

U.S. Department of Justice

FY 2027 Performance Budget
Congressional Submission

United States Parole Commission



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I. Overview for U.S. Parole Commission

The mission of the U.S. Parole Commission (USPC) is to promote public safety and strive for justice and fairness in the exercise of its authority to release, revoke, and supervise offenders under its jurisdiction.

The vision of the U.S. Parole Commission (USPC) is to build an organization that balances justice through fair and equal treatment with dignity and respect for offenders, staff and the community we serve.

Organizational Structure

The Chairman and Commissioners create and maintain a national parole policy, grant or deny parole to all eligible Federal and District of Columbia prisoners, render decisions in National Appeals Board cases, administer the USPC crime victim notification program, establish/modify conditions of release; and/or revoke the parole supervised release of offenders who have violated the conditions of supervision. In addition, they also establish release dates for U.S. citizens convicted abroad in foreign countries and returned to the U.S. pursuant to the International Convention on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons

The Office of Budget and Management provides management and advisory services to the Chairman, Commissioners, management officials, and staff in the areas of human resources management; workforce development and training; budget and financial management; contracts and procurement; facilities and property management; telecommunications; security; and all matters pertaining to organization, management, and administration.

The Office of Case Operations conducts parole/release hearings with Federal and D.C. prisoners and revocation hearings with parole and supervised release violators. The Office also plans and schedules parole hearing dockets, coordinates victim/witness testimony at hearings, and prepares recommendations for the Commissioners for all release and revocation decisions.

The Office of Case Services monitors the progress of prisoners and parolees through pre-release and post-release; recommends release dates and release conditions; prepares release paperwork; reviews violation reports and recommends sanctions (e.g., warrants, warrant supplements, letters of reprimand) for the commissioners.

The Office of the General Counsel advises the Commissioners and staff on interpretation of the agency's enabling statutes; drafts implementing rules and regulations; and assists U.S. Attorney's Offices in defending the Commission against lawsuits brought by prisoners and parolees. The office also oversees responses to requests submitted under the Freedom of Information Act and Privacy Act.

• Jurisdiction

The USPC has jurisdiction over the following types of cases:

- *Federal Offenders who committed an offense before November 1, 1987;*
- *District of Columbia Code Offenders given parole or supervised release eligibility at sentencing.*

- *Transfer Treaty cases (U.S. citizens convicted in foreign countries, who have been transferred to serve their sentence in this country); and,*
- *State Probationers and Parolees in the Federal Witness Protection Program.*

In these cases, the USPC has the responsibility of:

- Making initial parole release decisions.
- Determining the initial conditions of supervision.
- Managing the offender's risk in the community.
- Supervising the offender's progress while on release.
- Modifying the conditions of supervision due to changed circumstances.
- Granting Early Termination from parole and supervision for qualified offenders.
- Issuing warrants or summons for offenders who have violated the conditions of supervision.
- Revoking release for such offenders who have been found to have violated the conditions of release; and,
- Building a collaborative community approach to assisting victims and witnesses. Enhancing decision-making through cooperation with external partners in law enforcement and criminal justice to ensure that the victim's input is considered before a decision. Developing policies and procedures to incorporate video conferencing for victim and witness input.

Federal Offenders (offenses committed before November 1, 1987): The USPC has the responsibility for granting or denying parole to Federal offenders who committed their offenses before November 1, 1987, and who are not otherwise ineligible for parole. U.S. Probation Officers provide supervision in the community.

District of Columbia Code Offenders: The USPC has the responsibility for granting or denying parole to D.C. Code offenders who committed their offenses before August 5, 2000, and who are not otherwise ineligible for parole. Supervision Officers of the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency (CSOSA) of the District of Columbia and U.S. Probation Officers provide supervision in the community.

Transfer-Treaty Cases: The USPC has the responsibility for conducting hearings and setting release dates for U.S. citizens who are serving prison terms imposed by foreign countries and who, pursuant to treaty, have elected to be transferred to the United States for service of that sentence. The USPC applies the Federal sentencing guidelines promulgated by the U.S. Sentencing Commission in determining the time to be served in prison before release for offenders who committed their offenses after October 31, 1987. For those offenders who committed their offenses before November 1, 1987, the USPC applies the parole guidelines that are used for parole-eligible Federal offenders.

