

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 operational capacity of 4,004 beds. In FY 2009, the average institutionalized population was 3,773. The department also provides supervision of offenders in the community (home confinement, probation and parole). By the end of FY 2009, the number of probation and parole cases serviced totaled 27,732. The average number of offenders on home or community confinement was 304. 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 2008 Actual	FY 2009 Actual	FY 2010 Enacted	FY 2010 Revised	FY 2011 Recommended
Expenditures by Program					
Central Management	8,539,179	7,735,262	8,021,430	6,954,560	8,089,350
Parole Board	1,274,074	1,274,926	1,293,696	1,333,845	1,376,212
Institutional Corrections	175,158,272	156,331,333	161,009,611	163,885,224	166,404,846
Community Corrections	13,758,082	13,794,027	15,030,769	14,165,696	14,399,215
Internal Service Program	[11,233,031]	[11,403,762]	[13,971,495]	[14,267,663]	[14,140,977]
Total Expenditures	\$198,729,607	\$179,135,548	\$185,355,506	\$186,339,325	\$190,269,623
Expenditures By Object					
Personnel	178,052,682	159,908,568	161,213,287	160,307,412	166,071,049
Operating Supplies and Expenses	16,544,832	15,738,583	16,447,305	16,452,931	16,507,626
Aid To Local Units Of Government	-	-	-	-	-
Assistance, Grants and Benefits	1,440,890	1,213,180	1,451,364	1,396,364	1,366,414
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	\$196,038,404	\$176,860,331	\$179,111,956	\$178,156,707	\$183,945,089
Capital Purchases and Equipment	2,691,203	2,275,217	6,243,550	8,182,618	6,324,534
Debt Service	-	-	-	-	-
Operating Transfers	-	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$198,729,607	\$179,135,548	\$185,355,506	\$186,339,325	\$190,269,623
Expenditures By Funds					
General Revenue	193,138,298	154,269,696	177,390,562	174,850,922	181,711,505
Federal Funds	2,688,836	22,288,285	2,196,668	3,460,879	2,587,994
Restricted Receipts	(61)	-	-	94,000	-
Other Funds	2,902,534	2,577,567	5,768,276	7,933,524	5,970,124
Total Expenditures	\$198,729,607	\$179,135,548	\$185,355,506	\$186,339,325	\$190,269,623
FTE Authorization	1,515.0	1,423.0	1,423.0	1,423.0	1,423.0
Agency Measures					
Minorities as a Percentage of the Workforce	14.7%	15.0%	16.0%	16.0%	16.2%
Females as a Percentage of the Workforce	25.2%	25.0%	25.0%	25.0%	25.2%
Persons with Disabilities as a Percentage of the Workforce	0.8%	0.6%	1.0%	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 2008 Actual	FY 2009 Actual	FY 2010 Enacted	FY 2010 Revised	FY 2011 Recommended
Expenditures By Subprogram					
Executive	2,118,871	1,717,186	1,862,228	1,650,560	1,747,476
Administration	6,420,308	6,018,076	6,159,202	5,304,000	6,341,874
Total Expenditures	\$8,539,179	\$7,735,262	\$8,021,430	\$6,954,560	\$8,089,350
Expenditures By Object					
Personnel	7,477,869	6,858,505	6,651,457	5,939,478	6,684,069
Operating Supplies and Expenses	757,037	786,886	1,261,097	948,250	1,229,625
Aid To Local Units Of Government	-	-	-	-	-
Assistance, Grants and Benefits	64,704	195	23,457	23,457	23,457
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	\$8,299,610	\$7,645,586	\$7,936,011	\$6,911,185	\$7,937,151
Capital Purchases and Equipment	239,569	89,676	85,419	43,375	152,199
Debt Service	-	-	-	-	-
Operating Transfers	-	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$8,539,179	\$7,735,262	\$8,021,430	\$6,954,560	\$8,089,350
Expenditures By Funds					
General Revenue	8,405,137	7,649,105	8,021,430	6,954,560	8,089,350
Federal Funds	134,042	86,157	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$8,539,179	\$7,735,262	\$8,021,430	\$6,954,560	\$8,089,350
Program Measures	NA	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 2009, the board granted parole in 608 cases and denied parole in 1,080 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 2009, the program made 202 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 2008 Actual	FY 2009 Actual	FY 2010 Enacted	FY 2010 Revised	FY 2011 Recommended
Expenditures By Object					
Personnel	1,224,171	1,231,340	1,227,760	1,277,531	1,309,713
Operating Supplies and Expenses	49,903	43,586	63,896	54,274	64,459
Aid To Local Units Of Government	-	-	-	-	-
Assistance, Grants and Benefits	-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	\$1,274,074	\$1,274,926	\$1,291,656	\$1,331,805	\$1,374,172
Capital Purchases and Equipment	-	-	2,040	2,040	2,040
Debt Service	-	-	-	-	-
Operating Transfers	-	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$1,274,074	\$1,274,926	\$1,293,696	\$1,333,845	\$1,376,212
Expenditures By Funds					
General Revenue	1,222,111	1,239,110	1,269,396	1,293,845	1,336,212
Federal Funds	51,963	35,816	24,300	40,000	40,000
Total Expenditures	\$1,274,074	\$1,274,926	\$1,293,696	\$1,333,845	\$1,376,212
Program Measures	NS	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.

