



ILLINOIS DEPT. OF JUVENILE JUSTICE

MONARCH YOUTH CENTER

LINCOLN, IL

OVERVIEW

- A facility in central IL needed to serve youth closer to home/family
- Opening mid September 2025
- Capacity is 30 youth
- Around 90 staff for care around the clock 365 days/year

FYI

Facility is part of Gov. Pritzker & Lt. Gov. Stratton's 21st Century Transformation Plan that was announced in 2020.

FYI

Facility is on the site of the former Lincoln Developmental Center, which sat vacant for many years.

PLEASE NOTE

Though youth are in secure custody as a consequence for past behavior, they grow & learn best in a positive environment with resources & services to serve their unique needs.

DESIGNING & NAMING MONARCH

- Monarch is designed with unique rehabilitative and therapeutic spaces.
- Monarch is named after the monarch butterfly, which emerges from hibernation completely transformed.

FYI

Monarch has ample natural light, & outdoor, recreational, and family friendly spaces. It's designed for best practices with youth & staff input.

FYI

Monarch's design and state-of-the-art technology make safety of youth and staff a priority.

PLEASE NOTE

The monarch butterfly is the state insect of Illinois! IDJJ is working on a plan to bring monarch butterflies to the Monarch Youth Center!

COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES

Like all IDJJ youth centers, Monarch will offer comprehensive care and services to youth, including education, mental & behavioral health, substance use prevention, career readiness, and recreational programs.

FYI

IDJJ welcomes local non-profit and faith-based organizations who wish to partner with us in working with youth.

FYI

An alternative high school will be located at Monarch for youth to work toward high school graduation.

PLEASE NOTE



More info available at <https://idjj.illinois.gov/facilities/monarch-iy-c-lincoln>



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EDUCATION & CAREER PREP

Monarch is designed with welcoming educational and career & technical education (CTE) spaces to provide significant opportunities for youth to progress in their high school education & build skills for future career paths.

FYI

Monarch's classrooms are welcoming spaces with bright colors and specialized equipment, including a science classroom and music room.

FYI

Monarch has two classrooms dedicated to CTE instruction, as well as a separate space for culinary programming.

PLEASE NOTE

Earning a high school diploma and training for a career significantly increases a youth's likelihood of success when they re-enter the community.

HEALTH

The mental health treatment wing at Monarch has specialized trauma-informed spaces that promote emotional regulation and well-being in a calming and healing environment.

FYI

Physical activity is vital to mental & behavioral health. Ample outdoor green space and a gym with climbing wall are designed to maximize benefits of recreational time.

FYI

Cottages have spaces designated for group therapy that eliminate the need for security transport & ensure ample time for therapeutic sessions.

PLEASE NOTE

Monarch has indoor and outdoor spaces designed especially for family visitation. Family support is important to the mental & behavioral health of youth in secure custody.

SAFETY

Safety of youth & staff is paramount at Monarch. The layout and design of buildings, location and number of entrances, visibility in high use spaces, and designated therapeutic areas all contribute to enhanced safety measures.

FYI

Monarch's state-of-the-art camera system prioritizes youth and staff safety while respecting the dignity and privacy of youth.

FYI

The administration building at Monarch has a specialized training area for staff to practice important skills, protocols, and best practices.

PLEASE NOTE

Cottages include office space for mental health professionals and youth & family specialists. This allows for faster response time for incidents and more adults present on living units.