



ILLINOIS SENTENCING  
POLICY ADVISORY  
COUNCIL

SPAC

Strategic Plan 2024  
June 21, 2024 SPAC Meeting



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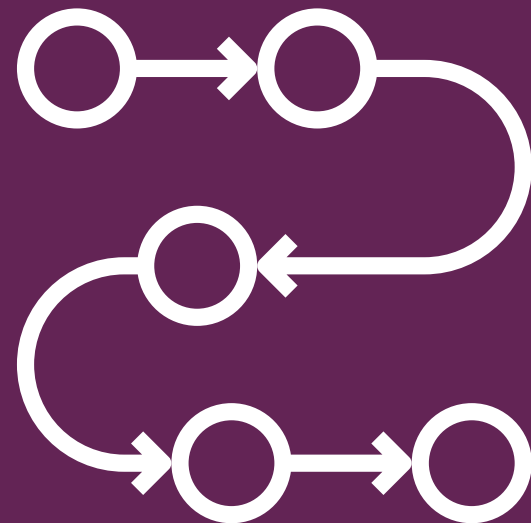


## Purpose of Strategic Plan

SPAC has been in existence for almost 15 years

It is time to develop a strategic plan to guide us for the next 15 years - and beyond

The goals and strategies identified in the plan will ensure the sustainability of SPAC for decades to come



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## Background

In 2009, with the enactment of PA 096-0711, the Illinois Sentencing Policy Advisory Council (SPAC) was established to collect, analyze, and present data from all areas of the criminal justice system to fully comprehend the implications of sentencing policy decisions. SPAC offers policymakers reliable data and analysis for informed, evidence-based public safety policy decisions.

SPAC is an independent and non-partisan sentencing commission that provides guidance on sentencing policies in Illinois. The 23-person council comprises of a wide range of criminal justice experts, including, judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, community representatives, and victims of violent crimes. The council participates in educational efforts, stakeholder meetings, and public forums to facilitate communication and understanding among the various stakeholders involved in sentencing decisions. Researchers and council members review resource needs across the criminal justice system and assess the effectiveness of current sentencing policies and practices.



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# SWOT Analysis

<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Weaknesses</b>
<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Threats</b>

# Vision and Mission



## Vision

We believe that lawmakers and stakeholders of Illinois should use reliable data and non-partisan policy analysis when making decisions about sentencing and corrections policies. Doing so when developing sentencing and corrections legislation and policies will promote a fair, consistent, and effective criminal justice system for our state.

## Mission

We provide reliable data, research, and policy analysis to lawmakers and criminal justice stakeholders to inform decisions related to developing sentencing and corrections legislation and policies.

## Core Values:



## Core Values



# Introducing Goals:



- **Goal #1:** Reinforce the infrastructure of SPAC to ensure sustainability.
- **Goal #2:** Evaluate and, as applicable, improve existing reports and publications.
- **Goal #3:** Revise and update cost-benefit analysis and other analyses used to measure criminal justice system costs and correctional resources.
- **Goal #4:** Expand the policy team to provide policy analysis equal to the research analysis and data we provide, including developing policy reports and other deliverables.
- **Goal #5:** Reinforce data sources and access to data to ensure we can keep providing our existing reports and analysis and expand our reports and analysis.

