Other Direct Items / Supplies

House furnishings, dishes, work tools, etc.

i) Cell Phone Services

IV. Requirements to Provide Services:

Interested parties must demonstrate the following minimum experience in their letter of interest:

4. Related experience and if required certification or license for services to be rendered.
5. Provide proof of insurance as required by the State of Alaska.
6. Acknowledgement of release of liability on DOC waiver of liability form.
7. Alaska Business License.
8. Professional license (if applicable)
9. DEA certificate if a medical provider and applicable.

V. How to Participate:

Interested proposers must submit an electronic response, 2 pages maximum, with the following information:
(PDF format is preferable)

- Proposer Name (business name or individual)
- Authorized signer
- Mailing address
- Physical address
- Phone number
- Email address
- Service(s) to be provided
- A description of how the proposer meets or exceeds the experience requirements, including information about how client numbers are tracked. Proposer should list the client data-tracking systems used to track clients, as well as state whether or not the proposer will track by DOC identifiers, such as the Alaska Corrections Offender Management System (ACOMS) number.

The purpose is to determine if there are qualified offerors who are interested in providing these services.

The State of Alaska is not responsible for any costs associated with the preparation of responses. The issuance of the Letter of Interest provides no guarantee that the State of Alaska will proceed with an agreement or the amount of services that will be provided under any agreement.

VI. Submission Details:

We invite proposers to submit an electronic response to the attention of:

Kaye Saxon
Alaska Department of Corrections
kaye.saxon@alaska.gov and

cc: doc.reentry@alaska.gov
joanne.wiita@alaska.gov

VII. Responders with Disabilities:

The State of Alaska complies with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Individuals with disabilities who may need auxiliary aids, services, and/or special modifications to submit a response should contact the individual named in section VI.

Your participation in the reentry program provides transitioning individuals with holistic, wrap-around services and an opportunity for a supported release.

We thank you for providing your response.

DOC Reentry Unit
Alaska Department of Corrections

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