

# JUSTICE RESOURCE UPDATE

February 20, 2018

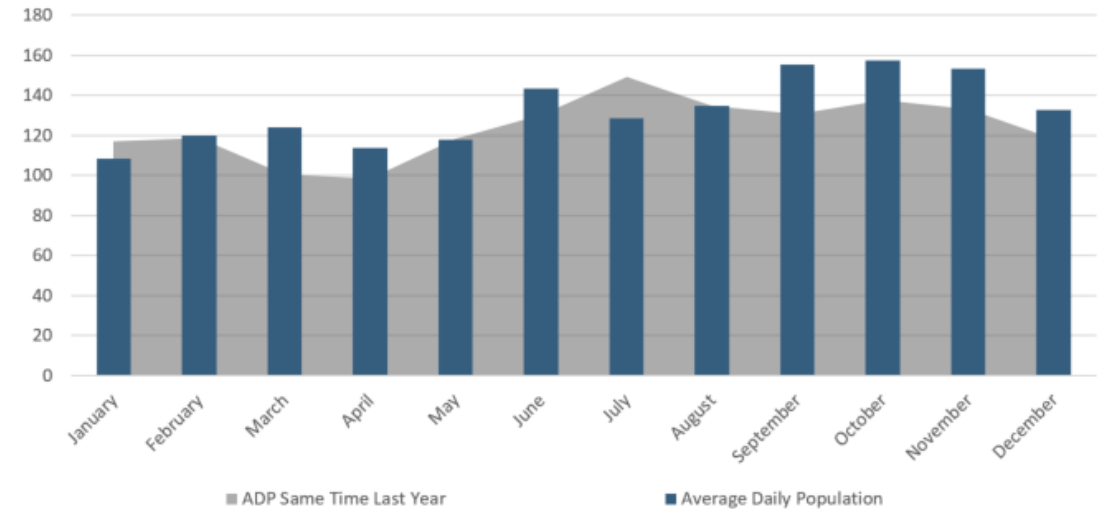
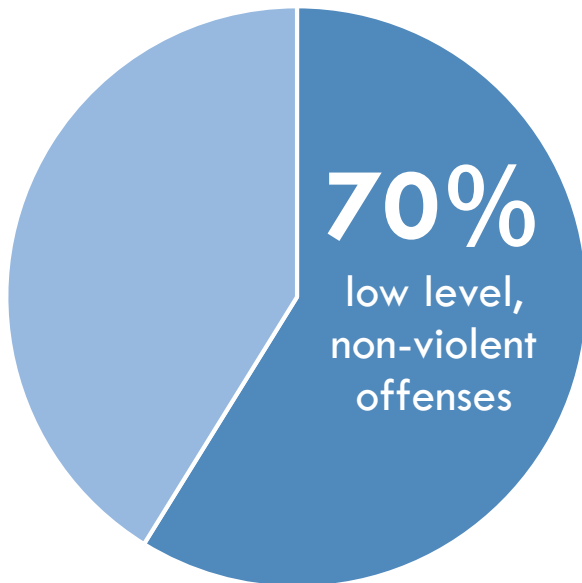
Leveraging best practices to enhance system efficiency,  
promote wellness and protect community safety



# CRITICAL COMMUNITY ISSUE

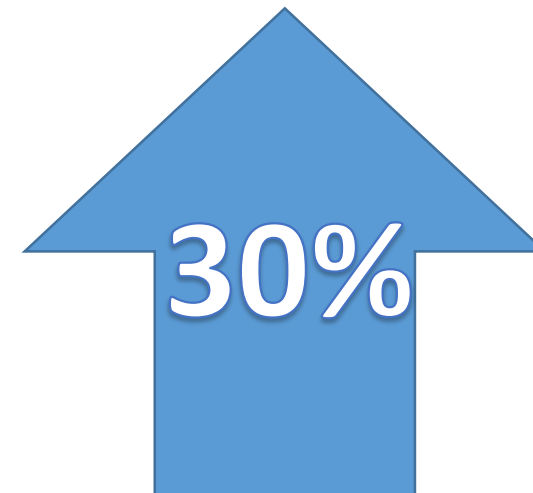
## Jail Numbers on the Rise

- Our jail housed more than 7,500 people in 2016
- This population increased 7% from 2015 to 2016



