

Note on updated report: In its January 1, 2026, semi-annual Borough-based Jails (“BBJ”) Progress Report as required by Local Law 192 for the year 2019, the Board of Correction (“Board” or “BOC”) informed the public of the status of the project, its plans, and pending construction updates for the borough-based facilities and hospitals. The Department of Correction (“Department” or “DOC”) and the Board have joined quarterly meetings where the latter agency is informed on the status of projects or initiatives and timelines. The Board uses much of the information the Department shares at that time to write the report. The report has been amended to reflect the changes suggested by DOC. All updated text is in **red**.



BOARD OF CORRECTION CITY OF NEW YORK

BOROUGH-BASED JAIL REPORT¹

UPDATED JANUARY 2, 2026

Introduction

The New York City Board of Correction (“BOC” or “the Board”) is a non-mayoral independent oversight agency created under Section 626 (c) of Chapter 25 of the New York City Charter. This is the Board’s first report of 2026, as well as the sixth report in the past six years outlining the progress made by the Department of Correction (“DOC” or “the Department”) in partnership with the City of New York to close Rikers Island and transition to borough-based facilities. This report is compliant with Local Law 192 for the year 2019.

Local Law 2025/140² was enacted on October 10, 2025, requiring the Mayor to establish an Office for the Coordination of the Transition to the Borough-Based Jails. It also requires the Mayor to establish an interagency working group. To the Department’s credit, they have staff dedicated to the BBJ transition team and Outposted Therapeutic Hospital Unit programs providing significant updates to city and state oversight agencies.

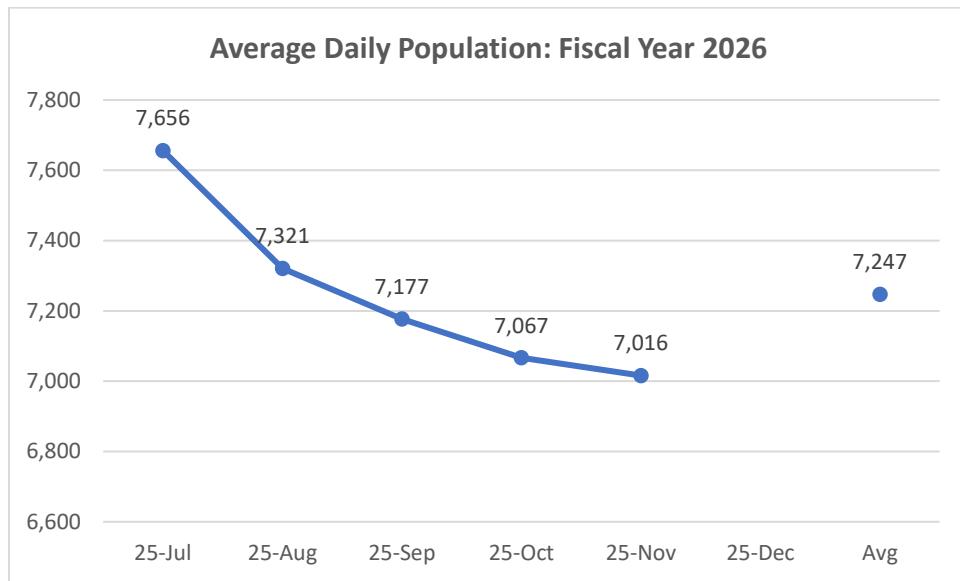
Jail Population

Between July and November 2025, the jail’s population decreased by 8.36%. The average daily population to date is 7,247. In the early part of 2025, the Department submitted a variance request due to the growing jail population and the pending transfer of state-ready individuals into the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS) custody. In February 2025, many New York state correction officers went on strike, leaving prisons severely understaffed. As a result, there were significant delays in transferring state sentenced individuals to New York state prisons. By June 2025, because of the state workforce strike, more than 1,000 state-ready incarcerated individuals were held in DOC

¹ In 2019, the City Council passed legislation—Local Law 192 for the year 2019—requiring the Board of Correction to publish semi-annual reports on the impact of closing jails on Rikers Island and constructing new facilities to replace them on: (1) people in custody, and (2) on the Department’s and Correctional Health Service’s compliance with the Minimum Standards.

