

*For Immediate Release*

## IDOC Introduces Facility Forward Initiative

Indianapolis, Indiana (July 7, 2009) – As prison populations in Indiana continue to expand, the Indiana Department of Correction (IDOC) must absorb these offenders with no additional space or funding. Other states have permitted the early release of offenders, attempting to solve the overcrowding problem, but under the leadership of Governor Mitch Daniels, the IDOC resolved not to resort to such measures.

Today, IDOC Commissioner Edwin G. Buss announced the introduction of Facility Forward, a comprehensive initiative designed to enhance prison capacity, maximize current state property and assets, decrease spending through cost savings, and increase overall efficiencies, while still providing the utmost safety and security for the State of Indiana.

A major component of Facility Forward includes moving female youths from Indianapolis to Madison, Indiana. The new juvenile facility will be separately located on beautiful grounds near the current Madison State Hospital and Madison Correctional Facility.

Additionally, adult female offenders from the Indiana Women's Prison will be relocated to the former Indianapolis Juvenile Correctional Facility, which will allow full capacity utilization of this facility and help meet female capacity needs for the foreseeable future.

Subsequently, the Plainfield Re-entry Educational Facility (PREF) will relocate to the grounds of the former Indiana Women's Prison. This move will allow the IDOC to use the current PREF campus (formerly known as the Indiana Boys' School) as the location of the new Short Term Offender Program (STOP). The STOP facility will be designed and commissioned to address the needs and case management of offenders committed to the IDOC for less than one year.

“With these moves, the IDOC gains almost 2,100 beds, addresses the foreseeable growth in the female offender population, and saves the State of Indiana nearly \$200 million,” Commissioner Buss stated. “Facility Forward is an ambitious endeavor, but with the support and teamwork of all stakeholders, its implementation will succeed as a piece of the IDOC's preparation for the future.”

For more information on Facility Forward, please visit the IDOC's website at <http://www.in.gov/idoc/>.

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