

One Minnesota Budget



ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY

Accountability, transparency, and oversight must be central to how Minnesota approaches public safety. Yet state investments in data analysis, oversight, implementation of policy and procedures, and equity, access and inclusion have fallen far short.

The Governor recommends an ongoing increase in funding to ensure robust, effective, and efficient oversight and accountability of the systems, services, and safety of corrections staff and the incarcerated population in Minnesota's prisons. The proposal includes the following investments:



RE-ESTABLISH INTERNAL CONTROLS AND RISK ASSESSMENT UNIT

\$190,000 in FY24 and \$160,000 beginning in FY25 to re-establish the Internal Controls and Risk Assessment Unit. The unit will ensure compliance with statute to design, implement, and maintain an effective system of internal control within the agency.



ENSURE FINANCIAL SERVICES UNIT CAPACITY

\$191,000 in FY24 and \$362,000 per year ongoing in staffing to ensure all financial transactions are processed and recorded in a timely and accurate manner and to expand financial reporting capabilities.



POLICY OVERSIGHT, ANALYSIS AND REFORM

\$230,000 annually for policy and systems analysis and reform to address the policy needs of the DOC's four large and complex divisions. The agency currently has two staff responsible for the oversight, drafting, and updating of more than 450 policies that impact the daily activities, safety, security, and wellbeing of thousands of incarcerated individuals, those on supervision, staff conduct, and procedures, as well as the management of 11 complex prison facilities across the state. The investment will allow the DOC to be more responsive to the evolving needs of the population and its staff and ensure sufficient oversight of the policies that govern the everyday processes and procedures of state corrections systems.



RESEARCH SUPPORT FOR CRITICAL DATA TOOL

\$125,000 annual investment in the DOC's Research and Performance Unit to ensure effective implementation of a tool central to the person-centered approach of the DOC and the self-reported assessment for incarcerated individuals. The assessment will generate a substantial amount of data to direct effective interventions during incarceration and requires experienced analysis, revision, and reporting on an ongoing basis.



EXPAND EQUITY, ACCESS, AND INCLUSION IN CORRECTIONS

\$330,000 annually to support the growth of the DOC's Office for Equity, Access, and Inclusion (EAI). The increase in staff will offer appropriate support across the agency by reducing staffing ratios from 2,065 DOC staff per EAI staff to 500 per EAI staff. This funding will strengthen the DOC's capacity to deliver in-depth and sustained Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion programming and improve recruitment and retention efforts.



GROW MINNESOTA DATA PRACTICES ACT RESPONSE CAPACITY

\$119,000 in FY24 and \$238,000 beginning in FY25 for to increase the DOC's capacity to meet statutory obligations of the Minnesota Data Practices Act. The tracking and compliance functions are documented manually and there is not currently capacity for central monitoring, storage, or report-out. The development and management of a centralized system will ensure compliance with Data Practices Act requirements.



NATIVE AMERICAN CULTURAL COORDINATOR

\$124,000 annually to hire a Native American Cultural Coordinator to expand and support Native American cultural activities and spiritual care. Historically, prison chaplains have provided cultural and spiritual care for incarcerated Native Americans. Coordination of the spiritual needs through a culturally informed lens and experience is necessary.



RISK ASSESSMENT TOOL

\$100,000 in FY24 for a third-party assessment and validation of the DOC's risk assessment instrument. The assessment is used to measure the risk level of those who are incarcerated and is critical in decision-making throughout the DOC. Ensuring the validity of these tools is essential in evidence-based decisions.