



Iowa Department of Corrections (DOC)

2026 Justice System Appropriations
SUBCOMMITTEE PRESENTATION

DR. BETH SKINNER, DIRECTOR

January 2026



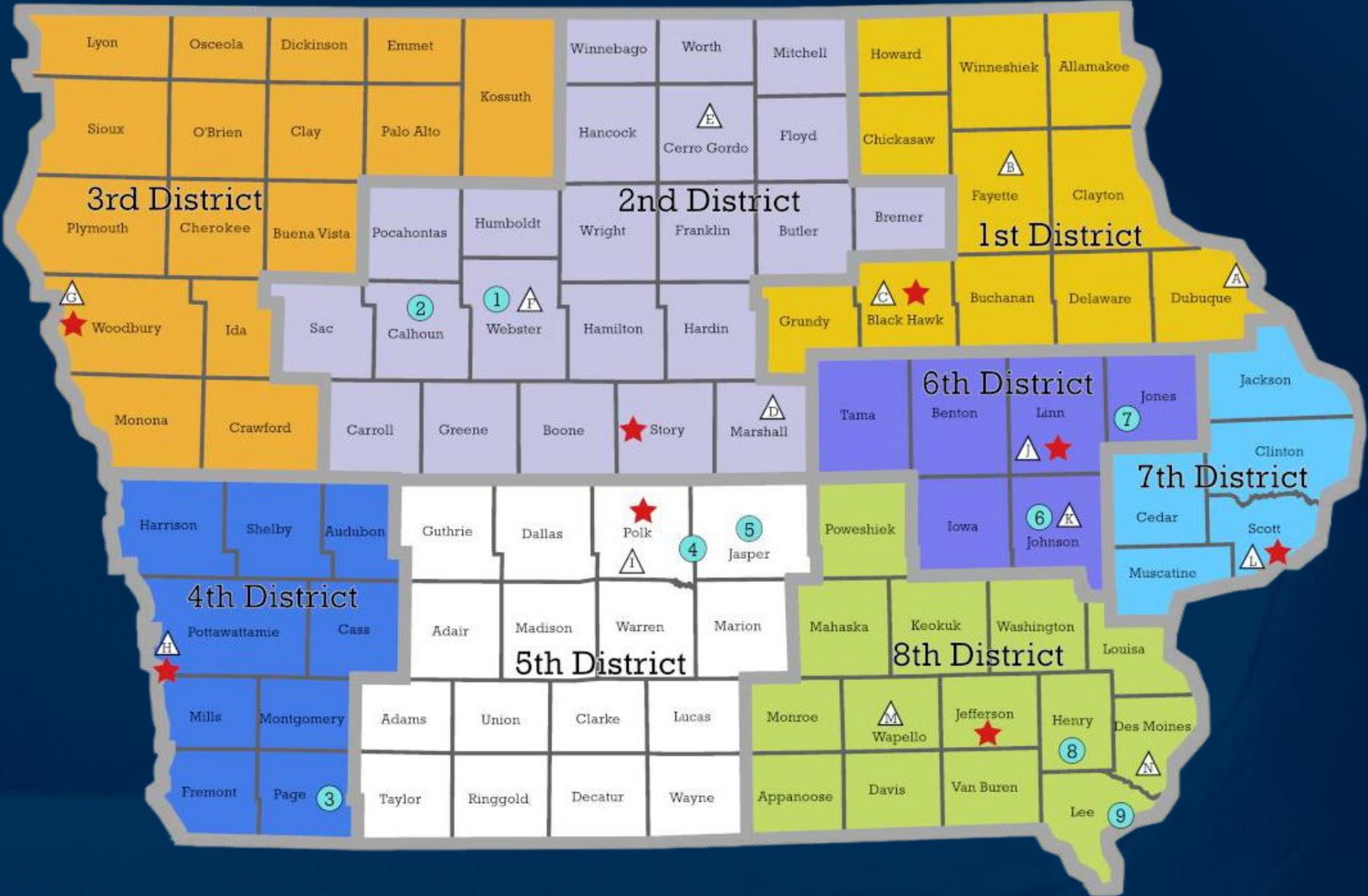
Coming together is a beginning.
Keeping together is progress.
Working together is success.

