BUDGET UNIT BRIEF – FY 2023

Fiscal Services Division

July 1, 2022

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Department of Corrections Inmate Labor Fund

Purpose

Offenders supervised by the Department of Corrections (DOC) are required to work in the correctional institutions and Iowa Prison Industries, pursuant to Iowa Code section 904.701. The DOC enters into agreements with other State agencies and local governments to provide inmate work programs. The agreements stipulate the costs of providing the offender labor, including supervision, security, transportation, and the stipend paid to the offenders.

Fund Created

Iowa Code section 904.703(3) creates the Inmate Labor Fund. Receipts from grants, fees, appropriations, or reimbursed costs for providing inmate labor are deposited in the Fund. The year-end balance carries forward to the next fiscal year, and interest earned on the balance remains in the Fund. The DOC is allowed to use the Fund balance to offset staff and transportation costs related to providing offender labor to public agencies, or to start or supplement other offender labor activities within the correctional institutions or throughout the State.

Receipts and Expenditures

The DOC negotiates a daily per-offender fee when providing offender work crews, usually at the rate of $5 per offender per day. The per-offender daily rate is established at:
- $6 per day when the DOC transports and provides meals to offenders.
- $5 per day when the DOC provides meals and the agency transports the offenders.
- $4 per day when the agency provides meals and transports the offenders.

Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Code chapter 904
Iowa Code sections 904.701 and 904.703
Iowa Administrative Code 201

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