

**REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION
SCC Community Facilities Support**



2016 SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET

Request	FY16	FY17	15-17
FTE	5.3	9.0	7.2
GF-State	\$337,000	\$592,000	\$929,000
Total	\$337,000	\$592,000	\$929,000

DECISION PACKAGE SUMMARY

The Rehabilitation Administration (RA) requests FTEs in order to properly staff the Special Commitment Center (SCC) community facilities due to an increase in the number of residents and to provide required chaperones to conditionally released residents in community Less Restrictive Alternative (LRA) facilities. By funding this request, SCC will be able to comply with the legally mandated resident escort requirements in RCW 71.09. Proper staffing levels reduce the risk of future adverse findings for failure to support community transition. Activities supported by the added FTEs will provide a continued pathway toward resident transformation and the assurance of continued safety and security.

PROBLEM STATEMENT

SCC is fully engaged in near and long-term goals and objectives focused on transforming the lives of civilly committed residents, as well as ensuring safe and secure communities. Since 2010, the number of civilly committed residents conditionally released to SCC community facilities (Special Commitment Transitional Facilities (SCTFs) and LRAs) has been relatively stable. Typically, there have been 11 residents at the Pierce County facility and three residents at the King County facility. However, there has been a significant increase of court-ordered conditional releases to all SCTFs and LRAs. In calendar year 2013, five SCC residents were conditionally released. In calendar year 2014, 17 SCC residents were conditionally released. Based on pending hearings, it is anticipated that 31 residents will be conditionally released to SCC community facilities in Calendar Year (CY) 2015. Due to this increase in court ordered conditional releases, it is anticipated that the SCTFs will be at full capacity (30 beds) by the end of CY 2015. SCC does not have sufficient resources for staff to manage the increased resident population in community facilities. Additionally, the courts have ordered DSHS and SCC to provide chaperones or transportation to residents released to community LRAs. This requirement is not mandated by statute nor resourced sufficiently for compliance with the court order. Additional staffing is needed to ensure compliance with statutory and court mandates for resident escorts. The need for increased staffing has been identified by external entities such as the Inspection of Care evaluators and representatives of Disability Rights Washington. Without appropriate staffing levels to provide adequate supports and required escorts, there are critical shortcomings in the capability to protect community safety and improve residents' ability to return home safely. There is a higher risk of a federal injunction and it is likely that resident litigation will increase in response to a lack of reentry opportunities.



DSHS VISION

People are healthy • People are safe • People are supported • Taxpayer resources are guarded

DSHS MISSION

To transform lives

DSHS VALUES

Honesty and Integrity • Pursuit of Excellence • Open Communication • Diversity and Inclusion • Commitment to Service

PROPOSED SOLUTION

While the Legislature had the foresight to increase SCTF staffing to support previously identified FTE shortfalls, the increased rate of conditional releases was not expected nor planned for in the recent budget cycle. The requested increase in FTEs will address personnel shortfalls associated with resident escorts and chaperoned activities, as well as support increased requirements to prepare residents for potential unconditional release. The requested FTEs will support at least the 150 escorts per week required of the residents. If FTEs were added to fully support the eight known escort-required activities, as well as the facility-specific staffing ratios and relief escorts, the number of FTEs needed would double. The requested number of FTEs represents the minimum required to meet immediate needs and reduce identified risks to a level that is acceptable. The FTEs are needed before the end of Fiscal Year 2016.

EXPECTED RESULTS

The addition of FTEs will have a positive impact on 45+ residents that are projected to be housed at the SCTFs and community LRAs. They will have access to escort and transportation services that ensure community safety and security. Escort activities supported by the increased FTEs include treatment by Sex Offender Treatment Providers, medical and dental support, participation in escorted employment, trips designed to build life skills, leisure activities, educational opportunities, attendance at Alcoholics Anonymous and other support groups, participation in religious activities and appointments with Community Corrections Officers.

The addition of the requested FTEs will also significantly decrease the risk for adverse findings from external reviews such as the Inspection of Care audit and Disability Rights Washington, as well as decrease the possibility of DSHS/SCC coming under a new federal injunction. The added personnel also reduce the probability of resident-initiated litigation for failing to provide required resident support. If action is not taken, negative actions will be likely.

STAKEHOLDER IMPACT

DSHS and SCC do not anticipate opposition from key stakeholders such as the Department of Corrections (DOC), committing courts, and the Attorney General's Office (AGO). External evaluators such as the Inspection of Care team and Disability Rights Washington would embrace the action as a positive step in the support of positive resident transformation.