

**Q00C**  
**Community Supervision**  
**Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services**

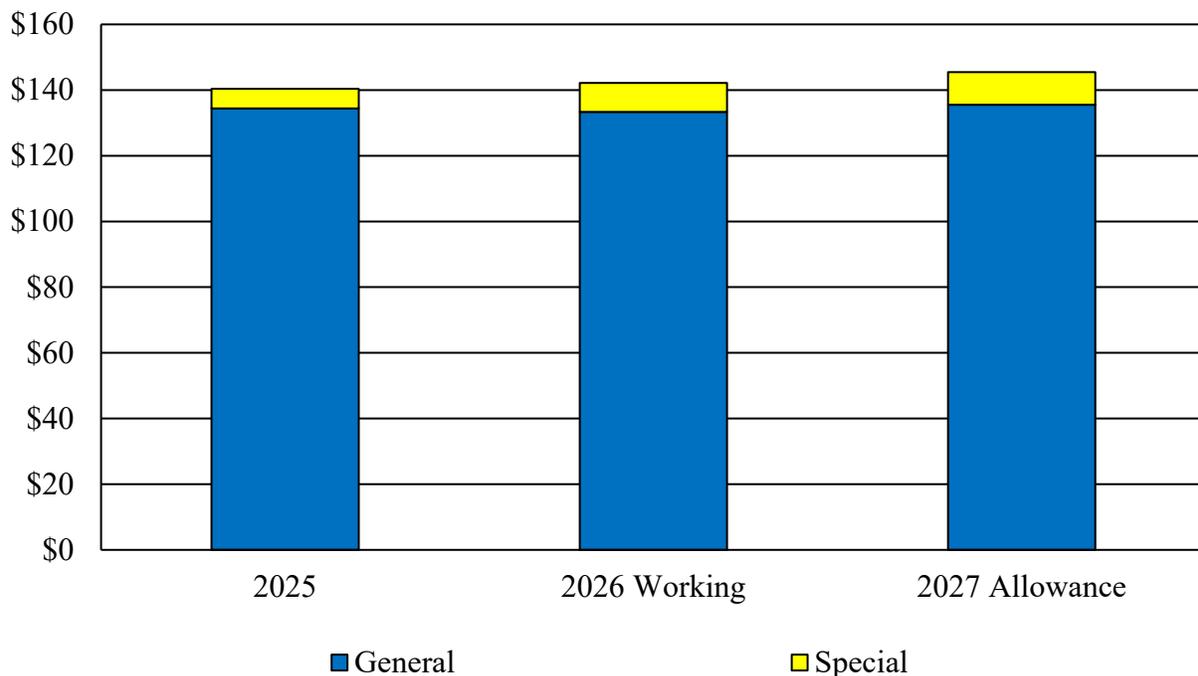
**Program Description**

The Community Supervision function within the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) consists of the Maryland Parole Commission (MPC) and the Division of Parole and Probation (DPP). MPC hears cases for parole release and revocation and is authorized to parole inmates sentenced to a term of confinement of six months or more from any correctional institution in Maryland except the Patuxent Institution. DPP provides offender supervision and investigation services for probationers assigned by courts, parolees discharged from correctional facilities on mandatory release, parolees approved by MPC, and Drinking Driver Monitor Program (DDMP) participants. DPP agents also collect fees and restitution payments required of supervisees.

***Operating Budget Summary***

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**Fiscal 2027 Budget Increases \$3.3 Million, or 2.3%, to \$145.5 Million**  
**(\$ in Millions)**



Note: The fiscal 2026 working appropriation accounts for deficiencies. The fiscal 2027 statewide salary adjustments are centrally budgeted in the Department of Budget and Management and are not included in this agency's budget.

