

**Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development****Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)****Grant Recipient: Partners for Progress****Federal Tax ID: 92-0162532****Project Title:****Project Type: New Construction and Land Acquisition**

# Partners for Progress - Reducing Criminal Recidivism in Anchorage: A Multi-Agency Transitional Housing Model

**State Funding Requested: \$600,000****House District: Anchorage Areawide (11-27)**

Future Funding May Be Requested

**Brief Project Description:**

This project would fund transitional rental housing assistance to probationers referred by the Department of Corrections.

**Funding Plan:**

Total Project Cost:	\$1,800,000
Funding Already Secured:	(\$140,000)
FY2014 State Funding Request:	(\$600,000)
Project Deficit:	\$1,060,000

*Funding Details:*

*In FY13 AHFC funding for HAP projects was cut across the board. As a result, the program received only \$140,000 in FY13.*

**Detailed Project Description and Justification:**

Program title:

Reducing Criminal Recidivism in Anchorage: A Multi-Agency Transitional Housing Model

Program's Funding History and Purpose: Partners for Progress has been providing transitional rental housing assistance to probationers for the past four years, under an agreement with DOC. So far, approximately 441 individuals have received temporary housing and housing related assistance in Anchorage and vicinity. The program has been closely coordinated with DOC's institutional and field probation officers, with providers of rental housing, and with non-profit organizations that provide other services necessary for ex-offenders to become law-abiding, self-sufficient members of the community.

In FY13 AHFC funding for HAP projects was cut across the board. As a result, our program received only \$140,000 in FY13. However, our funding history has provided some important insights.

Housing is the type of assistance that is most frequently requested by reentering prisoners. We have learned that rental and housing-related assistance, such as bus passes and food cards, can be used to motivate ex-offenders to take other steps along a pathway towards successful reentry into the community. Knowing this, we have conditioned receipt of temporary housing assistance on compliance with DOC requirements: searching for a job, and attending addiction treatment, counseling and mentoring groups.

Collaboration among agencies that provide reentry services allows us to share information and hold recipients of housing assistance responsible for taking the steps necessary to become self-sufficient, law-abiding members of the community.

The proposed increment would make it possible to take this small successful model to scale in Anchorage. The four agencies choose Anchorage as the target for this coordinated effort to reduce criminal recidivism on the basis of the Alaska Judicial Council's recent study of criminal recidivism in Alaska .

The Council's data analysis showed that:

- More than twice as many felons were returned to Anchorage than from any other location in the state.
- Anchorage felons had the highest rates of rearrest and re-conviction. Within one year, 34% of returned Anchorage felons were rearrested. Within two years, 46% were rearrested.

The Council recommended that an Anchorage target could help maximize the effectiveness of the state's efforts to reduce recidivism in Alaska. Since many offenders return to other communities after reentering in Anchorage, the proposed reentry program in Anchorage could have statewide benefit.

**Project Timeline:**

To be decided depending on available funds.

**Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:**

Partners for Progress

**Grant Recipient Contact Information:**

Name: Janet McCabe  
Title: Chair  
Address: 406 G St # 302  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501  
Phone Number: 272-2119  
Email: fillymcc@aol.com

Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority?  Yes  No

February 2013

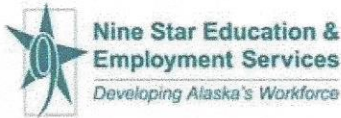
**PROPOSED ANNUAL BUDGET - THREE-YEAR PROGRAM**

Nine Star Employment and Education Services, Alaska Native Justice Center, Volunteers of America and Partners for Progress

Category	Amount	Detail
<b>Personal Services, Partners for Progress</b>		
	\$ 60,000.00	Grant management, data collection, program evaluation
	\$ 90,000.00	Case coordination with DOC and others
<b>Direct Client Services</b>		
Partners for Progress		
	\$ 230,000.00	Temporary housing, bus passes, food cards, clothing vouchers
Alaska Native Justice Center		
	\$ 50,000.00	In-prison contact, MRT, support groups, case management, participant follow-up
Nine Star Employment and Education		
	\$ 50,000.00	Participant monitoring, employment search assistance, participant follow-up, outreach to employers
<b>Community Outreach</b>		
Increase temporary housing supply	\$ 60,000.00	Landlord security and incentives, ready-to-rent training
Develop community support	\$ 20,000.00	Speakers' bureau, public information
<b>Administrative Costs, Partners for Progress</b>	\$ 40,000.00	audit, supplies, space, insurance
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 600,000.00</b>	
	<b>X 3 years</b>	
	<b>\$ 1,800,000.00</b>	