-Henry Ford



About The DOC

Districts and Institution





Vision

An Iowa with No More Victims

Mission

Creating opportunities for Safer Communities

Values

Creating Opportunities for Success is our *Goal*

Reentry is our *Process*

Evidenced Based Practices are our *Tools*

Staff is our Most Important *Asset*





About

Our Strategic Plan

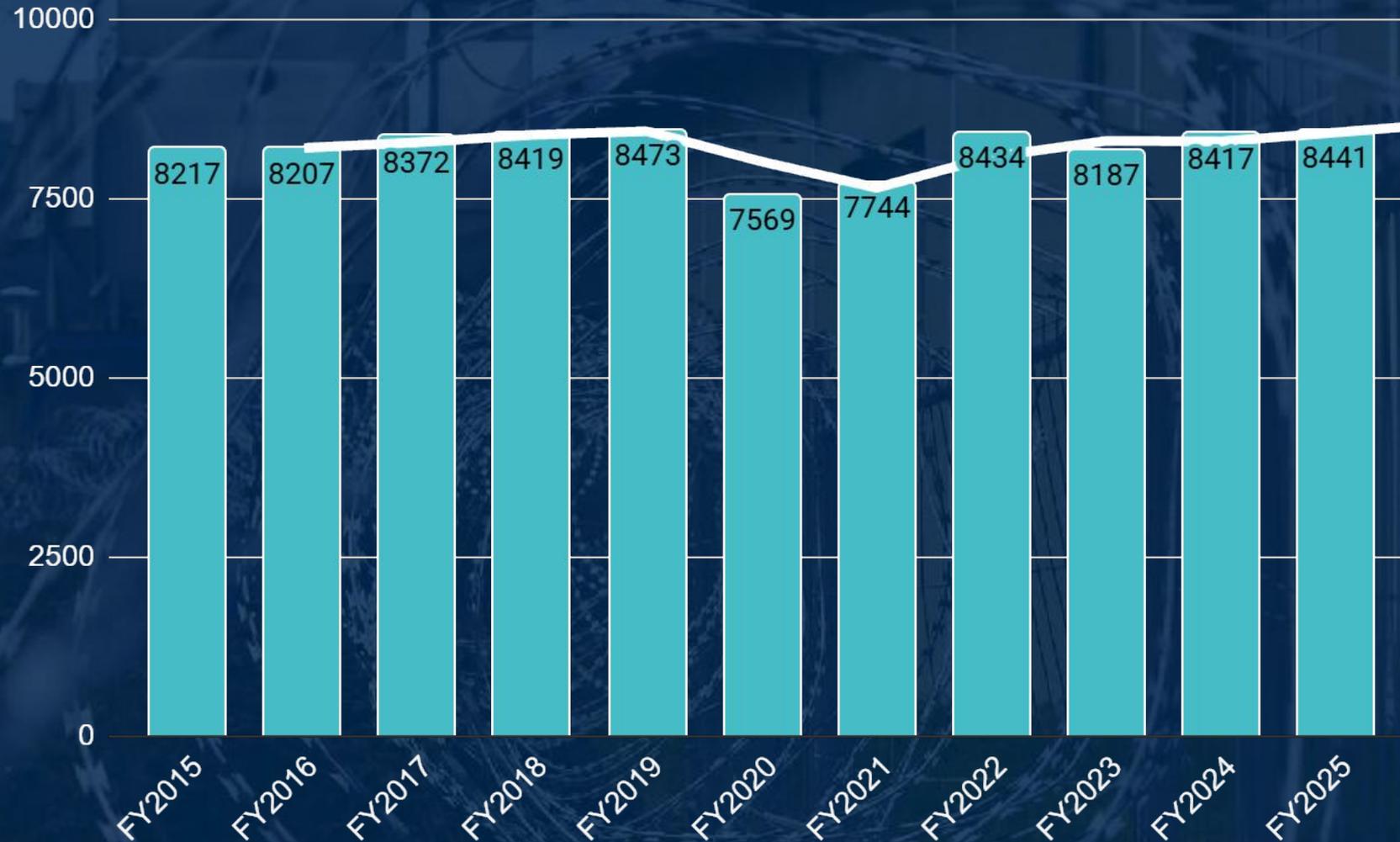
5 Core Priorities

- Security & Safety
- Treatment & Programming
- Reentry
- Wellness
- Culture

4 Target Areas

- Train & Empower
- Reduce Risk & Increase Protective Factors
- Reduce Barriers
- Continuous Quality Improvement

