

# External Budget Town Hall: FAQs

## Population Reduction

**If the prison population is expected to go down and the budget is expected to go up, how do you justify that trend? I think some might expect the budget to go down with overall population.**

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Wisconsin's prison system was overcrowded, growing and projected to continue to grow in the coming years. As of the beginning of November 2020, the Department of Corrections (DOC) was reporting a population reduction of 2,500 persons, resulting in the lowest Wisconsin prison population since 2002. Additionally, there are almost 1,500 less DCC clients being held in county jails statewide than there were at the start of the year.

Despite the pandemic and projections of growth, steps were already underway by the Governor to make changes to reduce the population. We also need to acknowledge the PIOC's being held in the county jails awaiting transfer to Dodge Correctional Institution. The pandemic drastically altered Wisconsin's prison population trajectory, and it will take continued meaningful steps forward to sustain the population reduction the system has seen over the last several months. While Governor Evers and the DOC have and will continue to make important administrative changes, we absolutely need legislative action to truly reduce our prison population, increase success on supervision and make communities safer.

**How does DOC educate legislators on ways to effectively reduce the prison population?**

We have various meetings scheduled between Secretary Carr and legislators for this very purpose. We set up meetings with leadership from both sides of the aisle, and we especially target this type of outreach to the members of the Joint Committee on Finance. The sole purpose of those meetings is to promote the governor's budget and let them know the benefits of the provisions included, with a focus on the Earned Release Program and anything we can provide to Persons in our Care (PIOCs) or those on supervision to help reduce their chances of re-offending.

**How will the budget request assist in lowering the prison population to align with the Governor's goal of reducing the overall population by the end of 2023?**

The Governor's Budget looked at the current reform efforts of our agency and added funding that would support us further to lower our prison population.

You have heard us mention this several times during this presentation, but one of the best and safest ways we can reduce the population – and one of the only mechanisms within our control in our agency to reduce the prison population, is through the expansion of the Earned Release Program (ERP).

The budget request of the Governor would allow us to hopefully increase the overall number of folks going through ERP. Currently we have approximately 2,200 people each year complete the program and we hope to increase that number by about 900-1000.

Additionally, the budget would give our agency more funding to invest in community based Alternatives to Revocation (ATRs). We know it is critical to provide persons on supervision with treatment and programming opportunities to help them stay on track and not return to incarceration, which will also have an impact on the size of our prison population.

## **Juvenile Corrections**

**To implement the return of juvenile offenders age 17 back to juvenile system, the cost to respective counties will increase. This has been a deal breaker in the past. What is different now?**

Governor Evers' Budget is setting an ambitious goal of transforming Wisconsin's outdated juvenile justice system. Changing the juvenile justice system will require a variety of approaches ranging from funding effective programs to modernizing statutes. Wisconsin is one of only three states in the nation that automatically treats 17-year-olds as adults for the purposes of criminal prosecution. The Governor is once again proposing to transfer 17-year-olds to the juvenile justice system. The budget also provides an appropriation to counties to help with the costs associated with this move.

**Does Governor Evers have an estimated timeline for when Type 1 juvenile facilities will finally be eliminated? The date/timeline seems to keep being pushed back, but it looks like there are promising steps towards eliminating Type 1 facilities in his budget recommendation.**

The Governor is committed to closing Lincoln Hills for use as a juvenile facility. His budget recommendations would continue operating the Type 1 juvenile facilities until there were suitable facilities available for all youth to be moved. His budget also requests the elimination of the Type 1 designation which would result in the availability of a county and a state Secure Residential Care Center for Children and Youth. A specific date is not given in the bill for when all youth would be removed from Lincoln Hills School (LHS)/Copper Lake School (CLS).

**If a new youth facility is built, will the Copper Lake/Lincoln Hills facility be closed? Will it be turned into an adult facility?**

Racine is the only county thus far that has active plans to build a county operated Secure Residential Care Center for Children and Youth (SRCCCY). The Governor's Capital Budget requests funding for DOC to build a state operated SRCCCY in Milwaukee. The Governor's Budget request states that Lincoln Hills/Copper Lake School will be closed as soon as youth can be safely transferred out of the facility. Once the juvenile facility is closed, per 2017 WI Act 185, it is expected to be converted into an Adult Minimum facility with a population capacity of approximately 400 individuals. We do not, however, expect the transition to take place during the 2021-2023 biennium.

