



Overview of 2022-23 Proposed Corrections Budget

Californians United for a Responsible Budget (CURB) is a statewide coalition of organizations working to reduce the number of people imprisoned in California and the number of prisons and jails in the state. We advocate for an investment in justice that centers care, not punishment.

Governor Newsom's [2022-23 proposed budget for Corrections](#) includes nearly \$15 billion in the general fund and about \$3.6 billion in special funds, totaling just over \$18.6 billion of state funding for corrections. The state funds include approximately \$1.9 billion to support local community corrections, over \$787 million for enhancing law enforcement activities and growth; about \$840 million to the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC); and \$23.2 million for county probation departments to supervise individuals on Post Release Community Supervision as a result of the implementation of Proposition 57. The budget also includes \$115M for the Community Corrections Performance Incentive Grant which pays incentives to counties to "reduce the number of felony probationers sent to state prison" (p. 189).

The state prison population has gone from 150% of the total design capacity to a projected 110%, falling further below the court-ordered cap of 137.5% for 2022-23. Despite CDCR resuming intake of individuals sentenced to prison but who remain in county jails awaiting transfer to state prison (due to COVID19 safety precautions), the population is projected to resume long-term downward trends to 100,361 in 2024-25.

Any further allocations to CDCR for COVID protections is wasteful because prisons have failed to keep incarcerated people safe during the pandemic. The awful toll of COVID-19 in prisons has shown that California must further reduce its prison population and that doing so is cost effective and safe. Now is the time to permanently close facilities and lock these savings in structurally for the future while continuing to review and revise the statutes to reduce the incarcerated population. California must invest cost savings in community-based safety strategies and pathways to reintegration into healthy and thriving communities.

Reductions in prison populations are advanced by reformed credit earning structures, conviction classifications and sentencing schemes via the ballot or legislation. For these reductions to be sustained, we must permanently close more California state prisons. Decreasing the state's reliance on punitive answers to public safety has been matched with increases to the corrections budget, from \$8.9 billion (2012-2013) to this coming year's proposed \$15 billion from the general fund. This is not our definition of a responsible budget.

CURB is calling on Governor Newsom to create a 5 year plan to close at least 10 state-owned prisons in response to failing infrastructure and continued public health threats—and cancel any existing prison construction and renovation.

The trend in lower prison populations may be sustained by the retroactive implementation of sentencing reform that has been passed over the last 7 years, along with more aggressive sentencing reform over the next 2 years, including repealing the CA 3-Strikes Law and all other sentencing enhancements. In the interest of public health and safety, Governor Newsom may use his executive authority to grant mass releases and simultaneously propose a budget that supports reentry and community services. **CURB maintains its opposition to any and all forms of prison construction and urges the state to join the majority of Californians in setting forward a solid plan that may save thousands of lives and restore communities across the state.**

Population Reduction: The average daily adult population of people in prison is now projected to be 111,435 in FY 2022-23, an increase of over 15% or 15,200 people compared to FY 2020-21. The average daily population of people paroled is projected to decrease by 5,306 to 42,963 in 2022-23, a decrease of 11 percent from spring projections. The parole population is projected to decline to 38,284 by June 30, 2026.

- **Increasing the projected number of people in prison** (“population adjustments”) allows the CDCR to increase their budget \$51.4M for the budget year and justify 138.4 new positions.
- **Prop 47 Savings:** An estimated net General Fund savings of \$147.3 million, an increase of \$31.1 million over the estimated savings in 2021-22. This increase is attributable primarily to the closure of the Deuel Vocational Institute in Tracy in September 2021.

COVID-19 Expenditures: The Dept. of Corrections has spent well over \$2 billion on COVID-19 prevention, mitigation, and response. This includes \$1.1 billion spent through 2021, a total of \$614M estimated to be spent through 2021-22 and \$425M allocated for 2022-23.

- Total confirmed COVID-19 cases in CDCR population: 55,334.
- Total confirmed COVID-19 Deaths: At least 246.
- As of August 2021, the state has given \$253.9 million from the General Fund to counties housing people in county jails on behalf of the state. The state is projecting to spend an additional \$20 million in reimbursements as all these people are transferred to prisons.

Resentencing Efforts: Overall, the Budget includes augmentations of \$4.8 million General Fund to implement recently enacted legislation pertaining to resentencing.

- \$396,000 in 2022-23 and \$382,000 ongoing to provide legal response to appeals when criminal resentencing is denied, or a defendant claims error occurred in resentencing, pursuant to Chapter 719, Statutes of 2021 (AB 1540)
- \$3.6 million in 2022-23 and \$3.5 million ongoing to address an increase in resentencing and vacatur appeals pursuant to Chapter 551, Statutes of 2021 (SB 775)
- \$794,000 in 2022-23 and \$768,000 in 2023-24 to address increased resentencing hearings pertaining to initial sentence enhancements pursuant to Chapter 728,

Prison Capacity and Closures: The final in-state contract correctional facility ended in May 2021 completing the process of eliminating all contract prisons (the other 6 in-state facilities had their contracts terminated in October 2020).

