



Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for the District of Columbia

Office of Legislative, Intergovernmental and Public Affairs

Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency (CSOSA) (A federal executive branch agency) 2012

Established: By the U.S. Congress in August, 1997
Authorizing Legislation: National Capital Revitalization
and Self-Government Improvement Act
(5 U.S.C. 301, P.L. 105-33)

CSOSA is an independent executive branch agency of the Federal government, established under legislation that relieved the District of Columbia of “state-level” responsibilities. The Revitalization Act restructured several District of Columbia criminal justice functions, including the closing of the Lorton prison complex and the creation of CSOSA. CSOSA was certified as an independent executive branch agency of the federal government in August, 2000. **The Pretrial Services Agency (PSA)** is an independent entity within CSOSA with a separate budget providing supervision and support services to 5,500 defendants. See www.dcpsa.gov.

Function: CSOSA provides supervision and support services to adult offenders on:
Probation, as ordered by the D.C. Superior Court;
Parole, as granted by the United States Parole Commission; and
Supervised Release, as determined by law and administered by the United States Parole Commission.

Director: Director Nancy M. Ware

Locations: Headquarters: 633 Indiana Avenue NW
Field Offices: 300 Indiana Avenue NW (Includes Drug Lab)
25 K Street NE
800 North Capitol Street NE
1230 Taylor Street NW
910 Rhode Island Ave. NE
1418 Good Hope Road SE
3850 South Capitol Street SE

Employees: 931 for CSOSA; 378 for PSA

Budget: FY 2012: \$154 million for CSOSA; \$59 million for Pretrial Services.

Web Sites: www.csosa.gov; <http://media.csosa.gov> (social media site)

Offender Population Profile

On any given day, the Community Supervision Program supervises approximately 16,000 offenders.

Characteristics of the offender population are as follows:

Average Age:	38 years	Education Level:	
Race:		Less than 10 th grade	15.5%
African-American	88.0%	10 th to 12 th grade	25.0%
Caucasian	5.0%	HS Diploma/GED	40.0%
Hispanic	5.0%	Post Secondary Study	18.0%
All Other	2.0%		
Gender:			
Male	83.0%	Female	17.0%

Offender Entrants: Approximately 9,500 offenders enter CSOSA supervision each year. Approximately 26 percent of these offender entrants had been under CSOSA supervision at some point in the three years prior to their supervision start date. CSOSA administratively processes approximately 24,000 offenders each year. Approximately 2,100 return to the District of Columbia each year from federal prison.

Housing: Approximately 8.7 percent of our daily supervised offender population resides in unstable housing, including homeless shelters, CSOSA-provided transitional housing, no fixed address and hotels/motels.

Mental Health: Approximately 8 percent of offenders entering CSOSA supervision in FY 2011 had been diagnosed with a mental health disorder, were in a mental health treatment program, were taking medication to treat a mental health disorder or had been hospitalized as a result of a mental health disorder.

Employment: In FY 2011, 34 percent of employable offenders were unemployed.

Drug Use: 40 percent of offenders tested for illicit drugs (excluding alcohol) tested positive at least once in FY 2011

Juvenile Offenders: In FY11, CSOSA supervised 56 offenders under the age 18 who were convicted and sentence in criminal court.

The distribution of Supervision types for CSOSA offenders was as follows:

Population by Type of Supervision (rounded)	
Probation.....	62%
Parole	12%
Supervised Release	21%
Deferred Sentence	2%
Civil Protection Order.....	2%

Average Supervision Term:	
Probation.....	1.6 years
Parole	9 years (Median)
Supervised Release	3.8 years
Deferred Sentence.....	9 months
Civil Protection Order	1 year

Supervision Services

CSOSA's 342 Community Supervision Officers and other supervision related staff (470 total positions) are organized into teams according to the type of caseload they manage. Most officers carry a caseload that includes parolees, supervised releases and probationers.

