



## DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### Department of Corrections Receives U.S. Department of Justice Grant

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota Department of Corrections has been awarded a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice to fund a program that will divert female offenders from Pennington County from prison.

The Justice Reinvestment Initiative: Maximizing State Reforms grant is for \$1.75 million over three years. The target population of the grant is prison-bound adult female offenders from Pennington County. There are currently more female inmates in the state prison system committed from Pennington County than any other county, with Pennington County committed inmates making up more than a quarter of the state's female prison population.

“The preference is for those admitted to the program to be probationers or probation violators needing an intensive intervention as an alternative to prison,” said Corrections Secretary Denny Kaemingk. “If space allows, parole violators could also be placed in the program.”

With the grant, funds are available for residential costs, case management, community-based services and housing assistance. Funds also have been budgeted for Secure Continuous Remote Alcohol Monitoring (SCRAM) and Global Positioning System (GPS) monitoring, jail costs and flexible funds to address individual specific needs.

It's estimated that up to 144 individuals could be served under the grant over three years. That includes an offender spending 3-4 months in one of the 12-16 beds in the residential component, followed by a 9-month community phase.

The final program design, including target population, eligibility criteria, program content and identification of service providers will be a cooperative state-local effort.

“For this program to be successful, it must have the support and involvement of local justice practitioners, including the judiciary, prosecutors, law enforcement and stake-

Our mission is to protect the citizens of South Dakota by providing safe and secure facilities for juvenile and adult offenders committed to our custody by the courts. To provide effective community supervision to offenders upon their release and to utilize evidence-based practices to maximize opportunities for rehabilitation.

holders,” said Secretary Kaemingk. “A local project team will be formed representing these groups.”

“The Seventh Circuit judges congratulate the Department of Corrections for being awarded a Maximizing Justice Reinvestment Grant,” said Hon. Craig Pfeifle, Seventh Circuit Court presiding judge. “We know that having available to us in the court system the additional program options to be funded through this grant will increase public safety, reduce the prison population, particularly those who struggle with substance abuse, and provide more community services for that same population. We look forward partnering with DOC, local law enforcement and the community to utilize the programs to be funded by this grant.”

Meetings have begun between the state and local representatives in Rapid City to begin the planning process.

South Dakota is one of four states to be awarded a Justice Reinvestment Initiative: Maximizing State Reforms grant. The site-based awards funded under the program support states that have already adopted justice reinvestment policies to implement one or more strategies to further the goals of a state’s justice reinvestment reform efforts, including the commitment to data-driven decision making and investment in evidence-based practices and programs. SD is one of 30 states that have used the Justice Reinvestment Initiative to take a comprehensive look at their criminal justice system.

For more information about the Justice Reinvestment Initiative visit <http://go.usa.gov/xZsqe>.