



# Utah State Correctional Facility

Summary of the New Facility | September 6, 2022

Utah's new state correctional facility in Salt Lake City opened in July 2022 at a cost of just over \$1 billion. It has 3,600 beds and a current population of 2,464. It conforms with the highest standards of modern prison reform emphasizing rehabilitation. It has extensive space for programming and activities to allow increased services to meet inmates' needs. It also utilizes the direct supervision model which puts an officer on the floor with the inmates rather than in a control booth to promote interaction and help officers better identify needs of the inmates and promote better outcomes. As part of the improved standards, the prison has large windows to bring in daylight to promote better mental health outcomes for both inmates and officers.

The new facility brought public utility infrastructure to Salt Lake's Northwest Quadrant facilitating economic development such as Utah's Inland Port. Northwest Quadrant development will result in a projected \$6.6 billion in economic benefit and over 36,000 jobs. The old prison site will be redeveloped into a community called the Point—a multiuse region for housing, work, and retail designed to be a fully walkable community and future business and entertainment hub of Utah. Projections estimate \$2.7 billion in economic benefit and over 23,000 jobs over the course of the next twelve years.

## Timeline

**2011:** The Legislature created the Prison Relocation and Development Authority (PRADA) to explore potential relocation options for the Utah State Prison.

**2014:** PRADA recommended moving the prison to a new site due to findings that the current prison site needed extensive repairs and because of the potential economic benefit of developing the current prison land. PRADA noted that a new prison would cost from \$546 to \$683 million.

**2015, Winter and Spring:** Based on recommendations from PRADA, the Legislature allocated \$550 million for the construction of the new prison anticipating additional funding once a site was selected.

**2015, August:** The Legislature approved PRADA's recommendation to move the prison to Salt Lake City. The site was estimated to require an additional \$154 million for road and utility construction.

**2017, August:** Ground was broken on the new site. This included constructing 13 miles of power lines, sewer lines, and water lines, as well as 7 miles of roads to service the new facility.

**2021:** The new facility was originally targeted to be completed in early 2021, but construction delays and cost increases including those related to the pandemic pushed back the opening date by a year.

**2022, January:** Staff began training at the new facility.

**2022, May 20:** Construction was completed for a total cost of \$1.05 billion. The additional cost stems from the increased construction costs including those related to the pandemic as well as unforeseen difficulties in preparing the lowlands and marshy area for construction.

**2022, July 11-15:** Inmates moved to the new facility.

**2022, August 15:** All equipment and property were completely moved, and the former prison was decommissioned and turned over to the Division of Facilities and Construction Management.