

Safety + Justice Challenge: RFP

MacArthur Foundation

OVERVIEW

America's reliance on local jail incarceration has grown dramatically over the past three decades. Jail populations have more than tripled since the 1980s. So have cumulative expenditures related to building and running jails. There are now nearly 12 million admissions to local jails annually—almost 20 times the number of admissions to state and federal prisons.

Jails are where our nation's incarceration problem begins. While the primary purpose of local jails is to detain those awaiting court proceedings who are a danger to public safety or a flight risk, they have come to hold many who are neither. Jails too often serve as warehouses for low-risk individuals too poor to post bail, or too sick for existing community resources to manage. Nearly 75 percent of both sentenced offenders and pretrial detainees are in jail for nonviolent traffic, property, drug, or public order offenses. And many in jail are held there far longer than necessary, due to crowded court dockets and chronic backlogs that delay timely case resolutions.

All this carries significant costs—to individuals, families, communities, and society at large. Just a few days in jail can damage health, degrade economic prospects, interrupt education and employment, jeopardize housing, break up families, increase the likelihood and severity of a sentence of incarceration, and even promote future criminal behavior—making jail a gateway to deeper and more lasting involvement in the criminal justice system. And research shows that all these impacts are disproportionately felt in low-income communities and communities of color.

The overuse of jails is a major driver and core component of over-incarceration that needs to be addressed directly. That's why local policymakers interested in improving public safety, saving money, and promoting stronger, healthier communities are beginning to take a hard look at how their jails are used.

Fortunately, every community in America can safely reduce its use of local incarceration while reserving valuable jail resources for offenders who pose significant risk to public safety. Proven strategies include:

- Policing practices that limit unnecessary custodial arrests;
- Early screening and assignment of counsel;
- Pretrial detention decision-making that focuses on assessments of safety and flight risk, not ability to pay;
- Diversion options that hold offenders accountable without separating them from their jobs and families;
- Booking, arraignment, case screening, and processing procedures that shorten jail stays by reducing procedural delays; and
- Reentry practices that better prepare inmates for release and reintegration and serve to reduce reoffending.



To support the spread of these and other approaches, and to encourage innovation, the MacArthur Foundation is launching the Safety and Justice Challenge, an initial five-year, \$75 million investment in local reform, research, experimentation, and communications intended to create national demand for local justice reform as a means of reducing over-incarceration in America. Through the Safety and Justice Challenge, the Foundation will support a nationwide network of selected local jurisdictions committed to finding ways to safely reduce jail incarceration, with a particular focus on addressing disproportionate impact on low-income individuals and communities of color. With help from a consortium of national experts and technical assistance providers, participating sites will rigorously examine how their jails are being used; who is being held there, and what risks they pose to the community; what policies and practices have driven the growth of local jail populations; and what strategies will work to reduce the unnecessary use of jail without compromising public safety.

To advance our knowledge and understanding about the use of jail in America, and to document the experience of local jurisdictions that succeed in building safer, less costly, and more just criminal justice systems, the Foundation will complement the grants it makes to local jurisdictions with investments in research and data analytics. The Foundation will also invest in a robust communications campaign aimed at elevating jail overuse into an urgent national issue, and generating national demand for a more balanced set of approaches to crime and disorder that use incarceration only where necessary, and as part of a flexible range of effective alternatives.

THE COMPETITION

The Safety and Justice Challenge competition will unfold in two rounds.

Round 1: Planning (May-December 2015)

Up to twenty selected sites will receive a grant of \$150,000 to support an intensive six-month planning process, during which they will rigorously examine how their jails are being used and what strategies will reduce incarceration without compromising public safety. Each site will produce a plan for implementing these reforms.

Each site will be paired with an expert technical assistance partner. Four of the nation's leading criminal justice organizations will provide technical assistance to Safety and Justice Challenge sites—the Center for Court Innovation, the Justice Management Institute, Justice System Partners, and the Vera Institute of Justice. With the support of one of these technical assistance partners, teams from each site will work through a rigorous, fast-paced, data-driven planning process. Sites will be supported in a system mapping exercise to help them describe—using facts and data—how the jurisdiction's criminal justice system currently operates. From there, sites will consider the most promising ways to reduce unnecessary jail use without compromising public safety and, with the help of the technical assistance partner, develop an action plan for achieving reductions. The best implementation plans will set quantifiable impact targets, and chart a credible path for achieving them.

