



Idaho Department of Juvenile Corrections

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BRAD LITTLE
Governor

MONTY PROW
Director

Memo

To: Alex Adams, Division of Financial Management

From: Monty Prow, Director, IDJC

Date: August 3, 2020

Subject: CFAC Funding Request—Replace Dorm Style Rooms

The IDJC requests \$2,570,000 to replace a 24-bed dormitory style living unit with a 24-bed single room style living unit on the Juvenile Corrections Center–St Anthony campus.

Reasons for the Request

- The current bed space arrangements on this living unit does not allow for preferred physical distancing, isolation, or quarantine protocols to be implemented, as defined by CDC and local public health district.
- In the event of a quarantine, dormitory style living does not allow for proper physical separation of individuals who have had close contact with someone with COVID-19 to determine whether they develop symptoms or test positive for the disease.
- In the event of a need to isolate, dormitory style living does not allow youth to be separated to prevent contact with others and to reduce the risk of transmission.
- A single bed style living unit configuration will allow the IDJC to be more able to implement quarantine and isolation protocols, as recommended by both the CDC and local public health district.
- As of this request, the unit is near capacity (20). IDJC has the ability to safely house displaced juveniles at other units or in contract provider beds during the rebuild.
- Because of the background, health, and social economic status of juveniles committed to the custody of the IDJC there is a concern that juveniles in correction facilities might be more vulnerable to COVID-19 and long-term health consequences than their peers of the same age.

An active partnership with communities

Background

Idaho Department of Juvenile Corrections operates three state juvenile correctional facilities. Two of the facilities, Juvenile Corrections Center–Nampa (built in its current location in phases between 1998 and 2008) and Juvenile Corrections Center–Lewiston (built in 2003), have single room style living units. Juvenile Corrections Center–St Anthony is the oldest facility with its origins in 1903 but with its current dormitory style living units built in the 1950s.

Youth committed to the Idaho Department of Juvenile Corrections live, eat, study, and participate in activities within a congregate environment for about 18 months. This type of environment heightens the potential for COVID-19 to spread, once introduced. Youth are committed from many locations across Idaho increasing the potential to introduce COVID-19 from different geographic areas. Social distancing options within the correctional setting are limited and are even more problematic with a dormitory style living unit.

Summary

Dormitory style living units make it extremely difficult, if not impossible, to ensure that separate physical locations are available to (1) isolate individuals with confirmed COVID-19 (individually or cohorted), (2) isolate individuals with suspected COVID-19 (individually), or (3) quarantine close contacts of those with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 (ideally individually; cohorted, if necessary). With the approval of this request, we can begin the replacement to more suitable and safe living arrangements immediately.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

MP:ec