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## **Fiscal 2026**

### **Proposed Deficiency**

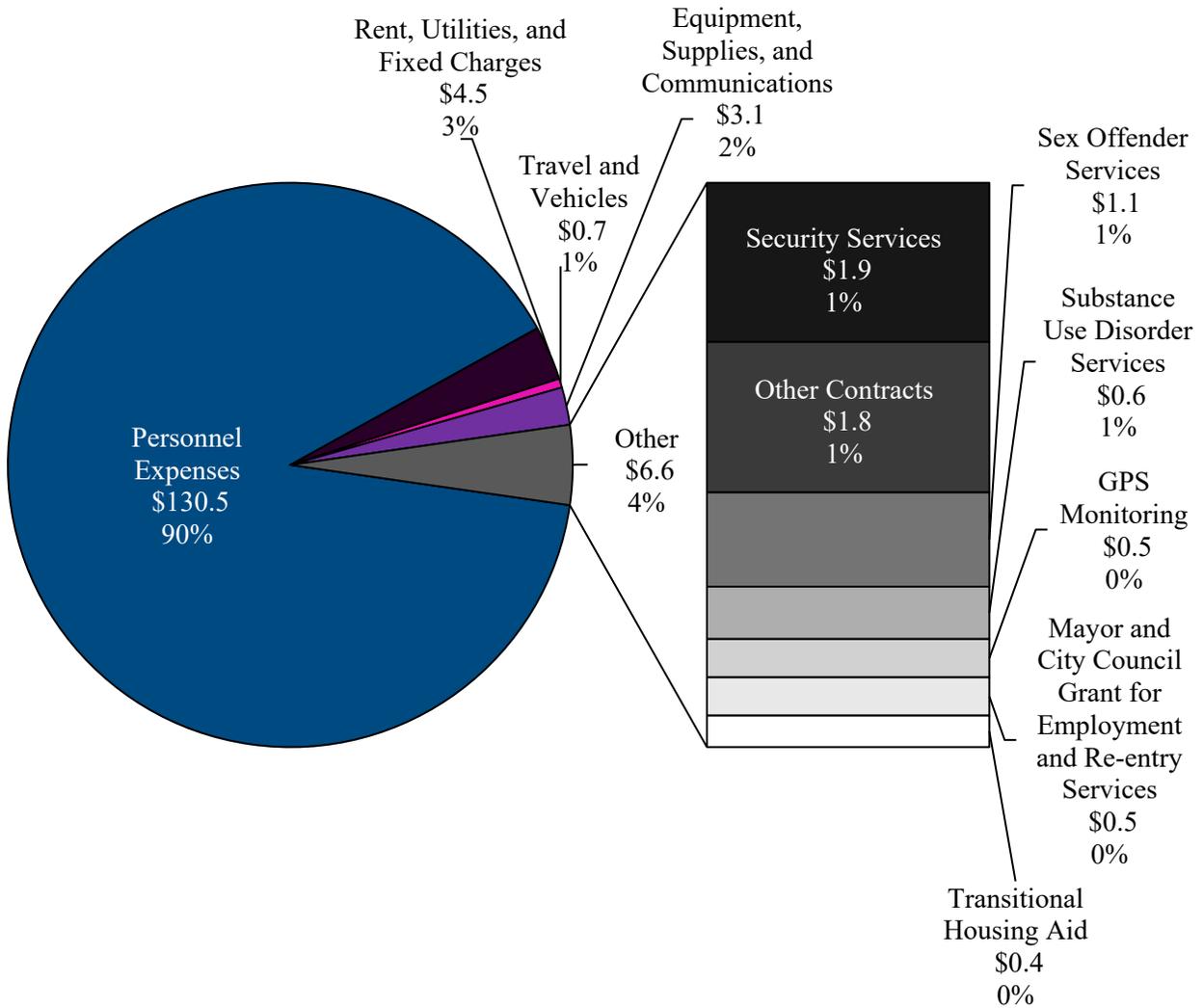
The fiscal 2027 budget contains deficiencies that increase the fiscal 2026 working appropriation by a total of \$2.9 million (\$2.6 million in general funds and \$295,119 in special funds). The deficiencies are related to personnel and provide:

- \$2.3 million, including \$2 million in general funds and \$295,119 in special funds, to bring budgeted turnover in line with fewer than expected vacancies. The majority of the deficiency, \$2.1 million, supports DPP, with the remaining \$124,242 supporting MPC; and
- \$612,229 to cover shortfalls related to lower than expected vacancy savings.

### **Fiscal 2027 Overview of Agency Spending**

The fiscal 2027 allowance for DPSCS Community Supervision totals \$145.5 million, as shown in **Exhibit 1**. Personnel expenses for the 1,177 regular positions authorized and 3.9 contractual full-time equivalent positions in this unit total \$130.5 million, or 90%, of the allowance. Other major administrative expenses include rent and utilities for DPP regional offices (\$4.5 million) as well as equipment, supplies, and communications (\$3.1 million). A portion of the allowance (\$6.1 million) also supports contractual services, including security, sex offender monitoring, and substance use disorder treatment.