About Prison Population end of FY2025



CBC Population - End of FY2025

Field / Residential / Interstate Compact Population



FY2025 DOC Staff Distribution



Prisons
69.12%

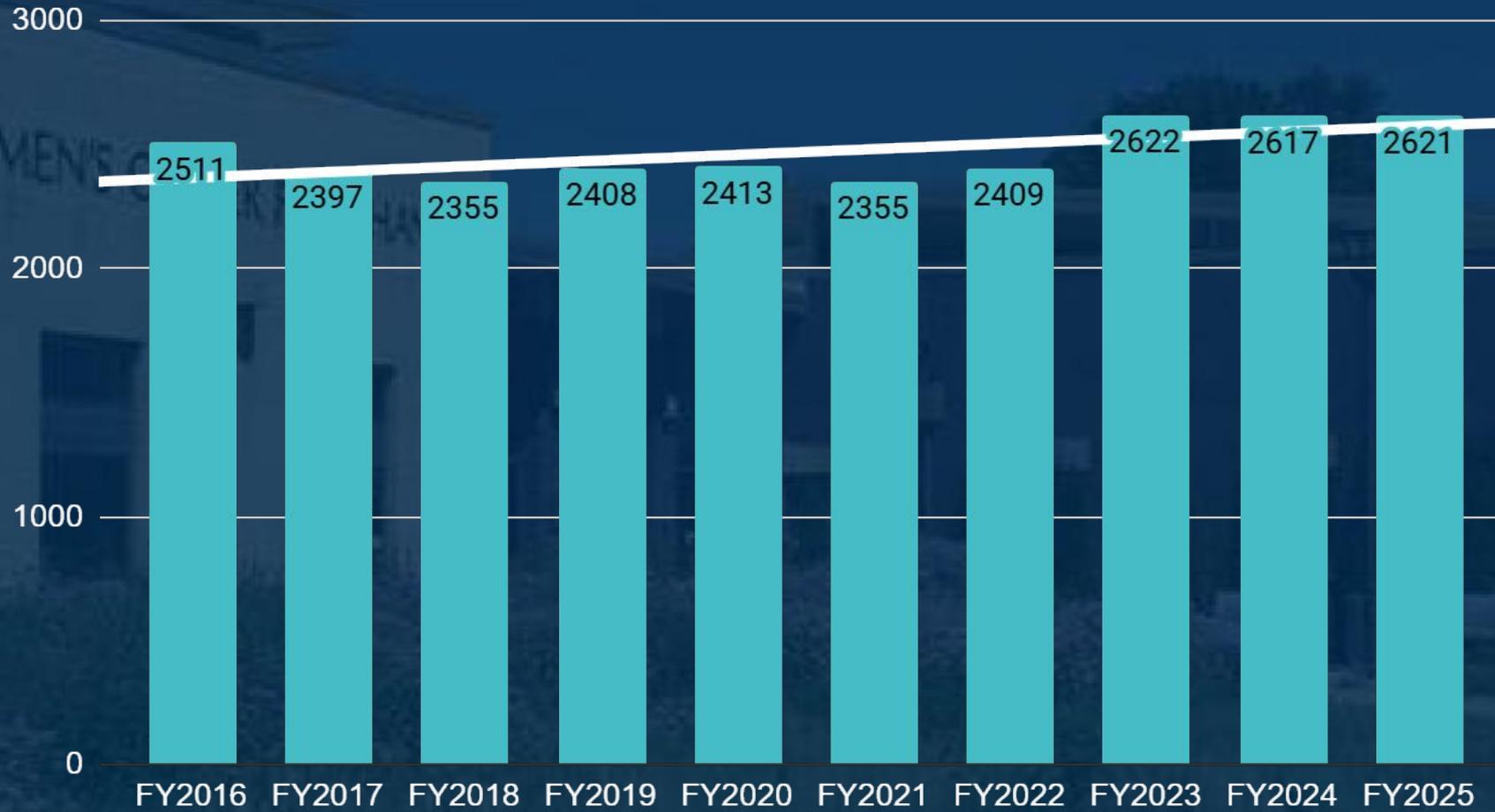


CBCs
29.52%



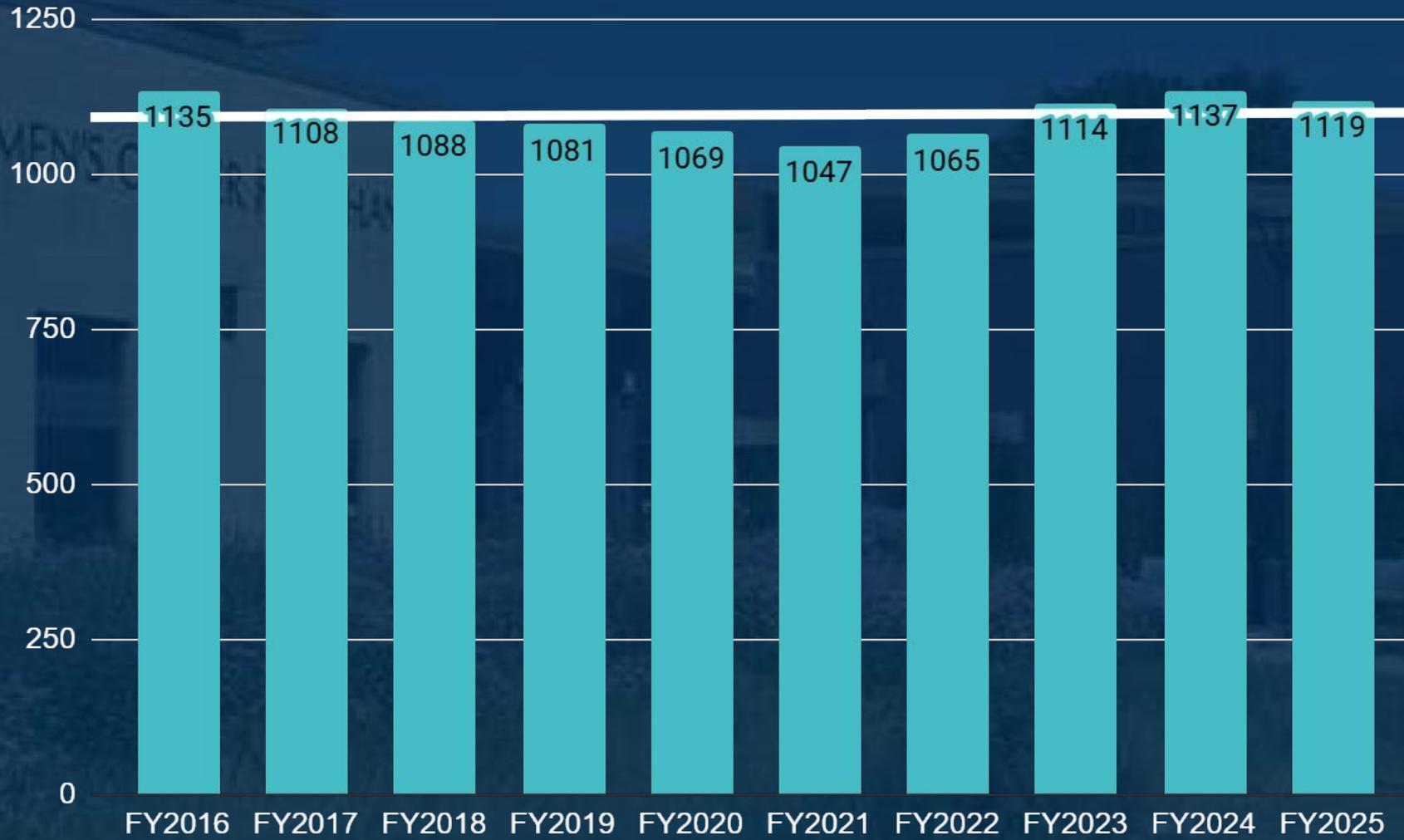
Central Office
1.37%

Staff in our Prisons



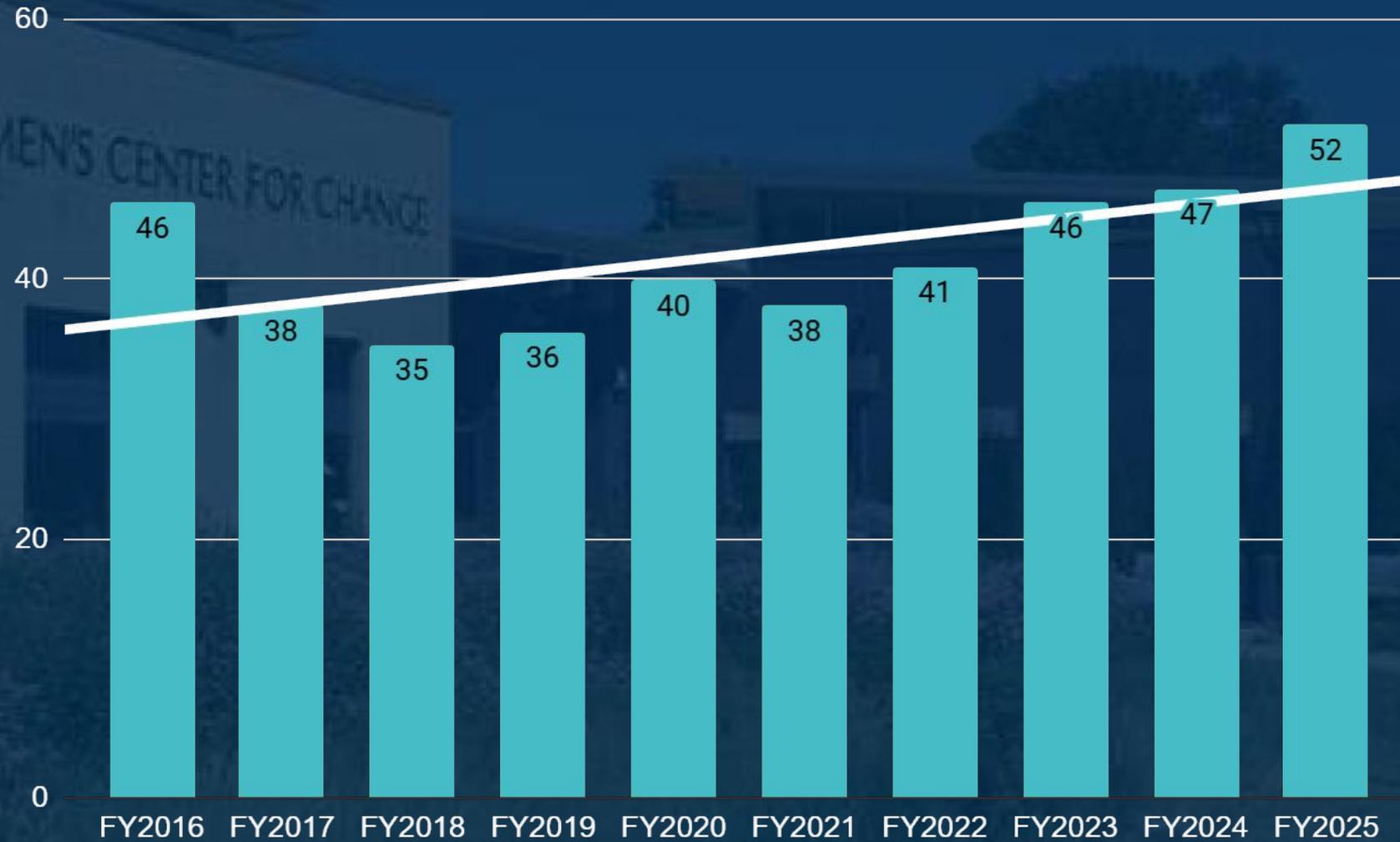
