



Key Takeaways from a Resident Survey to Understand Priorities & Perspectives on the Reimagining MCI-Framingham Initiative - April 2026

Since July 2025, MA DOC has carried out a number of activities to begin engaging with stakeholders as part of the *Reimagining MCI-Framingham* Initiative. DOC Leadership has:

- Held a series of town hall sessions with MCI-Framingham staff & residents.
- Hosted meetings with a broad range of community stakeholders including legislators, city officials, and advocates.
- Arranged discussions between DCAMM/HDR and MCI-Framingham staff & residents to inform the redesign.
- Began working with a 3rd party partner - Amend at UCSF - to develop a Roadmap for the Department's ongoing public sector partner and community stakeholder engagement.
- Participated in a study trip to visit what are considered among the world's most humane and effective women's prisons in Norway and Northern Ireland.

As part of ongoing efforts, the DOC recently completed the first in a planned series of surveys and discussions with staff and residents. A survey was distributed to MCI-Framingham residents to gather perspectives to inform the facility redesign. A total of 51 residents (about 25% of the population) completed the survey. Key takeaways from the April 2026 survey of residents incarcerated at MCI-Framingham are presented here. These results are meant to summarize responses to the survey and no further statistical analysis was completed of the data.

Key Takeaway 1

Nearly all residents who responded to the survey are positive towards the *Reimagining MCI- Framingham* redesign or need more information – and **nearly all (88%) expressed a desire to participate** in future discussions about the project.

- 36% of residents who responded said they believe the redesigned facility will support rehabilitation, health, and preparation for release.
- 57% said they need more information before assessing the project's potential impact on their rehabilitation, health, and readiness for release.
- 7% said they do not believe the redesign will support these goals.

Key Takeaway 2

The project's currently planned phases **reflect resident's stated priorities** – beginning with housing (29% selected this as a priority in the redesign) then prioritizing education/programming space (both 18%) followed by medical space (12%).

1. Improving housing conditions emerged as the strongest theme across survey selections. Common themes included a desire for single-cell housing, calmer living environments, reduced noise, more privacy, functional windows, improved ventilation, natural light, and more normalized daily living conditions overall.
2. Residents consistently noted the importance of vocational and workforce development opportunities and the need for spaces and facilities that support them. Responses showed strong interest in programming that reflects post-release employment opportunities, flexible hands-on workshops, and space that allows for more engagement from community partners.
3. Having a medical environment, and related policies and practices, that does not feel punitive or create unnecessary obstacles to care - was a clear third priority in the survey results. In open-ended responses, residents stressed the importance of quality facilities, modern equipment, and healthcare staff who provide trauma-informed care.

Key Takeaway 3

Residents highlighted the importance of outdoor spaces and flexible indoor spaces that can better support general **health and wellness** and increased and improved **family connection**.

- The call for improved and expanded outdoor spaces and flexible indoor spaces was voiced across the survey, particularly spaces for exercise, quiet reflection, movement, recreation, and family visits. Residents emphasized the importance of family connection, including normalized visiting spaces such as outdoor spaces, child-friendly environments, and extended family visits.

Key Takeaway 4

Survey-takers expressed concern about how the construction process and duration might impact living conditions and access to vital recreation, programming, and related services.

- Residents raised concerns about how the redesign and construction process itself will affect movement, recreation, outdoor access, programming, and daily routines.
- When asked, "What shouldn't be lost in the redesign?", residents noted "the ability to open", "accessibility to the main outdoor yard space", and "rec/yard time."

Next Steps

Overall, survey results underlined the importance of the Department's **commitment to ongoing engagement with stakeholders** for the *Reimagining MCI-Framingham* Initiative. Results also offered initial support for the capital improvement project's focus on improving housing conditions and investing in programming, education, and vocational training infrastructure – each of which can also enable more meaningful family connections.

As next steps in response to survey results, the Department will:

- ✓ Engage with residents to identify areas where more information is needed and ensure that information is provided in a timely manner.
- ✓ Seek to reconnect DCAMM / HDR with residents and staff to further understand priorities and generate additional design ideas, particularly related to housing, programming / vocational, and outdoor spaces.
- ✓ Distribute a survey to staff to gauge perspectives, priorities, ideas, and areas of interest. This will ensure a well-rounded understanding of the opinions of those who are directly impacted by this initiative.
- ✓ Plan additional surveys to focus on policy, practice, and operating culture at MCI-Framingham.
- ✓ Work with Amend at UCSF to incorporate survey results into the MCI-Framingham Initiative Roadmap.