
BUDGET UNIT BRIEF – FY 2024

Fiscal Services Division

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Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

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Adult Correctional Institutions — Iowa State Penitentiary at Fort Madison

Iowa State Penitentiary

The new Iowa State Penitentiary (ISP) at Fort Madison opened August 1, 2015, when 507 offenders were transferred from the old prison built in 1839. As of 2023, the ISP has a capacity of 612 male offenders. Within the ISP, Iowa Prison Industries offers a variety of skills in the woodworking and cabinetry fields. Through Southeastern Community College, the ISP offers High School Equivalency Test (HiSET) classes, basic literacy, and English as a Second Language (ESL). The U.S. Department of Labor also offers programs to provide vocational opportunities, including apprenticeships in cabinetry, housekeeping, and food service. The ISP receives annual funding from a General Fund appropriation in the Justice System Appropriations Bill.

Purpose

The adult correctional institutions (also referred to as State prisons) are responsible for incarcerating offenders sentenced to the custody and control of the Department of Corrections (DOC). These offenders are generally more violent or of higher risk compared to offenders supervised in Community-Based Corrections (CBC). The institutions provide offenders with essential services to reduce risk to the general public upon release due to parole, work release, or expiration of sentence.

Iowa Code chapter [901B](#) provides a continuum of sanctions for Iowa's correctional system. This includes sentencing options where offenders receive nonsupervised sanctions. The Iowa Code chapter provides various intermediate supervision levels by the CBC District Departments. The institutions provide the most severe level of sanction and incarcerate violent offenders and offenders who cannot be safely managed in community settings. About 20.0% of offenders in the State corrections system are incarcerated in the State prisons, while approximately 80.0% are supervised by the CBC District Departments.

Administration

Iowa Code chapter [904](#) creates the DOC and lists each of the nine institutions. It also creates a policymaking Board of Corrections that provides oversight of the DOC rules, policies, and procedures; approves the operating and capital budgets; and makes recommendations to the Governor concerning qualified candidates for the position of the Director of the Department.

The DOC Central Office has direct authority over the institutions, including personnel, staff training, the purchase or sale of real estate, investigations, confidentiality of records, offender supervision and work,

More Information

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the prison farms, and Iowa State Industries (also referred to as Iowa Prison Industries). The Central Office is also responsible for statewide and long-range planning, budget oversight, and establishment of program guidelines in the institutions.

Institutions Overview

The operating costs of the institutions are 99.9% funded from the State General Fund. See the ***Fiscal Research Brief*** [Prison Population and Capacity](#) for historical budget and population information for the prison system. Each of the nine institutions provides security; housing; dietary services; medical, mental health, and substance abuse treatment; education and job skills training; behavioral and psychological treatment; and recreational activities. Additionally, each prison has a primary focus.

Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Code chapters [901](#), [901A](#), [901B](#), [903A](#), [904](#), [905](#), [906](#), [908](#), [909](#), [910](#), [913](#), [914](#), and [915](#)
Iowa Administrative Code [201](#)

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