

*Today's presentation focuses on prison and probation supervision, highlighting the \$485 million North Dakota will have to spend if no action is taken to curb growth in the prison population. CSG Justice Center staff analysis of 1.4 million case records informs much of the presentation. Also, as part of the analysis, CSG Justice Center staff engaged stakeholders from across the state.*

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## **I. SIGNIFICANT PRISON POPULATION GROWTH AND COST**

When confronted with a rising prison population in 2009, North Dakota spent \$64 million to expand prison capacity. Less than three years after construction was completed, prisons are full again, and the population is projected to increase 75 percent between 2015 and 2025.

If these challenges are not addressed, North Dakota will need to spend \$485 million over the next ten years to accommodate the projected increase using contract beds.

## **II. KEY CHALLENGES**

### **A. Prison admissions in the state increased 21 percent between 2010 and 2014.**

- In 2014, 72% of prison admissions are from either someone committing a new drug or property crime or someone being admitted for a parole or probation violation.
- Between 2010 and 2014, prison admissions for new offenses increased 42%, largely driven by an increase in drug and property crimes. The prison population is expected to continue growing over the next ten years.
- Sixty-two percent of people admitted to prison for a new offense were sentenced for an offense from the lowest felony class (Class C).

### **B. Failures on probation and parole supervision add significant cost to the prison system.**

- Half of people revoked from probation are sent to prison and another third are sent to jail, creating state and local costs.
- The state spends an estimated \$13 million incarcerating probation revocations in prison.
- In 2014, 46% of probation revocations are due to non-criminal violations of supervision conditions.
- Probation officers have indicated the need for more substance use treatment resources. Three-quarters of officers surveyed estimated wait times for treatment services exceeding three weeks.

### **C. DOCR utilizes many evidence-based practices, but systemic challenges and lack of resources are hindering progress.**

- Higher-risk probationers are revoked from probation at higher rates than those who are lower risk. Focusing substance use treatment and supervision resources on higher-risk probationers would help avoid the millions spent incarcerating people revoked from probation and sentenced to prison.
- The combination of supervision, programs, and treatment that follows evidence-based practices are shown to decrease recidivism rates at lower cost than programs in prison.

## **III. OPPORTUNITIES FOR NORTH DAKOTA TO ADDRESS THESE CHALLENGES**

- Use probation and treatment for people with non-violent, low-level offenses
- Strengthen supervision
- Increase behavioral health treatment capacity