

FLORIDA COMMISSION ON OFFENDER REVIEW

MELINDA N. COONROD Commissioner/ Chair RICHARD D. DAVISON Commissioner/Vice-Chair DAVID A. WYANT Commissioner/Secretary

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN

Florida Commission on Offender Review Tallahassee, Florida

September 30, 2021

Chris Spencer, Director Office of Policy and Budget Executive Office of the Governor 1702B Capitol Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0001

Eric Pridgeon, Staff Director House Appropriations Committee 221 Capitol Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1300

Tim Sadberry, Staff Director Senate Committee on Appropriations 201 Capitol Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1300

Dear Directors:

Pursuant to Chapter 216, Florida Statutes, the Long Range Program Plan (LRPP) for the Florida Commission on Offender Review is submitted in the format prescribed in the budget instructions. The information provided electronically and contained herein is a true and accurate presentation of our mission, goals, objectives, and measures for Fiscal Year 2022–23 through Fiscal Year 2026–27. The internet website address that provides the link to the LRPP located on the Florida Fiscal Portal is www.fcor.state.fl.us. The submission has been approved by Melinda N. Coonrod, Chairman of the Commission.

Sincerely,

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Melinda N. Coonrod Chairman/Commissioner

LONG RANGE PROGRAM PLAN FISCAL YEARS 2022–23 THROUGH 2026–27

Prepared for the Office of Policy and Budget

September 30, 2021



FLORIDA COMMISSION ON OFFENDER REVIEW

A Governor and Cabinet Agency Created in 1941

Florida Commission on Offender Review

Mission Statement:

To ensure public safety and provide victim assistance through the post prison release process.

Agency Goals

The Florida Commission on Offender Review (Commission) has five goals designed to provide for public safety and increased efficiency, while striving to meet the Commission's approved performance measures and standards.

GOAL 1. To select appropriate individuals for parole.

GOAL 2. To ensure informed decision-making by the Commission and Board of Executive Clemency (Board).

GOAL 3. To guarantee timely decisions.

GOAL 4. To ensure informed decision-making by the Board on Restoration of Civil Rights (RCR) *Without a Hearing* cases.

GOAL 5. To ensure informed decision-making by the Board on RCR *With a Hearing* cases.

Agency Objectives

The Commission has five goals designed to provide for public safety and increased efficiency, while striving to meet the Commission's approved performance measures and standards.

GOAL 1. To select appropriate individuals for parole.

OBJECTIVE 1A: To identify individuals who will succeed as law-abiding citizens.

GOAL 2. To ensure informed decision-making by the Commission and Board.

OBJECTIVE 2A: To provide complete and accurate information to the Commission on parole, conditional medical release, control release, conditional release, and addiction recovery release decisions, and to the Board on non-RCR¹ cases.

GOAL 3. To guarantee timely decisions.

OBJECTIVE 3A: To complete the revocation process within specific time frames.

GOAL 4. To ensure informed decision-making by the Board on RCR *Without a Hearing* cases.

OBJECTIVE 4A: To ensure that eligibility determinations and investigatory information provided to the Board for RCR *Without a Hearing* cases contain no factual errors.

GOAL 5. To ensure informed decision-making by the Board on RCR *With a Hearing* cases.

OBJECTIVE 5A: To ensure that eligibility determinations and investigatory information provided to the Board for RCR *With a Hearing* cases contain no factual errors.

¹ Non-RCR: full pardon; pardon without firearm authority; pardon for misdemeanor; commutation of sentence; remission of fines and forfeitures; specific authority to own, possess, or use firearms; requests for review; and capital case (death penalty) reviews.

Service Outcomes & Performance Projection Tables

GOAL 1:	To select appropriate individuals for parole.
OBJECTIVE 1A:	To identify individuals who will succeed as law-abiding citizens.
OUTCOME:	Percentage of parolees who have successfully completed their supervision without
	revocation within the first three years of release.

BASELINE YEAR FY 1999–2000	FY 2022–23	FY 2023–24	FY 2024–25	FY 2025–26	FY 2026–27
90%	90%	90%	90%	90%	90%

The Commission exceeded its projected goal of 90% in FY 2020–21. Sixteen inmates released to parole during the reporting period, or 93.7%, successfully completed their supervision without revocation within the first three years of release.

GOAL 2:To ensure informed decision-making.OBJECTIVE 2A:To provide complete and accurate information to the Commission on parole,
conditional medical release, control release, conditional release, and addiction recovery
release determinations and to the Board on non-RCR cases.OUTCOME:Percentage of all cases placed before the Commission and Board of Executive
Clemency containing no factual errors.

BASELINE YEAR FY 1999–2000	FY 2022–23	FY 2023–24	FY 2024–25	FY 2025–26	FY 2026–27
83%	98%	98%	98%	98%	98%

The Commission exceeded its projected goal of 98% by placing 99.9% of its cases before the Commission and the Board with no factual errors in FY 2020–21.

GOAL 3: OBJECTIVE 3A: OUTCOME:

To guarantee timely decisions.

To complete the revocation process within specific time frames. Percentage of revocation cases completed within 90 days after final hearing.

BASELINE YEAR FY 1999–2000	FY 2022–23	FY 2023–24	FY 2024–25	FY 2025–26	FY 2026–27
95%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%

The Commission exceeded its projected goal of 99% in FY 2020–21 by completing 99.7% of revocation cases within 90 days after the final hearing was held or waived.

Service Outcomes & Performance Projection Tables

BASELINE YE	
	Board of Executive Clemency containing no factual errors.
OUTCOME:	he Board for RCR <i>Without a Hearing</i> cases contain no factual errors. Percentage of RCR <i>Without a Hearing</i> cases provided to the
GOAL 4: OBJECTIVE 4A:	o ensure informed decision-making. o ensure that eligibility determinations and investigatory information provided to

BASELINE YEAR FY 2011–12	FY 2022–23	FY 2023–24	FY 2024–25	FY 2025–26	FY 2026–27
100%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%

The Commission exceeded its projected goal of 99% in FY 2020–21 by providing 100% of RCR *Without a Hear-ing* cases to the Board of Executive Clemency with no factual errors.

GOAL 5: To ensure informed decision-making.

