

Leading Practices Toolkit Concerning Government-Issued Identification for Formerly Incarcerated Individuals



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Glossary

Correctional Facility	A jail, prison, or other detention facility used to house people who have been arrested, detained, held, or convicted by a criminal justice agency or court.
Driver's License	A driver's license includes all the same information as a State ID and <u>additionally</u> allows operation of a motor vehicle. A motor vehicle operator's license issued by a State authorizes operating a motor vehicle on public streets, roads, or highways, and includes driver's licenses stored or accessed via electronic means, such as mobile or digital driver's licenses,
Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)	A memorandum of understanding is a non-binding agreement between two or more entities. A MOU usually describes, in broad general terms, an area of mutual interest or concern that may be addressed cooperatively by two or more agencies or entities. MOUs generally do not include specific information regarding detailed scope of work or the exchange of funds or human resources.
Naturalized Citizen	Naturalization is the process by which U.S. citizenship is granted to a lawful permanent resident after meeting the requirements established by Congress in the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA).
Notary Public/ Notary	A public officer qualified and bonded under the laws of a particular jurisdiction for the performance of notarial acts, usually in connection with the execution of some document. Also referred to as a notary.
Provisional/ Temporary/ Released Offender ID	Distinct from a provisional license, a provisional ID card is temporary and expires after a set period. For example, in New York, recently released individuals have 120 days to visit a DMV to apply for a non-driver's photo ID, learner's permit, or Driver's License.
REAL ID Act	Enacted in 2005, the REAL ID Act sets minimum security standards for the issuance of driver's licenses and identification cards in order for those documents to be accepted by Federal department and agencies for official purposes, as defined in the Act and regulations.
REAL ID- Compliant	A driver's license or identification card that complies with requirements defined in the REAL ID Act and regulations.
Reentry	Reentry is the process by which a person in correctional confinement prepares for release and transitions back into the community.
State Driver Licensing Agency	A State driver licensing agency is a State agency which issues driver's licenses and identification to individuals within the State and maintains records relating to such licensure. These are often known as DMV, RMV, Bureau of Motor Vehicles, Secretary of State, Public Safety, or another name.
State Identification Card	Also known as a "Personal Identification Card," an Identification Card, or ID, this is an identification document issued by a State or local government solely for the purpose of identification, and typically includes name, photo, date of birth, and address. This includes identification cards stored or accessed via electronic means, such as mobile or digital identification cards.
Tribal ID Card Issuing Agency	Refers to a Tribal government agency or subdivision thereof that issues and renews Tribal citizen or enrolled member identification cards through a Tribal citizen authentication process determined by a Tribe's laws or customs.
Tribal Identifying Document	A Native American Tribal document is an official Tribal or community membership document issued by a Native American Indian Tribe, or an Alaska Eskimo or Aleut community, that is recognized by the U.S. federal government. The Department of Interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs website is one resource to determine if the Tribe or community that issued the Tribal or community membership document is Federally recognized.

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Chapter 1:

Introduction

About this Toolkit

Welcome to the **Leading Practices Toolkit Concerning Government-Issued Identification for Formerly Incarcerated Individuals**. Whether as a *State identification (ID)* applicant or an agency coordinating State ID issuance during reentry, this toolkit will provide you with key information to support the White House's goal to improve access to lawfully obtained ID documents upon release from incarceration. This Toolkit includes information about how to apply for an ID, help another person apply, or learn how an agency can streamline the application process.

This resource is part of the White House’s Alternatives, Rehabilitation, and Reentry Strategic Plan to improve public safety through support for rehabilitation and facilitating successful reentry. To address some of the barriers specific to reentry, **this toolkit aims to share useful information** and best practices about the ID application process. The U.S. Department of Transportation recognizes an opportunity to leverage the relationship between State Driver License Agencies, correctional facilities, and public agencies to improve access to a State ID. Since State IDs are needed to access transportation services, healthcare services, housing, education, and more, increasing access to State IDs supports other **White House Strategic Plan initiatives**, including to:

✓ Improve access to affordable and safe housing;

✓ Enhance formerly incarcerated persons’ access to federal nutrition and subsistence benefits;

✓ Improve formerly incarcerated individuals’ access to banking and financial services;

✓ Advance formerly incarcerated individuals’ education opportunities;

✓ Expand employment opportunities for people with criminal history records;

✓ Support the right to vote and civic participation for eligible persons;

✓ Improve formerly incarcerated individuals’ access to health care;

✓ Improve formerly incarcerated individuals’ access to occupational licenses and credentials;

✓ And improve supervision outcomes and reducing recidivism during reentry.

Special thanks to the interagency State ID for Reentry working group that made this toolkit possible. Led by the Department of Transportation (DOT), the following agencies provided essential information. Many thanks for the contributions of the following agencies that participated in the working group:



American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators

American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA)



Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)



Federal Bureau of Prisons (FBOP)



Department of Homeland Security (DHS)



Department of the Interior



Department of Justice (DOJ):
Office of the Deputy Attorney General
Office of the Associate Attorney General
Office of Legal Policy



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

Department of Transportation – Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA)



Department of Transportation – National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)



Department of Transportation

Who is this toolkit for?

The Leading Practices Toolkit is for:

- Currently or formerly incarcerated ID applicants
- Those supporting applicants, including reentry centers
- Correctional facilities working to implement or expand State ID programming
- State and Local governments supporting increased access to State IDs
- State Driver Licensing Agencies (SDLAs) and other critical agency partners who approve and deliver IDs
- Governments of Federally Recognized Tribes supporting increased access to Tribal-issued identifying documents

Each chapter in this guidebook focuses on a different perspective in State ID access described below.

