



Women's Prison Facility

Department of Corrections

Overview

Governor Noem's recommended budget includes \$60,000,000 in one-time funding to address the severe overcrowding and lack of addiction services at the South Dakota Women's Prison by constructing a 308-bed prison for women in Rapid City. This funding will come from the new Incarceration Construction Fund, which was created by the legislature last session. The legislature also previously appropriated \$3.8 million to fund the purchase of land and design costs for the project.

South Dakota currently has a serious overcrowding problem at the women's prison. Based on current population growth, crime rates, and arrest rates, the bed shortage is projected to exceed 250 beds within the next four years.

Overcrowding at the women's prison also impacts availability of treatment services for offenders. Only 7% of the women incarcerated for drug possession or ingestion are actively engaged in treatment for those addictions. This is also troublesome as nearly 60% of females in the South Dakota prison system are incarcerated for non-violent, drug offenses.

Project Description

The construction of a women's prison facility in Rapid City will allow the South Dakota Women's Prison in Pierre to decrease capacity to a safe, manageable level while providing the necessary space for future bed projections. The prison will be a modern facility based on nationally recognized standards published by the American Correctional Association.

In addition, a new prison would allow for a therapeutic community where drug offenders would receive addiction treatment. The expansion of prison-based drug treatment programs can help reduce the likelihood of recidivism and help control future overcrowding of our prisons.

Funding

The 2022 State Legislature appropriated \$3.8 million in state funding to purchase land and contract for design of the prison. Construction costs will be funded with \$60,000,000 from the Incarceration Construction Fund. Ongoing funding will be needed in FY25 to support staffing and operational costs once the prison is constructed.