

The Agency

Department of Corrections

Agency Operations

The Rhode Island Department of Corrections contributes to the protection of society by providing appropriate, safe, secure, and humane control of offenders, while actively assisting and encouraging offenders to become productive and law abiding members of the community.

Additionally, the Rhode Island State Parole Board is budgeted as a unit of the department, but has independent programmatic decision-making authority.

Collectively known as the Adult Correctional Institutions (ACI), there are eight separate, occupied facilities, which have a total current capacity of 3,830 beds. In FY 2006, the average institutionalized population was 3,510. The department also provides supervision of offenders in the community (home confinement, probation and parole). By the end of FY 2006, the number of probation and parole cases serviced totaled 26,661. The average number of offenders on home confinement was 282. Other major functions performed by the Department of Corrections include serving other state, municipal, and non-profit agencies through the Central Distribution Center, performance of all grounds maintenance activities at the Pastore Center and other public grounds, and operation of Correctional Industries, which provide work opportunities for inmates and services to governmental agencies and non-profit organizations, ranging from printing to modular workstation furniture construction and installation.

Agency Objectives

To operate a full and balanced correctional program which is consistent with public safety, reflects sound and progressive correctional policy, and is sensitive to the need for fiscal responsibility in the use of public resources.

Statutory History

R.I.G.L. 42-56 established the Department of Corrections as a department in 1972 and defines the department's role as both custodial and rehabilitative. Section 4 was amended in 1992 to reflect an internal reorganization. Sections 20.2 and 20.3 were amended in 1989 to authorize community confinement programs. The Parole Board is authorized under R.I.G.L. 13-8, and probation and parole services are authorized under R.I.G.L. 12-18. Parole supervision responsibilities, formally added in 1938 in R.I.G.L. 13-8-17. R.I.G.L. 42-26-13 establishes the Criminal Justice Oversight Committee to maintain several facilities within their respective population capacities. Victim Services is authorized under R.I.G.L. 12-28-3. Women's Transitional Housing is authorized under R.I.G.L. 42-56.20.5

The Budget

Department of Corrections

	FY 2005 Actual	FY 2006 Actual	FY 2007 Revised	FY 2008 Recommended
Expenditures by Program				
Central Management	10,247,909	10,431,874	10,168,187	10,825,568
Parole Board	1,026,608	1,177,955	1,273,668	1,292,058
Institutional Corrections	128,240,510	137,322,408	150,227,397	171,014,362
Community Corrections	12,225,035	12,926,959	14,421,994	16,037,934
Internal Service Program	[11,666,534]	[13,021,893]	[13,807,524]	[13,510,495]
Total Expenditures	\$151,740,062	\$161,859,196	\$176,091,246	\$199,169,922
Expenditures By Object				
Personnel	133,227,638	133,956,667	137,357,689	169,133,476
Operating Supplies and Expenses	13,568,182	15,161,036	14,614,954	14,938,734
Aid To Local Units Of Government	-	-	-	-
Assistance, Grants and Benefits	1,293,782	3,882,676	7,964,639	7,544,101
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	\$148,089,602	\$153,000,379	\$159,937,282	\$191,616,311
Capital Purchases and Equipment	3,500,019	8,858,817	16,153,964	7,553,611
Debt Service	150,441	-	-	-
Operating Transfers	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$151,740,062	\$161,859,196	\$176,091,246	\$199,169,922
Expenditures By Funds				
General Revenue	146,860,786	151,117,192	156,781,330	189,214,299
Federal Funds	2,889,866	9,064,114	11,440,165	2,807,500
Restricted Receipts	217,362	2,423	-	-
Other Funds	1,772,048	1,675,467	7,869,751	7,148,123
Total Expenditures	\$151,740,062	\$161,859,196	\$176,091,246	\$199,169,922
FTE Authorization	1,586.0	1,589.0	1,498.6	1,508.6
Agency Measures				
Minorities as a Percentage of the Workforce	12.8%	13.0%	13.2%	13.2%
Females as a Percentage of the Workforce	24.3%	25.1%	25.1%	25.1%
Persons with Disabilities as a Percentage of the Workforce	0.8%	0.8%	1.0%	1.0%

The Program

Department of Corrections Central Management

Program Operations

The Central Management Program includes the Offices of Director, Legal Services, Internal Affairs, and Administration. Central Management is responsible for the overall direction and resource management of the Department of Corrections. The Office of Director provides leadership, executive-level decision making, and policy direction, and is responsible for media affairs and public relations. The Office of Legal Services provides legal representation and consultation for the Director, administrators, and other employees of the department in a variety of cases. The Office of Internal Affairs monitors departmental activities to ensure the system functions with integrity and legality.