State Probationers and Parolees in Federal Witness Protection Program: In addition to its general responsibilities, the USPC is also responsible for the revocation of release for certain State probationers and parolees who have been placed in the Federal Witness Protection program. United States Probation Officers provide supervision in the community.

The USPC is responsible for 1) making parole release and revocation decisions for all parole eligible Federal and District of Columbia Code offenders; 2) setting and enforcing the conditions of supervised release for District of Columbia Code offenders; 3) making release decisions for United States citizens convicted of a crime in another country who voluntarily return to the United States for service of sentence; and 4) exercising decision-making authority over State offenders who are on State probation or parole, are transferred to Federal authorities under the witness security program. The Parole Commission has oversight responsibility for the supervision of District of Columbia parolees and supervised releases under the National Capital Revitalization and Self-Government Improvement Act (P.L. 105-33).

Distribution of Offenses

Below are comparison illustrations between Federal Offenders and DC offenders showing the distribution of initial and subsequent offenses including violent offenses for 2025.

Distribution of Initial Offenses FY 2025						
Jurisdiction	Homicide/Aggravated Offenses	Sex Offenses	Drug Offenses	Property Offenses	Firearms	Other
Federal	107	22	6	0	0	4
DC Code (Parole)	234	52	1	10	12	3
DC Code (SRAA)	1199	184	51	144	761	24
Transfer Treaty	6	1	4	0	1	0

Source: Bureau of Prisons data

DC Code (Parole): Refers to persons who committed DC Code crimes prior to 08/05/2000.

DC Code (SRAA): Refers to persons who committed DC Code crimes on or after 08/05/2000 and were sentenced under the Sentencing Reform Amendment Act of 2000 (SRAA), who are not eligible for parole, but who come under USPC's jurisdiction when they begin serving court ordered terms of supervised release.

Distribution of Subsequent Offenses FY 2025					
Jurisdiction	Homicide/Aggravated Offenses	Sex Offenses	Non-Violent Felony Other	Firearms	Misdemeanor Other
Federal	2	2	0	0	1
DC Code (Parole)	5	1	4	3	4
DC Code (SRAA)	15	4	11	19	31

Source: U.S. Parole data

DC Code (Parole): Refers to persons who committed DC Code crimes prior to 08/05/2000.

DC Code (SRAA): Refers to persons who committed DC Code crimes on or after 08/05/2000 and were sentenced under the Sentencing Reform Amendment Act of 2000 (SRAA), who are not eligible for parole, but who come under USPC's jurisdiction when they begin serving court ordered terms of supervised release.

* The distribution of subsequent offenses reflects individuals whom the USPC determined, after a revocation hearing, to have violated the conditions of their release.

Some tactics the USPC has employed to keep communities safer include:

- Developed and implemented enhanced strategies to evaluate reentry and supervision that will ensure community safety, reduce serious violent crime, and reduce recidivism.
- Established short-term intervention sanctions for administrative violators.
- Established and implemented guidelines to reduce recidivism.
- Enhanced current sanctions and developed effective alternatives to incarceration to reduce recidivism for low-risk, non-violent offenders.
- Established conditions of release. Developed risk assessment instruments and guidelines to identify high-risk offenders to require intense supervision sanctions to reduce the chances of recidivism. The USPC targets those offenders involved in gang activity, sex offenses, gun-related offenses, and domestic violence.
- Issue warrants in a timely fashion to remove violent offenders from the community.
- DC Jail and Corrections: Developed new procedures for conducting probable cause and revocation hearings for Technical Parole Violators.

Full Program Costs

The FY 2027 budget request for the USPC is \$12,864,000 and 46 full time permanent positions (including seven attorneys).

Challenges

The USPC acknowledges the challenges that can impede the agency's mission. The challenges that hinder progress towards achievement of agency goals are complex and ever changing. While the USPC's workload depends heavily on the activities of its criminal justice partners, challenges are faced when addressing the need to reduce recidivism. The USPC collaborates with its law enforcement and other criminal justice partners to determine diversions and sanctions that will aid the offender population, under its jurisdiction, before imposing revocation actions that include a term of incarceration. Furthermore, as public safety is paramount, it is necessary to create programming that addresses the need to reduce violent crime, and establish evidence-based programs designed to address the needs of all persons impacted by crime.

