NEW MEXICO
CORRECTIONS DEPARTMENT
MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM, GOVERNOR
Alisha Tafoya Lucero, Cabinet Secretary

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Corrections Department's FY28 budget request aims to strengthen workforce, expand treatment and reentry programs

SANTA FE — The New Mexico Corrections Department has requested an increase of $39.1 million for fiscal year 2028, largely for the retention and recruitment of its officers, as well as to permanently fund a Hepatitis C treatment program that now reaches more than 75% of eligible patients.

The department is requesting a total base budget of $405.5 million to sustain critical public safety operations, strengthen its workforce, and expand programs that support rehabilitation and successful reentry.

"Through innovation, vision, and strategic investments, we have fundamentally transformed corrections in New Mexico," said **Corrections Secretary Alisha Tafoya Lucero**. "Corrections is public safety, and this budget request will help ensure that the department has the resources, workforce, and programs necessary to continue fulfilling its mission and strengthening communities across New Mexico."

The FY28 budget request addresses rising operational costs associated with providing care for more than 5,700 incarcerated individuals and supervising more than 15,000 individuals in the community, while allowing the department to continue expanding key initiatives.

The FY28 budget request includes:

- $8 million to fund correctional officer positions
- $8 million to transition Hepatitis C treatment into a recurring funding stream within the department's base budget
- $2 million to increase offender housing capacity and behavioral health services
- $1.1 million to hire additional probation and parole officers
- $810,000 to expand the Reentry Division's workforce
- $275,000 to continue and expand evidence-based educational and rehabilitative curricula available through incarcerated individuals' tablets

The request also supports continued investment in employee compensation. Since FY19, under Secretary Tafoya Lucero's leadership, the starting annual hourly pay rates for correctional officers and probation and parole officers have each increased by more than 54 percent, to be more competitive in employee retention and recruitment efforts.

The FY28 budget request will build upon the department's successes since FY19, which include:

- Increased Hepatitis C treatment from approximately 4 percent to more than 75 percent of eligible patients
- Expanded medication-assisted treatment for opioid use disorder for every custody level statewide
- Transitioned from paper-based operations to electronic health records, digitized incarcerated individuals' files, modernized the modern offender management system, and launched universal tablet access
- Lowered recidivism by strengthening continuity of care and services between incarceration, reentry, and community supervision
- Established transparent pay-equity practices and workforce strategies focused on recruitment, retention, training, and employee housing
- Transitioned three privately operated correctional facilities to state operation and closed a fourth private facility
- Established the Reentry Division as a permanent, separately funded division, securing legislative support for its long-term operations
- Increased access to educational opportunities, college pathways, and industry-recognized credentials and skilled employment; Led the state in adult-learning high school equivalency completions for four consecutive years
- Advanced reforms involving restrictive housing, earned meritorious deductions, and community supervision
- Expanded programming led by individuals with lived experience, through peer mentorship and post-release support

The budget will be presented by Cabinet Secretary Tafoya Lucero when she appears before the Legislative Finance Committee in the afternoon on Tuesday, November 17.

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The New Mexico Corrections Department (NMCD) is one of the largest state agencies in New Mexico. NMCD staff and volunteers are committed to delivering evidence-based Programs across correctional facilities and community supervision settings to support rehabilitation. Through these programs and services, NMCD works to improve outcomes for justice-involved individuals and strengthen public safety statewide.