

Montana Community Corrections Association
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The Montana Community Corrections Association consists of five Montana nonprofit organizations, employing approximately 800 individuals and supervising approximately 1800 offenders in the State. Our focus is re-entry, treatment, and jail diversion. We offer cost efficient, highly effective programming to mostly Moderate to High-Risk offenders in Montana.

Community-based services are proven, cost-effective and underutilized. Length of stay in community corrections facilities is also significantly less than prison. They should be VALUED by an investment in a reasonable provider rate for community-based partner providers at a point in time where they have hit crisis levels, and public safety is at risk.

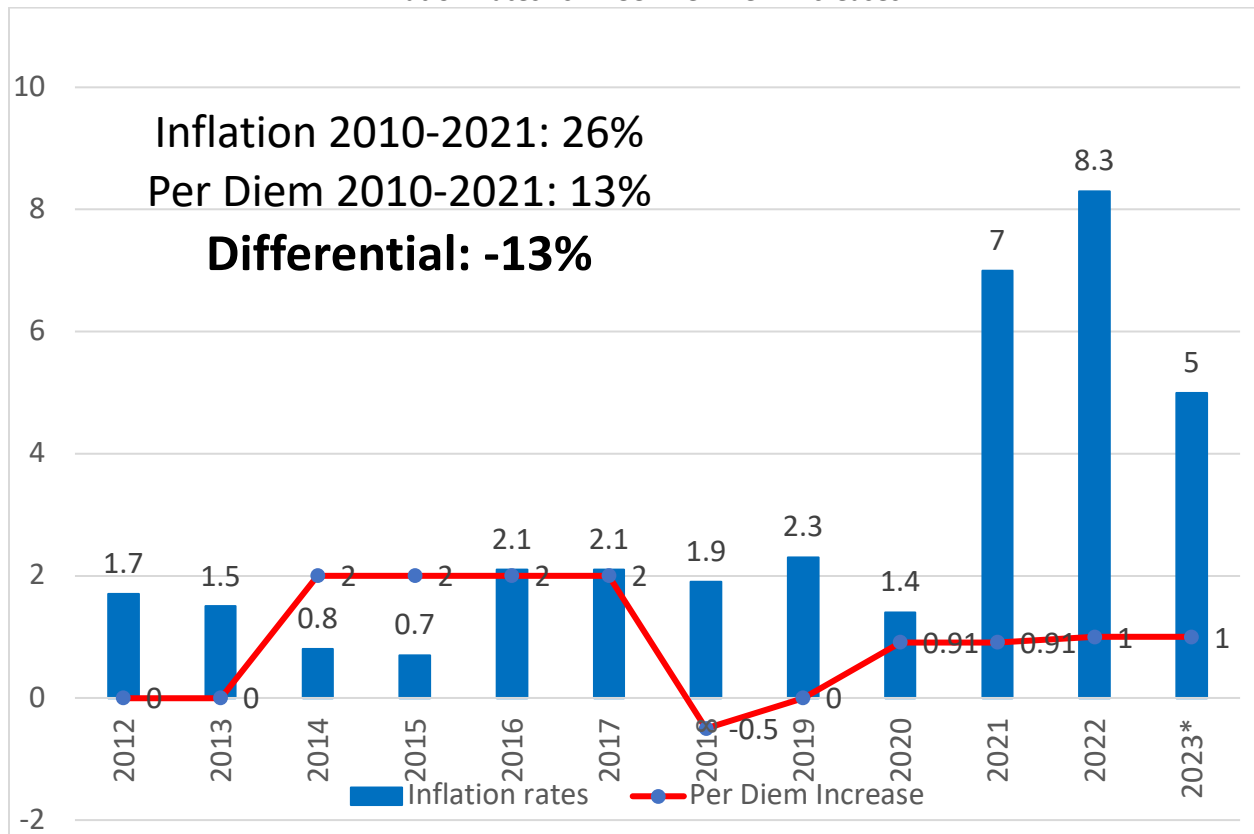
There is an increase in the Governor’s 2025 biennium budget which is a significant step in the right direction—It will catch us up from YEARS of flat, minimal and even rate reductions AND help to keep services/public safety on track into the future. MCCA respectfully requests consideration of permanent, rather than one time only funding, referencing the 2% figure listed below, as wages are ongoing expenses.

4% provider increase in FY 2024--\$4,620,255

An additional 4% in FY 2025--\$6,845,929***--Final calculations still forthcoming from DOC

2% OTO payments in FY 2024 and 2025--\$1,276,376 each year

Inflation Rates vs. MCCA Per Diem Increases



Montana community corrections providers cannot continue to operate on flat margins while inflation and business costs sky-rocket . A marginal rate increase would be a starting point to address the lack of ANY rate adjustment of significance for over a decade and provide some relief to our member organizations—bringing them back into black rather than red margins.

Payment of workforce has become a driving issue. Pre-release residents now earn a higher hourly wage at their jobs in the community than employees of the Pre-releases themselves. This is because staff simply can't be hired at an adequate wage due to years of insufficient Per Diem payments.

In order to simply break even financially, MCCA beds/services need to be 95% full. This is proving to be an impossible task given the current base of pay.

Return on Investment is strong with Community Corrections programs:

Prerelease Programs Cost Less than Prison.

*Average length of stay in a prerelease center is 180 days, at an average cost of \$69/day (which includes facility costs). Average length of stay at Montana State Prison is 730 days, at an average cost of \$107.74/day.

With over 800 prerelease offenders working in various communities, this model is critical to local businesses and the economy.

With the support, connections, and services provided by prerelease personnel, on average, prerelease residents take approximately 3-5 business days to obtain gainful employment, compared to the average of 23.8 days in the United States.

- Prerelease Centers boast a 97-99% employment rate amongst residents at any given time.
- 99% of prerelease residents who release to the same community their prerelease is located are employed at the time of release based on prerelease requirements for completion.

Community Corrections Programs Significantly Reduce Recidivism.

Montana's Standard Definition of Recidivism, i.e., Return to prison within 3 years:

- MCCA prerelease programs provide a 34% reduction in recidivism over Montana DOC's average recidivism rate for all inmates (25.4% recidivism vs. 38.6%).
- MCCA women's treatment programs (Elkhorn Treatment Center, Passages ASRC, Passages ADT) provide a 44% reduction in recidivism over Montana DOC's average recidivism rate for all inmates (21.7% recidivism vs. 38.6%).

Those who completed an MCCA community corrections program also entered jail for any reason at a rate of 12% LESS than those who never completed an MCCA community corrections program.

