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First in the Nation: Utah Launches *ARCH* Project to Address Homelessness and Recidivism

State and Corrections Officials Ribbon-Cut Facility Transformation at Orange Street Community Correctional Center

SALT LAKE CITY — The State of Utah and the Utah Department of Corrections (UDC) announce the official launch for the ARCH Project, a pioneering initiative designed to break the cycle of homelessness, substance abuse, and criminal justice involvement through targeted intervention and compassionate care. Originally established through HB 110 (Offender Modifications) during the 2026 Utah Legislative Session, the program represents a major systemic shift in how the state supports high-utilizer individuals.

ARCH will introduce systemic changes to how justice-involved individuals are managed. Program leaders will work in close coordination with the court system to allow qualifying individuals to have participation in the ARCH program designated as a formal condition of their sentences.

To formally launch the initiative, UDC Commissioner Jared Garcia joined legislative leaders and key stakeholders from Utah's justice and social service systems for a ribbon-cutting ceremony dedicating the Orange Street Correctional Center facility.

ARCH signifies the program's four core focus areas:

- Assessment and Accountability
- Reentry and Response
- Coordination and Compassion for
- High Utilizers

Description

The ARCH Project specifically focuses on 'high-utilizer' individuals who repeatedly cycle through jail, emergency rooms, homeless shelters, and the streets without finding long-term stability. Three individuals are currently enrolled in the program and will be transferred to Orange Street as soon as possible.

Qualified individuals are those who have been arrested and have repeated misdemeanor convictions. They are evaluated for eligibility at the jail by stakeholders and the court. After a hearing, a judge may assign the individual to ARCH as court-ordered probation.

By pairing structured oversight with wrap-around support services, ARCH prioritizes behavior modification, personal development, and ongoing support to keep participants off the streets and out of the justice system.

““The ARCH Project is a bold, and vital step forward for the Utah Department of Corrections,” Commissioner Jared Garcia said. “When we approach these individuals with compassionate support and real accountability, we will empower people to build better lives and achieve the best outcomes.”

“The ARCH Program is about second chances for Utahns caught in a vicious cycle of addiction, jail, emergency rooms and street homelessness,” said Tyler Clancy, State Homeless Coordinator. “Partnerships like this give individuals space to heal and relieve both the system and the community from cycles of destructive behavior.”

Funding and Program Capacity

To support the project, the Utah Legislature allocated \$2.6 million in one-time funding—utilized for renovations to UDC's Correctional Centers—and \$6 million in ongoing funding for staffing and operational continuity into the future.

Cost and Capacity

One-Time Legislative Funding (2026)

\$2.6 Million (Facility Renovations)

Ongoing Annual Funding

\$6 Million (Staffing & Operations)

Identified Candidate Pool (as of 10/1/26)

Approximately 1,300 Individuals

Initial Launch Capacity

180 Individuals

While approximately 1,300 people have been identified as potential candidates for the ARCH program, the initial capacity will be set at approximately 180 individuals. This controlled scale ensures that participants receive adequate support, supervision, and guidance in the community.

UDC expresses sincere gratitude to our community partners, whose work and collaboration are essential: Governor Spencer Cox, the Office of Homeless Services, the Division of Workforce Services, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Salt Lake City Police Department, the Salt Lake County Sheriff's Office, the Salt Lake County District Attorney's Office, the Utah Legal Defenders Association, the Utah Courts and judicial partners, Defy Ventures, The Other Side Academy, The Other Side Foundation, The Other Side Village, Valley Behavioral Health, Shelter the Homeless, The Road Home, Housing Connect, Utah Volunteers of America, Fourth Street Clinic, First Step House, Odyssey House, Utah State Hospital, Salt Lake County Behavioral Health, and the Huntsman Mental Health Institute.

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