



2020 MACCAC Legislative Platform

The legislature is chronically underfunding Minnesota community supervision.

Action is required this session to preserve effective community supervision that protects Minnesota citizens.

Minnesota Community Correction Act counties are in need of a supplemental budget appropriation of 4% for each year of the current biennium to address the state's share of their operating adjustment.

- Minnesota counties that operate under the Community Corrections Act delivery system supervise 72% of all offenders in Minnesota.
- The State of Minnesota has avoided a projected growth of almost 1,000 prison beds primarily through policy changes relying on the use of community supervision.
- Minnesota Community Corrections Act counties received no operating adjustment in state funding in the 2020 -2021 biennium or additional funds to supervise an increase in offenders who would otherwise have been in prison.
- Minnesota counties will no longer be able to sustain proven effective practices in supervision without increased state funding.

Long term, Minnesota needs a clear vision for correctional services that addresses the role of prisons, community supervision, and the state's role in funding. This is particularly important because counties provide local jail incarceration and the vast majority of community supervision, which are key alternatives to prisons.

Minnesota Association of Community Corrections Act Counties

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2019 MACCAC Policy Positions

Community Corrections Act (CCA) Jurisdictions

MACCAC supports the expansion of CCA counties with full and ongoing state funding. MACCAC supports the removal of systemic or statutory requirements that act as barriers to counties in choosing the correctional delivery system that best meets their individual needs.

Structural Change in Distribution of Funds

Future funding should be allocated using an equitable and transparent model that considers the need of each county.

Justice Reinvestment

MACCAC supports efforts to bring the Justice Reinvestment Initiative of the Council of State Governments to the state of Minnesota.

Probation Lengths

MACCAC recognizes that a robust discussion and evaluation of probation lengths is needed as part of a broader review of sentencing policy. Research indicates that offenders are most likely to recidivate within the first 3 years after conviction. Intensive supervision after 3-5 years has diminishing public safety returns. Longer probation terms do not reduce recidivism rates therefore they do not increase public safety.

Juvenile Life without Parole

MACCAC supports eliminating life without parole as a sentencing option for children. In June 2012 the Supreme Court of the United States ruled that juveniles convicted of murder cannot be subject to mandatory life imprisonment without the possibility of parole.

Juvenile Justice Reform

Juvenile supervision in Minnesota has evolved in the last decade. Juveniles are supervised based on a validated risk/needs assessment which focuses on strengths of the youth and family. Juvenile reform should continue and focus on: eliminating racial and ethnic disparities, reducing collateral consequences facing justice-involved youth; and modifying the current requirement for juvenile sex offenders to register as predatory offenders.

Restoration of Voting Rights

MACCAC supports the restoration of voting rights for individuals who are not incarcerated in a state institution.

Pre-trial Services

Increased emphasis on pre-trial services requires additional correctional resources. MACCAC recognizes the research-supported national trend to move away from cash bail in favor of practices that more effectively address public safety. The Minnesota State Judiciary implemented statewide changes in pre-trial bail evaluation methods meant to standardize assessments and release decisions that places additional demands on probation officers and calls for commensurate state funding.

Sex Offender Supervision

MACCAC supports legislation that takes a strong statewide approach to sex offender supervision by effectively monitoring overall behavior and activities of offenders using risk assessment and evidence-based practices that enhance public safety. MACCAC believes that evidence shows that residency restriction laws do nothing to address offender treatment or overall risk reduction, which are paramount to protecting public safety. Additionally, state funding must be increased for local implementation of enhanced state standards for the supervision of sex offenders, particularly those offenders that transition to the community from the state Minnesota Sex Offender Program (MSOP).