



Iowa

Overall Grade for Iowa

Total Grade

0

/100

Letter Grade

F

Program Grades

No Program

Total Grade

0/100

Letter Grade

F

No Program

Total Grade

0

/100

Letter Grade

F

Eligibility Criteria

0/30

0/10 Clearly set out with understandable and measurable standards.

0/10 Generous or not unduly restrictive.

0/10 No categorical exclusions/everyone is eligible for consideration.

× **Extra credit:** Terminal illness time-left-to-live provisions are reasonable and sufficiently long to permit the completion of the review and decision-making processes. **0**

Procedures

0/10

0/5 Documentation and assessment are straightforward, lacking multiple or redundant reviews and authorizations.

0/5 Time frames for completing review and/or decision-making exist and are designed to keep the process moving along.

× **Extra credit:** Expedited time frames exist for terminal cases. **0**

Engaging the Process

0/15

0/5 Clinical and other staff can identify potentially eligible individuals and initiate the process.

0/5 Incarcerated people, their loved ones, and advocates can initiate the process.

0/5 Corrections staff have an affirmative duty to identify incarcerated people eligible for compassionate release and take the steps necessary to begin the process.

Release Planning Support

0/10

0/5 Agencies provide comprehensive release planning.

× **Extra credit:** Release planning includes helping the incarcerated person apply for benefits prior to release, including housing, Medicaid, Medicare, and/or veterans benefits. **0**

0/5 Release planning begins early in the process.

Agency Policy Design

0/15

0/5 Agency rules exist for all stages of identification, initiation, assessment, and decision-making.

0/5 Agency rules are consistent with and/or complement the statute, are up to date, and internally consistent.

0/5 Rules provide clear guidance to reviewers and decision-makers about steps to take and standards to apply.

Data Collection and Public Reporting

0/10

0/5 Agencies are obliged to gather, compile, and report release data to legislature.

0/5 Reporting is made available to the public via annual reports or other means.

0/10

Right to Counsel and Appeals

0/5 Program allows counsel to represent people before decision-maker (i.e., parole board, commissioner, or court).

✘ **Extra credit:** Denials are appealable. **0**

0/5 Individuals have the right to reapply should conditions change.

✘ **Extra credit:** Revocations are not used to return people to prison because their condition improves or goes into remission or because the individual outlives the prognosis. **0**

The Numbers

No one was released based on medical or geriatric status in 2019 and 2020 because Iowa has no compassionate release provision.

High and Low Marks

HIGH MARKS

- None

LOW MARKS

- **Iowa** is the only state in the nation with no compassionate release program whatsoever. Not only does the state have no program, the Board of Parole addresses the issue on its information webpage, explaining, "The Board of Parole does not grant parole due to medical reasons or for family hardship cases." The Board will consider medical issues presented when an individual is up for parole consideration in the ordinary course.