

GAO

Testimony
Before the Subcommittee on the
District of Columbia, Committee on
Government Reform, House of
Representatives

For Release on Delivery
Expected at 10:00 a.m. EDT
Friday, July 20, 2001

PRISONER RELEASES

**Reintegration of Offenders
Into Communities**

Statement of Laurie E. Ekstrand
Director, Justice Issues



G A O

Accountability * Integrity * Reliability

Madam Chairwoman and Members of the Subcommittee:

I am pleased to be here today to discuss our June 2001 report on prisoner releases and reintegration programs¹ and to provide some perspectives on the particular challenges posed by District of Columbia offenders. Our recent report presented information on national trends in the number of inmates released from federal and state prisons, the extent of recidivism, the criminal and drug use histories of inmates, and programs for preparing and assisting offenders with reintegrating into communities. In my testimony today, I will summarize that information and, as applicable, provide supplementary data focusing on the D.C. community.

Background

U.S. criminal justice policies and other factors in recent years have resulted in record numbers of offenders being incarcerated in prisons. Although many inmates are serving longer sentences than they would have a decade ago, most inmates are not serving life sentences without the possibility of parole or release. After inmates complete their terms, they return to communities throughout the nation. Although many are successfully reintegrated into society, other ex-offenders are arrested for new crimes or violations of parole or supervision and are returned to prison. In order to reduce recidivism rates—and to enhance public safety, alleviate fiscal pressures associated with ex-offenders being returned to prison, and to provide opportunities for ex-offenders to straighten out their lives—policymakers, correctional system administrators, and other concerned parties are looking for ways to more successfully reintegrate ex-offenders into communities.

The D.C. community is no exception. Indeed, the District—a wholly urban jurisdiction—is perhaps facing greater challenges than most jurisdictions. For instance, according to Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) data as of December 31, 1999, D.C. had a higher incarceration rate than any state in the nation.² The D.C. incarceration rate, which is 1,314 prisoners with sentences of more than 1 year per 100,000 residents, was about 1.7 times higher than the rate for either Louisiana (776) or Texas (762), the jurisdictions with the next highest incarceration rates. Also, the D.C.

¹*Prisoner Releases: Trends and Information on Reintegration Programs* (GAO-01-483, June 18, 2001).

²BJS, “Prisoners in 1999” (NCJ 183476, Aug. 2000).

incarceration rate was about 2.8 times higher than the national average of 476 prisoners per 100,000 U.S. residents.

D.C. felony inmates are now the responsibility of the federal correctional system, as required by the 1997 Revitalization Act.³ Specifically, under the act, the D.C. Department of Corrections' Lorton Correctional Complex is to be closed by December 31, 2001, and the felony population (sentenced pursuant to the D.C. Code) residing at Lorton is to be transferred to facilities operated by or contracted for by the federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP).⁴ Also, the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for the District of Columbia (CSOSA) was created under the Revitalization Act and was tasked with supervising adult D.C. Code offenders on probation, parole, and supervised release.⁵ CSOSA began under a trustee and was certified as an independent federal agency in August 2000.

Inmate Releases and Recidivism Reflect a Revolving Door Trend

Nationally, the total inmate population in federal and state prisons increased almost fourfold during the past 2 decades—from about 0.3 million at the end of 1980 to about 1.3 million at the end of 1999. Consistent with the trend of larger prison populations, the number of inmates who complete their sentences and return to communities has also risen significantly in recent years, surpassing the half-million mark in 1998. After being released, many individuals—about 40 percent historically—later are sent back to prison for committing new offenses or violating conditions of release.⁶

Regarding criminal history, BJS' most recent nationwide survey of prison inmates (1997) showed that 40 percent of federal inmates and 55 percent of state inmates in prison in 1997 had served prior prison sentences. Moreover, not all inmates had a long stretch of "street time" between sentences. Of the inmates who were in prison in 1997, more than one-

³National Capital Revitalization and Self-Government Improvement Act of 1997, P.L. 105-33, Title XI, 111 Stat. 712 (1997).

⁴For further details regarding the closing of the Lorton Correctional Complex, see *District of Columbia: Issues Related to the Youngstown Prison Report and Lorton Closure Process* (GAO/GGD-00-86, Apr. 7, 2000).