**COST SAVINGS - EFFECT ON NEED FOR NEW PRISON CONSTRUCTION  
FROM A MULTI-AGENCY MODEL TO REDUCE CRIMINAL RECIDIVISM**

<u>PROGRAM</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Total number of people on program each year	300	1800 felons released annually in Anchorage of whom 1/4 are indigent. Therefore, 450 candidates annually, of whom an estimated 300 participate in the program.
Number of people who complete the program	150	50% - conservative estimate of those who complete the program
20 % of those who complete recidivate	30	Based on ANJC's 3-year look-back
80% of those who complete do not recidivate	120	Based on ANJC's 3-year look-back
Estimated costs saved - FY14	\$1,725,000	Based on additional non-recidivists x cost of 6 months in prison @ \$25,000 each
Estimated costs saved - first two years	\$3,000,000	Includes allowance for additional recidivism. Savings are ongoing for non-recidivists.
<p>By investing \$600,000 in FY14 in this program, Alaska will save approximately five times that much in the cost of incarceration within two years, counting only the costs of incarceration. Savings compound and increase each year as program participants do not recidivate.</p> <p>The cumulative effect of keeping people out of prison on an ongoing basis, starting with a new group of about 120 each year, will significantly slow the rate of incarceration and help postpone the date when the State must construct a new prison.</p>		



**Whereas**, reduced recidivism by released offenders will enhance public safety, benefit Alaskan families and communities, and reduce the burden on our public safety, justice and corrections systems and related public costs; and

**Whereas**, the signatories:

- are community-based nonprofit organizations united by their common efforts to reduce recidivism in Alaska;
- support the goals of the Alaska Prisoner Reentry Task Force’s Five-Year Prisoner Reentry Strategic Plan, and the Alaska Department of Corrections’ efforts to implement that plan;
- are committed to work with the Department of Corrections and other relevant state stakeholders;
- are dedicated to collaboration and shared services as a cost-effective means to deliver integrated assistance to reentering offenders;
- have, for several years, voluntarily collaborated with each other and coordinated their services with the Department of Corrections; and
- strive to inform the community about the advantages of successful reentry.

**Now therefore, the signatories reaffirm their shared purposes to:**

- further enhance public safety and better use public funds for public safety, criminal justice, and corrections;
- build and strengthen their mutually supportive services to reentrants;
- continue to coordinate their reentry support programs with the Division of Probation and Parole;
- advance a comprehensive and balanced approach to housing, employment, physical and behavioral health and other services essential for successful reentry and reduced recidivism; and
- advocate for sufficient funds to deliver appropriate services to all reentering offenders actively pursuing a self-sufficient and law-abiding life in their community.

The signatories welcome other nonprofit organizations that share and seek to implement their goals and purposes to join in this Memorandum of Understanding. Likewise, the signatories welcome all parties who concur with the purposes of the Five-Year Prisoner Reentry Strategic Plan to support this Memorandum of Understanding.

	Date
Alaska Native Justice Center by <u>WALT MODEGAN</u>	1-31-13
Nine Star Employment and Education Center by <u>R. Schenk</u>	1-31-13
Partners for Progress by <u>Jane McCabe, Chair</u>	1-31-13
Volunteers of America by <u>Elaine McHugh, CEO</u>	2-1-13



Re: **Partners for Progress – Reducing Criminal Recidivism in Anchorage:  
A Multi-Agency Transitional Housing Model**

Dear Senator Wielechowski:

In 2010, with Governor Sean Parnell’s approval and encouragement, the Alaska Criminal Justice Working Group created the Alaska Prisoner Reentry Task Force and gave it a mission to reduce Alaska’s recidivism rate, thereby improving public safety and increasing the overall health of Alaska’s communities. Lowering the rate of ex-offender recidivism, in turn, cuts costs of incarceration and postpones the need to construct additional prisons. DOC projections indicate that, if incarceration is not slowed, Alaska will be out of prison beds by 2016.

