



DOC FRIENDS & FAMILY FORUM

Wednesday, April 9, 2025





WELCOME

Friends & Family Forum

Why we're here today

- Listen to your concerns and suggestions
- Learn how to better serve families
- Work together to support successful reentry and safe communities



Ground Rules

Kindness is key. Be respectful of other attendees and their emotions.

This forum is for discussion and feedback on system issues and DOC policies or processes. It is not the appropriate environment to raise individual situations or grievances.

Please refrain from abusive or disrespectful language or behavior.

Questions? Email us at:

DOCgeneral@wisconsin.gov



What is the Department of Corrections?

Our Mission

The Department of Corrections (DOC) has a dual mission of safety—for our communities, staff and persons in our care—and aiding individuals on their path toward rehabilitation.



Reimagining DOC

Governor Evers' proposed 2025-2027 biennial budget includes approximately **\$500 million** to:

- upgrade and reinvent DOC facilities
- make important investments in staff, training and resources for clients in the community
- lower prison population
- increase opportunities for those in our facilities
- ensure safer communities and facilities



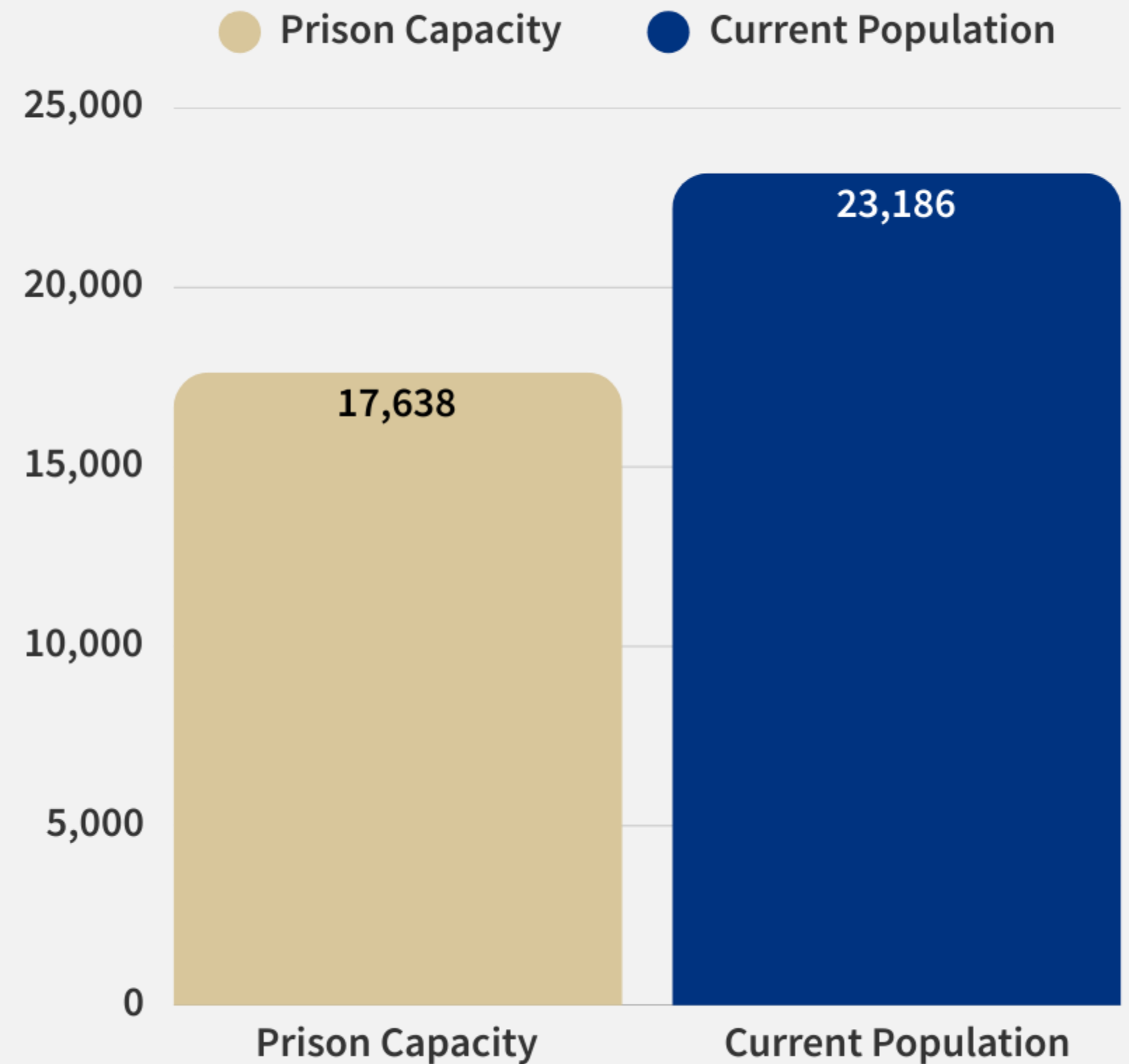
Population Reduction

17,638

Adult prison design capacity

23,186

Current population
(as of April 4, 2025)



Early Release Programs

- Increase access to the existing substance use disorder early release program through a program to offer competitive wages to social workers and treatment specialists.
- This will give DOC the staffing needed to make program available to an additional 800 persons each year.
- Eligibility is determined by the court. Individuals must be within 48 months of release and only those convicted of non-violent offenses may participate.