Administration includes all resource management functions of the department. Financial Resources provides central budgeting, procurement, accounting, inventory management activities, and management of inmate accounts to hold personal funds received by an inmate in trust. Logistical and materials management is the responsibility of the Physical Resources Unit within Financial Resources. Human Resources (all labor relations, personnel, payroll, and training and staff development functions, including recruitment and screening activities relating to the correctional officer pre-service training program) will be transferred to Administration. Management Information Services (departmental record keeping functions, the continued development and maintenance of a comprehensive, computerized data collection and retrieval system, and departmental liaison to the statewide Justice Link Program) has been transferred to Administration. Planning and Research conducts program development, research, and evaluation, and the Policy Unit is responsible for the development of internal policies and the analysis of policy issues.

Program Objectives

To establish the overall direction of departmental policy, and work with the other branches of government and criminal justice agencies in identifying and implementing a sound and progressive correctional policy for Rhode Island; set and administer standards that will qualify the department for accreditation by the American Correctional Association and other relevant review bodies; and develop and coordinate the most expeditious and efficient management controls over information and resource support activities to correctional programs.

Statutory History

R.I.G.L. 42-56 establishes the position of Director of the Department of Corrections, and broadly defines the responsibilities of the Director (R.I.G.L. 42-56-10). Section 4 identifies the specific functions of the Administration Division. R.I.G.L. 12-19-23.1 and 23.2 authorizes the use of intermediate punishments as a sentencing option. R.I.G.L. 42-56-39 requires the attachment of a prison impact statement to legislative bills.

The Budget

Department of Corrections Central Management

	FY 2005 Actual	FY 2006 Actual	FY 2007 Revised	FY 2008 Recommended
Expenditures By Subprogram				
Executive	1,433,965	1,626,781	1,993,730	2,098,948
Administration	8,813,944	8,805,093	8,174,457	8,726,620
Total Expenditures	\$10,247,909	\$10,431,874	\$10,168,187	\$10,825,568
Expenditures By Object				
Personnel	8,428,482	8,074,345	8,426,796	9,348,007
Operating Supplies and Expenses	1,215,135	2,047,741	1,392,086	1,310,066
Aid To Local Units Of Government	-	-	-	-
Assistance, Grants and Benefits	226	33,662	83,305	82,076
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	\$9,643,843	\$10,155,748	\$9,902,187	\$10,740,149
Capital Purchases and Equipment	596,081	276,126	266,000	85,419
Debt Service	7,985	-	-	-
Operating Transfers	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$10,247,909	\$10,431,874	\$10,168,187	\$10,825,568
Expenditures By Funds				
General Revenue	10,057,018	10,215,907	9,772,885	10,466,116
Federal Funds	190,891	215,967	395,302	359,452
Total Expenditures	\$10,247,909	\$10,431,874	\$10,168,187	\$10,825,568
Program Measures	NA	NA	NA	NA

The Program

Department of Corrections Parole Board

Program Operations

Except for those cases prohibited by statute, the Parole Board evaluates and authorizes the conditional early release of inmates who have proven, by their behavior and actions while incarcerated that they are capable of returning to the community as law-abiding citizens to serve the remainder of their sentence. Eligibility for release, which is determined by the Department of Corrections, occurs when at least one third of the sentence has been served. The offender, for the remainder of the term of sentence, is subject to such terms and conditions as the board may prescribe. In FY 2006, the board granted parole in 548 cases and denied parole in 840 cases.

The Parole Board consists of a full-time Chair who serves a two-year term and six members who serve part time. While the Director of Corrections has general fiduciary responsibility for the board, the Parole Board is autonomous on parole decisions.