Chapter 2: ID Applicants

For applicants or those supporting them, this toolkit describes different types of identification, their uses, the general application steps and typically required documentation. The chapter includes links to additional information to consult.

Chapter 3: Local or State Agencies-Best Practice Examples

For agencies, this toolkit showcases examples of best practices to expand State ID provision. While it offers links to resources for developing and scaling State ID access, it does not require agencies to implement any specific program.

Chapter 4: Local or State Agencies- Resources

For all individuals and local or State agencies, this Toolkit gathers a table of relevant federal policy guidance and funding resources.

Toolkit Uses

Please note that this is a general information document. All the steps of your specific process will not be reflected due to local differences, including requirements, funding considerations, and eligibility restrictions. Please take care to cross-check the general information you find here with local guidance. **This toolkit does not offer legal advice or issue official guidance.**

As you navigate to the chapters relevant for you, you will find italicized words in **blue text**. These are defined in the Glossary at the beginning of this document.



This is a general information document. All the steps of your specific process will not be reflected due to local differences. Please take care to cross-check the general information you find here with local guidance.

Chapter 2:

Information for ID Applicants

What is included in this chapter?

- ID types and their uses
- Types of required documentation
- Tips for State ID application

Optional tools:

- Documents checklist
- Summary of key documents
- Examples of reentry and identification guides by State

Key terms in this chapter:

- *State Driver Licensing Agency*
- *Tribal ID Card Issuing Agency*
- *Notary Public or notary*
- *REAL ID*

What is a State ID?

A **State ID** is a form of official identification that many people rely on to register for social services, secure housing, begin employment, access transportation, open a bank account, and receive medical care, among other daily uses. A State ID may be a driver's license or identification card.

Having a State ID is important for the roughly 600,000 people released from State and Federal prisons each year. It is common for identification to expire, be lost, or get damaged during incarceration. Further, obtaining new identification prior to release can be challenging, costly, and time consuming, in part because processes and requirements vary across each State, individual circumstance, and type of correctional facility. Given these challenges and the importance of identification, this Toolkit aims to provide you with accurate information in one place.