Members of the Prisoner Reentry Task Force represent a range of state and community organizations, including the four who developed this proposal, **Partners for Progress, Nine Star Employment and Education, the Alaska Native Justice Center and Volunteers of America**. This group has been working together since 2009 to provide the hand-up that is often necessary for homeless ex-offenders to become lawful, self-sufficient members of the community. Through collaboration they are able to combine assistance with accountability.

Data on the results of this collaborative project merit continuation and expansion:

- Over the past three years 80% of those who completed the multi-agency program have not recidivated.
- By investing \$600,000 per year in this program, Alaska will save an estimated five times that much in reduced incarceration costs.
- The cumulative effect of keeping people out of prison on an ongoing basis, starting with a new group of about 120 each year, will significantly slow the rate of re-incarceration and help postpone or eliminate the need construct a new prison.

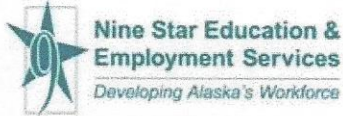
The four agencies recently submitted a request to Governor Sean Parnell for an expanded AHFC HAP grant. With a Capital Budget appropriation of \$600,000 per year for three years, the agencies could make a significant difference in reducing the recidivism rate of ex-offenders who reenter in Anchorage. Pursuant to this request, (TPS Report 60637v2), the funding would go to Partners for Progress who would coordinate with the other agencies.

Anchorage receives more returning prisoners than any other community. That is why we are asking your special endorsement as a representative of this area.

Sincerely,

*Marti Greeson*  
Marti Greeson  
Alaska Native Justice Center

I endorse this proposal: *Bill Wielechowski* *Senator* *2/16/13*  
Title Date



Re: **Partners for Progress – Reducing Criminal Recidivism in Anchorage:  
A Multi-Agency Transitional Housing Model**

Dear Senator Ellis:

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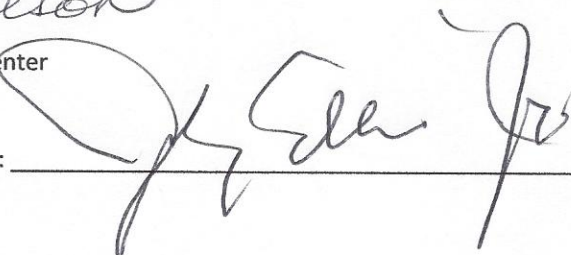
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Anchorage receives more returning prisoners than any other community. That is why we are asking your special endorsement as a representative of this area.

Sincerely,

  
Marti Greeson  
Alaska Native Justice Center

I endorse this proposal: \_\_\_\_\_



Senator Ellis 2/17/13  
Title Date

# MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE



Office of the Mayor

Phone: 907-343-7100

FAX: 907-343-7180

*Mayor Dan Sullivan*

Alaska State Legislators  
129 4<sup>th</sup> Street, State Capitol, Room 3  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

SUBJECT: FY2014 Capitol Budget  
Reducing Criminal Recidivism in Anchorage: A Multi-Agency Model

Dear Senators and Representatives:

Anchorage receives more reentering former offenders than any other community in Alaska. This proposal from Nine Star Education and Employment Service (Nine Star), the Alaska Native Justice Center (ANJC), and Partners for Progress (Partners) is worthy of your support.

Every former offender who reenters successfully and becomes a lawful, self-sufficient citizen means less crime. Nine Star, ANJC, and Partners have a long and successful history coordinating their complementary programs in our community to assist ex-offenders to successfully reenter the community. Volunteers of America is joining this worthy effort.