⁵Some offenders are placed on probation in lieu of incarceration. Parole and supervised release are forms of postprison community supervision.

⁶Appendix I presents additional information about trends in releases from federal and state prisons and returns for violating parole or other release conditions.

quarter (27 percent) of federal inmates and nearly half (47 percent) of the state inmates were under supervision at the time of the arrest that led to their incarceration. Further, according to testimony before this Subcommittee last year, BJS data showed that D.C. defendants and offenders had more extensive criminal histories than the national averages.⁷ For example, the March 2000 testimony noted the following:

- In D.C., 98.3 percent of all adult probationers had prior convictions, almost twice the national average of 50 percent.
- Among D.C. parolees, the percentage with at least one prior conviction was 99 percent.
- 23 percent of D.C. parolees had six or more prior convictions.

BJS' 1997 survey of federal and state inmates showed that it is not just criminal histories generally that characterize the bulk of inmates in prison, but substantial histories of drug use as well. For example, the 1997 survey showed that 57 percent of federal and 70 percent of state inmates reported having used drugs regularly before prison. Also, approximately 1 in 4 (28 percent) federal inmates and 1 in 3 (34 percent) state inmates reported having used cocaine or crack regularly.

Regarding D.C. offenders and drug use, in a June 2000 report, the National Institute of Justice noted that 69 percent of adult males arrested in the District in 1999 tested positive for at least one type of drug.⁸ This figure was 5 percentage points higher than the median rate (64 percent) for use of any drug among the adult males arrested in the 34 urban sites covered by the report. Moreover, according to recent (March 2001) CSOSA data, two-thirds of D.C. parolees have substance abuse problems.⁹

⁷Statement of John A. Carver, Trustee, Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for the District of Columbia, before the Subcommittee on the District of Columbia, Committee on Appropriations, House of Representatives, March 23, 2000.

⁸*Arrestee Drug Abuse Monitoring (ADAM) Program: 1999 Annual Report on Adult and Juvenile Arrestees* (NCJ 181426, June 2000). ADAM is a National Institute of Justice research program that provides planning and policy information on drug use and other characteristics of arrestees in U.S. cities through quarterly interviews of adult and juvenile arrestees in holding facilities. The 1999 program collected data from more than 30,000 adult male arrestees in 34 reporting sites. ADAM data consist of arrestees' self-reports regarding their drug use and urinalysis results.

⁹"CSOSA Fact Sheet – Re-Entry System" (Mar. 2001).

Regarding inmate participation in prison programs, BJS' 1997 survey data were less extensive but indicated that some needs, such as drug treatment, might be unmet. Although not all drug users may need treatment, our analysis of inmates scheduled to be released within 12 months of BJS' 1997 survey showed that 33 percent of the federal and 36 percent of the state inmates participated in residential inpatient treatment programs for alcohol or drug abuse.¹⁰ Further, for prison programs other than drug treatment, BJS' 1997 survey data on inmates scheduled for release indicated the following:

- 27 percent of both federal and state inmates participated in vocational training programs;
- 11 percent of the federal inmates worked in prison industry jobs, compared with 2 percent of the state inmates; and
- 37 percent of federal inmates participated in prerelease programs, compared with 12 percent of state inmates.

Reintegration Addressed in Three Phases of Federal Correctional System

Generally, in the federal correctional system, an inmate's preparation for reintegration is to encompass all three phases of the system. That is, the process is to begin immediately and extend throughout the in-prison phase of the offender's incarceration in a BOP correctional facility, continue during a transitional period in a community-based halfway house for a period not to exceed the final 180 days of the sentence, and further continue after the offender's release during a 3- to 5-year period of community supervision by probation officers. BOP oversees inmate activities during the in-prison phase and the halfway house phase, and U.S. Probation Offices oversee the community supervision phase.¹¹

For the in-prison phase, BOP provides programs—including work, education, vocational training, and drug treatment—to help inmates rehabilitate themselves.¹² According to BOP, providing such programs not only supports correctional management purposes, such as minimizing idleness and increasing the safety of staff, but also prepares inmates for

¹⁰Appendix II presents additional information about inmate participation in substance abuse treatment programs.