**Exhibit 1**  
**Overview of Agency Spending**  
**Fiscal 2027 Allowance**  
**(\$ in Millions)**



GPS: global positioning system

Note: The fiscal 2027 statewide salary adjustments are centrally budgeted in the Department of Budget and Management and are not included in this agency’s budget.

Source: Department of Budget and Management

**Proposed Budget Change**

The fiscal 2027 allowance increases by \$3.3 million from the fiscal 2026 working appropriation. Personnel costs increase by \$3.7 million, mainly due to increases in retiree health insurance premiums. Other increases include \$629,000 for security equipment, \$55,000 for rent, and \$55,000 for contractual drug treatment services. These increases are partially offset by decreases of \$3.6 million in salary adjustments, \$362,000 in contractual security services, and \$302,000 in motor vehicles and other associated costs. The detailed changes can be found in **Exhibit 2**.

**Exhibit 2  
Proposed Budget  
DPSCS – Community Supervision  
(\$ in Thousands)**

<b>How Much It Grows:</b>	<b>General Fund</b>	<b>Special Fund</b>	<b>Reimb. Fund</b>	<b>Total</b>
Fiscal 2025 Actual	\$134,442	\$5,960	\$0	\$140,402
Fiscal 2026 Working	133,331	8,847	0	142,178
Fiscal 2027 Allowance	135,523	9,963	0	145,486
Fiscal 2026-2027 \$ Change	\$2,192	\$1,116	\$0	\$3,308
Fiscal 2026-2027 % Change	1.6%	12.6%	n/a	2.3%

<b>Where It Goes:</b>	<b>Change</b>
<b>Personnel Expenses</b>	
Health and retiree health insurance.....	\$6,037
Turnover decreases from 9.3% to 8.7%.....	656
Workers’ compensation.....	212
Salary adjustments.....	-3,677
Other fringe benefits.....	536
<b>Contracts</b>	
Contractual drug treatment services.....	55
Photocopier rental.....	18
Freight and delivery.....	10
Trash and janitorial services.....	-2
Telecommunication.....	-15
George Mason University study of violent crimes committed by DPP supervised offenders that ended in fiscal 2026.....	-78
Contractual housing and other services for offenders returning from prison.....	-232

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<b>Where It Goes:</b>	<b><u>Change</u></b>
<b>Security Expenses</b>	
Security equipment .....	629
Contractual security including armed and unarmed security at DPP offices .....	-362
<b>Other Costs</b>	
Rent.....	55
Utilities, including electricity and fuel .....	38
Travel.....	11
Cost allocation .....	0
Postage.....	-11
Insurance.....	-14
Telephones.....	-58
Elimination of 11.15 contractual positions and fringe benefits from DPP .....	-188
Motor vehicles and associated costs .....	-302
Other costs including office supplies and laboratory equipment.....	-12
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,308</b>

DPP: Division of Parole and Probation

DPSCS: Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services

Note: Numbers may not sum to total due to rounding. The fiscal 2026 working appropriation accounts for deficiencies. The fiscal 2027 statewide salary adjustments are centrally budgeted in the Department of Budget and Management and are not included in this agency’s budget.

## ***Personnel Data***

	<b>FY 25</b>	<b>FY 26</b>	<b>FY 27</b>	<b>FY 26-27</b>
	<b><u>Actual</u></b>	<b><u>Working</u></b>	<b><u>Allowance</u></b>	<b><u>Change</u></b>
Regular Positions	1,152.00	1,180.00	1,177.00	-3.00
Contractual FTEs	<u>4.13</u>	<u>15.07</u>	<u>3.92</u>	<u>-11.15</u>
<b>Total Personnel</b>	<b>1,156.13</b>	<b>1,195.07</b>	<b>1,180.92</b>	<b>-14.15</b>

### ***Vacancy Data: Regular Positions***

Turnover and Necessary Vacancies, Excluding			
New Positions		102.89	8.74%
Positions and Percentage Vacant as of 12/31/2025		92.00	7.80%
 Vacancies Below Turnover		 10.89	

### *Q00C – DPSCS – Community Supervision*

- In October 2025, the Board of Public Works approved the abolition of 502.7 positions statewide, including 170.7 vacant positions and 332.0 positions associated with the Voluntary Separation Program (VSP). In DPSCS Community Supervision, 6 positions were abolished, all of which were due to the VSP.
- The fiscal 2027 allowance reflects a net decrease of 3 positions that are transferred elsewhere in the department. Additionally, there is a net decrease of 11.15 contractual full-time equivalent positions entirely from DPP.
- As of December 31, 2025, vacancy reports indicated that DPSCS Community Supervision had 92 vacant positions, which would be just under 10 vacancies fewer than necessary to meet budgeted turnover in the fiscal 2027 allowance. However, the number of vacant positions departmentwide appears to be undercounted in the December 2025 reporting, and DPSCS Community Supervision later indicated that there were 97 vacant positions in December 2025.

