

Challenge Incarceration Program (CIP) (M.S. Sec. 244.17)

Background

The Challenge Incarceration Program (CIP) is a voluntary program for those who meet statutory and department requirements.

CIP has three phases, each lasting six months. The first is a highly-structured and intensive phase.

Programming includes substance use disorder treatment (if applicable); education; cognitive skills; restorative justice; physical training; military bearing, drill, and ceremony; work crew; and transition preparation.

Phase 1 for men is located at the Willow River site of the Minnesota Correctional Facility (MCF)–Willow River/Moose Lake or at the MCF–Togo. For women, Phase 1 of CIP is located at the MCF–Shakopee. In Phases 2 and 3, participants are under intensive supervision in the community.

Following successful completion of all three phases, individuals are placed on supervised release for the remainder of their sentence. Failure to complete CIP Phases 2 and 3 may result in a return to prison, extending an individual's period of incarceration.

Statute allows CIP Placement for those who:

1. Have been committed to the custody of the commissioner of corrections following revocation of a stayed sentence, or
2. Have been committed to the commissioner's custody, and have 48 months or less remaining in their term of imprisonment, and did not receive an upward dispositional departure under sentencing guidelines.

Statute prohibits CIP Placement for those who:

1. Are committed to the commissioner of corrections or have been convicted and committed to the commissioner of corrections in the past ten years for murder, manslaughter, criminal sexual conduct, assault, kidnapping, robbery, arson, or any other offender involving death or intentional personal injury.
2. Were convicted of escape within the last 5 years.
3. Have current warrants or detainers.
4. Are required to register as a predatory offender under Minnesota statute 243.166.

CIP Phase One Qualifications

- Must be within 60 months of his/her release.
- Must have 13 months or more to release. Statute requires a minimum of six months participation in Phase 1 and a minimum of six months participation in Phase 2 of the program.
- Can have consecutive sentences.
- Must fulfill mandatory minimum penalties prior to release to Phase 2.
- Can be a release violator with a new sentence, but must complete any accountability time prior to release to Phase 2.
- Cannot be subject to a current arrest warrant or detainer. This includes those with pending charges.
- Once a pending charge has been resolved, the individual may be eligible for CIP and:
 - Must apply through his/her case manager and send an application form or a kite.
 - Must complete a medical screening to ensure safe participation in the program.

Capacity

Total DOC CIP Capacity: 315 beds
CIP-Willow River: 180 adult males
CIP- Togo: 90 adult males
CIP-Shakopee: 45 adult women

Evaluation

From FY1993 - FY2002:

CIP decreased the chances of reoffending with a new felony conviction by 32 percent.

CIP decreased the chances of reincarceration for a new crime by 35 percent.

CIP offenders were less likely than the control group to be re-imprisoned for a person offense.

CIP reduced costs by \$4,600 per participant.

An Outcome Evaluation of the Challenge Incarceration Program - October 2006 (Minnesota DOC Study)