Under an agreement with the Department of Corrections, Partners provides short-term rental housing to otherwise homeless prisoners using an AHFC HAP grant. Housing assistance is combined with help in finding employment (Nine Star), and counseling and treatment groups (ANJC). Probation officers in many of Alaska's correctional centers are referring otherwise homeless prisoners to Partners for this coordinated program. Recipients are held accountable for their own success. The goal is a smooth transition to a self-sufficient and responsible life.

Demand for the existing program is exceeding available funding. The proposed appropriation is for a Capital Supplemental to the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation in the total amount of \$1.8 million to be spent over three years. Pursuant to the request, funds would be granted to Partners for Progress, who, in turn, would coordinate use of these funds with the other non-profits.

The small existing program has a proven record of success since 2009. Anchorage has a great unmet need for this coordinated multi-agency program. The proposal would save the Municipality, the State and the public significant amounts of money by reducing costs of recidivism and re-incarceration. Given this, and the importance for public safety, I strongly recommend your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dan Sullivan".

Dan Sullivan  
Mayor





Re: **Partners for Progress – Reducing Criminal Recidivism in Anchorage:  
A Multi-Agency Transitional Housing Model**

Dear

In 2010, with Governor Sean Parnell’s approval and encouragement, the Alaska Criminal Justice Working Group created the Alaska Prisoner Reentry Task Force and gave it a mission to reduce Alaska’s recidivism rate, thereby improving public safety and increasing the overall health of Alaska’s communities. Lowering the rate of ex-offender recidivism, in turn, cuts costs of incarceration and postpones the need to construct additional prisons. DOC projections indicate that, if incarceration is not slowed, Alaska will be out of prison beds by 2016.

Members of the Prisoner Reentry Task Force represent a range of state and community organizations, including the four who developed this proposal, **Partners for Progress, Nine Star Employment and Education, the Alaska Native Justice Center and Volunteers of America**. This group has been working together since 2009 to provide the hand-up that is often necessary for homeless ex-offenders to become lawful, self-sufficient members of the community. Through collaboration they are able to combine assistance with accountability.

Data on the results of this collaborative project merit continuation and expansion:

- Over the past three years 80% of those who completed the multi-agency program have not recidivated.
- By investing \$600,000 per year in this program, Alaska will save an estimated five times that much each year in reduced incarceration costs.
- The cumulative effect of keeping people out of prison on an ongoing basis, starting with a new group of about 120 each year, will significantly slow the rate of re-incarceration and help postpone or eliminate the need construct a new prison.

The four agencies recently submitted a request to Governor Sean Parnell for an expanded AHFC HAP grant. With a Capital Budget appropriation of \$600,000 per year for three years, the agencies could make a significant difference in reducing the recidivism rate of ex-offenders who reenter in Anchorage. Pursuant to this request, the funding would go to Partners for Progress who would coordinate with the other agencies.

We are asking you to express your support for this proposal because reducing criminal recidivism has state-wide and area-wide impacts, by improving public safety and containing of costs of incarceration.

Sincerely,

Janet McCabe  
Chair, Partners for Progress  
On behalf of the four participants

I support this proposal:

  
Signature

Leslie McGuire 2/21/2013  
Name Date



February 27, 2013

**Subject:** REDUCING CRIMINAL RECIDIVISM IN ANCHORAGE,  
A Multi-Agency Transitional Housing Model

Dear Anchorage Area Senators and Representatives;

As I expect you know, Victims for Justice specializes in serving and advocating for victims of all violent crimes, including assault, robbery, and kidnapping and the surviving family and friends of homicide victims. We also advocate for change that will make a balanced justice system and implement community programs for violence prevention.

In recent years, Victims for Justice has worked with the Department of Corrections Task Force on Recidivism, and it is clear to us that reducing recidivism is an important means for reducing the number of victims of violent crime in our communities. I have reviewed the Partners for Progress proposal. It offers a solid and well-tested system for reducing crime. **Victims for Justice supports this proposal.** The four non-profit organizations involved have all served the Anchorage area well for many years. Our founder, Janice Lienhart, was a strong supporter of Judge Wanamaker and the programs of Partners for Progress.

Preventing crimes prevents victims. The Multi-Agency Model proposal will efficiently and effectively reduce criminal recidivism in Anchorage and prevent many new crimes and new victims.