OBJECTIVE 5A: To ensure that eligibility determinations and investigatory information provided to the Board for RCR *With a Hearing* cases contain no factual errors.
 OUTCOME: Percentage of RCR *With a Hearing* cases provided to the Board of Executive Clemency containing no factual errors.

BASELINE YEAR FY 2011–12	FY 2022–23	FY 2023–24	FY 2024–25	FY 2025–26	FY 2026–27
99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%

The Commission exceeded its projected goal of 99% in FY 2020–21 by providing 100% of RCR *With a Hearing* cases to the Board of Executive Clemency with no factual errors.

Linkage to Governor's Priorities

Governor's Priorities

- 1. Restore and Protect Florida's Environment
- 2. Improve Florida's Education System
- 3. Economic Development and Job Creation
- 4. Health Care
- 5. Public Safety
- 6. Public Integrity

The Commission's Long Range Program Plan (LRPP) aims to commit the agency's existing resources to ensuring public safety and providing victims' services for the citizens of this state in an effective and efficient manner. The Commission's highest priority is to ensure public safety, consistent with the Governor's priorities.

All five of the Commission's goals link to the Governor's fifth priority, **Public Safety.**

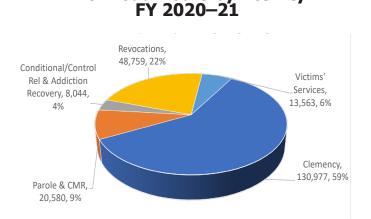
- GOAL 1 To select appropriate individuals for parole.
- GOAL 2 To ensure informed decision-making by the Commission and Board.
- GOAL 3 To guarantee timely decisions.
- GOAL 4 To ensure informed decision-making (RCR Without a Hearing cases).
- GOAL 5 To ensure informed decision-making (RCR *With a Hearing* cases).

The Commission performs a vital role in Florida's criminal justice system by preserving the autonomy needed in post release decisions affecting inmates and offenders.

Commissioners preside over approximately 36 hearings annually. During these public proceedings, the Commissioners make a variety of determinations regarding parole, conditional medical release, control release, conditional release, and addiction recovery release supervision.

The Commission also operates as the administrative and investigative arm of the Board of Executive Clemency and reports directly to the Governor and Cabinet. The coordinator of the Office of Executive Clemency is appointed by the Board; is the official custodian of clemency records; provides verification of eligibility and Board actions; and prepares the agenda, orders, and certificates. The Office of Clemency Investigations and Field Services staff conduct comprehensive, confidential investigations for the Board on clemency applicants.

Workload Hours by Activity



The purpose of the Post-Incarceration Enforcement and Victims' Rights Program is:

- To provide victims and victims' families an opportunity to participate in the decision-making processes of the Commission and Board;
- To set conditions of supervision for releasees to provide maximum assurance of public safety;
- To ensure swift and certain responses when releasees willfully and substantially violate conditions of their supervision; and
- To provide accurate information to the Commission and Board.

The Commission's LRPP for FY 2022–23 through FY 2026–27 is a five-year plan based on established and proposed goals and objectives. In the development of the LRPP, the Commission reviewed and evaluated the services and activities funded in the current year to determine their effectiveness and efficiency. The Commission, as it exists today, has a multitude of duties.

Created in 1941, the Commission is a constitutionally authorized, quasi-judicial, decision-making body. Article IV, Section 8(c) of the Florida Constitution, provides that there may be created by law "a parole and probation commission" with the power to supervise persons on probation and grant paroles or conditional releases to persons under sentences for crimes (section 20.32, Florida Statutes). Since that time, the legislature has added the administration of conditional medical release, control release, conditional release, addiction recovery release supervision, and the administration of the capital clemency case counsel list to the Commission's primary duties and responsibilities.

These diverse functions provide the means for fulfilling the Commission's public safety duties: to protect the public by administering parole, conditional medical release, control release, conditional release, and addiction recovery release supervision. In accordance with statutes and case law, maintaining control over this criminal population is contingent upon the attentive and timely completion of reviews, investigations, and hearings. Many of the services provided are aimed at controlling offenders during the post-incarceration phase of their sentences and to facilitate their successful transition back into society. However, if the releasee fails to abide by the conditions of their supervision, the Commission takes swift and certain action appropriate to the violation by means of the revocation process.

Towards the end of continuing to meet the demands of the Commission's important role in the criminal justice system of the state of Florida, the Commission has requested the following funding:

The Commission requests funding to increase the pay rate for temporary Commissioners who perform all the duties of a sitting Commissioner. Temporary Commissioners are responsible for making public safety decisions, revocation decisions, release decisions, and for issuing warrants.

The temporary Commissioners currently being used each have 30 plus years of experience in the criminal justice field, with six years of that experience serving as an appointed Commissioner. In addition, temporary Commissioners must dedicate time to be trained on all new federal and state legislation, rules, policy, and procedures. They are currently being paid the state employee minimum wage. There are only four (4) former or retired Commissioners who are available and authorized by the Governor and Cabinet to act as a temporary Commissioner. The Commission is required to have a quorum of Commissioners to conduct its statutorily and legislatively mandated duties. If the Commission is unable to sit a quorum, statutorily mandated time frames for votes on parole, conditional

release, conditional medical release, addiction recovery release, supervision reviews, and revocations hearings, cannot be met. The ability to retain qualified former or retired Commissioners to vote in the absence of a sitting Commissioner ensures knowledgeable and informed persons are making the necessary and critical revocation and release decisions. The Commission requests an increase that is commensurate with their skill and experience.

Last year, the Legislature provided in the General Appropriations bill that, notwithstanding the s. 947.04(1), F.S., \$100 daily rate of pay, temporary Commissioners were to be paid \$13.00 an hour for hours spent on the work of the Commission. This \$13.00 an hour rate equates to a daily rate of pay of \$104 a day for fiscal year 2021–22. As the provisions in the General Appropriations bill expire July 1, 2022, which include an order to ensure that temporary Commissioners are not paid less than the state's minimum hourly wage, the issue of paying temporary Commissioners more than \$100 a day will again need to be addressed in the General Appropriations bill.

