

Iowa Legislative Fiscal Bureau

Dennis Prouty
(515) 281-5279
FAX 281-8451



State Capitol
Des Moines, IA 50319
September 16, 1992

Status Of Additional Correctional Beds in FY 1993

ISSUE

The Department of Corrections (DOC) and Community Based Corrections (CBC) District Departments are delaying the opening dates of new correctional facilities due to projected budget deficits. Also, the DOC is considering opening new facilities and closing existing facilities.

AFFECTED AGENCIES

DOC, CBC District Departments, and other law enforcement entities

CODE AUTHORITY

Chapters 246 and 905, Code of Iowa

BACKGROUND

The DOC and CBC District Departments received \$7,508,000 in net new funding to open 627 new beds in FY 1993 (see Attachment 1). However, the total projected FY 1993 budget deficit is \$10,652,998. This includes:

- \$757,576 for the 2.0% across-the-board reduction for the CBC District Departments, Central Office, and the Training Center.
- \$4,933,026 for a budgeted vacancy factor.
- \$2,996,650 for a prison support budget deficit. The FY 1993 support budget is based on 3,646 prison inmates while the population on August 5, was 4,467 prison inmates.
- \$1,640,935 for the pro-rated salary adjustment shortfall.
- \$324,811 for the pro-rated travel and equipment reduction.

As the DOC opens the new facilities some parts of existing facilities may be closed for short term renovation and repairs. The DOC plans to double-bunk the new facilities immediately upon opening.

The prisons are operating at 141.2% of current capacity. The CBC facilities are currently operating at 96.4% of capacity. However, the waiting list for the CBC facilities is approximately 376 offenders. The offenders on the CBC facility waiting list include prison inmates on work release status waiting in prison for CBC space, probationers, and those sentenced to the Operating While Intoxicated (OWI) Program. By delaying opening dates and/or closing existing facilities, prisons will remain overcrowded and the waiting list for CBC facility beds will remain high.

The Intensive Supervision Program (ISP) is currently underutilized. There were 573 cases at the end of FY 1992 while the ISP is budgeted for 650 cases. It appears paroles to the ISP could be increased to help alleviate prison overcrowding. The Parole Board has increased parole grants by 24.5% and work release grants by 3.6% from FY 1988 to FY 1992. Revocations to prison have decreased by 5.5% over the same reporting period. However, the year-end prison population has increased by 55.1% from FY 1988 (2,890 inmates) to FY 1992 (4,481 inmates).

CURRENT SITUATION

This situation raises several questions/issues which may need to be addressed by the Justice System Appropriations Subcommittee during the 1993 Legislative Session.

- Should the DOC and CBC District Departments open new facilities, which they may have to close if future cuts become necessary?
- Should the DOC open new prison facilities and close existing facilities?
- Should the Parole Board increase parole and work release grants to alleviate prison overcrowding?
- Should the DOC and CBC District Departments open the new facilities with the assumption that an FY 1993 supplemental appropriation will be provided?
- Should the Legislature direct the DOC and CBC District Departments to open all the facilities and plan for an FY 1993 supplemental appropriation?

BUDGET IMPACT

Assuming the current prison population stabilizes at 4,500 inmates, an FY 1993 supplemental appropriation of approximately \$3.0 million could be requested for the prison support budgets. Additional funds for staff to fill currently authorized FTE positions may also be requested.

STAFF CONTACT: Douglas Wulf (Ext. 13250)

**IOWA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
EXPANSION PROJECTS**

Facility	Number of Beds	Project Description	Annual Operating Costs (Gen Fd Only)	Construction Completion Date	Estimated Opening Date (Staff Hired Prior to this Date)
Oakdale	100	Medium security dormitory beds.	\$1,636,170	May 1992	August 1, 1992
Newton	100	Minimum security dormitory beds.	1,384,124	October 1992	February 1993
Rockwell City	120	Medium security dormitory beds.	1,474,493	January 1993	March 1993
Mitchellville	110	Minimum security dormitory beds.	1,779,659	November 15, 1993	September 1992
West Union (1st)	30	New residential facility.	613,442	March 1992	October 1992
Mason City (2nd)	33	New 36-bed residential facility. Will discontinue provide OWI contact for new gain of 33 beds.	634,011	October 1992	September 1992
Sheldon (3rd)	24	New residential facility.	534,811	June 1992	September 1992
Des Moines (5th)	48	New residential women's facility.	964,019	September 1992	Potential of Private Contract
Coralville (6th)	22	New facility. 22 new beds, 22 beds moved from an existing, rented facility.	507,959	August 1992	August 1992
Davenport (7th)	20	20 new beds added to existing, rented facility. Involves purchasing existing facility.	284,249	August 1992	August 1992
Burlington (8th)	20	20 new beds added to an existing, rented facility.	485,375	August 1992	August 1992
Total	627		\$10,298,312		

8/25/92

SOURCE: Department of Corrections