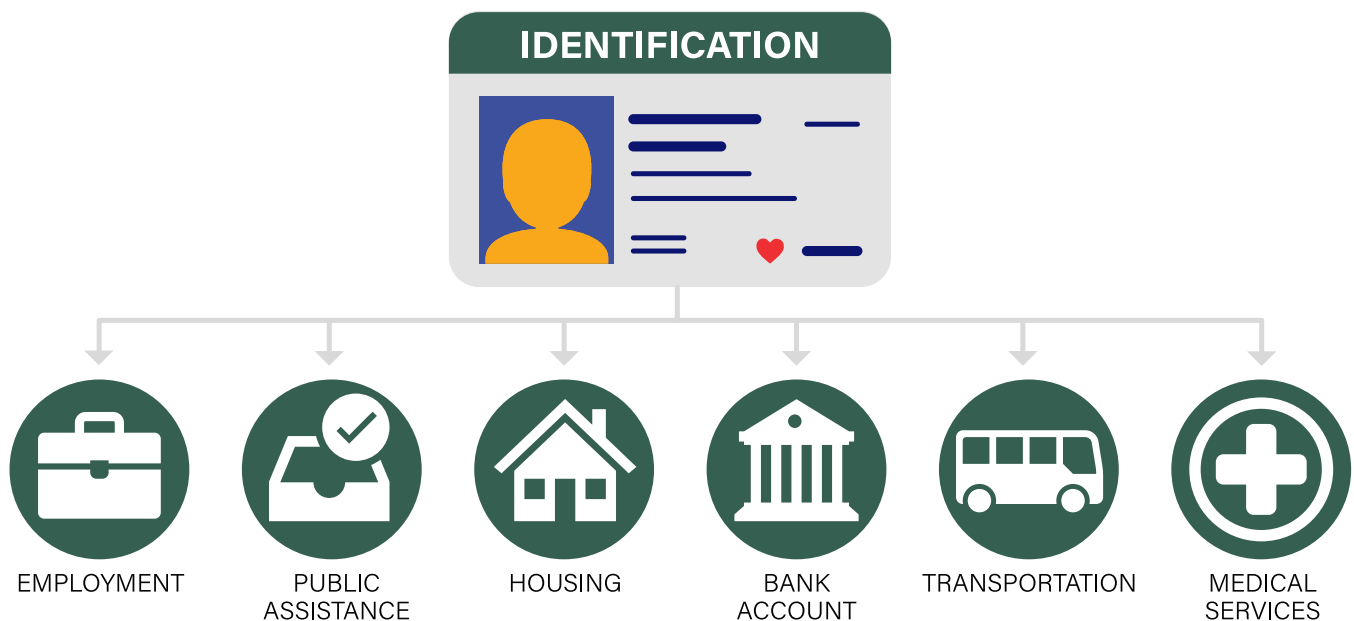


Figure 1 Services that typically require an ID

Relationship Between State ID and REAL ID

An important note is that *REAL ID* refers to a type of driver's license or State ID that meets the REAL ID standards in the REAL ID Act and regulations. In many states, residents may obtain either a driver's license or State ID that is noncompliant with REAL ID requirements. If your driver's license or State ID is REAL ID-compliant, it will display one of the indicators in Figure 2. This toolkit focuses on obtaining a State ID generally, including noncompliant State IDs. Prior to applying for a State ID, consider if you need your State ID to be REAL ID-compliant. Beginning on **May 7, 2025**, Federal agencies may accept, for REAL ID official purposes (which include boarding a federally-regulated commercial aircraft or entering certain federal buildings), only those State-issued driver's licenses or State IDs that are REAL ID-compliant. If your State-issued driver's license or State ID is not REAL ID-compliant, you will have to show a different form of acceptable identification, as determined individually by Federal agencies. For example, you can find more information on the documentation someone can use to board a domestic flight at: [Acceptable Identification at the TSA Checkpoint | Transportation Security Administration](#). Other Federal agencies may have similar lists of acceptable documents for access control purposes. Currently, all 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands are issuing REAL ID-compliant State IDs and driver's licenses to applicants who are eligible. Federally Recognized Tribal-issued photo ID can also be used as acceptable REAL ID-compliant documentation, depending on compliance of the [Tribal ID Card Issuing Agency](#).

Differences between a State ID, Driver's License, and REAL ID

A State ID, which you can apply for at your *State driver licensing agency* (SDLA), proves your name, age, address, and residency in the state. A driver's license provides the same function as a State ID (proves name, age, address, residency) **plus the allowance** to drive.

When the REAL ID Act goes into effect on **May 7, 2025**, your State ID, such as your driver's license or identification card, must be REAL ID-compliant for it to be accepted to board federally-regulated commercial flights and access certain Federal facilities. A driver's license or State ID card can *also* be REAL ID-compliant if it meets certain requirements. You will know if your State ID or driver's license is REAL ID-compliant if it has **one** of the following markings on the top portion of the card:



Figure 2 Real ID Indicators



IMPORTANT NOTE

Many states issue State IDs through their local Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) or Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV). However, in certain states, the documents are issued by the State's Department of Transportation (DOT), Secretary of State Office, or Public Safety. You can visit [USA.gov](https://www.usa.gov) to locate your State's driver licensing agency (SDLA).

Special Rights and Eligibility

Your rights, privileges, and eligibility for certain programs and services may depend on factors such as your age, military service, citizenship status, Tribal membership, and incarceration history. There may also be certain considerations if you fall within the following categories:

- **U.S. Citizens:** If you are a U.S. citizen, you have the right to apply for a State ID in the State where you reside. You must provide the necessary documents in-person and pay any associated fees.
- **Federally Recognized Tribal Citizen or Enrolled Member:** If you are enrolled as a citizen or member of a Federally Recognized Tribe as determined by a Tribe's laws or customs, you may seek to obtain Tribal documentation if your Tribe has a *Tribal ID Card Issuing Agency*. Tribal documentation serves different purposes than State IDs but may provide documentation for certain benefits under Tribal or Federal law.
- **Non-U.S. Citizens:** If you are not a U.S. citizen but have permission to be in the United States, you generally can obtain a State ID. Like U.S. citizens, you must provide the necessary documents and pay for any associated fees. Non-U.S. citizens may also obtain REAL ID-compliant IDs with appropriate documentation.
- **U.S. Veterans:** If you are a veteran, you may request the state driver licensing agency to designate your veteran status on your State ID during the application process. However, this designation does not provide access to military facilities or military benefits. You must show other military documentation.
- **Federal Prisoners:** If you have been in a Federal *Correctional Facility*, Federal Bureau of Prisons staff is required to keep a file of your ID documents which were on your person the date you arrived to serve your sentence and return them to you upon your release.
- **Members of Federally recognized Tribes:** If you are a member of a Federally recognized Tribe you may want to see if the Tribe of which you are a member issues Tribal IDs. Your Tribe may have a Tribal ID card issuing agency and you must provide the necessary documents and pay for any associated fees.

For additional information, please see the [Department of Homeland Security's website](#) on REAL ID-compliant identification.

Your Responsibilities

You will be responsible for providing copies of necessary documents to apply for your State ID. In Table 1 and Table 2, you will see the different types of identifying documents and where to request replacement or renewal. Please note that you will likely need more than one of these documents to obtain a State ID. However, the specific requirements depend on your State, the state driver licensing agency, and your citizenship status so please review the requirements in your state. Obtaining a REAL ID-compliant State ID will likely require additional documents versus obtaining a noncompliant State ID. Note also that you are required to visit the agency issuing State IDs in person if you are applying for a REAL ID-compliant document for the first time, and in some circumstances, may be required to appear in person after that.

As noted above, you'll likely need more than one of the documents listed in the table, with the specific requirements depending on your location. **Prior to applying, please check that your documents are current, since past expiration dates may result in significant delays in your application.**

Obtaining Important Documents

Table 1 Summary of Key Documents

DOCUMENT	REQUESTS AND RENEWALS	USES
Criminal History	<input type="checkbox"/> Contact the Federal Bureau of Investigation to get your Identity History Summary, or Rap Sheet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is important to know what appears on your Criminal History since it is often used by employers, Public Housing Authorities, schools, government agencies, and other agencies to screen eligibility.
Driver's License	<input type="checkbox"/> Contact your State driver licensing agency for a replacement license or State ID card	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A driver's license provides the same information as a State ID and a license to operate a vehicle.
Naturalization Certificate*	<input type="checkbox"/> Submit Form N-565 to the Office of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services replace a Certificate of Citizenship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Naturalized individuals (those who were born outside of the U.S. and later became citizens) use their naturalization certificate in place of a U.S. birth certificate.
Permanent Resident (Green) Card or Other Documentation Showing your Immigration Status	<input type="checkbox"/> Contact the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services to replace your Permanent or to obtain other documentation showing your immigration status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Permanent residents may use their Permanent Resident Card as a form of photo ID, or other documentation showing their permanent resident status. Other non-U.S. citizens can use a variety of documentation as a form of photo ID. Other documentation issued to Non-U.S. Citizens may include an Employment Authorization Document, a temporary visa, or a Form I-94.
Proof of Residency	<input type="checkbox"/> Check your State's motor vehicle services for eligible documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A proof of residency demonstrates that you reside in the state where you are applying for a State ID. An example of a valid proof of residency can be a lease agreement, a utility bill, or a bank statement. Some States may require two proofs of residency, check your State's requirements to confirm.

