



Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services

Office of the Secretary

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CAPITAL PROGRAMS

March 8, 2016

The Honorable James E. DeGrange, Sr.
Chair, Senate Capital Budget Subcommittee
Room 101, James Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1991

Re: Local Jails and Detention Centers - Capital Budget Response

Dear Chairman DeGrange:

The Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services has attached the response on the Analyst's questions concerning the Local Jails and Detention Centers Capital Budget projects.

I would like to extend my gratitude to you and the Subcommittee for your ongoing interest and continued support for the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services.

I would be happy to provide additional information and assistance should you have any questions with respect to this project.

Sincerely,

Stephen T. Moyer
Secretary

- c: Members of the Senate Subcommittee on Capital Budget
Mr. Matthew Bennett, Staff, Senate Budget & Taxation Committee
Ms. Hannah Dier, Policy Analyst, DLS
Mr. Kyle Mansfield, Budget Analyst, DBM
Acting Deputy Secretary William G. Stewart, DPSCS
Deputy Secretary J. Michael Zeigler, DPSCS
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Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services

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Local Jails and Detention Centers

Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services

Capital Budget Summary Responses

The Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) should comment on the availability of the Local Jails and Detention Centers Capital Construction Program to support reentry efforts at the local level. Montgomery County should comment on the unique physical characteristics of its pre-release center that aid the county in addressing the needs of the pre-release population.

DPSCS Response: The Local Jail Capital Improvement Program is used to provide state assistance for construction and capital renovation projects and local detention facilities. This program could potentially be used to assist local government if construction or capital renovation projects are necessary to expand reentry programs and/or house State offenders nearing release. The current capital request does include State funding to renovate the existing Montgomery County Pre-Release Facility's dietary center in order to meet existing needs. However, the State has not yet received funding requests to create new space or to renovate existing space specifically for pre-release programs and populations. If and when it receives such a funding request, DPSCS will consider whether it is appropriate to use the Local Jail Capital Improvement Program as a mechanism to provide State assistance for these types of projects. It should be noted also that each funding application under this program is considered on a case-by-case basis. Part of the application process requires the County to examine alternatives and provide justification for its project. Additionally, simultaneous requests by other Counties may necessitate the prioritizing of projects. All of this is considered before funding for any project is approved.

Montgomery County Response (from Robert L. Green, Director of the Department of Correction and Rehabilitation): The Pre-Release Facility in Montgomery County has served an average daily population of over 150 individuals in recent years. The facility is a critical element of the County and State Justice Reinvestment initiatives (JRI). It allows the county to assist our returning citizens in the successful reintegration to the community by providing offenders with the opportunity to gain employment and employment skills, receive substance abuse and/or mental health treatment, life skills and self-improvement education and engage in family reunification in a community-based facility built for the purpose of facilitating and delivering all of these initiatives. This facility is professionally managed and must have adequate space to continue to enhance public safety in this well situated community setting.

Our State is the 30th in the United States to pursue a Justice Reinvestment Strategy which we foresee will pass this legislative session. While Montgomery County has been in this posture for over 30 years, JRI will focus the remainder of the State on the very successes we have achieved with our multi-tiered approach to delivering both secure and community corrections opportunities to change lives. 93% of all those incarcerated in our county are returning to the streets of our community. Facilities such as the Pre-Release Center are an important part of this work.

The Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation has a signed agreement with the State Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services to utilize the Pre-Release Program as a reentry facility for state inmates returning to Montgomery County. This pilot has been in place for 3 years and is now an established program of the collaborative State/Local approach, endorsed by the Justice Reinvestment legislation.

As we move forward and face a renewed focus on reentry and recidivism reduction in our state, it is important we maintain this facility and prepare it for the future. This renovation project is critical to essential reentry service delivery.