## Women in Jail

The number of women in the local jail jumped nearly 30% from 2015 to 2016



## Substance Abuse Impacts

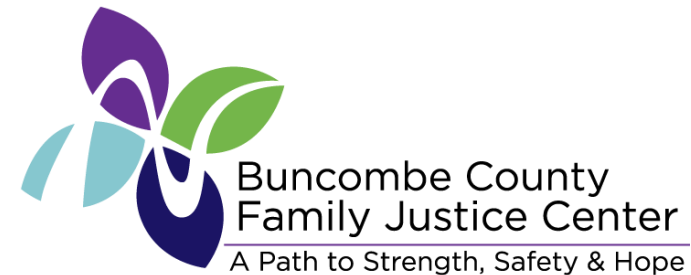
Nearly 800 inmates were monitored for substance withdrawal in 2016, also nearly a 30% increase from 2015

# BUNCOMBE IS ALREADY A LEADER

Local programs based on national models:

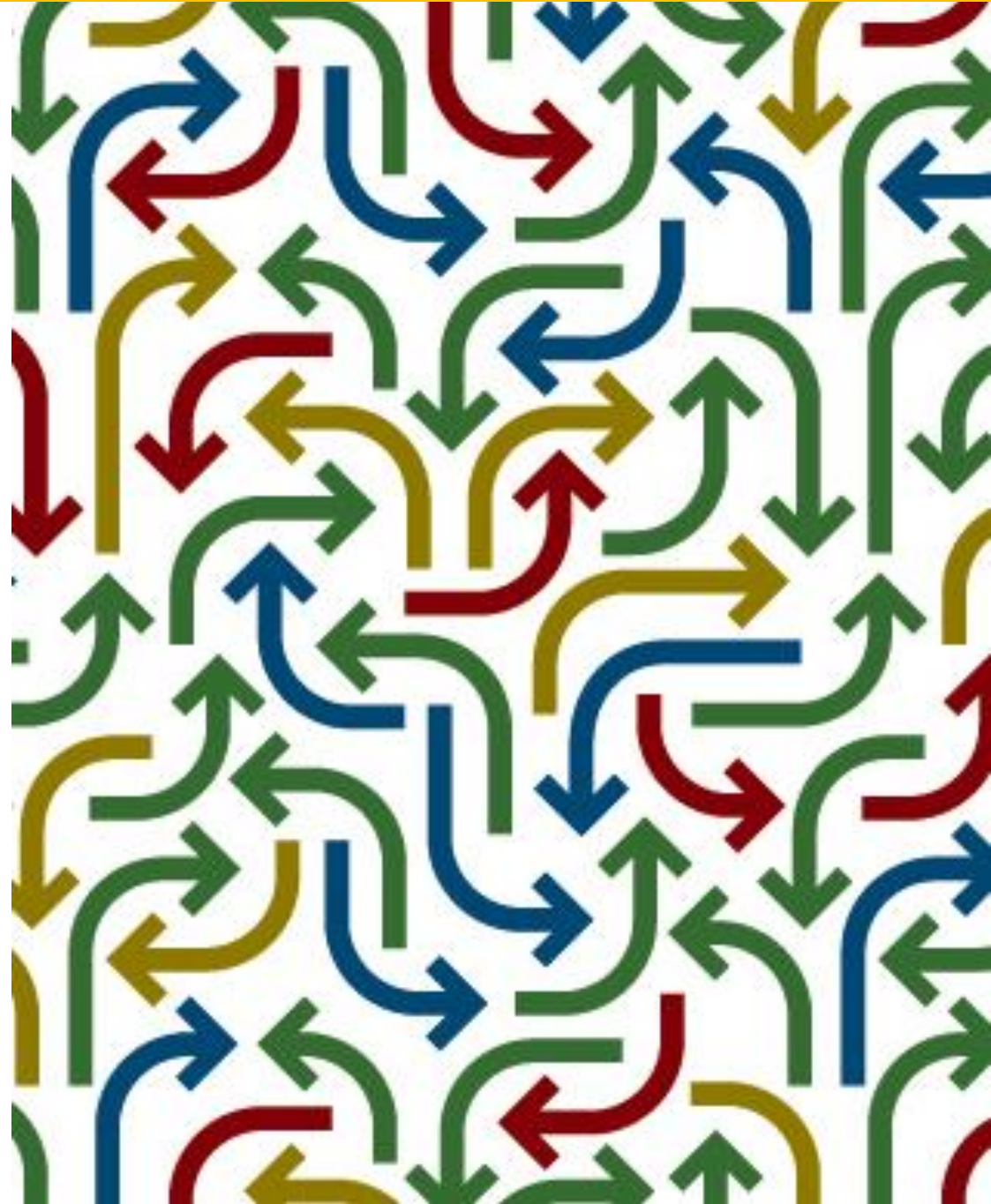
- Specialty Courts – DWI, Drug Treatment, Veterans
- Crisis Intervention Team
- Jail case management
- High utilizer support
- Navigation for High Risk Uninsured
- Pre-Trial release