Social Security Number and Social Security Card**	<input type="checkbox"/> Visit the Social Security Administration website to replace your card online or by appointment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A social security number is required to apply for jobs, education programs, financial aid, and government services. • A social security number is required to obtain other forms of ID, such as a State ID or driver's license. • A social security card is not an identification document and, in many situations, an individual only needs to know their social security number.
State Identification	<input type="checkbox"/> Contact your State driver licensing agency for a replacement license or State ID card	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A State ID proves your age, identity, and residency. • It can be used as an official photo ID • It might be required to open a bank account, register to vote, apply for jobs, housing, or public benefits. • States provide two options for State ID – identification only (often referred to as a resident card), and identification with permission to drive a vehicle (a driver's license).
Tribal Identifying Document	<input type="checkbox"/> Check the Department of Interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs website to determine if the Tribe or community that issued the Tribal or community membership document is Federally Recognized. The Federal Register list of Indian Entities Recognized by and Eligible To Receive Services From the United States Bureau of Indian Affairs also regularly updates Federally Recognized Tribes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each Tribe determines its own enrollment criteria for membership. • To obtain information about your eligibility for membership, you must contact the Tribe. • A Federally Recognized Tribal-issued photo ID can be used as a REAL ID compliant document.
U.S. Birth Certificate	<input type="checkbox"/> Contact your birth state or territory's vital records office to get a certified copy of your birth certificate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proves your age and legal presence in the US. • Often needed to obtain other forms of identification.¹ • Often needs other documentation as proof-of-identity during the application process.
U.S. Passport	<input type="checkbox"/> Report your lost or stolen passport to the State Department. Then request a replacement in person	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A passport is required to travel abroad and return to the United States. • It can also be used as an official photo ID.

***Eligible for fee waiver or financial assistance; eligibility and assistance vary by State**

****Replacing your Social Security Card is free**

Please note that a *Notary Public* may need to watch you sign or validate your document. A Notary Public, or sometimes called a *notary*, is a State-appointed official who serves the public as an impartial witness in the signing of important documents. **If a document needs to be notarized, wait until the notary is present** to sign. Please keep in mind you are responsible for the cost of a notary's services.

¹ For children born outside of the U.S. to a parent who was a U.S. citizen at the time of the child's birth, contact the U.S. Department of State to obtain a [Certificate of Birth Abroad](#).

Toolkits and Other Online Resources

The table below contains a sample of available resources from State agencies and reentry groups. While the guidance may be a helpful starting point for all readers, please use care and cross check your home State's ID requirements.

Table 2 Example Reentry and Identification Resources Offered by Government and Non-Profit Organizations

State	Resource	Prepared By
<u>California</u>	California Identification Card Program	California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation
<u>District of Columbia</u>	The DC Reentry Navigator	Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia
<u>Illinois</u>	REAL ID Document Checklist	Illinois Secretary of State
<u>Massachusetts</u>	Identification Documents Checklist	Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles
<u>Michigan</u>	Applying for a license or ID card	Michigan Secretary of State
<u>Nevada</u>	Released Prisoner or Inmate Driver's License and Identification Card Information Sheet	Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles
<u>Pennsylvania</u>	REAL ID Document Fact sheet	Pennsylvania Department of Transportation
<u>Virginia</u>	Reentry Resource Packet	Virginia Department of Corrections

The Bureau of Prisons [Reentering Your Community Handbook](#) provides step-by-step recommendations for incarcerated individuals preparing for reentry. For those currently rebuilding their lives, this handbook provides information for additional tools and resources, such as food assistance, transportation assistance, housing assistance, and mental health services.

The [Department of Homeland Security](#) website can help you identify the issuing agency in your State or territory.

Chapter 3:

Information for State and Local Agencies

This chapter is directed towards state and local government readers and highlights existing best practices in increasing State ID access. This chapter includes a snapshot of current State ID access trends, considerations for developing your own strategies, and successful examples of State Driver Licensing Agencies (SDLAs) coordination with other local agencies. Since SDLAs are responsible for reviewing applications for identification, processing documentation, and issuing ID cards, this coordination is of special importance.

What is included in this chapter?

- Factors that may impact the scope of your reentry programs
 - policies
- Best practices and approaches that States and municipalities have successfully implemented

Resources found in this chapter:

- A map of states with policies and programs for obtaining identification upon release
- Factors to consider when implementing a new ID program
- Examples of identification delivery and logistics strategies
- Examples of State best practices

Key terms in this chapter:

- State Driver's Licensing Agencies
- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

Your Leadership in Identification for Reentry Programs

As incarcerated and recently incarcerated individuals typically do not have ready access to the most up-to-date information and resources, your agency can bridge this gap by providing relevant information directly or connecting individuals with resources in their communities. For example, you can host links to resources and contact information on your websites, including phone numbers and street addresses for relevant State and local ID resources. Your support of this process can build public knowledge about existing resources and contribute leadership to State ID for reentry efforts.





