

A MYC resident casts a line while on a group fishing expedition for sockeye salmon in Seward, Alaska.



Community Partners

We are pleased to announce our ongoing partnership with University of Alaska Anchorage, offering on-center classes each semester that qualifying youth can enroll in and attend. Additionally, we collaborate with Anchorage School District to provide a ServSafe Certification/Adult Living class tailored for graduates. Each year, we host the SERRC Transition Camp, a vital program for youth approaching the transition phase, although participation is not limited solely to those at the immediate transition stage.

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) constitutes a federal initiative aimed at disbursing funds to organizations to facilitate vocational and educational training, as well as on-site or off-site work experiences. Within the framework of this program, MYC offers a diverse array of training opportunities, including Barista training/Coffee Cart, Northern Industrial Training (NIT), Iron Workers, AlaskaHost, MYC Facility Work Program (in areas such as Housekeeping and Lawn Maintenance), off-center work experience employment, and other available training programs.

Additional Supports and Programs

At MYC, we recognize the critical importance of a comprehensive range of support services to uphold the highest standards of institutional care. These encompass Medical Services, Mental Health Clinicians, Food Service, Maintenance, Housekeeping, Supply Administrative Support, and Recreational Therapy. Additionally, our institution boasts a robust volunteer program, which includes an engaged volunteer mentor program, Practicum Students hailing from local and out-of-state universities, and a dedicated volunteer chaplain who supervises a cadre of religious volunteers.

How Do I Visit?

APPROVED VISITORS

Authorized visitors include a resident's parents, guardian, and siblings. Attorneys, clergy, government officials, and media representatives may be approved visitation on a case-by-case basis. Visitors under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent/guardian and be approved prior to visitation.

UNAPPROVED VISITORS

The following individuals may not visit residents of MYC:

- Any individual who has been released from MYC in the last 60 days.
- Any visitor who has been found in violation of Visiting Guidelines.
- Persons on felony probation without the permission of both the Superintendent and their probation officers.
- Persons suspected to be under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol.

PROHIBITED ITEMS

You may not bring these items inside our facility. Please ask Staff if you have any questions.

- Weapons or potential weapons
 - Cell phones and mp3 players
 - Recording devices (including smart watches)
 - Cameras
 - Laptops, flash drives, or anything that connects to the Internet
 - Tobacco, marijuana, and vaping products
 - Prescription drugs, unless they are life-sustaining
 - Illegal drugs or paraphernalia
 - Alcohol
 - Money*
 - Food or drinks*
- *unless preapproved

VISITATION DAYS & HOURS

Sundays & Wednesdays

- Boys Detention Unit (BDU): 5:45 – 7:15 pm
- Secure Treatment Unit (STX): 6:00 – 7:30 pm
- Cognitive Core Restructuring (CCR): 6:00 – 7:30 pm
- Girls Detention Unit (GDU): 6:00 – 7:30 pm
- Boys Treatment Unit (BTU): 6:00 – 7:30 pm

To coordinate visits during special holidays, please contact the appropriate unit to discuss visitation arrangements.



McLaughlin Youth Center

2600 Providence Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99508

907-261-4399

Our mission

To hold juvenile offenders accountable for their behavior, promote the safety and restoration of victims and communities, and assist offenders and their families in developing skills to prevent crime.

History

McLaughlin Youth Center (MYC) was dedicated on July 13, 1968. The Center was named after George M. McLaughlin, a prominent Anchorage attorney and magistrate who, prior to his death in 1958, had been a leader in development of programs for “kids in trouble.”

The Center was part of the Division of Corrections until 1980 when the Division of Family and Youth Services was formed. The reason for this change was the belief that juveniles could best be served by the unification of juvenile institutions, probation, and family services. In July 1999, the Governor established the new Department of Health and Social Services, which is now known as Family and Community Services; this new designation recognized and reinforced the commitment that the Governor, Legislature, DJJ staff, and our communities have made toward preventing juvenile delinquency.

Programs

MYC is dedicated to the confinement and rehabilitation of juvenile offenders deemed to require secure custody by the court. Committed to excellence, MYC offers high-quality programs tailored to the evolving needs of youth. Additionally, the facility hosts the Anchorage Probation Unit along with various DJJ State Office positions, facilitating comprehensive support and oversight within the juvenile justice system.



Detention residents create a mural through an Art Education Program.

Cottage Programs

Within a campus environment, two treatment cottages are strategically situated to foster the cultivation of internal controls among residents. Notably, Cottage 5 offers specialized and intensive treatment tailored to juvenile sex offenders, while Cottage 4 delivers a cognitive behavioral program primarily addressing substance abuse issues among male juvenile offenders. This framework underscores a holistic approach to rehabilitation and underscores our commitment to addressing individual needs effectively.

Treatment

MYC offers comprehensive, secure long-term rehabilitation programs tailored to juvenile offenders. Central to our approach is the development of individualized treatment plans, meticulously crafted to address the specific needs of each resident. These plans serve as the cornerstone of strategies implemented by the residents’ dedicated treatment team.

Treatment consists of a robust educational component administered by the Anchorage School District. In addition to academics, residents engage in recreational activities, community service, and the cultivation of healthy relationships with both adults and peers. Furthermore, we prioritize accountability to both victims and the community, instilling a sense of responsibility and restoration within our residents. Through these multifaceted initiatives, we strive to facilitate meaningful rehabilitation and successful reintegration into society.

Transitional Service Unit

The McLaughlin Transitional Services Unit (TSU) is strategically crafted to equip every youth exiting the institution with the essential skills and support necessary for a seamless reintegration into the community. TSU personnel collaborate closely with staff, residents, families, and statewide community service providers throughout the treatment continuum and reentry process. By prioritizing release from the start of treatment, TSU ensures that youth and families stay focused on the primary goal of MYC’s treatment programs: rehabilitating juvenile offenders.

Secure Treatment

The Secure Treatment Unit (STX) serves as a versatile treatment facility catering to newly institutionalized male residents, those in transition from other DJJ facilities to the Anchorage community, and individuals with behavioral challenges. Offering long-term treatment and a step-down program, STX plays a pivotal role in facilitating residents’ reintegration and addressing disciplinary concerns within cottage treatment programs.

Our program is meticulously designed to evaluate individual treatment requirements and initiate residents into the rehabilitation process through personalized treatment plans. Operating within a highly structured environment, STX empowers residents to concentrate on behavior modification, thereby facilitating progress towards their long-term treatment objectives.

Additionally, STX provides a confidential setting for juveniles with a history of serious offenses or significant behavioral issues. This secluded environment minimizes distractions, allowing residents to introspect and recognize the need for personal change, thereby promoting both individual and community welfare through improved physical and emotional security.

Detention

The Detention Units at MYC provide secure placement for juveniles charged with an offense who need to be detained to ensure their appearance in court. The Units are designed to provide a safe, secure setting for juveniles pending completion of their legal process. At MYC, there are two detention units, one for male residents and one for female residents. These units process the minor’s admission to the facility, transport the youth to and from court hearings, medical appointments, and other related activities. They offer and conduct informational and education groups to provide youth in custody with experiences that are conducive to growth and learning. The Units support the protection of the community and assist offenders and their families to develop competencies to help break the cycle of delinquency.