



## Overview of 2021-22 Enacted 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 prisons and jails in the state. We advocate for an investment in justice that centers care, not punishment.*

**The Enacted 2021-22 budget for Corrections includes \$13.6 billion.** The general fund includes over \$1.6 billion for local community corrections, over \$200 million to increase the capacity of law enforcement and about \$500 million to the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC), reaching a total of \$17.3 billion for judicial and criminal justice programs, an increase of \$2.3 billion (15 percent) above the revised 2020-21 spending level. Total spending from all funds will be **over \$18.3 billion.**

Although there are a few allocations intended to increase positive programming and rehabilitation within CDCR, **the Corrections budget prioritizes punishment as the answer to public safety, despite California voter's trending demands to shift towards systems of care and harm prevention.**

The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation followed through with the deactivation of Deuel Vocational Institution (Tracy, CA) on September 30 this year and are scheduled to close a second prison, California Correctional Center (Susanville, CA), by 2023. While the overall state prison population continues to trend downward, advanced by more reformed credit earning structures, conviction reclassifications and reformed sentencing schemes via the ballot or legislation, the legislature has the opportunity to plan for more prison closures. CURB is calling on the legislature and Governor Newsom to direct CDCR to cancel any existing prison construction and renovation and close an additional 8 state-owned prisons in the next 5 years, in the interest of racial justice and as a response to failing infrastructure and continued public health threats. Closures must be permanent, with plans to re-envision the use of the land, including new jobs, centering the vision of people living in these prison towns.

CURB maintains its opposition to any and all forms of prison construction and urges the state to join Californians in setting forward a solid plan to redirect spending from prisons to community infrastructure that restores health and safety, and reunites families across the state.

**\*POPULATION:** State prison population is projected at 106,259 people, up almost 11,000 from spring 2021 projections, mostly due to CDCR re-assuming transfers of people from county jails to state prisons as public health conditions improve around

COVID19. About 5,000 people remain in county jails awaiting transfers. The average daily population of people to be paroled is projected to be 48,269 people, an increase of 2,345 people or 5% from this spring.

- As of July 2021, the state has reimbursed \$171M to county sheriff departments for holding state prisoners. An estimated \$97.5M in additional reimbursements will be made during this budget cycle as transfers are backlogged.

### **Prison Capacity and Closures:**

#### ***The Good:***

##### Population Reduction:

- The adult prison population is still on a trending decline. CDCR terminated its final in-state contract correctional facility in May 2021.
- Deuel Vocational Institution in Tracy closed September 30 2021, achieving savings of \$119 million General Fund in 2021-22, and \$150.3 million General Fund annually beginning in 2022-23.
- The Department also plans to close California Correctional Center in Susanville, by June 30, 2022, anticipating \$122 million in savings in the General Fund in 2022-23 and ongoing.

#### ***The Bad:***

Prison Expansion: \$13.7 million General Fund in 2021-22, and \$3 million ongoing, to undertake prison expansion plans at Valley State Prison (VSP), guided by the Norway model, an imported punishment system intended to create “nicer” cages to incarcerate people. VSP will serve as a pilot for “re-envisioning and transforming” the state’s correctional system, which means this prison expansion effort will continue unless the legislature is pressured to reject additional funding. This Norway model includes:

- **Construction** of two new modular buildings to accommodate additional educational and rehabilitative activities for incarcerated individuals.
- Two new baccalaureate degree programs—one general education program and one focused on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM).
- **Construction** of new vocational and career technical training opportunities, including multimedia (video, music, and podcasts) production and construction licensing and certification programs.
- Provide additional laptops, complementary to the Governor’s Budget proposal, for the incarcerated population’s use to support digital literacy development and access to educational offerings.
- **Construction** of a Youth Rehabilitative Offender Community at VSP costing an additional \$2 million ongoing General Fund, claiming to establish focus on providing enhanced rehabilitative services to youth.
- **Refurbishment** of the existing metal dayroom furniture including the purchase of more comfortable furniture for positive programming and

non-designated program facilities and female institutions, costing an additional \$34.8 million one-time General Fund.

***The Ugly:***

Infrastructure: CURB maintains that all spending on infrastructure repairs is wasteful and will not protect incarcerated people nor the public. Closing facilities would allow the State to avoid spending billions of dollars on these projects and invest in providing care and services that people need.

- The grand total for construction and maintenance projects for the remaining 34 prisons is \$378,257,000 including about \$100 million for CDCR deferred maintenance projects. 12 institutions have received one-time funding for major roof replacement and repair projects, and 14 institutions remain scheduled for future roof replacement and repair projects over the next 7 years.
- Repurposing the former Northern California Women's Facility into a new hands-on training facility for corrections officers will cost taxpayers \$21.2 million General Fund in 2021-22, decreasing to \$16.1 million ongoing General Fund in 2024-25.
- \$6.8 million one-time General Fund to replace damaged flooring, walls, wall-mounted air conditioning units, counters, and storage spaces in existing health care treatment areas at the California Rehabilitation Center- a prison at the top of CURB's priority list for closure.