## **Programming/Reentry**

**For those Incarcerated who did not receive an Earned Release Program (ERP) option from the sentencing judge, is there a method in place to allow a review of that option and grant ERP options to those who would otherwise qualify?**

The answer can be found in DAI Policy 300.00.12, Earned Release Programs. This policy can be found on the DOC public website. An excerpt from the policy is below, and states only the courts can determine ERP eligibility.

Policy Excerpt:

Eligibility is determined by statutory eligibility and judicial recommendation. Statutory eligibility is based on the following criteria established in Wisconsin Statutes s. 302.045 and s. 302.05:

1. Is not serving time for a statutorily excluded offense:
  - a. Chapter 940 Crimes Against life or bodily security.
  - b. Chapter 948 Crimes Against Children include only: 948.02, 948.025, 948.03, 948.05, 948.051, 948.055, 948.06, 948.07, 948.075, 948.08, 948.085, 948.095.
2. Has a substance abuse treatment need.
3. Has a court determination of eligibility on one of the following:
  - a. Judgment of Conviction, if sentenced to a bifurcated sentence.
  - b. CR-265 – Order on Petition for Determination of Eligibility for the Earned Release Program.
4. Has completed court imposed mandatory time to serve.
  - a. The date sentence began is obtained from the inmate's legal file. When determining time served, DOC includes jail credit, unless otherwise specified by the court.
  - b. When an inmate has consecutive sentences and mandatory time to serve, the time served begins when the confinement time starts on the eligible case.
  - c. Inmates shall be eligible on all cases they are confined for at the time of enrollment. Release to the community is anticipated upon completion.
5. CIP Only:
  - a. Has not attained the maximum age at time of enrollment.
    - i. Inmates sentenced on or after July 26, 2003 must be under age 40 on the date of enrollment.
    - ii. Inmates sentenced prior to July 26, 2003 must be under the age of 30 on the date of enrollment.
  - b. No physical or psychological contraindications.
  - c. Is serving a bifurcated sentence or an appropriate indeterminate sentence per Wisconsin Statutes s. 302.045(2)(e).

**The Opening Avenues to Reentry Success (OARS) program only serves a small percentage of people with very severe conditions. There are an estimated 6000-7000 men in the institutions with mental health issues that generally go unaddressed. What other resources are available to support the mental health of the many others who are independent, but are in need of psychiatric diagnosis, potential medication, and/or therapy? What will be available along this line from community corrections?**

The Governor's Budget requests \$5.26 million in funding to expand OARS. This would provide adequate funding for the 51 counties where OARS is currently operating.

[The Division of Adult Institutions \(DAI\) Corrections at a Glance February 2021](#) indicates that 39 percent of males in DAI custody have a mental health condition. There were 18,323 males in our care in

February, which means that about 7,146 men in our care do have some type of mental health condition. Individuals in our care have access to mental health clinicians who can provide therapy and prescribers who can provide psychiatric medications as required. The Department recorded a 70 percent Medicaid eligibility determination rate in Fiscal Year 2020. This connection to Medicaid programs improves access to mental health and substance use disorder treatment when individuals in our care return to the community.

Individuals with serious mental health conditions are a much smaller subset, representing seven percent of the population. Although it is a smaller percentage, there are just over 1280 men in our facilities with serious mental illness. DAI facilities also provide services to individuals with serious mental illness. The DOC has Special Management Units in many facilities that provide a more structured and therapeutic housing environment for those with serious mental illness or who are otherwise vulnerable. When required, the Wisconsin Resource Center provides additional psychiatric services to individuals requiring a higher level of mental health care. Individuals with serious mental illness are considered for participation in the OARS program. Individuals who do not meet OARS criteria can still be assigned to a DCC specialty mental health agent in the community. For individuals preparing to release, social workers and agents work together to find appropriate mental health treatment through county programs, such as Community Support Programs (CSP) and Comprehensive Community Services (CCS), as well as treatment through their Medicaid Health Maintenance Organizations (HMOs).

