Minnesota's Community Corrections Act Counties

Doing What Works To Keep Our Communities Safe

In these critical times, government must focus on core services, especially public safety.

When most people think about "public safety," they think about the police, courts and jails as the primary players responsible for protecting the public and keeping our communities safe.

Yet there is another important group working closely with law enforcement every day on the front lines of protecting the citizens of Minnesota: Probation Officers.



The local community correctional services provided by MINNESOTA'S 32 COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS ACT (CCA) COUNTIES include probation and other treatment/ supervisory measures demonstrated to be very effective in holding offenders accountable and keeping communities safe. Research has shown "what works," and this approach is the most cost-effective and thorough way of holding offenders accountable while simultaneously addressing the causes of criminal behavior and reducing the risk of future criminal behavior.

PROBATION PAROLE

A publication of the Minnesota Association of Community Corrections Act Counties.

CCA Services are the keys to public safety.

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS ACT (CCA) COUNTIES

ARE VITAL LINKS IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE CHAIN THAT

PROVIDE SERVICES THAT ARE LESS EXPENSIVE

AND MORE EFFECTIVE THAN INCARCERATION,

AND SUPERVISE THE OVERWHELMING

MAJORITY OF OFFENDERS IN MINNESOTA.

CCA services are a function of state government operated in partnership with local, county-operated corrections and law enforcement agencies.

CCA Counties protect the public by:

Working closely with other law enforcement agencies.

Providing essential services that allow the criminal justice system to work.

Holding offenders accountable to conditions of release.

Supervising offenders to help them become law-abiding citizens and lessen the likelihood of them committing new crimes.

Helping victims and communities achieve justice through victim restitution, community service and other restorative justice programs. CCA agencies
focus on enhancing
public safety and
ensuring confidence in the
local corrections system
through
offender supervision,
sanctions, and services.

CCA agencies work closely with police, sheriffs, and other local law enforcement agencies to provide many critical services within the justice system, including:

- · Analysis of sentencing guidelines.
- Polygraph examinations.
- Collection of DNA from felons.
- Maintenance of the sex offender database, including offender registration and community notification.
- Probation services like home monitoring, drug testing, computer sweeps for prohibited content and overall supervision.

CCA agencies hold offenders accountable and make communities safer while spending far less money than prisons to achieve greater public safety.



Collaborating with all other levels of law enforcement.



Collecting DNA samples for criminal prosecution.



Checking computers for prohibited materials like pornography.



Administering polygraph ("lie-detector") examinations.



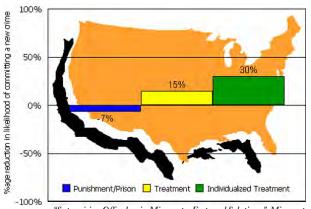
Electronic surveillance via home monitoring bracelets.

ur criminal justice system works because of probation, which is a court-ordered sanction that allows a person to remain in the community under the supervision of a probation officer. Conditions of this supervision vary and can include: jail time, fines, restitution, community service, drug/alcohol monitoring, and surveillance.

Minnesota is a national leader in correctional practices because of the widespread use and high success rate of CCA Counties.

CCA supervision and services allow criminals to re-enter society with conditions of accountability while working with the offenders to find housing, employment, and address the other obstacles criminals may face in becoming law-abiding.

CCA Services are more effective and less expensive.



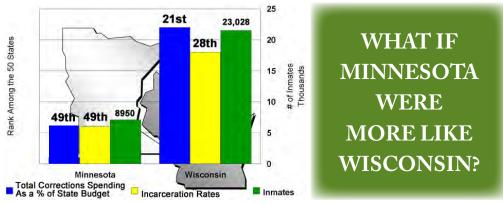
COMMUNITY
CORRECTIONS
WORKS IN
REDUCING
CRIMINAL
REOFFENSES.

"Supervising Offenders in Minnesota: Facts and Solutions," Minnesota Department of Corrections, March 2002.

Compare Prison VS. Probation Spending In Minnesota.



MINNESOTA SPENDS MORE THAN 80% OF THE STATE CORRECTIONS BUDGET ON PRISONS, EVEN THOUGH PRISONERS ARE ONLY 6.3% OF THE TOTAL CRIMINAL POPULATION UNDER SUPERVISION.



