



# Eighth Judicial District Department of Correctional Services

*Serving the 14 Counties of Southeast Iowa*

---

---

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 13, 2015

The Department of Justice Office of Justice Programs has awarded a three-year grant for \$748,121 to the Eighth Judicial District Department of Correctional Services to implement a pilot program for youthful sex offenders that provides an age-appropriate, seamless continuum of intensive treatment and long-term supervision services for young adults, ages 18 to 25.

The grant will fund two full-time positions including a specialized probation and parole officer and a high-risk unit officer. Other critical stakeholders in the program include district judges, Iowa Workforce Development, and several local agencies to facilitate treatment classes and provide individual counseling. The Iowa Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning will provide evaluation services for the project.

“We are always excited about the opportunity to implement innovative ideas in community-based corrections,” Director Daniel T. Fell said of the program that, at full capacity, will annually serve 25 to 30 offenders in half of the district’s 14 counties.

Key to the success of the program will be providing a separate treatment track for youthful sex offenders by minimizing interactions with older sex offenders.

“Research tells us that that this population is at risk for noncompliance due to age-related issues, which can ultimately lead to incarceration. Evidence-based practices suggest that it is inadvisable to mix younger offenders in treatment programs created for adult offenders. This program is designed to reduce recidivism among youthful sex offenders by offering treatment and supervision services that meet their unique needs,” Fell said.

### PROVIDING AN OPPORTUNITY FOR CHANGE