



FY2012 RECOMMENDATION/FY12-SO05 ENHANCED PER DIEM FUNDING DIFFERENTIAL FOR SEX OFFENDERS IN COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS

Status: Implementation Complete

Actions/Updates

2016 UPDATE

Implementation complete

2013 UPDATE

In FY13, the Division of Criminal Justice was allocated a total of 30 beds from the State General Fund. The beds were allocated to providers in order to serve an average daily population of 14 Transition offenders, 6 Diversion offenders, and 10 Condition of Parole offenders. The contracts with providers define the program criteria and specialized scope of work to qualify for the enhanced per diem which would include having a minimum of five beds in each funded program. It is understood that figure setting for FY14 budget will include an increase in the number of overall sex offender beds in the community corrections budget.

Description

Support funding an enhanced per diem differential (\$33.02) for community corrections programs that house sex offenders and that applies to specialized programming for Diversion, Transition, Condition of Probation and Condition of Parole clients.

Agencies Responsible

Discussion

The goal of this recommendation is to increase community corrections placement options and bed capacity for sex offenders, expanding the use of this intermediate sanction as an alternative to placement in the Department of Corrections or Probation. When appropriate and warranted, based on evidence-based practice and public safety considerations, some sex offenders could be managed and treated more cost effectively in community corrections. Without this intermediate option, the only options become either the most expensive but, possibly, excessive option - incarceration - or the less expensive but, possibly, insufficient options - probation or parole.

Currently, the funding for the enhanced per diem differential is supported by a Justice Assistance Grant that expires at the end of FY 2012. Without the enhanced per diem, most programs will not accept sex offenders because higher paid, specialized staff are required to work with these individuals. Additional costs to programs are incurred because sex offenders are less able to pay the required subsistence fees due to the greater challenge for sex offenders to find and maintain

employment while also paying for treatment and monitoring costs. The Office of Community Corrections (OCC) at the Division of Criminal Justice (DCJ) would define the program criteria and specialized scope of work to qualify for the enhanced per diem which would include having a minimum of five beds in each funded program.