



## Internal Memo

**Date:** September 4, 2025

**To:** Friends and Family of Incarcerated Persons

**From:** Paul Schnell, Commissioner

### **RE: Update on the Phased Closure of MCF-Stillwater**

The Minnesota Department of Corrections (DOC) is continuing to prepare for Phase 1 of the MCF-Stillwater closure. This is an update to the progress since the August 28 memo:

#### **MCF-Stillwater Population Update:**

The population at Stillwater has been reduced to under 700 incarcerated persons. This milestone reflects the significant movement already underway to safely transition individuals to other facilities and programs across the state until the ending population of 550.

#### **MCF Stillwater Earned Living Unit:**

We are pleased to announce that 310 individuals have been accepted into the Earned Living Unit. Everyone who applied will receive a memo with their status: one for those accepted, one for those who met criteria but are placed on the waitlist, and one for those who did not meet criteria.

Thank you to all who applied. Your interest in this program demonstrates a strong commitment to growth and positive change.

#### **Looking Ahead:**

As we move into September, transfers out of Stillwater will increase, while transfers into Stillwater will continue as part of the formation of the Earned Living Unit. We are also beginning the transition of staff assignments to support the next phase. More updates will be shared with you as the work continues.

The progress made so far is possible because of your patience, participation, and resilience during this major change.