Throughout the planning period, participating sites will have meaningful opportunities to learn from experts and from one another as part of a robust Challenge Network. Delegations from all selected sites will be assembled twice, in-person, during the planning period. Sites will also be invited to attend virtual events, such as webinars with practitioners in other jurisdictions.

During the planning phase, participating sites will:

- Ensure key staff and agency leaders meaningfully participate in the process;
- Collect and share data among local partners and with the Foundation;
- Collaborate with a research team engaged by the Foundation to develop and track performance measures and inform an independent evaluation of the outcomes and impact of the initiative;
- Identify and agree on priority problems that contribute to the overreliance on jails, and look for achievable solutions that do not compromise public safety;
- Surface and address racial and ethnic disparities in the way jail is used, administered, and experienced; and
- Engage affirmatively with the larger goals of the Safety and Justice Challenge by participating in a communications campaign about the appropriate use of jail in America.

At the end of the planning phase, participating sites will have:

- Demonstrated engagement of local leaders in the planning process, including participation in key planning meetings, and ongoing commitment to the implementation process;
- Conducted a comprehensive analysis of interagency data to understand the drivers of jail population at each decision point;
- Committed to reducing the number of people in jail, tackling racial and ethnic fairness head-on, and tracking progress toward achieving those aims through data collection, performance measurement, and evaluation; and
- Developed a clearly articulated plan for system change, including a compelling logic about how incarceration will be reduced and a realistic implementation plan with measurable and time-sensitive goals, and assigned activities to responsible parties.

Selected jurisdictions will be required to attend a meeting on **May 27th and 28th, in Washington, D.C.** Grant funds will be applied to cover travel expenses for this meeting.

Round 2: Implementation (2016-2017)

As many as ten jurisdictions will be selected to receive funding to support implementation of the plans developed during Round 1. The Foundation aims to invest in those jurisdictions that:

1. Identify the most promising strategies for safely reducing overreliance on local jails;
2. Produce the most ambitious and credible plans for implementing those strategies; and
3. Demonstrate the availability of and willingness to share identifiable data.

Depending on the scope and ambition of the second round proposals, the Foundation expects to make implementation grants to each site that range from \$500,000 to \$2 million annually over two years, with an option to extend if substantial progress is made. Whether or not sites are selected to



receive implementation funding, all Round 1 sites will receive funding to support their continued participation in the Challenge Network.

ELIGIBILITY

Any jurisdiction with governing authority over a local jail or jail system that has **at least 50 beds** is eligible to apply for grant funding through the Safety and Justice Challenge, including states, cities, counties, judicial districts, and tribes.

HOW TO APPLY

Please submit your application via the MacArthur Foundation's online platform at www.SafetyAndJustice.fluidreview.com by **8:00 p.m. CST on March 31, 2015**. Applications received after the deadline will not be accepted. You may save your work and return to edit your application within the application window before submitting it for review; revisions to submitted applications cannot be accommodated. Applications must be submitted through the MacArthur Foundation online platform; emailed or mailed applications will not be considered. Should you experience any technical difficulties with the online application process, please email Support@fluidreview.com for technical assistance. Direct assistance will be available daily, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. CST.

TO LEARN MORE

The Foundation will hold three (3) live webinars to confirm details about the competition and application process as well as answer questions. The content of these webinars will be identical. The webinars are scheduled as follows:

- Wednesday, February 25 from 11:30 – 12:30 CST
- Thursday, February 26 from 10:00 – 11:00 CST
- Tuesday, March 3 from 3:00 – 4:00 CST

Registration is required to participate in one of these sessions. To register, send an email to SafetyAndJustice@macfound.org and indicate which webinar you plan to attend.

Should you have any additional questions about the application, please send an email to SafetyAndJustice@macfound.org and we will do our best to respond promptly.

THE APPLICATION

Section 1. Basic Information

Please tell the Foundation about your jurisdiction.

