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Minnesota Sentencing Guidelines Commission

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mn.gov/sentencing-guidelines/

AT A GLANCE

- Eleven Minnesota Sentencing Guidelines Commission (MSGC) members represent key criminal justice stakeholders and the public
- MSGC creates and improves Sentencing Guidelines
- Guidelines give judges uniform standards to apply when sentencing over 16,500 felony cases annually
- MSGC staff help criminal justice professionals in all 87 counties use the Guidelines correctly
- MSGC staff publish reports and conduct research on felony sentencing for Commission, Legislature, and the public

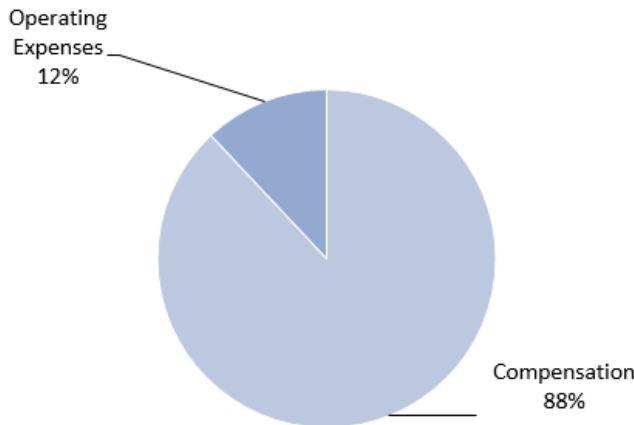
PURPOSE

The MSGC exists to establish rational and consistent sentencing standards that—

- Promote public safety;
- Reduce sentencing disparity;
- Recommending felony sanctions that are proportional to the crime’s severity and the offender’s criminal history; and
- Support the appropriate use of finite correctional resources.
- The MSGC supports the statewide outcome that **people in Minnesota are safe**
- The MSGC supports the statewide outcome of **efficient and accountable government services**

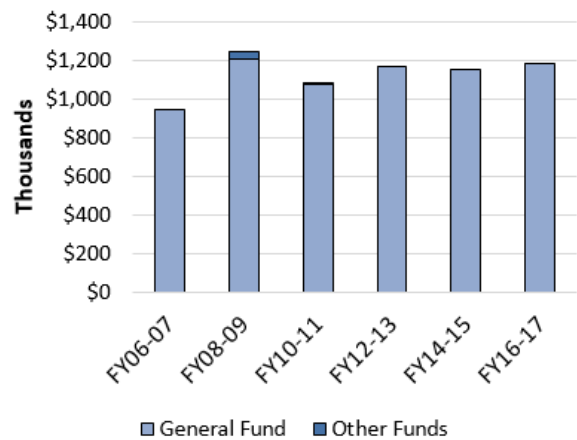
BUDGET

**Spending by Category
FY 17 Actual**



Source: Budget Planning & Analysis System (BPAS)

Historical Spending



Source: Consolidated Fund Statement

The MSGC’s activities are financed entirely through the General Fund. Its payroll budget consists of one (1) Executive Director, four (4) Research Analysts, and one (1) Management Analyst. Operating expenses included leased space, technology costs, education delivery costs, and office expenses.

STRATEGIES

The Minnesota Sentencing Guidelines Commission utilizes the following strategies to accomplish its mission:

- The MSGC meets monthly to work on improving the Sentencing Guidelines and, from time to time, making recommendations to the Legislature regarding changes to criminal law, criminal procedure, and other aspects of sentencing.
- MSGC staff create and maintain a comprehensive and accurate database on felony sentences.
- MSGC staff publish reports on sentencing practices and related criminal justice issues. These reports help policymakers, criminal justice officials, and the public evaluate felony sentencing policy and proposed legislation.
- A sentencing worksheet is required whenever a judge sentences a felony, and MSGC staff review every worksheet to ensure the accurate and consistent application of the Guidelines.
- MSGC staff provide in-person and web-based educational opportunities to help practitioners understand and correctly apply Guidelines policies.
- As needed, the MSGC and its staff respond to changes in case law, legislation, and issues raised by interested parties.
- Annually, MSGC staff work with the Department of Corrections to generate prison bed projections.
- MSGC members and staff serve on committees and task forces to further the goals of the criminal justice system.

