



Community Based Correctional Facilities

Eastern Ohio Correctional Center
Wintersville, OH
Belmont, Carroll, Columbiana,
Guernsey, Harrison, Jefferson,
Monroe, Noble

Franklin County CBCF
Columbus, OH
Franklin

Lucas County Correctional
Treatment Facility
Toledo, OH
Lucas

MonDay Community Correctional
Institution
Dayton, OH
Darke, Green, Miami,
Montgomery, Preble, Fayette

NorthEast Ohio Community
Alternative Program
Warren, OH
Ashtabula, Geauga, Lake, Portage,
Trumbull

NorthWest Community
Corrections Center
Bowling Green, OH
Defiance, Fulton, Henry, Williams,
Wood

River City Correctional Center
Cincinnati, OH
Hamilton

STAR Community Justice Center
Franklin Furnace, OH
Nelsonville, OH
Adams, Athens, Brown, Clinton,
Fairfield, Gallia, Highland, Hocking,
Jackson, Lawrence, Meigs,
Morgan, Pickaway, Perry, Pike,
Ross, Scioto, Vinton, Washington

Stark Regional Correction Center
Louisville, OH
Holmes, Stark, Tuscarawas, Wayne

W.O.R.T.H. Center
Lima, OH
Allen, Auglaize, Hancock, Hardin,
Mercer, Putnam, Paulding, Shelby,
Van Wert

West Central Community
Correctional Facility
Marysville, OH
Champaign, Clark, Delaware,
Logan, Madison, Marion, Morrow,
Union

HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE

House Bill 110

Ohio Biennial Operating Budget

Fiscal Years 2022-2023

Testimony of: Cary Williams

Executive Director

NorthWest Community Corrections Center

Committed to Community Corrections Excellence

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Community Based Correctional Facilities

Operating Budget Testimony

Good morning Chair Oelslager, Vice-Chair Plummer, Ranking Member Crawley, and members of the House Finance Committee. My name is Cary Williams, I am the Executive Director of NorthWest Community Corrections Center in Wood County, and a Trustee of CorJus, Inc. CorJus is a professional association that represents eleven publicly operated Community Based Correctional Facilities (CBCFs) in Ohio. I appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony on the state biennial operating budget, and to offer input on how CBCFs can provide a continued and increasing vital role in serving local communities as the state of Ohio works to recover from the difficulties of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The first CBCF in Ohio dates back to 1978 and was established to be locally controlled. Today, CBCFs serve all 88 counties in Ohio and provide residential treatment to over 7500 offenders annually, as well as several thousand more in a variety of outpatient programs. CBCFs are effective at working with higher risk, felony level, offenders with a variety of criminogenic needs. Through ingenuity and community collaboration, CBCFs have expanded their holistic treatment to include programs for substance abuse, cognitive restructuring, anger management, family reunification, general education, medication assisted treatment (MAT), trauma, and mental health, among many others. CBCFs receive funding through the 501-501 line of the General Revenue Fund.

CBCFs provide the highest levels of treatment dosage in the community. They are tasked with the treatment of offenders who are at a high risk of recidivating. Because of this responsibility, it is imperative to keep the highly trained and specialized staff working at CBCFs. Systemically, it produces a problem when the highly trained staff leave the CBCF to take higher paid jobs in the community dealing with lower risk offenders. In the last biennial budget, the legislature graciously approved additional funding to the 501-501 line to provide wage increases for front-line CBCF staff. Unfortunately, due to pandemic related financial constraints, the second year increase was withdrawn. CorJus respectfully requests the reinstatement of this legislatively approved increase in Fiscal Year 2022. The restoration of this funding, in the amount of \$1,685,483 a modest 2.03% increase, will help to ensure highly trained and qualified staff continue to deliver high levels of service. The importance of qualified staff in CBCFs has never been more apparent. During the COVID-19 pandemic, CBCF staff were deemed essential and took the daunting challenge head on. Staff worked closely with state and local partners to be able to operate safely under state guidelines.