The planning questions below are considerations for developing or scaling your current State ID programming.

Table 3 Implementation Considerations for New State ID for Reentry Programs

Implementation Considerations for New State ID for Reentry Programs	
Cost	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the out-of-pocket costs for someone reentering to obtain a State ID? (e.g. document fees, application fees, notary fees, transportation fees). • To open, operate, and staff a State ID program for reentry, what types of expenses would be required? (e.g. new technology procurement, new staff onboarding and facility clearance)
Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For routine paperwork for incarcerated individuals, what processing time does your agency average? What factors contribute to longer or shorter processing times?
Reach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If your State ID program for reentry already exists, how is eligibility defined? (e.g. citizenship status, county, state or federal detention, housing unit, etc.) • For those with specific language access or mental health needs, what resources can be leveraged to increase program reach?
Improvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does your agency track successful ID delivery? Informal metrics such as number of individuals with access to State IDs services, the quantity issued, or average wait-times are potential ways to showcase the positive outcomes of your work.

State and Local Agency Coordination

Each of the policy statistics in Figure 3 highlights strategic coordination between several agencies to provide increased State ID access. Many SDLAs lead by proactively establishing interagency coordination, while State legislatures concurrently introduce policies to reduce procedural barriers including reforming processes, amending local regulations, or allocating funds. Specific examples of coordination are highlighted in the tables and strategies below.

Collaborating agencies typically develop one or more of the following agreements to formalize coordination: a *memorandum of action (MOA)*, which appoints detailed responsibilities to all parties in an agreement, a *memorandum of understanding (MOU)*, which is more formal than an MOA and guides interagency collaboration by identifying a mutual interest or concern and the actions that will help each party meet their shared goals, or an *interagency agreement (IAA)*, which is a reimbursable agreement that defines participating agencies' relationship, roles, and the exchange of goods and services.

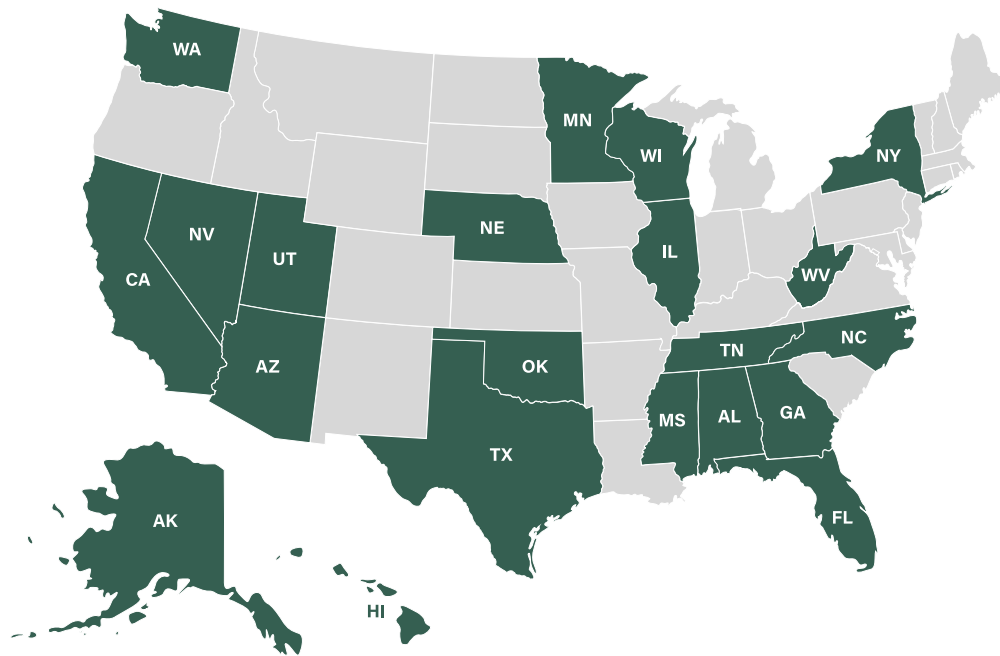


Figure 3 States with Identification Upon Reentry Programs

Current Trends in State ID Provision

1 in 3 State Departments of Corrections (DOCs) ensure that individuals leave prison with a state-issued ID

44% of DOCs provide a provisional ID that can be exchanged for a State ID

53% of DOCs collaborate with SDLAs to develop a plan for an inmate's release

(Separately, the Federal Bureau of Prisons issues an official release ID if a releasing individual has a state identification or driver's license that has expired or will expire within 90 days of release and the issuing SDLA will not accept the expired identification for exchange.)

Strategies

This section highlights several innovative collaboration strategies currently in use to expand State ID access.

Easily Accessible DMV Services



Mobile DMV facilities offer a range of identification services from within a converted vehicle or trailer which is deployed where services are needed. A growing number of states have begun using mobile units to provide State ID assistance within correctional facilities. This approach maximizes staff reach, including servicing Federal correctional facilities. Leading practices include focusing on improving access to identification related programs and services for individuals with disabilities by ensuring website accessibility for sections of the website involving requesting and obtaining identification and ensuring accessibility of DMV programs and services in both fixed locations and mobile sites.



Permanently staffed DMV offices (or DMV equipment operated by trained staff) offer ID services from within correctional facilities. These physical offices or equipment allow for in-house document processing prior to an inmate's release. As a first step to establish such DMV field offices, an MOU or IAA which outlines the roles and expectations for both the facility and the DMV is recommended.

