

Course Corrections: Policy Options for Burdened Budgets

State budgets are facing significant shortfalls as a result of COVID-19, a trend that could continue for the next three years and result in the largest state budget cuts in the last 20 years. In these unprecedented times, state legislators and criminal justice leaders will be tasked with fortifying public safety while saving precious taxpayer dollars.

Course Corrections is an initiative that aims to provide states with impactful data, tools, and policy options to immediately navigate fiscal and systemic challenges and enable criminal justice leaders to safeguard the gains they've made in enhancing public safety and reducing recidivism.

THREE KEY WAYS COURSE CORRECTIONS CAN HELP STATES

1. Bolster needed health, housing, and other services for people who are released from incarceration and/or on community supervision.
2. Reduce probation and parole revocations safely.
3. Lower correctional costs driven by prison and jail population growth.

THREE KEY RESOURCES COURSE CORRECTIONS OFFERS

1

A 50-state online tool to estimate the impact of revocations on state budgets and populations

- Interactive tool that will allow users to enter data regarding revocation rates and prison populations to generate impact estimates associated with potential changes
- Developed in partnership with Recidiviz, a nonprofit specializing in criminal justice data analysis
- Available via a public web page

2

Intensive policy analysis and expertise to help 10 select states develop and enact policy change.

This assistance includes:

- Analyzing data to understand current criminal justice-related trends across state systems
- Developing new, effective policy options and projecting their impact on budgets
- Increasing collaboration on reentry services across various state agencies
- Building support for policy options among legislators
- Providing on-demand implementation assistance

3

Communications assistance for states broadly and intensively.

This assistance includes:

- Overall strategies to message the risk of recidivism increases amid a recession and budget cuts
- Information for state leaders on proven research and successful policies enacted in other states
- Intensive communications plans for the 10 selected states, including assistance with drafting materials to hone messaging, address criticism, and amplify action

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Ellen Whelan-Wuest, Program Director, CSG Justice Center | ewhelan-wuest@csg.org