- 1.1. Jurisdiction name
- 1.2. Jurisdiction type
 - a. State
 - b. City
 - c. County
 - d. Judicial district
 - e. Tribe
 - f. Other, please specify
- 1.3. Chief executive's name (*e.g.*, name of mayor, county commissioner, or other office-holder with executive branch authority in jurisdiction)
- 1.4. Name of the lead agency, name and title of primary contact at lead agency
- 1.5. Jurisdiction population size
- 1.6. Jail capacity
- 1.7. Overall jurisdiction budget
- 1.8. Budget for jail operations and facilities

Section 2. Motivation (30%)

The MacArthur Foundation's Safety and Justice Challenge is grounded in the premise that jail negatively impacts people who spend time there—even a short time—and therefore should be used when a defendant or offender poses a real public safety risk. The Foundation is motivated by the recognition that, with the right kind of support, local communities can develop, adapt, and model effective ways to keep people out of jail whose risk to public safety can be effectively managed in the community, and provide those who are confined in jails an improved chance to succeed when they go home. Help the Foundation understand why participation in the Safety and Justice Challenge is a top priority in your jurisdiction.

- 2.1. Please explain why the use of jail has emerged as a priority for your jurisdiction. Your answer should address the following (*Up to 750 words total*):
 - a. What particular challenges are motivating your jurisdiction's interest in participating in the Safety and Justice Challenge (*e.g.*, jail overcrowding, disproportionate minority contact, high recidivism)? If data is helpful in providing context here, the Foundation encourages you to include it.
 - b. If selected to receive grant funding through the Safety and Justice Challenge, what does your jurisdiction hope to achieve in terms of measurable results and/or practice changes?
 - c. What makes now an opportune time to engage in this work as a system?
- 2.2. Please provide one or two examples of other collaborative efforts to implement systemic criminal justice reform in your jurisdiction and describe what worked well and what didn't.

(If you do not have a pertinent example, please proceed to question 2.3.) Your answer should address the following (*Up to 500 words total*):

- a. What were the goals?
- b. How was collaboration accomplished, and who was involved?
- c. Did the initiative achieve its goals? If so, have the achievements been sustained?
- d. If your jurisdiction is selected to receive a planning grant and participate in the Safety and Justice Challenge, how will the lessons learned through these prior efforts be integrated into your approach this time around?

Section 3. Leadership and Commitment (40%)

Effective jail population management strategies require a system-wide scope. No single stakeholder can impact local jail populations without the support and involvement of their counterparts in law enforcement, prosecutors' offices, the judiciary, pretrial service agencies, probation and parole, the defense bar, and local service providers. Experience demonstrates that in order to yield positive, sustainable results, development of a jail management strategy must meaningfully consider and engage relevant stakeholders from all parts of the criminal justice system.

- 3.1. Who will be the lead agency for this initiative and why is this agency best suited to spearhead a cross-agency planning effort around the use of jail in your jurisdiction? Your answer to this question should address the following (*Up to 500 words total*):
 - a. What will be the most formidable challenges for the proposed effort and how will the lead agency manage them?
 - b. Has this agency played a cross-agency leadership role in the past?
 - i. If yes, please describe these leadership efforts, relevant outcomes, and any obstacles the agency encountered.
 - ii. If no, please explain why this agency is in the best position to marshal consensus, advance a planning process, and ultimately implement an aggressive jail reform strategy.
- 3.2. What other key stakeholders will be integral to the success of this reform effort, and why? (*Up to 250 words*)
- 3.3. Does your jurisdiction have a standing, interdisciplinary criminal justice planning group (*e.g.*, criminal justice coordinating council)? If so, please describe how the group is structured, the composition of the group, its bylaws, and how it receives funding. If your jurisdiction does not have a standing, interdisciplinary criminal justice planning group, what strategies will the lead agency use to ensure the meaningful participation of the stakeholders described in Question 3.2? (*Up to 250 words*)
- 3.4. An effective planning process around the appropriate use of jail requires meaningful participation from a cross-section of local leadership—at a minimum, the prosecutor's office, the police/sheriff department, the criminal defense bar and the judiciary. Please demonstrate the commitment of these stakeholders, and any others that you feel will be critical to the success of your efforts. You may choose to do so with a memorandum,

letter(s) of commitment, or individual testimonials. However you opt to proceed, your response should reflect each core stakeholder's perspective on the following questions (*applicants may upload as many or as few letters as deemed necessary to demonstrate leadership and commitment; each letter should not exceed one typed page*):

- a. How would participation in this initiative benefit your jurisdiction?
- b. What current policies and practices should be examined as potential contributors to the inappropriate or unnecessary use of jail in your jurisdiction? What policies or practices within your **own** agency may need to be examined?
- c. How will your agency comply with the Foundation's expectations, including the participation of agency leaders and senior managers in the planning process, data collection and sharing, and commitment to addressing racial and ethnic disparities?