Additionally, the Commission is requesting an increase in salary for each of the Commissioners. There are three Commissioners appointed by the Governor and Cabinet, then confirmed by the Senate for six-year terms. They preside over meetings in Tallahassee and various locations throughout the state where they make a variety of determinations regarding parole, conditional medical release, conditional release, addiction recovery release, and revocation of post release supervision. Commissioners are also responsible for reviewing and making recommendations on cases that go before the Board of Executive Clemency. Each year, Commissioners are responsible for over 12,000 determinations regarding offenders. The Commissioners' salary has been nominally increased over the last 12 years.

As the agency head, the Chairman has the sole administrative responsibility among the three Commissioners, and this includes legislative, budget, personnel, communications, operations, legal, and management decisions. The Chairman's responsibilities far exceed those of the other Commissioners, and the Chairman's salary compensation should reflect those additional responsibilities. It is requested that the Chairman's salary be at a higher rate, which is consistent with other state leaders in similar roles, than

that of the other Commissioners.

Finally, the Commission requests an increase in nonrecurring funding in General Revenue for litigation expenses to acquire, as necessary, representation in litigation arising from or related to Commission duties and responsibilities. A civil rights action, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 1983, has been filed in the United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida against the Commissioners in their official capacities, alleging that the parole system is unconstitutional as it applies to juvenile offenders who did not receive a resentencing hearing pursuant to 921.1401 or 921.1402, Florida Statutes. This funding would cover litigation expenses payable to the Department of Legal Affairs, the Commission's statutory legal advisor, and the entity the Commission has retained to represent it in this matter.

All three of these funding requests are consistent with the Governor's priority to ensure public safety and to develop and implement comprehensive threat assessment strategies to identify and prevent threats to the public.

Victims' Services

Victim assistance is a key tenet of the Commission's mission and is considered vitally important. Article I, Section 16(b) of Florida's Constitution, and sections 947.06 and 960.001, Florida Statutes, address the need to protect the rights of victims of crime and the need for victims' input in the criminal justice process. Victims' Services provides direct, personal assistance to crime victims and their families, assuring their opportunity to participate in the parole, conditional medical release, control release, conditional release, addiction recovery release supervision, and clemency processes.

Victims' Services staff strive to reduce victimization through education and by providing and fostering an environment of compassion, dignity, and respect. They use this platform to: inform victims of their rights to be heard and participate in the parole, conditional medical release, control release, conditional release, addiction recovery release supervision, and clemency processes; educate victims about the parole, conditional medical release, control release, conditional release, addiction recovery release supervision, and clemency processes; provide advance notice to victims of upcoming parole, conditional medical release, and clemency proceedings;

personally greet victims; provide a separate waiting area; and accompany them during hearings. A tollfree telephone number is also available for support or information before, during, and after the hearing process.

On July 1, 2021, there were 25,118 clemency cases pending, with most requiring victim input. Furthermore, there were approximately 3,789 inmates with parole eligible cases as of June 30, 2021, in which victim input would also be appropriate.

Victim input plays a critical role in assisting the Commission and Board to make informed decisions. Great effort must be spent trying to locate victims who may have relocated, changed their names through marriage, or have been out of contact with the criminal justice system for many years. Employing trained, professional staff to assist victims of crimes ensures that the victim's rights are protected and that he or she is not subjected to further victimization as a result of a release or clemency decision.

During the 2010 Florida Legislative Session, SB 200, a victim-friendly bill, was passed and became law on July 1, 2010 (Chapter No. 2010-95). The new law amended sections 947.16, 947.174, and 947.1745, Florida Statutes, giving the Commission authority to increase the interval between parole consideration re-interviews from within five years to within seven years for parole eligible offenders who were convicted of murder, attempted murder, sexual battery, or attempted sexual battery, or who are serving a 25-year minimum mandatory sentence under section 775.082, Florida Statutes. Currently, Victims' Services comprises 6% of the Commission's workload with central and field office staff providing 22,617 victim assists during FY 2020–21.

During the 2013 Legislative Session, HB 685, an additional victim-friendly bill, was passed and became law on July 1, 2013. The new law amended sections 947.16, 947.174, and 947.1745, Florida Statutes, giving the Commission authority to increase the interval between parole consideration re-interviews from within two years to within seven years for parole eligible offenders who were convicted of specified crimes. The Commission's mission is to provide for public safety with goals that seek to ensure the safety of Florida's citizens, and to do so in an effective and efficient manner. Lengthening the time between subsequent interview

dates for those inmates who pose the greatest risk to the public, and who are not expected to receive parole in the near future, reduces further victimization and trauma to crime victims and their families.

Since FY 2004–05, the Commission has been awarded a Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant, administered through the Office of the Attorney General's Bureau of Advocacy and Grants Management. In September 2020, the Commission was awarded a VOCA grant in the amount of \$110,573 for FY 2020–21, to continue providing vital services to victims of crime. In January 2021, the grant award was increased to \$123,649 and in March 2021 it was increased again to \$139,518. Part of the increase consisted of \$10,000 in COVID-19 related expenses. The Commission is currently waiting for the Office of the Attorney General to announce the amount of the VOCA grant award for FY 21–22.

Parole

The Commission administers parole (Chapter 947 and 949, Florida Statutes), a discretionary prison release that allows an inmate who has been granted parole to serve the remainder of his prison sentence outside of the confines of the institution. Commission field offices conduct preliminary/probable cause hearings as a courtesy for FDC Interstate Compact. Once released, the parolee is subject to strict conditions of supervision set by the Commission. The Commission monitors the parolee's progress through supervision reviews and conducts revocation hearings when alleged violations are reported. If a parolee is found to have willfully and substantially violated the terms and conditions of his supervision, the Commission may return the parolee to prison.

Inmates eligible for parole are those who committed:

 Any felony committed prior to October 1, 1983, or those who elected to be sentenced "outside the guidelines" for felonies committed prior to July 1, 1984;
 All capital felonies committed prior to October 1, 1995, except:

a.) murder or felony murder committed after May 25, 1994;

b.) making, possessing, throwing, placing, or discharging a destructive device or attempt to do so which results in the death of another person after May 25, 1994;

c.) first degree murder of a law enforcement officer, correctional officer, state attorney, or assistant state attorney committed after January 1, 1990; and

d.) first degree murder of a justice or judge committed after October 1, 1990.