Figures above based on the Pew Center on the States "1 in 31" Report, March, 2009.

The most volatile, dangerous offenders need to be locked up for as long as possible, but probation is the best answer both economically and socially for keeping tabs on other levels of non-violent criminals and those who have served their time and are released back into the community. Minnesota's spending on prisons, as a percent of general funds, is the second lowest in the nation largely because of the effectiveness of community corrections.

Data shows that states who spend the most on prisons don't have lower crime rates than states who rely more on probation. Our neighbor Wisconsin, for example, currently spends nearly two-and-a-half times as much on corrections and their crime rate has remained essentially the same as ours.

If Minnesota incarcerated at the same level as Wisconsin, taxpayers would need to add 24 prisons and increase the state prison budget by \$419.5 million annually (and that does NOT include the cost of actual prison construction).

Minnesota could be more like Wisconsin and spend the majority of our money on prisons, but that approach has proven to be cost-prohibitive and less effective in increasing public safety.

CCA Counties do more to keep Minnesota safe and spend less to do it.

he disproportionate allocation of correctional funds has forced community corrections agencies to work even harder to do more with less. Increased legislative attention to crime issues has resulted in added responsibilities, new crime categories, and enhanced penalties. Most of these changes have benefited public safety, but the length of time offenders are under supervision has increased while funding for these services has not increased proportionately.

Only 19% of Minnesota's corrections budget goes toward CCA Counties, even though these agencies supervise about 75% of criminals.

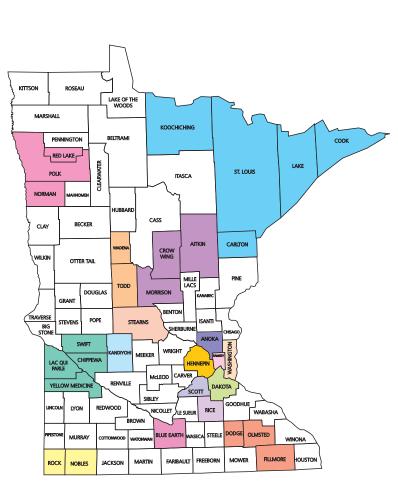
Source: Minnesota Department of Corrections.

Keeping communities safer by keeping close tabs on criminals through probation services, effectively using public safety funds through CCA counties, also frees up money to be used on other things like education or local roads that enhance the quality of life for a community.



INVESTING IN MINNESOTA'S CCA SYSTEM IS THE LEAST EXPENSIVE AND MOST-EFFECTIVE WAY TO ACHIEVE GREATER PUBLIC SAFETY.

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS ACT COUNTIES



Anoka County Phone: 763-323-5830

Arrowhead Regional

(Counties: Carlton, Cook, Koochiching, Lake,

and St. Louis) Phone: 218-726-2650

Blue Earth County

Phone: 507-304-4728

Central Minnesota

(Counties: Crow Wing, Morrison, and Aitkin)

Phone: 218-825-8345

Dakota County

Phone: 651-438-8288

D.F.O.

(Counties: Dodge, Fillmore, and Olmsted)

Phone: 507-328-7200

Hennepin County

Phone: 612-348-8981

Kandiyohi County

Phone: 320-231-6222

Ramsey County

Phone: 651-266-2344

Region 6W

(Counties: Chippewa, Lac qui Parle, Swift and

Yellow Medicine) Phone: 320-269-6513

Rice County

Phone: 507-332-6290

Rock/Nobles

Phone: 507-295-5310

Scott County

Phone: 952-496-8348

Stearns County

Phone: 320-656-6404

Todd/Wadena

Phone: 320-732-6165

Tri-County

(Counties: Norman, Polk, Red Lake) Phone: 218-470-8106

Washington County

Phone: 651-430-6900

As of July 1, 2006, 32 counties have elected to administer all correctional field services and several locations provide institutional services under the Minnesota Community Corrections Act (Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 401). These counties have organized into 17 administrative service units and are known as the Minnesota Association of Community Corrections Act Counties (MACCAC).