Section 4. Data Capacity (25%)

A reform agenda that is anchored in a thorough understanding of relevant data is essential to achieving meaningful and enduring change. Data is needed to understand the facts about how jail is used, why this is so, and to surface variables indicative of whether an individual does or does not present risks to public safety. The Foundation seeks to invest in sites that demonstrate the willingness and capacity to conduct a planning process which is driven by the use and understanding of data. For the purposes of understanding your site's readiness to effectively tackle a data-driven planning process around the use of jail, the Foundation asks that you answer the following questions about your jurisdiction's data capacity, and also that you provide a representative sample of the criminal justice data you currently collect (see Data Capacity Appendix). **Any data provided in the application will be used exclusively for the purpose of evaluating applications and will be treated with the strictest confidentiality by the Foundation.**

If selected, grantee sites will be expected to furnish additional data to advance local planning and evaluation of the overall efficacy and impact of the initiative. In particular, selected sites will be expected to provide identifiable, case-level data to the Institute of State and Local Governance at the City University of New York (ISLG), which will be tracking performance measures for the Initiative.¹ Both ISLG and an independent evaluator will have access to identifiable case-level data provided by all sites; other initiative partners will have access only to de-identified case-level data. All data submitted in connection with the Safety and Justice Challenge will be transferred and stored securely, and access will be restricted to project staff.

- 4.1. If your jurisdiction is selected to receive a planning grant, which individual(s) will be responsible for tracking and sharing data with the Foundation and its partners?
- 4.2. Please help the Foundation understand the ways your jurisdiction currently collects data, and the availability of data indicators that you believe will be critical to an effective

¹ Selected sites will be asked to provide data pertaining to the following key system points: arrest, charge, assignment of counsel, pretrial release, case processing, disposition/sentencing, and post-conviction process/supervision.

planning process. In the table below, please indicate the attributes that best describe your data collection and analytical capacity at the agency level. Please check as many as applicable.

Table 4.2

	Police	Prosecution	Courts	Jails	Other*
Dedicated analytical/research unit with multiple analysts					
Dedicated full-time analyst/researcher					
Dedicated part-time analyst/researcher					
IT personnel also responsible for data					
Non-research agency staff (e.g., prosecutor) responsible for data					
Interns collect data					
Non-agency personnel (e.g., local researcher) collect data					

*Please specify (e.g., criminal justice coordinating council):

4.3. Please answer the following brief questionnaire about your jurisdiction's data capacity:

Question	Yes	No
Is there a mental health flag in your system that allows you to identify defendants/inmates with mental health diagnoses? **If yes, please specify which of the primary agencies have such a flag available		
Does every defendant/inmate have a unique identifier?		
Is that unique identifier common across system points and data systems (e.g., corrections, probation, courts)?		
Similarly, does every criminal case have a unique identifier (given that a single defendant/inmate may have multiple arrests/cases)?		
Is that unique identifier common across system points and data systems (e.g., corrections, probation, courts)? **If not, please specify how each of the primary agencies uniquely identifies cases		
Do you have a centralized system of record or an integrated data system that combines data from the police, prosecutor's office, courts, and corrections?		
Are data routinely merged between departments or divisions in your jurisdiction? If so, please specify which ones and how those data are merged (i.e. do staff merge manually or are systems programmed link files directly?)		

