



Issue Brief - 2009

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

Inmate Welfare Fund

Overview

The Inmate Welfare Fund (IWF) is an account with proceeds that benefit inmate activities and programs. By statute, the Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC) cannot use the IWF to offset operating expenses.

In addition, the safe management of the prison system requires a variety of tools and incentives in order to keep the inmate population engaged in activities. The IWF is one of those tools; it allows DOC to reward compliant behavior and to avoid the dangers of excessive inmate idleness.

Specific use of funds

Specific uses of the IWF may include, but are not limited to, operation, support or enhancement of the following programs, services and activities:

- Education programs
- Alcohol and drug treatment programs
- Inmate commissary
- Inmate trust accounting system
- Provision of postage-paid envelopes for indigent inmates
- Provision of over-the-counter health aids made available for inmate use
- Institution inmate libraries
- Visiting room equipment, supplies and services
- Inmate activities including:
 - Equipment for television viewing
 - Visiting music/entertainment groups
 - Music equipment and supplies
 - Activities equipment and supplies
 - Repair of equipment from the IWF
 - Entertainment equipment and supplies

Inmate Welfare Fund sources

Revenue, less operating expenses, from the following sources contributes to the IWF:

- Inmate purchases from the commissary
- Inmate telephones in all DOC institutions

- Operation of vending machines in inmate visiting areas
- Funds confiscated from inmates under existing disciplinary procedures
- Donated funds

Of these sources, the largest deposits to the IWF are proceeds from the inmate commissary and inmate telephone charges.

Inmate Welfare Fund allocations

The Governor's Recommended Budget for the 2009-11 biennium allocates the IWF follows:

- Institutions – \$1,769,560
- General Services – \$447,635
- Statewide Services – \$144,674
- Education – \$1,820,122
- Alcohol & Drug Treatment – \$4,550,392
- Community Corrections – \$674,678

**The mission of the
Oregon Department of Corrections
is to promote public safety by
holding offenders accountable for their
actions and reducing the risk of future criminal
behavior.**



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