The Parole Board, through assigned support staff, conducts pre-parole investigations, compiles relevant information from the Adult Correctional Institutions, the Attorney General, and other sources, and maintains records of all parole board hearings and decisions. By statutory requirement, the Parole Board Chair is now responsible for administering a sex-offender community notification program. In FY 2006, the program made 175 adult and juvenile referrals.

Program Objectives

To release to parole those incarcerated offenders for whom a community setting is a more appropriate and productive means of completing their sentence.

Statutory History

R.I.G.L. 13-8 establishes the Parole Board within the Department of Corrections and sets forth the duties and functions. Section 1 was amended in 1993 to provide a full-time Chair, expand the board's membership, and authorize the use of subcommittees. Section 23 mandates that both the state psychiatrist and psychological services agency provide findings and recommendations to the Parole Board. Legislation established the Parole Board in 1915. R.I.G.L. 11-37.1-15 creates a sex offender review board and requires that the Parole Board notify local enforcement agencies of the release or parole of certain sex offenders. R.I.G.L. 42-20-13 authorizes the Parole Board to use good behavior earned by inmates as a tool to reduce over-crowding as authorized by the Governor.

The Budget

Department of Corrections Parole Board

	FY 2005 Actual	FY 2006 Actual	FY 2007 Revised	FY 2008 Recommended
Expenditures By Object				
Personnel	897,431	1,073,208	1,186,328	1,226,087
Operating Supplies and Expenses	106,175	75,489	87,340	65,971
Aid To Local Units Of Government	-	-	-	-
Assistance, Grants and Benefits	-	-	-	-
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	\$1,003,606	\$1,148,697	\$1,273,668	\$1,292,058
Capital Purchases and Equipment	23,002	29,258	-	-
Debt Service	-	-	-	-
Operating Transfers	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$1,026,608	\$1,177,955	\$1,273,668	\$1,292,058
Expenditures By Funds				
General Revenue	1,001,953	1,146,024	1,240,666	1,259,056
Federal Funds	24,655	31,931	33,002	33,002
Total Expenditures	\$1,026,608	\$1,177,955	\$1,273,668	\$1,292,058
Program Measures	NS	NS	NS	NS

The Program

Department of Corrections Institutional Corrections

Program Operations

The Institutional Corrections Program coordinates the day-to-day operations of the Adult Correctional Institutions (ACI). The ACI functions both as a prison system for offenders sentenced to incarceration and as a statewide jail facility for individuals awaiting trial or arraignment, and includes eight institutions providing the various security levels for both men and women. Each facility is managed by a warden and deputy wardens. Correctional Officer Captains, Correctional Officer Lieutenants, and Correctional Officers provide around the clock supervision of inmates. Facility administrators are responsible for security, as well as for the day-to-day program activities such as education, employment, counseling, and health care.

The program also includes a number of support units. Food Services oversee all food distribution and preparation. The Facilities and Maintenance Unit provides maintenance and repairs to departmental buildings. The Special Investigations and Security Units oversee security methods and procedures, neutralize disturbances and assist with other contingencies (Tactical Team), and investigate breaches of inmate security. The Classification Unit determines the appropriate custody level and services for inmates, and provides case management services. Inmate Accounts serves as custodian of inmate funds, and the Inmate Commissary sells toiletries, non-prescription health care items, postage, and snack items to inmates. The program also is responsible for rehabilitative services. The Health Care unit provides medical, dental and mental health services to the inmate population. Other program services include educational and vocational training, drug treatment, sex-offender treatment, health education, conflict management training, and general reading and law libraries for use by prisoners. Under Transitional Services, the Reintegration Unit will operate a 200-bed facility for sentenced males who are within six months of release, but who have not qualified for lower custody status or parole.

Program Objectives

To maintain secure and humane custody and control of the inmate population to ensure the safety of staff, inmates, and the general public. To maintain a high level of readiness in the facilities in order to respond to disturbances and emergencies. To support the facilities and inmates with such necessities as food, maintenance, counseling, case management, investigative and other technical services. To provide vitally important rehabilitative services, such as health, education, counseling, and life skills/ re-entry training.