## ***Key Observations***

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### **1. DPP Implements New Safety Measures for Staff**

In response to the murder of parole agent Davis Martinez during a home visit in May 2024, DPP has taken several actions to address the safety of community supervision agents. Language in the fiscal 2026 Budget Bill withheld \$150,000 in general funds until DPSCS submitted a report on safety efforts for community supervision agents, including a description of the equipment provided to agents, the police escort policy, and the plan to resume home visits.

#### **Resumption of Home Visits and Police Escort Policy**

While home visits by parole agents were suspended following Agent Martinez’s murder, agents remained in contact with offenders through in-person office visits and video calls. In-person home visits did not resume until staff were equipped with upgraded safety equipment and had completed training. The original restart date of June 1, 2025, was delayed due to labor negotiations, procurement delays for tracking devices, and additional policy review. Field work ultimately resumed on August 4, 2025, and required home visits to be completed with at least two staff members or with law enforcement. Field staff who have resumed field work are equipped with ballistic vests, law enforcement-grade Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) spray (also known as pepper spray), and Bluetooth Low Energy (BLE) tracking tags. DPP implemented a phased approach to resuming in-person field work by focusing on high-priority cases. By October 14, 2025, home visits resumed for all cases, including moderate and low-moderate risk cases.

Coordination with local law enforcement is managed at the field office level. Case details are shared with law enforcement at least two days before the visit. Currently, the department has a memorandum of understanding with five police departments throughout the State, informal

partnerships with five more police departments, and is working to develop partnerships with five more. DPP has also received pledged support from the Maryland State Police. Conducting home visits with law enforcement does not incur additional costs for the department.

## **Safety Measures for Community Supervision Agents**

### **Multi-threat Ballistic Vests**

DPP procured Safariland PRISM MT multi-threat ballistic vests for its agents. As of January 3, 2025, 639 agents had received vests. Each vest will be replaced after its service life of five years. The new body armor policy is under review by DPSCS' Assistant Attorney General's Office. The new policy will require body armor for probation and parole agents during field work.

### **Other Protective Equipment and Training**

DPP has acquired several other pieces of protective equipment to enhance safety for its agents, including:

- ***SABRE Red:*** a three-ounce law enforcement-grade pepper spray. Agents were previously equipped with an OC spray that had limitations due to being intended for civilian consumption. As of October 2025, 596 agents have completed the OC spray training and have been issued the SABRE Red spray cannisters and holsters;
- ***iPhone 15 Devices:*** allows emergency text messages and location data to be sent to first responders when cellular or Wi-Fi is not available. The department began deploying the new devices in August 2025;
- ***Fluid Mobility's FLUID Platform:*** tracks employee locations and is installed on State-issued cell phones. Supervisors access a portal to view employee locations and track movements; and
- ***BLE Tags:*** allows agents to trigger distress alerts from their cell phones without physically handling their phones. Comprehensive training was completed for the new devices, and the BLE tags have been deployed to field staff.

All field-eligible staff are required to complete a training program that includes de-escalation tactics, situational awareness, CPR/first aid, behavioral health, and Justice Reinvestment Act procedures. As of October 15, 2025, a total of 498 staff members had completed the required training and are cleared to return to field work. There were 232 agents scheduled for training through the end of calendar 2025, 16 enrolled in the Parole and Probation Academy, and 7 with training pending due to personnel-related matters. **The Department of Legislative Services (DLS) determined the report on parole and probation safety efforts to be in compliance with the language and recommends the release of \$150,000 in withheld general funds. DLS will process a letter to this effect if no objections are raised by the committees.**

## **Body-worn Cameras**

Language in the fiscal 2026 Budget Bill withheld \$150,000 in general funds until DPSCS submitted a report on the estimated costs of providing body-worn cameras (BWC) for community supervision agents and policies and training regarding the implementation of BWCs for community supervision agents. The fiscal 2026 budget includes \$428,790 for the purpose of purchasing BWCs for community supervision agents. The department indicated that a one-year purchase order of \$423,000 on October 15, 2025, was awarded for BWCs.

