

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

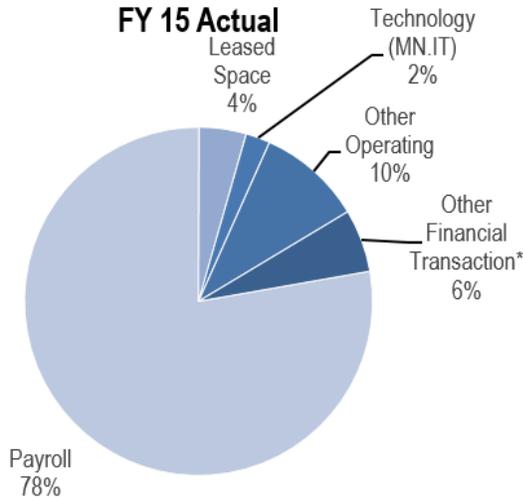
PURPOSE

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

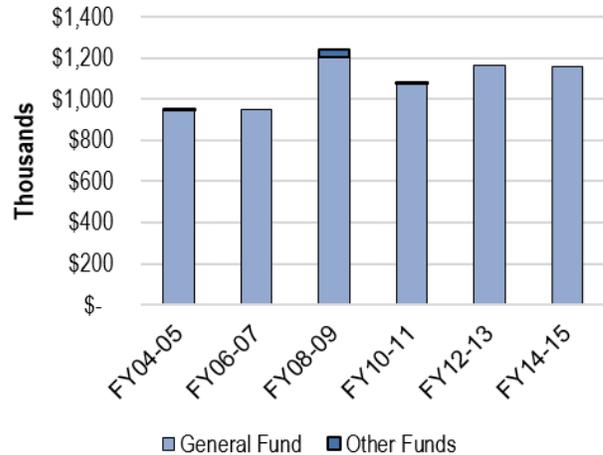
**Spending by Category
FY 15 Actual**



* 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

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