

MacArthur Foundation Safety & Justice Grant Request for Additional Positions

Presented by

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Grant Overview

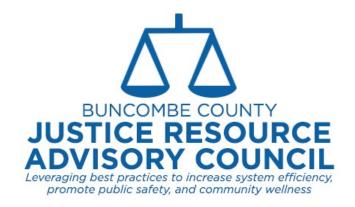
- The Safety & Justice Challenge grant from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, provides support to jurisdictions across the country to address the drivers of local jail populations
- In October 2018, Commissioners voted to accept the \$1.75m grant
- The Justice Resource Advisory Council developed a comprehensive plan for local justice system improvement





Goal

- Reduce the jail population by 15 percent, address racial disparities, and increase community engagement from October 2018 to September 2020
- The Justice Resource Advisory Council developed a comprehensive plan for local justice system improvement, including 7 grant strategies





Grant Strategies

Strategy 1: Deflection at Arrest and Booking

Strategy 2: Diversion to BH and SA Treatment

Strategy 3: Enhance Pretrial Services Strategy 4: Efficiencies in Case Processing

Implement Public Safety Assessment at Magistrate Improve law enforcement drop off process

Examine pretrial supervision assignment practices

Expand jail based case processing

Review local booking processes

Enhance supportive services for familiar faces

Utilize Public Safety Assessment Implement automated court date reminder system

Review use of criminal summons

Continued collaboration between BH and CJ partners

Modify violation policy and supervision practices

Implement a bail alert report

Create alternatives to custody for civil non-support

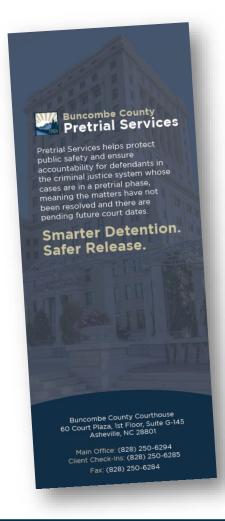
Strategy 5: Improve Data Utilization

Strategy 6: Increase Community Engagement

Strategy 7: Address Racial and Ethnic Disparities



Buncombe County Pretrial Services



Risk Assessments

Pretrial Services assists the courts in making pretrial release and bond decisions by conducting impartial interviews and compiling background information on individuals that have been arrested and are in custody before their

Pretrial Services utilizes a standard, evidence based risk assessment tool. Risk is determined for defendants by reviewing certain factors such as criminal history that have been rigorously tested for their ability to predict future criminal activity and failure to appear in court.

Pretrial Services provides information about defendants to the court, and presiding judges make decisions about release conditions.

Pretrial Supervision

Pretrial Services also provides supervision of re-lease as ordered by the courts.

Supervision levels of released defendants can range from once a week telephone contact to weekly face to face meetings to community based field supervision. Defendants must comply with case specific orders from the court, such as stay away orders, substance abuse and/or mental health treatment, or electronic monitoring. Conditions of release are monitored, and non-compliance is reported back to the

Judges may assign Pretrial Supervision at several different points in the court process: first appearances, bond hearings, or regularly scheduled court dates.

Pretrial Supervision may be included as a component of any bond type: secured, unsecured, custody release, or written

buncombecounty.org/pretrial

- County program within Strategic Partnerships Department
- Conducts risk assessments for those booked into jail and shares that information with the courts to help inform pretrial release decisions
- Provides supervised release as ordered by the courts
- 14 current positions

Pretrial Services & Grant Activities

New function for Pretrial Services:

- Conduct risk assessments at pre-booking phase (at the time of at initial appearance before a magistrate) 24 hours per day/7 days per week
- This strategy aims to reduce the number of people who are entering our detention facility and staying for short periods of time



Position Request

- 6 regular positions: 4 full-time; 2 part-time
- To be classified as Pre-Trial Screeners
- Fully funded by the grant
- Eligible for benefits in alignment with Grant Funded Positions Policy, (adopted by the Board of Commissioners in April 2019)
- Time-limited for the life of the grant
- Abolished after the end of the grant



More Info

For updates and progress on the grant, visit www.BuncombeCounty.org/SJC









