



# COURT SERVICES AND OFFENDER SUPERVISION AGENCY *for the District of Columbia*

## CSOSA Fact Sheet

### CSOSA MISSION & CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTORS

The Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency (CSOSA) supervises men and women on probation, parole, or supervised release in Washington, DC. The core of CSOSA's mission is to increase public safety and prevent crime by reducing recidivism. To do this, CSOSA works to reduce rearrests, improve education levels, increase employment rates, and reduce drug use among the approximately 15,500 offenders that CSOSA's Community Supervision Officers (CSO's) supervise on any given day.

CSOSA has identified four Critical Success Factors necessary to encourage offender accountability and opportunities to develop skills and resources that contribute to crime-free and drug-free behavior.

#### CSF 1

Improved Risk/Needs Assessment Techniques

#### Risk & Needs Assessment

**CSOSA SCREENER & CASE PLANNING:** CSOSA assesses each offender's risk to the community and social needs. The results of the assessment comprise a supervision plan intended to guide the offender's supervision process.

vision plan intended to guide the offender's supervision process.

#### CSF 2

Close Supervision

#### Close Supervision

**HIGH LEVELS OF CONTACT:** Offender risk level, determined by the CSOSA screener, guides the frequency with which offenders must report to Community Supervision Officers.

Offenders.

**NEIGHBORHOOD-BASED SUPERVISION:** In order to place Community Supervision Officers and facilities close to the neighborhoods where offenders live, CSOSA operates six field units, two com-



CSOSA Field Office at 25 K St NE.

munity-based learning labs, and the Reentry & Sanctions Center, a residential substance abuse treatment preparation facility.

#### CSOSA-LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIPS:

Community Supervision Officers and police officers (from the Metropolitan Police Department and the DC Housing Authority Police) routinely share information on high-risk offenders, conduct **Accountability Tours** – in which a CSO and a police officer visit offenders

in the community, and host **Mass Orientations** — in which police and CSO's meet with offenders just released.

#### SURVEILLANCE DRUG TESTING:

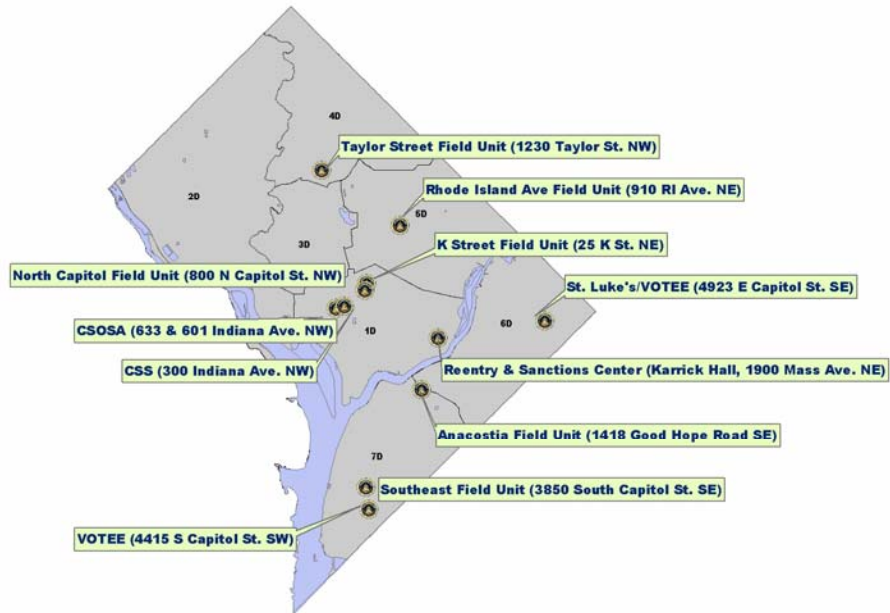
Frequent contact with CSO's is supplemented by drug testing, ranging from twice weekly to once monthly.

#### GRADUATED RESPONSES:

Swift and certain sanctions for rule breaking are a key to successful supervision. Sanctions include increased in-person contacts, day reporting, electronic and Global Position System (GPS) monitoring, increased drug testing, community service, and short-term residential placement.

