



**NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF  
CORRECTIONS**

**Edna Mahan Correctional Facility  
Phase 1  
Full Minimum Compound Relocation**



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## **BACKGROUND**

The Edna Mahan Correctional Facility (EMCF) in Union Township, Hunterdon County, has been New Jersey's primary correctional facility for women for over a century. In 1911, the New Jersey Appropriations Committee allocated \$20,000 for the acquisition of a farm that would later serve as the only female correctional facility in the state. Three farmhouses and multiple barns on the property were subsequently renovated to house staff and incarcerated women. Opening its doors in January 1913, Clinton Farms initially operated with four staff members and housed 24 incarcerated women.

The institution was established with the purpose of providing a humane environment for correction and reformation. In 1987, the facility was renamed in honor of Edna Mahan, who served as Superintendent from 1928 until her passing in 1968.

In June 2021, Governor Murphy announced the closure of the state's only women's prison and plans to reimagine incarceration for women in New Jersey, at a modern, more centrally-located facility with greater access to major roadways and public transportation. Overall, the closure of EMCF is expected to result in cost avoidance of capital projects estimated at approximately \$166 million. The facility's open units currently accommodate up to 536 incarcerated persons.

## **OVERVIEW**

The closure of the Edna Mahan Correctional Facility ("EMCF") Full Minimum ("FM") housing units is necessary to provide the individuals housed at and the staff assigned to EMCF with a more modern and improved facility – on an interim basis – while the next female correctional facility is constructed. As part of ongoing NJDOC Strategic Planning efforts, the Department closed the EMCF FM housing units through the relocation of incarcerated persons ("IPs") to the former William H. Fauver Youth Correction Facility Full Minimum Unit. For these purposes, this new, temporary location will be referred to as the EMCF Satellite Unit.

In July 2022, due to infrastructure issues, the first group of incarcerated persons were transferred from Stowe Building at EMCF to Building 1 at the EMCF Satellite Unit. Building 1 houses approximately 105 IPs in medium and gang minimum status but has an operational capacity of 192 IPs.

As of October 2023, there were approximately 71 IPs housed at EMCF "Grounds" in Full Minimum Status. These IPs have been transferred to Building 2 at the EMCF Satellite Unit, which has an operational capacity of 192 IPs. This transfer signals the closure of the EMCF full minimum housing units, leaving only a higher security unit and a mixed-use space on the original EMCF grounds.



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As part of this planning process, priority attention was made to ensure the needs of the IPs at the Satellite Unit will be met and enhanced, including:

- improved housing conditions, including temperature control;
- creation of an “Honors” dorm;
- visitation in compliance with the Dignity for Incarcerated Primary Caretaker Parents Act;
- medical and mental health care;
- substance abuse treatment;
- education and social services;
- activities;
- preparation for reentry into the community; and
- ensuring the overall safety and security of incarcerated persons and staff.

The EMCF Satellite Unit is a short distance (approximately 4 miles) from the EMCF main compound, meaning any necessary trips back to the main facility will be brief, similar to other Full Minimum Units in NJDOC. In the new arrangement at the Satellite Unit, there is better accessibility of services, as providers such as medical clinicians, social workers, and educational staff have office spaces on the housing unit, thus alleviating the current need for the population to walk long distances to receive services.

This significant milestone marks Phase 1 of the process to fully and completely close EMCF, while the inter-agency planning of a new correctional complex for women is underway. This first phase of a multiyear plan will meet the short-term needs of a segment of the population at Edna Mahan Correctional Facility until the construction of modular housing units can be completed, followed by a permanent purpose-built construction.

### **“GROUNDS” TRANSFER TO EDNA SATELLITE UNIT**

The approximately 71 IPs currently residing in the EMCF “Grounds” Full Minimum Compound (A Cottage and B Cottage) have been relocated to the EMCF Satellite Unit, Building 2. Building 2 has an original operational capacity of 192 beds and is currently vacant. This space created an opportunity to relocate the 71 IPs to a more modern, temperature-controlled, and secure location.

The new location provides:

- sufficient personal living space;
- ample passive day space;
- outdoor recreation space;
- programming rooms; and
- a medical area.



The EMCF Satellite is fully temperature controlled and has abundant natural light. In addition, there is laundry and food services on each unit. Building 2 accommodates five areas for programming and services space.

Programming is offered to the women residing within Building 1 at the EMCF Satellite Unit, with additional and expanded programming opportunities available, coinciding with the relocation.

Building 2 consists of two separate wings: South and North Wing.

