



## SPECIAL EDITION

As a result of declining revenue, the State of Michigan is projecting a budget deficit of over \$1.3 billion this fiscal year. The decline in state revenues is the largest in 50 years. All state departments, including the Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC) must find ways to reduce expenditures for the remainder of the 2008-09 budget year. As a result of the declining prisoner population and to reduce overtime expenses at specific facilities, the MDOC is making the following changes:

- Alger Maximum Correctional Facility in Munising is closing two housing units;
- Marquette Branch Prison is closing one housing unit and double-bunking another unit on the base floor only;
- The Protective Custody Unit will be relocated from Standish Maximum Correctional Facility to Oaks Correctional Facility in Manistee;
- Pine River Correctional Facility in St. Louis will be reclassified as a Level II facility from a Level I facility. Prisoner living quarters within housing units will be reduced from eight prisoners per bay to seven prisoners per bay.
- These changes are not likely to result in employee layoffs.

Additionally, the Department is finalizing the closure of Robert Scott Correctional Facility (SCF). Women prisoners from that facility are being transferred to the Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility, which is now a consolidated complex specifically designated for women prisoners. The complex has been renovated to accommodate women prisoners. Having women prisoners at one complex reduces transportation costs and allows for the enhanced delivery of services specific to the needs of the population. Once all necessary and usable items are removed from SCF, it will be turned over to the Department of Management and Budget as surplus property.

To meet the spending reductions identified in Executive Order 2009-22, MDOC staff who do not provide a direct prisoner care and/or custody function are mandated to take six pre-scheduled furlough days. For most staff, these furlough days have been predetermined by the Office of State Employer and occur on June 19, July 6, July 24, August 7, August 21, and September 4. Due to contractual obligations within bargaining unit agreements, some bargaining unit members may have alternative furlough days than those identified here. If you have questions concerning furlough days, please contact your personnel representative.

The Michigan Department of Corrections continues to provide the highest level of service to the citizens of Michigan, given these difficult economic times. The Michigan Prisoner ReEntry Initiative (MPRI) and a reduction in new commitments to prison have resulted in the lowest prisoner population in seven years. This continuing decline will allow the MDOC to save over \$120 million in FY 2009-10. The State of Michigan is likely to face more economic difficulties over the next two fiscal years, with projected revenue shortfalls in both 2010 and 2011. That means the MDOC will likely be asked again to find spending reductions and savings in all areas of its operations.