

I wanted to know how this is implemented elsewhere in the United States and I Googled it. After checking I realize that for a person trying to rebuild and become a functional member of society, certain things would ensure that the best possible environment for change is available. If a sick person needs rehabilitation there are many avenues to healing. i.e. home health care, patient equipment accommodations to heal, etc. Providing proper ID verification upon release is key in getting the ball rolling to change. I'm including the findings from the search as follows:

Yes, numerous penal systems in the United States have programs to provide identification (ID) for inmates upon their release or discharge from prison. As of early 2026, at least 21 states have laws aimed at helping individuals secure identification—such as state IDs, non-driver IDs, or birth certificates/social security cards—immediately before or upon release to facilitate reentry.

Here is a breakdown of how these systems operate:

#### State-Level Programs and Approaches

**Direct Provision of State IDs:** States like California, Florida, Illinois, Georgia, and Washington have programs where the Department of Corrections (DOC) works with the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to ensure inmates leave with a valid state-issued photo ID.

**Mobile DMV Units:** Some states utilize mobile units that travel to prisons to process IDs. For example, Florida's "Licensing on Wheels" (FLOW) program has operated in state prisons since 2009.

**Document Assistance:** In addition to the ID card itself, some states, such as Alabama, specifically require the DOC to help inmates obtain a birth certificate and social security card before release.

**Temporary IDs:** Arizona and Utah provide temporary, short-term identification cards to individuals upon release, which can be used to help obtain permanent, state-issued identification.

**Driver's Licenses:** States like Mississippi, North Carolina, Nevada, and Wisconsin have provisions for issuing driver's licenses to eligible individuals.

#### Federal and Specific Regional Programs

Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP): The BOP has a process to assist individuals with obtaining ID documents (Social Security cards, birth certificates, and state IDs) before release. They are also developing a new, enhanced federal release ID card.

Local/County Programs: Some counties, such as Montgomery County, Maryland, have implemented their own programs to issue “Community Reentry Identification Cards” that function as official, government-issued photo IDs for the first 60 days after release.

#### Key Challenges and Context

Recidivism Reduction: These programs are designed to assist with crucial, immediate needs upon release—such as housing, employment, and medical care—which reduces the likelihood of recidivism.

Limitations: Despite these efforts, some programs face challenges with eligibility, funding, or the ability to obtain the necessary underlying documents (like birth certificates). In some states, only 30% or fewer of released individuals may successfully obtain an ID through these programs, according to reports.

Legislative Action: There is ongoing legislative activity to expand these programs, such as the proposed “BOP Release Card ID Act” to ensure all individuals leaving federal prison have a valid ID.