

# DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS REGIONAL AND COMMUNITY JAILS

HOUSE FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE  
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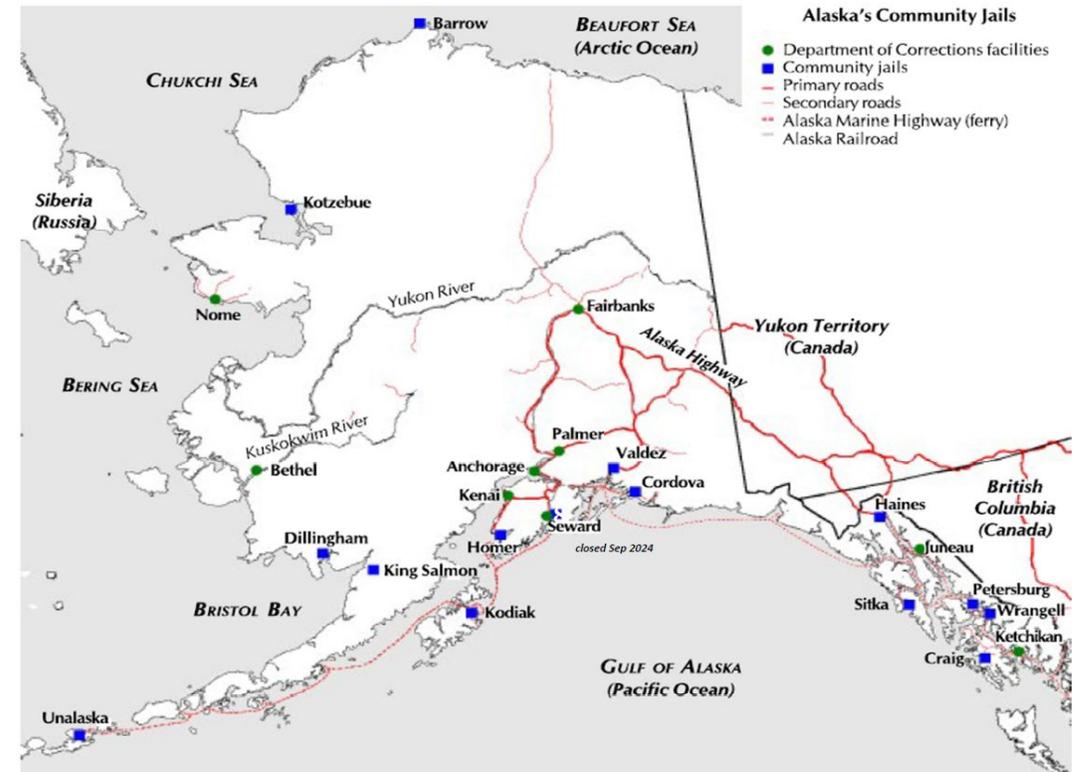
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# REGIONAL AND COMMUNITY JAILS

## ■ Contracted Communities:

- Bristol Bay
- Cordova
- Craig
- Dillingham
- Haines
- Homer
- Kodiak
- Kotzebue
- North Slope Borough
- Petersburg
- Sitka
- Unalaska
- Valdez
- Wrangell



- Contracted jails provide 141 beds throughout the state
- During FY2025, there were 3,055 bookings and accounted for 11,244 bed days



# REGIONAL AND COMMUNITY JAILS HISTORY

- In 1973, community jails were established within the Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Corrections
- In 1984, the administration of the program was transferred to the Department of Public Safety (DPS)
- In 1991, the Office of Management & Budget report recommended DPS audit community jail expenditures and establish standard costs
- In 1993, Governor Hickel appointed a task force to review the program
- In 1995, the community jail program was transferred to the Department of Corrections



# REGIONAL AND COMMUNITY JAILS HISTORY

## CONTINUED

- In 2015, funding decreased \$3.5M due to budget reductions and Senate Bill 91 impacts
- In 2022, funding increased \$3M for jail operations
  - Was awarded equally to all participating jails \$195K
- In 2023, Legislative intent to redistribute funding and update Jail Standards
- In 2024, Seward Jail Closure
  - Funding was decremented through the Legislative process



# FY2024 LEGISLATIVE INTENT LANGUAGE

## Major Program Reform – Update community jails funding formula

*It is the intent of the legislature that funding for the community jails program be distributed in an equitable fashion that best meets the needs of the community. The Department of Corrections (DOC) shall restructure the allocation by developing a formula for jail operational costs and utilization for the redistribution of the funds. DOC should develop allowable standardized costs for jail operations to assist in providing a basis for the formula.*



# RECENT PROGRAM GOALS

## ■ Standardize Budget Process

- Emphasis was placed on equitable distribution and bringing consistency to allowable program costs

