



May 28, 2025

Members of the Criminal Justice Oversight Council,

The Montana Department of Corrections respectfully submits the following information in response to requests made by members of the Criminal Justice Oversight Council during its May 28, 2025, meeting.

Timeline for the release of the pre-release RFP?

The DOC anticipates posting the RFP in the fall of 2025.

Provide additional detail about the sex offender treatment facility approved by the 2023 Montana Legislature.

- The 2023 Montana Legislature allocated \$7.1 million to for establishment of a 68-bed facility focused on the treatment of sex offenders.
- A contract was awarded to CCCS, Inc. to expand its START facility to include a residential sex offender treatment unit. The DOC posted an “intent to expand” to which CCCS was the only respondent. Because the expansion would be less than 50%, the award to CCCS was appropriate as provided in Administrative Rule 20.7.1001.
- Scheduled to start taking offenders in October 2025.
- Follows the DOC’s Integrated Correctional Programming Model’s sex offender track.
- Offenders will be at the facility between six and nine months depending on their individual treatment needs.
- Will allow for placement of offenders committed to the DOC, as well as those authorized through BOPP for placement from a secure facility.

What is the Community Corrections Facility Daily Population?

As of 5/27/25, that population was:

- Treatment Centers – 439
- Prerelease Centers – 941
- Assessment and Sanction Centers - 206



Provide a DOC out-of-state adult male prison bed contract timeline?

- November 2023 – Following an RFP process, the DOC contracted with CoreCivic for 120 adult male beds at Saguaro Correctional Center in Eloy, AZ. (120 inmates)
- August 2024 – Following an RFP process, the DOC contracted with CoreCivic for adult male beds at Saguaro Correctional Center in Eloy, AZ. (240 inmates)
- January 2025 – Following a third RFP process, the DOC contracted with CoreCivic for adult male beds at the Tallahatchie County Correctional Facility in Tutwiler, MS. (240 inmates)

Are some county detention centers – specifically Gallatin County - refusing to accept DOC offenders?

While some county governments expressed concerns about holding DOC offenders in their detention facilities due to reimbursement rates – set by the Montana Legislature – no county jails are refusing to accept DOC jail holds, including Gallatin County.

What is the percentage of adjudicated cases that are DOC commits?

Fiscal Year	% of DOC Commits
2024	59%
2023	60%
2022	63%
2021	63%
2020	62%

What percentage of DOC commits are revoked within 5 years of sentencing?

Fiscal Year	% of DOC Commits with Prison Status w/in 5 yrs
2020	30%
2019	31%
2018	30%



Explain who determines placement of inmates committed to the DOC

Please refer to the DOC's Probation and Parole Bureau's Operational Procedures (4.6.300 and 6.1.201) which were provided to committee staff by email.

Explain how victim statements are incorporated into offender placement determinations.

Pre-sentence investigation (PSI) writers contact victims to provide statements as part of the presentence phase of sentencings. If provided, that statement is included in the PSI which is attached to the offender's court file and DOC file. Should a victim decline to provide a statement to the PSI writer, and solely deliver a statement in court during sentencing, it is unlikely the DOC would be aware of the content of that statement. This information would be valuable to DOC staff members evaluating appropriate placements for offenders.

The DOC also attempts to contact victims during the offender screening phase to gather input regarding placement of an offender. That feedback is closely considered as part of the process to determine whether a placement is appropriate.

Also, a DOC victim liaison is assigned to assist the department's Placement Unit. This individual assists in contacting victims and gathering their input. The liaison offers perspective on potential placements based on her expertise.

How will the addition of units at MSP affect staffing needs?

The DOC intends to conduct a staffing analysis and will share the findings and recommendations of that with the committee.

Does the DOC accept feedback from the Crime Victims Advisory Board?

The Crime Victims Advisory Board was disbanded during Governor Schweitzer's term in office. Instead, the DOC employs a team of victim liaisons who serve victims whose offenders are in the corrections system. The DOC is committed to hearing and considering the voices of victims and co-victims and making opportunities for restorative justice available to them.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Respectfully Submitted,

Eric Strauss, Deputy Director