District of Columbia Sentencing Commission FY2019

Agency District of Columbia Sentencing Commission   **Agency Code** FZ0   **Fiscal Year** 2019

Mission The mission of the District of Columbia Sentencing Commission is to implement, monitor, and support the District's voluntary sentencing guidelines, to promote fair and consistent sentencing policies, to increase public understanding of sentencing policies and practices, and to evaluate the effectiveness of the guidelines system in order to recommend changes based on actual sentencing and corrections practice and research.

▼ 2019 Strategic Objectives

Objective Number	Strategic Objective
1	Provide fair, consistent and transparent sentencing policy for felony sentences imposed in the District of Columbia to ensure that similar offenders who are convicted of similar offenses receive similar sentences.
2	Provide effective education and support to improve understanding and awareness of the District's Voluntary Sentencing Guidelines to ensure citizens of the District have a clear understanding of the sentencing process.
3	Provide high quality analysis and evaluation of sentencing data to inform the development of effective sentencing policy in the District of Columbia that increases public safety while decreasing unwarrented disparity in sentences.

▼ 2019 Key Performance Indicators

Measure	Directionality	FY 2016 Actual	FY 2017 Actual	FY 2018 Actual	FY 2019 Target
1 - Provide fair, consistent and transparent sentencing policy for felony sentences imposed in the District of Columbia to ensure that similar offenders who are convicted of similar offenses receive similar sentences. (4 Measures)					
Percent of Compliant Guideline Sentences	Up is Better	95.8%	96.4%	96.8%	96.5%
Compliant Departures	Up is Better	88.7%	91.1%	94.1%	93%
Compliant In-The-Box Sentences Imposed	Up is Better	89.3%	87.8%	89.9%	87.5%
Percent of compliant sentences that represent 11(C)(1)(c) pleas	Up is Better	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available	New Measure
2 - Provide effective education and support to improve understanding and awareness of the District's Voluntary Sentencing Guidelines to ensure citizens of the District have a clear understanding of the sentencing process. (2 Measures)					
Effective Guideline Trainings	Up is Better	Not Available	90.6%	90.7%	83%
Guideline Questions Answered	Up is Better	99.5%	98.2%	99.5%	98.5%
3 - Provide high quality analysis and evaluation of sentencing data to inform the development of effective sentencing policy in the District of Columbia that increases public safety while decreasing unwarrented disparity in sentences. (2 Measures)					
Data Request Response Time	Up is Better	Not Available	95%	90.9%	76%

Measure	Directionality	FY 2016 Actual	FY 2017 Actual	FY 2018 Actual	FY 2019 Target
GRID/GSS tickets resolved within 14 days	Up is Better	Not Available	74.4%	75.8%	68%

▾ 2019 Operations

Operations Header	Operations Title	Operations Description	Type of Operations
1 - Provide fair, consistent and transparent sentencing policy for felony sentences imposed in the District of Columbia to ensure that similar offenders who are convicted of similar offenses receive similar sentences. (2 Activities)			
SENTENCING GUIDELINE MONITORING	Identify Irregularities and Inconsistencies in Felony Sentences Imposed	Review sentencing data received from the D.C. Superior Court to identify data quality issues to be resolved; identify sentences that are outside the recommended guideline sentence; and identify emerging sentencing trends that may require review by the Commission and potential policy modifications.	Daily Service
SENTENCING GUIDELINE MONITORING	Review and Verify All Felony Sentences	Review and verify each felony sentence imposed by the D.C. Superior Court is accurate, legal; and complete. Once the verification process is completed, calculate whether the sentence imposed matches the recommended guideline sentence in an accurate and timely manner.	Daily Service
2 - Provide effective education and support to improve understanding and awareness of the District's Voluntary Sentencing Guidelines to ensure citizens of the District have a clear understanding of the sentencing process. (4 Activities)			
SENTENCING GUIDELINES TRAINING	Maintain and Update Agency Website	Update the agency's website with "Guideline Alerts" to ensure the public and criminal justice community are notified of changes to sentencing policy or practices under the sentencing guidelines. Monthly update training and other guideline related materials to ensure public access to accurate and timely information about sentencing in the District of Columbia.	Daily Service
SENTENCING GUIDELINES TRAINING	Provide Sentencing Guideline Training	Provide Sentencing Guideline training to criminal justice professional that will increase their understanding of sentencing practices under the Guidelines and ensure proper application of the Guidelines thus reducing potential sentencing errors.	Daily Service
SENTENCING GUIDELINES TRAINING	Respond to Guideline Questions	On an ongoing basis the agency responds to questions from a number of sources including, Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency, judges, attorneys, and the public regarding criminal history scoring, sentence options, and offense rankings. Responding to these questions in an accurate and timely manner avoids procedural delays and ensure that the parties understand the sentencing options available under the Sentencing Guidelines.	Daily Service
SENTENCING GUIDELINE MONITORING	Public Access to Sentencing Data	Provide a yearly data set on the agency's website to allow researchers and the public direct access to felony sentencing related data in the District.	Key Project
3 - Provide high quality analysis and evaluation of sentencing data to inform the development of effective sentencing policy in the District of Columbia that increases public safety while decreasing unwarranted disparity in sentences. (2 Activities)			
POLICY REPORTS AND PROPOSALS	Respond to Data Requests	Effectively and efficiently respond to data requests from legislators, criminal justice professionals, and the public by providing accurate and timely sentencing information.	Daily Service
			Daily Service