In addition to collaboration with health and safety experts, and like many organizations across the state, CBCFs faced financial constraints. While ODRC provided access to CARES Act funding to cover various costs, these funds were not able to be used to offset increases in personnel costs. Due to virus mitigation measures, facilities often had to increase staffing to cover quarantined areas, smaller group sizes, staff sick time, and additional areas to enable social distancing. Despite these obstacles, CBCFs remained open and operating, working to serve the needs of courts and communities. Even during the pandemic, the common pleas judges around the state continued to utilize CBCFs and viewed them as a valuable resource.

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The Covid-19 pandemic has negatively affected virtually all aspects of life for Ohioans. Beyond the immediate physical health effects and financial difficulties encountered over the last year, we are just scratching the surface on the extent the pandemic is having, and will continue to have, on substance abuse and mental health issues in Ohio. As we continue to work together to solve problems, the role of community corrections has never been more important. The increase in substance abuse and mental health issues we are seeing will inevitably lead to more individuals being involved in the criminal justice system. As courts work to untangle the devastating impacts suffered by individuals due to the pandemic, community corrections programs will continue to work hand-in-hand with judges and stakeholders to link Ohioans to services which can help put them on the path to success. Access to treatment is more important than ever. To address these growing needs, the biennial budget must also look to the future. Expanding bed capacity in CBCFs allows increased access to programming opportunities. An investment of \$3,220,797 (3.8%) in the 501-501 line in Fiscal Year 2023 would provide funding for additional beds in CBCFs resulting in hundreds of additional prison diversions each year. More importantly, that will give hundreds more Ohioans access to treatment during this critical time. Many of these beds are currently being constructed through the use of Capital Funding. To allow this investment to go unfunded would be detrimental to the many individuals waiting for access to treatment. An unexpected byproduct of the pandemic has been the reduction of prison commitments. An investment in CBCF bed expansion at this critical time would provide common pleas judges additional options to keep individuals in the community.

Additionally in Fiscal Year 2023, CorJus is requesting an increase of \$2,542,734 (3.0%) which would be targeted towards competitive wage adjustments for staff and increases in overall operating costs. The total ask for Fiscal Year 2023 would be \$5,763,531 (6.8%).

CorJus strongly believes CBCFs, as well as all of community corrections, will play a vital role as Ohio continues to recover from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Investments of 2.03% in FY22 and 6.8% in FY23 in the 501-501 line would allow CBCFs to play a larger role in aiding the communities they serve.

Before closing my testimony, CorJus would like to give a special thanks to Vice-Chair Plummer for drafting an amendment which reflects our proposal. We commend his support of community corrections in Ohio and look forward to a collaborative vision aimed at diverting individuals from prison and reducing recidivism. We would also like to thank ODRC for their support and collaboration. The steady leadership of Director Chambers-Smith and her staff has been invaluable. CorJus truly values the positive working relationship with ODRC and looks forward to our growing partnership.

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, I appreciate you allowing me the opportunity to provide testimony to you about the state operating budget.

