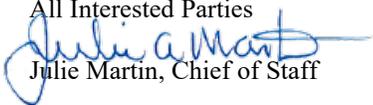




STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
P.O. Box 41100 • Olympia, Washington 98504-1100

December 23, 2021

TO: All Incarcerated Individuals
All Interested Parties

FROM: 
Julie Martin, Chief of Staff

SUBJECT: Governor's FY22 Supplemental Budget Highlights for DOC

The Department of Corrections (DOC) takes the health and safety of the incarcerated individuals in the state's custody very seriously. The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the State v. Blake decision and other legislative sentencing changes have highlighted significant gaps and opportunities for improvements in correctional care and services over the past year.

Last week, Governor Inslee released his proposed budget which can be found by clicking this link [2022 supplemental budgets](#). We are excited to share that he fully supported our budget requests to transform health care and correctional culture, and further expand reentry services.

These proposed historic investments will go before the legislature for consideration next month.

Improving Health Care Outcomes

- \$44 million to implement a patient-centered medical home model in correctional facilities, expand the capacity of the department to better establish behavioral health treatment programs, increase the quality and accessibility of health care for individuals who violate terms of supervision and includes capital budget investments for modular health services buildings at Coyote Ridge and Airway Heights Corrections Center,

Creating a safe and humane corrections system

- \$109 million was provided under various wage increase allotments, supporting community supervision staffing models, reduction of restrictive housing, Amend program work (a transformative approach which focuses on building stronger human relationships between staff and incarcerated individuals) and various staffing support purposes.

Removing barriers to successful reentry

- \$8 million to establish permanent teleservices for health care, court hearings, and other remote services for incarcerated individuals, to address immediate needs of individuals being released directly from prison due to resentencing who cannot utilize housing vouchers, and to convert Helen B. Ratcliff Work release in Seattle to a facility operated by the department.
- \$121 thousand for DOC to collaborate with the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges and the Department of Licensing to develop a pre-release commercial driving license (CDL) pilot program.
- The Governor proposed legislation that would eliminate the cost of supervision fees that Individuals under community supervision are currently required to pay and gave DOC money from the general fund to backfill revenue generated by the Cost of Supervision Account.

Modernizing Technology

- \$9.1 million to modernize OMNI sentencing calculation module, additional staff support for ongoing quality assurance and to expedite the procurement and implementation of a comprehensive system to track the various health services for incarcerated population.

Next steps are for the House and Senate to develop their supplemental budget and then vote for passage of a budget for the Governor's signature in early March 2022. The Department is extremely appreciative of the Governor and his staff for their support of our request.

"Working Together for SAFER Communities"

Department of Corrections Attachment to Budget Message

Creating a safe and humane corrections system

- \$75 million was provided for interest arbitration and collective bargaining agreements with the Teamsters and the Washington Federation of State Employees, for non-represented employee general wage increases, and to address salary inversion and compression issues arising from recent bargaining agreements.
- \$12 million was provided to retain community supervision staffing independent from fluctuating caseloads related to COVID-19 impacts, preventing the reduction of 121.6 community supervision positions currently filled by staff and allowing the department to implement a coaching model of supervision earlier than originally planned.
- \$12 million to increase the relief factor in the prison staffing model, replacing the use of mandatory overtime for coverage that must occur in 24/7 facilities and reducing excessive mandatory overtime that contributes to staff fatigue.
- \$8.1 million to reduce the use of solitary confinement in Washington state prisons by increasing correctional and mental health staffing, incorporating enhanced mental health training, and implementing evidence-based approaches to organizational and culture change in the restrictive housing environment.
- \$1.4 million to continue working with the Amend program at the University of California San Francisco. This transformative approach focuses on building stronger human relationships between staff and incarcerated individuals, making life in prison more closely resemble outside life and providing a path toward increasing freedom and responsibility. This work will also improve staff well-being and create a more balanced workplace environment, improve mental health for both incarcerated individuals and staff, and change the culture will allow for fewer mental health symptoms like Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) for incarcerated population and staff.
- \$663 thousand to increase staffing to support the department's capacity to respond efficiently and appropriately to the Office of the Corrections Ombuds reports and recommendations.

Modernizing Technology

- \$5.7 million for an OMNI sentencing calculation module and \$12.2 million to fund the staff necessary to meet current workload demands. Modernization will result in timely and accurate calculations of sentence end dates more efficiently than the current manual reconciliation process.
- \$2.4 million for additional staff to support ongoing quality assurance and continuous improvement needs to maintain the quality of outcomes identified by the Washington ONE used to assign risk classification levels and appropriate support services for individuals under the supervision of the department.
- An additional \$1 million to expedite the procurement and implementation of a comprehensive system to track the medical, dental, behavioral health, and pharmacy services of the incarcerated population at all correctional facilities would address these critical issues.

Improving Health Care Outcomes

- \$27.6 million to implement a patient-centered medical home model in state correctional facilities to provide increased access to preventive care; better support for individuals with chronic health conditions such as cancer, diabetes, heart disease and serious mental illness; and address critical quality improvement needs.

- \$5.3 million to expand the capacity of the department to screen individuals on intake to better establish behavioral health treatment programs, reduce caseloads for psychiatrists and psychologists for and provide a continuum of care from total confinement through eventual release to the community with additional case management.
- \$11.1 million to increase the quality and accessibility of health care for individuals who violate their terms of supervision. These individuals can be housed in local jails or prison-based violator centers, and resources are increased for both pathways.
- Capital budget investments for modular health services buildings at Coyote Ridge and Airway Heights Corrections Centers, an interim mental health building at Washington Corrections Center, and costs associated with moving the Sage Unit from Coyote Ridge to Airway Heights.

Removing barriers to successful reentry

- \$4.6 million to establish permanent teleservices for health care, court hearings, and other remote services at each correctional facility. Providing services electronically ensures individuals under the care of DOC receive needed services in a fast, effective, and safe manner.
- \$2.1 million to address the immediate needs of individuals being released directly from prison due to resentencing who are not currently eligible for housing vouchers and other reentry support.
- \$1.3 million to convert Helen B. Ratcliff Work Release from a contracted facility to a facility operated by the department. The previous contract was terminated effective November 30, 2021 and converting to an agency-run facility presents greater opportunities for implementation of positive changes that align with DOC's mission and vision.
- \$121 thousand for DOC to collaborate with the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges and the Department of Licensing to develop a pre-release commercial driving license (CDL) pilot program.
- The Governor proposed legislation that would eliminate the cost of supervision fees that individuals under community supervision are currently required to pay and gave DOC money from the general fund to backfill revenue generated by the Cost of Supervision Account.

Additional information will be provided as it is available.