### **South Wing**

South Wing consists of 6 dormitory-style pods with a capacity of 16 IPs in each pod for a total capacity of 96 IPs. Approximately 8 IPs will be housed in each of these pods. South Wing maintains approximately five telephones and four JPay communication kiosks.

Pods open to a main congregate area with tables, television, telephones, ice machine, refrigerator, microwave, and communication kiosks. There is one programming/group space room within the South Wing housing area.

### **North Wing**

North Wing accommodates three pods dedicated to programming space, and another three pods to house the Honors Dorms. Honors housing, a new initiative for NJDOC, is designed to promote positive behavior. Honors housing is available to those chosen as a result of sustained, pro-social interactions and involvement in their personal growth. It includes incentives like more home-like living spaces that are more conducive to positive peer interactions and foster a sense of community and support among the population.

North Wing is also dormitory-style housing that opens to a modified day space with normative furniture, rug, large screen television, ice machine, refrigerator, privacy partition, microwave, telephones, and JPay kiosks.

Honors Housing includes:

- a total of approximately 24 women;
- ratio of approximately 1 toilet to 8 IPs; 1 shower to 4 IPs; 1 sink to 4 IPs;
- normative furniture for sleeping area;
- doors installed on 3 housing pods for additional privacy and noise reduction;
- doors installed on 3 program pods for additional privacy and noise reduction
- access to preferred job details.

These additions offer more privacy, personal control of the environment, and a pro-social setting appropriate for enhanced Honors Housing.



## **CUSTODY STAFFING**

This new housing assignment for the women at the EMCF Satellite Unit will assist the institution in reducing substantial staffing deficiencies, including decreasing staff callouts, mandatory overtime, and exhaustion. This, in turn, creates increased vigilance and capacity to ensure that the incarcerated women can live, work, and participate in programs in a safe and secure environment.

The move will also result in the elimination of 11 posts over three shifts and annual decrease in overtime expenditures.

## **DIVISION OF PROGRAM AND REINTEGRATION SERVICES**

Access to meaningful rehabilitation and reintegration programs and services is a top priority for the Division, and is part of the reason for NJDOC's continued success in maintaining one of the lowest recidivism rates of any correctional system in the nation. Programming and specialized services will be implemented in by tier group, with most of the existing programs at the main facility transferring to the new location.

### **Programming and Supportive Services Offered**

#### **CORE Psychoeducational Programs**

- Thinking for a Change (T4C)
- Successful Transition and Reentry Series (STARS)
- Cage Your Rage for Women (CYR-W)
- Successful Employment through Lawful Living and Conflict Management (SEALL)
- Helping Offenders Parent Effectively for Women (HOPE-W)
- Family Reunification and Transition (FRAT)

#### **Specialized Programs**

- Saving our Sisters (S.O.S.) Understanding Domestic Violence
- Saving our Sisters (S.O.S.) Healthy Relationships
- Saving our Sisters (S.O.S.) Individual counseling

#### **Reintegration Services and Support**

- Assistance with Affordable Health Care enrollment
- Assistance with NJHELPS enrollment
- Identification assistance
- Housing assistance referral



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### **Religious Services**

- Full complement of worship, choir, and religious studies.

### **Trauma and Victim Services**

- Releasing Trauma and Embracing Faith Level 1
- Releasing Trauma and Embracing Faith Level 2-Alum
- Focus on the Victim

### **Education**

- Reading and Law Library Access
- Adult Basic Education (HSE/HSD)
- NJSTEP College Program (*enrollment driven*)
- OSHA 10/OSHA 30 Construction Safety
- ServSafe Certification
- CPR/First Aid
- Forklift simulator training

### **Other Services**

- A limited Cosmetology services menu will be available for non-chemical-based hair and manicure services.

### **Reintegration Community Partnerships**

- NJLEAD partnership connections
- PACE Level 1 Job Readiness Course
- PACE Level 2 Resume and Cover letter Prep
- Entrepreneurship Training

### **Programs that will remain at the EMCF Main facility**

- Vocational Training (Carpentry, Painting, Horticulture, Cosmetology)
- Court Ordered DCPV Visits and Title XX Incentive children's playroom and outdoor playground activities
- Academic online testing through the learning lab

## **MEDICAL/MENTAL HEALTH/SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES**

The following services will be provided on-site unless otherwise noted.

