IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION

We envision a safer Idaho with fewer people in its correctional system

BRAD LITTLE
Governor

BREE DERRICK
Director

To: Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee
From: Idaho Department of Correction
Date: October 29, 2026
Subject: Summary of Request for Information Findings – Community Reentry Center Operations

Purpose: Pursuant to legislative direction (S1388), the Idaho Department of Correction (IDOC), under the direction and coordination of the Division of Purchasing (DOP), initiated a Request for Information (RFI) to evaluate the most efficient and effective operation of Idaho's community reentry centers (CRCs), including potential outsourcing models. As required, the department gathered input related to costs, recidivism outcomes, and security considerations, and hereby submits a summary of those findings.

Background: Six providers initially responded to the RFI. Two respondents withdrew prior to the scheduled meetings, leaving four providers who participated in discussions. The RFI process was facilitated by DOP using their preferred process which does not include written vendor comparisons.

SUMMARY OF RFI INPUT

Cost and Operational Structure: Across all four providers, no respondent supplied a specific cost estimate for operating a CRC. Each respondent cited that they would need additional data to provide estimated costs, such as exact site locations, ownership details, staffing expectations, required services, and population guarantees. Respondents consistently identified facility costs and staffing requirements as the primary cost drivers. Start-up costs and lengthy facility procurement timelines were also noted as financial considerations.

Staffing Estimate: Only one respondent provided a specific staffing model for a 100-bed men's CRC. This respondent estimated that 38.5 full-time staff would be required to operate such a facility. For comparison, IDOC will operate a 100-bed men's CRC with 19 staff, reflecting substantially lower staffing costs than the outsourced model.

Recidivism Outcomes: Respondents emphasized that definitions of recidivism vary significantly across jurisdictions and that access to post-release data is often limited unless supplied directly by the state. Therefore, consistently defined and comparable recidivism rates were not provided. Only one respondent offered quantitative recidivism outcomes from other state's CRC programs. Most respondents instead referenced leading indicators such as program completion and employment outcomes as predictors of reduced recidivism.

Operational Challenges: Themes identified by all respondents included:

- Staff recruitment and retention, especially in remote areas
- Limited affordable housing for residents reentering the community
- Transportation barriers impacting employment success
- Community resistance and zoning requirements
- Data-sharing limitations affecting outcome measurement
- Deferred maintenance in state-owned facilities driving high cost of operation

These challenges were consistent across respondents and align with current operational realities faced by IDOC in managing CRCs.

Approaches Supporting Successful Reentry: Respondents identified several evidence-based and commonly adopted practices, including:

- Beginning reentry planning at intake
- Individualized case management driven by validated assessments
- Cognitive-behavioral programming aligned with criminogenic needs
- Employment-centered approaches, including job readiness and employer partnerships
- Access to housing, prosocial supports, and family reintegration resources
- Continuity of care from incarceration into the community

Conclusion: The RFI process provided insight into current national practices and vendor perspectives on CRC operations. Based on the information gathered, outsourcing Idaho CRCs appears unlikely to produce cost savings or operational efficiencies when compared to IDOC-operated CRCs, particularly given the significantly higher staffing levels proposed by the only respondent who supplied an estimate and the costs to establish and maintain physical buildings.