



2013 Funding Priorities

Department of Corrections

Issue: Community residential drug treatment beds promote public safety by allowing offenders with a recurring substance abuse problem to be effectively treated in the community saving taxpayers the cost of a lengthy incarceration.

- **\$1.3 million - Fully Fund Existing Community Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Beds - (Governor's budget recommendation)**
- **Restore Funding for Community Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Beds**

# of Beds	Cost
300	\$5.33 Million
500	\$8.89 Million
700	\$12.44 Million
900	\$16 Million

Rationale: Community residential substance abuse treatment provides a cost effective approach for offenders on community supervision for the following reasons:

- By court ordering offenders into this program, judges have options to prison placement
- Offenders not only receive treatment, they also participate in supervised employment thus reducing the burden on taxpayers by paying part of the cost of their treatment
- Offenders pay fines, court costs, restitution and child support while in the program
- The program is a key resource to ensure the 57.8% of probationers in need of substance abuse treatment receive it
- A December 2012 statewide poll revealed that 81% of Floridians supported cost-effective programs
- In 2003 there were 1,967 community residential substance abuse treatment beds in communities across Florida, today there are 1,061 beds. Restoration funding would return these valuable community resources to the 2003 funding level.

Effectiveness: Community residential substance abuse treatment is cost effective:

- Two years after program completion, only 5% have committed a new offense that resulted in a prison sentence and 2.5% were returned to probation supervision
- Of all program participants, only 23.1% were sent to prison for a new offense or technical violation
- The average cost of the program is \$10,500 vs. average of \$53,000 for a prison commitment for a drug offender (serving 85% of average 3.2 year sentence)
- If only 2 in 5 participants are successfully diverted from a prison commitment, the state saves