- 4.3.1. How is defendant race and ethnicity determined (*e.g.*, self-reported, determined by arresting police officer)? Does this vary across the primary agencies listed above? If so, please describe the approach for as many of them as possible.
- 4.3.2. How are defendant racial and ethnic categories reported (*e.g.*, black, Hispanic black, Hispanic white, etc.)? Does this vary across the primary agencies listed above? If so, please describe the approach for as many of them as possible.
- 4.4. To help reviewers understand the data that is currently available in your jurisdiction, please do your best to generate data for 2014 (or the most recent 12-month period for which data are available) on each indicator listed in the Data Capacity Appendix. For each data category (*e.g.*, arrests, jail, bail, etc.), please indicate the source agency from which you gathered the data in the space provided in the template. For example, arrest data may be available through a statewide criminal justice agency, while bail decision data may only be available through the court system. For the application, the Foundation is requesting aggregate data only.

The Foundation understands that not every jurisdiction will be able to provide all of this information at the time of application submission. Lack of comprehensive data will not disqualify applicants at this stage, particularly if your jurisdiction can demonstrate the willingness to work with the Foundation to gather comprehensive data going forward. For any indicators that your jurisdiction is not able to provide at the time of submission, please indicate from the drop-down menu whether you would be able to produce the data with some effort, whether you cannot produce the data without significant assistance, or whether you do not currently collect the data.

Section 5. Budget and Staffing (5%)

Sites selected to participate in Round 1 will receive a \$150,000 grant to support activities during the planning period (approximately May 15, 2015 through December 31, 2015). Please detail how your jurisdiction would apply these dollars. When itemizing project staff salaries, please list each individual separately and include the individual's title, annual salary, and percentage of time that will be allotted to the project.

The Foundation will expect each selected site to send a delegation of key stakeholders to two All Sites meetings (one of which is the May 27-28 meeting referenced above); grant funds should be applied to cover travel and lodging expenses for a 4-5 person team.

Grant dollars may not be applied to support lobbying activities.

Administrative fees must be capped at 15%.



Disclaimer and Acknowledgements as to Confidentiality and Intellectual Property

Nothing herein represents a commitment by the MacArthur Foundation to award any grant to any entity participating in, responding to, or submitting subsequent information in response to this invitation to submit a proposal for funding. Any grant commitment will be evidenced by a grant agreement signed by authorized representatives of the Foundation and the grantee.

The Foundation reserves the right to terminate, alter, or suspend this process at any time. By submitting an application or information pursuant to this invitation to submit a proposal for funding each applicant shall be deemed to have acknowledged that the Foundation shall have no obligation to make any grant and shall have no liability to any applicant or other person or entity should it determine not to proceed with this process or not to make any grants or program-related investments. It is further understood that any grant that may be considered pursuant to this process must satisfy certain legal criteria in the sole discretion of the Foundation.

All information and applications submitted to the Foundation shall become the property of the Foundation. Information submitted by applicants may be shared with third-parties engaged to assist the Foundation with the selection process for these awards. The Foundation may also use such information for its internal purposes or in connection with outside studies or research or with respect to other charitable purposes. The Foundation will not use any information for commercial purposes or sell the information to third parties. Should an applicant's project be funded, the Foundation reserves the right to post for viewing by the general public the project Abstract, the description of the project design and methodology, and the size of the total grant award with the general public. Detailed budget information will not be made public.

Any grant awarded will be subject to the Foundation's policy on intellectual property which is available on the Foundation's website. In general, the Foundation's policy is to ensure that grant work product furthers charitable purposes and benefits the public. To that end, the Foundation seeks prompt and broad dissemination of the grant work products at little or minimal cost or, when justified as described generally in the policy, at a reasonable cost.

The Foundation also encourages openness in research and freedom of access to underlying data by persons with a serious interest in the research. The Foundation recognizes there may be circumstances where limited or delayed dissemination of grant work product or limited access to data may be appropriate to protect legitimate interests of the grantee, other funders, principal investigators or participants in research studies. Such circumstances will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

MacArthur Safety + Justice Challenge Application Data Capacity Appendix
Appendix: Data Request

12 month Reporting Period Start Date:

12 month Reporting Period End Date:

