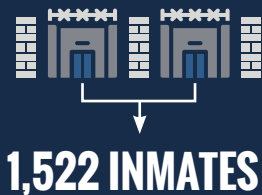


Private Prison Reform in New Mexico

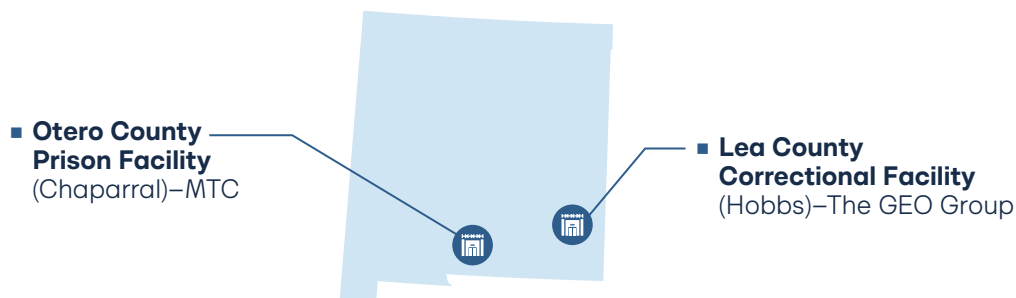
Rather than rewarding rehabilitation and success, New Mexico's guaranteed minimum occupancy payments to private prison operators incentivize cutting corners and warehousing inmates at the lowest possible cost.



1,522 INMATES

Private prisons in New Mexico hold **1,522 inmates**, or **30.6 percent of the state's prison population**,¹ in two facilities operated by The GEO Group and MTC.²

Private Prisons in New Mexico:



The GEO Group and MTC have cornered the market with **anti-competitive laws** and **unaccountable contracts**, all while raking in **\$25 million** in state funds per year.³

It's time to introduce accountability for private prisons through competition and contract reform.

THE SOLUTION

Performance-based contracts pay operators more if inmates recidivate less and become employed. New Mexico should rebid all contracts to be based on performance, aligning contract incentives with the success of the state correctional system.

WHY IT MATTERS



Basing contract terms on **measurable outcomes** would refocus criminal justice on effective rehabilitation, which would set incarcerated individuals up for **success and improve community safety**.

THE BOTTOM LINE:

New Mexico's private prison operators need more competition and accountability to better serve the people of the Land of Enchantment.

New Mexico should:



- **Hold prisons accountable**—Introduce performance-based contracts that pay prisons based on the results they achieve, aligning incentives with the goals of the state correctional system.

SOURCES:

1. Bureau of Justice Statistics. "Prisoners in 2022 – Statistical Tables." United States Department of Justice Office of Justice Programs. November 2023. <https://bjs.ojp.gov/document/p22st.pdf>.
2. Dupuis, Jakob and Christopher Sharp. "Aligning Profit with Outcomes in Private Prison Procurement." Cicero Institute. 2024.
3. <https://ladailypost.com/new-mexicos-top-prison-official-ending-practice-of-contracting-with-private-firms-to-operate-jails-wont-happen-anytime-soon/>.