Statutory History

The declaration of policy in R.I.G.L. 42-56 establishes both the institutional custody and rehabilitative activities administered under this program. The State Marshals program was transferred to the Department of Administration in 2001. Authorization for inmate furloughs was established in 1976 under R.I.G.L. 42-56-18.

The Budget

Department of Corrections Institutional Corrections

	FY 2005 Actual	FY 2006 Actual	FY 2007 Revised	FY 2008 Recommended
Expenditures by Subprogram				
Institutions	86,831,194	95,248,016	103,684,537	122,072,796
Support Operations	17,687,918	17,839,004	19,167,936	19,787,459
Institutional Rehabilitative Services	23,303,567	23,647,511	26,547,844	27,626,845
Transitional Services	417,831	587,877	827,080	1,527,262
Total Expenditures	\$128,240,510	\$137,322,408	\$150,227,397	\$171,014,362
Expenditures By Object				
Personnel	112,281,898	112,494,860	115,131,232	144,618,329
Operating Supplies and Expenses	11,689,983	12,464,446	12,456,134	11,933,700
Aid To Local Units Of Government	-	-	-	-
Assistance, Grants and Benefits	1,284,599	3,840,086	6,858,881	7,001,955
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	\$125,256,480	\$128,799,392	\$134,446,247	\$163,553,984
Capital Purchases and Equipment	2,841,574	8,523,016	15,781,150	7,460,378
Debt Service	142,456	-	-	-
Operating Transfers	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$128,240,510	\$137,322,408	\$150,227,397	\$171,014,362
Expenditures By Funds				
General Revenue	124,648,723	127,822,323	132,721,133	161,831,410
Federal Funds	1,602,377	7,822,195	9,636,513	2,034,829
Restricted Receipts	217,362	2,423	-	-
Other Funds	1,772,048	1,675,467	7,869,751	7,148,123
Total Expenditures	\$128,240,510	\$137,322,408	\$150,227,397	\$171,014,362
Program Measures				
Escapes, Attempted Escapes and Acts of Absconding per 1,000 Inmates in the Average Daily Population	3.3	1.4	1.6	1.6
Violent Incidents per 1,000 Inmates in the Average Daily Population	14.1	11.6	14.1	14.1
Substance Abuse Treatment Program Completers Drug Free within 6 Months	98.9%	99.0%	99.0%	99.0%
Percentage of Tests for Illegal Substances that are Positive	1.05%	1.59%	1.59%	1.59%

The Program

Department of Corrections Community Corrections

Program Operations

The Community Corrections Program affords inmates the opportunity to participate in essential rehabilitative services in both their institutions and in the community at large. Like Institutional Custody, this program carries the dual mandate of promoting the rehabilitation of offenders while providing for the protection of the public. The program has two components:

Probation and Parole: The Probation and Parole Unit provides supervision and services for those offenders who are under the jurisdiction of the court or Parole Board and are subject to certain requirements as a condition for remaining in the community, including special low-ratio supervision and service programs for domestic violence and sex offenders.

Community Programs: Programs focus on preparation of offenders for release into the community and support for the offender once released, including discharge planning and case management services. Program services include the Victim services program including notification and advocacy services. The Community Confinement Unit supervises through electronic monitoring and other means non-violent offenders sentenced, classified, or paroled to community confinement, a structured alternative to institutional incarceration.

Program Objective

To provide a sufficient array of correctional services and programs that encourages and assists offenders in modifying their behavior to become productive, law-abiding citizens.

To provide sentencing options for selected inmates who pose a manageable risk to the community.

To provide the courts with accurate and comprehensive information to aid them in effective decision-making.

Statutory History

R.I.G.L. 42-56-1(2) and 10(11) establish the necessity of rehabilitative programs. R.I.G.L. 12-18 establishes the probation and parole system. R.I.G.L. 12-29 (1997) requires that all domestic violence offenders attend an intervention program. R.I.G.L. 13-8-30 (1999) requires lifetime supervision of 1st and 2nd degree sex offenders. Community Confinement was established in 1989 under R.I.G.L. 42-56-20.2. Work Release was authorized in 1976 under R.I.G.L. 42-57-21. Victim Services is authorized under R.I.G.L. 12-28-3.