INSTRUCTIONS			
To help reviewers understand the data that is currently available in your jurisdiction, please do your best to generate data for 2014 (or the most recent 12-month period for which data are available) on each indicator listed below. For each data category (e.g., arrests, jail, bail, etc.), please indicate the source agency from which you gathered the data in the space provided in the template. For example, arrest data may be available through a statewide criminal justice agency, while bail decision data may only be available through the court system. For the application we are requesting aggregate data only. The Foundation understands that not every jurisdiction will be able to provide all of this information at the time of application submission. Lack of comprehensive data will not disqualify applicants at this stage, particularly if your jurisdiction can demonstrate the willingness to work with the Foundation to gather comprehensive data going forward. For any indicators that your jurisdiction is not able to provide at the time of submission, please indicate from the drop-down menu whether you would be able to produce the data with some effort, whether you could produce the data with significant assistance, or whether you do not currently collect the data.			
Decision Point 1: Arrest	Data	Source	If you are unable to provide the data, please select from the following:
Arrests			We can produce this data with some effort (e.g., we can construct these reports by looking at a number of reports and putting something together within a day).
Total arrests by top charge severity (felony, misdemeanor, violation, other)			We could produce this data with significant assistance (e.g., the data are collected but putting them together would require significant matching and analysis).
Total arrests by race/ethnicity/gender			We do not collect this data at this time.
# of arrests where defendant had:			
A prior arrest			
A prior conviction			
Decision Point 2: Charge	Data	Source	If you are unable to provide the data, please select from the following:
Prosecution			
# of cases accepted for prosecution, broken down by:			
Charge severity: felony, misdemeanor, less than a misdemeanor			
Major crime categories (e.g. persons, property, drugs, etc.)			
Deferred prosecutions			
# of deferred prosecutions			
Declined to Prosecute			
# of cases declined to prosecute			
Decision Point 3: Pre-trial Release	Data	Source	If you are unable to provide the data, please select from the following:
Jail admissions: most recent 12 month period			
# of beds (jail capacity)			
Total admissions to jail for most recent 12-month period, broken down by:			
Demographics: race and ethnicity, age, and gender			
Charge severity: felony, misdemeanor, less than a misdemeanor			
# of admissions in 2014 (or most recent 12 months)			
Percent of the 2014 admissions with previous admission(s) to the jail in past 3 years.			
Jail: 1 day snapshot			
One-day snapshot of the number of people held in detention (enter date in text box), broken down by:			
Demographics: race and ethnicity, age, and gender			
Decision Point 3: Pre-trial Release (continued)	Data	Source	If you are unable to provide the data, please select from the following:
Charge severity: felony, misdemeanor, less than a misdemeanor			
Average and median length of stay (LOS) for pre-trial detainees by charge severity: felony, misdemeanor, less than a misdemeanor			
Bail and Release without Money Bail			

# of defendants released on bail broken down by top charge (felony, misdemeanor, less than a misdemeanor)			
# of defendants released without money bail broken down by top charge (felony, misdemeanor, less than a misdemeanor)			
Average and median bail amounts set and paid by top charge level (felony, misdemeanor, less than a misdemeanor)			
Decision Point 4: Case Processing	Data	Source	If you are unable to provide the data, please select from the following:
Dismissal			
# of cases disposed at arraignment			
# of cases dismissed after arraignment			
Diversion			
# of cases diverted			
# of diverted cases that have been successfully completed			
Decision Point 5: Disposition / Sentencing	Data	Source	If you are unable to provide the data, please select from the following:
Conviction			
# of cases resulted in a guilty plea or conviction			
Sentence			
# of convictions resulted in prison sentences			
# of convictions resulted in jail sentences			
# of convictions resulted in "time-served" sentences			
# of convictions resulted in non-incarcerative sentences			
Decision Point 6: Post-conviction Process / Supervision	Data	Source	If you are unable to provide the data, please select from the following:
Probation			
# of people on probation in the 12 month period			
# of people who completed probation in the 12 month period			

Safety + Justice Challenge:

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the Safety and Justice Challenge competition?

The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation will fund a network of competitively selected local jurisdictions committed to reducing overreliance on jails in their communities. With help from a consortium of national experts and technical assistance providers, participating jurisdictions will make policy, practice, and system changes designed to reduce their use of jail incarceration, with a particular focus on addressing disproportionate impact on low-income individuals and communities of color. Each jurisdiction will determine the changes it will pursue, based upon a data-driven assessment of local problems and opportunities. The overall goal will be to achieve positive public safety returns and improved social outcomes at lower cost.