3. Any continuing criminal enterprise committed before June 17, 1993; and

4. Any attempted murder of a law enforcement officer committed between October 1, 1988, and October 1, 1995.

On June 30, 2021, there were 3,789 inmates who were eligible for parole and 400 releasees on parole supervision. In FY 2020–21, the Commission made 1,260 parole determinations and granted parole to 22 inmates.

The Commission exceeded its projected goal of 90% for the reporting period by 3.7%, with 15 of 16 paroled inmates successfully completing their supervision without revocation within the first three years of release.

Conditional Medical Release

In 1992, the Florida Legislature created the Conditional Medical Release Program (section 947.149, Florida Statutes), a discretionary release allowing the Commission to release inmates on supervision who are "terminally ill" or "permanently incapacitated" and who are not a danger to themselves or others. The Department of Corrections (Department) is charged with the responsibility of recommending to the Commission cases to be considered for conditional medical release. Upon release, the offender is subject to conditions of supervision set by the Commission. The Commission monitors the offender's progress through periodic medical reviews and conducts revocation hearings when alleged violations are reported. This supervision can be revoked, and the offender returned to prison, if the Commission determines that a willful and substantial violation has occurred. The Commission may return the offender to custody if their medical or physical condition improves.

When an onsite or in-person investigation is not possible, investigators will utilize technology such as telephone and video conferencing and image sharing to complete investigations so long as the quality and intent of the investigations is not reduced and all necessary information and evidence can be obtained through the use of technology. This process was initially added as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Also in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, in May of 2020, the Commission began holding telephonic hearings for Conditional Medical Release (CMR) cases during weeks the Commission did not have regularly scheduled parole hearings. This was done to ensure that the Commission is as responsive as possible to CMR referrals received from the Department.

Although the two changes above were initially made in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Commission has adopted both practices permanently to improve efficiency and responsiveness for all CMR referrals.

The Department has recommended 220 inmates for release in the past three fiscal years. The Commission granted release to 119, or 54%, of those recommended by the Department. In FY 2020–21, the Commission granted 46 of the 79 inmates recommended by the Department for conditional medical release, or 58%.

Conditional Release

In 1988, the Florida Legislature created the Conditional Release Program (section 947.1405, Florida Statutes) and placed it under the administration of the Commission. This program is a non-discretionary release program and requires mandatory post prison supervision for inmates who are sentenced for certain violent crimes and who have served a prior felony commitment at a state or federal correctional institution, or who are sentenced as habitual offenders, violent habitual offenders, violent career criminals, or designated sexual predators.

Inmates who are subject to conditional release and have completed their incarceration are supervised for the remainder of their sentences, which is equivalent to the amount of gain time or other credit earned while incarcerated. These offenders are subject to strict conditions of supervision set by the Commission. The Commission monitors their progress through supervision reviews and conducts revocation hearings when alleged violations are reported. If a conditional releasee is found to have willfully and substantially violated the conditions of supervision, the Commission may return the offender to prison. On June 30, 2021,

there were 2,678 releasees on conditional release supervision, and in FY 2020–21 the Commission set terms and conditions for 4,713 releasees.

Addiction Recovery

The Florida Legislature created the Addiction Recovery Supervision Program (section 944.7431, Florida Statutes) in 2001 and placed it under the Commission's administration. This program requires mandatory post prison supervision for offenders released from a state correctional facility who are convicted of a crime committed on or after July 1, 2001, and have a history of substance abuse or addiction or have participated in any drug treatment, and have not been convicted of a disgualifying offense. Upon release, the offender is subject to strict conditions of supervision set by the Commission. The Commission monitors the offender's progress and conducts revocation hearings when alleged violations are reported. If the Commission finds the offender willfully and substantially violated the terms and conditions of supervision, the Commission may return the offender to prison. During FY 2020-21, 686 offenders were placed on supervision. As of June 30, 2021, there were 139 offenders on addiction recovery supervision.

Control Release

The Florida Legislature created the Control Release Authority (section 947.146, Florida Statutes) in 1989 with the members of the Commission acting as the release authority. When active, control release is used as a prison population management tool to keep it at less than 99% of the total capacity. Today, a small number of control releasees remain under supervision. The Commission monitors their progress through supervision reviews and conducts revocation hearings when alleged violations are reported. This supervision can be revoked, and the offender returned to prison if the Commission finds a willful and substantial violation has occurred.

Revocations

The revocation process is essential to the Commission's mission to ensure public safety and comprises 22% of the agency's workload. The violation process begins when law enforcement or the Department notifies the Commission that an offender under supervision

has allegedly violated one or more conditions of their supervision. The Revocations Unit is responsible for reviewing these reported violations and preparing a warrant for a Commissioner's signature; updating the National Crime Information Center/Florida Crime Information Center databases; responding to requests from law enforcement agencies; and coordinating the extradition of out-of-state violators. In FY 2020–21, there were 1,657 warrants issued by the Commission.

Revocation hearings are quasi-judicial fact-finding hearings conducted by a commission investigator. They are held for offenders who are under parole, conditional medical release, control release, conditional release, or addiction recovery release supervision. These hearings include parole preliminary hearings, final revocation hearings, release on your own recognizance (ROR) hearings, and courtesy interstate probable cause hearings for the Department. Revocation hearings include testimony from witnesses and are usually held at the county jail. In FY 2020–21, 99.7% of revocation hearings were completed by the Commission within 90 days of the final hearing.

The Revocations Unit conducts an in-depth analysis of hearing and waiver packages prepared by commission investigators and dockets the cases for final Commission action. Docketing and processing cases for Commission action includes review of supervision eligibility and supervision violations. In FY 2020–21, 1,360 revocation events were docketed.

Clemency

The Governor and members of the Cabinet sit as the Board of Executive Clemency and set forth the Rules of Executive Clemency. The Commission operates as the administrative and investigative arm of the Board. Clemency is a constitutionally authorized process. The forms of clemency include: full pardon; pardon without firearm authority; pardon for misdemeanor; commutation of sentence; remission of fines and forfeitures; specific authority to own, possess, or use firearms; restoration of civil rights; and capital case (death penalty) reviews.