#### REPORTING VIOLATIONS:

New arrests and repeat violations of probation, parole, or supervised release conditions result in reports of alleged violations to the United States Parole Commission or the appropriate releasing authority.



CSOSA Offices and Learning Labs by Police District

## CSF 3

### Support Services and Treatment

## Treatment and Support Services

**SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT:** CSOSA assesses high-risk offenders' addiction severity to make clinically appropriate treatment placements.

The agency's fiscal appropriation allows for CSOSA to meet 25% of the population's addiction treatment need. CSOSA refers lower-risk offenders to the DC Department of Health, Addiction Prevention and Recovery Administration (APRA), the agency primarily responsible for addressing the substance abuse treatment needs of eligible District residents.

### REENTRY AND SANCTIONS CENTER:

CSOSA opened its Reentry and Sanctions Center in February 2006. The Reentry and Sanctions Center provides offenders with a 28-day assessment and treatment preparation program prior to placement in residential or outpatient programming.

### VIOLENCE REDUCTION PROGRAM:

The Violence Reduction Program (VRP) is a three-phase treatment intervention for men, aged 18-35 with histories of violent, weapons, and/or drug distribution convictions.

- Phase I: Assessment and Treatment Readiness
- Phase II: Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy
- Phase III: Aftercare and Community Reintegration

The goal of the Violence Reduction Program is to help offenders:

- Develop non-violent approaches to conflict resolution
- Increase problem-solving skills
- Adopt communication styles that improve social skills
- Establish an alternative peer network by promoting pro-social supports and accountability networks
- Learn and apply skills to regulate anxiety

**EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT:** The Vocational Opportunities for Training, Education, and Employment (VOTEE) unit assesses and responds to the individual educational and vocational needs of offenders. The

unit also provides adult basic education and GED preparation courses at one of four learning labs staffed by CSOSA Learning Lab Specialists. In addition, VOTEE actively maintains partnerships with the State Education Agency, Adult Education Office in collaboration with the University of District of Columbia to provide literacy services. The DC Department of Employment Services provides employment training, and placement services.

## CSF 4

### Partnerships

## Partnerships

### COMMUNITY JUSTICE ADVISORY NETWORKS:

CSOSA's Community Relations Specialists maintain Community Justice Advisory Networks (CJAN's), which are designed to resolve key public safety issues/concerns resulting in an improved quality of life throughout the District of Columbia. CJAN's are comprised of residents and key stakeholders, such as Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners, faith based institutions, schools, civic organizations, businesses, nonprofit organizations, government agencies and local law enforcement entities. CJAN's function



within each of seven police districts throughout the city.

### CSOSA FAITH COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP:

The CSOSA Faith Community Partnership is designed to provide mentors for returning offenders and establish a network of faith-based institutions that may have housing, employment, substance abuse, or other resources that can benefit men and women returning from prison.

**MENTAL HEALTH:** CSOSA refers offenders to contract psychologists for mental health screening to determine need for more in-depth psychological evaluation and treatment. The DC Department of Mental Health provides mental health psychologi-

cal screening and evaluations, counseling, and community-based support services for offenders with diagnosed mental health disorders.

**ID & BENEFITS:** CSOSA verifies an offender's address to assist him or her in obtaining non-driver's identification from the Department of Motor Vehicles. CSOSA also directs offenders to appropriate DC Department of Human Services offices to apply for social services or healthcare insurance for self and/or family.

### PHYSICAL HEALTH/DISABILITY:

CSOSA does not provide any direct health-related services. The agency does counsel offenders to register for the DC Healthcare Alliance or Medicaid if they are eligible. DC Healthcare Alliance provides insurance coverage for residents who meet income requirements. DC Department of Health offers primary healthcare at neighborhood clinics operated by the DC Health and Hospital Public Benefit Corporation.

### COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM:

CSOSA refers offenders with court-ordered community service requirements to non-profit organizations that provide a wide range of services that benefit District of Columbia residents. CSOSA also enters agreements with non-profit organizations and civic groups that host one-time events intended to achieve community improvements, such as cleaning up and installing playground equipment in a park. The Community Service Program seeks to encourage a sense of investment in the community on the part of offenders while strengthening the community's commitment to embrace all members of the society.



CSOSA offenders engage in community service

