

Increasing Earned Compliance Credits on Probation

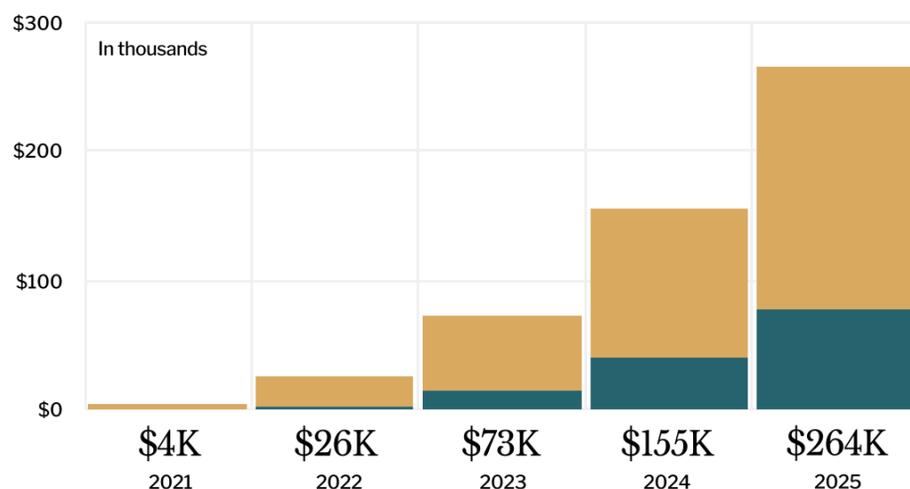
5-year impact in Oklahoma

Increasing access to earned compliance credits could help Oklahoma avoid \$264K in cumulative cost, reduce the average probation officer caseload by 7.7%, and give 5,750 life years back from probation supervision over five years.

This projection assumes all felony probationers, except those who are serving their sentence for domestic abuse or 85% violent crimes, would be eligible to earn 30 days off their sentence for each month they remain in good standing.

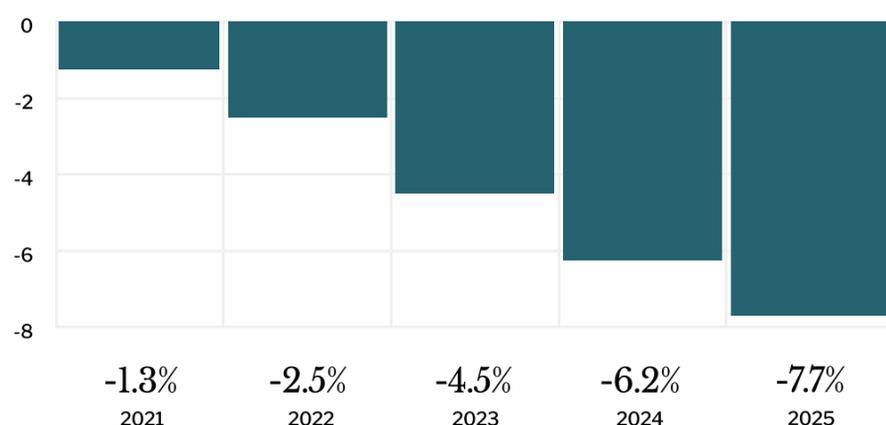
Marginal cost avoidance (cumulative)

- \$77K incarceration cost from fewer technical revocations
- \$187K from fewer people on probation



Model assumes a per capita marginal cost of \$2,965 for incarceration and \$390 for probation. Marginal cost only includes short-run costs, such as food and clothing, which change proportionally to the change in population.

Average % reduction in probation caseload (annual)



5,750

Life years back from probation supervision

162

Fewer people in prison for technical revocations in 2025

The opportunity

In 2019, Oklahoma had 31,786 people on supervision. Each probation officer averaged 100 cases—30 more than best practice recommendations. That year, the Oklahoma Department of Corrections spent \$25.9M of its \$517M budget on supervision. Increasing access to earned compliance credits would decrease spending and normalize caseloads by reducing the amount of time eligible individuals spend on probation.

The 2017 Oklahoma Task Force Report found that the supervised population increased 16% more than the incarcerated population from 2011 to 2015. At the same time, the rate of successful probation completions fell. On any given day, 3,004 individuals—11% of Oklahoma’s prison population—are incarcerated due to probation violations, resulting in an annual cost of \$51M.

A significant amount of Oklahoma’s supervision resources are used on individuals deemed low-risk. In 2015, 45% of active OK DOC probationers were classified as low-risk or on administrative caseloads; in contrast, only 17% of probationers in Kansas were classified as low-risk. Because the likelihood of recidivating is highest within the first year of release, lengthy supervision terms are ineffective in reducing reincarceration and can in fact lead to higher recidivism among individuals classified as low-risk. Research shows that rewards-based incentives like earned compliance credits encourage individuals to comply with the conditions of their supervision, thereby reducing recidivism and increasing the odds of success.

Impact of earned compliance credits in other states

Louisiana

In 2017, Louisiana signed the Criminal Justice Reinvestment Act, which decreased the probation population through earned compliance credits by almost 6,000 within eight months. Through FY18 and FY19, the Criminal Justice Reinvestment Act saved Louisiana \$30M, with the majority of savings being allocated towards victims’ services and treatments.

Arizona

In 2008, Arizona passed the Safe Communities Act, which established earned sentence credits for individuals who complied with the terms of their supervision. Since the passage of the act, Arizona has seen a 29% decrease in probation revocations.