

The State Prison System Study Committee Recommendations to the 82nd General Assembly

Construct a New Maximum Security Institution for Men: The committee recommends approval of the Durrant Study Option #1 to build a new facility to replace the Iowa State Penitentiary (ISP) in Ft. Madison at one of ISP's prison farms. The approximate '07 costs with inflation = \$121.2 million.

Expand Iowa Correctional Institution for Women (ICIW): The committee recommends approval of the Durrant Study proposal to consolidate programs and services for women offenders to implement gender specific classification and programming, and to replace and add beds at the ICIW. The approximate '07 costs with inflation = \$51.4 million.

Expand the Newton Correctional Facility (NCF): The committee recommends approval of the Durrant Study proposal to add bed capacity to reduce overcrowding and anticipate future growth. The approximate '07 costs with inflation = \$25.3 million.

Expand bed capacity at Community Based Corrections: The committee recommends approval of the Durrant Study proposal to add residential beds in Des Moines, Ottumwa, Sioux City, and Waterloo. The approximate '07 costs with inflation = \$41.5 million.

Limiting the Need for Prison Beds: The committee further recommends that the General Assembly base any decisions to approve future expenditures for additional capacity in the Iowa correctional system on the adoption of policies that will promote more efficient use of state resources, keep Iowans safe and reduce recidivism rates of offenders after release, including:

- 1 Greater Use of Community Based Corrections (CBCs): Iowa already has one of the best, most extensive and most successful CBC systems in the nation. Past success demonstrates the value of expanding this system.
- 2 More Special Diversion Programs: Increase support of drug courts and examine ways to expand this model to combat the at-risk factors of other offenders, such as young offenders, especially minority youth offenders.
- 3 Substance Abuse / Mental Health Treatment: Increase support for programs within institutions and communities in order to develop and support a system of continued treatment for offenders as they reenter society, including diagnosis of dual disorders involving both chemical dependency and mental illness.
- 4 Education and Training: Increase support for education and training programs designed to provide the skill Iowa employers' need, including a system to channel capable offenders into existing tax supported private sector workers training program.
- 5 Commitment to Evidence-Based Practices: As we implement new programs and protocols, Iowa must conduct appropriate outcome studies to determine whether or not each program has been successful at achieving risk reduction for offenders.

The Committee requests that the Department of Corrections direct the Durrant Group to further explore possible future uses of buildings remaining within the walls at the Iowa State Penitentiary.

