POLICY and PROCEDURE

It is the policy of the Kentucky Department of Corrections that all new construction, renovations, and existing facility expansions shall conform to all applicable Federal, State and Local building codes. This policy applies to all institutions, Correctional Industries and Probation and Parole.

A. Plans for renovations, additions and new construction of correctional facilities shall be reviewed by representatives of the Capital Construction Management Branch of Department of Corrections, the Division of Engineering and Contract Administration, the Consultants hired to design the facilities, and the institution for which the design is being done.

B. The review of the plans shall verify that all physical plant design facilitates personal contact and interaction between staff and inmates for all renovations, additions and new construction of prison facilities being designed for the Kentucky Department of Corrections.

C. The review of construction or renovation plans shall include an examination of issues of safety, code compliance, energy efficiency, security, efficiency of operations and staffing.

D. When designing or acquiring any new facility and in planning any substantial expansion or modification of existing facilities, consideration shall be given to the effect of the design, acquisition, expansion, or modification upon the Department of Correction’s ability to protect inmates from sexual abuse. (Prison Rape Elimination Act-28 CFR § 115.18)

E. When installing or updating a video monitoring system, electronic surveillance system, or other monitoring technology, consideration shall be given to how such technology may enhance the agency’s ability to protect inmates from sexual abuse. (Prison Rape Elimination Act-28 CFR § 115.18)

F. All new facilities shall be planned with close communication and participation from the community where such facility is planned to be located.

G. A needs assessment shall be completed prior to any new construction or expansion being done.
H. New construction, renovation and expansion of facilities over $600,000 require approval by the General Assembly or approval of the Capital Bond Oversight Committee.