



February 12, 2021

Chair Warren Limmer  
Vice Chair Mark Johnson  
Sen. Ron Latz

Sen. Bruce Anderson  
Sen. Karla Bigham  
Sen. Bill Ingebrigtsen

Sen. Mary Kiffmeyer  
Sen. Andrew Mathews  
Sen. Sandra Pappas

Dear Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety Finance and Policy:

The Minnesota Association of Community Corrections Act Counties (MACCAC) represents the 34 Minnesota counties that have chosen to provide probation and supervised release supervision under the Community Corrections Act (CCA). MACCAC counties provide community supervision to 71% of adult, juvenile, and supervised release probation clients in Minnesota.

On behalf of MACCAC, I wish to express our strong opposition to the CCA subsidy cuts in the Governor's 2021 Budget Recommendations. There is a proposed cut of \$1.525 million dollars in fiscal year 2022 and an ongoing cut to county passthrough dollars in both county probation systems of \$6.61 million in fiscal year 2023. The CCA subsidy has seen infrequent increases that amount to less than 1% per year, while the Department of Corrections (DOC) receives regular operating increases nearly every biennium. Again, CCA counties provide 71% of the adult probation, supervised release, and juvenile probation services in the state. The felony supervision by CCA counties is provided on behalf of the DOC as statute clearly states that **felony supervision is the responsibility of the state.**

Though the economic picture is bleak, the more important consideration is the serious public safety implications to this cut. Over the past 10 years, CCA counties have made a concerted effort to shift resources to high-risk clients as research suggests that is the most effective use of those resources and that over supervising low risk clients has an adverse public safety impact. The implication of this practice change is that cases requiring the most county probation resources are the high-risk caseloads. Cutting CCA funding means counties are forced to reduce the amount of supervision and programming for populations that should be receiving more intervention and not less.

**Should this budget be enacted, it will impact clients who have committed predatory offenses, domestic violence offenses, sex offenses, assaults, and other person crimes that most directly affect the safety of our communities.** Some counties will be forced to consider whether or not they can maintain supervision of Intensive Supervised Release and/or Supervised Release populations and that would result in those responsibilities falling back to the State. The lack of funding increases over the years have already resulted in only high-risk populations being supervised and as a result cuts would have to impact those areas.

**Minnesota Association of Community Corrections Act Counties**

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Members have already prepared budgets for the year and in some jurisdictions those budgets included local reductions in funding. The proposed cuts by the Governor will require additional adjustments to budgets impacting services across the State to include:

- Elimination of agent services to treatment courts across the state;
- Contracts with community vendors to provide housing, employment services, treatment for adults and juveniles who commit sex offenses, domestic violence interventions, mental health services, juveniles with substance abuse issues;
- Cognitive group therapy;
- Return of Intensive Supervised Release programs to the DOC;
- Elimination of juvenile and adult work crews;
- Staff layoffs which directly impacts high risk caseloads (predatory offenses, violent offenses, sex offenses, supervised release, domestic assault, DWI, and client with high needs due to mental illness and substance use disorders).

If funding is cut, caseloads go up resulting in an inability for agents to connect their high-risk clients to community services which is one of the biggest drivers of public safety. Without services to change behavior, clients are at higher risk of recidivating and having a prison sentence executed. Criminal justice will become an unending cycle of reacting too late for change. Community members will be victimized. Parents who need help will instead be sent to prison because they did not receive services resulting in more kids in foster care. Juveniles will not receive services and will be at higher risk for entering the adult criminal system. This does not need to happen.

Minnesota counties have worked hard to create a probation system that holds our clients accountable, as well as connecting them with interventions and services proven to change behavior and reduce harm to the community. That work has resulted in less victims and safer communities.

**We urge you to consider the critical public safety function that community corrections provides in your local communities and to oppose the Governor's recommended cuts to the CCA subsidy.** The proposed budget for community supervision is balanced entirely on the backs of select counties, in essence prioritizing public safety for some citizens over others and creating disparate impacts depending on the county in which clients live.

Should you have any questions about the information provided above, please don't hesitate to reach out to your local Community Corrections director, county commissioners, or the MACCAC Executive Director, Carli Stark at [cstark@mncounties.org](mailto:cstark@mncounties.org).

Sincerely,



Travis Gransee, President  
Minnesota Association of Community Corrections Act Counties