

Montana Department of Corrections
Summary of measures underway to meet the 250 county-jail-hold target
set by the 2017 Legislature in HB 2

The Department’s efforts to reduce the number of DOC offenders held in county jails without compromising public safety include three strategies:

1. Expanding the capacity of existing DOC facilities, both short and long-term
2. Implementing strategies to reduce jail sanctions and revocations to prison
3. Consistently using risk-and-needs and chemical dependency assessments, so that limited prison and residential treatment beds are used by offenders with the highest needs and who present the greatest risk to public safety

1. Expanding the capacity of existing DOC facilities

Facility	Additional beds	Description	Target date
Montana Women’s Prison	13	Double bunking	Dec. 2017
Montana State Prison (MSP)*	86	Triple bunking	Nov. 2017
New MSP treatment program**	30 to 60	Converted boot camp facility	Jan. 2018
	30	Second phase	Feb. 2018
Pine Hills Adult Male Program	44	Converted two unused youth units to adult male units	Nov. 2017
Riverside Recovery & Reentry Program (for women)	12	Double bunking	Nov. 2017
Approximate Total	215 to 245		

*MSP’s capacity is 1,495. On Dec. 8, MSP had a population of 1,550 inmates. While we are promptly moving all jail holds awaiting a bed at MSP, the prison cannot indefinitely maintain the population at this elevated level.

**The former Treasure State “boot camp” in Deer Lodge has been converted into a chemical dependency treatment program for prison inmates approaching their release dates.

2. Reducing use of jail sanctions and revocations to prison

- **Montana Incentives and Intervention Grid (MIIG)** – a case management tool that uses corrective action within the community as an alternative to jail sanctions. For example, offender violations may warrant more intensive supervision, GPS monitoring or more frequent drug testing. The new Montana grid, developed in conjunction with the Council of State Governments and private providers, will be piloted for 60 days beginning February 2018.
- **Additional transitional living (TLP) and enhanced supervision (ESP) program slots** – DOC has issued RFIs for additional placements in these programs, as an alternative to holding offenders in county jails. The requests to private providers were delayed pending the budget reduction discussions. DOC is now reviewing proposals and will soon begin executing contracts for these services.

- **Additional relapse prevention and short-term sanction beds** – The department plans to expand these programs as an alternative to holding offenders in county jails.
 - The response to the sanction bed RFP has been limited and proposed rates were higher than what providers had agreed to during the session.
 - Evaluation of the relapse prevention RFP is scheduled for Dec. 13, but DOC will likely need to reissue the requests for proposals.

3. Using risk-and-needs and chemical dependency assessments to drive parole and placement decisions

- **Evidence-based parole guidelines** – The Board of Pardons and Parole (BOPP) has begun using evidence-based decision guidelines developed in cooperation with the Council of State Governments.
- **Chemical dependency evaluations** – DOC and BOPP are ensuring that offenders required to complete residential treatment for chemical dependency are those with the highest risk and needs. Inmates are being screened using a chemical dependency evaluation and only those who score 3.5 or higher are placed in residential treatment. This is consistent with the criteria set by the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM), and has reduced waiting lists and improved access for offenders who most need intensive residential treatment.
- **Risk-and-needs assessments** – As of October 2017, risk-and-needs assessments are being conducted at the presentence investigation (PSI) stage, allowing judges to consider this information at sentencing.

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