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[mn.gov/sentencing-guidelines/](http://mn.gov/sentencing-guidelines/)

**AT A GLANCE**

- Eleven Minnesota Sentencing Guidelines Commission (MSGC) members represent key criminal justice stakeholders and the public
- MSGC creates and improves Sentencing Guidelines
- Guidelines give judges uniform standards to apply when sentencing 16,000 felony cases annually
- MSGC staff help criminal justice professionals in all 87 counties use the Guidelines correctly
- MSGC staff publish reports and conduct research on felony sentencing for Commission, Legislature, and the public

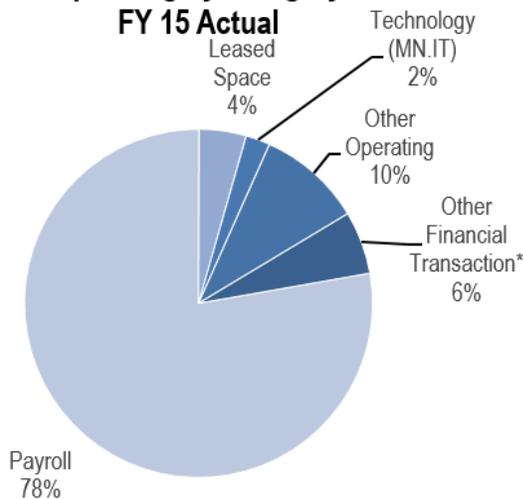
**PURPOSE**

The MSGC exists to establish rational and consistent sentencing standards that enhance public safety by—

- Reducing sentencing disparities
- Recommending felony sanctions that are proportional to the crime’s severity and the offender’s criminal history
- Creating policies that support the appropriate use of finite correctional resources
- The MSGC supports the statewide outcome that **people in Minnesota are safe**
- The MSGC supports the statewide outcome of **efficient and accountable government services**

**BUDGET**

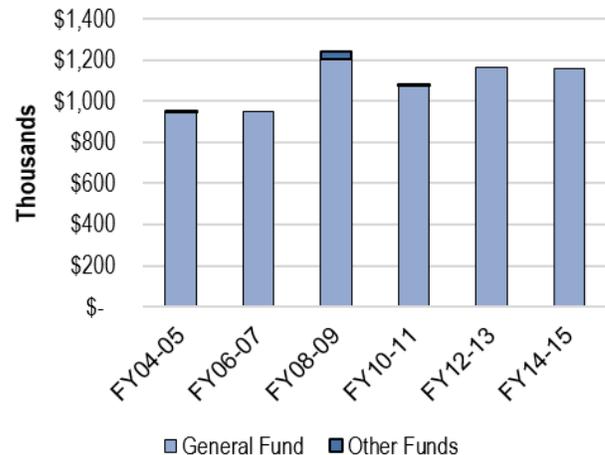
**Spending by Category  
FY 15 Actual**



\* Transfer to MN.IT Odyssey Fund for necessary revisions to Electronic Worksheet System

Source: BPAS

**Historical Spending**



Source: Consolidated Fund Statement

The MSGC’s activities are financed entirely through the General Fund. Its payroll budget consists of one (1) Executive Director, four (4) Research Analysts, and one (1) Management Analyst. Operating expenses included leased space, technology and maintenance costs, and education delivery costs.

**STRATEGIES**

The Minnesota Sentencing Guidelines Commission utilizes the following strategies to accomplish its mission.

- The MSGC meets monthly to work on improving the Sentencing Guidelines and, from time to time, making recommendations to the Legislature regarding changes to criminal law, criminal procedure, and other aspects of sentencing.

- MSGC staff create and maintain a comprehensive and accurate database on felony sentences.
- MSGC staff publish reports on sentencing practices and related criminal justice issues. These reports help policymakers, criminal justice officials, and the public evaluate felony sentencing policy and proposed legislation.
- A sentencing worksheet is required whenever a judge sentences a felony, and MSGC staff review every worksheet to ensure the accurate and consistent application of the Guidelines.
- MSGC staff provide in-person and web-based educational opportunities to help practitioners understand and correctly apply Guidelines policies.
- As needed, the MSGC and its staff respond to changes in case law, legislation, and issues raised by interested parties.
- Annually, MSGC staff work with the Department of Corrections to generate prison bed projections.
- MSGC members and staff serve on committees and task forces to further the goals of the criminal justice system.

