

THE WALZ-FLANAGAN BUDGET

TO MOVE MINNESOTA FORWARD

**Investing in What Works:
Statewide Data Sharing to Reduce Crime**

Minnesota lacks a uniform, reliable public safety information-sharing system for correctional supervision across the state for all 87 counties, courts, and the DOC. Under Minnesota law, the final one-third of most all prison sentences is served in the community, under supervision – meaning approximately 100,000 individuals are on supervised release at any given time. This is a resource-intensive endeavor, but no consistent or reliable means of sharing of information on the re-offenses, treatment and supervision level needs, or risk level determinations of corrections-individuals in their communities. If a person has contact with the system or law enforcement outside their home county, there is no systemwide to access this critical information.

“Operating prisons and a supervision system with antiquated technology should wave a red flag for all of us. We are dealing with modern security issues and must have the most effective and modern solutions.

In my time at the DOC, it has been heartening to see the legislature focus on safety inside our facilities, but without a parallel investment in the infrastructure, prison safety cannot align with the challenges of 21st century – both for the safety of staff and those who are incarcerated.”

- Chris Mitchell, Captain

The DOC requests investment in a **Public Safety Data Infrastructure** to provide information across systems to help decrease crime, hold the state accountable through informed decision create more successful and measurable outcomes for individuals on correctional supervision, and ultimately to keep Minnesotans safe.

Statewide Public Safety Data Infrastructure

The Walz-Flanagan budget requests \$12 million in FY 2023 and \$35 million in FY 2024/2025 to create a statewide public safety information sharing infrastructure. This investment has two components:

- Replaces and significantly updates deficient existing corrections data management systems and addresses concerns from the Office of Legislative Auditor report on Safety in Correctional Facilities by making the DOC a more data-informed and responsive part of the criminal justice system.
- Connects all 87 counties, the Judicial Branch, and law enforcement partners in a data-sharing hub for information regarding system-involved individuals risk level, supervision needs, criminal records and more, in order to hold both the individual and the system accountable, as well as increasing the ability to make informed public safety policy.



Replace Critically Antiquated DOC Systems with Data-Driven Service Delivery

Maintenance of Minnesota’s antiquated correctional data infrastructure has been routinely deferred and ignored. To ensure the effective delivery of correctional services and reduce reoffending in Minnesota communities, the state must invest in transformative upgrades to its correctional data systems to allow for the use and of proven intervention tools and the measurement of outcomes at the system and individual level. This proposal represents the highest priority for the DOC in accomplishing the goal of providing effective intervention strategies.



Create a Central Statewide Data Hub for Information Sharing Across Systems

Currently, public safety systems do not speak to each other effectively or uniformly across the state, creating gaps in risk management and the delivery of system resources, such as staffing time and mental health and chemical dependency treatments. Connecting the Judicial Branch, all 87 counties, and the DOC with a central data hub will help ensure the effective delivery of public safety resources and correctional supervision across the state. Through an investment in this data infrastructure, those who are on supervision and carry the most risk of reoffending would be more easily identified across the various systems and targeted for interventions.

In the creation and implementation of the data sharing infrastructure, the DOC will partner with county supervision providers, the Judicial Branch, and law enforcement.

“Some DOC processes are still done on paper and crucial information about our clients is not being shared efficiently. The DOC’s mission is to change lives and make Minnesota safer. Some of our processes are still on paper, making it difficult to share information that is central to meeting all of our clients’ needs. In the end, these clients may reoffend causing our neighborhoods to be less safe.”

- Julie Harrison, Accounting Director