In Florida, when a person is convicted of a felony, they lose the right to vote, serve on a jury, hold public office, and possess a firearm. Administered by the Commission, the clemency process provides the means through

which an offender may have some or all of their rights restored. The clemency process also provides a means by which the Board may consider an offender for relief from punishment. Persons seeking or being considered today for clemency relief are either incarcerated, released from a correctional facility, or have completed their term of supervision. An inmate may apply for commutation of sentence through a request for review as set forth in the Rules of Executive Clemency.

The Rules of Executive Clemency were revised on March 10, 2021. The revisions to the Rules are designed to provide an avenue for felons who have completed all terms of sentence under Amendment 4 to apply for automatic restoration of their full civil rights without a hearing; continue to provide an avenue for felons who have not completed all terms of sentence under Amendment 4 to apply for restoration of full civil rights with a hearing; streamline the Rules; expedite the processing of clemency applications; and reduce the pending number of clemency cases.

Felons who have not completed all terms of sentence or who have not received a judicial modification or conversion of sentence sufficient to satisfy Amendment 4—may not receive the automatic restoration of civil rights without a hearing but may continue to apply for restoration of civil rights with a hearing under the current clemency process.

The type of clemency investigation conducted by the Commission primarily depends on the form of clemency being sought. The Rules of Executive Clemency provide detailed information regarding eligibility criteria. The depth and scope of each investigation vary by type, and some types have different waiting periods after completion of sentence. As of July 1, 2021, there were 25,118 pending clemency cases.

The Commission assists the Board in the orderly processing of matters placed before the Board for consideration and action. The Commission conducts comprehensive, confidential investigations for applicants, utilizing records and databases of state and federal courts, and multiple criminal justice agencies. These detailed investigations provide a broad picture of the applicant's history and activities, which assist the Board in making informed decisions. The referral, assignment, and approval of all cases processed by the Commission are generated and managed by the

clemency database.

Information is also available on the clemency page of the Commission's website (www.fcor.state.fl.us/ clemencyoverview.shtml), including application forms and instructions. Individuals may also check to see whether their civil rights have been granted. If granted, a copy of the certificate may be printed directly from the website. As of June 30, 2021, there have been 6,236,191 RCR website searches; 1,212,459 RCR certificates located; 118,206 RCR certificates printed; and 378,208 RCR certificates available. The Commission provides the Board's action to the Florida Department of State, Division of Elections, on a daily basis so that it may use the information for verification purposes with the Central Voter Registration Database.

In FY 2019–20, the Commission requested and received approval for a revision to the methodology of the performance measure of the number of clemency cases completed. In FY 2020–21, 6,278 clemency cases were completed. In addition, there were 697 clemency cases that have been determined eligible and fully investigated by Commission Investigators but that were waiting final action by the Board for a total of 6,975 cases completed for the fiscal year.

To further meet our goals and serve the state of Florida, the Commission is requesting funds to increase the base salary of 39 full-time equivalent (FTE) Commission Investigators and one Commission Investigator Supervisor. This issue directly supports the Commission's goal to select appropriate individuals for parole, to ensure informed decision making by the Commission and the Board of Executive Clemency, and to ensure timely decisions. Commission Investigators are responsible for duties that are critical to the statutory obligations of the Commission. Increasing investigators' salary will allow the Commission to attract and retain high-guality staff and to fulfill our goals as laid out in this report, and meet the Governor's priority to ensure public safety and to develop and implement comprehensive threat assessment strategies to identify and prevent threats to the public.

Additionally, to continue to provide the highest level of public safety services to the state, the Commission is requesting to convert OPS Commission Investigator funding to 14 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions. This issue directly supports the Commission's goal of

ensuring informed decision-making by the Commission and the Board of Executive Clemency. Converting OPS positions to FTE positions will enable the Commission to recruit and retain employees who are capable of working under increasing demands and who can conduct multiple in-depth investigations simultaneously.

Conversion of these OPS to FTE positions will ensure the agency's ability to keep pace with increasing supervisor and personnel management workloads by reducing the labor-intensive demands of recruiting, hiring, and onboarding new staff.

This request is consistent with the Governor's priority to ensure public safety and to develop and implement comprehensive threat assessment strategies to identify and prevent threats to the public.

GOAL ONE

The Commission's first goal is to select individuals for parole who will succeed as law-abiding citizens. The Commission conducts a thorough review of an inmate's record when determining whether or not to release an inmate on parole.

The Commission reviews the circumstances and seriousness of the offense, as well as the inmate's prior criminal record, education, employment history, risk assessment evaluations, disciplinary record and program participation while incarcerated, substance abuse history, and any other information that would impact a release decision. Commission investigators interview the inmate at the institution, review the entire institutional record and the inmate's release plan, and provide the Commission with an investigative report. The Department provides mental health records upon request.

When considering an inmate for parole, the Commission is required to make a finding that there is a reasonable probability that the inmate will be law-abiding, will not become a public charge, and that their release will be compatible with his or her own welfare and the welfare of society. The Commission sets the conditions of supervision for those released on parole. The conditions are intended to protect the public and to facilitate the parolee's successful reintegration into society. The inmate must agree to the conditions of supervision in order to be paroled. If the parolee willfully and substantially violates the conditions of supervision, the Commission may revoke supervision and

return the offender to prison.

The Commission exceeded its projected goal of 90% in FY 2020–21 for goal one. Fifteen of 16 inmates released to parole during the reporting period successfully completed their supervision without revocation within the first three years of release.

GOAL TWO

The Commission's second goal is to ensure informed decisions are made by placing cases before the Commission and Board that have no factual errors. The objective of this goal is to ensure that the Commission and Board have the most complete and accurate information upon which to base their decisions. "Complete information" means that staff has obtained, or attempted to obtain, all relevant information necessary. "Accurate information" means that the information presented has been verified, or there is a statement in the report or investigation as to the reason the information could not be verified. "Factual errors" are defined as an omission of information or reporting incorrect information. These errors do not include typographical errors.