Recent landmark efforts to  
coordinate systems:



# SYSTEM COORDINATION NEEDED

- Fragmented system
- Lack of coordination & efficiency
- Limited diversion options
- Disconnected from community resources & supports





# OUR STRATEGY

## **Protect Community Safety:**

Public safety is paramount in the current system as well as the proposed model which enhances tools used by law enforcement and the courts

## **Formalize Coordination:**

Establishment of a Justice Resource Collaborating Council and Coordinator will increase efficiency in a fragmented system

## **Invest in System Gaps:**

Services and supports will be created for a seamless system, including a Justice Resource Center, Detention-based Prosecution, Victim Witness Legal Assistant, and enhancements to Pretrial Services

## **Provide Infrastructure Support:**

The new model will be undergirded by a foundation for effectiveness, including a Case Management Data System, Business Intelligence, Planning & Evaluation

# STRATEGIC PRIORITY



THE  
**STEPPINGUP**  
INITIATIVE



BUNCOMBE COUNTY STRATEGIC PRIORITY:

## JUSTICE RESOURCE SUPPORT



**PRIORITY:** Coordinate a justice system that is efficient, effective, equitable and protects our public safety while holistically addressing the needs of people involved in the system.

**BACKGROUND:** The Buncombe County Detention Facility housed more than 7,500 people in 2016, and more than 70 percent of the 13,000 bookings were for low-level, nonviolent offenses. In addition, over 670 people return to Buncombe County each year after a period of incarceration in a North Carolina state prison. Fifty-one jail beds a day are occupied by individuals receiving treatment for a serious mental illness, and nearly 800 inmates were monitored for substance withdrawal in 2016, an almost 30 percent increase from 2015. Women are the fastest growing population in local jail – up about 30 percent from 2015 to 2016. Nationally, 95 percent of women who have been incarcerated have a history of trauma. Involvement in the criminal justice system can have lifelong effects for individuals and their families, including barriers to accessing housing, employment, education and financial assistance. In Buncombe County in 2016, African-Americans made up 5.6 percent of the general population yet comprised 28 percent of those jailed in the local detention facility. It is estimated that there are over 3,400 domestic violence victimizations in Buncombe County each year, and over 670 people seek services for sexual assault.

### GOALS:

- Enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the criminal justice system.
- Focus on law enforcement approaches informed by best practices for serving people impacted by mental illness, addiction, homelessness, poverty and trauma.
- Offer diversion and alternatives to incarceration for low-level, first-time nonviolent offenders and people with mental illness and substance use disorders.
- Focus on community-based pretrial justice solutions while prioritizing safety and offender accountability.
- Support people who are incarcerated and those re-entering the community from incarceration.
- Offer trauma-informed support for victims of crime, particularly domestic violence and sexual assault.

