

Dakota County 2022 Law Enforcement Center Improvement and Addition



VI-2022

Roughly 25 percent of the Dakota County Law Enforcement Center population includes inmates with serious health needs that should be addressed while they are in custody. This specialized care increases their likelihood of success while in custody and after their release, and improves public safety. The county provides these services to inmates, but more efficient and effective approaches are possible. Specially designed space is needed to make this a reality.

TREATING INMATES

In 2020, a study recommended a dedicated addition to the jail, where inmates with behavioral, mental and physical health needs can be treated separate from the general population.

The jail addition is envisioned to hold 24-30 inmates who require greater attention. They may be vulnerable within the general population, or they may have physical health limits, substance use disorders or mental health needs.

Grouping these inmates in a new dedicated addition will provide increased efficiency for county staffing and contracted medical vendors, greater therapeutic housing, and dedicated resources in one location to best support the overall wellness of inmates.

DEDICATED SPACE FOR SPECIALIZED CARE

The services offered in this new addition are a regional asset as many of the inmates come from outside Dakota County. The county is in a unique position to support the lives of the most vulnerable — certainly from across the Twin Cities metro area and even statewide.

Supporting the jail's inmate population with specialized resources has been a primary focus of the Dakota County Sheriff's Office. This work is done through strong partnerships with other key stakeholders such as community and social services, medical and mental health providers, and other community providers and organizations.



New, dedicated space would allow the sheriff's office to meet the challenges associated with special-care inmates.

The issue: The Dakota County Law Enforcement Center population includes inmates with serious health needs that should be addressed while they are in custody. The Sheriff's Office provides services, but a more effective model in new, specially designed space would improve the efficiency of that care.

The solution: Fund design leading to construction of a Dakota County Law Enforcement Center addition serving 24-30 inmates with physical, mental or behavior needs requiring specialized care.

State request: \$1 million (design)

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