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CORJUS FACILITIES	FY21 AS PASSED	CURRENT BUDGET	FY22 PROPOSED INCREASE	FY22 PROPOSED BUDGET	FY23 PROPOSED INCREASE		FY23 PROPOSED BUDGET
					RETENTION	BED EXPANSION	
WORTH	\$ 3,263,480	\$ 3,166,186	\$ 97,294	\$ 3,263,480	\$ 97,904	\$ 417,930	\$ 3,361,384
FRANKLIN	\$ 6,268,076	\$ 6,167,567	\$ 100,509	\$ 6,268,076	\$ 188,042	\$ 188,042	\$ 6,456,118
RIVER CITY	\$ 6,544,662	\$ 6,444,153	\$ 100,509	\$ 6,544,662	\$ 196,340	\$ 196,340	\$ 6,741,002
EOCC	\$ 3,514,409	\$ 3,416,611	\$ 97,798	\$ 3,514,409	\$ 105,432	\$ 372,432	\$ 3,619,841
CTF	\$ 4,652,750	\$ 4,554,133	\$ 98,617	\$ 4,652,750	\$ 139,583	\$ 139,583	\$ 4,792,333
MONDAY	\$ 7,980,240	\$ 7,878,157	\$ 102,083	\$ 7,980,240	\$ 239,407	\$ 239,407	\$ 8,219,647
STAR	\$ 11,159,484	\$ 11,054,119	\$ 105,365	\$ 11,159,484	\$ 334,785	\$ 334,785	\$ 11,494,269
SRCCC	\$ 4,563,253	\$ 4,464,069	\$ 99,184	\$ 4,563,253	\$ 136,898	\$ 136,898	\$ 4,700,151
NEOCAP	\$ 5,977,016	\$ 5,876,981	\$ 100,035	\$ 5,977,016	\$ 179,310	\$ 179,310	\$ 6,156,326
WEST CENT	\$ 4,168,121	\$ 4,069,377	\$ 98,744	\$ 4,168,121	\$ 125,044	\$ 1,001,974	\$ 4,293,165
NWCCC	\$ 2,237,236	\$ 2,140,950	\$ 96,286	\$ 2,237,236	\$ 67,117	\$ 895,117	\$ 2,304,353
CORJUS TOTALS	\$ 60,328,727	\$ 59,232,303	\$ 1,096,424	\$ 60,328,727	\$ 1,809,862	BED EXPANSION	\$ 4,101,818
PROPOSED 501-501 LINE TOTALS	\$ 84,757,815	\$ 83,072,332	\$ 1,685,483	\$ 84,757,815	\$ 2,542,734	\$ 3,220,797	\$ 90,521,346
			2.03%		3.00%	3.80%	6.80%

JUSTIFICATION

CORJUS Inc. is respectfully requesting increases in the 501-501 line of the Fiscal Years 2022-2023 state biennial operating budget. These increases will address multiple needs for CORJUS Community-Based Correctional Facilities (CBCF) including staff retention concerns and the cost of funding bed expansion.

In FY22, CORJUS is requesting the reinstatement of an increase the legislature graciously approved in the last biennial budget to target front-line staff retention concerns. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this increase was withheld from the 501-501 line in effort to reduce costs. While CORJUS understands the necessity of the reduction, the reasons behind the legislature originally approving the increase have not waned. The reinstatement of the increase to CORJUS facilities would amount to \$1,685,483 (2.03%) in FY22.

In FY23, CORJUS is requesting an increase to the 501-501 line of \$5,763,531 (6.8%). Of that increase, \$2,542,734 (3.0%) is targeted towards continuing increases for front-line staff wages and increases in operating costs. An additional \$3,220,797 (3.8%) will go towards funding additional treatment beds. Many of these beds are currently being newly constructed through Capital Bill appropriations and will be available to serve offenders in FY23. Funding the additional beds will provide access to treatment for hundreds of Ohioans each year.

_____ moved to amend as follows:

1 In line 60481, delete "\$83,072,332 \$83,072,332" and

2 insert "\$84,757,815 \$90,521,346"

3 In line 60486, add \$1,685,483 to fiscal year 2022 and
4 \$7,449,014 to fiscal year 2023

5 In line 60510, add \$1,685,483 to fiscal year 2022 and
6 \$7,449,014 to fiscal year 2023

7 The motion was _____ agreed to.

8 SYNOPSIS

9 **Department of Rehabilitation and Correction**

10 **Section 383.10**

11 Increases GRF appropriation item 501501, Community
12 Residential Programs - Community Based Correctional Facilities,
13 by \$1,685,483 in fiscal year 2022, from \$83,072,332 to
14 \$84,757,815, and by \$7,449,014 in fiscal year 2023, from
15 \$83,072,332 to \$90,521,346.