**Opening Avenues to Reentry Success (OARS) is a great program for those with a diagnosis to receive services, but what about those with no diagnosis? What is the process for a Person in your Care to receive a medical diagnosis during incarceration?**

Medical diagnoses within the DOC are established by physicians and Advanced Practice Nurse Prescribers (APNPs). Mental health diagnoses are established by psychiatrists, psychology staff and psychiatric APNPs. Providers arrive at diagnoses through a combination of record review, interview, physical and/or mental status exams, lab tests and other diagnostic tests. Once established, diagnoses are recorded in the Department's electronic medical record.

A Person in our Care (PIOC) may initiate the process to see a medical or mental health provider by submitting either a Health Services Request ("blue slip") or a Psychological Services Request ("green slip"). These forms are readily available on all housing units. For medical emergencies, a PIOC should verbally communicate a problem to any staff member who will assist with contacting the appropriate medical or mental health staff.

**Can you share the specifics about how TAD (Treatment Alternatives and Diversion) would be expanded? Will individuals who have a mental illness but do not have a substance use disorder be eligible for TAD? What's the likelihood that the funding request will be approved for TAD?**

TAD funding is administered through the Department of Justice and is not included in the Department of Corrections budget.

**Is peer support from those with lived experience on probation/parole/supervision/addiction etc. being looked into as a community based Alternative to Revocation (ATR)?**

Yes, we are using peer support on a limited basis and we would like to expand peer support opportunities. Additional funding for peer support is not included in the Governor's budget.

**Would it not be less expensive to have outpatient Alternatives to Revocation (ATRs)?**

Outpatient programming is less expensive than inpatient programming. If DCC clients are assessed at needing residential services or supportive housing while engaging in therapeutic interventions, this becomes a resource provided to allow for the most successful environment for engagement in the intervention. Many individuals on supervision face housing barriers and benefit from sober and structured living environments while engaging in programming. DCC has committed to focusing on community based ATRs instead of institution based ones, in order to keep the clients engaged in the community while engaging in risk reduction programming. DCC has committed to focusing on community based ATRs instead of institution-based ones.

**It is great to see the \$3.1M in additional funding for Alternatives to Revocation (ATRs) included in the budget, although this doesn't seem like enough. What would be the ideal level of funding in this area? Would these ATRs provide treatment opportunities for substance abuse and mental health issues? Can DOC invest additional community treatment services to further expand opportunities for community-based ATRs without being allocated additional funding?**

DOC is always looking for ways to fully utilize the programs and services that we currently have. It is difficult to identify an “ideal” number in terms of funding, and we seek to make the most out of the funding we do receive. All increases to funding are helpful. DCC staff work closely with community-based agencies to co-enroll and leverage resources appropriately in community treatment opportunities, programming and resources. Recently DOC has worked closely with DHS and community vendors to access Medicaid benefits for those that are seeking treatment that is covered by Medicaid benefits. DOC will continue to work with our community partners to identify ways to better serve clients using the limited resources available.

**Does DOC have data supporting better outcomes for and cost-savings associated with use of community-based Alternatives to Revocation (ATRs)?**

It costs the DOC significantly less to monitor an individual on supervision than to care for them in one of our institutions (less than \$3,000 per year to supervise an individual on community supervision vs. approximately \$33,000 per year to house a person in prison). Additionally, by utilizing community-based alternatives to revocation, individuals are able to keep their social support systems, homes and jobs.

**With the expansion of the Earned Release Program (ERP) during a time DOC is experiencing staffing shortage in many institutions, is there anything in the current budget request to assist with the hiring and retention of treatment specialists and social workers to facilitate these programs?**

The Governor’s budget proposal adds 27 new full-time equivalents (FTEs) to expand ERP. This will be critical in assisting our agency to expand the program further, providing opportunities to hundreds of additional individuals releasing from incarceration. While the Governor’s budget proposal doesn’t specifically address the hiring and retention of treatment specialists and social workers to facilitate these programs, the Division of Adult Institutions (DAI) is cognizant of the need to do so.

