



## TCEDA's TRACKING...

### *Senate Committee Approves Nearly \$60 Million to Continue the Activation of Thomson Prison*

June 6, 2014 - U.S. Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL) today announce that the Senate Appropriations Committee, of which he is a member, approved \$43.7 million for equipment and staffing to continue the activation of Thomson Prison. The Fiscal Year 2015 Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations Bill, which was passed on a bipartisan vote, also includes \$15 million in funding for modernizations and repairs at the prison in Thomson, Illinois.



Following the vote, Durbin commended the efforts of U.S. Representative Cheri Bustos (D-IL) who, last week, led a bipartisan effort on the House Floor to defeat an amendment that would have denied funds in a critical appropriations bill from being used for Thomson Prison. You can read Sen. Durbin's press release here <http://1.usa.gov/1p0325H>.

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### *What Types of Employment Could be Available at Thomson Prison?*

### **TCEDA Regional Map**

Tri-County Economic Development Alliance (TCEDA) is a independent, nonprofit economic development corporation that proactively seeks to build business and employment opportunities for the economic growth and social well-being of people.

We lead, advocate, assist and encourage businesses, counties, communities and organizations in Jo Daviess, Carroll, and Whiteside Counties in Northwest Illinois.



*Thomson Prison, Thomson, IL*



June 6, 2014 - All Bureau of Prisons staff are considered correctional workers (Law Enforcement) first and foremost. However, there are all types of careers and opportunities for staff:

- Food Service, Health Services, Education,
- Recreation, Financial Management,
- Information Technology Services,
- Administrative Assistants,
- Facility Management,
- Psychology,
- Safety Management,
- Correctional Programs,
- Human Resources,
- Correctional Services,
- and Religious Services



### ***Eligibility and Pre-Employment:***

#### *Age Requirements*

The Attorney General has determined that the initial appointment of employees into Federal Bureau of Prisons' law enforcement positions must be prior to their 37th birthday, with the following exceptions: Physician Assistant, Medical Officer, Dental Officer, Registered Nurse, Nurse Practitioner and Chaplains of some faith traditions. Psychologists may be waived up to the date immediately preceding their 40th birthday. Preference Eligible Veterans may also be considered for any vacancy they are found qualified for regardless of age. Check [www.bop.gov](http://www.bop.gov) for more details.

#### *Background Investigation*

Employment with the Federal Bureau of Prisons is subject to the satisfactory completion of a background investigation to determine suitability for employment as a law enforcement official. Its scope

### **Quick Links**

[www.tceda-nwil.org](http://www.tceda-nwil.org)

[www.bop.gov/jobs](http://www.bop.gov/jobs)

[www.usajobs.gov](http://www.usajobs.gov)

[www.sam.gov](http://www.sam.gov)

[www.fedbizopps.gov](http://www.fedbizopps.gov)

includes law enforcement and criminal record checks, credit checks, and inquiries with previous employers and personal references. Suitability determinations are based upon an individual's character or conduct that may affect how the agency accomplishes its duties or responsibilities.

*Citizenship/Initial Eligibility Requirements*

You must be a U.S. citizen. Occasionally, waivers are available for hard-to-fill positions when no qualified U.S. citizens are available.

*Employment Interview*

Qualified applicants must have an employment panel interview prior to final selection. Normally, interviews are held within the general area (about 250 miles round-trip) where the applicant resides. Applicants pay travel expenses to and from the interview site and to their first employment location.

*Orientation Training*

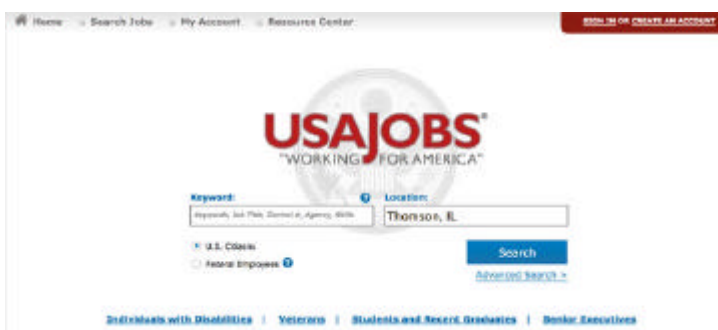
All persons appointed to the Federal Bureau of Prisons must successfully complete in-service training as a condition of employment, including 200 hours of formal training within the first year of employment. This includes orientation to the physical plant, familiarization with policies and procedures, and techniques for supervising and communicating with inmates in their daily activities. Training includes:

- 80 hours of institution familiarization at the facility.
- 120 hours of specialized training at the BOP residential training center located at Glynco, GA, normally within the first 60 days after appointment and scheduled by the Employee Services Department. This training includes four components: Firearms, Self-Defense, Written Academic Test on policies and procedures, and the Physical Abilities Test (PAT).
- The Physical Abilities Test consists of a physical examination. All applicants must meet the physical requirements for positions for which they are being considered. This examination will be made without cost to the applicant, usually by a Federal medical officer, and will include a urinalysis test for drug detection.

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***Navigating the USAJOBS.GOV Web Site***

The initial job openings for current Bureau of Prisons employees are being posted. Federal employees who have worked for a federal agency for 3 years or more are allowed to apply for federal opportunities open to status candidates. Positions posted include Budget and Accounting Officer, Information Technology Officer, Correctional Program Officer, Teacher Supervisor among others. Positions available to the public have not yet posted. You can find the postings at [www.usajobs.gov](http://www.usajobs.gov).



Enter Thomson, IL in the location search bar to the right under **Location** to view the positions available to date. Select U.S. Citizens in the left column to view positions that are available for the public when they become available. You can also save the search. Select Get RSS Feed to have the updates sent to you.

All available jobs within the federal government within a radius of 20 miles of Thomson will display. You can select a radius of up to 200 miles.

To create an account on the [www.usajobs.gov](http://www.usajobs.gov) web site, click on **Create An Account** on the top right side of the screen. You will need to enter an email address and create a username. An email will be sent to the email account you entered for verification. To activate your new account, you can provide the additional account information and click **Finish Creating my Account**. Once you have confirmed your account, you will then be able to:

- create a profile
- create or upload a resume

- save jobs
- create saved searches
- apply for jobs

This process is required to apply for employment with any federal agency.

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**Save the Dates:** We are excited to be hosting Vicky Miller, Director, Illinois Procurement Technical Assistance Center, Black Hawk College, who will be presenting workshops for businesses to get certified for government contracts. Special thanks to the Village of Thomson for sponsoring the event. The series of workshops will be held on 8/21, 8/28 and 9/4 at Manny's in Savanna, IL from 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. The cost is \$15 for each workshop which includes a networking lunch. Call (815) 858-4491 or email [info@tceda-nwil.org](mailto:info@tceda-nwil.org) for more information.

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Thanks to Mike Dittmar and the Village of Elizabeth for hosting our TCEDA Board meeting. Our next meeting will be held August 7 at the Thomson Village Hall, Thomson, IL from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

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Here's some of what I've learned in year one:

- Much of our economy in rural areas runs on volunteer labor.
- We take for granted many of our region's strengths.
- The Mississippi River has fans around the world.
- It's difficult to buy merchandise at Poopy's without the word... well, you know.
- True leadership is about serving the needs of the community above your own.
- Each town resident has partial responsibility for the town's progress and success.
- Community members like to be personally invited to participate.
- Businesses are composed of people. Recruiting people is as important as recruiting businesses.
- Service veterans are the best at packing a town hall to advocate for what they need.

I look forward to working with you in year two!  
Let's execute to succeed!

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Sincerely,

*Lisa McCarthy*  
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