

History of Community-Based Corrections

Community-Based Corrections (CBC) supervises defendants on pretrial release, and convicted offenders on probation or parole. The CBC District Departments are the primary correctional supervision and treatment programs working with adult offenders in Iowa. The CBC District Departments serve as an alternative to incarcerating people convicted of criminal offenses. Approximately 80.0% of convicted offenders are supervised in local communities. The State prison system generally is used for the more serious or dangerous offenders and as an alternative when offender risk cannot be managed effectively in local communities.

History

Until the 1960s, parole and work release offenders were the responsibility of the Office of the Chief Parole Officer within the Department of Social Services. The Department was later reorganized into the Department of Human Services ([DHS](#)) and the Department of Corrections ([DOC](#)) by the 1983 General Assembly.

For probation, judges assigned adult probationers to the supervision of the Chief Parole Officer, under the control of the Executive Branch, or the probationers were assigned to a local program or the supervision of a private citizen, retaining the supervision of the offenders under the control of the [Judicial Branch](#).

Through the late 1960s and early 1970s, federal grants were available to establish community corrections programs. Programs began to develop primarily in Iowa's urban areas.

In 1973, the General Assembly enacted SF 482 (Community-Corrections Act) and SF 66 (Work Release Act) furthering the development of the CBC system. Community-Based Corrections is locally administered within the eight judicial districts. Policy and program development is primarily locally controlled.

In 1977, the General Assembly enacted SF 112 (Community-Based Corrections Act) creating Iowa Code chapter [905](#) that provides the current administrative structure. The Act placed pretrial, presentence investigations, probation, and preinstitution residential services under the CBC District Departments.

Pursuant to Iowa Code chapter [905](#), each CBC District Department is a separate agency under the direction of a Board of Directors and is administered by a Director employed by the Board. The CBC staff members are considered State employees for the purposes of collective bargaining and tort claims.

Each CBC Board sets policy, provides input into budget requests for submission to the Board of Corrections, and oversees program operations. In addition, each CBC District Department has one or more advisory committees.

During the 1983 Legislative Session, SF 464 (Department of Corrections Act) created the current correctional system. All postinstitution adult supervision (parole and work release) was assigned to the CBC District Departments, with oversight provided by the DOC. The DOC has regulatory responsibilities for CBC programs, including statewide planning, budget oversight, establishment of program guidelines, and development of performance measures. The General Assembly appropriates funds to the DOC and allocates those funds to each CBC District Department.

More Information

Iowa General Assembly: <https://www.legis.iowa.gov>
Iowa Department of Corrections: <http://www.doc.state.ia.us/>
Iowa Board of Parole: <http://www.bop.state.ia.us/>
First CBC District Department: <http://www.firstdcs.com/>
Second CBC District Department: <http://2nddcs.com/>
Fourth CBC District Department: <http://fourthdcs.com/>
Fifth CBC District Department: <http://fifthdcs.com/>
Sixth CBC District Department: <http://iowacbc.org/>
Eighth CBC District Department: <http://www.8thjdcbc.com/>

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Additional Information

For more information about the various appropriations to the DOC, refer to:

- **Fiscal Topic** [Budget Unit: Community-Based Corrections](#) for a brief overview of Iowa's eight CBC District Departments.
- **Fiscal Topic** [Costs and Uses of Electronic Monitoring](#) for information regarding its use in local communities.
- **Fiscal Topic** [Community-Based Corrections Field Services](#) for more detailed information about programs provided by the CBC District Departments.
- **Fiscal Topic** [Community-Based Residential Facilities](#) for information regarding the administration, programming, and budgets of the CBC Residential Facilities.
- **Fiscal Topic** [Budget Unit: Department of Corrections Central Office](#) reviews the DOC's role with the CBC District Departments.
- **Fiscal Topics** [Budget Unit: Adult Correctional Institutions](#) and [Budget Unit: Board of Parole](#) describe the Institution and Board interactions with the CBC District Departments.
- **Issue Review** [Community-Based Corrections Funding Levels](#) for a comparison of funding levels between the CBC District Departments and the offender population, risk and supervision levels, and recidivism rates.
- [2014 Iowa Factbook](#) includes national and state statistical and comparative data for corrections systems.
- **Legislative Guide** [Criminal Law Overview](#) provides a general overview of the substantive criminal and sentencing laws in Iowa.

Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Code chapters [321J](#), [901](#), [901B](#), [903A](#), [904](#), [905](#), [906](#), [907](#), [907B](#), [908](#), [909](#), [910](#), [913](#), and [915](#)

Iowa Administrative Code: [201 IAC](#)