¹¹U.S. Probation Offices are responsible for the community supervision of federal offenders sentenced under the U.S. Code by U.S. District Courts. CSOSA is responsible for supervising D.C. Code-sentenced offenders released by BOP to the community. CSOSA's community supervision officers manage a blended caseload of parolees and probationers.

¹²Appendix III presents additional information about BOP programs for prisoners.

employment opportunities and successful reintegration upon release. Moreover, BOP's policy is that rehabilitation programming is to continue during the halfway house phase. During this phase, for example, each participating inmate is expected to find and keep a job and, if applicable, continue to participate in drug or alcohol treatment programs. Further, after an inmate is released from BOP's custody, a probation officer is expected to finalize a supervision plan for managing the offender in the community. The supervision plan should reflect a probation officer's statutory responsibilities, which include reducing the risk the offender poses to the community and providing the offender with access to treatment, such as substance abuse aftercare and mental health services.¹³

As mentioned previously, based on the 1997 Revitalization Act, BOP is now responsible for incarcerating felony inmates sentenced under the D.C. Code. Implementation of the act, including the status of progress in transferring all D.C. Code-sentenced felons to BOP, was a topic of a congressional appropriations hearing held earlier this month. At the hearing, the Corrections Trustee for the District of Columbia noted that, of the current D.C. inmate population of 10,200 inmates, almost 8,000 were adult felony inmates, and about 4,500 had already been transferred to the permanent custody of BOP.¹⁴ Also, the Corrections Trustee noted that nearly 80 percent of the transferred inmates were housed in facilities within 500 miles of the District.

Further, at the hearing, the Corrections Trustee testified that, before the Revitalization Act, few D.C. inmates had the benefit of a transitional period in a halfway house before being released for return to the community. While noting that much progress has been made, the Corrections Trustee stated that there continues to be a shortage of halfway house beds.

¹³Appendix IV presents additional information about the supervision tools and community-based social services used by federal probation officers.

¹⁴Testimony of John L. Clark, Corrections Trustee for the District of Columbia, at a hearing held by the Subcommittee on the District of Columbia, Committee on Appropriations, U.S. Senate, July 10, 2001.

National and D.C. Reintegration Initiatives

The Departments of Justice, Labor, and Health and Human Services (DOJ, DOL, and HHS)—in response to the large numbers of offenders being released from state prisons and returning to communities—are developing a federal grant program, the “Young Offender Initiative: Reentry Grant Program and the Demonstration Grant Program.” The goal of the interagency Young Offender Initiative is to help states and communities work together to improve offender supervision and accountability and essential support services in order to enhance community safety through the successful reintegration into the community of high-risk or special-need offenders released from state prisons, juvenile correctional facilities, and local facilities housing state inmates. Under the initiative, interagency resources are to jointly target the same communities, especially areas with high concentrations of returning offenders. And communities are to be encouraged to focus on offenders who pose significant public safety risks and who are likely to benefit from structured interventions.

For fiscal year 2001—the first year of federal funding for the Young Offender Initiative—designated funding consisted of \$30 million from DOJ, \$55 million from DOL, and \$8 million from HHS. The three federal agencies have joint responsibility for developing solicitations for grant applications from jurisdictions interested in applying for federal funds available under the initiative. The first solicitation—for the Reentry Grant Program component of the initiative—was issued June 1, 2001. Applications are to be submitted to DOJ by October 1, 2001. According to the solicitation, approximately \$79 million is available to fund approximately 25 grants of up to \$3.1 million each to applicants that demonstrate a collaborative effort and broad-based community support. Under the Reentry Grant Program component, applicants are to focus on a population of young offenders (within the age range of 14 to 35 years old) returning to the community from incarceration (minimum of 12 consecutive months for adults, 6 consecutive months for juveniles) who pose a risk to community safety.

A second solicitation—for the Demonstration Grant Program component of the Young Offender Initiative—is to be issued at a future date. According to the federal agencies, this grant program will fund separate awards totaling up to \$11.5 million for communities to focus on an age-related subset of the Young Offender Initiative’s target population. That is, the component is to focus on young offenders (within the age range of 14 to 24 years old) who are already involved in the criminal justice system or gangs or who are at risk of such involvement. A basic goal of the Demonstration Grant Program component—and of the Reentry Grant Program component—is to provide reentering offenders with job training

and employment opportunities, education, substance abuse treatment and rehabilitation, mental health care and aftercare, housing assistance, family support services, and criminal justice supervision.

