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## Senate Ways and Means Committee

### Written Testimony in Support of Department of Corrections Budget Amendment

March 7, 2025

Chairman Billinger and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Kansas Community Corrections Association (KCCA), we are requesting the addition of \$3.0 million to the Kansas Department of Corrections budget in FY 2026.

We want to thank the Legislature and this committee who have been very supportive to fund increases for the KDOC Community Corrections grants to help the community supervision programs hire and retain staff in your Kansas counties and judicial districts.

For the FY 2026 budget year we are requesting an addition of \$3 million SGF to purchase \$1.5 million for behavioral health services, and \$1.5 million for the second phase of adding 51 new officers across the state. The 2024 Legislature funded \$5 million to begin that process. The requested addition in FY 2026 continues to address the staffing issues as well as the much-needed capacity to purchase behavioral health treatment services for offenders.

These funds for the Department of Corrections will be distributed to community corrections agencies across the state to support the low-cost community supervision of offenders that reduces the high cost of incarceration in a state prison. Attached is the presentation provided to the House Appropriations subcommittee for your review

Community corrections agencies are thirty-one statutorily mandated programs in each part of the state, governed by county commissions and community advisory boards for both adult and juvenile offenders. They provide cost-effective community-based supervision instead of prison for adult and juvenile offenders with lower severity level offenses (although the offenders are increasingly more severe and high-risk). The courts and sentencing guidelines determine whether an adult offender is assigned to regular probation (through the courts) or intensive supervise probation with graduated sanctions in a community corrections program. Juveniles are sent to community corrections by district courts. Some agencies also serve as intake and assessment for juveniles.

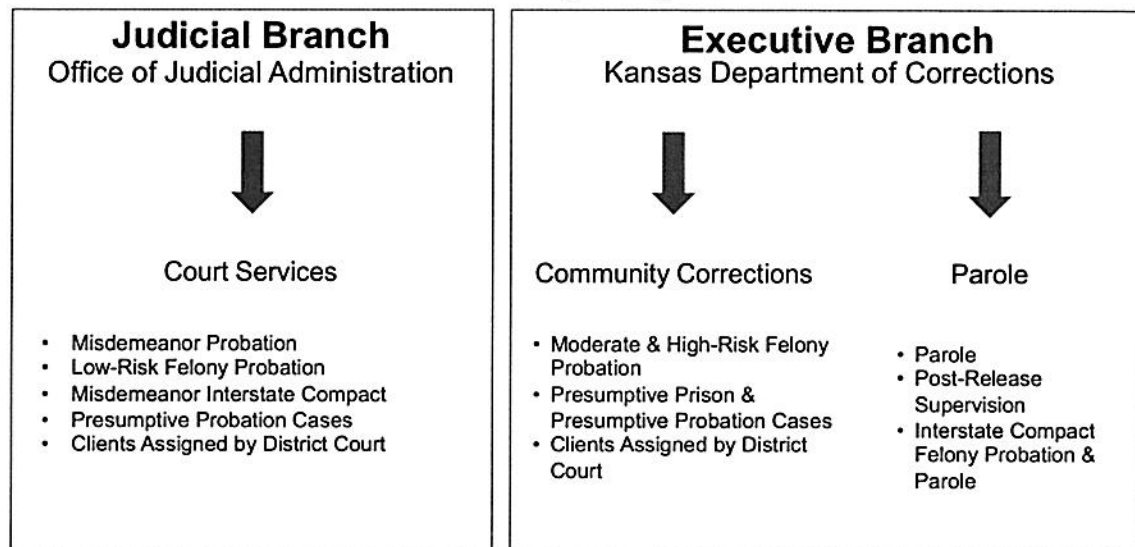
I am happy to stand for questions at the appropriate time.

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# Community Corrections

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## Kansas Community Supervision Structure



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# COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS

- County employees
- Pay scales set by the county, state pays compensation, including benefits and retirement
- Grant funded through KDOC
- Governed by the county policies and KDOC standards and guidelines
- Counties provide in-kind services, support and assistance such as HR, accounting, and IT services
- Some counties provide cash assistance
- Guided by advisory boards and County Commissioners

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# INTENSIVE SUPERVISION

Officers assist probationers in reducing crime-causing risk factors by helping them change their thinking and behavior.

Officers prioritize people most at risk of recidivism to improve public safety and reduce future victimization.



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## COST AVOIDANCE

- Supervision of people in the community saves the State money.
- Treatment in the community avoids the cost of housing people.
- Probationers are contributing to the tax base rather than being a drain on state resources.



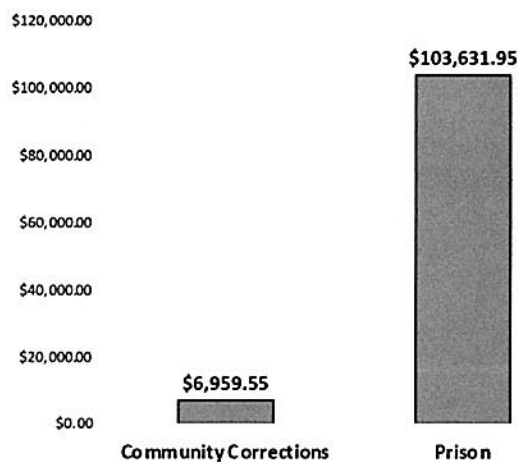
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## RENO COUNTY EXAMPLE

FY 2024

- The average supervision assignment length was 20 months
- The average underlying prison sentence was 32 months
- In this situation, incarceration costs nearly 15 times as much Community Corrections

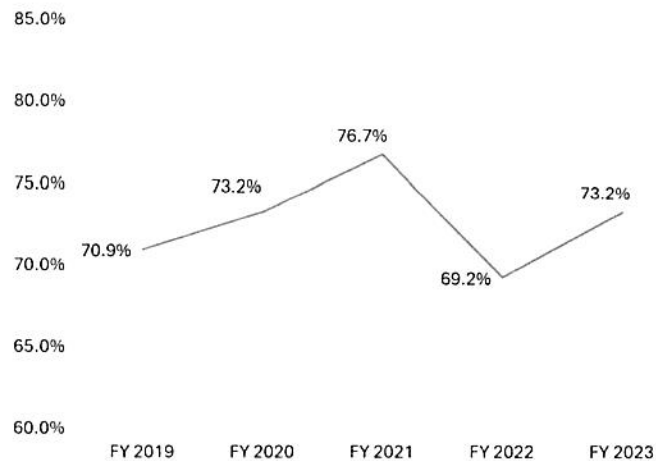


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## STATEWIDE SUCCESS RATES

- 72.6% five-year success rate
- 27.7% of cases assigned in FY 2021 were presumptive prison at sentencing
- Over 19,000 people diverted from prison from FY 2019 to FY 2023



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## FUNDING REQUEST

### \$1.5 Million for Additional Officers

- This is for phase II of the three-year plan to add 51 officers statewide
- Additional officer reduces caseload sizes
- Lower caseloads allows more time to focus on behavior change rather than compliance driven supervision
- More officers means improved outcomes, less recidivism, and safer communities

### \$1.5 Million for the Behavioral Health Grants

- The Behavioral Health Grant has been at \$3 million for over ten years
- Additional funding provides more mental health, substance abuse, and behavior change interventions for probationers
- Services and assistance for probationers is decreasing due to rising costs for services

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# Thank you

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