



Community Corrections in Alabama

*An Alabama Department of Corrections
Community Corrections Division
Presentation*



Community Corrections



- Alabama's Community Corrections Program was established by the **Community Punishment and Corrections Act of 1991**—Alabama Code Section 15-18-170, et al, as amended in 2003.
- Providing the courts with an **alternative to probation or prison**—offenders are sentenced directly to a community corrections program or as a transfer from a State prison facility.



The goals of the act

- To **promote accountability of offenders to their local community** by requiring direct financial restitution to be made to victims of crime and that community service be made to local governments and community agencies representing the community;
- To **provide a safe, cost-efficient, community punishment and correctional program** which provides punishments through the development of a range of sanctions and community services available for the judge at sentencing;
- To **reduce the number of offenders committed to correctional institutions and jails** by punishing such offenders in alternative punishment settings;
- To provide opportunities for offenders demonstrating special needs to receive services that **enhance their abilities to provide for their families and become contributing members of their community**; and
- To **encourage the involvement of local officials and leading citizens** in their local punishment and correctional system.



Early History



- Community corrections in Alabama got its start in the late 1980's with the Edna McConnell Clark Foundation which established a small network of model alternative sentencing programs in a few court jurisdictions.
- Several county programs started by local legislation prior to the Act.



Community Corrections



- Community Corrections has grown significantly over that last decade—in terms of offenders and counties that are participating.
- At the end of fiscal year **2004** there was **771** participating offenders in **23** programs operating in **30** counties.
- At the end of fiscal year **2014** there was **3,707** participating offenders in **35** programs operating in **45** counties.



Community Corrections



- Today **forty-five Alabama counties** have a community corrections which operate **thirty-five** community corrections programs.
- Four of these programs were established as judicial circuits representing multiple counties.
- Two counties operate a joint-county program.



Community Corrections



- Fiscal Year 2014 Recap
 - **\$8,221,450**—Reimbursed to Programs
 - \$5,500,000—Legislative Appropriated Funds
 - \$3,021,325—DOC Allocated Funds
 - **3,707**—Felony offenders serving at year end.
 - **2,397**—Felony offenders being reimbursed at year end.



Community Corrections



- Fiscal Year 2014 Recap cont'd
 - **3,325**—New offenders added during FY 2014:
 - 2,927—Front-End Diversions
 - 398—Institutional Diversions
 - **2,360**—Felony offenders released from community corrections—**73% successfully**:
 - 982—Offenders successfully released to probation.
 - 744—Offenders successfully released as EOS.
 - 603—Offenders returned to prison due to technical violations or new sentences.



Tuscaloosa CCP



- Number of offenders under supervision:
 - At the end of September 2014—**461** offenders
 - Currently averaging **474** offenders
- DOC reimbursed Tuscaloosa CCP for prison diverted offenders:
 - **\$414,280** in fiscal year 2014.
 - **\$488,380** expected in fiscal year 2015.



SB 67 Prison Reform



- For Community Corrections this reform:
 - Incorporates *evidence-based practices* to improve offender outcomes resulting in reduced recidivism.
 - Incentivize the use of *evidence-based practices* through increased reimbursements.
 - State-wide incorporation of a common *validated risk & needs assessment tool* that will individualize offender supervision and treatment needs.



SB 67 Prison Reform



- Sentencing reforms that incorporate a new **Class D felony class** that will be sentenced to community corrections.
- Provides for **greater options** for counties that lack a community corrections program.
- The Governor's Office will provide specific **oversight and funding guidance** specific to community corrections.