Applicants may apply for awards under both solicitations. However, according to the federal agencies, applicants are to be eligible to receive only one award for the same or similar target populations.

Under the Young Offender Initiative, grant assistance eligibility regarding offenders released from BOP custody and returning to the District depends on various factors. For instance, according to DOJ officials, since the initiative is intended to assist state offenders, one technical factor is whether the offender was sentenced under the D.C. Code versus the U.S. Code. Also, the officials noted that assistance eligibility can depend on whether proposed program plans are consistent with the overall purpose of the initiative and incorporate all required program elements, including identification of target populations.

Regarding other initiatives for reintegrating D.C. offenders, in March 2001, we reported on various ongoing efforts to improve operations of the D.C. criminal justice system.¹⁵ For example, in November 1998, CSOSA formed its first “Community Justice Partnership” with the Metropolitan Police Department. Under this initiative, CSOSA’s community supervision officers are to work closely with police officers to monitor probationers and parolees in the District, improve offender accountability, and develop community networks to solve problems and prevent crime.

Also, in July 2000, the “Pilot Reentry System” initiative was started. A principal component is a “learning lab” to provide computer software training, as well as basic adult education, for offenders returning to the District. For the pilot, DOJ’s Executive Office for Weed and Seed provided financial support. Other participants included CSOSA, the University of the District of Columbia, and the D.C. Office of Justice Grants Administration. According to CSOSA officials, a second learning lab is now in operation, and plans are under way for a third and a fourth lab. Finally, CSOSA noted that recently introduced federal legislation—the “Drug Abuse Education, Prevention and Treatment Act of 2001” (S. 304)—

¹⁵*D.C. Criminal Justice System: Better Coordination Needed Among Participating Agencies* (GAO-01-187, Mar. 30, 2001).

would authorize funding for local reentry efforts in the District, efforts that would focus on high-risk parolees.

Madam Chairwoman, this concludes my prepared statement, I would be pleased to answer any questions that you or other Members of the Subcommittee may have.

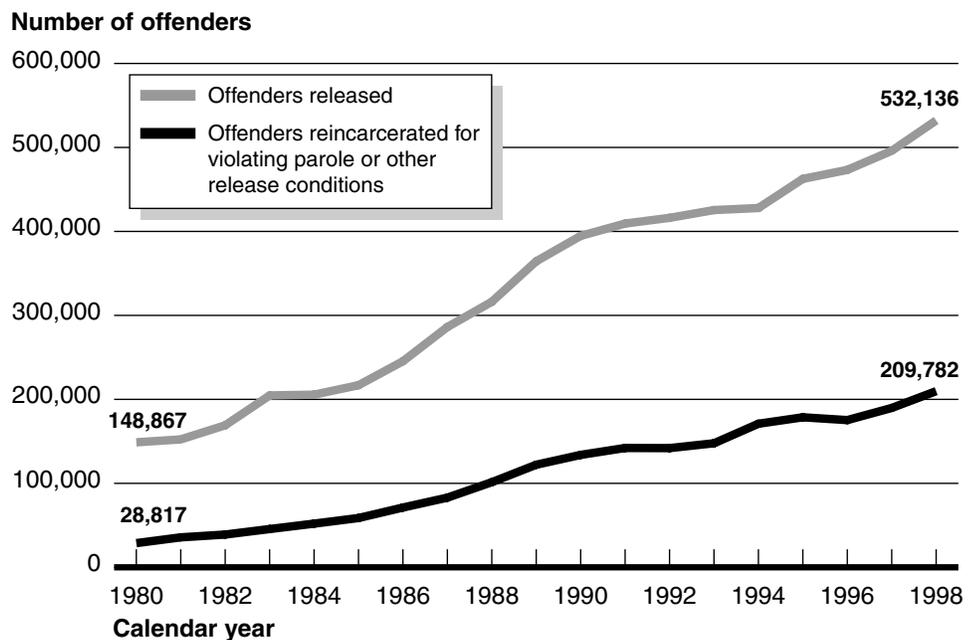
Contacts and Acknowledgments

For further information regarding this testimony, please contact Laurie E. Ekstrand at (202-512-8777) or Danny R. Burton at (214) 777-5600. Individuals making key contributions to this testimony included Ann H. Finley, Mary K. Muse, and Ellen T. Wolfe.

