



# Women's Prison Healthcare Improvements

Department of Corrections

## Overview

Governor Noem's recommended budget includes \$5,750,000 in federal fund expenditure authority to support the medical and behavioral healthcare needs of female offenders housed at the South Dakota Women's Prison.

## Project Description

This project would expand the medical services area within the main building at the women's prison. The existing medical area serves more than three times the number of inmates for which it was originally designed. This project would provide a separate exam area for medical assessments to be conducted via telehealth ensuring confidentiality and privacy for patients. This project would also include the addition of a dental suite which would allow a full-time dentist and dental hygienist to work simultaneously.

In addition, a separate, special housing unit for offenders with mental health needs will also be added. Offenders with mental health needs that are in transition back to the general population are currently housed in the disciplinary unit within the South Dakota Women's Prison. This project would support this vulnerable population by allowing them to be separated from disciplinary status inmates. This increases the likelihood that an inmate will transition back into general population more quickly where they can access jobs, work training programs, career counseling, educational resources, and other programming opportunities.

## Funding

The project will be funded through federal ARPA Capital Construction funds, which need federal approval. The project invests in capital assets designed to directly enable work, education, and health.