Sec. 436. (1) The department shall establish a workgroup with representatives from the Genesee County sheriff’s office, the city of Flint police department, and other relevant governmental agencies in Genesee County to develop and implement a long-term strategic plan to ease the county jail backlog and to gradually reduce the need for department intervention.

(2) The department shall report to the senate and house appropriations subcommittees on corrections, the senate and house fiscal agencies, and the state budget director by September 30 strategic recommendations that result from the work of the workgroup.

The Michigan Department of Corrections conducted meetings with local law enforcement in Flint/Genesee County in February and August of 2015. The purpose of these meetings was to discuss the ongoing state and local law enforcement efforts in the region, specifically the Governor’s “Secure Cities Initiative”. Topics of discussion included Genesee County jail conditions and population, Flint Lock-up operations, the use of alternatives such as tethers, and the boarding of Genesee County prisoners in other Michigan counties.

Based on these discussions, the Michigan Department of Corrections sought funding totaling $4.5m in the Fiscal Year 2016 Executive Recommendation to support ongoing efforts in the region that are intended to ease jail overcrowding, improve detainee booking, and allow for arrest warrants to be executed. This funding is contained within the Public Safety Initiative line of the MDOC budget, which was passed by the Legislature at the Executive Recommendation level of $4.5m.

The Michigan Department of Corrections will continue to meet with law enforcement in the region on a biannual basis to discuss the operation of this program and future program alterations.