One of our agency's strategic priorities is workforce investments, which prioritizes our staff who we know are our most valuable resource. We are regularly evaluating ways to ensure our staff know how valuable they are, and expanding upon our efforts to ensure we have a fair and equitable workplace. We regularly provide surveys to our staff on workplace climate, and we have expanded the training and development opportunities for our staff.

DAI has its own Recruitment and Retention Committee which is actually studying the issues surrounding recruitment and retention specifically within facilities. We are looking forward to their creative ideas which will assist in this area.

**Which county jails currently utilize the Windows to Work program?**

Windows to Work is currently being utilized in the following county jails: Adams, Douglas, Rock, Washington, Waukesha and Wood.

**Specifically related to Milwaukee County and the issue of reentry; will there be resources allocated to helping reentry service providers connect with individuals prior to their release?**

Opening Avenues to Reentry Success (OARS) is one good example of how there will be additional reentry services coming to the Milwaukee area. The Governor has proposed an increase in expansion of about 167 average daily population persons that would be able to enter the program. The largest population is coming from Milwaukee County, and would therefore be returning to Milwaukee County, so in this area, there will be a direct impact on providers. We also contract with the Department of Health Services (DHS), who will be allowing contracts in the Milwaukee area. Specifically for OARS success, there will be more case managers that will be hired to service this population in the 51 counties that we operate the program, especially in Milwaukee. The greatest cost of this program is housing, which means there will be a greater need for adult family home beds and community based residential facility placements.

**If the Joint Finance Committee interferes, will DOC still be able to get as many Persons in our Care (PIOC) through the Earned Release Program (ERP)? Is there a projection for ERP with added money in the budget?**

The good news is that the Earned Release program, or ERP, has historically had some bipartisan support. However we know there is always a chance that this initiative will not be supported by the committee. While a lack of support would slow our expansion efforts down, it would not stop our efforts completely. Our agency has already committed to expanding the program and will continue those efforts wherever we are able to do so.

Our agency actually began expanding the program without any budgetary assistance in 2020. The program expanded to several additional facilities, including medium security facilities whom historically have not had the opportunity to participate in ERP, despite the majority of our population releasing from a medium security facility.

The Governor's proposal would allow us to take our expansion efforts further and make them more effective and efficient, increasing the overall number of folks going through the program by approximately 900-1000 participants per year.

**Please provide more details on how the Governor Evers' Budget Request will promote the DOC goals of reducing recidivism and increasing primary program completions.**

There are a number of areas within this budget request that will assist in supporting our department and our strategic priorities, including support for an additional 27 new treatment specialist positions to increase capacity for the Earned Release Program and Substance Use Disorder Programs, and \$4.75 million for 14 Adult Basic Education (ABE) teachers. Based on our rough estimates, each position should be able to serve an additional 990 individuals in those programs. Not only do these programs address substance use disorders, they also address cognitive behavioral, anger management and domestic violence treatment needs.

**The Department is aiming to maximize the benefits of evidenced-based programming, expanding the Earned Release Program (ERP) and other early-release programming. What resources will be allocated towards such efforts?**

DOC is currently making efforts to expand access to the Earned Release Program and Challenge Incarceration Program by changing the suitability criteria for enrollment. The DOC policy changes include:

- Changing the timeframe to release eligibility threshold from 36 months to 48 months
- Expanding enrollment in the program to individuals who are medium custody
- Allowing individuals to complete the program more than once on the same conviction. Previous policy prevented individuals who completed and released to the community from enrolling again if they returned to prison on revocation.

DOC anticipates the policy changes will take effect this spring and significantly impact enrollment into ERP. Additionally, the Governor's budget provides for the hiring of 27 new full-time equivalent (FTE) Treatment Specialist positions over the course of the biennium.

Outside of the ERP program, the budget provides for \$3.12 million for an additional 50 Alternative to Revocation beds, \$3.338 million to expand Division of Adult Institution (DAI) treatment capacity, and \$4.75 million and 14 FTE teachers for DAI Educational initiatives.

