

One Minnesota Budget

EQUITABLE FUNDING OF COMMUNITY SUPERVISION

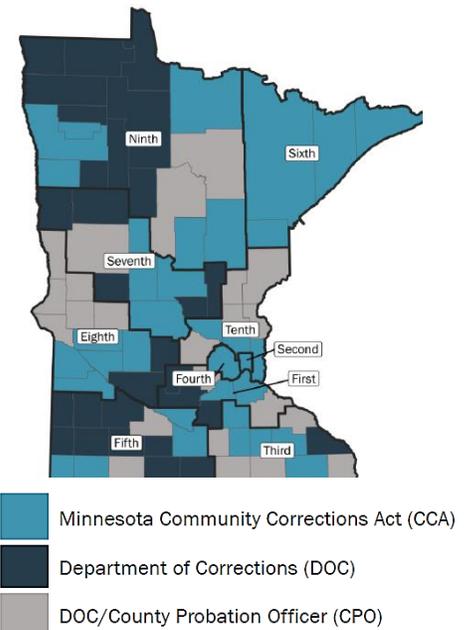
Nearly 100,000 people are on community supervision in Minnesota. Over the past four decades, the funding of this central public safety system has been inequitable and underfunded across the state. The Governor recommends increased funding in community supervision for every Minnesota county, an investment that will reduce re-offending, help individuals support their families. Additionally, it will help them stay in their jobs and their communities and ensure successful public safety outcomes. The request will help ensure evidence-based practices, provide funding to tribal governments that choose to deliver community supervision, establish intervention centers across the state, and invest in local community treatment and program providers.

Background

Minnesota has three delivery systems for community supervision and probation: the Minnesota Association of Community Corrections Act Counties (MACCAC), the Minnesota Association of County Probation Officers (MACPO), and the Department of Corrections (DOC) Field Services Division. Additionally, the DOC's Grants and Subsidies Unit oversees the funding of MACCAC and MACPO.

In 2021, the DOC, the Minnesota Association of Community Correction Act Counties (MACCAC), the Minnesota Association of County Probation Officers (MACPO), legislators, members of the Judicial Branch, and other stakeholders engaged in the Justice Reinvestment Initiative, through the Council of State Governments, which developed a set of recommendations to resolve inequities and move towards an evidence-based, data-driven solution. The group assessed all three delivery systems and determined the following:

- In 2020, Minnesota spent the lowest proportion of any state's general fund on corrections: **2.5% vs the national average of 6.5%.**
- The current state subsidy grant funding **is not allocated based on a formula that accounts for the services required** to adequately manage people under supervision.
- Statute requires for the state to reimburse CPO counties for 50% of costs, but the current **appropriation is only enough to reimburse for 26% of costs.**
- For decades, **counties have had to increase county level funding** for supervision services.
- Counties vary in their ability to account for the lack of state funding, resulting in **inequities across the state.**
- **Tribal nations should have the same supervision options** as other governments in Minnesota.



Plan to invest in safe communities

The Governor’s budget recommendation for community supervision promotes a statewide approach focused on evidence-based practices, sufficient funding, and strong partnerships with counties and Tribal Nations. The budget’s central priorities include the following:



Creating **one formula for supervision investments** for all supervision jurisdictions



Ensuring effectiveness and equity across systems and across the state using **evidence-based practices**



Reducing racial disparities and geographic inequities



Improving access to community-based services such as behavioral health care, substance use disorder treatment, employment services, etc.



Maintaining strong partnerships with counties, tribes, and all partners in the shared goal of strengthening public safety across the state

In close alignment with the collaborative work done in 2021, **the DOC requests funding to sufficiently fund all three delivery systems** and provide **Tribal Nations a choice in providing supervision directly**. The request invests over \$20 million in community providers of mental health, substance abuse, and other treatment, programming, and intervention centers to help stop the cycle of re-imprisonment. Importantly, the Governor’s budget recommendation will **create an evidence-based practices unit** to ensure supervision is using principles that work to reduce recidivism and subsidy grant funding for counties.

- **\$32.05 million** per year to pass-through funding for the Community Corrections Act subsidy
- **\$5.37 million** per year to increase pass-through funding for a County Probation Officer reimbursement program at a reimbursement rate of 50%
- **\$5.79 million** per year for DOC-provided community supervision to support the addition of new agents and administrative support and align caseload sizes to recommended levels
- **\$2.75 million** per year for Tribal Nations to provide supervision and probation services
- **\$18.66 million** per year in grant funding for community-based services such as SUD treatment, mental health treatment, employment supports, cognitive skills programming, and more
- **\$ 1.63 million** per year to create six DOC contracted regional intervention centers to help stabilize those struggling on supervision
- **\$___ for an evidence-based practices unit at the DOC to guide, train, and oversee the use of data-driven practices.**

“We truly believe that properly investing in community supervision will create safer communities across the state.”

- DOC Commissioner Paul Schnell