Appendix I: Trends in Prison Releases and Returns

As figure 1 shows, the number of federal and state inmates released to communities increased from 148,867 in 1980 to 532,136 in 1998, the most recent year for which complete data were available.¹

Figure 1: Trends in Releases From Federal and State Prisons and Returns for Violating Parole or Other Release Conditions



Note 1: For offenders released, no federal data were reported for 1990, 1991, and 1992. For these 3 years, the graph reflects only state prison releases.

Note 2: For offenders reincarcerated, violations of parole or other release conditions can consist of various technical violations, such as not keeping appointments with probation officers or failing a urinalysis test for illegal drug use. Supervision revocations and reincarcerations can also result from the commission of a new crime, an act that violates the most basic of release conditions. However, the reincarceration data shown in the graph do not include returns to prison of ex-offenders who committed a new crime while not under parole or other supervised release.

Source: Compiled by GAO from BJS data.

Also, figure 1 shows that the number of offenders reincarcerated for violating parole or other release conditions increased more than

¹In 1998, of the total number of inmates released, 95 percent (506,049) were state prisoners.

sevenfold, from 28,817 in 1980 to 209,782 in 1998.² These reincarceration data, as noted in figure 1, do not include ex-offenders who were returned to prisons for committing a new crime but were not under parole or supervised release. Nonetheless, the reincarcerations shown in figure 1 represent an increasing proportion of all prison admissions. For instance, reincarceration of violators of parole or other release conditions represented 17 percent of all prison admissions in 1980 but increased to 35 percent of admissions in 1998.

²In 1998, of the total number of violators reincarcerated, 98 percent (206,152) were returned to state prisons.

Appendix II: Substance Abuse Treatment and Programs for Prisoners

Generally, while agreeing that there is a need for more substance abuse treatment for prisoners, BJS officials offered a cautionary comment about statistics that quantify this need. For instance, the officials commented that not all drug users are addicts. Also, the officials noted that BJS' most recent (1997) survey of federal and state prison inmates showed that the percent of alcohol- or drug-involved prisoners, who—since admission to prison—participated in treatment or other substance-abuse programs, increased as the time to expected release decreased. As table 1 shows, for example, among the alcohol- or drug-involved federal inmates, about 20 percent of the inmates serving their final 6 months reported receiving treatment, compared with 10 percent of the inmates with more than a year until release.

Table 1: Inmate Participation in Substance Abuse Treatment or Other Programs in 1997

Time to expected release	Treatment^a	Other programs^b
Federal prisoners		
Greater than 1 year	10.0%	24.2%
6 to 12 months	12.5	28.4
Less than 6 months	20.5	36.9
State prisoners		
Greater than 1 year	12.6	31.0
6 to 12 months	16.3	32.4
Less than 6 months	18.6	34.0

Note: These data show inmate participation since admission to prison for current offense.

^aIncludes residential facilities, professional counseling, detoxification units, and maintenance drug programs.

^bIncludes self-help or peer counseling groups and educational or awareness programs.

Source: BJS, Special Report, "Substance Abuse and Treatment, State and Federal Prisoners, 1997" (NCJ 172871, Jan. 1999), p. 9.

Appendix III: BOP Provides Various Programs for Inmates

To help inmates rehabilitate themselves, BOP provides various programs, such as education, work, vocational training, and drug treatment programs. For example, BOP requires all federal inmates to work if they are medically able. BOP recognizes that release preparation begins at initial intake or classification¹ and encourages inmates to begin preparing for their release from prison upon their arrival at the institution. Table 2 describes the programs generally available to inmates during incarceration, although not all federal prisoners participate in these programs.

