



LEGISLATURE APPROVES FLAT CORRECTIONS BUDGET AND FUNDING FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORMS

October 2021

The final 2022 budget agreement, passed with strong bipartisan support, includes a small \$5.1 million boost (0.2% increase) for the Michigan Department of Corrections. The department is currently responsible for just over 75,000 Michigan offenders, which has decreased by 9,853 (11.6%) since one year ago; this reduction includes decreases in the number of prisoners, probationers and parolees. The final agreement includes continued investments in education, skilled trades and career-readiness programs, and prisoner healthcare. Furthermore, the final budget includes new, one-time funding for a mentoring program and post-release care management program. There are additional investments to hire and train new staff and support employee wellness.

In terms of spending to implement criminal justice reforms, the final 2022 budget agreement includes important investments across multiple departments to coordinate the development of criminal record expungement systems and implementation of the Clean Slate Initiative for those who are eligible. A criminal record can be a barrier to work, housing, education and other resources, and having a conviction expunged has been shown to increase the chance of employment and wages. In addition, the final budget includes funding (in the Department of Health and Human Services) to implement the Raise the Age law, which raises the age of juvenile court jurisdiction from 17 to 18 years of age. The final agreement does not, however, provide funding to implement select recommendations from The Michigan Joint Task Force on Jail and Pretrial Incarceration.

Correctional facilities:

The governor proposed maintaining \$1.1 billion to fund 28 correctional facilities across the state that house felony offenders sentenced to prison. This total factors in the net reduction of \$10.5 million, which is savings seen by the closure of the Detroit Reentry Center.

Final budget: The final budget includes the \$1.1 billion (General Fund) revenues in funding, which captures the \$10.5 million (General Fund) savings due to closure of the Reentry Center.

New staff training and employee well-being:

The governor proposed increasing funding for new custody staff training by \$7.4 million, to hire and train about 300 new corrections officers annually and address attrition. The governor included an additional \$809,400 to support employees and families, particularly in addressing occupational stress, to bring total funding for employee wellness programming to \$2 million.

Final budget: The final budget agreed with the governor and includes:

- The \$7.4 million (General Fund) to hire and train additional corrections officers. In total, the department will be able to train approximately 800 new officers in 2022 given this increase and existing funding that has been dedicated to staff training.
- The \$809,400 (General Fund) for additional employee wellness programming.

Goodwill Flip the Script:

The governor maintained current-year funding of \$1.25 million for the program, which focuses on education, job placement and life skills for justice-involved individuals while providing wrap-around services to overcome barriers to employment.

Final budget: The final budget maintains ongoing funding levels at \$1.25 million (General Fund) and provides an additional \$250,000 in one-time funding (General Fund).

Chance for Life:

The final budget includes \$1.5 million in one-time funding (General Fund) for the Chance for Life program, an evidence-based mentoring program that emphasizes job training and reintegration.

Prisoner healthcare:

The governor proposed \$312.7 million for continuing prisoner healthcare funding to support prisoners' physical health, mental health and pharmacy services. This total included maintenance of current-year funding for Hepatitis C treatment and prisoner healthcare services at \$8.8 million and \$94.8 million, respectively.

Final budget includes:

- \$309.5 million (General Fund) for continuing prisoner healthcare funding, including the \$8.8 million for Hepatitis C treatment and \$94.8 million for prisoner healthcare services.
- One-time funding of \$300,000 (General Fund) for the Kalamazoo County (Prosperity Region 8) Post Release Care Pilot, which will provide care management post-release (in addition to prerelease mental health discharge plans) for parolees in Kalamazoo County.

Criminal record expungement reforms (Clean Slate legislation):

The governor proposed investment across multiple departments, including the Departments of the Attorney General, Corrections, State Police and the Judiciary to coordinate the development of criminal record expungement systems and implementation of the Clean Slate Initiative for those who are eligible. This included state funding of \$560,000 in the Department of the Attorney General and \$605,000 in the Department of the Judiciary. In addition, the governor provided \$19 million in state restricted funds and an additional \$1.1 million (General Fund) within the Department of State Police for ongoing maintenance.

Final budget includes:

- The total \$560,000 (General Fund) within the Department of the Attorney General and \$605,000 (General Fund) within the Department of the Judiciary.
- \$1.25 million (General Fund) within the Department of State Police, which includes an additional \$200,000 in state funds and authorization for two full-time positions for biometric-related activities necessary to support the expungements.
- \$19 million in restricted funds within the Department of State Police, as part of the 2020-21 Supplemental Budget (see below).

Raise the Age:

In the human services portion of the Department of Health and Human Services, the governor recommended \$29.1 million (\$24.2 million in state funds) to cover the first-year costs of a new law that raises the age of

juvenile court jurisdiction from 17 to 18 years of age, keeping youths out of adult courts. By raising the age of juvenile court jurisdiction, 17-year-old youths can get appropriate rehabilitation and are more likely to succeed in school and the community.

Final budget (in human services portion of the Department of Health and Human Services budget): The final budget for the Department of Health and Human Services includes the governor's recommendation to provide a total of \$29.1 million for the first-year phase-in of the policy to expand juvenile court jurisdiction to 18-year-olds.

Michigan Joint Task Force on Jail and Pretrial Incarceration:

The governor proposed an additional \$6 million in one-time funding (bringing the total one-time state funding to \$10.2 million) within the Department of State Police. This funding would be used to implement recommendations for behavioral health crisis response training and services/support for crime victims, which were both recommendations of the Task Force.

Final budget: The governor's proposal to fund the Task Force recommendations was not adopted.

FY 2020-21 SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET:

A current-year supplemental was also included in the 2021-22 budget bill. Included in the supplemental are the following:

Criminal record expungement reforms (Clean Slate legislation):

The final budget includes \$19 million in revenue available from the Michigan Set-Aside Fund within the Department of State Police to support the development and coordination of record expungement systems, including related information technology costs.