Improving interagency communication and coordination



Memos and agreements can prevent duplication of efforts by increasing acceptance of documentation upon release. The Federal Bureau of Prisons (FBOP) and some State facilities issue *temporary ID* cards upon release which are unfortunately not always accepted as a form of supporting documentation for a State ID or driver's license application. Interagency coordination can support reciprocity in exchanging a temporary ID for a State ID through an SDLA, or help agencies establish shared guidelines for processing supporting documents like birth certificate or social security card.

SPOTLIGHT



In Florida, the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (FLHSMV) covers all required fees associated with State IDs for individuals incarcerated in state facilities. Since 2014, FLHSMV has deployed mobile DMV units to provide licensing services in correctional settings. Before the COVID-19 Pandemic, 88% of those released from Florida State prisons had a State ID.

In Colorado, two State facilities have built fully operational on-site DMV offices. Upon inmate intake and initial assessment, trained DMV staff issue State ID as needed and store it until release.

In Nebraska, the State DOC and DMV have implemented a DOC-DMV agreement for coordinating and obtaining documents prior to an inmate's release in order to expedite the State ID application process.

Examples of Interagency Collaboration

The table below highlights some strategic efforts to successfully launch or expand interagency coordination.

Table 4 Other Examples of Interagency Collaboration

State	Strategy	Description
Colorado	DMV Offices Inside Correctional Facilities	Colorado established two DMV offices within their primary two correctional facilities. Upon centralized intake, inmates in need are issued a State ID to be held until their release. In cases where a State ID was not issued at intake, inmates are transported to a DMV-equipped facility to complete this process immediately prior to release.
Florida	Mobile DMV Units	The “Florida Licensing on Wheels” (FLOW) program deploys specially outfitted RVs and buses to meet licensing needs across the state. In secure facilities, the scheduled visit consists of incarcerated individuals handing off their supporting documents to the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (FLHSMV) staff. Where requirements are met, FLHSMV print a compliant credential, which the facility stores until release.
Idaho	DMV Services Inside Correctional Facilities	Through a partnership between the Idaho Department of Corrections and Idaho Department of Transportation, DOC staff are trained to issue State IDs through the discharge process. Currently, three Idaho facilities directly issue State IDs upon release, with plans to expand their program.
Illinois	Interagency Coordination and Communication	The Cook County Sheriff’s Office has partnered with the Illinois Secretary of State to provide State ID for former inmates. Currently, the program focuses on people who have previously applied for a State ID or have existing documentation such as a birth certificate.
Minnesota	DMV Equipment Inside Correctional Facilities	Under an interagency agreement, Minnesota installed DMV-compliant technology required to print State IDs from within correctional facilities. Upon initial intake, trained corrections staff assess what documents inmates have and need. Once document requirements are met and an individual is within a year of release, their State ID is issued prior to release.
North Carolina	DMV Services Inside Correctional Facilities	As a first step to increase access, the State Department of Audit Correction (DAC) established a partnership with State DMV to provide a State ID card to individuals due for release.
Oregon	Interagency Coordination and Communication	Oregon published guidance for the State’s DMV and DOC to begin prerelease State ID services, including criteria for eligible applicants and acceptable documentation.
Texas	Interagency Coordination and Communication	To fund prerelease State ID service, the Nueces County Sheriff’s Office uses commissary proceeds and discretionary funds. In partnership with the Texas Department of Public Safety, this self-funding program will establish State ID access within the facility.
Virginia	Mobile DMV Equipment/Units	“DMV Connect,” Virginia’s statewide mobile DMV Office, deploys specially outfitted vehicles with trained staff to provide licensing services to State and Federal prisons. Similar to Florida, supporting documents and a complete application are usually required 2 to 3 months in advance. Where requirements are met, DMV Connect staff issue a State ID and hold onto it until the individual’s release.

Additional Planning and Policy Resources

Please consult the following additional resources as you consider implementing or scaling your prerelease ID program. The table includes recent strategy-level reports on differing approaches to State ID services, as well as more detailed information on implementation, like compliant equipment to print ID cards.

Table 5 Additional Planning and Policy Resources

Source	Topic	Key Takeaways
<u>Bureau of Prisons/Government Accountability Office</u>	Comprehensive look at Federal and State ID practices for reentry	Investigates the processes and success of various States' ID for reentry programs. Shares specifics about State programs for granting ID's, such as how many State DOCs provide an inmate ID card that can be exchanged for a State ID or how many DOCs have MOUs with state DMVs.
<u>Identity - American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA)</u>	Identify Concerns Regarding State-Issued IDs	Details best practices for verifying an individual's identity when issuing IDs, including security concerns and complying with REAL ID requirements.
<u>National Conference of State Legislatures</u>	Nationwide policy implementation Overview of ID for reentry	Lists all the current state laws pertaining to State ID for reentry programs.
<u>National Reentry Resource Center</u>	Strategies to help officials create or improve their State ID for reentry programs	Summarizes the difference between pre- and post-release support strategies, including post-release typically being more cost effective but slower. Summarizes costs to expect when implementing State ID programming. Highlights the critical importance of State ID to access housing and employment.
<u>Oregon Department of Transportation</u>	Mobile DMV Units	Oregon DOT published takeaways from States who deploy mobile units, including details on coordination with DOCs, essential equipment, and capital and labor costs for each approach.