Table 2: BOP In-Prison Programs for Inmates

Program type	Program description
Education	<p>Literacy programs are to allow inmates without a high school diploma (or its equivalent) to earn a General Equivalency Diploma (GED). Under provisions of the Prison Litigation Reform Act of 1995 (P.L. 104-134), inmates lacking high school credentials must participate and make satisfactory progress in the GED program in order to earn the maximum amount of good time credit, which may reduce sentence length. According to BOP, 3,962 federal inmates successfully passed the GED test during the first 9 months of fiscal year 2000.</p> <p>An English-as-a-second-language program is to allow inmates with limited English fluency skills to achieve at least an eighth grade English proficiency level. The Comprehensive Crime Control Act of 1990 mandates that non-English-proficient inmates participate in this program until they function at the eighth grade level in English competency. According to BOP, 18,852 federal inmates (15 percent of the total federal inmate population) were eligible for the English fluency program during calendar year 1999.</p>
Work	<p>Inmates are to learn job skills in institutional job assignments, such as food service worker, orderly, plumber, painter, warehouse worker, or groundskeeper. Also, some inmates work in Federal Prison Industries, Inc. (UNICOR) factories that produce, for example, metal products, furniture, electronics, or textiles. According to BOP, most inmates have institutional job assignments, and the other inmates work in UNICOR factories—although a small percentage of inmates have no work assignments due to medical conditions.</p>
Occupational or vocational training	<p>BOP reports that it has occupational or vocational training programs that encompass 86 different skill areas, and inmates are provided with opportunities to develop work skills by on-the-job training through institution work assignments and prison industry jobs. For fiscal year 1999, BOP reported that 8,711 federal inmates completed at least 1 occupational training program. Also, as of March 2000, BOP data showed that 9,427 federal inmates (about 9 percent of total federal inmate population) were enrolled in an occupational training program.</p>
Drug treatment	<p>According to BOP, its drug treatment programs include substance abuse education, nonresidential substance abuse treatment and counseling, and residential substance abuse treatment. BOP data indicate that approximately 34 percent of the total federal inmate population have a diagnosed substance abuse disorder. For fiscal year 2000, BOP reported that 12,541 federal inmates participated in its residential drug abuse treatment program.</p>

¹In the context of correctional systems, the term “classification” refers to the systematic subdivision of inmates into groups on the basis of their security and program needs.

Program type	Program description
Mental health	Psychologists are to provide professional diagnosis, counseling, and treatment on an individual or group basis. In calendar year 2000, BOP data showed that 14,369 federal inmates (10 percent of the total federal inmate population) were diagnosed with a mental health need.
Release preparation	Designed to help inmates transition from prison to the community, this program is to offer courses in six core areas—(1) health and nutrition, (2) personal growth and development, (3) personal finance and consumer skills, (4) employment, (5) release requirements and procedures, and (6) information on community resources. Beginning approximately 24 months before release, inmates are encouraged to enroll in and complete at least one course in each core area. Generally, each core area may offer various courses. For example, the health and nutrition core area may include courses about disease prevention, including AIDS awareness, as well as courses about weight management and how to eat nutritionally.
Inmate placement	This program is to encourage federal correctional institutions to plan and hold mock job fairs to help inmates hone their job search and interview techniques. In addition, the inmate placement program is to provide job placement services to inmates, help inmates prepare release folders (which include such documents as a social security card, education certificates, and vocational certifications), and help institutions establish onsite employment centers. According to BOP, between 1996 and 2000, the inmate placement program conducted 127 mock job fairs at 66 institutions, with approximately 5,000 inmates participating.

Source: GAO analysis of BOP data.

The same types of programs as those presented in table 2 are also available to federal inmates during their transition back to the community (i.e., during the inmates' halfway house stay) or during the offenders' term of community supervision. For example, inmates with diagnosed substance abuse addictions who were receiving treatment in prison are to continue that treatment during their transitional period at contractor-operated halfway houses and after release to supervision. Also, inmates who are prescribed medications for diagnosed mental illness are to leave the institution with a 30-day supply to begin their halfway house stays.

Appendix IV: Supervision Tools and Community-Based Services Used by Federal Probation Officers

National community supervision policies are established by the Judicial Conference of the United States, which is the policymaking authority for the federal judiciary. Each district court appoints officers and supervises the implementation of the probation system. The Administrative Office of the United States Courts (AOUSC) develops and communicates national community supervision policies for federal probation officers.

Table 3 presents examples of the various resources—supervision tools and community-based social services—used by federal probation officers to assist offenders with reintegration issues. The tools and services apply to U.S. Probation Offices and the descriptions presented in table 3 were provided to us by AOUSC. Thus, the examples are not directly applicable to the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for the District of Columbia (CSOSA), which is responsible for supervising D.C. Code-sentenced offenders released to the community. However, CSOSA officials told us that, to some extent, the agency’s community supervision officers may use similar tools and services.

