

## Add space to make court-ordered transfers of sex offenders

### Issues

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- Clients in the Minnesota Sex Offender Program (MSOP) are ordered by the court to receive sex offender treatment. When the court determines they have made sufficient progress, it may order their transfer from the program's secure facilities to Community Preparation Services (CPS), a less restrictive treatment setting on the St. Peter campus.
- At CPS, clients continue treatment while learning and practicing skills to reintegrate successfully into community life, if the court grants them provisional or full discharge. Under supervision and electronic monitoring, they gradually earn more liberty to move freely about the campus, take off-campus outings, and volunteer and participate in other aspects of community life.
- The number of court-ordered transfers to CPS has increased significantly in recent years as clients progress through treatment. Currently, CPS has a capacity of 109 beds. The program is full, with a waiting list of 31 clients who have court orders to continue their treatment in CPS.
- More space is needed to comply with the growing number of court orders to transfer clients to CPS.
- The state's inability to place clients quickly after a court order for transfer to CPS raises the risk of legal consequences. DHS currently faces lawsuits from clients placed on the CPS waiting list for as long as two years after the court granted their transfers. The agency is also the subject of contempt proceedings before the Commitment Appeal Panel for failure to comply with transfer orders.

### Proposal

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- The Governor's bonding bill includes the second phase of a renovation project to create more space in CPS.
- Renovating two buildings on the St. Peter campus will add 30 new beds in CPS and provide more space for MSOP program activities and administrative offices. In all, 63,335 square feet of existing space will be renovated.

### Benefits

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- MSOP will have the capacity to meet the growing need for program and bed space for clients progressing through treatment.
- MSOP will be able to comply with court orders to transfer clients to a less restrictive setting.

## Fiscal impact

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- \$17.8 million in General Obligation bonds in Fiscal Year 2023

## Related information

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- [MSOP bonding proposal](#) in the [Governor's Local Jobs and Projects Plan](#)
- [Minnesota Sex Offender Program Overview](#)

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