



**FY2013 RECOMMENDATION/FY13-BL03 EXPAND AND IMPROVE PRETRIAL APPROACHES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN COLORADO**

**Status:** Implementation Complete

**Actions/Updates**

**2013 ACTION/IMPLEMENTATION**

Action on this recommendation was completed with the passage of House Bill 13-1236.

**Description**

Expand and improve pretrial approaches and opportunities in Colorado.

**Agencies Responsible**

**Discussion**

*Only 12 of 22 Colorado judicial districts have pretrial services. Even among established programs, there is a lack of consistency in services provided and a lack of information provided to crime victims, according to a brief survey undertaken by the Commission's Bail Subcommittee. Many jurisdictions continue to use a bond schedule that assigns a dollar amount based upon the criminal charge, without consideration for risk to the community or likelihood of court appearance. Pretrial service programs can investigate and verify the defendant's background, stability in the community, risk to reoffend or flee, and provide objective recommendations to the court for appropriate individualized release conditions that can address these concerns. These agencies also can offer supervision services to the court.*

*Pretrial services or, where these are not available, jail or appropriate staff should be trained to conduct actuarial risk assessments through a comprehensive interview with the defendant and, when appropriate, recommend to the court very specific release conditions that are individualized for each offender. At a minimum, the court should have access to a completed risk assessment for every defendant to inform pretrial decision making.*

*Many release conditions commonly assigned to defendants are unrelated to the offense, unrelated to the individual defendant, and lack clarity and specificity. Neither bail amounts nor the conditions of bond should be used to punish defendants.*