## ■ Update Community Jails Standards

- Modernizing operational recommendations to best support public safety and the safety of those in custody

## ■ Pretrial Supervision through Community Jails

- Ongoing effort to update operational standards for participating jails who assist with community based pretrial defendant supervision



# STANDARDIZED BUDGET PROCESS

- Creation of Standardized Budget Template
  - Established Community Jails Workgroup
    - Addressed consistency among jail expense reporting
    - Identified standardized costs
    - Sought equitable representation of jail operating expenses
  - Individualized consultation
    - Established meeting with each jail to discuss detailed budget request and needs



# FUNDING ALLOCATION FORMULA

- Utilized for Fiscal Year 2025 / 2026 Community Jails Contract allocations
- Community Jails Program Operational Costs
  - Each jail submitted operational costs utilizing standardized budget template
  - Aggregate budget requests exceed appropriated funding
- Step #1 for Jail funding formula calculation:
  - $\text{Jail's Budget Request} / \text{Total Program Request} = \text{Proportional Request of available funds (in form of percentage)}$



# FUNDING ALLOCATION FORMULA

- **Definition of Man-day:** *“Man-day” indicates a prisoner was confined for more than 4 hours in one 24-hour calendar day. If a prisoner had been confined for less than or equal to 4 hours in one calendar day, the accounting shall indicate one-half man-day.*
- **DOC collects Man-day reports from jails and compiles fiscal year totals**
  - Individual jail reports are calculated as an annual percentage of total program utilization
  - Proportional program utilization can be examined across multiple years, depicting trends and need

## Step #2 for Jail funding formula calculation:

- $\text{Jail's 3-year avg utilization} / \text{Total Program 3-year avg} = \text{Jail's Utilization (in the form of percentage)}$



# FUNDING FORMULA CALCULATION

Step #3 for Jail funding formula calculation:

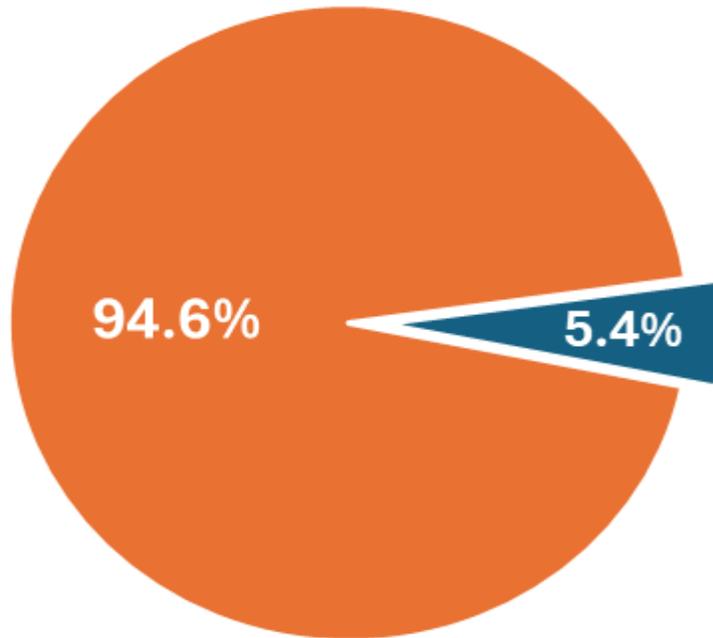
- Incorporates the proportional budget request (X) adjusted by utilization (Y)
  - The adjustment is weighted by a 2/3 emphasis of operational costs and a lessor weight of 1/3 for utilization; the mean of these two numbers represents the percentage allocated of available funds
- $(2/3 X) + (1/3 Y) =$  Proportional amount of available funds depicted as percentage
  - The percentage is applied to available funds to determine allocation for each jail



