



# Nevada Department of Corrections

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For Immediate Release

## Nevada Corrections Selected by VERA Institute of Justice as One of Five States to Participate in Segregation Assessment

The Nevada Department of Corrections (NDOC) is pleased to announce they have been chosen as one of five states to participate in the VERA Institute's Safe Alternatives to Segregation Initiative (SASI) which is aimed at reducing the use of solitary confinement, also known as segregation or restrictive housing.

Vera will work with the NDOC staff to assess how they are using segregation, develop viable strategies to safely reduce that use, and assist with implementing these changes. The department will also receive guidance from the initiative's advisory council, which includes practitioners of corrections systems that have successfully reduced their reliance on solitary confinement, as well as experts in fields such as mental health and correctional reform.

"With Vera's assistance, Nevada will be better equipped to both reduce reliance on segregation and improve the way it is used, with the goal of preparing inmates for success when they return to our communities," stated Director James Dzurenda. "This opportunity is directly in line with the mission of the department, will encourage positive development and needed reform, and will boost safety inside and outside the prison walls."

Nevada, Utah, Louisiana, Minnesota and Virginia will begin the 21-month partnership in early 2017, which is supported by a \$2.2 million grant awarded to Vera earlier this year by the U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance. The states will provide a match up to \$50,000.

In spring 2016, VERA will release a summary report detailing findings and recommendations from the first initiative which began April 2015 and included Nebraska, North Carolina, Oregon, New York City and Middlesex County, New Jersey. The first report regarding the findings and recommendations for Nevada Department of Corrections should be available in the fall of 2017.

For more information regarding VERA, please visit [www.vera.org](http://www.vera.org)

For information on SASI check out [www.safealternativestosegregation.org](http://www.safealternativestosegregation.org)