

## Agency Purpose

The Department of Correction's (DOC) primary purpose is public safety. The department's mission is to hold offenders accountable and offer opportunities for change while restoring justice to victims and contributing to a safer Minnesota. The department's vision is to focus on eliminating risk. This will be accomplished by fostering community partnerships; optimizing best practices; creating a respectful, diverse culture; utilizing effective communication; and strategic and efficient use of resources.

Created by Minnesota law (Chapter 241) in 1959, the department operates secure prisons and provides community supervision of offenders with public safety as the ultimate goal. Prison programs are designed to prepare offenders for release so they become contributing, law-abiding community members.

## Core Functions

Primary responsibilities of the DOC include

- ◆ secure and safe operation of correctional facilities for adult felons and juvenile males;
- ◆ provision of work, treatment, faith-based, and education programs that reduce the risk offenders present to the community after release;
- ◆ administration of the Community Corrections Act (CCA) that provides subsidies to 32 counties for local correctional services;
- ◆ supervision of adult offenders on probation, supervised release, and parole in the 55 counties that do not participate in the CCA;
- ◆ operation of programs that assign non-dangerous offenders to community work service. This includes the Sentencing to Service program whereby offenders clean up parks, roadways, and rivers; build recreation trails; and complete other improvement projects. Through the Institution Community Work Crew (ICWC) program, minimum-custody inmates build homes for low-income families;
- ◆ inspection and enforcement of standards in all jails throughout the state; and
- ◆ administration and management of the department so that it operates as cost-effectively, efficiently, and productively as possible.

The department continues to address rapidly increasing offender populations both in prisons and on supervision in the community. Over the last decade, the prison population has more than doubled and the supervised offender population has increased over 80%. Population projections indicate continued increases through the FY 2006-07 biennium and beyond.

## Operations

During the previous two biennia, the department implemented budget reductions that have successfully reduced prison per diem and other department costs. This all occurred while expanding bed capacities at existing prisons. Multiple-occupancy of level three security prisons has increased from 50% to 80%, and a level four-security prison was built to accommodate all multiple occupancy cells. Double bunking of prisoners has also added 400 beds at level five prisons. Budget reductions and adding beds to existing facilities will continue enhance efforts to reduce prison per diem.

## At A Glance

### Ten Minnesota correctional facilities located at

- ◆ Oak Park Heights;
- ◆ Stillwater;
- ◆ St. Cloud;
- ◆ Rush City;
- ◆ Faribault;
- ◆ Lino Lakes;
- ◆ Moose Lake/Willow River;
- ◆ Shakopee;
- ◆ Red Wing; and
- ◆ Togo.

### Field Services

- ◆ Probation and Supervised Release;
- ◆ Re-entry Services;
- ◆ Sex Offender Risk Assessment;
- ◆ Grants and Subsidies;
- ◆ Inspection and Enforcement; and
- ◆ Interstate Compacts.

Other initiatives - such as attaining self-sufficiency for MINNCOR prison industries, centralizing support services previously provided at multiple locations, and sharing of services among correctional facilities – have resulted in substantial savings.

The department is comprised of three program divisions, including the correctional facilities, community services, and operations support program.

**Correctional Institutions** – The Correctional Institutions program includes ten correctional facilities housing male and female felons and support services such as offender education programs, religious programming, offender transfer and classification, building improvements, and expansions. Additionally, units exist in the areas of investigations, safety, correctional industries, and medical services.

**Community Services** – The Community Services program provides probation and supervised release/parole services and special programs including community service and work release. Other responsibilities include

- ◆ administration of the CCA, grants, and contracts;
- ◆ correctional facility/jail inspection;
- ◆ administration of offender transfer agreements with other states;
- ◆ risk assessment/community notification;
- ◆ administration of the county probation subsidy; and
- ◆ contracts with local programs.

**Operations Support** – The Operations Support program provides direction and support that contributes to consistency across agency functions and enables all programs to accomplish the department's mission. The operations support program includes the support services, the office of diversity, policy and legal services, financial services, office services, human resources, employee development, and information technology units.

## Budget

The department's biennial budget totals \$845.5 million, of which \$132.9 million is passed through to local entities. The department is projecting \$4.6 million in federal funds for chemical dependency and education programs, and facility construction and operation costs.

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