

Executive Summary: Burnet Intermediate Sanction Facility (ISF)

To: Honorable Commissioners Court of Burnet County

Subject: Overview of Purpose, Programming, and Multi-Year Performance Impact of the Burnet ISF

Executive Overview

The Burnet Intermediate Sanction Facility (ISF) operates as a regional Community Corrections Facility designed to divert high-risk felony probationers from Texas Department of Corrections - Institutional Division (TDCJ-ID) confinement. Serving a 100% male felony probation population—over 75% of whom originate from outside the 33rd & 424th Judicial Districts—the facility balances community safety, offender accountability, and evidence-based rehabilitation.

Initially established under a retribution framework, the program has evolved into a multi-modal, cognitive-behavioral intervention facility that directly reduces recidivism, fosters workforce readiness, and delivers measurable financial return to local courts.

Strategic Program Components

The Burnet ISF employs a comprehensive, multi-modal model based on Community Corrections guidelines, targeting the dysfunctional core behaviors, substance abuse histories, and socio-economic gaps of its residents:

- **Cognitive-Behavioral Treatment (CBT):** Addresses core cognitive deficits using proven curricula, including Moral Reconnection Therapy (MRT), Anger Management, and Strategies for Self-Improvement and Change.
- **Substance Abuse Intervention:** Integrated in 2013 to address critical regional gaps in addiction treatment. Over **90%** of current residents present documented substance abuse histories.
- **Structured Employment & Workforce Development:** Implemented in FY2003 and overseen by a full-time Employment Coordinator.
 - Residents complete **10 hours of pre-employment training** (resume building, interviewing, applications, job retention, and workplace relationships).
 - Program participants are encouraged and facilitated to work **at least 40 hours per week**.

- **Behavioral Incentive & Privilege Model:** Enhanced in 2004 to incentivize positive behavioral transformation through structured rewards, including furloughs, extra recreation, and employment privileges.
- **Community Service Restitution (CSR):** Mandates structured work detail to instill a strong personal work ethic while giving back to local communities.

10-Year Performance Metrics & Community Impact

Over the past decade, the Burnet ISF has delivered substantial operational success and tangible financial restitutions across the region:

Performance Metric	Total Volume / Value
Total Residents Served	966 residents
Successful Program Completions	809 residents (~83.8% completion rate)
Community Service Restitution (CSR) Hours	16,522.91 hours performed district-wide
Total Sent to Counties of Origin (<i>Fees, Fines, Court Costs</i>)	\$1,831,066.47
Direct Impact to Burnet/Llano/Blanco/San Saba Counties	\$390,478.43 returned to local courts & probation

Key Value Drivers for Burnet County

1. **State Prison Diversion:** Provides local and regional courts with a viable, structured punishment alternative to TDCJ-ID incarceration for felony probationers at risk of revocation.
2. **Fiscal Accountability & Local Revenue:** Enables residents to pay off substantial court, victim, and probation debts, directly reimbursing Burnet County and local judicial partners nearly **\$400,000**.
3. **Evidence-Based Recidivism Reduction:** Utilizes NIC-supported cognitive-behavioral strategies proven by empirical research to produce the highest average effect sizes in preventing future criminal behavior.
4. **Local Labor & Restitution:** Generates over 16,000 hours of public work detail and establishes workforce-ready individuals who contribute productively to the local economy.