The types of cases reviewed for errors include non-RCR clemency investigations, cases considered for release, and revocation hearings. The Commissioners and the Board identify errors in the reports and investigations for the various types of cases reviewed. These errors are tabulated and expressed as a percentage of the total number of cases that are placed before the Commission and the Board. Targeting the error rate through performance measures allows the Commission to thoroughly evaluate errors and improve the release, revocation, and non-RCR clemency process.

This goal remains a high priority of the agency because the Commission and Board are ultimately decision-making bodies. The information provided to them by staff forms the basis of their decisions. Accordingly, their effectiveness as decision-makers is directly related to, or dependent in large part upon, the completeness and accuracy of the information provided.

The Commission addresses this priority by establishing clear policies and procedures, providing training, and completing Quality Assurance (QA) reviews. This ensures that staff produce a quality work product by having the Commission provide clear direction as to what is expected

in the performance of their duties. Training provides detailed instruction on the correct procedures that must be followed when acting as a hearing officer in revocation proceedings or when acting as an investigator on a clemency case. The QA reviews are conducted by regional administrators, supervisors, and central office clemency staff.

The percentage of cases placed before the Commission and Board containing no factual errors for FY 2020–21 was 99.9%, exceeding the goal of 98%.

GOAL THREE

The Commission's third goal is to guarantee timely decisions by ensuring that once the final revocation hearing has been held or waived for control release, conditional release and addiction recovery release supervision cases, the Commission will render its decision within 90 days. In FY 1999–2000, the baseline percentage of revocation cases determined by Commissioners within 90 days was 95%. In FY 2020–21, the percentage remains high at 99.7%.

The Commission exceeded its goal and will strive to maintain this high level of performance.

GOALS FOUR & FIVE

The Commission's fourth and fifth goals focus on ensuring informed decisions are made by placing RCR cases before the Board containing no factual errors. RCR cases are categorized as RCR *Without a Hearing* and RCR *With a Hearing* investigations.

The objective of these goals is to ensure that the Board has the most complete and accurate information with which to base their decisions pertaining to RCR. "Complete information" means that staff has obtained or attempted to obtain all relevant information necessary for the Board to make an informed decision. "Accurate information" means that the information presented has been verified, or there is a statement in the report or investigation as to the reason the information could not be verified. "Factual errors" are defined as an omission of information, reporting incorrect information, or incorrectly determining eligibility. These errors do not include typographical errors.

importance of the RCR process and providing quality investigative reports. Utilizing performance measures allows the Commission to evaluate the error rate of RCR cases and to improve the process. Errors are identified in Executive Orders and investigations for the various types of RCR cases reviewed. These errors are tabulated and expressed as a percentage of the total number of RCR cases that are placed before the Board.

The Commission addresses this priority by establishing clear policies and procedures, providing training, completing QA reviews, and holding bimonthly clemency teleconferences. This ensures that staff produce a quality work product by providing clear direction as to what is expected in the performance of their duties. Training provides detailed instruction on the Rules of Executive Clemency and the correct procedures when conducting a clemency investigation. The QA reviews are conducted by central office clemency staff. Bimonthly, statewide clemency teleconferences address questions from the field staff, provide a forum to discuss policies and procedures, and allow Clemency Investigations' staff the opportunity to discuss any relevant issues.

FLORIDA COMMISSION ON OFFENDER REVIEW

Performance Measures & Standards—Exhibit II

Performance Measures & Standards—Exhibit II

LRPP Exhibit II - Performance				
Department: Florida Commission on Offender Review	Department N	o.: 78000000		
Program: Adults Prisons	Code: 780000	00		
Service/Budget Entity: Post-Incarceration Enforcement and Victims' Rights	Code: 1206000			
Approved Performance Measures for FY 2021-22	Approved Prior Year Standard FY 2020-21	Prior Year Actual FY 2020-21	Approved Standard for FY 2021-22	Requested Standard for FY 2022-23
Percentage of revocation cases completed within 90 days after final hearing	99%	99.7%	99%	99%
Percentage of cases placed before the Commission and Clemency Board containing no factual errors	98%	99.9%	98%	98%
Number of conditional release/addiction recovery decisions	5,597	7.057	5,597	5,597
Number of revocation determinations	1,400	1,360	1,400	1,400
Number of clemency cases completed	6,000	6,278	6,000	6,000
Number of parole and conditional medical release determinations	1,048	1,348	1,048	1,048
Number of victim assists	15,000	22,617	15,000	15,000
Percentage of RCR <i>With a Hearing</i> cases provided to the Clemency Board containing no factual errors	99%	100%	99%	99%
Percentage of RCR <i>Without a Hearing</i> cases provided to the Clemency Board containing no factual errors	99%	100%	99%	99%
Number of parolees who have successfully completed their supervision without revocation within the first three years	20	15	Removed	N/A
Percentage of parolees who have successfully completed their supervision without revocation within the first three years	90%	93.7%	90%	90%

FLORIDA COMMISSION ON OFFENDER REVIEW

Assessment of Performance For Approved Performance Measures—Exhibit III

Assessment of Performance For Approved Performance Measures—Exhibit III

LRPP Exhibit III (1): PERFORMANCE MEASURE ASSESSMENT

Department: Florida Commission on Offender Review

Program: Revocation

Service/Budget Entity: Post-Incarceration Enforcement and Victims' Rights

Measure: Number of Revocation Determinations

Action:

Performance Assessment of Outcome Measure

Performance Assessment of <u>Output</u> Measure

Revision of Measure
Deletion of Measure

Adjustment of GAA Performance Standards

Approved Standard	Actual Performance	Difference	Percentage
	Results	(Over/Under)	Difference
1,400	1,360	40	2.8%

Staff Capacity Level of Training

Other (Identify)

Factors Accounting for the Difference:

Internal Factors (check all that apply):

Personnel Factors

Competing Priorities

Previous Estimate Incorrect

Explanation: The standard for revocation determinations was reduced by 40 cases, marking a positive impact to both the state budget and offender outcomes.

External Factors (check all that apply): Resources Unavailable Technological Problems Legal/Legislative Change Natural Disaster Target Population Change Other (Identify)

This Program/Service Cannot Fix the Problem

Current Laws Are Working Against the Agency Mission

Management Efforts to Address Differences/Problems (check all that apply):

Training	Technology
Personnel	Other (Identify)

Recommendation:

No revision needed.

