

Incorporating Public Comments: Department of Corrections (DOC)

In spring 2026, the Olmstead Implementation Office (OIO), in partnership with the Dendros Group, Inclusion Consultants, and state staff, held a public comment period. This included:

- Virtual meetings
- An online survey in multiple languages
- Individual interviews
- Submissions from organizations
- Email comments

This document includes themes from all public comment. Agency teams were asked to address how feedback was incorporated into their goals and strategies in the Olmstead Plan.

For more information about these feedback themes, please review the transition, education, and housing public comment summary reports.

Feedback on Transition Data Goal 2

Transition Data Goal 2: More incarcerated individuals with disabilities will access correctional facility programs

Strategies before feedback:

- Create a system to track how many incarcerated people have Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) plans.
- Conduct accessibility audits for correctional facility programs.
- By 2027, analyze the percentage of people with and without ADA plans enrolled in programs
- Set targets for improvement.

The Department of Corrections (DOC) received feedback specific to this goal. They updated the strategies to reflect this feedback.

Proposed change in strategies:

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- Create a system to track how many incarcerated people have Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) plans. An ADA Plan is a written plan created by DOC that explains what supports a person with a disability needs to access programs and services related to daily living.
- Conduct annual accessibility audits by the ADA Compliance Manager for correctional facility programs. These accessibility audits assess the physical layout and access to programs and services within the correctional facilities.
- By the end of 2027, analyze the percentage of people with and without ADA plans enrolled in programs.
- By 2029, targets will be set for improvement.
- Create measurable goals in 2029, once we know what the problem is and what the data looks like based on an analysis of data collection and reporting that will include intersectional analysis to identify disparities in program access.

Other feedback about transition

Feedback theme: The Olmstead Plan needs to address the direct care workforce shortage

The Department of Corrections (DOC) did not update their transition goal based on feedback about the direct care workforce shortage. They did not make updates because “the services provided by direct support professionals are being provided by employees within the DOC.”

Feedback theme: The transition goals need more accountability and enforcement measures

The DOC updated their transition goal based on feedback about accountability. They updated it to include information about “who performs the annual accessibility audits.”

Feedback theme: Intersectionality

Community members said the state must address disparities based on other identities held by people with disabilities. These identities can include race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, socioeconomic status, language, and more.

The DOC updated their transition goal based on community feedback about intersectionality. They added that, “The data collection and reporting will include intersectional analysis to identify disparities in program access.”

Feedback on Education Data Goal 1

Education Data Goal 1: Adolescent students with disabilities released from correctional facilities will have an opportunity to continue their education

There was specific feedback about Education Data Goal 1. The agency team updated the goal and strategies to reflect this feedback.

New proposed goal: Adolescent students with disabilities released from correctional facilities will successfully transition to their educational settings following release.

New proposed strategies

- Adolescent students with disabilities released from correctional facilities will be prepared to transition to the educational or vocational setting of their choice.
- By the end of 2027, data will be collected regarding education outcomes for high school students with a disability after they leave a correctional facility.

Additional proposed changes were made to the to “What are we working toward” section. An explanation of why the data points were chosen was added:

The outcomes being tracked were chosen because they are signs of success and inclusion in an educational setting. A student who attends school regularly, is not cited for misbehavior in school, and makes progress towards graduation by passing classes is experiencing success. Attendance, behavioral incidents, and progress towards graduation are data collected by schools throughout Minnesota that can be used to signal if adolescents released from the DOC are being successful, or if they continue to experience barriers to their education. Past problems with attendance, behavior, and obtaining school credit are some of the most common for adolescents with the DOC, which makes tracking these post-release outcomes very relevant.

Feedback on Education Data Goal 2

Education Data Goal 2: Incarcerated adults with disabilities will have access to education supports before release

There was specific feedback about Education Data Goal 2. The agency team updated the goal and strategies to reflect this feedback.

New proposed goal: Incarcerated adults with disabilities released from correctional facilities will successfully transition to their educational settings following release. Incarcerated adults with disabilities released from correctional facilities will be prepared to enter the workforce or continue their education following release.

New proposed strategies:

- Incarcerated adults with disabilities released from correctional facilities will be prepared to transition to the educational or vocational setting of their choice.

- By the end of 2027, data will be collected regarding education outcomes for incarcerated adults with a disability after they leave a correctional facility.
- Discuss education, employment, and training options based on the individual's goals, strengths, and support needs.

Feedback on Housing Data Goal 1

Housing Data Goal 1: Incarcerated individuals with disabilities will have accessible housing upon release.

There was specific feedback about Housing Data Goal 1. The DOC agency team used the feedback to update the strategies.

Current strategies:

- Create a system to track how many incarcerated individuals have ADA plans (by 2027).
- Create a system to track whether individuals with ADA plans have housing supports that meet their needs (starting in 2027).
- Set a target for improvement.

Proposed strategies:

- The incarcerated individual will determine whether the housing meets their identified accessibility and disability related support needs.
- In 2027, we will create a system to track how many incarcerated individuals have ADA plans.
- In 2027, we will create a system to track whether individuals with ADA plans have housing that meets their needs related to their disability.
- By 2029, targets will be set for improvement.
- Create measurable goals in 2029, once we know what the problem is and what the data looks like.
- DOC will continue to track the accessibility of transitional housing options utilized by the DOC.

Other feedback themes for housing goals

Feedback theme: Affordability

There is a need for more affordable housing and for more support and services to help pay for housing.

The DOC did not change their goal based on this feedback. The DOC does not oversee affordable housing or related funding. These responsibilities fall to other agencies and external partners.