Table of Contents
Clemency Review Commission

Agency Profile 1

Clemency Review Commission — Agency Profile

https://mn.gov/crc/

AT A GLANCE

- The Clemency Review Commission is a nine-member commission appointed by the three members of the Board of Pardons: The Governor, the Attorney General, and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court
- Clemency Review Commission staff process all clemency applications on behalf of the Board of Pardons for the state of Minnesota
- The Clemency Review Commission became an independent agency on July 1, 2024

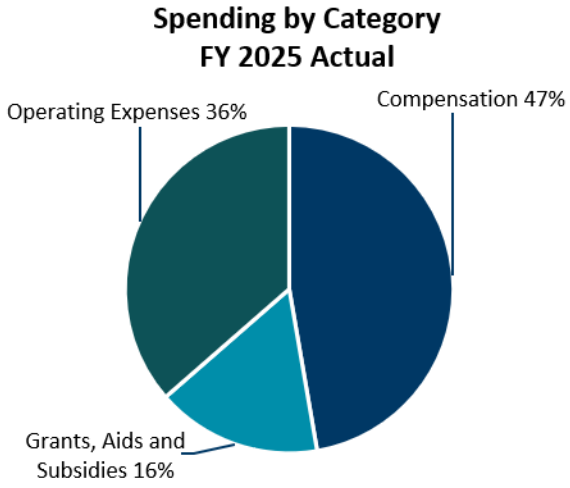
PURPOSE

Clemency is an act of mercy or compassion shown toward someone who has committed a crime. The most common types of clemency in Minnesota are pardons and commutations. A pardon is for people whose sentences are complete and no longer active. A commutation is for people who are still serving part of their sentence.

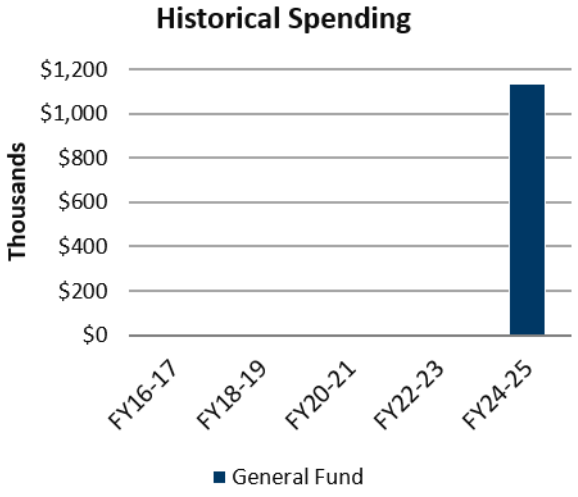
The Minnesota Clemency Review Commission (CRC) carries out the administrative functions of the Board of Pardons. The CRC reviews each clemency application received and provides a recommendation of whether the Board should grant or deny the application. The CRC also provides assistance to applicants and victim support services.

The CRC contributes to safe and thriving communities by enhancing equity and access to the clemency system. Access to clemency encourages rehabilitation and restoration for individuals that have been convicted of crimes. Applicant and victim support services are provided through a lens of restorative justice which can promote healing for communities.

BUDGET



Source: Budget Planning & Analysis System (BPAS)



Source: Consolidated Fund Statement

The CRC was created during the 2023 legislative session of the Minnesota State Legislature and began operations in fiscal year 2024 with a $986,000 per year appropriation from the state's general fund. During the 2024 legislative session, the legislature moved funding and operations out of the Department of Corrections, and the CRC became an independent agency on July 1, 2024.

The CRC is financed entirely through the general fund. Its payroll budget consists of one Executive Director, three legal analysts, one paralegal, and one administrative specialist. Operating expenses include leased space, technology costs, staff and commission development, office expenses, and a victim services contract. The CRC also provides grants to support outreach and application assistance.

STRATEGIES

- CRC staff screen applications for clemency and prepare written investigative summaries for the Commissioners and Board of Pardons members.
- The CRC meets at least four times per year to hear and provide recommendations on all clemency applications.
- To increase access to the clemency process, the CRC holds hybrid meetings that are accessible to the public.
- The CRC ensures that applicants have access to interpreters and are given additional time to present during hearings to allow for translation.
- The CRC is committed to providing documents in plain language and providing prompt responses to applicants, victims, and the public.
- The CRC partners with victim advocacy organizations to ensure that victims are provided with the services they need. Victim advocates are available to answer questions, help write testimony, and provide support during hearings. The CRC allows multiple ways for victims to participate in the clemency process.
- The CRC partners with community organizations to provide education, outreach, and application assistance.
- Data is collected and analyzed at least annually to continuously improve processes and increase the capacity of the commission.

RESULTS

Part A: Performance Data

Measure name	Measure type	Measure data source	Historical trend	Most recent data
Applications received	Quantity	Application data	Clemency Review Commission 2024 – 279 Board of Pardons 2023 – 159 2022 – 167 2021 – 185 2020 – 97 2019 – 88	2025 – 401 2026 (through August 1, 2026) – 282
CRC hearings held on clemency applications	Quantity	Application data and voting records	2024 – 78 Board of Pardons hearings held: 2023 – 64 2022 – 79 2021 – 68 2020 – 42 2019 – 35	2025 – 164 2026 (through August 1, 2026) – 67

Part B: Evidence of Effectiveness

Clemency practices vary significantly between states and the federal government. There is little available research related to evidence-based practices in clemency.

M.S. 638.09 https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/638.09 provides the legal authority for CRC.