Slide 9

Staff in the CBC



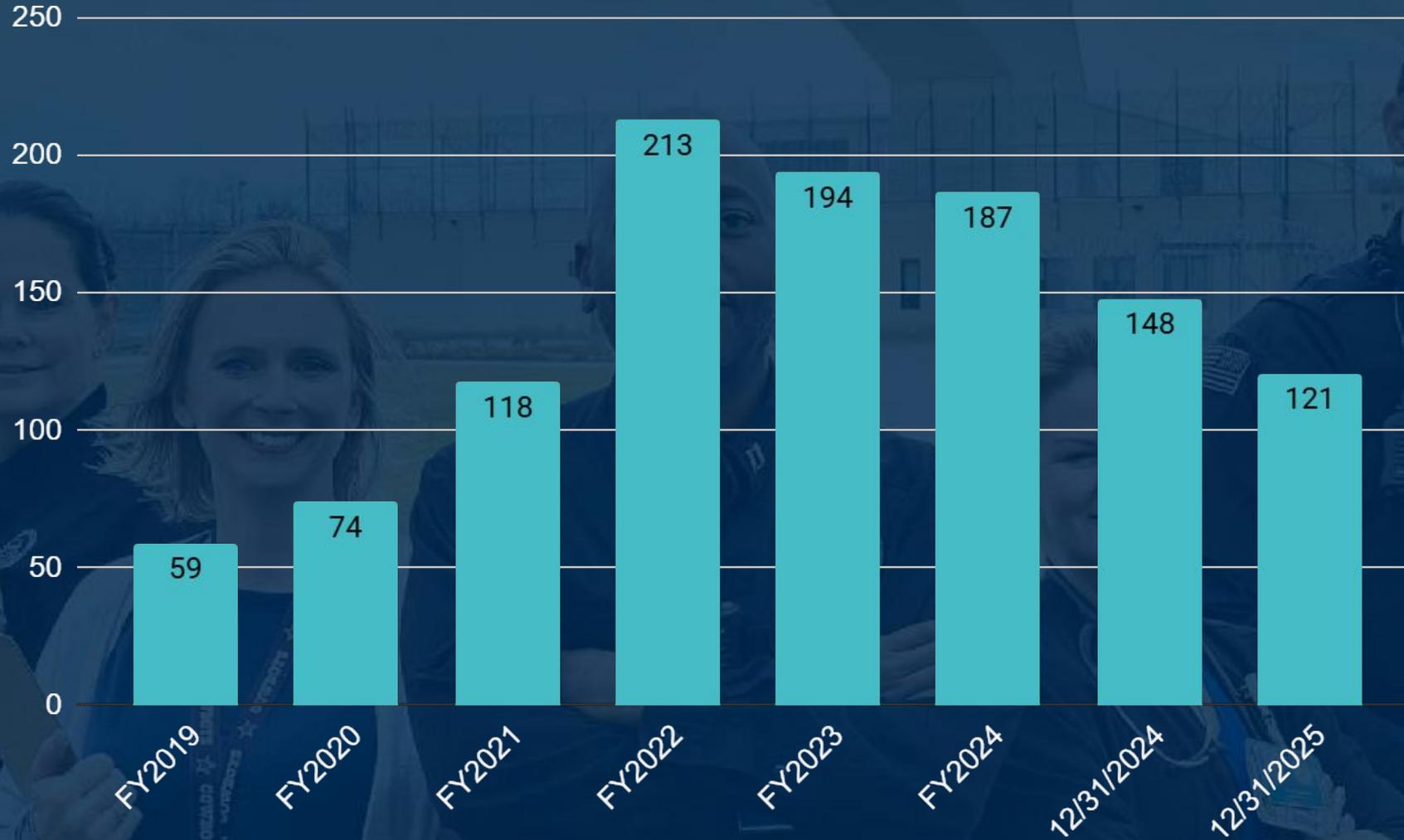
About

Staff in our Central Office



About

Correctional Officer Vacancy Overtime



DOC General Funds History



FY2026 DOC General Funds



Prisons
70.86%



CBCs
24.51%



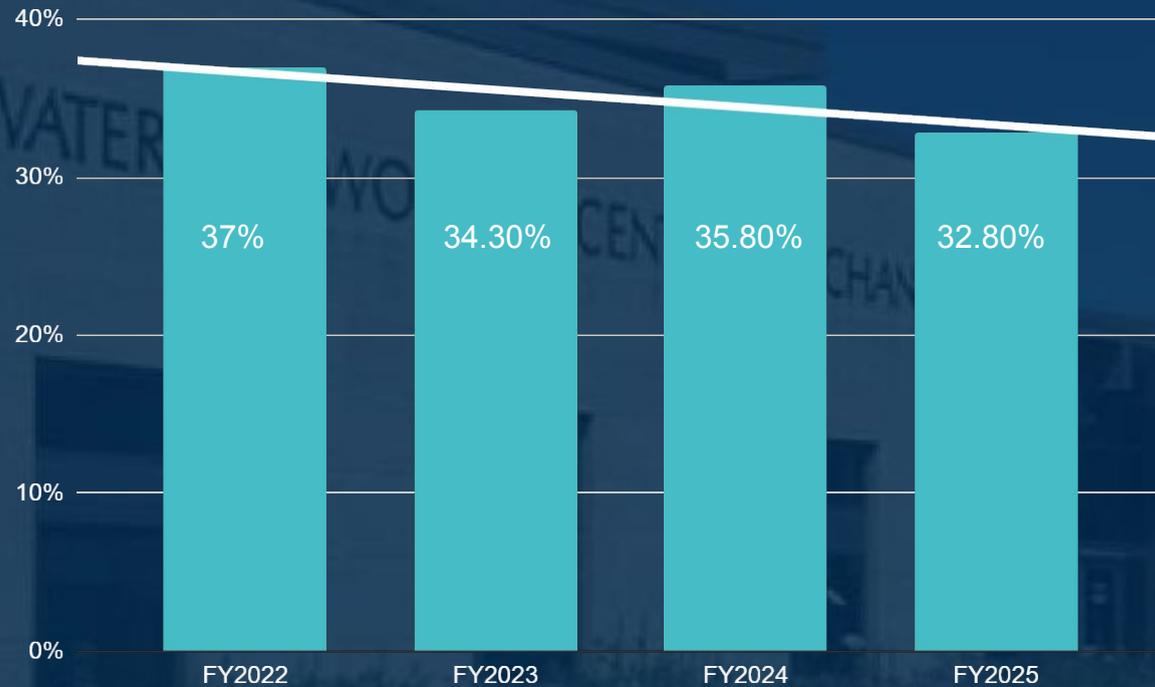
Central Office
3.31%



Department-wide Duties
1.31%

