

# Introduction to Safety + Justice Challenge

## What:

- The Safety and Justice Challenge, supported by the **John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation**, provides support to jurisdictions across the country to **address the drivers of local jail populations**.
- The Challenge Network represents 52 cities and counties, across 30 states. **There are 21 implementation sites, including Buncombe County**, that have received funding to work towards ambitious reform, making local justice systems fairer and more effective.

## How:

- The funding for the Safety and Justice Challenge is part of **a \$148 million national initiative** to reduce over-incarceration by changing the way America thinks about and uses jails.
- In October 2018, **Buncombe County was awarded \$1.75 million** from The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation to implement strategies to reduce jail numbers by addressing the main drivers of Buncombe County's jail population.

# Buncombe County and Safety + Justice Challenge

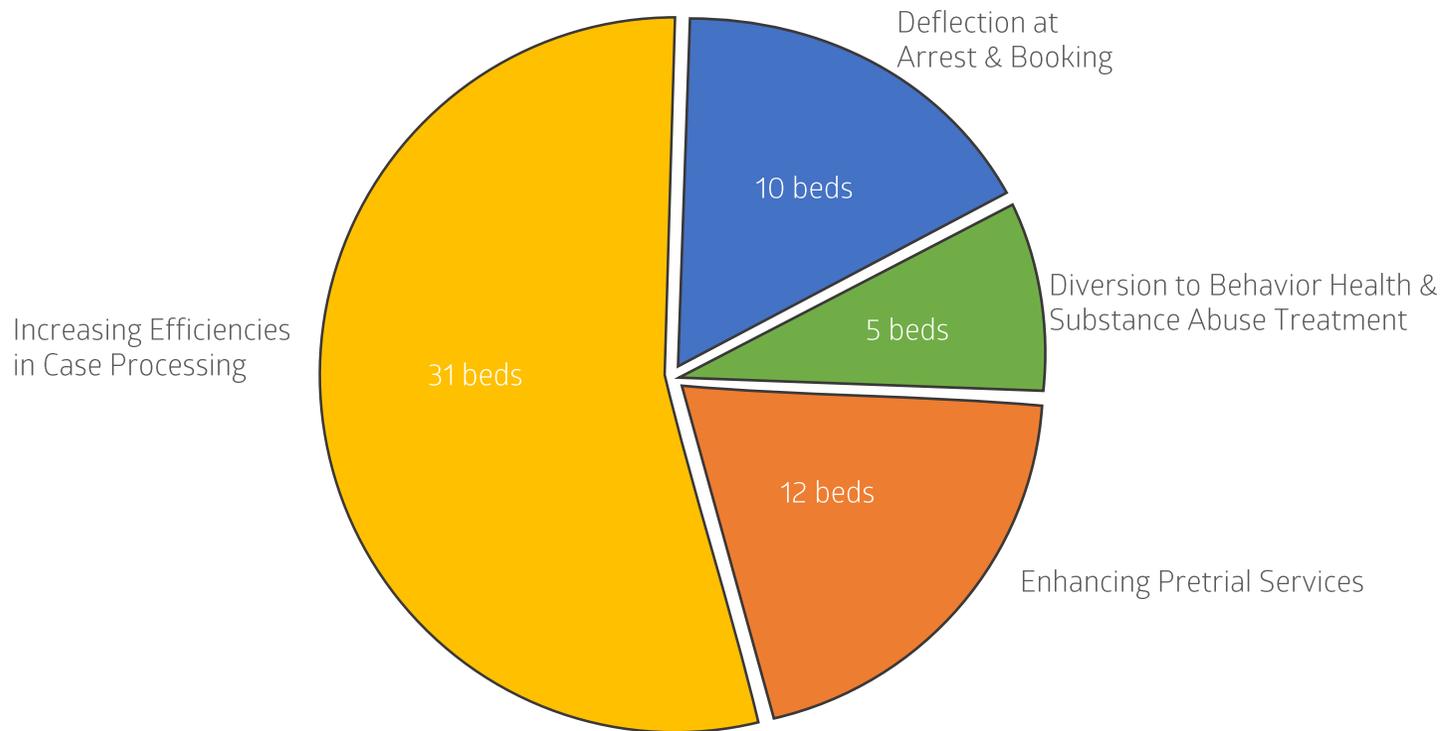
## What:

- The Buncombe County Justice Resource Advisory Council developed a comprehensive plan for local justice system improvement.
- The goal, as part of this grant, is for Buncombe County to **reduce the jail population by 15 percent**, address racial disparities, and increase community engagement from October 2018 to September 2020.
- The top priorities during the life of this grant include increasing the effective use of pretrial release, and decreasing the length of case pendency.

## How:

- There are **7 strategies** with various initiatives that are being implemented in Buncombe County with the partnership of the Justice Resource Advisory Council.
- The first 4 strategies have **bed days** associated with them. A bed day is a performance metric that measures the length of time a bed in the jail is occupied.
- The final 3 strategies are supportive strategies and are incorporated within the first 4 strategies.

# Safety + Justice Challenge Strategies in Buncombe County



**4 of the 7** strategies have **performance metrics** tied to **bed days**

The **sum of beds** in these 4 strategies **equals 58 beds**

This translates to **15% of the jail population\***  
(\*excluding contracted beds)