**LEAD DEPARTMENTS:** Health and Human Services; Justice Resources; Pretrial Services; Sheriff's Office; Strategic Partnerships.

December 2017



[www.buncombecounty.org](http://www.buncombecounty.org)

# OUR FOCUS

**Justice  
Resource  
Advisory  
Council**

**Justice  
Resource  
Center**

**Pretrial  
Services**

**Expedited  
Prosecution**

# Justice Resource Advisory Council

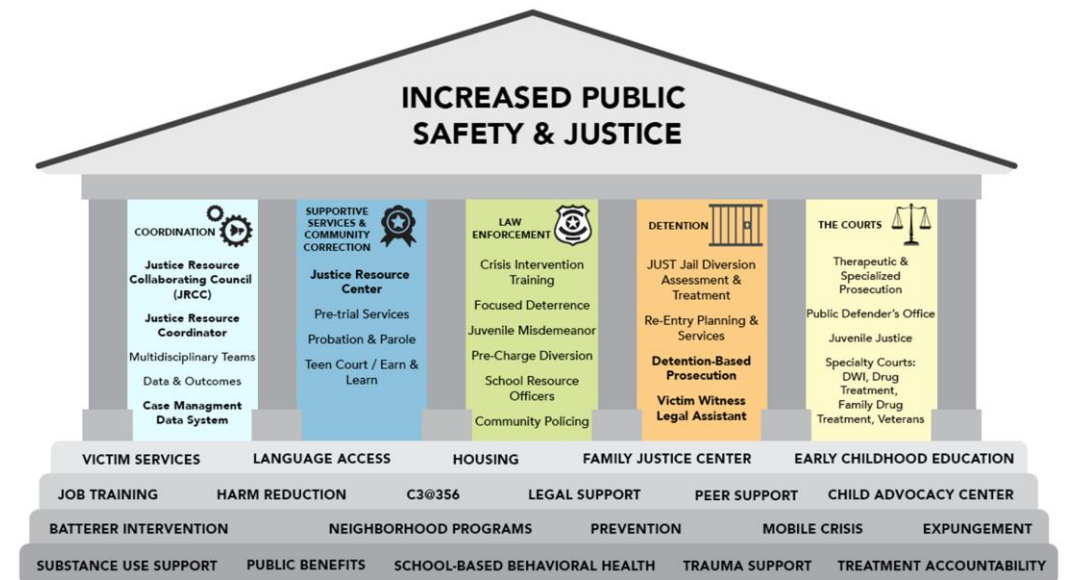
The purpose of the Council is to serve as an advisory body to the policy makers, judiciary, and stakeholder groups of the criminal justice system in Buncombe County. The Council examines potential improvements to the system, sets priorities, makes recommendations, and guides their implementation.

The Justice Resource Advisory Council is designed to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the Buncombe County criminal justice system.

It is a collaborative initiative with leadership from Buncombe County and representatives from the criminal justice and court system leaders to discuss systemic planning and coordination for crucial needs in the criminal justice system.

## Justice Resource Coordinator

The Justice Resource Coordinator provides staff support to the Justice Resource Advisory Council in its priorities including development and implementation of Justice Resource Center.







BUNCOMBE COUNTY  
**JUSTICE  
RESOURCE  
CENTER**

Jan-June 2017

- Convene council
- Identify needs
- Research models
- Secure Resources
- Define structure
- Identify vendors

July – Sept 2017:

- Begin Coordinator
- Execute contracts
- Design programs, protocols, technology
- Prepare Facility

Oct 2017 & beyond:

- Launch Justice Resource Center
- Formalize partnerships
- Conduct outreach
- Track results
- Report to stakeholders