Chapters 608 and 609 of 2025 require the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission (MPTSC) to adopt regulations for the training, issuance, and use of BWCs by correctional officers. MPTSC proposed and finalized regulations for the use and operation of BWCs, how correctional agencies will store recordings from BWCs, and how correctional agencies train staff on the use of BWCs. The regulations went into effect on January 5, 2026.

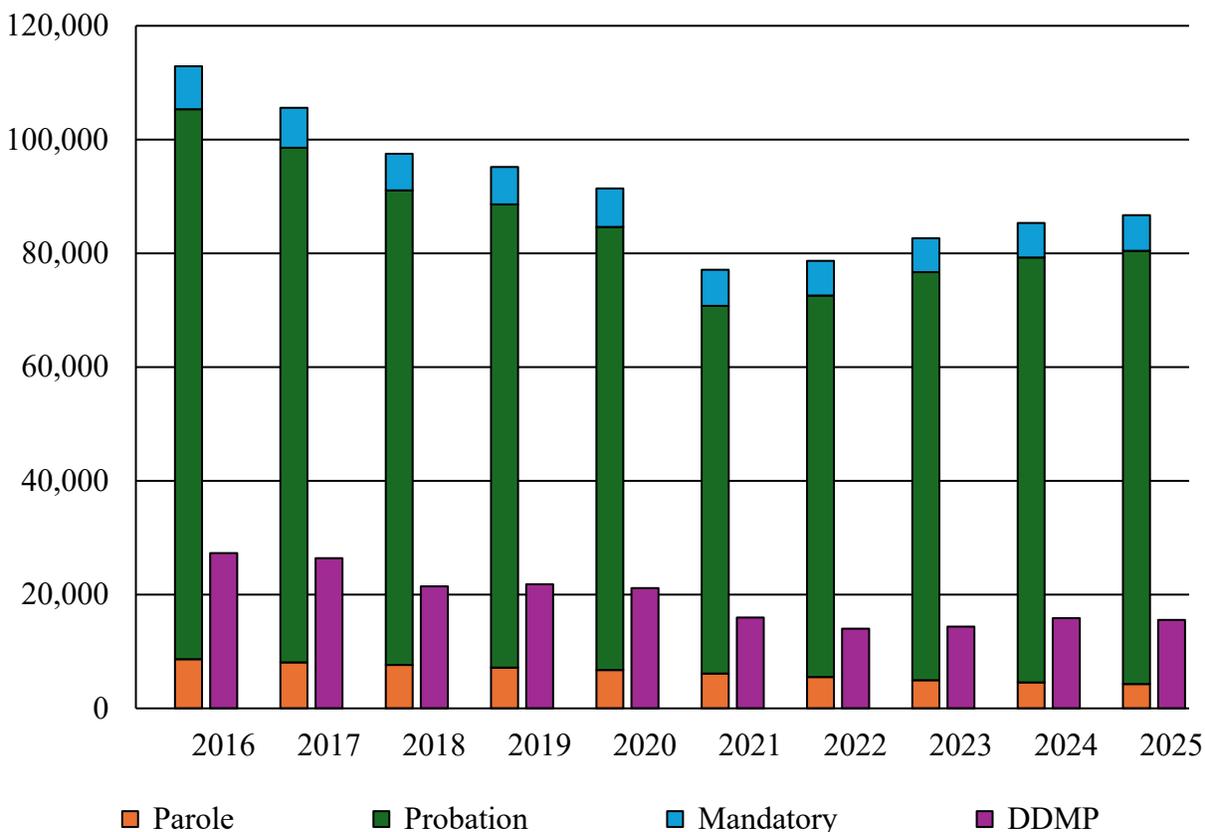
Language in the fiscal 2026 Budget Bill also expressed the intent of the General Assembly that BWC policies be a mandatory subject of collective bargaining in any agreement between DPSCS and the employee union acting on behalf of parole and probation agents. A preliminary meeting on January 22, 2026, was set for the department and union to begin negotiations on the structure and scope of the BWC policies. A program to pilot the use of BWCs that was set to begin January 1, 2026, has been delayed as DPP continues to finalize its BWC policy. The department estimates BWCs will cost \$4.9 million over the next five years. **DLS determined the report on BWC expenditures and related policies to be in compliance with the language and recommends the release of \$150,000 in withheld general funds. DLS will process a letter to this effect if no objections are raised by the committees.**