² <https://intro.nyc/local-laws/2025-140>

custody. The Department submitted nine limited variance requests for Overcrowding §1-04³ to the BOC, which impacted the population numbers for Eric M. Taylor Center (EMTC), Otis Bantum Correctional Center (OBCC), and West Facility (WF). Board members approved the variance requests presented by DOC at the March and May 2025 public meetings. The variance requests made in May 2025⁴ were in effect through July 13, 2025. At the July 8, 2025, public meeting, the Board did not grant the Department's submitted overcrowding variances.



Source: DOC Data File

The Brooklyn borough-based jail, located on Smith Street where the former Brooklyn Detention Center was established, has a projected budget of \$2.9 billion. Tutor Perini Corp and HOK⁵, Phase 1 of the design, and the City agreed to a Guaranteed Maximum Price⁶ in December 2024. The design-build team received conditional approval from the State Commission of Correction (SCOC) and the Public Design Commission on their final designs. As of December 2025, the design-build team was in the process of tower crane work, and the building's inner core was at the eleventh level.

³ <https://www.nyc.gov/site/boc/jail-regulations/previoulsy-granted-variances.page>

⁴ §1-04 Overcrowding (c)(2), §1-04 Overcrowding (c)(3), and §1-04 (c)(5)(i): (c) *Multiple occupancy.*

(1) A multiple-occupancy area shall contain for each occupant a single bed, a closeable storage container for personal property and a table or desk space that is available for use at least 12 hours per day.

(2) Multiple-occupancy areas shall provide a minimum of 60 square feet of floor space per person in the sleeping area.

(3) A multiple-occupancy area shall provide a minimum of one operable toilet and shower for every 8 prisoners and one operable sink for every 10 prisoners. Toilets shall be accessible for use without staff assistance 24 hours per day.

⁵ founded in 1955 with Goerge Hellmuth, Gyo Obata, and George Kassabaum.

⁶ GMP is a cost-type contract that sets a ceiling price for a project, typically in construction.

The Bronx borough-based jail is located in the Mott Haven section of the borough along East 141st Street. The projected budget is \$2.9 billion, and it is the only BBJ facility without an adjacent courthouse. All incarcerated individuals will be transported to court by vehicle. The Transformative Reform Group and Urbahn Architects were issued a Notice to Proceed⁷ in August 2024.

The Queens borough-based jail is located in the Kew Gardens neighborhood. It is the only jail that houses both men and women, including maternity and nursery housing. The projected budget is estimated at \$3.9 billion. Leon D. DeMatteis and STV Group were issued a Notice to Proceed in August 2024. Design development documents were completed in August 2025 and were reviewed by the City. **The Queens jail is still in the Design Development phase of the design process. The design build team submitted 65% design development documents in December 2025 and is under review by the City.**

The Manhattan borough-based jail is located in Chinatown with a projected budget of \$3.7 billion. The three firms were issued a Notice to Proceed in 2025. The design-build team submitted schematic design documents in September 2025, which were under review by the City. **The three firms are Tutor Perini, HOK, and O&G Industries⁸.**

Preliminary Capital Commitment Plan Highlights

- **Borough-Based Jails.** Funding for borough-based jail projects makes up 95 percent of DOC's Capital Plan. The total amount of funding for the new jail facilities in the Fiscal 2025 - 2030 Preliminary Capital Commitment Plan includes \$13.95 billion, a 19 percent increase from the \$11.69 billion included at Adoption.



- **Brooklyn:** Estimated to be completed in 2029, the Brooklyn facility is furthest along of the new facilities. The Preliminary Capital Commitment Plan includes \$2.34 billion, which shows no change from the \$2.34 billion that was budgeted at Adoption.
- **Manhattan:** The Preliminary Capital Commitment Plan includes \$4.18 billion, a 117 percent increase from the \$2.73 billion included at Adoption. The project is currently in the dismantle phase of the existing facility, with an estimated completion date in 2032.

⁷ NTP is an official document authorizing a contractor to officially start work on a project.

⁸ O&G Industries, Inc. was wounded by Andrew Oneglia and Flavio Gervasini. It is a construction services and products provider in the Northeast. <https://ogind.com/>

- **Queens:** The Queens facility will house men and women so it is anticipated that this build will cost more on average to accommodate the required additional spaces. This site's completion date is estimated for 2031. The Preliminary Capital Commitment Plan includes \$4.05 billion, which has not changed since Adoption.
- **Bronx:** The Preliminary Capital Commitment Plan includes \$3.13 billion, the same as the amount budgeted at Adoption. This facility is scheduled to be completed in 2031.

⁹ Source: New York City Office of Management and Budget

Community Design Workshops

The purpose of community design workshops is to engage the residents, City officials, advocates, and formerly incarcerated individuals to provide input and ask questions on the design of the new borough-based jails. Typically, the Department of Design and Construction would be joined by an architectural firm as part of the design-build team for the new borough-based jails.

On October 29, 2025, BOC staff attended the BBJ Manhattan Facility Community Design Workshop held at the Surrogate Court lobby. It was the second of four proposed community design workshops for the Manhattan jail that will be located on White Street in the Chinatown area of lower Manhattan. One of the questions posed to the speakers was about the dedicated education and training spaces in the Manhattan jail. At that meeting, there were no renderings of education and training spaces in the presentation; however, a director with HOK¹⁰, responsible for civic and justice, stated that images would be shared with the public in future community design meetings. He reported that there were about a half-dozen educational classrooms, another half-dozen vocational classrooms, a library, a gymnasium, and more.

Another question was asked by a member of Children's Rights, specifically about outdoor recreation. She was concerned that the recreation area was indoors and asked for more clarification on the design. The director of HOK reported that two layers of mesh are used to secure the recreation area: security mesh and architectural mesh, and that it lets in sunlight and air from the materials but not from above. He reported that there is no glass in the area enclosing the space, and that no air is coming from above, as the building has stories. Each mesh area is estimated to be at least 18 feet high.

Conclusion

The Board of Correction continues to support the City's plan to close Rikers Island and replace it with four borough-based jails. City agencies can be more thoughtful in their public updates. The Department of Correction's website immediately directs a person to the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice's (MOCJ) webpage¹¹, which requires further navigation to

⁹ Fiscal Year 2026 Preliminary Plan: <https://council.nyc.gov/budget/wp-content/uploads/sites/54/2025/03/Department-of-Correction.pdf>

¹⁰ HOK is an architectural design firm was one of three design firms that were issued a Notice to Proceed in 2025.

¹¹ Smaller Safer Fairer: <https://criminaljustice.cityofnewyork.us/reports/smaller-safer-fairer/>

access updated information. The Department of Design and Construction website¹² is harder to navigate, and its projects tab could use updates. The website, *A Roadmap to Closing Rikers*, does not provide much up-to-date information; it is primarily site construction updates. The website could improve by sharing current timelines and detailed budget projections to ensure transparency and public accountability. However, the NYC Borough-Based Jail Program website¹³ includes uploaded videos of all community design meetings, environmental monitoring reports from the DDC, and construction updates.

The Board strongly recommends expediting the opening of the Outposted Therapeutic Hospital Units, particularly at Bellevue Hospital, where 104 beds will be available for men with chronic medical and mental health conditions. The Department reported that the physical plant is nearing final completion and occupancy by incarcerated individuals is pending the New York State Commission of Correction (SCOC) commissioning. Incarcerated individuals requiring inpatient-level care must receive treatment that replicates the jail-based model while meeting minimum standards. The incarcerated population will be treated by Correctional Health Services (CHS) and Health and Hospitals (H&H) clinicians and specialists, though they will not be classified as in-hospital patients. The Department of Correction will continue to provide security and custody management support. The City must accelerate development of the OTxHU at Woodhull Hospital (currently in design development) and the OTxHU at North Central Bronx (currently in schematic design). The Board urges prioritization of these facilities, as the OTxHU program is essential to reducing the jail population.

The design-build workshop in Manhattan provided valuable community engagement through visual and audio presentations, enabling diverse stakeholders to provide feedback on critical topics including green space, small business impacts, and public safety. The City must continue to facilitate such workshops across all affected boroughs and ensure that community input directly informs project design and implementation decisions.

¹² <https://www.nyc.gov/site/ddc/projects/projects.page>

¹³ <https://www.nyc.gov/site/borojails/index.page>