YOU ARE HERE



## MANY PARTNERS, ONE LOCATION



## A PLACE OF OPPORTUNITY

Career and Educational Navigation

Case Management

Diversion Services

Evidence-based Classes and Education

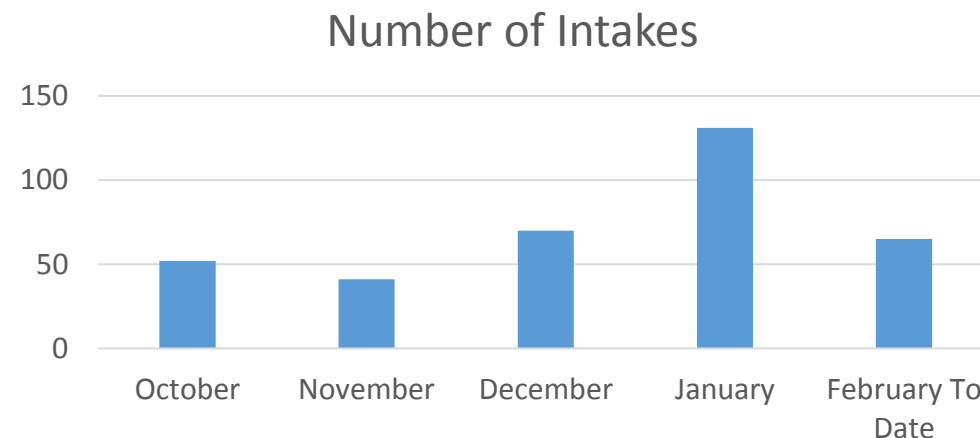
Expunction Support

Public Benefits

Reentry Services



- Since October, the Justice Resource Center has served over **376 unique individuals**.
- Nearly **90%** are receiving more than one service.
- **25** of the **33** people who have applied for public benefits via the JRC are now receiving some form of benefit, with a total value of **\$28,241**.



Program	People Served
Case Management	133
Diversion Admissions	
Adult Misdemeanor Diversion Program	80
Felony Drug Diversion Program	29
Juvenile Misdemeanor Diversion Program	12
Education and Career Navigation	53
Expunction Support	9
Public Benefits	33
Re-entry Services	112

## Pretrial Services

Conducts impartial interviews and risk assessments on individuals that have been arrested and are in custody before their trial.

Provides pretrial supervision and monitoring of conditions of release as ordered by the courts.

## INVESTMENTS

- Increased case management staffing by 3 additional staff
- Increase electronic monitoring (EM) units by 10 additional units: 21 people are currently assigned to EM
- Overall volume up 5% over last year





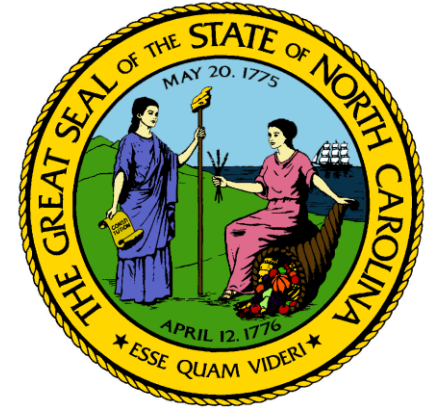
Supported by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

- Innovation Grant Award: \$50,000
- Focused on pretrial domestic violence protocol
- 20 jurisdictions were selected to join in the Safety and Justice Network
- Access to technical assistance, data analysis, and performance measurement support





