

MINNESOTA

SENTENCING GUIDELINES

COMMISSION

The Governor’s FY2026–27 Agency Budget Request

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March 2025

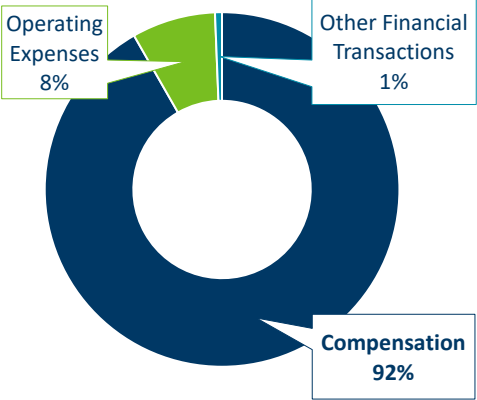
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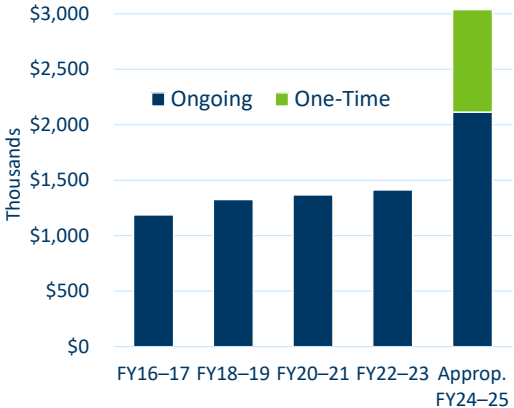
Existing Agency Budget

Spending by Category, FY22–23



Category	Percentage
Compensation	92%
Operating Expenses	8%
Other Financial Transactions	1%

Historical Spending (General Fund)



Fiscal Year	Ongoing (Thousands)	One-Time (Thousands)
FY16–17	~1,200	0
FY18–19	~1,300	0
FY20–21	~1,350	0
FY22–23	~1,400	0
Approp. FY24–25	~2,100	~900

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Why the Increases in FY2024–25?

ONE-TIME PROJECTS

- **Comprehensive review of the Sentencing Guidelines, phase I**
 - *The Sentencing Guidelines structure felony sentences statewide*
 - *The Guidelines have never been comprehensively reviewed since 1980 creation*
 - *Status: Ongoing*
- **Establish data integrations with Court Information System (MNCIS)**
 - *Improve data accuracy, efficiency, timeliness*
 - *Modernize data systems*
 - *Status: In development*

ONGOING EXPENSES

- **Add 1.0 FTE research supervisor position**
 - *4 of 6 FTEs were research staff, but they had no research-trained supervisor*
 - *New supervisor is developing efficiencies & improving research products*
- **Hire Small Agency Resource Team (SmART)**
 - *... per OLA report regarding agency getting free HR & financial services from DOC*
- **Ongoing tech support for MNCIS integrations**

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Governor’s Request: 2.8% Operating Adjustment

Each year, MSGC’s 7 staff members—

- Review approximately 20,000 felony sentencing worksheets for accuracy
- Answer hundreds of practitioner phone calls
- Collect, analyze, and report data on statewide sentencing practices
- Complete hundreds of data requests and fiscal notes, and
- Conduct research to support the Commission’s ongoing work

- This small staff efficiently facilitates the functioning of Minnesota’s statewide felony sentencing system
- The Governor requests \$20K in FY2026 and \$40K in following years to “mitigate impacts to current levels of service and information to the public”
- *Note: Phase II of the Sentencing Guidelines’ comprehensive review is not funded*

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