

The following is a summarized list of questions and answers from the audience of the IIBF Public Meeting on October 26, 2022. To the extent possible, they have been grouped by category for the relative response of the Budget to Actual Financial report.

Question Category:	Answer:
<b>IIBF Revenue</b>	
The phone rate is 2 cents decreased but why did phone commission allocation decrease by almost 50% from last fiscal year?	<p>See link below that has the document of “How The IIBF FY23 Phone Commissions Revenue Was Calculated”.</p> <p><a href="#">How the FY23 IIBF Phone Commissions Revenue Was Calculated R. 11/9/2022</a></p>
<b>IIBF Expenditures</b>	
Where can I go to get reports on IIBF expenditures? I have been asking about that at previous meetings.	<p>We have responded to this request and the information was provided in the Q&amp;A document from the previous quarter’s meeting of October 2021. We will send reports again to the email provided at the meeting from the requestor. In the meantime, information can be accessed from the DOC public website under the IIBF webpage.</p> <p><a href="#">Incarcerated Individual Betterment Fund (IIBF)   Washington State Department of Corrections</a></p> <p>Requestors can also send requests to the IIBF questionnaire inbox.</p> <p><a href="mailto:dociibfquestions@doc1.wa.gov">dociibfquestions@doc1.wa.gov</a></p>
Lodging & Transportation Assistance Program – How does this work when visitation dates aren’t firmly decided or changed? DOC encourages families to use lodging and transportation assistance programs. Since visitations don’t need to be scheduled on the DOC website, there’s no set schedule. Living in Western Washington, trips to Eastern Washington are subject to weather forecasts so it’s hard to apply	<p>When you have a visitation date in mind, go ahead and submit the reimbursement request. We recommend you send us a message and include information that you’re not sure of the exact date, but that you plan on visiting this month to the email box: <a href="mailto:DOCHQLAP@Doc.wa.gov">DOCHQLAP@Doc.wa.gov</a>. We can hold the application and change the date once the date is decided.</p> <p>The website where information regarding lodging and transportation reimbursement can be found (<a href="https://doc.wa.gov/corrections/incarceration/visiting/support.htm#lodging">https://doc.wa.gov/corrections/incarceration/visiting/support.htm#lodging</a>)</p>

<p>for reimbursement with the visitation date limitation for reasons outside their control.</p>	
<p>Are we able to put the approved spending plan on the website? The IIBF funds going to staff were removed? Is this because funds were not going to the employees identified in the approved spending plan?</p>	<p>The approved spending plan is the IIBF budget. We were fortunate the legislature provided funding so we could move salaries out of the Betterment Fund into the state general fund in fiscal year 2021. IIBF is not paying any staffing salaries now. DOC’s public website IIBF webpage has approved IIBF budgets from the previous years, and the budget to actual documents, as well as a brief description of the historical IIBF spending plan including staffing information. When IIBF funded staffing salaries, only approved staff salaries can be paid out of IIBF.</p>
<p>Explanation of the \$500,000 Covid funds on the budget. Agency has \$20 million in the Supplemental Budget for COVID relief how does this tie to the betterment of the incarcerated population when they were only given two goodie bags last year? Not sure how \$500,000 ties in.</p>	<p>The \$500,000 is a pre-approved authorized amount that was included in the FY23 budget. It is reserved funding that is not tied to specific plans. It is an indication that the Secretary has pre-approved it as a budget line item. Should we need to spend it, and when there is a Covid outbreak, we have this funding set aside to deploy comfort items to the incarcerated individuals. The Covid response money in the operating budget is for things like overtime, and hiring additional nursing staff, it is a supplemental budget request for department costs. IIBF COVID reserved funding is separate and distinct from general fund activities of responding to Covid itself, and the IIBF dollars would be directed towards the population as a comfort items.</p>
<p>Who determines what to buy with the IIBF fund? Who is talking to the incarcerated population to see if they want goodie bags or other comfort items instead of using them for something they deem is more needed? Who is determining what to buy and why?</p>	<p>Last year, we received input from the incarcerated population (men’s facilities and women at WCCW and Mission Creek) and families to get an idea of what to include in the toiletry bags that we provided. There wasn’t a specific item, but they wanted items that are not available from the incarcerated individual store/commissary. We compared what was available in the store and what we could get then went with a company that would let us choose the specific items we wanted in our hygiene kits. The kits were purchased and sent those out to the facilities, customizing them for the recipients. For this year’s holiday bags, CPPCs talked to tier representatives to get feedback on what individuals would like to see in their goodie bags this year. We provided three options with a list of included items in each one and polled the</p>

	<p>population to select. We anticipate our new online survey tool for the incarcerated population to be launched by the end of the year, which will provide us with a better process to seek wider population input in the future.”</p>
<p>How is purchasing weightlifting equipment and leaving it outside a good investment?</p>	<p>When there is a piece of equipment that is needed or incarcerated individuals requested, we work with the vendor to ensure the weightlifting equipment is commercial/correctional grade and whether they are indoor or outdoor rated. Weight areas are different by facilities. At some facilities such as MCC and WCC, they are building outdoor weight decks and moving equipment around. For the general recreation items, we did some similar purchases as last fiscal year. With the input from the incarcerated individuals, we added outdoor multi-gyms, rowers and bikes, as well as indoor commercial grade cardio equipment at all facilities. This year, facilities are expanding weight decks and cardio equipment, adding spin bikes, and installing new areas to enhance wellness areas available to the population.</p>
<p>The budget report from June of 2022 stated there was \$500,000 taken out for the EFV trailers. I have spoken with several families across all 12 facilities and wondering why this was taken out of this year’s budget and why the funds were not spent at the facility. Who is to ensure the funding will be used for EFV and visiting improvement?</p>	<p>We have already done some improvements and multiple facilities upgrading since last fiscal year. We started with facilities that needed to meet the new EFV standards. Facilities made purchases to bring it up to standards (ex: making sure the kitchen was stocked with all the materials and equipment and utensils, curtains, linens, towels, etc.). Facilities that had very old furniture needed to upgrade. At the end of the fiscal year, any funds not used rolled back to the IIBF fund balance and can be reallocated in the newly approved budget as an allotment. There is \$225,000 EFV/Visiting enhancement funding in FY23 approved budget. We will continue to make enhancements. If you have ideas or suggestions, please present that during a local family council meeting so we can follow up. We will look at the suggestion and work with the local visiting Sergeant to get feedback and suggestions and to ensure the needs that meet the requirement of an enhancement request. The Family Services Unit will be conducting site audits for EFV and visit rooms and follow up with the list and suggestions from the facilities.</p>

<p>What are the half-million dollars set aside for Covid and isn't it illegal to use the IIBF for medical coverage for incarcerated individuals? Shouldn't medical coverage come out of the general fund?</p>	<p>In an answer to one of the questions above, the \$500,000 is not for DOC expenses that we have to pay, but an allocation to provide comfort items directly to the population should we have a large-scale outbreak of Covid again. Last year we purchased items such as televisions for those in isolation, toiletry bags, goodie bags, etc. The Secretary preauthorized \$500,000 in the FY23 budget so in the event we need to mobilize, we can move forward quickly with the plan and list of items.</p>
<p>Is there an actual list of approved COVID comfort items that we'd be able to look over?</p>	<p>The \$500,000 COVID Reserved funding is a sum of money set aside as a budget authorization from the Secretary should we get into a Covid situation. Hopefully we do not, but if we get into another major Covid outbreak, we will develop those comfort items based on input from the population and families.</p>