



# Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for the District of Columbia

*Office of Legislative, Intergovernmental and Public Affairs*

## Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency (CSOSA) (A federal executive branch agency) 2010

**Established:** By the U.S. Congress in August, 1997  
**Authorizing Legislation:** National Capital Revitalization  
and Self-Government Improvement Act  
(5 U.S.C. 301, P.L. 105-33)

CSOSA is an independent executive branch agency of the Federal government, established under legislation that relieved the District of Columbia of “state-level” responsibilities. The Revitalization Act restructured several District of Columbia criminal justice functions, including the closing of the Lorton prison complex and the creation of CSOSA. CSOSA was certified as an independent executive branch agency of the federal government in August, 2000. **The Pretrial Services Agency (PSA)** is an independent entity within CSOSA with a separate budget providing supervision and support services to 5,500 defendants. See [www.dcpsa.gov](http://www.dcpsa.gov).

**Function:** CSOSA provides supervision and support services to offenders serving terms of:

**Probation**, as ordered by the D.C. Superior Court;  
**Parole**, as granted by the United States Parole Commission; and  
**Supervised Release**, as determined by law and administered by the United States Parole Commission.

**Director:** Deputy Director Adrienne Poteat.

**Locations:** Headquarters: 633 Indiana Avenue NW  
Field Offices: 300 Indiana Avenue NW (Includes Drug Lab)  
25 K Street NE  
800 North Capitol Street NE  
1230 Taylor Street NW  
910 Rhode Island Ave. NE  
1418 Good Hope Road SE  
3850 South Capitol Street SE

**Employees:** 920 for CSOSA; 373 for PSA

**Budget:** FY 2009: \$148 million for CSOSA; \$55 million for Pretrial Services.

**Web Sites:** [www.csosa.gov](http://www.csosa.gov); <http://media.csosa.gov> (social media site)

### Offender Population Profile

On any given day, the Community Supervision Program supervises approximately 16,200 offenders. The offender population is displayed as follows:

<b>Average Age:</b>	38 years	<b>Education Level:</b>	
<b>Race:</b>		Less than 10 <sup>th</sup> grade	15.5%
African-American	89.0%	10 <sup>th</sup> to 12 <sup>th</sup> grade	25.0%
Caucasian	5.0%	HS Diploma/GED	41.0%
Hispanic	5.0%	Post Secondary Study	18.0%
All Other	1.0%		
<b>Gender:</b>			
Male	84.0%	Female	17.0%

The distribution of Supervision types for CSOSA offenders was as follows:

Population by Type of Supervision	
Probation.....	57%
Parole.....	18%
Supervised Release.....	22%
Deferred Sentence.....	2%
Civil Protection Order.....	1%

Average Supervision Term:	
Probation .....	1.6 years
Parole .....	9 years (Median)
Supervised Release.....	3.8 years
Deferred Sentence .....	9 months
Civil Protection Order .....	1 year

### Supervision Services

CSOSA's 340 Community Supervision Officers and other line staff (470 total positions) are organized into teams according to the type of caseload they manage. Most officers carry a caseload that includes parolees, supervised releases and probationers.

- **Diagnostic** officers prepare pre-sentence investigations for the Court. Three specialized teams work with pre-parole inmates in the halfway houses through CSOSA's Transitional Interventions for Parole Supervision (TIPS) program to provide transitional housing, employment and social services.
- **General Supervision** teams supervise the majority of offenders. The average caseload is approximately 53 active cases per officer (42 to 1 for general cases, excluding warrants).
- **Special Supervision** teams supervise smaller caseloads of high-risk offenders, such as sex offenders, offenders with mental health problems; domestic violence cases; traffic/alcohol cases; and specialized substance abuse cases. The average caseload is 39 active cases per officer.
- **Interstate** teams supervise offenders who were sentenced in other jurisdictions but relocated to the District of Columbia, as well as monitor D.C. offenders whose cases were transferred to other jurisdictions.

## Program Interventions

CSOSA's program model incorporates a number of innovative strategies emphasizing offender **accountability** and **opportunity** to develop the skills and resources that support crime and drug-free behavior. Our services include:

- **Risk and Needs Assessment:** Assessment of each offender's risk to the community and social needs results in a supervision plan to address these concerns. **CSOSA's TIPS Unit** provides this assessment for all offenders returning from federal prison through six federal/ DC community corrections centers to create a plan *before* release.
- **High Levels of Supervision:** CSOSA policy mandates supervision levels that are commensurate with risk levels. All offenders are assessed to determine their supervision and needs levels. High-risk offenders receive eight meaningful contacts per month, four of which are in the community. Levels of contact decrease to four, two and one contact(s) per month based on the risk assessment score and demonstrated compliance. CSOSA's six field units promote close supervision of the offender both in the office and at the residence or workplace. Officers conduct 37,000 home visits a year.
- **Surveillance Drug Testing:** Levels of contact are supplemented by extensive drug testing. CSOSA tests *all* offenders initially, starting at intake and continuing twice weekly for eight weeks. If the offender tests negative, the frequency decreases to weekly for an additional twelve weeks, then monthly throughout the term of supervision. Violations return the offender to the toughest schedule. Positive tests are addressed through a combination of treatment referral and sanctions (see below). As of 2007, drug testing may be modified to fit offender circumstances.
- **Drug Treatment:** CSOSA's Reentry and Sanctions Center provides approximately 1,200 residential drug assessment and pre-treatment slots per year. Research on this program indicates that it is highly effective. CSOSA also provides a continuum of detox, residential, and outpatient drug treatment through eleven contract providers, as well as referrals to DC and Veterans Administration resources. CSOSA has the resources to provide direct drug treatment to approximately 25 percent of the population in need of services. We partner with D.C. government, faith-based institutions and other federal agencies to meet substance abuse needs.
- **Graduated Sanctions:** One of the keys to successful supervision is the implementation of swift and certain sanctions when rule-breaking behavior occurs. CSOSA's sanctions are defined in a contract between the officer and the offender, which is signed at the beginning of supervision. From the start, the offender knows what will happen if s/he does not comply. Sanction options include day reporting, electronic and GPS (satellite) monitoring, automatic return to twice weekly drug testing, increased telephone or in-person contacts with the supervision officer, and short-term residential placement.
- **Global Positioning System (GPS):** CSOSA monitors selected sex, domestic violence and high-risk offenders via satellite. GPS monitoring is currently imposed as a sanction once the offender has demonstrated non-compliant behavior. GPS monitoring creates a real-time record of the offender's location and movements. More than 700 offenders a day are under satellite tracking; to increase to 800 in 2009.
- **Vocational Opportunities Training, Education and Employment Services (VOTEE Unit):** After assessment, selected offenders are referred to one of four CSOSA learning labs throughout the city for assessment, educational services, job development skills, employment counseling and placement. Specialized services are offered to female offenders.