Chapter 4:

Federal Resources and Opportunities

This final section presents a compilation of resources from the White House, the Department of Justice, the Federal Bureau of Prisons, and other Federal agencies. For any agency working to create or scale reentry ID services, this chapter provides important policy, programming, and funding context for State ID issuance.

This section will help you:

- Understand the context and Federal requirements which can impact State or local programs
- Identify programs and resources that can support individuals' application for a State ID

Resources found in this chapter:

- Federal programs and initiatives for State ID
- Competitive grants
- Federal handbooks and guides on reentry

Federal Initiatives and Programs

The following Federal policies and guidance offer important context for developing a reentry program for State ID.

Table 6 Federal Policies and Guidance

Agency	Resource	Key Takeaways
Department of Justice	<u>Rehabilitation, Reentry, and Reaffirming Trust Strategic Plan</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This Plan is an evidence-based approach that: • Advances the White House's goal to facilitate reentry into society for people with criminal records by removing barriers to securing government-issued identification and other essential services. • Affirms the DOJ's commitment to facilitating successful reentry and lowering barriers to opportunity for people with criminal records. • Details the challenges and barriers to a successful reentry. • Focuses on reducing racial, ethnic, and other disparities within the criminal justice system. • Identifies Federal, State, Tribal, and local reentry services and strategies.
Federal Legislation	<u>The First Step Act of 2018: An Overview</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This overview summarizes the First Step Act's goal of reducing the size of the federal prison population through provisions that: • Reauthorize the Second Chance Act of 2007. • Require FBOP to assist prisoners and offenders with obtaining a social security card, driver's license or other official photo ID, and birth certificate prior to release. • Require FBOP to establish prerelease planning procedures to help prisoners apply for Federal and State benefits and obtain identification.
The White House	<u>Alternatives, Rehabilitation, and Reentry Strategic Plan</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This Plan is an evidence-informed and whole-of-government approach that: • Outlines more than 100 concrete policy actions to improve the criminal justice system and strengthen public safety. • Encourages SDLAs to improve access to State ID for people who have been incarcerated in jails and prisons. • Encourages the funding and use of diversion programs and treatment courts. • Leverages DOC competitive grants to encourage recipients to employ formerly incarcerated individuals and partner with registered programs that facilitate the reentry of formerly incarcerated individuals.

Competitive Grants

This table includes some of the funding opportunities that are available to support your reentry initiatives, with a focus on Federal resources. The Second Chance Reauthorization Act of 2018 reauthorizes or expands some reentry grant programs. Eligible applicants include State and local agencies, as well as non-profit organizations.

Table 7 Reentry Resources

Agency	Grant Opportunity	Description
Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA)	<u>Second Chance Act (SCA) Programs</u>	<p>The Bureau of Justice works with communities, governments, and nonprofit organizations to reduce crime, recidivism, and unnecessary confinement, and promote a safe and fair criminal justice system.</p> <p>SCA Programs offer support and grant opportunities to agencies and organizations that are involved in the reentry process.</p>
Department of Justice (DOJ)	<u>Department of Justice Grants</u>	<p>The Department of Justice offers funding opportunities to support law enforcement and public safety activities in State, Tribal, and local jurisdictions; to assist victims of crime; to provide training and technical assistance; to conduct research; and to implement programs that improve the criminal, civil, and juvenile justice systems.</p>
Employment and Training Administration (ETA)	<u>Reentry Employment Opportunities (REO)</u>	<p>The Department of Labor (DOL)'s ETA administers the REO program, which provides grants to serve justice-involved youth (ages 15-18), young adults (18-24), and adults (18+) who are involved with the justice system. The program's mission is to inform the public workforce system on how to best serve those currently or formerly incarcerated and does so by testing the effectiveness of service delivery models that support reentry into the workforce.</p>
<u>National Reentry Resource Center (NRRC)</u>	<u>Funding Opportunity Resources</u>	<p>The NRRC is funded and administered by the U.S. Department of Justice's (DOJ's) Office of Justice Programs (OJP), Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA). It is the nation's primary source of information and guidance in reentry.</p> <p>The Funding Opportunity Resources is a collection of grant opportunities to support reentry initiatives.</p>

Reentry Resources

The Federal government has produced a variety of reentry-related materials. These materials include reentry guides and reports addressing challenges associated with Federal reentry efforts.

Agency	Resource	Key Takeaways
Employment and Training Administration (ETA)	<u>CareerOneStop's Job Search Help for Ex-Offenders</u>	<p>The Department of Labor's (DOL) ETA sponsors CareerOneStop.org, an online tool to deliver integrated, easy-to-understand workforce information that helps job seekers, students, workers, workforce intermediaries, and employers develop their capacity and make sound economic decisions in the new economy.</p> <p>CareerOneStop's Job Search Help for Ex-Offenders website offers information, tips, and resources to help people with criminal convictions overcome barriers they might face in their job search, including State-specific resources for help with basic needs or getting ready to job search, information on work restrictions that apply to certain convictions, and information on options to help pay for training or college.</p>
Government Accountability Office (GAO)	<u>Opportunities Exist to Better Assist Incarcerated People with Obtaining ID Documents Prior to Release - Report</u>	<p>This report on the Federal Bureau of Prisons found that the agency could improve its current approach to assisting incarcerated individuals with obtaining identification. For instance, while the FBOP does currently issue a form of ID to inmates upon release, not all state level public agencies currently accept it as valid. Therefore, the report recommended and the FBOP took steps to better coordinate with entities that may require a recently released inmate's identification.</p>
Government Accountability Office (GAO)	<u>Barriers to Obtaining ID and Assistance Provided to Help Gain Access - Report</u>	<p>This report on homelessness demonstrates the difficulties that homeless individuals experience when trying to obtain a State ID. In this report, GAO reviewed Federal homelessness assistance programs that allow providers to use program funds to help individuals obtain ID.</p>
National Reentry Resource Center	<u>Reentry Strategies for State and Local Leaders</u>	<p>This paper identifies legislation, regulations, and MOUs at that state and local level that can improve access for inmates to obtain a State ID when they are about to be released from prison or jail.</p>
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)	<u>Best Practices for Successful Reentry from Criminal Justice Settings for People Living with Mental Health Conditions and/or Substance Use Disorders</u>	<p>SAMHSA is the agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that leads public health efforts to advance the behavioral health of the nation.</p> <p>This best practices guide is a collection of evidence-based interventions and models that support previously incarcerated individuals living with mental health conditions or substance use disorders. Interventions found in this guide have been successful in reducing recidivism, preventing a recurrence of symptoms, and improving overall well-being.</p>

