HF 1838/SF 2380

IMPROVING PROBATION FUNDING

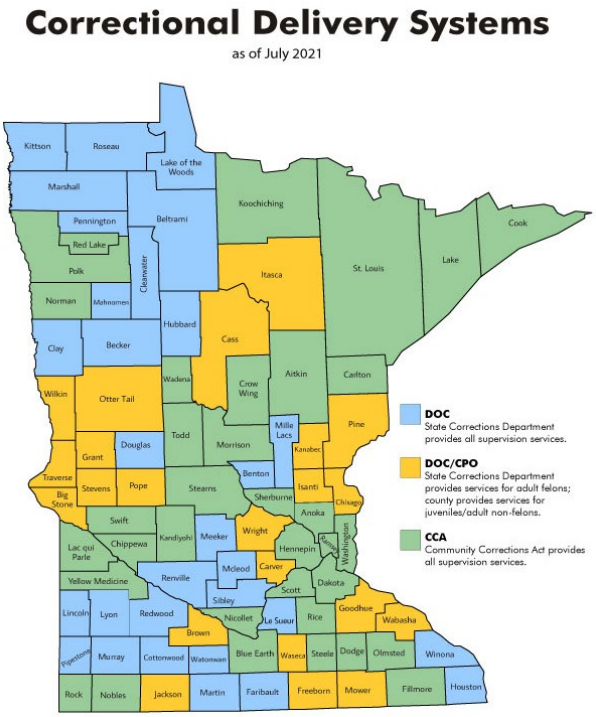
Minnesota's Probation Funding System is Unneccessarily Complex

In Minnesota, there are three probation delivery systems, and each has its own method of funding.

The **Department of Corrections (DOC)** receives a direct agency appropriation from the Legislature and is included in the Gov. Tim Walz's budget request to the Legislature. DOC Field Services has received cost of living increases annually but these increases have not been enough to hire enough staff to achieve manageable caseloads.

County Probation Officer (CPO) counties provide and pay for probation services for juveniles and adult non-felons, which is reimbursable up to 50% from the DOC. The reimbursement is currently only funded at 26%.

Community Corrections Act (CCA) counties have a static hold harmless amount and a subsidy amount that is sporadically increased by the Legislature, equaling an average of less than 1% a year.



Simplifying the Funding Formula Can Improve Probation Services Statewide

The proposed formula simplifies an unnecessarily complex funding system by creating a single community supervision fund for the entire state. Under this proposal, Minnesota's 87 counties retain their choice of delivery system, but they would all be funded the same way.

The formula has two primary components:

- **A base of funding for each county to provide stability over time;** and,
- **A per-capita distribution that factors in probationer risk, staffing needs, and the other essential costs of doing business**. In other words, a "capitated rate"

About the Capitated Rate

An average cost to supervise one probation client per day. In Minnesota, we generally call it a per diem.

Developed using data collected by the American Probation and Parole Association in a statewide workload study commissioned by AMC.

The capitated rate is an average cost per client based on ideal caseloads for low, medium, and high-risk clients. Clients with higher risks and needs generally require more resources and more intensive supervision with lower client to agent ratios.

Community Supervision Advisory Committee

HF 1838/SF 2380 establishes a Community Supervision Advisory Committee, which will ensure that collaboration between the state, counties, tribal governments, and other justice stakeholders continues into the future. This committee will provide recommendations to the Commissioner of Corrections related to implementation of evidence-based practices statewide. The Legislature will receive reports related to policy implementation by the DOC Commissioner.

Association *of* Minnesota Counties

For more information, please contact:
Carli Stark, Public Safety Policy Analyst
Director, Minnesota Association of Community Corrections Act Counties
Direct: 651-789-4335 | cstark@mncounties.org

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