**Will there be any money to create more primary and secondary education opportunities for people in our care within the WIDOC beyond just technical programs? If so, what secondary education programs will be available to the people in our care?**

There are several items included in the Governor's Budget Recommendations related to this subject. For example, there is a request for 14 additional teachers for Adult Basic Education.

The budget also asks for additional funding of \$1.5 Million each year to help our institutions replace outdated and non-functioning Career Technical Education equipment. That funding could also be used to purchase equipment to start a whole new program, which would allow us the flexibility to look at the programs currently operating, and use labor market data to guide us in our decisions of which programs to invest in.

The University of Wisconsin-Madison also submitted a proposal that would provide \$5 million in FY23 to help begin a Bachelor Program for the persons in our care. Our agency is actively engaged in discussions with the UW system regarding this concept, and always embraces any opportunity for further collaboration with our educational partners.

**What can we do to take a closer look at serving DOC's mental health population as they transition back to the community?**

DOC is committed to serving persons in our care with serious mental health needs. Specifically we have a pre and post release wraparound program called "Opening Avenues to Reentry Success" (OARS) that serves individuals releasing from prison who are seriously mentally ill and moderate to high risk of committing new crimes. The program in partnership with the Department of Health Services (DHS), provides intensive case management, housing, medication management, psychiatric treatment and other individualized services. Housing is often the most expensive service for OARS participants who may need placement in Adult Family Homes or Community based Residential Facilities.

The program begins approximately six months prior to release with case managers developing individual case plans in the institution and continues into the community for up to two years. Research shows that this program is effective in reducing recidivism. We have data that documents significantly lower recidivism rates at the one year, two year and three year follow-up periods for those individuals receiving the program compared to similar individuals who did not receive the program.

This year, the program is funded at the level of \$4.1 million with an average daily population of 255 returning citizens across 51 counties. The Governor's Budget makes a substantial investment in OARS and would increase funding by \$2,254,000 in FY22 and \$3,005,000 in FY23 allowing an additional Average Daily Population (ADP) of 167 returning citizens to be served. This would be a tremendous expansion of OARS which is greatly needed to serve a high risk population.

While the program would not expand to all counties, the budget request focuses on the counties with the highest needs, allowing us to make a tremendous impact on the population most in need of services.

In addition, DOC has regional Psychologists that are available to provide assessments, evaluations and consultation on clients exhibiting mental health symptoms. There is one psychologist assigned to each region, therefore we utilize this limited resource when our county or community partners are not able to provide this service. DCC contracts with several different community vendors to treat mental health issues; however there is always a need for more community resources to case manage and treat mental health.

**Will there be any money set aside for more reentry programs such as rental assistance, transportation assistance, case management, secondary education and employment search assistance?**



Yes, the Governor's Budget does increase funding in secondary education and employment search. Specifically the Governor's Budget proposes an additional 14 new General Program Revenue (GPR) teacher positions in the Division of Adult Institutions to allow more Persons in our Care to enroll in and complete adult basic education and reduce the waiting list in this area. The budget also provides \$1,500,000 in each year of the biennium to maintain current and implement new career technical education programs.

Regarding expansion of employment search assistance, the Governor's Budget expands the Windows to Work program by \$500,000 to three maximum-security prisons providing funding for at least 90 Persons in our Care to be enrolled in the program and once released, receive assistance with obtaining employment.

The DOC Reentry Office is also collaborating with the Department of Workforce Development (DWD) to open more Institution based Job centers inside DAI prisons. This initiative is funded with existing resources in DWD and will allow hundreds of individuals in each facility to establish an account on Job Center of Wisconsin, conduct job search prior to release, set up job interviews with employers and in many instances leave the institution with a job offer in hand.

By December 2021, DOC hopes to have a total of 10 institution-based job centers open with the assistance of DWD. Lastly, DOC is purchasing a 53-foot mobile job center that can be moved from institution to institution allowing Persons in our Care access to job search in a mobile setting, again expanding the opportunities for interviews with employers prior to release.

