



Minnesota Inter-County Association

[www.mica.org](http://www.mica.org)



Association of  
Minnesota  
Counties

[www.mncounties.org](http://www.mncounties.org)



[www.maccac.org](http://www.maccac.org)



[www.macpo.org](http://www.macpo.org)

April 6, 2021

**Re: County Support of Corrections Funding**

Dear Chair Mariani and Members of the House Public Safety and Criminal Justice Reform Finance and Policy Division:

**On behalf of the Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC), Minnesota Inter County Association (MICA), Minnesota Association of County Probation Officers (MACPO), and Minnesota Association of Community Corrections Act Counties (MACCAC), we want to share our united support for increased community supervision funding.** We appreciate the opportunity to outline how the funding included in **Governor Tim Walz's revised 2021 budget request and the delete all amendment to H.F. 1078** will significantly impact county government, and we urge your support as you make critical budget decisions this year.

**Minnesota's county-based probation systems have been underfunded for nearly two decades.** The Community Corrections Act Subsidy has only been increased an average of 2/3 of a percent annually over the last 10 years. The County Probation Officer Reimbursement is currently at 29% of the statutorily mandated 50% reimbursement. This historical underfunding is just a symptom of the problem, which is that the probation funding mechanism in Minnesota is broken, resulting in inequitable funding from county to county. The working group proposed in the Governor's budget recommendations is the first step in examining the funding system with input and ideas from stakeholders throughout the state. Counties have been advocating for an examination of this funding for years and we urge the legislature to support the workgroup.

**In addition to the working group, we urge the Legislature to fully fund community supervision, and at minimum to fund a \$2.642 million base addition to the CCA subsidy and CPO reimbursement.** We recognize the intent of not including ongoing funding as a way to encourage creation of a new funding system. However, even if made permanent, the proposed funding increase remains well below the need and we have strong concerns regarding the ability of counties to maintain services without ongoing funding. For reference, the Governor's supplemental budget request in 2020 recommended an appropriation increase of \$3.925 million for the CCA subsidy, with a \$4.911 million base appropriation increase in 2022 and 2023. For CPO reimbursement, the Governor had recommended a \$310,000 increase each year. The 2020 request was deemed necessary to support counties before the pandemic, and is now critical funding reflective of the backlog of cases to be sentenced in the coming year, the majority of which will be to county-run probation systems.

If you have any questions or would like further information, feel free to reach out to AMC Public Safety Policy Analyst, Carli Stark at [cstark@mncounties.org](mailto:cstark@mncounties.org) or 651-789-4335, or Nancy Haas, MACPO Legislative Counsel, at [nhaas@messerlikramer.com](mailto:nhaas@messerlikramer.com) or 651-274-5166.

Sincerely,

Julie Ring, Executive Director  
Association of Minnesota Counties

Matt Massman, Executive Director  
Minnesota Inter-County Association

Travis Gransee, President  
Minnesota Association of Community Corrections Act Counties

Jim Schneider, President  
Minnesota Association of County Probation Officers