



Tribal Communities Subcommittee

Governor's Correctional Rehabilitation Task Force

Committee Update | June 23, 2026

WHY THIS MATTERS TO TRIBAL NATIONS

Overrepresented

Native Americans in SD state prison
relative to population share

Released Far From Home

Many released into Sioux Falls &
Rapid City — far from reservations

No Culturally Informed Support

Gap in culturally specific housing,
mentorship & employment resources

"High Native population released into Sioux Falls for services — far from home — without culturally informed support can enhance struggles with substance abuse and potentially recidivism."

OUR FRAMEWORK: THE THREE P'S

Adopted by the subcommittee on May 27, 2026 — a clear, digestible structure for actionable recommendations. To achieve numbers 1-3, PARTNERSHIP with tribal nations in expanding dialog to identify barriers of successful reentry for returning offenders is important to enhancing efforts.

1

PREVENTION

Upstream Supports

Cultural mentorship, community partnerships, family connections, and pro-social identity formation before release becomes imminent.

2

PRESENT

Inside the Walls

Programming access, cultural curriculum, peer-led education, spiritual support within DOC facilities.

3

POST-RELEASE

Reentry & Community

Mentorship, parole coordination, and culturally informed support for returning citizens.

P1 — PREVENTION

Upstream Supports & Cultural Mentorship

Tribal Partnership & Dialogue

Establish formal dialog with all nine tribal nations to identify together how to remove barriers to successful reentry for returning citizens.

Native Mentorship Programs in DOC Facilities

Build pro-social cultural identity before release. Expand partnerships to all nine reservations for statewide consistency.

Cultural Programming & Family Connection

Continue to promote family reunification events.

988 Mental Health Hotline — Tribal Outreach

Connect with 988 leadership to promote dialog specifically with residents in tribal/reservation communities.

P2 — PRESENT (INSIDE THE WALLS)

Programming, Cultural Access & Peer Infrastructure

Lakota Language & Spiritual Programming

Work with tribal leaders to bring mentors inside facilities. Lakota Language classes, spirituality programs and one-on-one mentoring connections prior to release.

Peer-Led Programming

Expand peer-led programming such as the FORGE program at MDSP that has elements of the Warrior Lodge from NDDOC. Talking circles, personal and group accountability.

Volunteer and Mentor Access

Continue to strengthen relationships with tribal leaders for the purpose of bringing in role models to help facilitate Inipi ceremonies and educate offenders on importance to culture and religion.

P3 — POST-RELEASE REENTRY

Mentorship, Parole Coordination & Culturally Informed Support

Culturally Informed Reentry — Sioux Falls & Rapid City

DOC Reentry Team to partner with non-profits and tribal leaders to match mentors in the community with parolees.

Native American specific reentry services

Revise current DOC Reentry Checklist to include cultural services, mentoring and family services for specific population.

Next Steps



Partnership

DOC Secretary will be communicating with other state agency cabinet members to establish communication with tribal leaders.



Prevention

Connecting with 988 on where services exist and how educational information can be disseminated in community and amongst population.



Present

Identify interested parties within tribal leadership to help create mentorship programs and non-profit organizations to instruct cultural specific programming.



Post Release

Works towards mentorship opportunities for parolees in the community with a link to cultural background.