

Frequently Asked Questions About Nebraska's YRTC System

Which populations will be served in each facility?

- The Lincoln Facility will serve our highest-acuity individuals, for those youth who are irresponsible to their treatment, or a safety risk to themselves and others at the Kearney and Geneva YRTCs.
- The Kearney facility will continue to provide effective services to both male and female youth, enabling them to successfully integrate back into the community.
- The Geneva facility will serve females who are preparing to transition back into the community from the YRTC System.

Who do YRTCs serve?

Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Center facilities (YRTCs) serve female and male youth ages 14 through 18 who have broken the law and have are court-ordered to participate in the program .

The Lincoln Facility and the Lancaster County Youth Services Center share a building. How will the populations be separated?

Staff will be in constant attendance with a planned ratio of two staff to every one youth being served. Both populations will share the library, classroom space, and inside and outside exercise spaces. However, groups will have separately designated times to use the common areas.

Will the same training be provided to all YRTC facility staff?

Because the Lincoln facility houses our highest-acuity individuals, staff undergo extensive training in the areas of trauma, behavioral modification, and behavioral and physical intervention techniques. Plans are currently underway to provide additional training at our campuses in Kearney and Geneva in the near future.

Are behavioral health workers at the Lincoln Facility on staff, or are they contract workers?

In order to meet the needs of the youth served and the fluctuations in attendance, the Facility will have both staff and contracted workers, including licensed mental health therapist, clinical social workers, physicians, case managers and nurses.

What does patient security look like inside the Lincoln Facility?

We maximize out-of-room time for our youth, with utilization of room time confined to sleeping hours. When individuals are in their rooms – which house a bed, built-in desk, and lavatory – doors will be secured. To gain access to common areas, each room is equipped with an intercom for communication with staff. Youth are monitored by staff every 10 minutes or less.

Will the daily score system for youth in Lincoln be used, as is used in Kearney and Geneva?

No. The Lincoln Facility will use a unique formula based on patient needs and their individual treatment plan. In Kearney and Geneva, youth receive daily scores based on their interactions with staff, peers and participation in their programming. Youth have the ability to earn incentives and privileges based on positive behavior. These incentives can include special treats and fun on-campus activities.

Will individuals be housed at the Lincoln Facility long-term?

No. The average stay at the Lincoln Facility will be determined on a case-by-case basis and each stay is not expected to exceed one to three months. Programming at the Lincoln Facility is trauma-focused and trauma-informed. Male and female youth will have a full day of school, along with individual, group and family therapies and activities.

How will notification to families and the courts be made when an individual is transferred to a new facility?

Legal guardians, probation, and court will be notified by letter and/or phone regarding the transition of the youth, including necessary contact information for professionals at the facility receiving the youth. At the Lincoln Facility, immediate family contact and attempted engagement will occur.

How will youth be transported between facilities? Will shackles be used?

These decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis after thorough assessment of the youth's risk of harm to self or others.