**DLS recommends adopting committee narrative requesting a report by October 1, 2026, on DPP efforts to improve the safety of community supervision agents and the progress of the implementation of BWCs for parole and probation agents.**

## **2. Community Supervision Cases Increase While Caseloads Improve**

DPP operates 37 offices with at least 1 office in every local jurisdiction. **Exhibit 3** shows the total number of cases supervised in each category (probation, parole, and mandatory release) during fiscal 2016 to 2025. DDMP monitors are responsible for DDMP cases, while DPP parole and probation agents are responsible for criminal supervision cases. After a decline due to court closures during COVID-19, total cases are on the rise. The total number of cases supervised during fiscal 2025 was 86,714, an increase of 1,371 cases, or 1.6%, from fiscal 2024. The increase is driven by a rise in the number of individuals on probation, which increased by 1,470 cases. Of the 86,714 cases, approximately 32,746 were actively monitored by agents. Parole continued to decline in fiscal 2025; however, mandatory release and probation saw increases of 3.2% and 2.0%, respectively.

**Exhibit 3  
Community Supervision Cases  
Fiscal 2016-2025**

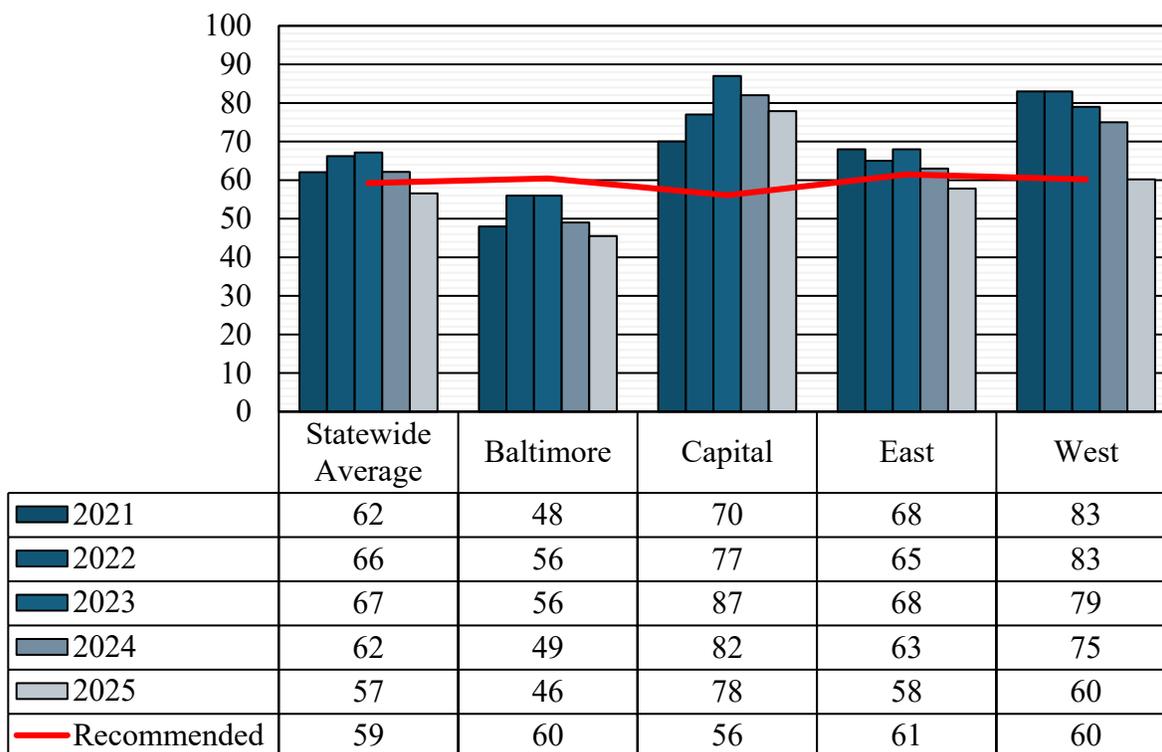


DDMP: Drinking Driver Monitor Program

Source: Department of Budget and Management; Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services

The rise in the total number of agents has contributed to modest improvements from the high agent caseloads from the past four fiscal years. The American Parole and Probation Association (APPA) recommends that active case-to-agent ratios not exceed 20:1 for intensive supervision clients, 50:1 for moderate/high supervision clients, or 200:1 for low-risk supervision clients. Lower caseload ratios are associated with improved outcomes, particularly for high- and moderate-risk clients. DLS calculates that the recommended caseload ratio for Maryland community supervision agents is approximately 59 cases per agent using the APPA metrics. **Exhibit 4** compares the average cases per agent by region to a calculation of the recommended caseload per APPA guidelines.

