

Criminal Justice Reform and Reinvestment

FY2017 Request: \$5,000,000

Reference No: 61049

AP/AL: Appropriation

Project Type: Life / Health / Safety

Category: Law and Justice

Location: Statewide

House District: Statewide (HD 1-40)

Impact House District: Statewide (HD 1-40)

Contact: Pat Pitney

Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2016 - 06/30/2021

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Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

Placeholder for reform and reinvestment recommendations yet to be decided but likely to be proposed via reports from the Alaska Criminal Justice Commission.

Funding:	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021	FY2022	Total
1004 Gen Fund	\$5,000,000						\$5,000,000
Total:	\$5,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$5,000,000

<input type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - new	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - underway	<input type="checkbox"/> On-Going
0% = Minimum State Match % Required		<input type="checkbox"/> Amendment	<input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health Bill	

Operating & Maintenance Costs:

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Staff</u>
Project Development:	0	0
Ongoing Operating:	0	0
One-Time Startup:	0	0
Totals:	0	0

Prior Funding History / Additional Information:

No prior funding history.

Project Description/Justification:

Intent of FY2017 Justice Reinvestment budget placeholder

Pairing statutory reforms with reinvestment priorities. The Alaska Criminal Justice Commission will release their recommendations for statutory changes on December 10th. These changes, which will include pretrial reforms, sentencing reforms, and reforms to penalties for probation and parole violations, will be designed to safely reduce the prison population, resulting in a significant net savings for the state over the next decade. Paired with these recommendations for statutory changes will be a list of priority areas for reinvestment into services that better meet the needs of offenders and crime victims.

Closing the fiscal gap and reinvesting. The state general fund cost avoidance over time from housing fewer prisoners and reducing criminal recidivism will serve two purposes: 1) helping to close the fiscal gap, and 2) creating an opportunity to reinvest a portion of state general fund costs avoided into priority services. This reinvestment will be designed to enhance the impact of the statutory changes on the prison population by expanding evidence-based services that reduce criminal recidivism, reduce victimization, and build a safer, healthier Alaska.

Improving the odds of success and sustainability. Because the statutory changes will result in lower-level defendants and offenders being managed with alternatives to prison or being released to the community after less time incarcerated, the reinvestment component of Justice Reinvestment helps to ensure that they receive the programming, supervision, treatment, and support that they need to be successful in a non-prison setting. It would also help to ensure that crime victims are getting the support and services that they need to prevent re-victimization and gain long-term stability.

Modest upfront investment. Some of the statutory changes will result in fairly immediate reductions to the prison population within two years. Others will likely have an impact further down the road. Recognizing the expectation that prison population reduction and the associated savings will be achieved in the near future, the state would make a modest kick-starter investment into the priority services to prime the pump for the criminal justice reform effort. The expected amount is not known and the Administration looks forward to working with the Legislature on the appropriate investment.

Ongoing steady state investment. The investment is likely to grow modestly in the next year or two while savings from the initial implementation of strategies start to materialize. These dollars would include a portion of state general funds saved from implementing statutory reforms, recidivism reduction strategies, and eventually the possible closure of a correctional facility. The ongoing reinvestment would cease at the point it becomes evident that additional investments exceed the projected return. Those savings not directed toward reinvestment will also help the state to close its current budget gap.