- **Diagnostic** officers prepare pre-sentence investigations for the Court. Three specialized teams work with pre-parole inmates in the halfway houses through CSOSA's Transitional Interventions for Parole Supervision (TIPS) program to provide transitional housing, employment and social services.
- **General Supervision** teams supervise the majority of offenders. The average caseload is approximately 45 cases per officer.
- **Special Supervision** teams supervise smaller caseloads of high-risk offenders, such as sex offenders, offenders with mental health problems; domestic violence cases; traffic/alcohol cases; and specialized substance abuse cases. The average caseload is 40 cases per officer.
- **Interstate** teams supervise offenders who were sentenced in other jurisdictions but relocated to the District of Columbia, as well as monitor D.C. offenders whose cases were transferred to other jurisdictions.

Program Interventions

CSOSA's program model incorporates a number of innovative strategies emphasizing offender **accountability** and **opportunity** to develop the skills and resources that support crime and drug-free behavior. Our services include:

- **Risk and Needs Assessment:** Assessment of each offender's risk to the community and social needs results in a supervision plan to address these concerns. **CSOSA's TIPS Unit** provides this assessment for all offenders returning from federal prison through three federal/ DC residential re-entry centers to create a plan *before* release. For offenders who do not transition to the community through a halfway house, assessments are completed within the first 25 working days.
- **High Levels of Supervision:** CSOSA policy mandates supervision levels that are commensurate with risk and needs levels. All offenders are assessed to determine their supervision and needs levels. High-risk offenders receive eight meaningful contacts per month, four of which are in the community. Levels of contact decrease to four, two and one contact(s) per month based on the risk assessment score and demonstrated compliance. CSOSA's six field units promote close supervision of the offender both in the office and at the residence or workplace. Officers' conduct 24,000 home visits a year.
- **Surveillance Drug Testing:** Levels of contact are supplemented by extensive drug testing. CSOSA tests *all* offenders initially, starting at intake and continuing twice weekly for eight weeks. If the offender tests negative, the frequency decreases to weekly for an additional twelve weeks, then monthly. Offenders who are on minimum supervision, as well as those who do not have histories of drug use and who have established a record of negative tests, may ultimately only be required to drug test randomly. Offenders on kiosk supervision are only required to test when they are randomly selected. Violations return the offender to the toughest schedule. Positive tests are addressed through a combination of treatment referral and sanctions (see below). For offenders on kiosk supervision, one positive drug test will result in their removal from the kiosk program.

- **Drug Treatment:** CSOSA's Reentry and Sanctions Center provides approximately 1,200 residential drug assessment and pre-treatment slots per year. CSOSA also provides a continuum of detox, residential, and outpatient drug treatment through contract providers, as well as referrals to D.C. and Veterans Administration resources. CSOSA has the resources to provide direct drug treatment to approximately 25 percent of the population in need of services. We partner with D.C. government, faith-based institutions and other federal agencies to meet substance abuse needs.
- **Graduated Sanctions:** One of the keys to successful supervision is the implementation of swift and certain sanctions when rule-breaking behavior occurs. CSOSA's sanctions are defined in a contract between the officer and the offender, which is signed at the beginning of supervision. From the start, the offender knows what will happen if s/he does not comply. Sanction options include day reporting, the Secure Residential Treatment Program (SRTTP), GPS (satellite) monitoring, automatic return to twice weekly drug testing, community service, increased telephone or in-person contacts with the supervision officer, and short-term residential placement.
- **Secure Residential Treatment Program (SRTTP):** The SRTTP is a joint collaboration with the D.C. Government, United States Parole Commission, and the Bureau of Prisons to provide a secure, residential substance abuse treatment intervention/sanction to high-risk chronic substance abusing and criminally involved offenders. The SRTTP has capacity for 32 offenders.
- **Global Positioning System (GPS):** CSOSA monitors selected sex, domestic violence and high-risk offenders via satellite. GPS monitoring is currently imposed as a sanction once the offender has demonstrated non-compliant behavior. GPS monitoring creates a real-time record of the offender's location and movements. Approximately 550 offenders a day are under satellite tracking.
- **Vocational Opportunities Training, Education and Employment Services (VOTEE Unit):** After assessment, selected offenders are referred to one of four CSOSA learning labs throughout the city for assessment, educational services, vocational training, employment counseling and placement. Specialized services are offered to female offenders.
- **Faith-Based Reentry Programs and Mentoring:** Since the Faith Based Initiative began in 2002 approximately 258 faith institutions have been certified as mentor centers, over 1,402 community members have been recruited and trained as volunteer mentors and approximately 2,830 offenders have been referred to the Faith Based Initiative program. As of September 30, 2011, 113 faith institutions and 230 mentors were actively engaged with 267 offenders being matched with a mentor. In 2008, the CSOSA/Faith Community Partnership expanded to include special emphasis programming, such as Family Reunification, Parenting Classes, a Women's Relapse Prevention Group, Job Coaching and Pro-Social Skills activities.
- **Implementing Evidence-Based Supervision Practices:** In FY 2011, CSOSA reorganized its supervision and program services to be more evidence-based by focusing its supervision activities on those high risk offenders most likely to recidivate and by addressing the unique needs of women offenders. Approximately 38 percent of offenders are assessed and supervised by CSOSA at the highest risk levels. Offenders assessed as high-risk pose the largest threat to re-offending and returning to prison. High risk offenders (those involved in or having any history of weapons, sex, and/or violent offenses as identified through CSOSA's comprehensive risk and needs assessment) have been placed on smaller caseloads for closer supervision and case management services. These offenders have increased day reporting, supervision contacts, and drug testing requirements; may be subject to GPS, curfews, and polygraphs; and have increased Accountability Tours (joint visits with law enforcement) and information shared with law enforcement. Women offenders, who have different supervision and programming needs from male offenders, now are supervised by gender specific teams (female-only) located at one field site and receive specialized services through a new Day Reporting Center. Low risk offenders, as determined by CSOSA's risk and