The Budget

Department of Corrections Community Corrections

	FY 2005 Actual	FY 2006 Actual	FY 2007 Revised	FY 2008 Recommended
Expenditures by Subprogram				
Probation and Parole	9,081,052	10,021,325	11,418,567	12,754,062
Community Programs	3,143,983	2,905,634	3,003,427	3,283,872
Total Expenditures	\$12,225,035	\$12,926,959	\$14,421,994	\$16,037,934
Expenditures By Object				
Personnel	11,619,827	12,314,254	12,613,333	13,941,053
Operating Supplies and Expenses	556,889	573,360	679,394	1,628,997
Aid To Local Units Of Government	-	-	-	-
Assistance, Grants and Benefits	8,957	8,928	1,022,453	460,070
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	\$12,185,673	\$12,896,542	\$14,315,180	\$16,030,120
Capital Purchases and Equipment	39,362	30,417	106,814	7,814
Debt Service	-	-	-	-
Operating Transfers	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$12,225,035	\$12,926,959	\$14,421,994	\$16,037,934
Expenditures By Funds				
General Revenue	11,153,092	11,932,938	13,046,646	15,657,717
Federal Funds	1,071,943	994,021	1,375,348	380,217
Total Expenditures	\$12,225,035	\$12,926,959	\$14,421,994	\$16,037,934
Program Measures				
Percentage of Closed Cases Successfully Completing Terms of Home Confinement or Electronic Monitoring Parole	67.2%	65.7%	67.5%	67.5%

The Program

Department of Corrections Internal Service Programs

Program Operations

There are various services required by state-operated programs and activities, which are provided on a centralized basis. The costs of these operations are borne by the user agencies through a charge system, which allocates the costs of delivery of the goods or services. The operations of these programs are shown for display purposes only, since the costs are reflected in the budget of the user agency both on an actual and budget basis. Internal Service Programs operated by the Department of Corrections include the Central Distribution Center, Correctional Industries, and Pastore Center Telephone Operations.

The Central Distribution Center purchases and inventories \$5.5 million in food and a variety of cleaning, household, and office supplies for distribution to state institutions, other state and local governments, and non-profit agencies. Correctional Industries provides goods and services to other state, municipal, and non-profit entities to include printing, furniture restoration, license plate production, auto maintenance, clothing and linen production, grounds keeping, janitorial, office moving, and a variety of other services. Total FY 2006 sales volume was \$6.8 million. Total employment was 216 inmates. Pastore Services Telephone Operations operates and maintains the Central Telephone System for all agencies at the Pastore Government Center, as well as, memoranda of agreement, with the Emergency Management Agency, Vocational Rehabilitation, Zambarano Hospital, and other state agencies, on administrative and maintenance functions of certain Avaya switches.

Program Objective

To provide the most cost-effective delivery of goods and services to other state programs.

Statutory History

The Director of Administration is authorized by R.I.G.L. 35-5 to establish a system of rotary or rotating funds in any state department or agency. R.I.G.L. 35-5-8 and 9 identify services and procedures for the State General Store. R.I.G.L. 13-7-1, the State Use Law, allows prison-made goods and services to be sold to state agencies, municipalities and non-profit organizations.

The Budget

Department of Corrections Internal Service Programs

	FY 2005 Actual	FY 2006 Actual	FY 2007 Revised	FY 2008 Recommended
Expenditures By Object				
Personnel	2,976,810	3,201,627	2,709,752	2,890,790
Operating Supplies and Expenses	8,069,734	9,276,782	10,310,133	10,362,316
Aid To Local Units Of Government	-	-	-	-
Assistance, Grants and Benefits	226,673	198,498	211,276	211,276
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	\$11,273,217	\$12,676,907	\$13,231,161	\$13,464,382
Capital Purchases and Equipment	333,337	312,986	256,113	46,113
Debt Service	59,980	32,000	320,250	-
Operating Transfers	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$11,666,534	\$13,021,893	\$13,807,524	\$13,510,495
Expenditures By Funds				
Internal Service Funds	11,666,534	13,021,893	13,807,524	13,510,495
Total Expenditures	\$11,666,534	\$13,021,893	\$13,807,524	\$13,510,495
Program Measures	NA	NA	NA	NA