- Deuel Vocational Institution (DVI) shut down in September 2021, which is expected to save \$150.3 million in General Funds every year.
- In April 2021, CDCR announced plans to close the California Correctional Center in Susanville (CCC), which will save \$122 million every year.
- The executive is justifying **not** making more closures on the basis of “new considerations for long term use of dormitories, placements of older persons in prisons, and the need for dedicated space to isolate prisoners in the event of additional outbreaks of either COVID-19 or other airborne communicable diseases.” **This is a red flag and the administration needs to prioritize releases and closures to slow the spread of COVID. Elderly prisoners should be seeing more opportunities for parole with positive outcomes. The state should be emptying prisons, not planning to fill them back up.**
- Despite DVI’s shutdown; an almost 20% reduction in incarcerated people; ending contract facilities; and closing 1000+ beds at CCI and CTF, the **staffing for CDCR General Security is going up by 3,807 positions.** Staffing in this category hasn’t been over 26,000 since 2010-2011, and has been on a downwards trend for a few years. **Corrections staff should be transitioning out of these roles as the prison population continues to decline, and into roles that heal communities, not harm them.**
- The 2021 Budget Act included \$13.7 million General Fund in 2021-22, and \$3 million ongoing, to transform and create a so-called rehabilitative environment within Valley State Prison (VSP), guided by the Norway model. VSP will serve as a pilot for re-envisioning and transforming the state’s correctional system. CURB urges the state to recognize that spending on new buildings and more laptops is not substantive reform. The state is out of step with the majority of Californians’ efforts to reduce prison spending and to provide educational and other supportive services within the community to people impacted by the carceral system.

Rehabilitative Programming: CURB maintains that wellness is best served in the community. People can’t get well in a cell. CDCR has been historically irresponsible with rehabilitation. People should be released and the state budget should shift to support community based organizations that provide necessary wellness services.

- \$600.5M total spending on rehabilitative programs for adults, a 9.8% increase from last year’s \$546.9M budget
- Juvenile educational and vocational programs are budgeted at \$25.1M, a decrease from the \$25.9M budgeted in FY 2021-22
- \$10.6 million General Fund annually for three years for the Returning Home Well Program
- \$5 million General Fund in 2022-23, and \$4.7 million ongoing, to permanently fund Bachelor’s Degree Programs at seven institutions in collaboration with the California State University system

Staff Misconduct: CDCR is planning to spend over **\$75M** in the next three years on a new process for investigating staff misconduct. This includes \$35.6M in 2022-23 and \$34.2M ongoing.

Surveillance: CDCR also plans to spend over **\$80M** from the General Fund this year on new video cameras at 14 institutions, along with **\$20M** on IT associated with the video cameras (like data storage). That's \$100M this year alone, and will incur ongoing costs for the cameras and IT. Nevertheless, the CDCR **will spend more this year blocking contraband cell phone use than on any of these initiatives** (\$12.6M in General Fund spending this year - and a total of **\$52.7M** through 2025-26.) These amounts are tiny compared to funding for things like Expanding Staff Misconduct Investigations and Installing Video Surveillance Systems.

Infrastructure: CURB maintains that all spending on infrastructure repairs is wasteful and will not protect incarcerated people nor the public. **Closing facilities would allow the State to avoid spending billions of dollars on these projects and invest in providing care and services that people need.** From 2020-21 through 2022-23, the state will spend \$1.9B on new infrastructure for incarceration and repairs to existing infrastructure – \$892M this upcoming year alone. The budget includes funding for over 70 state corrections projects and 27 county jail and juvenile facility projects, including:

- Over \$182 million for the heating and AC at the Ironwood State prison this year alone (after spending over \$92M in the past 2 years)
- Over \$100M for various statewide "adult local criminal justice facilities"
- \$100M for a jail project in LA County
- Almost \$83 million for a jail project in Monterey County
- \$82 million for a jail project in Fresno County
- \$71M to replace the roofs at the California Institution for Men and California Medical Facility. Roof replacement projects are part of a multi-year plan to replace many "aging and deteriorating roofs across the system" instead of closing the facilities. 11 institutions remain scheduled for roof replacement and repair projects over the next 6 years.
- \$22M for required accessibility changes at 4 facilities to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act

It is worth highlighting that the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) capital outlay budget is now planned to increase from **\$45.9M in 2020-21; to \$311M in 2021-22; to \$410.6M in 2022-23. This increase is to finance the design and construction of county correctional facilities (2022-23 Governor's Budget CR 8-10). This is a nearly 900% increase in spending.** Last year, the BSCC's non-infrastructure spending more than doubled, from \$330M to \$687M. This year it's up another 18% to **\$808M.**

Medical Care for people imprisoned: The budget includes **\$3.8 billion** from the General Fund for health care for incarcerated individuals. Spending on health care includes:

- \$3B for medical services for adults
- \$660M for mental health services for adults
- \$396M for pharmaceuticals and medical supplies
- \$184M for dental care
- \$56M administering these services
- \$24M for health care services for youth

Local Law Enforcement: The Budget provides \$285 million General Fund over three years for grants to bolster local law enforcement response to so-called "organized retail theft," as

well as to assist local prosecutors.

The Budget expands the California Highway Patrol's retail theft task force and also includes \$18 million General Fund over three years for the Attorney General to prosecute organized retail theft crimes, and \$5 million ongoing General Fund for the Attorney General to continue leading anti-crime task forces throughout the state. In addition, the Budget makes one-time General Fund investments of around \$20 million to support small businesses "victimized" by retail theft (p. 11) [despite this problem being very overblown](#).

- More details about this spending on p. 187

CURB understands this type of wasteful spending to be a correctional pushback to statutory changes due to Prop 47 and urges the legislature to reject punitive responses to theft and instead follow a care-first, community investment vision for preventing harm. To address the intersecting crises of racial injustice, environmental injustice, economic justice, and public health, California must curb prison spending and expand the social safety net.

For more information visit curbprisonspending.org to read [The People's Plan for Prison Closure](#) or email amberrose@curbprisonspending.org

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