### **Medical Services**

- Daily "Doctor Call" and "Sick Call"
- OBGYN



- Mammograms
- X-rays

IPs will be required to transport to EMCF Main for the following medical services:

- Dental
- Infirmary stays
- Optometry

**Mental Health Outpatient Services and Programs**

- Letting Go/Recovery
- Coping Skills (IOP)
- Relapse Prevention (IOP)
- Creative Arts Therapy and Counseling (IOP)
- Individual Therapy
- Medication Management
- Discharge Planning
- Medication Assisted Treatment
- Rutgers University Behavioral Health Care (UBHC)
- Correction Peer Orientation Program (C-POP)

**Substance Abuse Services**

Gateway Foundation coordinated through NJDOC Office of Substance Abuse and Addictions Services

- 12-Step Education
- Living in Balance

Office of Substance Abuse and Program Services

- Smart Recovery
- Engaging the Family
- Stacked Deck

**PLANNED SOCIAL AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES**

Activities may include, but are not limited to the following. The Department will continue to engage the population and staff regarding additional offerings and is subject to change:

Social Activities	Recreation
Book Club	Basketball
Crochet Club	Walking
Card Club	Yoga/Stretching Area



Drama Club	Cardiovascular and Muscle Building Outdoor Fitness Equipment
Poetry Club	Outdoor Chess Set
Puzzle Master	Volleyball
Zen Coloring	Table Air Hockey
Creative Writing/Journaling Club	Kan Jam
Yoga/Meditation	Ring Toss
Quiet Study Room	Corn Hole
Cross-Stitching	Giant Jenga
Movies	Passive Recreation Area
Sudoku	
Bingo	
Watercolor Painting	
Checkers	
Aerobics including Zumba, Hula-Hoop Fitness, Aerobic Stepper, Stair Stepper, Stationary Cycling	

### **WORK OPPORTUNITIES**

Incarcerated persons housed at the EMCF Satellite Unit will be afforded numerous voluntary job assignments that provide skills and meaningful employment. Various work assignments are available at the Satellite Unit, including but not limited to:

- In-house Commissary
- Barber
- Food Service
- Medical Porter
- Library Aid
- Recreation Aid
- Gardener
- Activity Coordinator

Additional work assignments will remain available at EMCF Main Campus, including but not limited to:

- Teacher's Aide
- Food Service
- Commissary
- Legal Assistant
- Religious Services Paraprofessional





- Food Service Storeroom
- Various Sanitation Jobs

The Department, staff, and population continually evaluate opportunities for voluntary employment, and they are routinely modified to meet the needs of the population and facility.

## **OTHER GENDER INFORMED CONSIDERATIONS**

### ***Bathroom privacy for changing***

All the bathroom spaces in the Satellite Unit have a private, single-use toilet to afford IPs complete privacy while using the toilet. Additionally, each shower stall has a privacy curtain in addition to a secondary curtain where an IP enters and exits the shower stall. Both of these areas allow IP privacy to change their clothing.

### ***Confidential interview space***

The Satellite building has a confidential interview space for an IP to speak with Special Investigation Division, the Institutional PREA Compliance Manager (IPCM), or a custody supervisor. This space will provide greater discretion and an increased sense of privacy and safety. The room is furnished with a rug, normative furniture, and other aesthetic elements that help to create a sense of calm. Procedures are in place to ensure that an IP's privacy is maintained when being called to an interview, limiting the amount of unintended information that is provided to other staff or IPs in the area.

EMCF gender informed practices are applied equally across the EMCF population.

## **CAMERAS**

The Satellite is fully equipped with more than 120 fixed cameras to alleviate blind spots. In addition, all custody staff that have or potentially have contact with incarcerated persons will be equipped with body worn cameras.

## **VISITATION**

Visitation will occur on-site at the EMCF Satellite in the Support Building. Consistent with current NJDOC procedures, visitors will be required to pre-register in advance. Medium and Full Minimum custody status IP visits will be combined. Designated parking spaces for visitors will be available. In addition, Video Visitation is already available and in use at the EMCF Satellite.

For more information on visitation and scheduling visits, please visit [www.njdoc.gov](http://www.njdoc.gov).



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### **ADDITIONAL NOTES**

EMCF leadership and staff have worked diligently to increase services and opportunities at the EMCF Satellite to reduce any need for outside services -- such as visitation, religious services, nurse and doctor calls, video visits, Empower Women Speaker Series, Gender Specialist, Telemedicine, Attorney Visitation, and professional/confidential interviews -- that would result in a strip search. However, incarcerated persons must return to EMCF Main for dental services and voluntary elective work details.