# FUNDING FORMULA EXAMPLE

## Step 1

### Proportional Jail Request

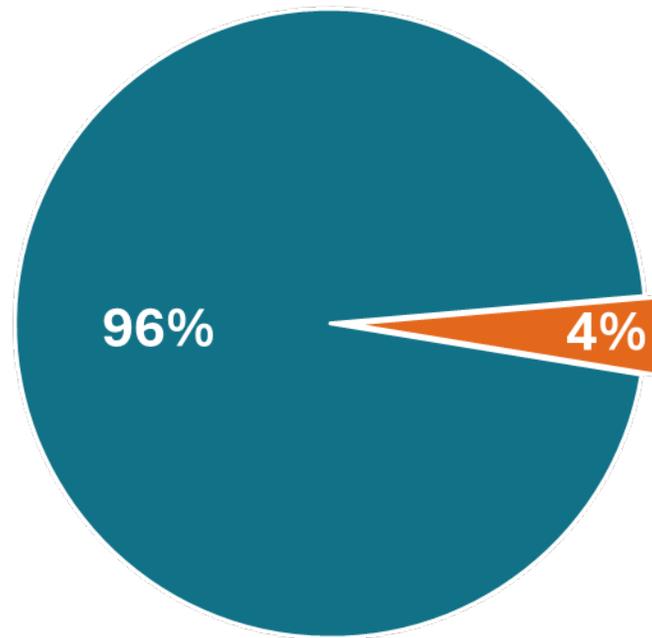


■ Jail Request ■ Program Total

**Weighted by  $2/3 = 3.6\%$  (X)**

## Step 2

### Man-day Utilization

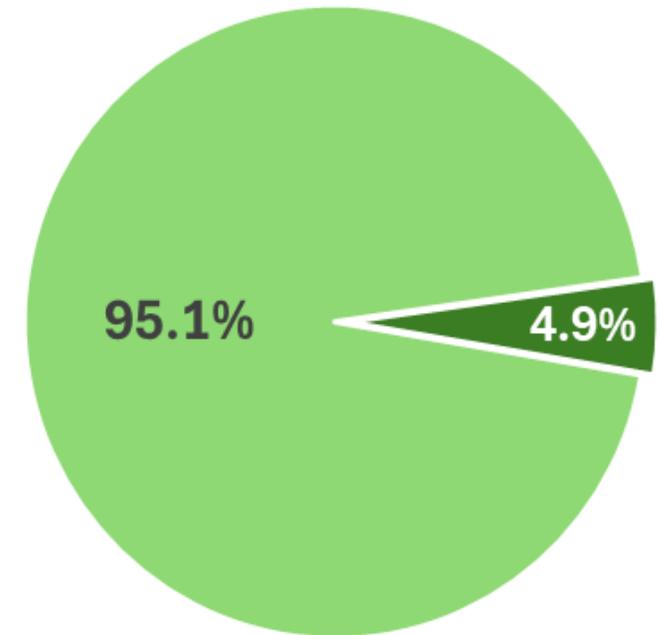


■ Jail Utilization ■ Program Remainder

**Weighted by  $1/3 = 1.3\%$  (Y)**

## Step 3

### Jail Allocation



■ Jail Allocation ■ Program Remainder

**X + Y = Proportional allocation of available funds**



# STANDARDS FOR COMMUNITY JAILS OPERATIONS

- Previous Standards for Community Jails enacted in 1994
- Identified need to modernize standards and program implementation
- Enacted Date July 1, 2025
  - 1-year period to allow for implementation transition
- DOC facilitates various forms of program support to include, but not limited to:
  - Site reviews and audits to evaluate local jail operations, policies and provide guidance
  - Training delivery at DOC academy in Palmer, virtual and onsite when possible



# STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

- Creation of Standards Workgroup with all jails invited to attend and participate
  - Weekly meetings to review updates, provide feedback and to make suggestions
    - Allowed for opportunity for jails to contribute, cite concerns and comments
- Source content for updating standards to include, but not limited to, the following:
  - American Correctional Association (ACA)
  - DOC Policies & Procedures
  - Regional and community jails' own policies and practices



## CONCLUSION – MAJOR PROGRAM CHANGES

- Funding formula that accommodates fluctuations with identified needs as addressed through budget requests and man-day averages
- Provided opportunity for participant involvement in the update and creation of the standards
- Identified ongoing needs of community jail partners and implemented strategies to begin addressing those working together
  - Establishment of recurring meeting schedule with jails to discuss standards compliance and training needs
  - Provide more standardized training opportunities both online and onsite



## FY2026 LEGISLATIVE INTENT LANGUAGE

*It is the intent of the legislature that the Department of Corrections continue the reform of the Regional and Community Jails program. Since the program's inception, public safety has changed in the state and jails are not utilized to the same extent. Therefore, the Department should renegotiate FY27 contracts by reducing the bed count by two-thirds if the individual community's unused bed rate was over sixty percent, when FY24 and FY25 are averaged, and any other corresponding costs. This realignment prevents closures and allows communities to maintain a jail with a more appropriate bed count and cost to the State. The Department shall issue a status report to the to the Co-chairs of the Finance committees and to the Legislative Finance Division by December 20, 2025.*



## INTENT LANGUAGE RESPONSE

- Utilization is not solely a function of bed count—it reflects local decisions about contract terms, public safety needs, and community infrastructure. By incorporating utilization into the funding formula, the DOC aims to promote transparency and equity, ensuring that resources are distributed in proportion to actual service demand while respecting the unique operational constraints of each community.
- Each jail provides a critical public safety infrastructure within locations where there is no State facility. Based on past experience, the DOC believes that any change to current funding levels will further impact safe operational abilities within each jail and lead to additional closures within those communities' as well as increasing costs to both the DPS and the DOC as these persons are moved to a State facility.



# CONTACT INFORMATION

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