

# BROADBAND FOR ALL

*A policy and tech solution advocating for broadband access in prisons*

Project By: Nida Mirza, Lama Mohammed, Anya Wahal, and Dondi West

## POLICY SOLUTION

Incarcerated people pay \$1 or more per minute to speak on the phone to lawyers and loved ones. Even while phone and wireless devices are prohibited in all prisons in the US, smartphone use remains common. In 2009, California officers discovered nearly 9,000 phones.

What is the best solution?

The solution is to legalize the use of internet-connected devices in prisons. With internet access, inmates can speak to loved ones and lawyers freely, which is critical to their mental health and rates of recidivism. Access also provides opportunities to learn new skills, look for jobs, and stay engaged with emerging technologies.

## THE STATS

**2.3 MIL**

Americans are held in prison, when only only 1,177 individuals between 2006-2010 were sentenced for committing a cybercrime

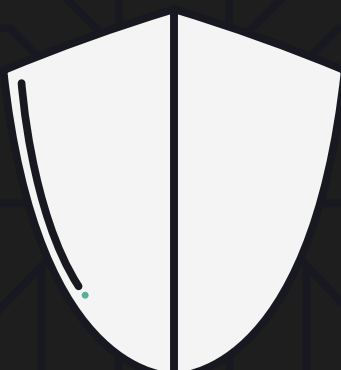
**40%**

Of the incarcerated population are Black Americans, despite making up only 13% of US residences

**> 60%**

Of prisoners end back in prison within three years because of difficult barriers such as public perceptions, lack of skills, and returning to harmful influences

## TECH SOLUTION



### Secure

Broadband for All uses internet protocols to limit social media and email use, as well as a firewall to prevent foreign network usage.



### Affordable

Broadband for All is a public-private-partnership project with Mandiant providing cybersecurity tools and Verizon on broadband infrastructure



### Realistic Technology

The trend of integrating broadband and internet-connected devices is increasing in its usage. North Dakota and Georgia permit the use of devices and internet access as it deepens inmates' ties to their community and keeps them updated with modern technology