NYC Health + Hospitals to Open 250 'Therapeutic Housing Units' for Inmates
By: Amanda Eisenberg

NYC Health + Hospitals will open 250 beds at two Brooklyn and Manhattan facilities for incarcerated individuals with serious mental illnesses as it works toward shutting down Rikers Island, the de Blasio administration announced today.

The “therapeutic housing units” will be available at Bellevue and Woodhull hospitals in areas separated from the public and run by NYC Health + Hospitals/Correctional Health Services, according to the announcement.

The de Blasio administration is still finalizing a construction timeline, said City Hall spokesperson Avery Cohen. The borough-based jails are expected to open in 2026. City Hall was unable to say how much the effort would cost.

The program aims to “provide a more medically appropriate setting for certain individuals in the city’s care,” according to the release.

The city expects to have 3,300 people who qualify for those therapeutic beds by 2026, Cohen said.