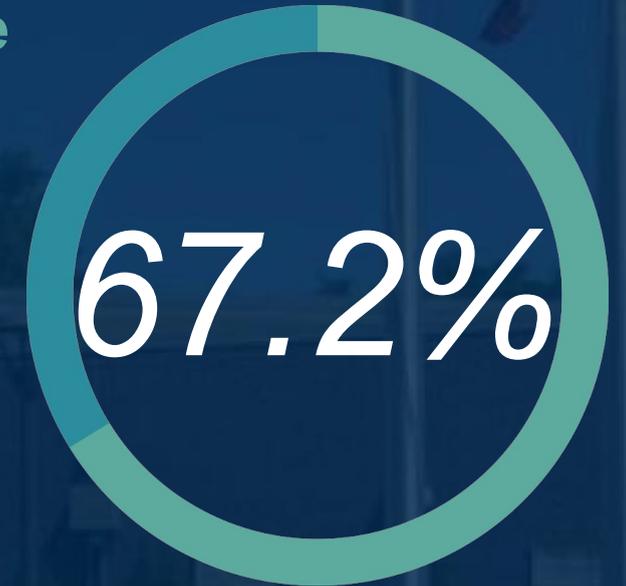
Recidivism

Recidivism Trends



Successful Reentry Rate

In FY2025, 67.2% of those who were released from prison three-years earlier, successfully reentered the community and did not return to prison.



Recidivism

History of Iowa Recidivism

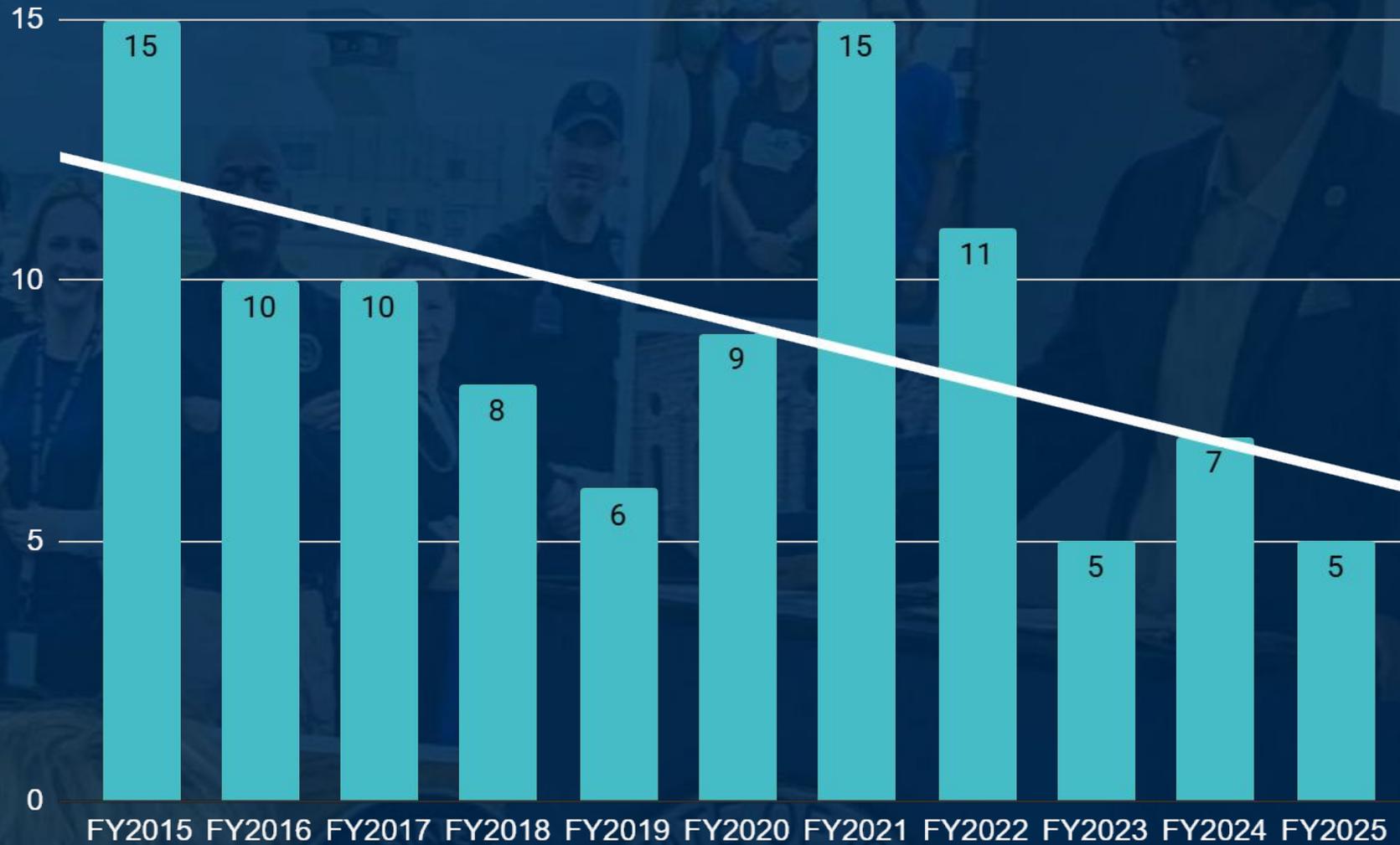
- Iowa's three-year recidivism rate for the *FY22-25 cohort is 32.8%*, the lowest in the past ten years
- FY25 marks a three percentage-point decrease from the previous year
- In 2019 the recidivism rate was 38.9%. The institutions and CBCs have worked together to reduce this number over the last 6 years.
- The drop from 38.9% to 32.8% represents a total decline of 6.1% over the course of the last 6 years.