## RESULTS

<i>Type of Measure</i>	<i>Name of Measure</i>	<i>Previous</i>	<i>Current</i>	<i>Dates</i>
Quantity	Felony offenders' sentencing worksheets reviewed	16,145	16,763	2014 & 2015
Quantity	Individual data reports prepared for practitioners, media, and the public	200	250	2014 & 2015
Quality	Number of agency fiscal notes completed; timeliness percentage	70; 100%	78; 100%	2013-14 & 2015-16
Results	Percentage of felony offenders receiving the recommend Guidelines sentence	72%	72%	2013 & 2014

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M.S. 244.09 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=244.09>) provides the legal authority for the MSGC.

**Expenditures By Fund**

	Actual FY14	Actual FY15	Actual FY16	Estimate FY17	Forecasted Base		Governor's Recommendation	
					FY18	FY19	FY18	FY19
1000 - General	539	617	567	669	641	641	658	675
<b>Total</b>	<b>539</b>	<b>617</b>	<b>567</b>	<b>669</b>	<b>641</b>	<b>641</b>	<b>658</b>	<b>675</b>
<i>Biennial Change</i>				80		46		97
<i>Biennial % Change</i>				7		4		8
<i>Governor's Change from Base</i>								51
<i>Governor's % Change from Base</i>								4

**Expenditures by Program**

Program: Mn Sentencing Guideline Com	539	617	567	669	641	641	658	675
<b>Total</b>	<b>539</b>	<b>617</b>	<b>567</b>	<b>669</b>	<b>641</b>	<b>641</b>	<b>658</b>	<b>675</b>

**Expenditures by Category**

Compensation	468	481	505	570	580	580	593	606
Operating Expenses	63	111	62	100	61	62	65	70
Other Financial Transactions	8	25						
<b>Total</b>	<b>539</b>	<b>617</b>	<b>567</b>	<b>669</b>	<b>641</b>	<b>641</b>	<b>658</b>	<b>675</b>

**Full-Time Equivalents**

	5.6	5.3	5.4	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0
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**1000 - General**

	Actual	Actual	Actual	Estimate	Forecast Base		Governor's Recommendation	
	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY18	FY19
Balance Forward In	0	47	0	28	0	0	0	0
Direct Appropriation	886	586	595	641	641	641	658	675
Net Transfers	(300)	(13)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cancellations	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Expenditures</b>	<b>539</b>	<b>617</b>	<b>567</b>	<b>669</b>	<b>641</b>	<b>641</b>	<b>658</b>	<b>675</b>
Balance Forward Out	47	0	28	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Biennial Change in Expenditures</i>				80		46		97
<i>Biennial % Change in Expenditures</i>				7		4		8
<i>Gov's Exp Change from Base</i>								51
<i>Gov's Exp % Change from Base</i>								4
Full-Time Equivalents	5.6	5.3	5.4	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0

# Minnesota Sentencing Guidelines Commission

## FY18-19 Biennial Budget Change Item

### Change Item Title: Operating Adjustment

Fiscal Impact (\$000s)	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
General Fund				
Expenditures	17	34	34	34
Revenues	0	0	0	0
Other Funds				
Expenditures	0	0	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0	0
Net Fiscal Impact = (Expenditures – Revenues)	17	34	34	34
<b>FTEs</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

### Recommendation:

The Governor recommends additional funding of \$51,000 to maintain the current level of service delivery at the Minnesota Sentencing Guidelines Commission.

### Rationale/Background:

Each year, employer-paid health care contributions, pension contributions, FICA and Medicare, along with other salary and compensation-related costs increase. Other operating costs, like rent and lease, fuel and utilities, and IT and legal services also grow. This cost growth puts pressure on agency operating budgets that remain flat from year to year.

Agencies face challenging decisions to manage these costs within existing budgets, while maintaining the services Minnesotans expect. From year to year, agencies find ways to become more efficient with existing resources. However, cost growth typically outstrips efficiencies, and without additional resources added to agency budgets, service delivery erodes.

For the Minnesota Sentencing Guidelines Commission, an erosion of services could include reducing analysis of sentencing laws and changes provided to judges, the legislature, and the public.

### Proposal:

The Governor recommends increasing agency operating budgets to maintain the delivery of current services. For the Minnesota Sentencing Guidelines Commission, this funding will cover expected and anticipated employee compensation growth, including anticipated compensation increases and employer-paid pension costs.

### Results:

This proposal is intended to allow agencies to continue to provide current levels of service and information to the public.

### Statutory Change(s):

N.A.