**Exhibit 4  
Average Cases Per DPP Agent by Region  
Fiscal 2021-2025**



DPP: Division of Parole and Probation

Note: The recommended caseload was calculated by the Department of Legislative Services using the American Parole and Probation Association’s recommendations for case-to-agent ratios based on client risk.

Source: Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services; Department of Legislative Services

All regions saw a decline in cases per agent in fiscal 2025, driven by an increase in the number of agents. The number of agents increased in all four regions, to a total of 542 agents, reflecting an increase of 7% from fiscal 2024. Three of the four regions met the APPA-recommended ratio in fiscal 2025, which differs by region. The Capital region is the only region that failed to meet the recommended ratio. Its caseload ratio of 78 cases per agent in fiscal 2025 is approximately 22 cases higher than the recommended number of 56 cases per agent.

**DLS recommends adopting committee narrative requesting that the annual report on DPP caseloads for parole and probation agents be submitted by September 15, 2026.**

### **3. Delays Continue in Acquiring New Risk Assessment Tool**

DPP is required by statute to utilize an evidence-based risk and needs assessment tool to assess and classify individuals who are brought under DPP supervision. The agents working for DPP have used two tools in the past: the Initial Risk Screener (IRS) and the Level of Service Inventory – Revised (LSI-R). From fiscal 2021 to 2024, DPSCS contracted two studies to assess whether the risk assessment tools were effective predictors of recidivism and to determine whether they needed to be replaced.

The contractors found that the LSI-R tool should no longer be used as a risk assessment tool but rather as a case planning tool. They found the IRS to be an effective predictor of recidivism and that it should act as the primary tool for DPP while the department selects a new tool. However, since the contractor’s recommendations were released in January 2024, there have been a number of delays in identifying a new tool. The department reported that it was in the process of procuring a new tool, and it anticipated an award in fall 2025. During fiscal 2026, the department expects the project to launch, undergo model development in which the contractor uses agency data to develop a risk classification model, develop a needs assessment, and collaborate with the DPSCS Information Technology (IT) team. The department expects a new tool to be ready to begin validation testing by the first quarter of fiscal 2027. **The department should comment on whether the risk assessment tool contract was awarded and give an update on the status of implementation.**

**DLS recommends adopting committee narrative requesting that the annual report on the implementation of new DPP risk assessment tools be submitted by September 1, 2026.**

## Operating Budget Recommended Actions

1. Adopt the following narrative:

**Status of Parole and Probation Agents Safety Efforts:** The Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) is in the process of implementing safety measures for its parole and probation agents. The committees request that, by October 1, 2026, DPSCS submit a report detailing the status of providing parole and probation agents with body-worn cameras, multi-threat vests, and the implementation efforts of any other protective equipment provided to agents. The report should include details on training requirements and completion rates, implementation timelines of the new equipment, total and ongoing costs, the status of any pilot programs, and the regions in which those programs have been deployed or are planned. The report should also provide an update on police escort policies and data on how many home visits were accompanied by law enforcement, including any regional variation.

<b>Information Request</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
Report on parole and probation agent safety efforts	DPSCS	October 1, 2026

2. Adopt the following narrative:

**Division of Parole and Probation (DPP) Caseload Report:** In recent years, DPP has been working to reduce supervision caseloads to a manageable level for its parole and probation agents. Caseload ratios overall are decreasing but remain high in the capital region. The committees request a report due by September 15, 2026, from DPP on the following:

- the exact breakdown of support staff and general supervision caseloads by office into DPP supervision levels for fiscal 2026;
- the exact breakdown of case closures by reason, region, and office; and
- a description of strategies that DPP is using to reduce caseload ratios and prevent agents from taking on too many cases.