Strategies that Helped Drive Reduction

- Prioritizing institutional and community-based treatment for high-risk individuals
- Consistent use of evidence-based practices
- Strengthening and aligning reentry practices
- Increasing access to treatment, education, and vocational opportunities
- Training staff in Core Correctional Practices (CCP)
- Enhancing case management training

Staff Safety

Serious Assaults on Staff



Staff Safety

Type of Assaults

Number of Institution Staff Directly Involved in Assaults				
	Types of Assaults			
Fiscal Year	Serious Injury	No Serious Injury	Throwing Substances	Staff Assault Totals
FY09*	0	28	9	37
FY10	10	65	33	108
FY11	4	101	51	156
FY12	5	54	46	105
FY13	4	90	45	139
FY14	13	95	43	151
FY15	15	64	29	108
FY16	10	73	53	136
FY17	10	67	41	118
FY18	8	56	36	100
FY19	6	71	30	107
FY20	9	65	45	119
FY21	15	137	80	232
FY22	11	125	72	208
FY23	5	128	54	187
FY24	7	141	59	207
FY25	5	122	75	202

About

Physical Security Improvements

- New kitchen / laundry construction at CCF to reduce the number of IIs required to work outside the secure perimeter.
- Additional cameras (static and body worn) / enhanced camera systems at multiple facilities for enhanced security observation.
- Enhanced door / gate controls at multiple facilities for enhanced access control.
- Exterior lighting repairs / upgrades at multiple facilities for enhanced security observation.
- Fence upgrades and additional razor wire installation at multiple facilities to maintain and enhance perimeter security.
- Enhanced entrance / visiting procedures at multiple facilities to assist in reducing risk of contraband entry.
- Installed broadcast PA system at ISP for announcements to incarcerated individuals to enhance population control during emergency operations.
- Changes to physical plant use at multiple facilities to assist with enhanced security observation and communication.
- Installed guard rails around housing unit officer stations at ISP for enhanced staff safety. Improved tool control procedures at multiple facilities to enhance safety and security.
- Additional PDAs purchased and additional security scan points implemented at multiple facilities to enhance safety and security.
- Upgrades to security transport vehicles at multiple facilities to enhance safety and security during escorts outside the institutions.
- Upgrades to radio towers for Building H at ICIW for enhanced communications.
- Upgraded six positions to Senior Correctional Officers at ICIW for enhanced security presence on all shifts.
- Installation of restraint beds at NCF to enhance cell conditions for mental health patients.
- Additional population control equipment and related staff training to enhance critical response capabilities at multiple facilities.

Our Employees

Recruiting/ Retention Efforts

Recruiting

- Community Outreach - Career Fairs, College Fairs
- Marketing Efforts
- Advanced Appointment Rates

Retention

- Wellness Program
- Mentoring Program
- Staff Recognition Program

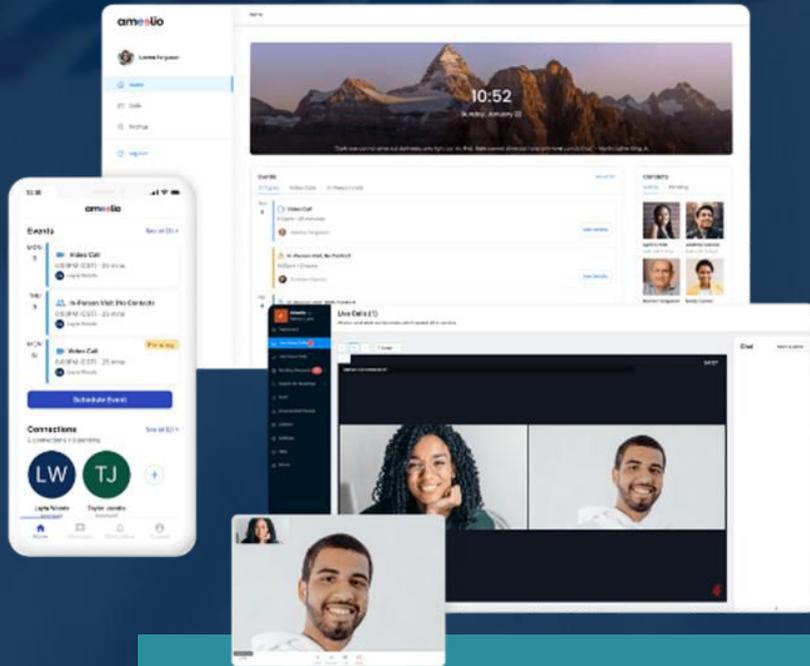
Our Employees Field Training Officer Program

