THE SAFETY + JUSTICE CHALLENGE

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Vera Institute of Justice

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Supported by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation
Vera Institute of Justice

- Independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization with offices in New York City, Washington, DC, Los Angeles, and New Orleans
- Partner with government and civil society to improve the systems people rely on for justice and safety
  - Conduct research and analysis
  - Develop and test solutions
  - Use publications and expertise to engage stakeholders and the public
- One of four site coordinator organizations
Vera Institute of Justice

- Center on Sentencing and Corrections
- Center on Immigration and Justice
- Center on Youth Justice
- Center on Victimization and Safety
- Family Justice Project
- Substance Youth and Mental Health Program
- Cost-Benefit Analysis Unit
The Safety & Justice Challenge

- Funded by the MacArthur Foundation, the Safety & Justice Challenge is a deep investment in local reform, research, experimentation, and communications aimed at changing the way America thinks about and uses jails.

- Spokane County is part of a nationwide network of selected local jurisdictions that, with technical and financial assistance, will identify ways to safely reduce incarceration, particularly the disproportionate incarceration of racial and ethnic minorities.
The Big Picture of Jails

How many people are locked up in the United States?

The United States locks up more people, per capita, than any other nation. But grappling with why requires us to first consider the many types of correctional facilities and the reasons that people are confined there.

Local Jails 721,654

State Prisons 1,362,028

Federal Prisons 216,362

Awaiting trial (not convicted) 428,312

Drug 94,600

Murder 166,700

Rape 185,800

Drug 237,000

Serving a jail sentence 293,342

Other 353,228

Public order 142,500

Burglary 130,000

Assault 146,800

Murder 166,700

Rape 185,800

Drug 237,000

Other 69,862

Immigration offenses 22,100

Weapons 29,800

Drug 94,600

Other 353,228

State at 3,016

Aggravated assault 6,097

Robbery 6,998

Burglary 7,247

Technical 11,604

Juvenile 70,792

Military 1,434

Immigration Detention 34,000

Indian Country jails 2,146

Territorial Prisons 13,576

Civil Commitment 5,640

Sources and data notes: See http://www.prisonpolicy.org/reports/pie.html

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The Big Picture of Jails

- Annual Admissions = 11,700,000
  - This is 19 times the number of admissions to prison (631,000)
- Jails hold both convicted and unconvicted inmates
  - 62% are unconvicted and presumed innocent
  - 38% are convicted and serving sentences generally less than 1 year
- Average lengths of stay have been increasing over the past 30 years

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Mental Illness & Substance Use

- Jails have become the provider of last resort for people with mental health issues
  - Serious mental illness affects men and women in jail at rates four to six times higher than in the general population
  - Sixty-eight percent have a history of abusing drugs, alcohol, or both

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Racial & Ethnic Disparities

- Jails often hold minorities at much higher rates than whites
  - Nationwide African Americans are jailed at almost four times the rate of white Americans
Consequences

- Compared to low-risk defendants held for no more than 24 hours, those held for 8-14 days were...

  - More likely to be rearrested before trial: 56%
  - More likely to recidivate after sentence completion: 51%
The Competition

- Round 1: Planning
  - 20 sites, $150,000 each plus intensive technical assistance, 7 months
  - Vera: 5 sites

- Round 2: Implementation
  - 10 sites, $500,000 to $2 million annually plus technical assistance, 2 years with option to extend
  - Data collection and performance measurement
  - Evaluation
The 20 Sites

1,000 or less
- Mesa County, CO
- Lucas County, OH
- Pennington County, SD
- Spokane County, WA

1,001-3,000
- Ada County, ID
- Saint Louis County, MO
- Multnomah County, OR
- Charleston County, SC
- Pima County, AZ
- New Orleans, LA
- Mecklenburg County, NC

3,001-5,000
- Shelby County, TN
- Palm Beach County, FL
- Milwaukee County, WI

5,001 and over
- Harris County, TX
- Cook County, IL
- New York, NY
- Philadelphia, PA
- Los Angeles, CA
Phase I: Planning

- Big Picture Goals:
  - Reduce the number of people admitted to jail
  - Shorten lengths of stay in jail
  - Reduce racial and ethnic disparities in local criminal justice system
Phase I Timeline

- **Site Visit 1:** System mapping (May 11-29)
- **Site Visit 2:** Conclude system mapping (May 30-Jul 31)
- **Site Visit 3:** Prioritize decision points (Aug 5-Oct 8)
- **Site Visit 4:** Develop logic model (Oct 12-Dec 11)
- **Optional Site Visit 5**

**Phase 1:** Getting Started
- **May 11-29:** Site selection

**Phase 2:** Investigate and Understand the Facts
- **May 30-Jul 31:** All Sites Meeting #1

**Phase 3:** Develop a Reform Response
- **Aug 5-Oct 8:** All Sites Meeting #2

**Phase 4:** Implementation Planning
- **Oct 12-Dec 11:** Proposals for second round funding due

**Phase 5:** Application
- **Dec 15-Jan 6**
Investigate & Understand

### Phase 1: Getting Started

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>May 11 – May 29</th>
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| Activities     | • Kick-off phone call with each site  
|                | • Schedule site visits  
|                | • All Sites Meeting: kick-off with all 20 participating sites |
| Grantee products| • Primary contact assigned; participants confirmed |
| Coordinator products | • Meeting schedule |

### Phase 2: Investigate and Understand the Facts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>May 30 – July 31</th>
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| Activities     | • Site visits #1 and #2 (2 visits per site)  
|                | • Interviews with key stakeholders |
| Grantee products| • Background materials and data provided to site coordinator  
|                | • Draft system map and aggregate data  
|                | • Complete system maps for all criminal justice decision points with data embedded |
| Coordinator products | • Facilitation of system mapping  
|                | • Memo for each site presenting the site coordinator’s reflections on the strongest areas for reform |
System Mapping

- Mapping and analysis of 7 key decision points:
  1. Arrest
  2. Charge
  3. Assignment of counsel
  4. Pretrial release
  5. Case processing
  6. Disposition/sentencing
  7. Post-conviction process/supervision

- Data collection
Develop a Response

<table>
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<th>Phase 3: Develop a Reform Response</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Duration</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>August 5 – October 8</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Activities</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Site visit #3 (1 visit per site)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• All Sites Meeting #2</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Grantee products</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Preliminary logic model, including targets</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Coordinator products</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• SWOT analysis findings (optional)</td>
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Implementation Planning

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<th>Phase 4: Implementation Planning</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Duration</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Activities</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Grantee products</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Coordinator products</strong></td>
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## Phase 5: Application

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<tr>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>December 15 – January 6</th>
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<tr>
<td>Activities</td>
<td>• Optional site visit #5</td>
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<td>• Iterative feedback on sites’ applications</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grantee products</td>
<td>• Application for second round funding; revised and finalized planning deliverables</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coordinator products</td>
<td>• Memo for Foundation on relative merits of each site</td>
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Outcomes

- Local justice system leaders committed to reducing the number of people in jail, addressing racial and ethnic fairness, and tracking progress toward those goals
- Comprehensive analysis of the drivers of jail population growth
- A clearly articulated plan for system change, with measurable goals and benchmarks and responsibility assigned for reaching them
- Application to MacArthur for implementation funding
Thank you!

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