

Otero County Prison Facility & Processing Center

Focused on Making a Difference to Residents,
Meeting Vital Needs in New Mexico, and Improving
the Otero Community

Facilities are operated by MTC, a mission-focused organization

- **Mission:** Giving people hope and opportunity for a better life
- **Vision:** To be a worldwide leader in social impact by transforming lives and strengthening communities
- **Operational Philosophy:** MTC trains all staff on our BIONIC—believe it or not I care philosophy, which focuses on showing respect and care for each other and the people we serve
- **History:** Company started by running Job Corps centers, providing low income youth with education, vocational training, and wrap-around services. MTC took that knowledge and applied it in correctional facilities with the goal of helping people change their lives.

Otero facilities serve both New Mexico and the federal government

- Otero County Processing Center contracts with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)
- Otero County Prison Facility has two areas—one dedicated to federal detainees and the other area supports the New Mexico Corrections Department (NMCD)

Otero facilities adhere to quality standards

Both facilities are dedicated to ensuring that residents of the facilities have a safe and healthy environment. The facilities have an in-house medical department, and both focus on providing healthy food options, including daily fresh fruits and vegetables. Both facilities have received accreditations for safety and quality.



Facilities are accredited by the American Correctional Association (ACA), the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA), the National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCHC), and the Correctional Education Association (CEA).

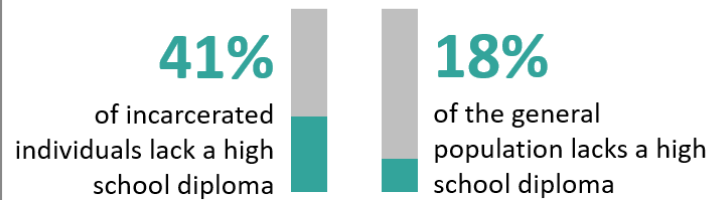
Facilities play a vital role in the local economy

	Otero County Prison Facility	Otero County Processing Center
Over 500 Local Hires	Employs ~300 staff	Employs ~200 staff
\$20 Million in Local Salaries	Pays an average of \$19/hour, which is 38% higher than the median household income in Chaparral	
	Pays \$12 million in annual salaries	Pays \$8 million in annual salaries

The county also earns revenue from these facilities. With over 80% of local lands owned by the federal government, this revenue stream is crucial to the county.

Facilities provide education & vocational training

Education and Incarceration



Education & training lowers the likelihood of recidivism by **43%**

For every \$1 spent on education & training, **\$5** is saved on future law enforcement and corrections costs



Provided over 164,244 hours of classes so far in 2021:

- English language classes
- Food service and preparation skills
- Adult basic education courses (GED and INEA)
- College courses through partnership with Mesalands Community College (math, computer literacy, composition, music appreciation, environmental science, etc.)
- Heating, air conditioning, and refrigeration mechanics and installers (HVAC) training
- Welding
- Woodshop
- Crocheting and sewing



HVAC program participants getting hands-on experience

Facilities play a vital role in rehabilitation in NM

- Otero County Prison Facility treats New Mexico's sex offenders. This is the only program of its kind in New Mexico. The program uses a validated assessment to identify the unique needs of each individual. Then a team of licensed therapists offers each resident personalized, evidence-based treatment.
- Other programs residents can participate in include substance abuse treatment, cognitive behavioral therapy, domestic violence prevention programs, parenting programs, health & wellness programs, life skills courses, and religious programs

Facilities provide health & wellness support

- **Health & wellness screenings for all residents:** All residents receive an initial health and wellness screening to ensure they receive any care they need or have any long-term health needs met. Residents receive mental health, medical, and dental screenings.
- **Ongoing dental, medical, and mental health services:** Our team provides ongoing mental health treatment, medical care, and dental care. Our medical staff support individuals with complicated health concerns.



Residents participating in recent health fair



Staff live and serve in the community

- Staff embrace MTC's mission by providing hundreds of hours of community service each year. Since October 2020, Otero County Prison Facility donated 509 hours of community service and Otero County Processing Center provided 368 hours—a total of 877 hours of community service.

Staff live and serve in the community

Installing the first “Little Free Library” in Chaparral, New Mexico



Giving crocheted blankets to seniors at the Alamo Senior Center



Distributing Food with Gadsden Independent School District



Donating Thanksgiving Meal Baskets



For the last 13 years, Otero County Prison Facility has hosted the Law Enforcement Torch Run

Staff live and serve in the community



Donating 200 backpacks and school supplies to low income students in Chaparral, New Mexico



Providing beds for youth in need—these are built by facility residents



Hosting cookout for homeless veterans as part of veteran club established by staff



Partnering with Casa de Peregrinos to collect & distribute food to families in need

Addressing concerns about contractors

- **Agencies determine standards and can/should pivot from poor performing contractors:** Federal and state government agencies determine the requirements and outcomes for which a contractor is held accountable. Contracts also identify any consequences for failing to comply with requirements, up to and including cancellation of the contract.
- **Priorities built into contracts:** Government priorities are built into contracts. Historically, contracts have focused on safety, security, and cost. Contracts can and should be adjusted to include a stronger focus on rehabilitation and reentry.
- **Contractor-operated prisons save NM taxpayers money:** According to a [2019 report from New Mexico's Legislative Finance Committee](#), contractors save money in large part due “inefficient designs that contribute to higher operating costs” in state-owned and operated facilities.
- **Contractors can provide specialized expertise:** For example, Otero County Prison Facility plays a unique role in New Mexico, providing treatment for sex offenders.
- **Not all contractors are the same:** Some state-operated facilities are run better than others, and the same is true with contractor-operated facilities. MTC adopts programs that have the most evidence of success with incarcerated individuals. We believe the focus should be not on *who* operates a specific facility but on *how* it is operated.
- **More studies needed on recidivism in New Mexico:** Recidivism data is limited and not generalizable from one system to another, as even the definition of recidivism varies by agency. National studies with long-term impacts of programs, individual facilities, and agencies just don't exist. Most criminal justice experts also argue that desistance—reduction in frequency and severity of criminal behaviors—needs to be tracked and studied, as recidivism data is not nuanced enough.