To meet the growing needs in post-conviction matters that are under the jurisdiction of the USPC, internal adjustments are required. An increasing concern is the increase in gun violence especially in the District of Columbia. The USPC will need to work closely with its criminal justice partners to establish conditions of supervision that help prevent/deter gun violence and appropriate penalties for persons who possess or use firearms. At the same time, the Commission must also assist the offenders in employment/educational endeavors to establish pro-social opportunities in the community. The USPC staff must have the expertise to evaluate the nature of these specialized areas..

The USPC also faces the challenge in the aging parolee population. The USPC will need to assess limitations that impede the ability of the aging parolee(s). Such actions will be that of looking at if and how the aged parolee can meet some conditions of supervision versus others, if granted parole (e.g., traveling to complete a urine specimen sample when wheelchair-bound). The USPC has the challenge of setting conditions appropriate for supervised

release. Appropriate conditions of supervision, that adequately address close monitoring of offenders, require implementation of comprehensive risk tools.

Lastly, victim notification in post-conviction matters has long posed a challenge because cases that pre-date victim registration laws do not have victim or victim representative information. A great deal of research is required to locate victims or their representatives, and many of the cases considered by the USPC, for parole, are from over 25 years ago. However, the USPC has made positive strides in bridging the gap for locating victims and or witnesses. The agency's enhanced case management system includes a component for storing victim information. This enhancement and its continued refinement ensures that agency records and notification systems remain compliant with the Attorney General's guidelines for victim/witness assistance.

The Victim Witness Unit staff continue to utilize all available resources including contacting U.S. Attorney Offices, who originally prosecuted the cases, to obtain any records that may reflect victim or witness information. A method of cross-referencing information received with other person locator databases further assisted the USPC in locating victims and ensured their proper notification for future parole hearings. The system enhancement also largely helped reach unserved or underserved victims of crime. The ability to reach victims in these populations, in a timely manner, allowed the USPC to make ample alternate arrangements for persons with disabilities.

As a small agency, all the above will be challenging, as much change will be required to ensure success of addressing the growing needs. Innovation, creative and more flexible recruitment options, and restructuring of business operations will have to be employed to meet this challenge.

II. Summary of Program Changes

No Program Changes

III. Appropriations Language and Analysis of Appropriations Language

United States Parole Commission
Salaries and Expenses

*For necessary expenses of the United States Parole Commission as authorized, \$12,864,000:
Provided, that, notwithstanding any other provision of law, upon the expiration of a term of office of
a Commissioner, the Commissioner may continue to act until a successor has been appointed.*

IV. Program Activity Justification

A. U.S. Parole Commission

U.S. Parole Commission	Direct Pos.	Estimate FTE	Amount
2026 Enacted	48	36	13,000
Adjustments to Base and Technical Adjustments	-2	-2	-136
2027 Current Services	46	34	12,864
2027 Request	46	34	12,864
Total Change 2026-2027	-2	34	-136

One major goal of the USPC is to issue warrants for those that willfully violate the conditions of their release and for those with the most egregious behavior, typically tied to violence, child abuse, sex offenses, etc. This approach will keep our communities safe while also returning the more productive, low-risk offenders to the community in a timely and cost-efficient manner. Currently, strategic processes are occurring throughout the Commission to aid in our recidivism reduction efforts: Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Program (RSAT), the Pilot Project for Administrative Violators Expedited Resolution (PAVER) Program, Review of USPC Detainers and Notice to Appear hearings (NTA).

Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Program (RSAT)

The RSAT program was implemented in 2009 to deliver substance use disorder treatment in a correctional facility setting as an alternative for offenders who would otherwise face revocation for low-level violations related to drug use and community reintegration failures. Operating out of the DC Department of Corrections, the RSAT program has a capacity of 75 beds for males, 25 beds for women, and a program length of up to 120 days, with 30 days of community-based inpatient or outpatient treatment.

