

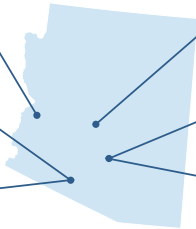
# Private Prison Reform in Arizona

Rather than rewarding rehabilitation and success, Arizona's guaranteed minimum occupancy payments to private prison operators incentivize cutting corners and warehousing inmates at the lowest possible cost.

Private prisons in Arizona hold **9,738 inmates**, or **28.8 percent of the state's prison population**,<sup>1</sup> in six facilities operated by either The GEO Group or CoreCivic.<sup>2</sup>



### Private Prisons in Arizona:

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- **Kingman Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility** (Golden Valley)–The GEO Group
  - **Red Rock Correctional Center** (Eloy)–CoreCivic
  - **La Palma Correctional Center** (Eloy)–CoreCivic
  - **Phoenix West Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility** (Phoenix)–The GEO Group
  - **Central Arizona Correctional Facility** (Florence)–The GEO Group
  - **Florence West Correction and Rehabilitation Facility** (Florence)–The GEO Group



The GEO Group and CoreCivic have cornered the market with **anti-competitive laws** and **unaccountable contracts**, all while raking in **\$335 million** in state funds per year.<sup>3</sup>



Further, Arizona law dictates that any organization wanting to bid on **private prison management contracts** must have a “demonstrated history” of operational experience.

This means if a group of corrections professionals starts a new business to challenge the legacy operators, Arizona law forbids the state from even considering their proposal. This makes it effectively impossible for new operators to enter the market, stifling competition.

**It's time to introduce accountability for private prisons through competition and contract reform.**

## THE SOLUTION

Performance-based contracts pay operators more if inmates recidivate less and become employed. Arizona should rebid all contracts to be based on performance, aligning contract incentives with the success of the state correctional system.

Arizona must also repeal the demonstrated history requirement and allow competitive start-ups to challenge legacy companies.

## WHY IT MATTERS



Basing contract terms on **measurable outcomes** would refocus criminal justice on effective rehabilitation, which would set incarcerated individuals up for **success and improve community safety**.

## THE BOTTOM LINE:

**Arizona's private prison operators need more competition and accountability to better serve the people of the Grand Canyon State.**

### Arizona needs to:



- Repeal anti-competitive laws in private prison contracts and let the market work.
- Hold prisons accountable by introducing performance-based contracts that pay private prison operators based on the results they achieve.

### SOURCES:

1. Bureau of Justice Statistics. "Prisoners in 2022 – Statistical Tables." United States Department of Justice Office of Justice Programs. November 2023. <https://bjs.ojp.gov/document/p22st.pdf>.
2. Dupuis, Jakob and Christopher Sharp. "Aligning Profit with Outcomes in Private Prison Procurement." Cicero Institute. 2024.
3. Arizona Department of Corrections, Rehabilitation & Reentry. "FY 2025 Budget Request." <https://corrections.az.gov/sites/default/files/documents/reports/FY%202025%20ADCRR%20Operating%20Budget%20Request.pdf>.