

LIMITED-SCOPE AUDIT PROPOSAL
Kansas Department of Corrections: Evaluating the Use of
Former Honor Camp Facilities

SOURCE

This audit proposal was requested by Representative Mary Martha Good.

BACKGROUND

The Kansas Department of Corrections (KDOC) operates multiple programs and facilities across the state dedicated to safely housing and rehabilitating inmates. Prior to 2009, KDOC placed some low-risk inmates in minimum-security units called honor camps. Utilizing different work programs, honor camps gave inmates the opportunity to earn income and gain vocational experience during the late stages of their sentences. Historically, these inmates worked on cleaning and developing nearby state parks and other facilities.

KDOC operated two honor camps as part of its El Dorado Correctional Facility (EDCF). These two satellite units could house a total of about 170 inmates. In 2009, budget restraints caused KDOC to suspend operations at these two camps and relocate camp inmates to other correctional facilities in the state. According to KDOC officials, the two former honor camp units at EDCF are currently not being utilized. As a result, KDOC may be paying maintenance and other ongoing fees for two correctional units it no longer uses.

AUDIT OBJECTIVES AND TENTATIVE METHODOLOGY

The audit objective listed below represents the question that we would answer through our audit work. The proposed steps for the objective are intended to convey the type of work we would do, but are subject to change as we learn more about the audit issues and are able to refine our methodology.

Objective 1: What opportunities exist for the state to reduce costs or generate revenue from the Kansas Department of Corrections' honor camps? Our tentative methodology would include the following:

- Work with KDOC staff to determine what the department plans to do with its honor camps.
- Collect and review KDOC financial information to determine the cost of maintaining the vacant honor camps.
- Work with KDOC, other state officials, and other stakeholders to identify options for the state to reduce costs or generate revenue from any vacant honor camps.

ESTIMATED RESOURCES

We estimate this audit would require **100 staff hours** to complete.