

MCF-Stillwater in Phase 1

The Department of Corrections (DOC) is moving forward with a phased closure of MCF-Stillwater with full closure scheduled by June 30, 2029. In Phase 1, beginning September 24, 2025, the facility will operate at about half its original capacity – around 550 individuals – and focus on three program areas centered on treatment, rehabilitation, and population management. This approach reduces reliance on the aging facility while implementing strategies to improve outcomes for staff and residents.

Atlantis Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Treatment Program

- SUD treatment bed capacity has been expanded at Stillwater from 36 to 93 residents.
- Approximately 77% of people incarcerated in the DOC are diagnosed with substance use disorders.
- By focusing on intensive, evidence-based treatment and structured programming, residents will work toward positive decision-making and personal growth.
- We anticipate this expansion will be sustainable after the closure of Stillwater due to expanded program space becoming available at MCF-Lino Lakes due to recent bonding investments.

Earned Living Units (ELUs)

- The Earned Living Unit (ELU) is an honors-style living unit where individuals who have demonstrated consistent positive behavior, accountability, and commitment to personal growth reside in a more supportive and responsible living environment.
- ELUs have been tested in state prisons in several states, including Missouri and Maine, and achieved positive outcomes.
- ELUs are built on the idea that when people demonstrate consistent positive conduct and success in their incarceration, they should have the opportunity to live in an environment that reflects this progress and subsequently requires less staff resources.
- Up to 310 individuals will be housed in two Earned Living Units at MCF-Stillwater. Residents are selected based on their demonstrated history in the Department of Corrections, program participation, staff recommendation, and other factors.
- Research from other states shows that these types of “honor units” and incentive-based models can significantly reduce violence and misconduct in prisons.

Restrictive Housing

- Stillwater’s restrictive housing unit meets current safety and security standards.
- Housing for up to 150 individuals statewide who meet criteria for longer-term segregation and population management needs.

Phase 1 of MCF-Stillwater’s phased closure demonstrates the DOC’s commitment to balancing safety, rehabilitation, and responsible facility management. By focusing on structured treatment, positive incentives, and secure housing, the department is creating an environment that supports resident growth, reduces risk, and lays the foundation for a smooth and successful transition as the facility moves toward full closure in 2029.