needs assessment, have been placed on higher caseloads, have fewer reporting requirements, and may be eligible to participate in *kiosk reporting*.

CSOSA in the Community

CSOSA partners extensively with government and non-profit service providers, other criminal justice agencies, and citizen groups. These activities promote awareness of CSOSA's mission, enhance CSOSA's public safety activities, and increase the range of support services available to offenders.

- **Community Relations:** CSOSA has a staff of six full-time community relations specialists. The agency prides itself on its responsiveness to the community's concerns. Examples include Community Justice Advisory Networks and neighborhood involvement in the placement of field offices. Offenders have community service responsibilities that focus on projects identified by community stakeholders, especially in communities where offenders reside.
- **Coordinated Services:** CSOSA coordinates social and mental health services with D.C. government and private providers throughout the city. For example, some faith-based institutions offer services, including counseling, housing, clothing and other services. See "Starting Out, Starting Over, Staying Out: A Guide for District of Columbia Ex-Offenders" on the CSOSA web site (www.csosa.gov).
- **Accountability Tours/Partnering With the Metropolitan Police Department:** Community Supervision Officers conduct joint supervision (approximately 9,000 times a year) of high-risk offenders in the community with Metropolitan Police Officers. CSOSA also provides training on its supervision practices at the MPD academy. CSOSA partners with MPD and participating law enforcement agencies on cross border initiatives.
- **Mass Orientations:** All offenders entering supervision are required to attend an introductory public meeting to learn about CSOSA's programs and practices. These meetings are held monthly, or more frequently, at the offender's field site. Orientation sessions are conducted at the team level, which allow for smaller session sizes, so staff can provide more attention to individual offender needs. In addition to Community Supervision Officers and Supervisory Community Supervision Officers, law enforcement personnel may also attend.
- **Victim Services:** CSOSA maintains a program to provide services to crime victims upon request. CSOSA is responsible for ensuring offenders comply with court orders requiring payment to the Victims of Violent Crime Compensation Fund.
- **CSOSA TV and Radio Shows:** CSOSA offers a quarterly television show titled "D.C. Public Safety" addressing offender reentry, crime and criminal justice issues. CSOSA also offers a wide array of radio and television/video programs through our social media site at <http://media.csosa.gov>. See articles on CSOSA at <http://media.csosa.gov/blog>.
- For additional information, please contact:

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