Reducing recidivism is also one of the most cost-effective ways to reduce the huge amounts of money Alaska invests in the criminal justice system, including police, prosecution, defense, the courts, incarceration, victim assistance and victim compensation. The data shows that the Partners for Progress Multi-agency Proposal will save at least five times the amount invested. This is a well-documented and conservative estimate.

I hope you can support this program that will protect the public, prevent victims and save public money, and that you will make the Partners for Progress proposal high on your area-wide priority list.

Sincerely,

Susan Sullivan  
Executive Director  
Victims for Justice



**Core Purpose**  
Housing for the Homeless and Solutions for Homelessness

**Core Values**  
Advocacy | Credibility | Cooperation | Partnerships

**Core Service**  
Advocating for sustainable community solutions to homelessness in the Mat-Su Borough

To whom it may concern:

The Mat-Su Coalition on Housing and Homelessness strongly supports the CAPSIS project entitled: *Partners for Progress; Reducing Criminal Recidivism in Anchorage, a Multi-Agency Transitional Housing Model.*

The proposed increment will make it possible to continue a small, well-tested program and take it to a scale that will significantly reduce recidivism among homeless ex-offenders reentering the community in Anchorage.

By investing \$600,000 per year in this program, Alaska will save approximately five times that much in the cost of incarceration. The cumulative effect of keeping 120 people out of prison on an ongoing basis, starting with an additional group of about 120 each year, will help slow the statewide rate of incarceration and postpone the date when the State must construct a new prison.

Reducing the rate of recidivism in Anchorage will have widespread benefits throughout the South Central region. This project is a proven way to reduce the multiple costs associated with recidivism.

**By investing the money for this program in FY14, the State will save many times that amount in future years.**

Sincerely,

David A. Rose  
Director  
Mat-Su Coalition on Housing and Homelessness  
907-232-4450

Carmen Gutierrez  
529 W 19<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503  
907-301-6650

February 6, 2013

Honorable Mayor Dan Sullivan  
Municipality of Anchorage  
632 West 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Re: Support for the Anchorage Prisoner Reentry Funding

Dear Mayor Sullivan,

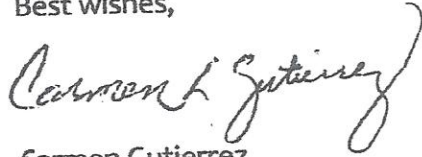
This letter is written to inform you of the Alaska Prisoner Reentry Task Force's support for the Supplemental Capital funding request of 1.8 million dollars to the Department of Revenue, Alaska Housing Finance Corporation, to be used strategically to reduce the high rate of criminal recidivism in Anchorage. According to Department of Corrections data, in 2011 half of the people on probation reappeared in court for a violation of their conditions of probation. Nine Star Education and Employment Service, the Alaska Native Justice Center, Volunteers of America and Partners for Progress recently submitted this request to Governor Sean Parnell. Pursuant to the request, the money would be distributed to Partners for Progress who would in turn coordinate use of these funds with the other partner agencies.

As you may know, in 2012 the Alaska Department of Corrections released approximately 1800 convicted felons into the Anchorage area. This is up from the previous year. The Anchorage Probation Office estimates that approximately 25% of these newly released individuals have no financial wherewithal or support upon their return to the community. The non-profit agencies making the Supplemental Capital funding request have a long history of working with newly released offenders, assisting them with short-term housing assistance, bus pass money, appropriate clothing, some food assistance, preparing for job interviews and making appropriate job referrals. The sole purpose of this effort is to provide these individuals with a short-term hand-up to enable them to be successful in the community. Every individual who successfully re-assimilates means less crime and fewer victims.

Given the positive public safety impact successful prisoner reentry is likely to have in our community and the potential cost savings statewide, we hope that you or your representatives would voice support for this request when opportunity presents.

Thank you for any consideration you may give this matter.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carmen Gutierrez". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Carmen Gutierrez  
Co-chair, The Alaska Prisoner Reentry Task Force

cc: Shalon Harrington, Intergovernmental Affairs Director  
The Anchorage Legislative Delegation