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 2008 Actual	FY 2009 Actual	FY 2010 Enacted	FY 2010 Revised	FY 2011 Recommended
Expenditures by Subprogram					
Institutions	127,542,137	107,582,325	112,246,687	116,200,411	117,128,624
Support Operations	18,591,808	20,099,474	18,729,871	18,112,454	18,733,053
Institutional Rehabilitative Services	27,950,362	27,531,462	28,741,344	28,393,581	29,358,231
Transitional Services	1,073,965	1,118,072	1,291,709	1,178,778	1,184,938
Total Expenditures	\$175,158,272	\$156,331,333	\$161,009,611	\$163,885,224	\$166,404,846
Expenditures By Object					
Personnel	156,270,669	138,700,879	139,076,233	139,667,677	144,406,963
Operating Supplies and Expenses	15,113,808	14,240,384	14,446,122	14,749,179	14,496,423
Aid To Local Units Of Government	-	-	-	-	-
Assistance, Grants and Benefits	1,327,646	1,209,911	1,338,979	1,338,979	1,338,979
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	\$172,712,123	\$154,151,174	\$154,861,334	\$155,755,835	\$160,242,365
Capital Purchases and Equipment	2,446,149	2,180,159	6,148,277	8,129,389	6,162,481
Debt Service	-	-	-	-	-
Operating Transfers	-	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$175,158,272	\$156,331,333	\$161,009,611	\$163,885,224	\$166,404,846
Expenditures By Funds					
General Revenue	170,206,651	132,011,665	153,293,213	153,467,895	158,625,825
Federal Funds	2,049,148	21,742,101	1,948,122	2,483,805	1,808,897
Restricted Receipts	(61)	-	-	-	-
Other Funds	2,902,534	2,577,567	5,768,276	7,933,524	5,970,124
Total Expenditures	\$175,158,272	\$156,331,333	\$161,009,611	\$163,885,224	\$166,404,846
Program Measures					
Violent Incidences per 1,000 Inmates in the Average Daily Population	14.4	8.1	8.1	8.1	8.1
Substance Abuse Treatment Program Completers Drug Free within 6 Months	99.0%	99.7%	99.5%	99.5%	99.5%
Percentage of Tests for Illegal Substances that are Positive	0.76%	0.76%	0.53%	0.65%	0.65%

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. Those under active supervision total 11,635.

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 2008 Actual	FY 2009 Actual	FY 2010 Enacted	FY 2010 Revised	FY 2011 Recommended
Expenditures by Subprogram					
Probation and Parole	11,472,514	11,403,032	12,728,883	11,353,597	11,706,124
Community Programs	2,285,568	2,390,995	2,301,886	2,812,099	2,693,091
Total Expenditures	\$13,758,082	\$13,794,027	\$15,030,769	\$14,165,696	\$14,399,215
Expenditures By Object					
Personnel	13,079,973	13,117,844	14,257,837	13,422,726	13,670,304
Operating Supplies and Expenses	624,084	667,727	676,190	701,228	717,119
Aid To Local Units Of Government	-	-	-	-	-
Assistance, Grants and Benefits	48,540	3,074	88,928	33,928	3,978
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	\$13,752,597	\$13,788,645	\$15,022,955	\$14,157,882	\$14,391,401
Capital Purchases and Equipment	5,485	5,382	7,814	7,814	7,814
Debt Service	-	-	-	-	-
Operating Transfers	-	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$13,758,082	\$13,794,027	\$15,030,769	\$14,165,696	\$14,399,215
Expenditures By Funds					
General Revenue	13,304,399	13,369,816	14,806,523	13,134,622	13,660,118
Federal Funds	453,683	424,211	224,246	937,074	739,097
Restricted Receipts	-	-	-	94,000	-
Total Expenditures	\$13,758,082	\$13,794,027	\$15,030,769	\$14,165,696	\$14,399,215
Program Measures					
Percentage of Closed Cases Successfully Completing Terms of Home Confinement or Electronic Monitoring Parole	65.7%	72.6%	65.7%	65.7%	65.7%

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 and Correctional Industries.

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 2009 sales volume was \$6.1 million. Total employment was 198 inmates.

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 2008 Actual	FY 2009 Actual	FY 2010 Enacted	FY 2010 Revised	FY 2011 Recommended
Expenditures By Object					
Personnel	2,675,219	2,627,154	2,560,876	2,606,783	2,696,315
Operating Supplies and Expenses	8,376,751	8,601,261	10,520,690	10,556,036	10,554,733
Aid To Local Units Of Government	-	-	-	-	-
Assistance, Grants and Benefits	146,262	128,247	215,703	215,703	215,703
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	\$11,198,232	\$11,356,662	\$13,297,269	\$13,378,522	\$13,466,751
Capital Purchases and Equipment	34,799	47,100	674,226	889,141	674,226
Debt Service	-	-	-	-	-
Operating Transfers	-	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$11,233,031	\$11,403,762	\$13,971,495	\$14,267,663	\$14,140,977
Expenditures By Funds					
Internal Service Funds	11,233,031	11,403,762	13,971,495	14,267,663	14,140,977
Total Expenditures	\$11,233,031	\$11,403,762	\$13,971,495	\$14,267,663	\$14,140,977
Program Measures	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA