



THE CITY OF NEW YORK INDEPENDENT BUDGET OFFICE

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At Least \$376M Remains in DOC's Capital Budget for Rikers Island Projects

August 20, 2024 – At the request of Freedom Agenda, the Independent Budget Office of New York City is publishing a report that delves into the Department of Correction's (DOC) capital projects on Rikers Island. Given the mandated closure date of Rikers jails in 2027, there is uncertainty whether projects will meet the five-year useful life requirement for capital eligibility. This report is an update to [IBO's previous January 2020 analysis](#) and the second in a series about recent trends at DOC. A previous IBO publication explored changes in [length of stay and population demographics at City jails](#), and an upcoming report will focus on DOC expenditures and staffing over the last decade.

IBO's report can be accessed [here](#) and a supplementary dataset can be accessed [here](#).

- In DOC's \$13.6 billion 10-year Capital Commitment Plan, at least \$376 million is tied to work on Rikers Island. Nearly two-thirds of that funding is tied to emergency work and general infrastructure or state of good repair projects. In 2022, DOC committed \$116 million in capital funding for work on Rikers Island; in 2023, commitments dropped to \$32 million.
- Spending from the Expense Budget on maintenance and repairs increased more than three-fold from 2019-2023, growing from \$5 million to \$22 million. As of the FY25 Adopted Budget, the budget for these costs has increased: the 2024 budget was \$28 million and the 2025-2027 budgets hover around \$19 million annually, an acknowledgment that maintenance spending outside of the Capital Budget is likely to remain elevated.
- The Administration has three paths forward for the \$376 million budgeted for capital projects on Rikers Island: maintain capital eligibility (including a process known as "co-certification" with the Department of Citywide Administrative Services, which will take control of Rikers Island after the jails' closure), use funds from the Expense Budget, or discontinue projects. At present, it is unclear how much of the budgeted funds will fall into each of these categories, although \$57 million has been co-certified to date. Projects for which there are no plans to move forward should no longer be included in the DOC Capital Budget.

New York City Independent Budget Office

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