**Does the budget request increase resources for transportation, housing, etc. in the community for those on supervision, particularly for those on the sex offender registry?**

The Division of Community Corrections (DCC) has purchase of offender goods and services (POGS) funds available for re-entry services, and already provides a variety of support services to those on supervision and who have recently released from incarceration to assist them in being successful in the community. Programming includes, but is not limited to Substance Use Disorder treatment, Sex Offender Therapy, Anger Management and Domestic Violence Group, Cognitive Behavioral Programs, Vocational, Employment and Community Services.

POGS offers various housing services throughout the state to address clients' needs. During Fiscal Year 2019, 48.8% of funding went towards residential services programs, 15.4% to transitional housing, and 1.8% to emergency funding. POGS housing is provided on a spectrum ranging from shelter to treatment, according to the needs of the clients. The Governor's Budget would increase capacity for 50 alternative to revocation residential services program beds, which would help the clients in DCC in a critical need area and help keep more individual in the community instead of returning to incarceration.

While the budget does not directly address some of these areas for DCC, there are other items that will help support our clients, such as by proving additional resources for Medication-Assisted Treatment which will provide treatment opportunities in more areas of the state.

**I am a woman who has been directly impacted by DOC; releasing from incarceration homeless. I know that I am not the only one experiencing these issues. I would like to hear how we can redistribute money into reentry services, housing and resources in our communities instead of re-incarcerating**

**and warehousing human beings. We, as a state morally and financially, cannot continue as we are.**

In 2019, the Division of Community Corrections (DCC) spent over two thirds of its \$30,000,000 budget of its purchase of service funding on housing services for persons on DCC Supervision). Specifically, in 2019, DCC spent \$14,865,787 on Residential Services programs, \$4,705,928 on Transitional Housing and \$562,869 on Emergency Housing.

While this is a substantial investment in housing, DOC recognizes it does not meet the entire need. DCC also takes steps beyond the funds that it invests, with agents working with the local shelter community should one of their clients face homelessness.

We also know that it is not simply a housing issue for those releasing incarceration, which is why it is so important to invest in programming, such as vocational training and educational programs before release as well as after release. We also recognize that mental health can also play a role in housing security for some individuals. Our agency currently supports programs such as Windows to Work and Opening Avenues to Reentry Success (OARS), and this budget request from the Governor asks for additional funding and expansion for both programs.

**What can DOC do to increase opportunities for persons in our institutions to prepare for employment?**

Employment is one key factor in reducing recidivism. To that end, the Reentry Office contracts with the 11 Workforce Development Boards to deliver our Windows to Work Job Readiness program which begins pre-release and continues into the community until the person is employed. The program now operates in 15 prisons and six county jails. Participants in the program receive support services in such areas as: financial literacy, resume development, job seeking skills and general work expectations among others. We have been successful in implementing the program in every medium-security prison and plan to begin a pilot program at Green Bay Correctional Institution, our first maximum-security prison.

The Governor's Budget proposes to increase the Windows to Work Funding by another \$250,000 each year of the biennium. This will allow DOC to expand the program to three maximum-security prisons. The Reentry Office is targeting the following three maximum-security prisons to offer this job readiness program: Columbia Correctional Institution, Waupun Correctional Institution and Wisconsin Secure Program Facility. This is clearly needed because these facilities release a total of 590 men annually, many of which are in need of job readiness programming.

**How will the Governor's Budget impact all of the county jails? With less incarcerated, are we going to see an increase in sanctions and housing those in our facilities? Do we need to plan for an uptick in swift sanctions?**

The Governor's Budget for the Department of Corrections does not specifically impact county jails, other than with increased funding for community-based alternative to revocation programming. DCC plans to utilize community-based alternatives wherever possible to safely do so, thus we are optimistic there will be fewer holds than in the past. In an effort to keep population numbers low during the ongoing health crisis, short term sanctions were not utilized to the extent that they had been prior to the COVID 19

pandemic. Therefore, there may be an increase in the use of short-term sanctions in the future, but we do not anticipate utilization higher than prior to the pandemic.

For more information related to ongoing work in DCC related to Violation Response and Revocation, please visit our [Town Hall Page on DOC's Public Website](#).