<b>Information Request</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
Report on DPP caseloads	DPP	September 15, 2026

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3. Adopt the following narrative:

**Report on Risk Assessment Tools:** The Division of Parole and Probation (DPP) has delayed the replacement of the assessment tools used to classify offenders placed on community supervision and the role of these tools in case management. This issue is of particular concern with regard to maintaining proper caseloads for agents as well as providing agents with a reliable framework for addressing the individual needs of each offender. The committees request that DPP submit a report, due September 1, 2026, on the transition to new screening tools used in community supervision. The report should include a status update of implementation of the new tool and a transition timeline on when the project will be complete.

<b>Information Request</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
Report on assessment tools	DPP	September 1, 2026

**Appendix 1**  
**2025 Joint Chairmen’s Report Responses from Agency**

The 2025 *Joint Chairmen’s Report* (JCR) requested that DPSCS prepare four reports. Electronic copies of the full JCR responses can be found on the DLS Library website.

- ***Report on Parole and Probation Safety Efforts:*** DPP provided information on enhanced equipment for community supervision agents, including multi-threat ballistic vests, upgraded pepper spray, upgraded cell phones, and tracking software. DPP also provided information on training requirements, the timeline for the resumption of home visits, and efforts to partner with local law enforcement to join home visits. Further discussion of this report can be found in Key Observation 1 of this analysis.
- ***Report on BWCs for Community Supervision Agents:*** DPP reported that it plans to spend \$4.9 million on BWCs over the next five years. MPTSC adopted regulations on the use of BWCs; however, DPP’s policy for the use of cameras remains under review. Further discussion of this report can be found in Key Observation 1 of this analysis.
- ***DPP Caseload Report:*** DPP provided caseload, outcomes, and support staff data by office and region. Caseload ratios decreased in fiscal 2025 but remained above recommended levels in the Capital region. Further discussion of this data can be found in Key Observation 2 of this analysis.
- ***Report on Assessment Tools:*** DPP discussed the transition to new screening tools and is in the procurement process. Implementation will roll out in stages starting in fiscal 2026, with system development, testing, and IT integration continuing into fiscal 2027. Further discussion of this report can be found in Key Observation 3 of this analysis.

**Appendix 2**  
**Object/Fund Difference Report**  
**Department of Public Safety and Community Services – Community Supervision**

<u>Object/Fund</u>	<u>FY 25 Actual</u>	<u>FY 26 Working Appropriation</u>	<u>FY 27 Allowance</u>	<u>FY 26 - 27 \$ Change</u>	<u>% Change</u>
<b>Positions</b>					
01 Regular	1,152.00	1,180.00	1,177.00	-3.00	-0.3%
02 Contractual	4.13	15.07	3.92	-11.15	-74.0%
<b>Total Positions</b>	<b>1,156.13</b>	<b>1,195.07</b>	<b>1,180.92</b>	<b>-14.15</b>	<b>-1.2%</b>
<b>Objects</b>					
01 Salaries, Wages, and Fringe Benefits	\$127,122,520	\$126,447,031	\$130,210,792	\$3,763,761	3.0%
02 Technical and Special Fees	289,916	437,840	250,327	-187,513	-42.8%
03 Communications	1,269,889	1,272,711	1,204,354	-68,357	-5.4%
04 Travel	65,704	61,488	72,809	11,321	18.4%
06 Fuel and Utilities	265,128	229,000	266,700	37,700	16.5%
07 Motor Vehicle Operation and Maintenance	636,181	976,504	674,960	-301,544	-30.9%
08 Contractual Services	5,508,084	6,785,653	6,181,458	-604,195	-8.9%
09 Supplies and Materials	121,651	204,000	196,000	-8,000	-3.9%
10 Equipment – Replacement	1,011,263	225,000	225,000	0	0.0%
11 Equipment – Additional	975	881,780	1,505,569	623,789	70.7%
12 Grants, Subsidies, and Contributions	288,238	450,000	450,000	0	0.0%
13 Fixed Charges	3,822,871	4,206,918	4,247,955	41,037	1.0%
<b>Total Objects</b>	<b>\$140,402,420</b>	<b>\$142,177,925</b>	<b>\$145,485,924</b>	<b>\$3,307,999</b>	<b>2.3%</b>
<b>Funds</b>					
	\$140,402,420	\$142,177,925	\$145,485,924	\$3,307,999	2.3%
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>\$140,402,420</b>	<b>\$142,177,925</b>	<b>\$145,485,924</b>	<b>\$3,307,999</b>	<b>2.3%</b>

Note: The fiscal 2026 appropriation includes proposed deficiency appropriations. The fiscal 2027 allowance does not include statewide salary adjustments budgeted within the Department of Budget and Management.