



Budget Basics

Prepared by the North Dakota Legislative Council
Part 9 | November 20, 2020

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS AND REHABILITATION

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (DOCR) is responsible for the direction and general administrative supervision, guidance, and planning of adult and juvenile correctional facilities and programs within the state. The department's statutory authority is in North Dakota Century Code Chapter 54-23.3.

ADULT SERVICES DIVISION

The State Penitentiary in Bismarck houses maximum and medium security male inmates. The James River Correctional Center (JRCC) in Jamestown is classified as a medium security housing facility. The Missouri River Correctional Center (MRCC) is south of Bismarck and has no fences or barriers to contain the inmates. The Missouri River Correctional Center houses minimum security male inmates whose sentences are not less than 30 days or more than 1 year. The adult services division offers addiction treatment services, a sex offender treatment program, and mental health programs through its treatment department. The division's education program offers a variety of education programs, skills training, and vocational programs. In addition, the division offers work experience through Roughrider Industries.

PAROLE AND PROBATION DIVISION

The department has 16 offices across the state staffed by parole and probation officers who manage offenders on parole or supervised probation and complete presentence investigations ordered by courts. The officers supervise offender compliance with the supervision conditions and provide cognitive, behavioral, and other forms of counseling services. The division operates or participates in drug court programs, GPS monitoring of offenders, drug and alcohol testing of offenders, monitoring of sex offenders, and contracts for services with halfway houses and the Bismarck Transition Center to provide transition services. In calendar year 2019, DOCR supervised an average of 6,905 individuals on parole and probation, including 1,796 females and 5,109 males.

DAKOTA WOMEN'S CORRECTIONAL AND REHABILITATION CENTER

During the 2003-05 biennium, DOCR began to contract with the Dakota Women's Correctional and Rehabilitation Center (DWCRC) in New England to house its female inmates. The center is owned and operated by the Southwest Multi-County Correction Center Board. The prison at the DWCRC consists of a 70-bed minimum security unit, a 40-bed medium security unit, and a 16-bed orientation unit. In May 2006, a 5-bed high security unit was added to the facility.

DIVISION OF JUVENILE SERVICES

The Division of Juvenile Services has eight regional offices serving the eight human service regions across the state and is staffed to provide supervision to juveniles committed by the courts. The division also oversees the Youth Correctional Center, which is located west of Mandan and is the state's secure juvenile correctional institution. The Youth Correctional Center serves as a secure detention and rehabilitation facility for adjudicated juveniles who require the most restrictive placement and maximum staff supervision and provides appropriate programming to address delinquent behavior. As of February 2020, the Youth Correctional Center had 50 residents, including 41 boys and 9 girls.

Juvenile programming at the Youth Correctional Center includes drug and alcohol programming; child psychiatric and psychological services; sex offender programming; a pretreatment program for juveniles who are difficult to manage; and a security intervention group program to inform, educate, and provide juveniles with alternatives to gang activity and gang affiliation. The Youth Correctional Center provides adjudicated adolescents an opportunity to complete or progress toward completing their education coursework while in residence through an accredited junior high and high school.

JAMES RIVER MINIMUM UNIT

The James River Minimum Unit, formerly part of the Tompkins Rehabilitation and Corrections Center, is located on the State Hospital campus and historically has been operated by the Department of Human Services in collaboration with DOCR. The Tompkins Rehabilitation and Corrections Center provides a cognitive behavioral treatment approach utilizing cognitive restructuring groups to reduce risks to reoffend and consists of three 30-bed wards--one ward (30 beds) for females and two wards (60 beds) for males. The 2019 Legislative Assembly provided for DOCR to assume control of the 60-bed male unit of the center.

FREE THROUGH RECOVERY PROGRAM

The 2017 Legislative Assembly provided for the establishment of a community behavioral health program as a term of parole or an alternative to incarceration. The Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, in cooperation with the Department of Human Services, developed and implemented the free through recovery program. The Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation reported the program eventually should grow to serve 600 people, but there is a lack of services available in certain geographic areas. The 2019 Legislative Assembly appropriated \$7 million from the general fund for the 2019-21 biennium for the program, the same amount as appropriated for the 2017-19 biennium.

PRETRIAL SERVICES

The 2019 Legislative Assembly appropriated \$755,034 from the general fund and authorized 7 full-time equivalent positions for a pretrial services pilot program in three judicial districts. Pretrial services include collection and analysis of defendant information, provision of information to the court, and supervision of defendants. The goal of pretrial services is to reduce incarceration, criminal activity, and "failure to appear" at trial. The pretrial services pilot project is working with the North Central Judicial District, South Central Judicial District, and East Central Judicial District.

ADULT INMATE POPULATION

The Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation had an adult inmate average population of 1,483 in August 2020, as follows:

| | State Penitentiary | JRCC | MRCC | DWCRC | Other Facilities ¹ | Total |
|--------|--------------------|------|------|-------|-------------------------------|-------|
| Male | 610 | 419 | 103 | | 201 | 1,333 |
| Female | | | | 84 | 66 | 150 |
| Total | 610 | 419 | 103 | 84 | 267 | 1,483 |

¹Other contract facilities population includes individuals sentenced to DOCR and placed in interstate compact facilities, transition centers, treatment centers, community placement, and county and regional facilities.

**SUMMARY OF THE 2019-21 BIENNIUM
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS AND REHABILITATION BUDGET**

As approved by the 2019 Legislative Assembly, the 2019-21 biennium DOCR budget totals \$271.6 million. Of this amount, \$229.7 million is from the general fund, \$25.5 million is from special funds, and \$16.4 million is from federal funds. A summary of the approved DOCR budget for the 2013-15 biennium through the 2019-21 biennium is shown below.

| | 2013-15 Biennium | 2015-17 Biennium | 2017-19 Biennium | 2019-21 Biennium |
|--------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| General fund | \$182,050,936 | \$204,510,187 | \$214,336,704 | \$229,678,076 |
| Other funds | 36,134,922 | 38,362,706 | 39,264,160 | 41,955,889 |
| Total | \$218,185,858 | \$242,872,893 | \$253,600,864 | \$271,633,965 |
| Full-time equivalent positions | 814.29 | 836.29 | 845.29 | 899.79 |

The next topic in the *Budget Basics* series will review the Department of Transportation.