## **DOC Operations**

### **How much overtime for prisons is in the budget?**

Based on actual overtime expenditures in FY19 and FY20, the Governor Evers' 2021-2023 Budget Recommendations include approximately \$85.5 million for overtime pay.

### **Was there any money left over from unused funds from last year due to COVID shutting things down?**

Any unused funds from FY20 were subject to lapse back to the statewide general fund.

### **When can we expect to see the DOC closing a prison?**

The Governor's Capital Budget request does not include plans to close a facility during the 21-23 biennium.

### **Who will ultimately be paying for the new Secure Residential Care Center for Children and Youth (SRCCCY) facilities, the county or the state? Or will it be a combination of both?**

Construction of the SRCCCY facilities is being accomplished through a state grant program set forth in 2017 Wisconsin Act 185. The grants pay the majority of the construction costs (up to 95%).

Once constructed, the counties are responsible for operating costs of the facilities, but there are programs available to them to offset those costs such as youth aids. Youth aids are state and federal funds provided by the Department of Children and Families to counties. They are used to pay for juvenile correctional and delinquency-related services.

Act 185 also adds SRCCCYs to the eligible uses for the state tuition payment appropriation, which reimburses the school district in which an SRCCCY is located for educational services provided to the juveniles in the facility.

## **Sentencing**

**Looking at the proposed budget this is noted: the Governor recommends allowing a sentencing court to reduce the term of a person's extended supervision if certain conditions apply. Will this also include those who have been on parole for a very long time who have had no violations and are very stable in their lives? For example, if we look at individuals who were sentenced between 1996-1998, the prison sentences were lengthy which gave them long terms of parole, and the sentences one would receive**

**now are much shorter.**

Persons on parole supervision have the ability to receive an early discharge if they meet certain criteria including being in the community for at least two years after their release, meeting all court ordered conditions, paying all costs and not engaging in violations and have had a positive adjustment. We are encouraged by the governor's budget because persons on extended supervision have not previously had the opportunity to obtain an early discharge even when they have met all of their conditions and have positive adjustment in the community.

## **Miscellaneous**

**In the budget request, DOC must submit a report on DOC's evidence-based risk assessment tool. Will this report be made available to the public when it is completed?**

Absolutely. Transparency is very important within our agency and is one of the Strategic Priorities for DOC.

The Department of Corrections completes several reports mandated by state statute. When submitting any final reports to the legislature, we always ensure we are sharing that information with our stakeholders through targeted outreach. All submitted reports are also published on our public website at [doc.wi.gov](http://doc.wi.gov).

If the Governor's Budget Request is approved and DOC is mandated to submit a report on evidenced-based risk assessment tools, we will be providing the same level of transparency as we do with our other reports.

**Who would be eligible for the earned compliance credit mentioned in the budget?**

The Governor's Budget recommendation includes the creation of an earned compliance credit for certain eligible persons in the Department's care. While we don't have all the details at this time, we do know that any individual currently on supervision for a non-violent crime would be eligible for the earned compliance credit.

Essentially, the earned compliance credit would equal the amount of time served on extended supervision or parole (without violating any conditions or rules of supervision). The credit is a reward for those on supervision who comply with the supervision/parole rules set forth by the Division of Community Corrections (DCC) and mandated by statute.

If this budget request item is approved, we will learn more details related to eligibility and will share those both internally and externally.

**I have recently been hearing that the GPS tracking system has been having a lot of issues, where the person is getting phone calls during the middle of the night and told to stand outside for 15 minutes as well as during the day and sometimes multiple phone calls in one day. What is the DOC's plan to rectify this issue?**

The monitoring center actively tracks all GPS alerts and custodies. Persons who are required by statute to submit to lifetime GPS tracking are required to be on active tracking and maintain connectivity. The Department is required to respond to all alerts. If the alert cannot be resolved, the person must be placed into custody to investigate the circumstances of the alert. Unfortunately, system issues may be a result of satellite and cell tower coverage, which is beyond the control of the vendor and the monitoring center. Regardless, we are constantly reviewing our policies and procedures to respond in the lowest level possible to address the situation while balancing public safety.