Assessment of Performance For Approved Performance Measures—Exhibit III

LRPP Exhibit III (1): PERFORMANCE MEASURE ASSESSMENT

Department: Florida Commission on Offender Review

Program: Adult Prisons

Service/Budget Entity: Post-Incarceration Enforcement and Victims' Rights

Measure: The number of parolees who have successfully completed their supervision without

revocation within the first three years of release.

Action:

- Performance Assessment of Outcome Measure
- Performance Assessment of <u>Output</u> Measure

Revision of Measure Deletion of Measure

Adjustment of GAA Performance Standards

Approved Standard	Actual Performance	Difference	Percentage
	Results	(Over/Under)	Difference
20	15	5	25%

Factors Accounting for the Difference:

Internal Factors (check all that apply):

- **Personnel Factors**
- **Competing Priorities**
- Previous Estimate Incorrect
- Staff Capacity Level of Training Other (Identify)

Explanation:

The Office of Policy and Budget (OPB) approved that the removal of this performance measure per the Commission's request, which was submitted in the prior year's Long Range Program Plan.

External Factors (check all that apply):

- **Resources Unavailable**
- Legal/Legislative Change
- Target Population Change

Technological Problems Natural Disaster Other (Identify)

This Program/Service Cannot Fix the Problem

Current Laws Are Working Against the Agency Mission

Management Efforts to Address Differences/Problems (check all that apply):

Training
Personn

Pe	rs	0I	nr	iel

	Techno	ology
\mathbf{X}	Other	(Identify)

Recommendation:

This performance measure has been removed.

FLORIDA COMMISSION ON OFFENDER REVIEW

Performance Measure Validity & Reliability—Exhibit IV

LRPP EXHIBIT IV (1): Performance Measure Validity and Reliability

Department: Florida Commission on Offender Review

Program: Adult Prisons

Service/Budget Entity: Post Incarceration Enforcement and Victims' Rights

Measure: Number of parolees who have successfully completed their supervision without revocation within the first three years

Action (check one):

- Requesting revision to approved performance measure.
- Change in data sources or measurement methodologies.

Requesting new measure.

Backup for performance measure.

Data Sources and Methodology:

Validity:

Reliability:

This measure consistently yields the same results and is free from random errors.

LRPP EXHIBIT IV (2): Performance Measure Validity and Reliability

Department: Florida Commission on Offender Review

Program: Adult Prisons

Service/Budget Entity: Post Incarceration Enforcement and Victims' Rights

Measure: Percent of parolees who have successfully completed their supervision without revocation with the first three years

Action (check one): N/A

	Requesting revision to approved performance measure.
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Change in data sources or measurement methodologies.

Requesting new measure.

Backup for performance measure.

Data	Sources	and	Method	lo	logy:
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Validity:

LRPP EXHIBIT IV (3): Performance Measure Validity and Reliability

Department: Florida Commission on Offender Review

Program: Adult Prisons

Service/Budget Entity: Post Incarceration Enforcement and Victims' Rights

Measure: Percentage of revocation cases completed within 90 days after final hearing

Action (check one): N/A

Requesting revision to approved performance measure.

- Change in data sources or measurement methodologies.
- Requesting new measure.
- Backup for performance measure.

Data Sources and Methodology:

Validity:

LRPP EXHIBIT IV (4): Performance Measure Validity and Reliability

Department: Florida Commission on Offender Review

Program: Adult Prisons

Service/Budget Entity: Post Incarceration Enforcement and Victims' Rights

Measure: Percentage of cases placed before the Commission/Clemency Board containing no factual errors

Action (check one): N/A

	Requesting revision to approved performance measure.
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Change in data sources or measurement methodologies.

Requesting new measure.

Backup for performance measure.

Data Sources and	Methodology:
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Validity:

LRPP EXHIBIT IV (5)	Performance N	Measure Validity	and Reliability
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Department: Florida Commission on Offender Review

Program: Adult Prisons

Service/Budget Entity: Post Incarceration Enforcement and Victims' Rights

Measure: Number of revocation determinations

Action (check one): N/A

Requesting revision to approved performance measure.

Change in data sources or measurement methodologies.

Requesting new measure.

Backup for performance measure.

Data Sources and Methodology:

Validity:

LRPP EXHIBIT IV (6): Performance Measure Validity and Reliability

Department: Florida Commission on Offender Review

Program: Adult Prisons

Service/Budget Entity: Post Incarceration Enforcement and Victims' Rights

Measure: Number of conditional release/addiction recovery cases handled

Action (check one): N/A

Requesting revision to approved performance measure.

Change in data sources or measurement methodologies.

Requesting new measure.

Backup for performance measure.

Data Sources and Methodology:

Validity:

LRPP EXHIBIT IV (7): Performance Measure Validity and Reliability

Department: Florida Commission on Offender Review

Program: Adult Prisons

Service/Budget Entity: Post Incarceration Enforcement and Victims' Rights

Measure: Number of clemency cases completed

Action (check one):	: N/	/Α
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Requesting revision to approved performance measure.

Change in data sources or measurement methodologies.

Requesting new measure.

Backup for performance measure.

Data Sources and	Methodol	ogy:
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Validity:

LRPP EXHIBIT IV (8): Performance Measure Validity and Reliability

Department: Florida Commission on Offender Review

Program: Adult Prisons

Service/Budget Entity: Post Incarceration Enforcement and Victims' Rights

Measure: Number of parole and conditional medical release decisions

Action (check one): N/A

Requesting revision to approved performance measure.

Change in data sources or measurement methodologies.

Requesting new measure.

Backup for performance measure.

Data Sources and Methodology:

Validity:

LRPP EXHIBIT IV (9): Performance Measure Validity and Reliability

Department: Florida Commission on Offender Review

Program: Adult Prisons

Service/Budget Entity: Post Incarceration Enforcement and Victims' Rights

Measure: Number of victim assists

Action (check one): N/A

Requesting revision to approved performance measure.

Change in data sources or measurement methodologies.

Requesting new measure.

Backup for performance measure.

