Introduction:
The changing needs as well as the increased size of the correctional population in the United States have resulted in crowded facilities and excessive workloads for staff of many correctional systems around the country. These conditions are due, in part, to state and federal mandates that do not consider the fiscal impact of compliance.

Policy Statement:
Adequate levels of funding are necessary to ensure that public safety and rehabilitation objectives are achieved and that adult and juvenile correctional agencies are operated in a safe, secure and constitutional manner. Implementation of sound correctional practices requires that institutional and community operations be adequately staffed and staff be properly trained. Correctional facilities and programs must have adequate resources to ensure that security, treatment and rehabilitation services are delivered cost-effectively in a safe and structured correctional environment.

The American Correctional Association supports funding to ensure sound correctional practice. There should be adequate funding to ensure that:

A. Appropriate remedies are available to accommodate the future growth in demand for prisons, jails, juvenile facilities, probation and parole services, intermediate sanctions and other correctional services;

B. Correctional programs and community human services are effectively coordinated;

C. Gender- and culturally-responsive offender programming is provided to overcome barriers to successful reentry, reduce recidivism and provide restitution to victims and reparations to the community;

D. There are sufficient correctional personnel and adequate physical space necessary to operate efficient and effective correctional programs;
E. There are sufficient community corrections resources to provide adequate supervision and services to offenders released to the community on probation and parole or other forms of community supervision; and

F. There are sufficient resources to provide for on-going program evaluation and for research into new and relevant services.

This Public Correctional Policy was ratified by the American Correctional Association Delegate Assembly at the Congress of Correction in San Antonio, TX on August 16, 2000. It was last reviewed and reaffirmed at the 2020 Winter Conference in San Diego, CA on January 11, 2020.