



ALPHA's primary goals are to reduce crime, recidivism, & substance use & abuse.



Begun in 1996, the ALPHA program has had over 2700 graduates.



The recidivism rate for ALPHA is 12–14%, far below the overall average of 60–70%.



NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED AS ONE OF THE MOST EFFECTIVE IN-CUSTODY DRUG AND ALCOHOL TREATMENT PROGRAMS TODAY.

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office ALPHA Program

Alpha means:



Less money on incarceration



more revenue generated by productive citizens



healthier communities

Alpha saves money for the taxpayers at the State Level:

Maricopa County Judges & Commissioners report that at least 90% of the cases they refer to Alpha are "last chance" cases. Most Alpha participants have been arrested multiple times, and are on their way to state prison.

- Arizona State annual prison stay: \$20,500.
- With 2700 graduates since 1996, looking at an average of 270 graduates per year:
 - Without the ALPHA program, if 60% of that 2700 (162) went on to state prison, it would cost the state \$3,321,000 per year.
 - With the ALPHA program, if 14% (38) returned to jail and then went on to state prison, it cost the state only \$779,000 per year.
- Thus, the ALPHA program has potentially saved the state \$2,542,000 per year over the past 10 years, for a total of \$25,420,000.

• THE ALPHA PROGRAM HAS SAVED THE STATE UP TO \$25 MILLION SINCE 1996.



Without Alpha, per year cost to State

With Alpha, per year cost to State

With Alpha, per year State savings



With Alpha, State savings over 10 years



The ALPHA Steps for Change

Participants:

- A** become **AWARE** of their life issues.
- L** **LEARN** how to face and resolve them.
- P** **PLAN** to cope with them in the future.
- H** **SEEK** help from others to assist their efforts.
- A** **ACCEPT** who they are today as they work toward a better tomorrow.

The link between substance use & crime



- Chemical addictions are directly connected to criminal behaviors such as domestic violence, child abuse, murder, aggravated assault, robbery, gang activities, prostitution, forgery, and drug trafficking.
- Addiction and criminal behavior span generations of families, thus perpetuating chemical dependency and increasing violent juvenile and adult behavior in our society.
- To reduce recidivism and crime, the root problems of chemical addiction must be addressed.

Funding inmate treatment = efficient & effective

- Since 1996, the ALPHA Program has been changing lives of inmates.
- The ALPHA program allows sentenced inmates to request help for substance abuse and participate in a treatment program while in jail. As assessments and treatment are costly, it is important that resources are dedicated to motivated individuals. More inmates want to participate in the ALPHA program than can be accommodated at this time. While this can be looked at positively—the inmates are eager to change and the program is successful—it also shows the great need for more funding to expand the program.
- Treating criminals for addiction while they are incarcerated is an extremely effective treatment modality, as well as the most cost-efficient one for taxpayers. *The more people we can rehabilitate, the quicker they will return to society, let go of previously destructive habits, acquire employment, become contributing members of our society, pay taxes, and nurture healthy families.*

How Alpha works

- Self-admittance & intake interview with staff to ascertain motivation, need & appropriateness
- Isolation from general jail population to form a residential therapeutic community
- 6-week intensive course with pre- & post- work, for a full 6-month program
- 12 step recovery approach with random drug testing
- Group & individual counseling with Master level therapists
- Anger management & Impulse Control, Parenting classes, Self-esteem & Co-dependency, Cognitive Restructuring
- Gender specific group therapy
- Sexual Abuse Therapy & Domestic Violence Prevention
- Sex/HIV Education & Awareness & HEPS Health Counseling
- Work assignment & NOW (New Opportunities for Work) training
- GED preparation & testing
- Formal graduation ceremony at the completion of intensive 6-week program
- Developing linkages within the community to coordinate post-program services & recovery plans

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**FOR MORE
INFORMATION ON THE
ALPHA PROGRAM:**



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