

Community-Based Corrections Residential Facilities

Purpose

Community-Based Corrections (CBC) provides a range of sanctions as an alternative to prison by supervising offenders within the community. This ***Fiscal Topic*** focuses on residential facilities that provide 24-hour supervision in a non-secure setting. Offenders may leave the facility for approved purposes such as job-seeking, employment, or treatment. (Refer to the ***Fiscal Topic*** [History of Community-Based Corrections](#) for more information regarding CBC services.)

Residential Placement

Offenders may be placed in residential facilities by the court (probation, pretrial release, or the Operating While Intoxicated (OWI) statute), the Parole Board (parole or work release), the corrections continuum (Iowa Code Chapter [901B](#)), or by the U.S. Bureau of Prisons if a CBC District Department has a contract to house federal prisoners. Residential facilities provide a structured environment for high-risk/needs offenders that include employment, financial management for court-ordered responsibilities, community service work, and participation in education and treatment programs. Other services may be provided if indicated by the risk assessment. There is an incentive system in place for offenders that rewards compliance by granting privileges.

Day reporting is also available within certain CBC District Departments. An offender may be ordered to a facility by the court or the corrections continuum, but placed on day reporting status. This option permits an offender to live at home while abiding by facility rules. This intermediate sanction frees up residential beds. The offender on day reporting may be sent back to the residential facility for noncompliance with rules.

Programming

Offenders live at the residential facilities and must pay residential rent as determined by the CBC District Departments, in addition to other court-ordered financial obligations such as victim restitution or child support. Offenders may access the following programs while housed at a CBC residential facility:

- The OWI Program is for offenders convicted of at least their second OWI offense. Offenders are sentenced to the Department of Corrections (DOC) and housed at a residential facility for substance abuse treatment. Treatment providers for this prison-diversion program are licensed by the Iowa Department of Public Health.
- Job readiness training.
- Individual and group counseling.
- Anger management and cognitive thinking.
- Referrals for substance abuse and/or mental health treatment.
- Sex offender treatment and Batterer's Education Programs.

In addition to the programs listed above, the Des Moines Women's Residential Facility has one room for women offenders that may have children reside with them.

Fiscal Information

There are 1,645 beds statewide in 25 facilities and the facilities are usually at capacity. There is typically a waiting list of 750 offenders.

The General Assembly makes state General Fund appropriations to the DOC, and allocates the funds to the eight CBC District Departments. This is in addition to any funds generated at the local level in the CBCs, such as offender rent. Generally, the CBC District Departments rely on the General Fund appropriation to fund personnel costs of CBC residential facilities and local income to fund the support budget. Residential facilities are the most expensive sanction on the CBC corrections continuum.

More Information

Department of Corrections: <http://www.doc.state.ia.us>

Iowa General Assembly: <http://www.legis.iowa.gov/index.aspx>

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Research

Based on a literature review conducted by the Legislative Services Agency, the administration of Iowa's CBC system, including the residential facilities, is unique. The CBCs provide services to the State prison system (parole, work release, and the OWI program), county jails (residential facilities may serve as a jail), and court system (judges may order a probation offender to a CBC residential facility in lieu of prison). In most states, the court system oversees probation while the state corrections department oversees parole. Residential facilities may be state or county operated in jurisdictions outside Iowa.

The [DOC](#) issued a report, [Halfway Back Works](#), that explains how the Board of Parole and the DOC instituted an option to revoke offenders from parole to work release, rather than back to the State prison system. Those offenders revoked to work release residential facilities have a lower rate of new criminal convictions compared to other offenders returned to prison.

The DOC issued a [Research in Brief, Residential Facility Escapes](#) report, that found escapes from residential facilities increased between Calendar Years (CY) 2001 through 2014. Commonly, offenders failed to return to the facility after an authorized leave, such as work or treatment. Offenders on probation or work release were more likely to escape than offenders on another status, such as the OWI continuum. While the overall increase in escapes appears high at approximately 24.7%, residential facility capacity increased by approximately 6.0% over this reporting period. The report includes a discussion of escape rates on an annual basis. While escape from residential facilities increased from CY 2001 through CY 2014, the escape rates show no statistically significant change. The report indicates that providing [cognitive behavioral therapy](#) to offenders is likely to reduce their tendency to escape from residential facility placement.

Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Code chapters [321J](#), [904](#), [904A](#), [905](#), [906](#), [907](#)

Iowa Administrative Code [201 IAC](#), [205 IAC](#)