Building on the new employee training system when staff return to facilities

- Increased fidelity
- Focus on a professionalized workforce
- Continue facility specific training
- 50 Correctional Officers trained in current FY
- 187 Correctional Officers have completed since the start of adding the FTO Program



About Visiting Ameelio



Ameelio's video calling service is the nation's first prison video calling platform that is at no cost to incarcerated individuals or their families and friends

The Ameelio video calling system is equipped with industry-leading security features

Incarcerated persons in Iowa have received video visits with friends and family in 44 states and 12 different countries

2025 Q4 saw 20,354 video visits and 7822 in person visits scheduled through Ameelio; there was an 92.4% positive customer experience rating on video visits





Treatment Pilot Project

Tech2Connect

Purpose

- Increase the number of individuals who received evidence-based cognitive treatment and increase the dosage of evidence based cognitive programming received

Impacts

- 2,770 individuals have been served by the program
- CBC districts utilized tablets and technology to connect with the incarcerated individual prior to release to begin the reentry process



About Our

Apprenticeship & Education Programs

Apprenticeship Program

- 283 Active Apprentices
- 590 Completed Apprentices
- 31 Apprenticeship Programs DOC Wide

Apprenticeship Completers

- 16.3% Recidivism
- 70.8% Employment Rate Post-Release



About Our

Apprenticeship & Education Programs

Program Completions for FY25

- HiSET – 228
- Literacy – 141
- Vocation Prep (includes Life Skills) – 1,008
- High School Diploma – 4

Total Program Completions Statewide 1,381



About Our

Apprenticeship & Education Programs

Post-Secondary Education

- Between 2021 and through 2024, four Iowa community colleges (ICCC, DMACC, IWCC and SCC) enrolled **4,044** students in corrections.
- Within that period of time, while being in corrections, **325** students received **394** students credit awards and degrees:
 - **46 AA degrees**
 - **6 AS degrees**
 - **4 AGS degrees**
 - **34 AAS degrees**



About

Culture Work at the DOC

- Our Learning Center launched the first Community Based Correction New Employee Training program with targets the needs of the CBC's
- Launched the Corrections Connection Newsletter
- Established the Change Champion Network
- Created a centralized SharePoint
- Rotating Site Visits to both Districts and Prisons
- Established Quarterly Joint meetings with Wardens and District Directors / Central Office
- Continuing culture work with ACJI who will be working with our supervisors from both districts and institutions in the coming months for another round of their Leadership Implementation Academy

About

Homes for Iowa

Iowa's successful Public/Private Partnership that WINS for all

- Delivered 32 homes in 2025 with plans to deliver 50+ in 2026.
- Delivered 150th home to Mason City in 2025
- 650 participants since program inception have received training
- Expansion at HFI underway to increase home building sites by 16
- Win-win partnership between IPI and HFI by offering affordable homes for Iowans and valued training for incarcerated individuals successful return to society and life



About

Legislative Proposals

- An Act relating to the possession of contraband in department of corrections facilities, and providing penalties. (HF 2119)
- An Act relating to sexual misconduct with offenders and juveniles, and providing penalties. (HSB 529)

SENATE/HOUSE FILE _____
BY (PROPOSED DEPARTMENT OF
CORRECTIONS BILL)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to sexual misconduct with offenders and
2 juveniles, and providing penalties.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

SENATE/HOUSE FILE _____
BY (PROPOSED DEPARTMENT OF
CORRECTIONS BILL)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the possession of contraband in department
2 of corrections facilities, and providing penalties.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:



About

Governor's FY2027 Budget Recommendation

General Fund

- Department Wide Duties +\$5,500,000
- Prison Garden Expansion -\$85,000
- Reduce shipping dates to M-F for drugs/biologicals in prisons -\$65,000
- Reduction in # of licenses with SAS -\$80,000
- Removal of Gartner contract -\$270,000

Net General Fund +\$5,000,000

About

Governor's FY2027 Budget Recommendation

Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund (RIIF)

- Council Bluffs Building -Year 2 \$2,775,898
- ASP Air Conditioning for Living Units LUC, LUB and D3 \$1,837,500
- MPCF Air Conditioning for East and West Housing Units \$6,300,000

Total RIIF \$10,913,398

About

Governor's FY2027 Budget Recommendations

Technology Reinvestment Fund (TRF)

- FDCF Body Cameras \$50,000
- ICIW Body Cameras \$24,925
- ICIW PDA Updates \$34,363
- ISP Camera System Upgrade \$500,000
- NCF Building Automation System-CRC completion \$88,137

Total TRF \$697,425



Thank you for
investing in our
mission:

**Creating
Opportunities
for Safer
Communities**