## Goal #1: Reinforce the infrastructure of SPAC to ensure sustainability.

### Strategic Objectives:

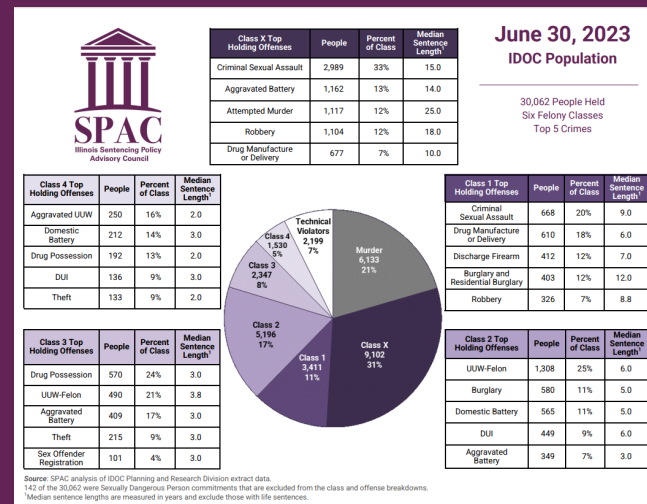
- Develop and implement project management system (1 year)
- Write the SPAC operating manual (1 year)
- Work with lawmakers to proportionately grow the budget (1-3 years)
- Develop and implement a pay plan to ensure staff are paid a competitive and fair salary (1-5 years)
- Update the backend of the website (1-3 years)
- Establish a listserv to regularly communicate and share updates with stakeholders (1-5 years)



## Goal #2: Evaluate and, as applicable, improve existing reports and publications.

### Strategic Objectives:

- Develop one-pagers/infographics (1 year)
- Redesign Impact Statements (1-2 years)
- Improve the front-end of the website (1-2 years)
- Develop a process for soliciting feedback from the Council and stakeholders (1-5 years)
- Develop a publishing calendar for reports (1-5 years)



**HOUSE BILL 5219 (AS INTRODUCED)**  
103rd General Assembly - Spring 2024  
**IMPACT ANALYSIS**

**Summary Information**

- Population Change**
  - 5,700 fewer people in the Illinois Department of Corrections
- Costs Change**
  - \$104.6 million in the first three years and \$976.8 million in overall savings to State Government.

**Bill Summary**

House Bill 5219 amends the Illinois Code of Corrections to remove all truth-in-sentencing (TIS) restrictions for new and current sentences. The proposal requires IDOC to recalculate the release date for the current population to align with the proposed changes to truth-in-sentencing. For a full analysis of changes see page 3.

**Impacts**

- Demographic Impact (Page 6)**
  - 52% of Admissions to IDOC are Black
  - 30% of Admissions to IDOC are White
- Fiscal Impact (Page 8)**
  - Total Costs Avoided First Three Years: \$104.6 million
  - Total Overall Costs Avoided: \$976.8 million
- Victimization Impact (Page 12)**
  - Additional Victimization Costs: \$1.5 million

**Outcomes**

House Bill 5219 would decrease the length of stay for people currently subject to TIS restrictions. This reduction is because sentence credits would be available to people who are currently not eligible to have their sentence reduced beyond 75%, 85%, or 100%. This shorter length of stay would result in fewer people in IDOC.

**SPAC**  
Illinois Sentencing Policy Advisory Council  
Victoria Gonzalez  
Executive Director

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## Goal #3: Revise and update cost-benefit analysis and other analyses used to measure criminal justice system costs and correctional resources.

### Strategic Objectives:

- Revise the methodology for and/or update the costs associated with sentencing policies and the benefits we hope to get from those costs (1-4 years)
- Revise the methodology for victimization costs and update estimates using new cost research (1-2 years)
- Revise the methodology for analyzing and making recommendations related to corrections costs (1-5 years)
- Revise the methodology for calculating jail costs and update cost estimates (1-5 years)



**Goal #4: Expand the policy team to provide policy analysis equal to the research analysis and data we provide, including developing policy reports and other deliverables.**

**Strategic Objectives:**

- Reorganize the agency into policy team and a research team (1-3 years)
- Add a researcher to the policy team (1-3 years)
- Develop and strengthen the “Policy Outcome” section in Impact Statements (1-3 years)
- Develop and publish “Historical Context” papers/resources (1-5 years)



**Goal #5: Reinforce data sources and access to data to ensure we can keep providing our existing reports and analysis and expand our reports and analysis.**


**Strategic Objectives:**

- Evaluate existing data sources and develop a plan to reinforce and/or revise how data is collected, stored, analyzed (1-5 years)
- Add an IT/data manager if needed (1-10 years)
- Expand the collection of clerk data, probation data, and electronic docket access (1-10 years)



# Questions?

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The Sentencing Policy Advisory Council (SPAC) is Illinois' non-partisan, independent sentencing commission

