Construction of the State of Illinois’ Inpatient Treatment Center in Joliet is expected to be complete this December. This state-of-the-art facility will be managed by the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC), and its operations are being designed and supported through a unique partnership between the IDOC and the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS).

The project is bringing hundreds of new, high-quality jobs to the Joliet-area. In addition to the construction work, approximately 450 people will be employed in the facility once it is at its ultimate, full capacity. Positions include physicians, nurse practitioners, psychologists, office personnel, and more.

At its full capacity, the new space will deliver elevated standards of care for 150 individuals in custody who have been diagnosed with a Serious Mental Illness and who need inpatient mental health treatment. 50 additional beds will provide intermediate medical care and clinic services for IDOC individuals in custody.

This first-of-its-kind partnership between IDOC and IDHS has been organized to ensure a holistic, evidence-based approach to managed mental health care and coordination of services upon individuals’ transition back into the general correctional population, or eventual release from custody.

IDOC and the Illinois Capital Development Board (CDB) oversaw the construction of the new facility, which is located on the same grounds as the other buildings on the Joliet Treatment Center campus, which was opened in 2017. The design goal for the new effort is to create a national model for mental health treatment in corrections.

Governor Pritzker’s Rebuild Illinois capital program, the most robust capital plan in Illinois history and the first in nearly decade, provided the necessary funds to complete the construction of this $174 million, 200,000 square foot facility.

The contemporary design provides access to daylight in each patient room and dayroom while maintaining safety and security requirements. Natural lighting, as well as views and access to exterior courtyards, provides for a recovery-focused milieu and enhances emotional and physical well-being.

A modern administration building including a staff wellness area, central utility plant, kitchen, laundry, and recreation facilities combine to help provide comprehensive and exceptional care. In addition to exceeding all correctional standards, the facility meets public health standards and is fully ADA compliant.

The medical clinic will provide space for examination rooms, dental services, physical therapy, X-ray/CT scan, optometry, and dialysis. It features a touch screen security system, cameras throughout the facility, automated message boards, and televisual equipment.

Approximately 42% of IDOC’s incarcerated population has a diagnosed mental illness and 15% are considered Seriously Mentally Ill. The new Inpatient Treatment Center ensures Illinois meets its duty (as outlined in the *Rasho* consent decree) to provide inpatient beds and programming space for individuals in custody who need inpatient mental health care.

Effective mental health services can have a significantly positive impact on safety for both those who are incarcerated and the staff of facilities. Meaningful treatment while in custody improves the likelihood of successful reintegration and decreases the likelihood of recidivating.

The goal of this partnership is for patients to receive timely access to the treatment they need, and to the ongoing services and supports that enable recovery.