



Californians United for a Responsible Budget

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Overview of 2018-19 Corrections Budget

Californians United for a Responsible Budget (CURB) is a statewide coalition of organizations working to reduce the number of people imprisoned in California and the number of prison and jail beds in the state.

Governor Brown's proposed budget for corrections is up \$500 million from last year (2017-18). Part of the increase in this year's budget will fund the implementation of programs following California Department of Corrections Rehabilitation (CDCR) regulations for Proposition 57. However, the budget also projects that the implementation of Prop. 57 will cause the adult prison population to fall by 2.2%, a decrease of 2,905 people. In spite of these much needed reductions in the state prison population, the Governor's proposed budget increases spending on corrections, including: \$12 billion for the CDCR; nearly \$1.4 billion for local community corrections, a small and wasteful increase from last year; a large increase in funding for the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC), allocating \$310 million to the agency, up from the \$57 million allocated last year. While increased accessibility, positive programming, and the opportunity to earn more credits towards early parole along with reentry services is necessary, there is still an urgent need to shift public safety spending to support more aggressive, retroactive parole and sentencing reform so that we can close prisons and invest our dollars in community based alternatives to incarceration and supportive services.

Since 2013, the state prison system has gone from 150% of design capacity to just below the court-ordered cap of 137.5%. Yet spending within the CDCR budget has grown steadily every year, from \$8.9 billion (2012-2013) to this coming year's proposed \$12 billion. The budget does not directly propose any new dollars for prison or jail construction or expansion although it does prioritize \$3.8 million for two "Young Adult Pilot Program" housing units to divert young adult prisoners from the adult system, reminiscent of last year's proposed California Leadership Academy. While we definitely want to see our youth protected from moving into adult correctional facilities, we advocate for community-based diversion programs instead of programs that increase state capacity for prison structures. CURB maintains its opposition to any and all forms of prison construction.

Population Reduction:

- **Implementation of Prop. 57:** \$5.7 million with an estimated net savings of \$22.4 million and population reduction of nearly 3,000 (2018-19), growing to net savings of approximately \$140 million and a reduction of 9,500 prisoners (2020-21).
 - Local community colleges now offer in-person college courses at all state prisons, with the exception of the California Health Care Facility.
 - Innovative programming grants (\$4 million from the Inmate Welfare Fund) have been used to encourage non-profit providers to expand to underserved institutions.
 - Parole Eligibility and credit earnings for non-violent offenses serving their full term for their primary offense: Projected to reduce the average daily adult prisoner population by 2,905 (2018-19)

Construction and Facility Changes:

- **Young Adult Pilot Program:** New "housing units" to divert young adult prisoners from adult correctional facilities. Budget states the project will use public and private funds.

- **Mental Health Treatment Beds:** \$20.1 million General Fund to address mental health treatment bed capacity issues as well as resources needed to monitor health care data reporting and patient referrals.
- **Out of State Facilities:** Implementation of Proposition 57 and other population reduction measures will allow CDCR to remove all prisoners from one of two remaining out-of-state facilities by fall 2019. Anticipates returning all prisoners by 2020-21.
- **Division of Rehabilitative Programs:** \$454 million for:
 - Six-month transitional housing: 300-bed program in locations closest to the communities in which life-term prisoners will be released
 - Community Reentry Program: A continued partnership with CDCR to increase the amount of contracts to provide housing, meals, support services, resources and peer-driven programming during the first 6 to 12 months after release.

Additional Budget Changes:

- **Prop. 47 Impact:** Department of Finance currently estimates net savings of \$64.4 million. An increase of \$18.8 million over the estimated savings in 2017-18.
- **Firefighter Training/ Certification:** \$26.6 million General Fund to establish a Firefighter Training and Certification Program (partnership with CDCR, Cal FIRE, and CA Conservation Corps).
- **Post Release Community Supervision:** \$29 million General Fund for county probation departments to supervise the temporary increase in the average daily population of offenders on Post-Release Community Supervision (PRCS) as a result of the implementation of Proposition 57.
- **Community Corrections Performance Incentive Grant (SB 678):** \$106.4 million to continue this program, which provides incentives for counties to reduce the number of felony probationers sent to state prison.

For more information go to curbprisonspending.org or email info@curbprisonspending.org.