PAVER Program

The PAVER program was designed to respond to offenders with administrative violations by imposing an immediate short-term sanction. For example, an absconder from supervision can consent to the PAVER program and waive the cumbersome and traditional revocation process in order to receive a reduced term of incarceration. This program provided the Commission with flexibility in decision-making, particularly in less serious cases, and as a result, it has yielded considerable cost savings to the Commission and partner agencies. A 2013 study indicated that 357 participants in the SIS program (a precursor to PAVER) saved the federal government \$7,546,226 by reducing the costs of revocation and incarceration for the Commission, the Bureau of Prisons, the Public Defender Service, and CSOSA. The PAVER program has been so successful that it has been expanded from a Washington, DC pilot program to nationwide coverage. Participation in the PAVER program was robust in FY 2025 with 58 participants. While the long-term dividends from this program are yet to be revealed, the number of appeals for DC Code cases (the primary population for the PAVER program) have declined which is seen as a direct result of the success of this program.

Review USPC Detainers

The USPC has implemented a new internal rule that will allow for a more efficient disposition of detainer warrants. The rule change will allow prisoners convicted of new crimes to request disposition of the warrant lodged against them. The typical process is to wait until the prisoner finishes their new sentence before we resolve the violation. This process can, sometimes, negatively impact on an offender's access to programs. The USPC has tasked their Hearing Examiners with the added responsibility of working through these cases right after the offender is sentenced on new crimes.

Notice to Appear at a Reprimand Sanction Hearing

The Notice to Appear at a Reprimand Sanction Hearing initiative was developed in partnership with the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency (CSOSA). The program is an intermediate sanction imposed in response to minor violations of supervision conditions. The hearings are conducted virtually by USPC Case Analysts establish a 90-day (or less) compliance case plan developed during the preceding. The goal is to receive a commitment, from an offender, that they will work toward the established goals or face revocation action through continued non-compliance.

Changes in Population and Workload

For FY 2024¹, the USPC estimates the total prisoner and parolee population, Federal and D.C., including D.C. supervised releases, to be approximately 4,224, a decrease of 486 from the previous year. The D.C. population under the USPC's jurisdiction is estimated to be 4,037 and includes 630 D.C. parolees and 3,407 supervised releases. The remaining 187 individuals consist of Federal offenders (including Federal prisoners, parolees, and transfer treaty) and State probationers and parolees in the Federal Witness Protection Program. These numbers are an estimate based on the data provided by the U.S. Probation Office and the Bureau of Prisons.

Much of the DC caseload is driven by the management and evaluation of the progress of offenders in the community; the tracking of those at risk; the imposition of additional sanctions or conditions to ensure public safety; and finally, requests for warrants as a result of violations of the terms and conditions of parole. When a warrant is issued, a request for a preliminary interview follows, along with a hearing afterwards. However, due to the number of offenses still being generated by the remaining offenders it is possible to not realize a decrease in workload.

Local revocation hearings are held at facilities in the locality where a parolee has been arrested, and these require more attention because the hearings are adversarial. An offender may contest the charges and is entitled to representation by an attorney, along with the ability to call witnesses. Additionally, these hearings are costlier to the USPC because they often involve travel to a remote location, where the examiner is only able to handle a particular case. In an institutional hearing, the parolee has admitted to the charges or been convicted of new criminal activity, and the issues to be heard involve the degree of responsibility and the length of additional incarceration. Institutional hearings are less costly because the examiner can handle several cases during one docket. Local revocations are two to three times as labor intensive as institutional hearings.

The USPC also imposes conditions of release for DC new law prisoners, State probationers and

¹ 2025 data unavailable at the time of submission

parolees transferred to Federal jurisdiction under the witness protection program. While the offenders are under supervision in the community, the agency continues to evaluate their progress and impose additional conditions or sanctions, as warranted.

To further reentry efforts, the USPC develops and implements alternatives to incarceration programs to provide another avenue of correction for low-risk, non-violent offenders who commit administrative violations. For high-risk offenders who have violated the conditions of release, the USPC conducts revocation hearings for Federal old law, DC old law, DC new law, and State probationers and parolees transferred under the witness protection program.

VII. EXHIBITS