# Expedited Prosecution



## JAIL BASED PROSECUTION

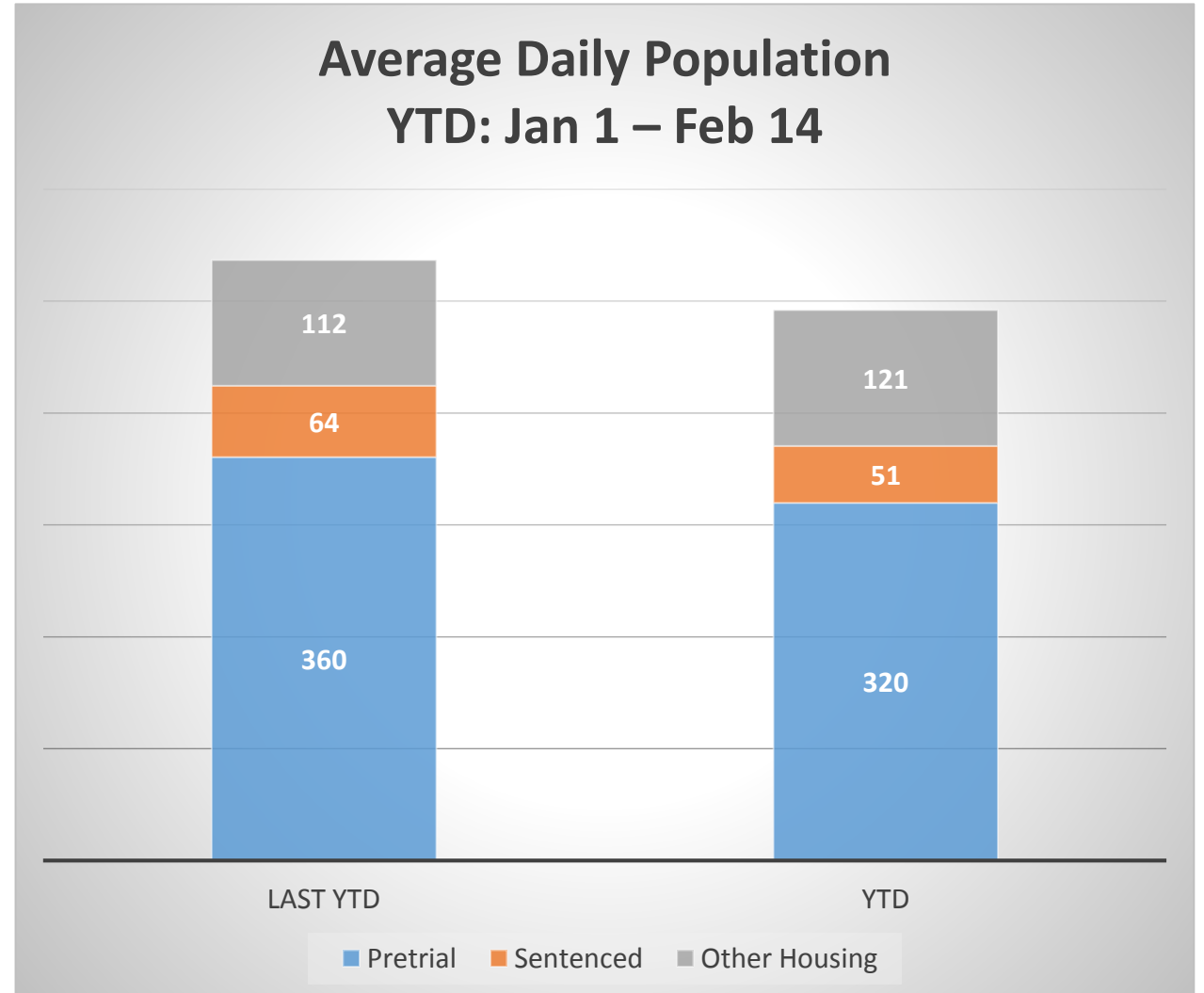
- Invested in a “fast track” Assistant District Attorney and Victim Witness Legal Assistant dedicated to focusing on reviewing jail population cases
- **87 early pleas** have been initiated, impacting **82 defendants** so far in FY2018

## EXPEDITED RELEASE

- Invested in a Community Access Portal to streamline and automate court processes
- Reduces time between case disposition and jail release
- Has occurred **351 times** for **238 defendants** so far in FY2018

# CURRENT JAIL NUMBERS

- Our community's efforts are making an impact, and we have more work to do
- The pretrial jail population is down 8-9% since last year
- The number of females in custody remains high: ADP 80
- There were nearly 1400 substance abuse detox protocols in 2017, up 60% from 2016



# NEXT STEPS

- ☐ Criminal Justice Improvement Plan
- ☐ System mapping
- ☐ Impact data analysis
- ☐ Shared learning with other jurisdictions
- ☐ Opportunities for funding and Technical Assistance

