

Correctional Delivery Systems

Introduction

The network of local correctional systems in Minnesota is large and uniquely designed to allow for local control. Approximately 93,000 people are on supervised release, probation, or parole – are being supervised in Minnesota’s communities. By comparison, approximately 8,000 people are incarcerated in Minnesota’s prisons. This reflects Minnesota’s commitment to serving persons at the local level when possible and reserving prison beds for persons with the most serious sentence, or chronic re-offending. Locally delivered programs are a significant part of the state’s correctional services. There are three systems that are responsible for persons under community supervision. This fact sheet provides a brief description of each system.

Minnesota Dept. of Corrections (DOC)

The DOC Field Services provides probation and supervised release supervision in the 44 counties that are not part of the Minnesota Community Corrections Act. State-provided services are under the direction of 16 district supervisors, three of which are intensive supervision district supervisors. In 30 of those counties, the DOC provides all levels of community supervision, juvenile, adult misdemeanor and all felony. These partner counties collaborate with Field Services and each other for the benefits of efficiency and specialization that comes with such a partnership.

Funding is provided by Community Supervision Funding Formula M.S. 401.10 This system is overseen by a local Corrections Advisory Board and must submit comprehensive plans to the DOC for approval.

The DOC Field Services also provides intensive supervised release (ISR) services in 77 counties and through joint powers agreements with some CCA agencies. The DOC Field Services provides special intensive supervision for the Challenge Incarceration Program (CIP) for 82 of the 87 Minnesota Counties.

Community Corrections Act (CCA)

Under this system, the county provides all community supervision services, with the exception of special supervision (ISR and CIP) for some CCA counties that use DOC Field Services for that level of supervision. Funding is provided by Community Supervision Funding Formula M.S. 401.10 This system is overseen by a local Corrections Advisory Board and must submit comprehensive plans to the DOC for approval. Currently, 42 counties representing 31 jurisdictions participate in the CCA.

County Probation Officers (CPO)

CPOs work at the pleasure of the county’s chief judge and are supervised by the county’s court services director. In these counties, those who committed a felony are supervised by the DOC, and CPOs supervise juvenile and adult misdemeanor offenses. There are currently 13 counties utilizing this method of correctional delivery. Funding is provided by Community Supervision Funding Formula M.S. 401.10 This system is overseen by a local Corrections Advisory Board and must submit comprehensive plans to the DOC for approval.

Types of Community Supervision

Supervised release: Community supervision for those who committed felony offenses are released from prison on their court-ordered release date. In Minnesota, state law requires most people serve two-thirds of their sentence in prison and one-third in the community under supervision. Some people who require greater supervision are placed on intensive supervised release.

Probation: A community supervision sanction imposed on a person by the court as an alternative to or in conjunction with confinement or intermediate sanctions. They may be convicted of felony, gross misdemeanor, or misdemeanor offenses.

Parole: An indeterminate form of sentencing whereby people are released to community supervision after serving at least the minimum sentence imposed by the court. In Minnesota, only juveniles and some life-sentenced individuals are eligible for parole. The commissioner of corrections is the paroling authority.