Vocational early release

- Brand new program that would give individuals who complete a vocational training program the opportunity to earn early release
- Individuals would need to be within 48 months of release and convicted of a non-violent offense



Early release, successful reentry

- Currently, about 1,700 individuals are released each year through the substance use disorder early release program. Additionally, staffing could increase capacity by 800 individuals annually.
- A new vocational early release program could potentially graduate **1,000 individuals** each year.
- The Governor's budget also includes funding for individuals to succeed in the community with additional funding for recovery coaches, housing resources and expansion of the alternatives to revocation efforts.



Juvenile correctional facilities

Where we are right now:

- The first phase of the Mendota Juvenile Treatment Center expansion has been completed and the facility can now accept both boys and girls as patients.
- Construction is underway on Type 1 facility in Milwaukee that will house up to 32 boys. The Southeast Regional Care Facility for Youth is set to open in 2026.



Juvenile correctional facilities

Where we go from here:

- DOC is requesting \$130.7 million to build a second Type 1 facility. This would be in Dane County on state land near the Grow Academy, Oregon Correctional Center and the Bureau of Correctional Enterprises Farm Campus.
- The facility could house up to 32 boys and 8 girls and is the second type 1 facility needed for the state to fulfill its commitment to close Lincoln Hills and Copper Lake schools.



Upgrades & modernization

Governor Evers' budget would invest about \$325 million in Wisconsin's adult prisons to:

- Open the new medium-security Lincoln Correctional Institution for men
- Expand the Sanger B. Powers Correctional Center
- Convert John Burke Correctional Center to serve women
- Enhance Stanley Correctional Institution so it can serve as maximum security institution for men



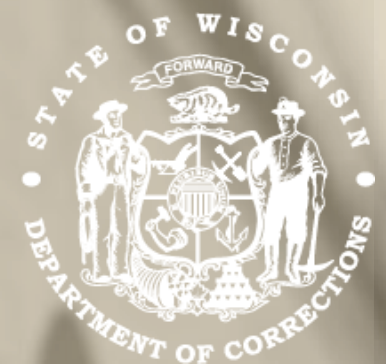
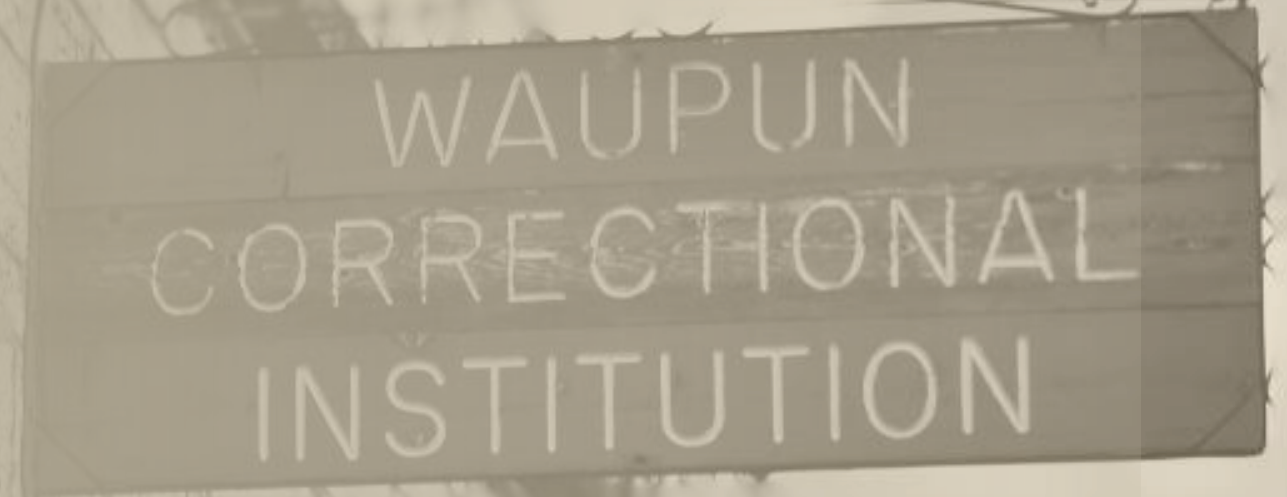
Closing Green Bay Correctional

- Under the Governor's budget proposal, Green Bay Correctional Institution would close by Spring 2029.
- Persons in our care would be transferred to other facilities.



Rewriting Waupun's narrative

- \$245 million to demolish the existing housing units, build new housing for 600 men and transform the institution into a medium security vocational village.
- Vocational villages allow men to study and work together in cohorts; teach valuable skills that can lead to job offers, careers in the community.
- Model has been successful in other states and has the potential to reduce recidivism.



Listening

It's your turn to do the talking. We're splitting into smaller groups to hear about your concerns and ideas on a variety of subjects. Groups will rotate and everyone will have a chance to participate in each issue discussion. Topics are:

- **Strengthening families**
- **Treatment programs and health care**
- **Classification and life in a DOC facility**
- **Complaint system and ombudsman**
- **Reentry**



Next Steps

- A survey should be arriving via email where you can offer your feedback on the forum and ideas for future meetings
- PowerPoint and answers to many of the questions asked will be posted to the Friends and Family page on our website
- Look for additional information on our website and we will also continue to update our Friends and Family Resource Guide



Connect with DOC

doc.wi.gov/friendsandfamily



(608) 240-5000



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