Operations Header	Operations Title	Operations Description	Type of Operations
SENTENCING GUIDELINE MONITORING	Monitor and Maintain the Guideline Reporting Information Data (GRID) System	Monitor and maintain the data analysis module of the agency's GRID system used to identify and evaluate sentencing trends throughout the year to inform the development of effective sentencing policy for the District. Technical and operational issues identified will be reported to the vendor for resolution within 14 days.	

▼ 2019 Workload Measures

Measure	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018
1 - Identify Irregularities and Inconsistencies in Felony Sentences Imposed (1 Measure)			
Number of Sealed Cases	1690	2144	3026
1 - Review and Verify All Felony Sentences (6 Measures)			
Number of CSOSA Criminal History Scores Submitted	1656	2004	2833
Number of Felony Cases Sentenced	1843	2182	1813
Number of Felony Counts Sentenced	2388	2658	2316
Number of Departure Letters Sent	60	124	114
Departure Letter Responses	71.7%	79.1%	85.1%
Number of Probation Revocations Sentenced	Not Available	Not Available	355
2 - Maintain and Update Agency Website (1 Measure)			
Number of Agency Website Hits	23,424	14,495	19,151
2 - Provide Sentencing Guideline Training (3 Measures)			
Number of Sentencing Guideline Trainings Provided	20	15	19
Agency Website Updates Completed	42	64	43
Number of individuals receiving Sentencing Guideline Training	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available
3 - Monitor and Maintain the Guideline Reporting Information Data (GRID) System (3 Measures)			
Number Hours required to complete data requests	826	1688	971
Number of GRID Tickets Entered	67	45	69
Number of new charge codes mapped in GRID	Not Available	Not Available	21

Measure	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018
3 - Respond to Data Requests (1 Measure)			
Number of Data Requests Received	47	38	47

2019 Strategic Initiatives

Strategic Initiative Title	Strategic Initiative Description	Proposed Completion Date
Provide Sentencing Guideline Training (1 Strategic Initiative)		
Modifications to Guideline Trainings	The Evaluation Study of the Sentencing Guidelines contained several recommendations regarding modifications to criminal history calculations and application of the Guidelines. As the Commission implements these modifications, there will need to be specific trainings to ensure regular users of the Guidelines understand the changes and properly apply the Guidelines. At a minimum, the Commission will enact two Guideline Policy related changes by September 30, 2019. For each modification, two trainings will be completed within 30 days of the enactment of the policy change and a Guideline Alert will be developed and placed on the agency's webpage within 10 days of the policy change. In addition any required modifications to Guideline Reference material will be developed semi-annually and distributed electronically and in hard copy format when requested.	09-30-2019
Public Access to Sentencing Data (1 Strategic Initiative)		
Annual Public Data Set	Provide a yearly data set on the agency's website to allow researchers and the public direct access to felony sentencing related data in the District. All felony sentences imposed during calendar year 2018 will be downloaded from the Guideline Information Reporting Data (GRID) system will be downloaded on January 1, 2019. The all personal identifying information will be removed from the data set and the data set will be cleaned by March 15, 2019, and posted on the agency's website by April 30, 2019.	04-30-2019
Respond to Guideline Questions (1 Strategic Initiative)		
Classification of Guideline Questions	The agency responds to Sentencing Guideline related questions from practitioners and policy makers on a daily basis. To streamline the response time to Guideline related questions, the agency will categorize questions into three specific categories: (1) Criminal history related, (2) Guideline application, and (3) Other. These groupings will be monitored and will serve as the basis for a minimum of two new FAQs that will be added to the agency's website by the end of each quarter. These FAQs will provide guidance to the most frequently asked Guideline questions and identify specific areas that should be highlighted in future Guideline Trainings.	09-30-2019
Review and Verify All Felony Sentences (1 Strategic Initiative)		
11(c)(1)(c) Pleas	An 11(c)(1)(c) plea represents an agreement between a prosecutor, defense counsel, and the judge to a sentence that is considered compliant regardless of whether it falls within the recommended Guideline Sentence range. This initiative will identify and track quarterly the percentage of the total number of compliant Guideline Sentences that are the result of 11(c)(1)(c) pleas.	09-27-2019