



Mississippi Department of Corrections

FISCAL YEAR 2004 MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

MDOC continues its efforts of streamlining day-to-day operations and aiding in Mississippi's budget crisis. On July 1, 2003 the number of filled MDOC positions was 3,626 or 88.9% of authorized positions. On June 30, 2004 the number of filled positions was 3,299 or 85.1% of authorized positions. This represents a decrease of 327 positions during FY 2004, a 9% decrease in filled positions for this period. Fiscal year reports show the annual salary cost savings for MDOC decreased by more than \$8 million, a 6.5% decrease compared to FY 2003 annual salaries.

Further FY 2004 Cost Saving Measures:

- \$374,630 in savings associated with reorganizing upper level positions;
- \$7,950,604 in savings associated with resignations and other terminations of staff;
- \$1.5 million in savings associated with correctional officer reductions due to closure of Units 10, 12, 22, and 24 at the Mississippi State Penitentiary; and
- \$12,000 in savings associated with centralizing the agency's purchasing department.

Labor performed by state offenders from community work centers, restitution centers, and county jails accounts for millions of dollars in savings for local municipalities, county governments, and state agencies. The free labor by the offenders includes helping state agencies like the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency during cleanup and recovery efforts following natural disasters, repairing and improving town infrastructure, assisting with community beautification projects, conducting road work and equipment maintenance. In FY 2004 MDOC offenders provided government agencies with 2,923,712 total free labor hours valued at \$15,057,116.80.

During FY 2004, 208 positions were eliminated in the agency based on legislative mandates. The elimination of the 204 full-time and 4 part-time positions has in no way affected the agency's mission to protect the public's safety. MDOC has successfully eliminated a total of 456 full-time positions from FY 2001 - FY 2004 based on legislative mandates.

In November 2000, MDOC began operating the Division of Victim Services (DVS). The division's primary function is to register crime victims so they may be notified prior to an inmate's release from incarceration. Additionally, the office provides enhanced services for the victim including offender status, crisis intervention, information regarding the Crime Victim Compensation Program and Crime Victims' Rights, liaison with law enforcement agencies and field officers, restitution matters, protective orders, harassment by offenders, coordination of victim/offender dialogue, assistance with Parole Board meetings, and preparation/escort services during executions. During FY 2004, the number of victims served by DVS was 1,000, an 89% increase over FY 2003. Recognized in FY 2004 for innovative services for victims of crime by the United States Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime, the MDOC Division of Victim Services has registered 1,700 victims since its creation in FY 2001.

MDOC was successful in meeting the requirements of the United States Department of Labor request. While adhering to the Fair Labor Standards Act, the department was able to reduce the potential liability costs from \$1,102,419.68 to \$845,064.19, a savings of over a quarter of a million dollars.

In March 2003, MDOC teamed with the state Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to implement a Computer Repair Program called "Project Recycle." Using discarded computers collected from state agencies and transported by DEQ, female inmates at the Central Mississippi Correctional Facility (CMCF) in Pearl, Mississippi, disassemble computers, replace the broken parts, and update software and other components to make them ready for use in Mississippi classrooms. "Project Recycle" trains 18 female inmates for 26 to 28 weeks in the fundamentals of computer hardware repair and diagnostic skills. The program is successful in rehabilitating inmates to become productive members of society, keeping hazardous electronic equipment out of landfills, and providing needed refurbished computers to Mississippi students. Through FY 04, the inmates at CMCF have repaired/rebuilt 909 computers for use in various Mississippi classrooms. The most recent donation of 160 computers to Jackson State University on July 22 brings the distribution total to 634. Twenty-three inmates have completed the computer repair class program and of those, ten inmates have been awarded A+ Certification, a recognized certificate of technical ability.

The MDOC restitution centers' accounting was centralized at CMCF in FY04. The result of this action will allow for easier maintenance of the accounting and a projected cost savings of \$30,315.30 due to the centralized unit. Restitution centers collectively obtained \$2,512,713.00 during FY04. Accurate accounting processing will continue at a lower cost and in a more efficient manner at the central location.

The agency continues to find new ways of teaching inmate responsibility and the importance of maintaining structure and discipline within the institutions. When an offender requests medical services, the appropriate medical officials allot a certain number of hours to visit with the offender. If the offender decides prior to the medical visit that he no longer requires medical attention, the department is responsible for payment of the fee for the time allotted even though the offender is not treated. In an effort to offset the cost of unjustifiable no-shows for medical visits and to discourage abuse of the visits, the offender medical co-pay was increased in FY04 to \$6.00. MDOC could reasonably expect to collect an additional \$100,000 during FY05 to defray medical services expenditures.