



NCJA Center for Justice Planning

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NCJA and NGA Launch State Criminal Justice Reform Initiative

WASHINGTON—The National Criminal Justice Association through its Center for Justice Planning (NCJP) in partnership with the National Governors Association (NGA) today announced a joint initiative to support system-wide criminal justice reform in up to five states.

The National Criminal Justice Reform Project is funded by the Laura and John Arnold Foundation. The project will support planning and implementation of data-driven, evidence-based reform focused on one or more areas of state policy and practice, including pretrial reform, re-entry and offender recidivism, mental health and substance abuse, reducing incarceration and information sharing and integration of evidence-based practices across the justice system.

This fall up to 20 state teams will convene to discuss key areas of reform. Based on that meeting and other planned activities, up to five states will be selected for in-depth planning and implementation assistance over the next several years.

The overarching goals of the project are to move all states toward wider adoption of evidence-based practices within criminal justice policymaking and to improve public safety by making criminal justice systems smarter, fairer and more cost-effective.

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About NCJP

Based in Washington, D.C., the National Criminal Justice Association (NCJA) represents state, tribal and local governments on crime prevention and crime control issues. Its members represent all facets of the criminal and juvenile justice community, from law enforcement, corrections, prosecution, defense, courts, victim-witness services and educational institutions to federal, state and local elected officials.

The NCJA Center for Justice Planning (NCJP) provides strategic planning and evidence-based practice resources for states and local jurisdictions on a variety of criminal justice issues. Additional on and off site technical assistance and training are available to states upon request.

www.ncjp.org | [@theNCJA](https://twitter.com/theNCJA)
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ABOUT NCJP

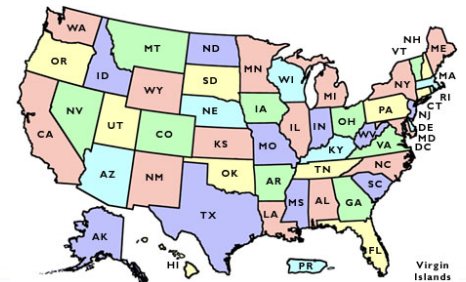
The NCJA Center for Justice Planning is a project of the National Criminal Justice Association. To learn more about NCJP and our work please visit www.ncjp.org.

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How Can This Project Compliment Existing or Previous State Efforts?

- This effort focuses on five key areas of policy and practice
 1. Pretrial release and bail reform
 2. Reentry and offender recidivism
 3. Mental health and substance abuse
 4. Reducing incarceration
 5. Information sharing and data integration
- If a state wants to use this project to augment existing efforts in one of those spaces, **IT CAN!**
- If a state wants to reinvigorate a previous reform initiative, **IT CAN!**



What Makes This Project Different?

- Effort goes beyond planning and shifts focus to longer-term support for implementation to ensure transformational impact
- Will be tailored to each state's needs
- Executive-branch driven, led by the Governor and implemented by the State Administering Agency





Next Steps

- National survey of SAAs, CJPA's and practitioners released today
- RFI for interested states released in June of 2016
- Selected states invited to 20-state convening in the fall of 2016
- Interested states submit a Request for Proposal in fall 2016
- State selection will occur in late fall, 2016



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Proposal for Criminal Justice Reform Initiative

1. Topic Area 5 – Information Sharing and Data Integration

Project goals

- A. Improve practitioner decision-making with more complete information about justice-involved individuals at all points in the system.
- B. Inform policy changes and the use of evidence-based practices with analyses of aggregate data that can be separated by geographic area or other offender characteristics.
- C. Evaluate programmatic impacts through research and analysis of data over time.

Needs

- A. Data sharing governance group
- B. Governance agreements
- C. Common standards (NIEM, etc.)
- D. Access and exchange controls (GFPIM)
- E. Expand Adams County platform state-wide

2. Topic Area 3 - Mental Health and Substance Abuse

Project goals

- A. Build on efforts in Second Chance Act Grant to facilitate information exchange between criminal justice and mental health systems. Initial focus is jails to community.
- B. Improve data on jail populations.
- C. Expand efforts to include other segments of criminal justice system.