

Boyd K. Rutherford
Lt. Governor

Larry Hogan
Governor

Sam Abed
Secretary

**DEPARTMENT
OF
JUVENILE SERVICES**

FISCAL YEAR 2022 CAPITAL BUDGET

**RESPONSE TO DEPARTMENT OF
LEGISLATIVE SERVICES
ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

**SENATE
BUDGET AND TAXATION COMMITTEE
CAPITAL BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE
SENATOR DOUGLAS J. J. PETERS
March 09, 2021**

**HOUSE
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
CAPITAL BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE
DEL. BENJAMIN S. BARNES
March 09, 2021**



GO Bond Recommended Actions

1. Approve the authorization of \$2.550 million in general obligation bonds for the Baltimore City Juvenile Justice Center Education Expansion. This funding will complete the design phase and begin the construction phase of the project.
2. Approve the authorization of \$23.427 million in general obligation bonds for the New Female Detention Center. This will complete the design and begin construction for this project.
3. Approve the preauthorization of \$7.182 million in general obligation bonds in fiscal 2023 for the Baltimore City Juvenile Justice Center Education Expansion project.
4. Approve the preauthorization of \$26.360 million in general obligation bonds in fiscal 2023 for the New Female Detention Center project.
5. Approve the preauthorization of \$36.640 million in general obligation bonds in fiscal 2024 for the New Female Detention Center project.

DJS Response:

DJS concurs with the DLS recommendations.

Requests for Comment

(Page 10) Committed Residential Population Trends

On May 29, 2020, DJS announced two permanent facility closures at the J. DeWeese Carter Center (Carter) and the Meadow Mountain Youth Center. Programming at Carter was transferred to the Mountain View facility on the Backbone Mountain Youth Center campus. At that location, the female youth have dedicated buildings, staff, and services. A total of three youth were relocated. Programming at Meadow Mountain Youth Center will be moved to nearby Green Ridge Youth Center and Backbone Mountain Youth Center. A total of seven youth were relocated among the two facilities to best meet their programmatic needs. Accounting for these operational changes, the committed capacity decreases to 240 beds; the fiscal 2020 residential committed population would account for 51% of this decreased capacity.

It is also worth noting that Silver Oak Academy had an ADP of 25.2 in fiscal 2020, just 26% of the facility's capacity. **DJS should explain the programming provided at the Silver Oak Academy facility, how it differs from that of State-owned facilities, and whether it is possible for the youth housed at Silver Oak Academy to be accommodated by any of the State's committed facilities.**

DJS Response:

Silver Oak Academy (SOA) is a private staff secure residential treatment program located in Keymar, Maryland. Youth admitted to SOA have individualized treatment plans with measured goals that include learning social skills, gaining academic knowledge, vocational-technical competence, independent life skills and family engagement. SOA serves male youth ages 14-18, and the campus has an on-grounds MSDE approved school. DJS operates two youth centers, Backbone Youth Center and Greenridge Youth Center, that also operate at a staff secure level.

Private in-state facilities strengthen Maryland's continuum of care to support young people with diverse needs in a variety of environments and with different treatment modalities. Specifically, multiple residential treatment options allows DJS to have options for youth who have codefendants, ejected from other placements or already have a high school diploma. Silver Oak Academy is an important part of the Department of Juvenile Services continuum of care. Furthermore, due to the per diem contractual relationship with the program, DJS only issues payment for the days a youth is committed to the program at a rate that is approved by the State Interagency Rates Commission.