2. Why focus on jails?

Despite growing national attention to the large number of Americans confined in state and federal prisons, significantly less attention has been paid to local justice systems and jails, where over-incarceration begins. While the primary purpose of pretrial holding in jails is to detain those who are a danger to public safety or a flight risk, they have come to hold many who are neither. Jails too often serve as warehouses for low-risk individuals too poor to post bail, or too sick for existing community resources to manage. Many jail detainees are held there far longer than necessary, due to crowded court dockets and chronic backlogs. Additionally, jail sentences are often imposed on people who could be safely held accountable in other ways. All this carries significant costs—to individuals, families, communities, and society at large.

3. Who is eligible to apply for the Safety and Justice Challenge competition?

The competition is open to any jurisdiction with governing authority over a local jail or jail system that has no fewer than 50 beds. This includes states, cities, counties, judicial districts, and tribes.

4. How many jurisdictions will be selected to participate and at what level of funding?

Up to 20 jurisdictions will be chosen to receive a grant of \$150,000 and expert consulting help during a six-month collaborative planning period, which will take place from May-December 2015. Beginning in 2016, as many as 10 of these jurisdictions will be selected for a substantial second round of funding—between \$500,000 and \$2 million annually—to support implementation of their plans over two years, with an option to extend if substantial progress is made.

5. What does a strong RFP application look like?

The Foundation seeks to invest in jurisdictions that are interested in improving public safety, saving money, and promoting stronger, healthier communities. Jurisdictions with current or past involvement in other national criminal justice reform initiatives are encouraged to apply. Strong applications will demonstrate a jurisdiction's commitment to:

- Engage relevant stakeholders from all parts of the criminal justice system;
- Collect and share data among local partners and with the Foundation;
- Use data to identify priority problems that contribute to the overreliance on jails, and look for achievable solutions that do not compromise public safety; and

- Surface and address racial and ethnic disparities in the way jail is used, administered, and experienced.

6. What support (other than grant funding) can participating jurisdictions expect?

The Foundation has engaged four of the nation's leading criminal justice organizations to serve as site coordinators in Safety and Justice Challenge jurisdictions: the Center for Court Innovation, the Justice Management Institute, Justice System Partners, and the Vera Institute of Justice. The site coordinators will help selected sites rigorously examine how their jails are being used; identify policies and practices that have driven the growth of local jail populations; and craft strategies to reduce the inappropriate use of jail without compromising public safety. The Foundation will also make investments in research and communications, and will provide support for an ongoing Safety and Justice Challenge Network – 20 jurisdictions working to reduce incarceration and improve the way their local criminal justice systems function. The Challenge Network will stimulate creativity and facilitate the spread of promising innovations in incarceration reduction.

7. Why is the Safety and Justice Challenge a “can’t miss” opportunity for my jurisdiction?

Criminal justice professionals are constantly asked to do more with less. The Safety and Justice Challenge is a unique and significant opportunity to ease these pressures, allowing practitioners to address how their criminal justice system operates, understand what policies and practices affect jail populations, and identify and implement new strategies to produce better outcomes. As members of the Safety and Justice Challenge Network, participating jurisdictions will be positioned as leaders in the field, and will have the opportunity to influence the future of criminal justice practices in groundbreaking ways.

8. How do I apply?

More information, including the request for proposals and information on how to apply, is available at www.SafetyAndJusticeChallenge.org. Applications must be submitted through the Foundation’s online platform at www.SafetyAndJustice.fluidreview.com; emailed or mailed applications will not be considered.

9. When is my application due?

Applications are due by 8:00 p.m. CST on March 31, 2015.

10. What if I have more questions?

The Foundation will hold three live webinars to confirm details about the competition and application process as well as answer questions. The content of these webinars will be identical. The webinars are scheduled as follows:

- Wednesday, February 25 from 11:30 – 12:30 CST
- Thursday, February 26 from 10:00 – 11:00 CST
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Registration is required to participate in one of these sessions. To register, send an email to SafetyAndJustice@macfound.org and indicate which webinar you plan to attend.

Should you have any additional questions about the competition or application, please email SafetyAndJustice@macfound.org.

