

The State of Connecticut MacArthur Safety and Justice Challenge Initiative

CJPAC Meeting: January 28th 2016

Project Goals:

To safely reduce the number of individuals held in jail detention, reduce the length of stay in jail detention, and create reforms that eliminate racial disparities in the criminal justice system.

MacArthur Safety and Justice Challenge Proposed Strategies:

The State of Connecticut requested **\$4 million in grant funds** from the **MacArthur Foundation** for a demonstration initiative to achieve **18% reduction in jail population** (907 fewer individuals) within a **two year grant period** (July 2016 through June 2018). The proposal was developed over a **six month planning period** with participation from multiple agencies – state and local criminal justice agencies, local police, and advocacy organizations. The initiative includes a coordinated set of strategies focused on the major decision points leading to jail incarceration; Arrest, Pre-Arrestment and Post Jail Release.

Arrest Decision Point

Deflect individuals from the arrest point and reduce arrest of low risk offenders via evidence-based community policing strategies.

- **Hartford Alternative to Arrest Project (HAAP):** An alternative-to-arrest strategy piloted in The City of Hartford to deflect low risk high need offenders from custodial arrest into community-based mental health care, addiction treatment, and social services. The pilot works in coordination with Governor Malloy's Second Chance Initiative to provide tools, resources, and services to reduce risk of future re-arrest and incarceration.
 - HAAP will be piloted in the Hartford neighborhoods of Barry Square, South Green, and Frog Hollow.
 - The projects goal is to reduce custodial arrests in the pilot neighborhoods by 51% over a two year period.

Arrestment Decision Point

Reduce unnecessary pre-trial detention through the development of alternative interventions and case processing improvements to streamline the arraignment process.

- **Collaborative Ongoing Review Team (CORT):** Collaboration between the Division of Criminal Justice and Office of Chief Public Defender to identify low risk defendants who do not warrant pre-trial incarceration and who are likely to benefit from an alternative resolution model.
 - Strategy will reduce the use of pre-trial incarceration in the New Haven Pilot Site by 20% in two years. (150-200 defendants).
 - Reduce overall Length of Stay by two weeks through streamlining of court procedures.
- **Jail Diversion Substance Abuse (JDSA) Program:** Expand JDSA contracts to increase the number of defendants in New Haven court that have access to court-based diversion detox and residential treatment. This will help to reduce the use of pre-trial detention for eligible applicants.
 - 95 defendants will be diverted from jail and will receive substance abuse treatment and services within the community.

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Release / Community Re-Entry Decision Point

Reduce risk of future re-arrest and incarceration for inmates re-entering the community.

- **Medication Assisted Therapy (MAT):** Expand MAT Pilot to provide methadone induction to opioid addicted inmates prior to their release into the community. Proposal includes follow-up with community-based treatment post release.
 - Project goal is to reduce “jail days” by helping offenders stay in the community without re-arrest and re-incarceration.
 - 20% reduction in the return of opioid-addicted offenders on MAT treatment project to jail.

Cross Agency Training and Evaluation Initiative

Develop specialized training components to serve as a foundation for implementing street-level deflection strategies, pre-arraignment case processing improvements, and support efforts to reduce racial disparities.

- **Cross-Agency Training and Systems Improvement:** Provide cross-agency training class to expand the utilization of street level deflection strategies and pretrial diversion options through awareness and education regarding interventions and services can reduce criminal behavior, arrest, and jail admission.
 - 300 individuals from the criminal justice agencies and other stakeholders will participate in the cross agency training initiative in Bridgeport, Hartford, and New Haven.
- **Implicit Bias Training:** Expand the CT Commission of Racial and Ethnic Disparity Implicit Bias training for police, prosecutors, public defenders, community providers and key decision makers in the cities of Bridgeport, Hartford, and New Haven.
 - 300 individuals from the criminal justice agencies and other stakeholders will participate in the cross agency training initiative in Bridgeport, Hartford, and New Haven.
- **Assessment of Racial Disparities:** Conduct an evidence based analysis of racial disparities and disproportionality at key decision points within the criminal justice system.

Project Next Steps February 2016 – April 2016:

- The final proposal is currently under review with the MacArthur Foundation.
- The MacArthur Foundation will announce the Safety and Justice Challenge winners on April 13th 2016.
- The SJC workgroup will continue to take a deeper dive into the data analysis and continue to work on the implementation plan details in preparation for the grant award announcement.