RESULTS

<i>Type of Measure</i>	<i>Name of Measure</i>	<i>Previous</i>	<i>Current</i>	<i>Dates</i>
Quantity	Felony offenders' sentencing worksheets reviewed	16,763	16,927	2015 & 2016
Quantity	Individual data reports prepared for practitioners, media, and the public	250	300	2015 & 2016
Quality	Number of agency fiscal notes completed; timeliness percentage	78; 100%	64; 100%	2015-16 & 2017-18
Results	Percentage of felony offenders receiving the recommend Guidelines sentence	72%	74%	2015 & 2016

Minn. Stat. sec. 244.09 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/244.09>) provides the legal authority for the MSGC.

(Dollars in Thousands)

	Actual FY16	Actual FY17	Actual FY18	Estimate FY19	Forecast Base FY20 FY21		Governor's Recommendation FY20 FY21	
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Expenditures by Fund

1000 - General	567	620	646	679	671	671	679	687
Total	567	620	646	679	671	671	679	687
Biennial Change				138		17		41
Biennial % Change				12		1		3
Governor's Change from Base								24
Governor's % Change from Base								2

Expenditures by Program

Mn Sentencing Guideline Com	567	620	646	679	671	671	679	687
Total	567	620	646	679	671	671	679	687

Expenditures by Category

Compensation	505	544	569	604	610	610	618	626
Operating Expenses	62	76	76	75	61	61	61	61
Other Financial Transaction			1					
Total	567	620	646	679	671	671	679	687

Full-Time Equivalent

	5.40	5.77	5.70	5.70	5.50	5.00	6.00	6.00
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(Dollars in Thousands)

	Actual FY16	Actual FY17	Actual FY18	Estimate FY19	Forecast Base FY20 FY21		Governor's Recommendation FY20 FY21	
1000 - General								
Balance Forward In		29		9				
Direct Appropriation	595	641	655	670	671	671	679	687
Transfers Out		24						
Cancellations		26						
Balance Forward Out	28		9					
Expenditures	567	620	646	679	671	671	679	687
Biennial Change in Expenditures				138		17		41
Biennial % Change in Expenditures				12		1		3
Governor's Change from Base								24
Governor's % Change from Base								2
Full-Time Equivalents	5.40	5.77	5.70	5.70	5.50	5.00	6.00	6.00

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY19	FY20	FY21	Biennium 2020-21
Direct				
Fund: 1000 - General				
FY2019 Appropriations	670	670	670	1,340
Base Adjustments				
Pension Allocation		1	1	2
Forecast Base	670	671	671	1,342
Change Items				
Operating Adjustment		8	16	24
Total Governor's Recommendations	670	679	687	1,366

Sentencing Guidelines Commission

FY 2020-21 Biennial Budget Change Item

Change Item Title: Operating Adjustment

Fiscal Impact (\$000s)	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
General Fund				
Expenditures	8	16	16	16
Revenues	0	0	0	0
Other Funds				
Expenditures	0	0	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0	0
Net Fiscal Impact = (Expenditures – Revenues)	8	16	16	16
Maintain FTEs	.5	1.0	1.0	1.0

Recommendation:

The Governor recommends additional funding of \$24,000 in the FY 2020-2021 biennium to maintain the current level of service delivery at the Minnesota Sentencing Guidelines Commission (MSGC).

Rationale/Background:

Each year, the cost of doing business rises—employer-paid health care contributions, FICA and Medicare, along with other salary and compensation-related costs increase. Other operating costs, like rent and lease, fuel and utilities, and IT and legal services also grow. This cost growth puts pressure on agency operating budgets that remain flat from year to year.

Proposal:

The Governor recommends increasing agency operating budgets to maintain the delivery of current services. For the MSGC, this funding will cover known employee compensation growth and other operating costs.

Results:

This proposal is intended to allow agencies to continue to provide current levels of service and information to the public.