

# FY 2018 JUSTICE REINVESTMENT EXAMPLE STRATEGIES

Through the Justice Reinvestment Initiative (JRI), state, local, and tribal jurisdictions can undertake a range of data-driven policy and practice changes. This year's JRI funding opportunity turns its focus to jurisdictions that want to use the JRI approach to reduce violent crime and address the high costs to their criminal justice systems caused by violent, chronic offenders and the opioid- and stimulant-specific (e.g., methamphetamine) epidemics. The sample cases described below demonstrate how jurisdictions may propose to use this JRI funding opportunity.

<b>Develop comprehensive and integrated data-sharing and notification systems about violent offenders moving through the criminal justice system or being released into communities</b>	States and the agencies therein should move toward the use of a unique state identification (SID) number to be used throughout the criminal justice system, from arrest to reentry, and across local jurisdictions to facilitate (1) holding offenders accountable for criminal behavior even if they cross county lines or are arrested by law enforcement while on probation; (2) a cross-system analysis that provides a better understanding of pretrial, probation, parole, reentry, and other service populations' contributions to crime trends and resource consumption; (3) meaningful data sharing among key agencies about witness intimidation, gang violence, and other dangerous situations that put communities at risk. Depending on the agencies included, information sharing may extend to behavioral health, domestic violence, and other specific crime types and populations posing a challenge within the state.
<b>Strengthen investigations and case processing to hold offenders accountable</b>	States can improve investigations by building crime lab capacity and adopting best practices and standards. For example, states may codify language on the collection, storage, and holding of evidence collected through sexual assault forensic exams. Additionally, state and local agencies can examine and realign resources to prioritize violent crime investigations. For example, law enforcement budgets are often strained by overtime costs when officers are called to testify during their days off. Those agencies can work with the court system on scheduling to reduce the financial strain and then invest the savings in violent crime investigations.
<b>Develop analytic capacity to inform more effective crime prevention and suppression</b>	Identify the people and places in the state that are having a disproportionate impact on crime and align resources accordingly. Smaller jurisdictions may not have the capacity to conduct the crime analysis needed to make data-driven decisions or to demonstrate their needs to state administrators. States should help these local jurisdictions to detect, prevent, and fight violent crime by providing or helping to build their analytic capacity. States might accomplish this in a few different ways. For example, states may deploy a data analysis strike team to assist jurisdictions in analyzing their challenges, such as a crime spike, and in potentially addressing them; based on the results, they may also provide grants for local pilot projects that seek to reduce crime and support effective law enforcement (e.g., overtime, training, analytics, community policing, focused deterrence).

<p><b>Make bail decisions and design pretrial supervision to prevent violence and other system breakdowns</b></p>	<p>Invest in pretrial risk assessment tools, incorporate them into bail decisionmaking, and establish pretrial supervision based on the results. Use a validated pretrial risk assessment tool to provide judges with objective information about the likelihood that an offender will commit a new crime or fail to appear if released to the community. If an offender is to be released, impose conditions of supervision based on the assessment results and to facilitate compliance with the law and court process. Grant pretrial supervision officers full arrest authority to immediately remand individuals if conditions-of-release violations are discovered.</p>
<p><b>Prioritize and increase accuracy of warrant service</b></p>	<p>Warrants are issued by judges via different processes. If the circumstances are compelling enough to necessitate a warrant, then criminal justice agencies should make executing the warrant a priority; however, warrant service is a difficult and dangerous job. Incorporating intelligence and data analysis into the warrant system can help agencies prioritize the types of cases that pose the greatest threat to public safety and increase the accuracy of the warrant service. By linking with other state and local data systems, agencies may identify the most serious offenders (based on instant offense type or history), remove warrants when a person is deceased, and identify where there are multiple warrants issued for a single address.</p>
<p><b>Increase the intensity and effectiveness of behavioral health services</b></p>	<p>Fund a continuum of care, ranging from institutional to community-based treatment intervention services, with an ongoing exchange of information across the system in order to effectively address substance abuse and mental health illnesses in the higher risk population. Assess the scope and nature of the mental health and substance abuse needs of this population by using validated tools in order to ensure that there is adequate service capacity to meet their needs. Consider not only if there are adequate slots available but also if those slots are available in the right places for the right people, and whether the services are effective at reducing the problematic behavior. Discontinue ineffective services, invest in those that work and put them in the places where they are needed, and establish a performance-based payment structure.</p>
<p><b>Make incapacitating serious, chronic, and violent offenders a priority for confinement resources</b></p>	<p>State and local jurisdictions should ensure that bed space use supports their violent crime-reduction goals and, if needed, seek strategies for correcting the inmate mix to make bed space for serious, chronic, and violent offenders a priority. There are multiple strategies to undertake, depending on the specific problem, including to evaluate and revise jail reimbursement processes; establish crisis stabilization units where law enforcement personnel may place people experiencing mental health crises who were arrested for nonviolent offenses, instead of taking them to jail; implement universal screening for substance abuse and mental health illnesses at booking; adopt alternatives to confinement for offenders with mental health illnesses and substance abuse who do not have a history of violence, weapons use, or distribution offenses; and improve the quality and consistency of parole decisionmaking and preparation for release.</p>

## About BJA

BJA helps to make American communities safer by strengthening the nation’s criminal justice system: Its grants, training and technical assistance, and policy development services provide state, local, and tribal governments with the cutting edge tools and best practices they need to reduce violent and drug-related crime, support law enforcement, and combat victimization. To learn more about BJA, visit [www.bja.gov](http://www.bja.gov), or follow us on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/DOJBJA](https://www.facebook.com/DOJBJA)) and Twitter (@DOJBJA). BJA is part of the Department of Justice’s Office of Justice Programs.