



Support New York State Families!

Support the proposed prison closures!

Let your voice be heard:

Tell your Legislators/ Representatives that people should be kept close to home when they are incarcerated- making visiting easier and saving the State and families money!

- **FACT:** New York State's incarcerated population has declined significantly over the last decade and is projected to decrease by another 1,000 people in the coming fiscal year.
- **FACT:** The biggest decline is in minimum and medium security populations, reflecting lower crime rates and fewer prison commitments for nonviolent drug cases.
- **FACT:** The Department of Correctional Services (DOCS) has **proposed closing four facilities, including medium and minimum security and shock incarceration facilities, saving an estimated \$45.8 million a year.**

These prisons proposed for closure are: **Moriah Shock Incarceration Facility** (men's minimum security) in Essex County; **Ogdensburg Correctional Facility** (men's medium) in St. Lawrence County; **Lyon Mountain Correctional Facility** (men's minimum) in Clinton County; and the **minimum security portion of Butler Correctional Facility** in Wayne County. None of these facilities are located within 125 miles of any urban center where families of incarcerated people live, and all are more than 200 miles from Albany, Buffalo and New York City.

- **FACT:** In 2008 DOCS consolidated operations **saving State taxpayers about \$11 million per year**; in 2009, DOCS closed three (3) camps and six (6) annexes **saving State taxpayers an additional \$31.7 million on an annual basis.**
- **FACT:** Because of the high rate of attrition at DOCS, the vast majority of displaced workers at the closed prisons can be transferred to other nearby facilities.

The state cannot afford to pay people for work that does not need to be done. Creating jobs in rural upstate New York is not the responsibility of corrections agencies nor families of those incarcerated ; the Legislature and Executive should invest some of the money saved by closing prisons into alternative economic development in counties affected by closures.

- **FACT:** Families of people in New York prisons live primarily in poor, urban communities, usually communities of color, and can least afford to bear the cost of visiting distant prisons to maintain family ties.
- **FACT:** The proposed closures will not make NY State less safe. **People are actually less likely to return to prison when they remain connected to their families, which they are better able to do when incarcerated near their homes.**

On February 8, 2010 DOCS Commissioner Brian Fischer testified before the joint Legislative Fiscal Committees:

"The New York State Correctional Officers & Police Benevolent Association (NYSCOPBA) union has argued that additional closures and/or consolidations will create dangerous conditions. But the evidence shows otherwise. In 2009, after two rounds of housing unit consolidation at the end of 2008 and during a time when we closed three camps and six annexes, the incidents of inmate assault actually decreased from the prior year. Data shows our prisons are as safe as they have ever been.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Write letters to your representatives! Call your representatives!
Tell your story! Spread the word!

- Support the families of those employed at these prisons- **urge your Legislators and the Governor to invest in economic development of the communities surrounding prisons.**
- **Support all children and families throughout the State-** advocate for closing un-needed prisons and supporting upstate economic development.
- While relocating people who are incarcerated and "right-sizing" the criminal justice system, **advocate to keep people closer to their children and their homes.**

NEW JERSEY DID IT- WHY CAN'T NEW YORK?

On January 18, 2010 New Jersey passed a Bill that requires the "placement of inmates in facilities as close as possible to family." The **Strengthening Women and Families Act**, A4197 and S1347, requires classification assignments to place incarcerated people in correctional facilities as close as possible to family. It goes into effect MAY 1, 2010.

To find your NY State Senator, go to:

<http://www.senate.state.ny.us/senatehomepage.nsf/senators?OpenForm>

To find your NY Assembly Member, go to: <http://www.assembly.state.ny.us/mem/>

Or call the League of Women Voters: (212) 725-3541