Chapter 5:

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Chapter 6:

Appendices

Appendix A: Abbreviations

AAMVA	American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators
BIA	Bureau of Indian Affairs
BJA	Bureau of Justice Assistance
CDCR	California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation
CDL	Commercial Driver's License
CHIP	Children's Health Insurance Program
CMS	Medicare and Medicaid Services
DAC	Department of Audition Correction
DHS	Department of Homeland Security
DMV	Department of Motor Vehicles
DOC	Department of Corrections
DOJ	Department of Justice
DOL	Department of Labor
DOT	Department of Transportation
ETA	Employment and Training Administration
FBI	Federal Bureau of Investigation
FBOP	Federal Bureau of Prisons
FLHSMV	Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles
FMCSA	Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration
GAO	Government Accountability Office
HARP	Health and Reentry Project
IAA	Interagency Agreement
ID	Identification
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NASHP	National Academy for State Health Policy
NCSL	National Conference of State Legislatures
PROWD	Partners for Reentry in Workforce Development
RMV	Registry of Motor Vehicles
SAMHSA	Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
SDLA	State Driver Licensing Agency
SSA	Social Security Administration

Appendix B: Checklist for Tracking Your ID Applications

DOCUMENT	STATUS	WHERE TO GET IT
Criminal History	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> In progress <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Contact the Federal Bureau of Investigation to get your Identity History Summary, or Rap Sheet.
Driver's License	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> In progress <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Contact your State Driver Licensing Agency for a replacement license or State ID card.
Naturalization Certificate	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> In progress <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Submit Form N-565 to the Office of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.
Permanent Resident (Green) Card or other Documentation Issued to Non-U.S. Citizens (for example, an Employment Authorization Document, a temporary visa, a Form I-94, or other documentation)	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> In progress <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Contact the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services to replace your Permanent Resident Card or to obtain other documentation showing your permanent resident status.
Proof of Residency	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> In progress <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Check your State's motor vehicle services for eligible documents.
Social Security Number and Social Security Card	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> In progress <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Visit the Social Security Administration website to replace your card online or by appointment.
State Identification	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> In progress <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Contact your State Driver Licensing Agency for a replacement license or State ID card.
U.S. Birth Certificate	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> In progress <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Contact your birth state or territory's vital records office to get a certified copy of your birth certificate. ²
U.S. Passport	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> In progress <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Report your lost or stolen passport to the State Department. Then request a replacement in person.

- Make a copy of all the documents you submitted.
- Record the date that you submitted your application.

² For children born outside of the U.S. to a parent who was a U.S. citizen at the time of the child's birth, contact the U.S. Department of State to obtain a [Certificate of Birth Abroad](#).

Appendix C: Additional Resources to Support Reentry

Resource	Description
<u>FMCSA Commercial Driver's License (CDL) Program</u>	This resource provides an overview of CDL licensing requirements and programs, as well as links to driver resources and State and local government resources.
<u>Reentry Section 1115 Demonstration Opportunity</u>	The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued guidance for designing demonstration projects under the Social Security Act to improve care transitions for certain individuals who are soon-to-be former inmates of a public institution and who are otherwise eligible for Medicaid.
<u>Reentry Services for Incarcerated Individuals</u>	Incarceration status does not render an individual ineligible for Medicaid, as it is not a factor of eligibility. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has been engaged in several Congressionally mandated actions aimed at improving care transitions for certain individuals who are soon-to-be former inmates of a public institution and who are otherwise eligible for Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).
<u>Roadmap to Reentry: A California Legal Guide</u>	This roadmap is specific to navigating reentry for those living in California. Included in this resource are tips, suggestions, and questions to consider when trying to apply for public benefits, employment, identifying documentation, etc.
<u>VA Homeless Programs</u>	The VA's health care for reentry veteran's services and resources provides information on outreach and pre-release assessments for Veterans in prisons, referrals and linkages to mental health, social services, and employment services upon release, and short-term case management assistance upon release.
<u>Why Housing Matters for Successful Reentry and Public Safety</u>	Housing is a key predictor of successful community reentry. Returning citizens for whom safe and affordable housing is inaccessible often experience a downward spiral immediately following release from incarceration that increases recidivism. With access to safe and affordable housing, returning citizens can reunify with family members willing to support implementation of a reentry plan, engage in employment services or maintain their employment, participate in behavioral health services, and better manage their physical and mental well-being. This HUD resource provides information on a selection of reentry programs with public housing authority or other housing provider participation.

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