

One Minnesota Budget

HEALTH SERVICES



The Department of Corrections (DOC) is constitutionally mandated to provide safe, timely, and quality medical care to the state's incarcerated population.

The vast majority of those who are incarcerated require prescribed medication, have chronic diseases, or are diagnosed with substance use disorders.

In recent years, there has been a substantial increase in the medical needs of the incarcerated population due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the aging population, increase in substance abuse, and rising rates of mental illness.

Nursing staff is working mandated overtime shifts to minimally meet the needs of safety, security, and wellness for our incarcerated population, and injured employees. Mandating overtime has increased employee stress levels and impacted employee wellness.

The DOC requests ongoing investments to ensure adequate levels of healthcare are provided to the more than 8,000 persons incarcerated in Minnesota's correctional facilities.

The Department of Corrections (DOC) request includes:

- \$2.3 million in FY24 and \$2.5 in FY25 to provide 24/7 nursing support to the five state correctional facilities (Rush City, Moose Lake, St. Cloud, Lino Lakes, and Stillwater) that do not currently have 24/7 support.
- \$247,000 for dental X-ray equipment, dental imaging software, IT support, and annual maintenance costs. A majority of the incarcerated population has not had access to dental care in the community and experience urgent or emergent dental care needs.
- \$375,000 to establish a Disease Management Unit within the DOC to manage future outbreaks of COVID-19 and other contagious illnesses.
- \$247,000 per year ongoing to increase staffing for behavioral healthcare. There is currently a backlog of nearly 100 people for psychiatric visits.
- \$75,000 in FY24 for a feasibility study of creating a private sector nursing home for corrections-involved individuals with significant health care needs.
- \$482,000 in FY24 and \$312,000 each subsequent year for investment in telemedicine provisions within state correctional facilities. Currently, telemedicine services are very limited due to lack of proper equipment and support personnel.