



## ACCELERATE ND - DOCR

Prepared for: Senate Appropriations Committee  
Chairman: Senator Ray Holmberg  
November 8, 2021

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## Department of Corrections & Rehabilitation

- *ACCELERATE ND - Supporting the Mission & Vision of DOCR:*
  - *Transforming Lives, Influencing Change, Strengthening Community*
  - *Healthy and Productive Neighbors, a Safe North Dakota*

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# DEFERRED ADMISSION HOUSING

## Deferred Admission Housing: \$4,800,000

- DOCR coordinated with ND Dept of Health to establish the Vulnerable Population Plan (VP3). Protocols were established and shared with ND sheriffs and jail administrators. This established a mitigation plan to resume admissions to the DOCR, but also provided guidance to local administrators
- DOCR requested CARES Act funding in the 19-21 biennium to provide compensation to the local correctional facilities for housing DOCR sentence individuals during COVID mitigation protocols
- COVID19 outbreaks within close quarters prison housing, among a population with high rates of underlying health conditions, continue to be a daily threat to safety of resident populations and the DOCR staff who serve them

# DEFERRED ADMISSION HOUSING

DOCR continues to take action to mitigate the spread of COVID19 to our incarcerated populations but has not yet deferred admissions during the current biennium

The resurgence of COVID19 variants has required the continued mitigation protocols by DOCR and its partners, ND Counties

This request would provide funding to reimburse ND county jails for offender housing attributable to pandemic delayed DOCR admission

Image to right: DOCR VP3 Plan, June 16 2021.



June 16, 2021

Re: DOCR VP3 PLAN

Justice involved individuals who are detained or incarcerated represent vulnerable populations. Close quarters for eating and recreation are the rule, and congregate housing is typical. Transport between facilities most often involves groups of justice involved individuals in vans. Social distancing cannot be maintained in such environments. Risk for COVID infection is high, as is the rate of spread of the infection in these environments. Additionally, there are high rates of underlying health conditions among justice involved individuals. Given these conditions, the ND DOCR in coordination with the ND Department of Health has established a process for accepting admissions from North Dakota county and regional correctional facilities.

1. Correctional facilities must have an established robust COVID-19 containment and mitigation plan in place prior to transferring individuals to DOCR facilities. A robust plan includes these elements:
  - a) Personnel requiring unvaccinated staff to wear PPE, specifically masks throughout the facility.
  - b) Staff and detainee screening are performed upon arrival to the facility.
  - c) COVID positive staff members isolate at home and do not work at the correctional facility while infectious.
  - d) Staff close contacts as determined by the ND DPH guidelines of COVID positive individuals self-quarantine and do not work at the correctional facility during the quarantine period.
2. All incarcerated individuals approved for admission to DOCR must first undergo one of the below listed testing procedures.
  - a) PCR testing procedure: individuals who are candidates for transfer to DOCR will undergo COVID testing within 7 days of transfer. Once tested, these individuals will be kept in quarantine only with others set to transfer to the ND DOCR at the correctional facility to minimize risk of cross-contamination prior to transfer. Documentation of negative result is required to obtain approval for transport.
  - b) SineNOW testing procedure: individuals who are candidates for transfer to DOCR will undergo COVID testing no more than one day before transfer. Once tested, these individuals will be kept in quarantine only with others set to transfer to the ND DOCR at the correctional facility to minimize risk of cross-contamination prior to transfer. Documentation of negative result is required to obtain approval for transport.
  - c) Individuals who are verified as fully vaccinated and do not have symptoms of COVID-19 do not need to quarantine or be subject to one of the above testing procedures, prior to transfer to the ND DOCR. However, individuals who are fully vaccinated should continue to be tested prior to transfer to the ND DOCR following exposure.



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## FREE THROUGH RECOVERY

### Free Through Recovery: \$2,995,200

#### *What is Free through Recovery?*

- Improve healthcare outcomes and reduce recidivism by delivering high-quality community behavioral health services linked with effective community supervision
- Collaborative relationship between the DOCR, the Department of Human services, Probation and Parole and Community Care Coordination Agencies
- Participant eligibility includes those 18 years of age or older presenting with a behavioral health condition (mental health and/ or substance abuse), are involved in the criminal justice system, and present a risk for future criminal justice involvement

Senate Bill 2015 provided federal funding of \$3.3 million added to \$8 million from general funds for a total of \$11.3 million for the free through recovery program. The source was not specified for the \$3.3 million from federal funds.

**This request would provide that source of federal dollars.**

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## FREE THROUGH RECOVERY

### Expected & Reported Outcomes

- Positive gains in housing, employment, recovery, and reduced criminal justice involvement
- Outcome reporting is completed by Care Coordinators and Parole & Probation on a monthly basis, overseen by Regional Administrators
- FTR has served 3,344 participants to date with a current census of 1,088
  - Overall positive outcome percentage of 68.3% (housing 76%, employment 65%, recovery 70%, law enforcement 72%)

### Funding the appropriation authorized by SB2015 will:

- Expand the Free Through Recovery program, increasing overall capacity and providing necessary services to additional participants
- Provide the needed increase in services to address behavioral healthcare needs exacerbated by the pandemic
- Fulfill the funding appropriation appropriated by SB2015

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