Table 3: Supervision Tools and Community-Based Social Services Used by Federal Probation Officers

Tools and services	Description
Basic services	Probation officers may need to help offenders obtain services, such as welfare and food stamps, to meet basic needs. Officers also may make arrangements for emergency temporary housing and financial assistance for the purchase of necessities, such as food, clothing, medicine, and child care. In addition, referrals may be made to anger management, parenting, and money management counseling services. Also, transportation may be arranged for offenders to travel to and from treatment facilities, vocational training, or placement programs.
Employment assistance	Probation officers may refer offenders for testing and work skills evaluations, preemployment training, classroom training, and skill-development community service placements. Also, probation officers may make direct referrals to employment or job placement agencies. Further, medical examinations may be obtained to determine employment suitability.
Literacy, education, and vocational training	Literacy, GED, and vocational training programs are available, as is access to higher education institutions. According to AOUSC, stipends are available for clients attending such programs.
Diagnostic assessment of substance abuse	A formal substance abuse assessment may be conducted by a licensed professional. The assessment may include a comprehensive diagnostic interview and testing, followed by a prognosis report and treatment plan.
Detoxification services	Probation officers may request inpatient and outpatient detoxification services. Such services may include, for example, a physical examination and report; medication, such as methadone, antabuse, or trexan; laboratory work; and residential placement.
Substance abuse treatment	Educational, counseling, residential, and medical approaches to treatment are available to address substance abuse problems of varying types and seriousness. These approaches or programs include substance abuse prevention and treatment readiness groups; individual, family, and group substance abuse counseling; intensive outpatient group or individual treatment; short-term residential treatment; longer term placement in a therapeutic community setting; and methadone maintenance.

Tools and services	Description
Drug detection	Probation officers and service providers may collect urine specimens, which are sent for analysis to a national laboratory under contract with AOUSC. On-site drug testing laboratories are utilized in some districts to analyze specimens and provide results in less than 1 hour. Handheld, portable drug-testing devices are also used to produce results in 5 to 10 minutes. Further, in conjunction with other testing methods, a sweat patch may be used to detect the presence of drugs in perspiration.
Alcohol detection	Hand-held breathalyzers and saliva swabs can be used to detect alcohol use. In some districts, remote alcohol detection equipment—connected to a telephone line—is used to measure the alcohol content in a breath sample and immediately transmit the results over the telephone line. Also, some districts use a vehicle ignition lock device, which links a breathalyzer to an offender’s vehicle. The ignition cannot be started unless the offender blows into the device and registers a breath alcohol content level below a prescribed point.
Diagnostic assessment for mental health	Probation officers may arrange for psychological and psychiatric evaluations, which include comprehensive diagnostic interview and testing, followed by a prognosis report and a treatment plan.
Mental health treatment	Mental health services include individual, family, and group counseling and prescriptions for psychotropic medication.
Community and home confinement	Probation officers may recommend that the courts require an offender to reside in a community corrections center or to remain in his or her residence for all or part of the day. Both of these options are used as alternatives to incarceration, permitting the officer to work with the offender in the community.
Community service	Probation officers may use a variety of civic, nonprofit, public, and private organizations to place offenders required to perform community service. Such placements are generally designed to (1) benefit the community and may also include elements that use any special skills the offender may possess, (2) enhance the offender’s awareness of the consequences of his or her actions, and (3) sharpen the offender’s employment skills.
Sex offender treatment	Sex offender management includes the use of polygraph examinations and penile plethysmograph testing, as well as special sex offender therapy programs.
Remote location verification	Continuously signaling electronic monitoring devices may be used to monitor compliance with a home confinement condition. This tool is used to detect, for example, whether an offender wearing a tamper-resistant transmitter “bracelet” is within 150 feet of a monitoring device attached to a telephone in the home. In driving by a particular location, a probation officer may use a portable (“drive-by”) electronic monitoring unit to detect whether an offender wearing a bracelet is within 300 feet of that location. An automated telephone contact system that combines caller identification and voice verification technology may be used to determine whether an offender is at a particular location. Also, according to AOUSC, global positioning systems that use the military’s satellite network are being field-tested for use in remote location verifications.

Source: AOUSC data.