**\*REHABILITATIVE PROGRAMING:** CURB maintains that wellness is best served in the community and families belong together. CDCR has been historically irresponsible with rehabilitation.

***The Good:***

Community Funding:

- The Budget includes a \$30 million one-time General Fund to provide additional resources for Adult Reentry Grants provided by the Board of State and Community Corrections. These funds will supplement the ongoing baseline of \$37 million General Fund and provide additional grant funding to organizations that provide rental assistance and warm handoff and reentry services for individuals released from state prisons.

***Not bad but...*** People should be released and the state budget should shift to support community based organizations that provide necessary wellness services. The Department should ensure that reentry services are accessible to everyone and eliminate any barriers for services provided under an Adult Reentry Grant, the Hope and Redemption Team Program, or any other rehabilitative programming funded by the Department using General Fund dollars.:

- \$3.5 million General Fund in 2021-22 and \$3.3 million General Fund in 2022-23 and 2023-24 for CDCR to expand the Hope and Redemption Team Program to provide additional rehabilitative and reentry programming at institutions statewide.
- \$23.2M in 2021-22 and \$18M ongoing General Fund for information technology to enhance access to rehabilitative programming<sup>1</sup> (ongoing funding (\$18M) is equal to \$236 per person (97,950))
  - Purchase of approximately 37,000 laptop computers
- In April 2021, CDCR resumed in-person visiting, which will continue in conjunction with video visiting. To support increased in-person visiting, the budget includes \$20.3 million ongoing General Fund to add a third day of in-person visitation on Fridays at all institutions (visiting is currently limited to Saturdays and Sundays). In addition, this funding will provide visitors with free transportation on select days throughout the year to all prisons via chartered busses.
- In addition, \$12 million one-time General Fund to support free communication opportunities for incarcerated individuals to connect with their families and friends via telephone calls and electronic messages. These resources will provide 60 minutes of free calling to incarcerated individuals and call recipients every two weeks, and allow incarcerated persons to send 60 free electronic communications each month.

**The Ugly:**

Staff Oversight: Due to CDCR staff misconduct, the state is wasting \$37.6 million General Fund in 2021-22, and \$2.1 million ongoing to install 9-10 modern fixed security cameras at 24 additional institutions.

- \$3.7 million General Fund in 2020-21, \$89.3 million in 2021-22, and \$36.8 million ongoing to support these efforts.
- In addition, the 2019 Budget Act included \$9.8 million ongoing General Fund and 47 positions to enable CDCR's Office of Internal Affairs to conduct inquiries into certain specified allegations of staff misconduct that previously would have been reviewed at the institution level.
- Also, \$8 million ongoing General Fund and 40 positions to expand the staff complaint inquiry process to encompass all use of force allegations against staff as well as allegations of staff misconduct that fall under the federal Prison Rape Elimination Act.
- And because prisons are racist, the Budget includes \$815,000 General Fund in 2021-22 and \$804,000 ongoing and 6 positions to expand CDCR's Civil Rights Operations/Equal Employment Opportunity program, which centrally handles discrimination complaints. These resources will assist CDCR in complying with directives and guidelines

from the California Department of Human Resources to implement the statewide Discrimination Complaint Tracking System.

**Medical Care for people imprisoned:** CURB maintains that people can't get well in a cell. It is detrimental to the lives and health of incarcerated people to rely on CDCR for treatment. Prisons must close and centers for wellness and rehabilitation must be the key investment for public safety and public health in California.

- \$3.4 billion General Fund in 2021-22 for mental health, medical and dental care programs.
- \$4 million General Fund in 2021-22, increasing to \$11.1 million in 2023-24, to enhance quality management and patient safety by providing staff to evaluate risks and implement best practices to improve the health care delivery system.

**Board of Parole Hearings:**

- \$3.1 million ongoing General Fund to increase the number of Board of Parole Hearings commissioners from 17 to 21 to alleviate a significant backlog of hearings and maintain a consistent level of service as the number of required hearings continues to rise. CURB maintains that this is wasteful spending. This proposal is intended to address the backlog in BPH hearings but does not address the need to increase parole grants. Any allocations to the BPH should center strategies to address the systemic racism and roots of disproportionate denials to people across CDCR.
- \$1.8 million one-time General Fund for a one-year pilot to require state-appointed attorneys to provide additional counsel to incarcerated persons before they are interviewed for their comprehensive risk assessment.

**LOCAL CORRECTIONS SPENDING:**

***It's all Ugly:***

**Judicial Council Pretrial Pilot Programs usurp localized initiatives for pretrial reform**

- The Budget allocates \$140 million to probation-led pretrial pilot programs. Los Angeles County is on its way to establishing an autonomous, community-led pretrial services system through the Alternatives to Incarceration Initiative, the Care First Community Investment Advisory Body, and community-based pretrial court support.
- The funding of Judicial Council pretrial pilots will greatly expand probation (law enforcement) supervision of individuals who have not been found guilty of a crime, resulting in higher incarceration rates long-term, and undermining the efforts of Counties.

For more information go to [curbprisonspending.org](http://curbprisonspending.org) or email [amberrose@curbprisonspending.org](mailto:amberrose@curbprisonspending.org)