

*“We like working with BI, an established company with procedures and systems in place that help me to get questions answered quickly, without getting passed around to six people first. BI is the premier service provider for electronic monitoring equipment.”*

– Wayne Ellis,  
Grant County  
Community Corrections

## **Longstanding Community Corrections Program a Model for Indiana**



### **KEY POINTS:**

- Grant County offers many community supervision options, including a home detention program that uses GPS tracking for nonviolent offenders as an alternative to incarceration
- Ninety percent of offenders involved in the home detention program successfully complete conditions of release
- Outsourcing electronic monitoring supervision allows local officials to focus on the caseload, not the equipment
- Offenders pay for electronic monitoring, reducing program operational costs

## THE PROGRAM

The Grant County Community Corrections department was established in 1981 to divert low- to medium-level, nonviolent criminal offenders from jail to community supervision. The department combines a mix of programs, strong collaboration between various jurisdictions, and technology to save the county money while holding criminal offenders accountable in the community. Unique when it was established, the department and the community program have become a model for county community correctional agencies throughout Indiana.

Today, Grant County Community Corrections has grown to include eight programs, including work crews, work release, day reporting, addiction treatment and counseling services, and electronic home detention. The average length of stay in the Grant County Home Detention Program is about nine months, although some offenders will only be in the system for a few months while others receive multi-year sentences.

Grant County selected BI Incorporated to deliver products and services for this program. BI originally supplied a radio frequency-based home detention system for the program, but the county has switched to passive GPS tracking in recent years. Grant County is now using BI ExacuTrack® to monitor offenders.

ExacuTrack enables supervising officers to customize schedules, curfews and boundaries—also called inclusion and exclusion zones—for each offender. When an alert is generated, it is forwarded to Grant County via pager, email, email-enabled cell phone or a combination of these methods. When the GPS tracking unit is returned to the base station, the system converts to a home detention system. The county also uses BI's national monitoring center, the GuardCenter®, for notifications and alerts.

The Grant County Home Detention Program monitors approximately 60 offenders at one time. Grant County also accepts offenders into the program from the Indiana Department of Correction's

Community Transition Program as part of an initiative to reduce the state's inmate population.

Program candidates are carefully screened—they must be accountable, demonstrate a stable residence and employment and not pose a public threat. This program benefits offenders with specific treatment while tracking them using GPS technology until their sentence is complete.

The up-front screening process is one of the keys to the program's success, according to the program administrator. Candidates with something at stake—including a spouse, children, a relationship, a residence or good employment—are likely to comply with the program. "An offender appropriate for the program is one who realizes he must make changes in his life or be incarcerated. When a person hits rock bottom, they can finally look up and begin to make some changes in their life," says program administrator Wayne Ellis.

## THE RESULTS

Grant County officials believe the home detention program is an important piece of the County's Community Corrections programming, helping the community to achieve its goals of reducing jail overcrowding, saving taxpayers' money, maintaining public safety and allowing offenders to maintain employment and family connections. Grant County measures success in several areas:

- Offenders are being held accountable for their crimes and develop pro-social patterns. The program supplements other ongoing efforts by the county to monitor, rehabilitate and reintegrate offenders successfully back into the community.
- Program completion rate is high—about 90 percent of offenders who enter the program successfully complete it without violations.
- The program has saved the county money by incorporating an offender-pay component. Offenders pay \$10 a day (or one hour of a day's wage if this is more than \$10) to be on GPS tracking.
- By diverting offenders to the electronic supervision program, days in jail are avoided. In 2008, the county avoided 22,000 jail days for a savings of \$1 million in incarceration expenses.

- By diverting offenders to GPS tracking, officials reserve the "hard" beds for the community's serious offenders.
- The home detention program is a solid lead into the next phase of an offender's commitment to the community, which may include substance abuse treatment and counseling.
- Outsourcing for electronic monitoring services to BI, Grant County officials can focus on the caseload and not technology. If needed, 24/7 support is available from BI.
- By adding GPS tracking, offenders are being monitored at a very high level for compliance to conditions of release.

### TECHNOLOGY:

- BI ExacuTrack®
- BI GuardCenter®



### BI Incorporated

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