Data Sources and Methodology:

Validity:

LRPP EXHIBIT IV (10): Performance Measure Validity and Reliability

Department: Florida Commission on Offender Review

Program: Adult Prisons

Service/Budget Entity: Post Incarceration Enforcement and Victims' Rights

Measure: Percent of RCR With a Hearing cases provided to the Clemency Board containing no factual errors

Action (check one): N/A

Requesting revision to approved performance measure.

Change in data sources or measurement methodologies.

Requesting new measure.

Backup for performance measure.

Validity:

LRPP EXHIBIT IV (11): Performance Measure Validity and Reliability

Department: Florida Commission on Offender Review

Program: Adult Prisons

Service/Budget Entity: Post Incarceration Enforcement and Victims' Rights

Measure: Percent of RCR Without a Hearing cases provided to the Clemency Board containing no factual errors

Action (check one): N/A

Requesting revision to approved performance measure.

Change in data sources or measurement methodologies.

Requesting new measure.

Backup for performance measure.

Data Sources and Methodology:

Validity:

FLORIDA COMMISSION ON OFFENDER REVIEW

Associated Activities Contributing To Performance Measure—Exhibit V

Associated Activities Contributing To Performance Measure—Exhibit V

	LRPP Exhibit V: Identification of Associated Activities Contributing to Performance Measures					
Measure Approved Performance Measures Number for FY 2021-2022			Associated Activities Title			
1	Number of parolees who have successfully completed their supervision without revocation within the first three years		(2) Offender Revocations(4) Parole Determinations(5) Victims' Services			
2	Percentage of parolees who have successfully completed their supervision without revocation within the first three years		(2) Offender Revocations(4) Parole Determinations(5) Victims' Services			
3	Percentage of revocation cases completed within 90 days after final hearing		(2) Offender Revocations(5) Victims' Services			
4	Percentage of cases placed before the Commission/Clemency Board containing no factual errors		 (1) Conditional Release (2) Offender Revocations (3) Clemency Services (4) Parole Determinations (5) Victims' Services 			
5	Number of conditional release/addiction recovery decisions		 (1) Conditional Release (5) Victims' Services 			
6	Number of revocation determinations		(2) Offender Revocations(5) Victims' Services			
7	Number of clemency cases completed		(3) Clemency Services(5) Victims' Services			
8	Number of parole and conditional medical release determinations		(4) Parole Determinations(5) Victims' Services			
9	Number of victim assists		 (1) Conditional Release (2) Offender Revocations (3) Clemency Services (4) Parole Determinations (5) Victims' Services 			
10	Percentage of RCR <i>With a Hearing</i> cases provided to the Clemency Board containing no factual errors		(3) Clemency Services(5) Victims' Services			
11	Percentage of RCR <i>Without a Hearing</i> cases provided to the Clemency Board containing no factual errors		(3) Clemency Services(5) Victims' Services			

Agency-Level Unit Cost Summary - Exhibit VI:

FLORIDA COMMISSION ON OFFENDER REVIEW	FISCAL YEAR 2020-21			
SECTION I: BUDGET	OPERATING FD		FIXED CAPITAL OUTLAY	
TOTAL ALL FUNDS GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT ADJUSTMENTS TO GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT (Supplementals, Vetoes, Budget Amendments, etc.)			11,905,596 371,612	0
FINAL BUDGET FOR AGENCY			12,277,208	0
SECTION II: ACTIVITIES * MEASURES	Number of Units	(1) Unit Cost	(2) Expenditures (Allocated)	(3) FCO
Executive Direction, Administrative Support and Information Technology (2) Conditional Release * Number of conditional and addiction recovery decisions	7,057	64.13	452,532	
Offender Revocations * Number of revocation determinations Clemency Services * Number of clemency cases completed	1,360 6,278	1,830.09 1,073.56	2,488,919 6,739,826	
Parole Determination * Number of parole and conditional medical release determinations Victims' Services * Number of victim assists	1,348	755.34	1,018,194	
Victims Services "Number of Victim assists	22,617	35.57	804,445	
TOTAL			11,503,916	
SECTION III: RECONCILIATION TO BUDGET				
PASS THROUGHS				
TRANSFER - STATE AGENCIES AID TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS				
PAYMENT OF PENSIONS, BENEFITS AND CLAIMS OTHER				
REVERSIONS			773,291	
TOTAL BUDGET FOR AGENCY (Total Activities + Pass Throughs + Reversions) - Should equal Section I above. (4)			12,277,207	
SCHEDULE XI/EXHIBIT VI: AGENCY-LEVEL UNIT COST SUMMAR	Y			

(1) Some activity unit costs may be overstated due to the allocation of double budgeted items.

(2) Expenditures associated with Executive Direction, Administrative Support and Information Technology have been allocated based on FTE. Other allocation methodologies could result in significantly different unit costs per activity.
 (3) Information for FCO depicts amounts for current year appropriations only. Additional information and systems are needed to develop meaningful FCO unit costs.
 (4) Final Budget for Agency and Total Budget for Agency may not equal due to rounding.

Glossary of Terms & Acronyms

Capital Case:

A case in which an inmate has been sentenced to death and the Executive Office of the Governor has requested the Commission review or update a previously conducted clemency interview or to conduct a clemency interview and prepare an in-depth investigation for consideration for commutation of sentence from death to life imprisonment.

Clemency Pending Case:

A clemency case received by the Office of Executive Clemency and the Commission that is moving through some stage of the eligibility determination or investigation process and/or is awaiting final action by the Board of Executive Clemency.

Clemency Investigation:

A background investigation conducted by a commission investigator to determine those persons requesting clemency who should be considered for any form of clemency by the Governor and Cabinet sitting as the Board of Executive Clemency.

Final Hearing:

A fact-finding quasi-judicial hearing held by the Commission's authorized representatives for the purposes of determining whether a release has violated the terms or conditions of their supervision, and, if so, wherein the authorized representatives recommend a disposition to the Commission.

Investigator:

An employee of the Commission responsible for conducting parole, conditional medical release, clemency and revocations investigations, holding revocation hearings, and preparing reports for Commission and Board review.

Releasee:

An offender who has been released to a program of parole, conditional medical release, control release, conditional release, or addiction recovery release supervision.

Restitution:

A special condition of release, whereby the releasee is required to make payments to the victim of the crime.