

Funding Approaches for CJCC Chairpersons & Directors

1

Funding Shifts

As CJCC leaders, you play a pivotal role in ensuring resources are allocated toward programs that deliver measurable outcomes. A data-driven analysis is essential for evaluating existing programs. When evidence indicates a proposed initiative will yield better results than a current program or service, consider recommending a reallocation of funding to support the new initiative. Advances in criminal justice research provide clear distinctions between effective and ineffective programs, offering invaluable guidance for making informed funding shift decisions.

2

Piloting

Implementing a new solution as a pilot project allows CJCCs to test strategies on a smaller scale before making a long-term commitment. Piloting has several advantages: it minimizes initial costs, allows for quicker implementation, and provides flexibility to refine the program as needed. Additionally, pilot projects can be terminated with minimal disruption if they prove unsuccessful. This phased approach provides valuable time to thoroughly assess the costs, benefits, and potential funding sources for full-scale implementation.

3

Savings Reinvestment

Effective collaboration within the CJCC framework often leads to policies, programs, and operations that are more efficient and cost-effective. These changes can result in significant savings—such as fewer arrests, reduced jail populations, decreased case backlogs, or lighter supervision caseloads. These cost savings can be reinvested to sustain pilot projects or fund additional initiatives. Savings may also manifest as cost avoidance, such as deferring expenses for jail expansions or staffing increases. Strategic reinvestment strengthens the CJCC's ability to pursue innovative, impactful reforms.

4

Resource Leveraging

CJCCs have a unique ability to mobilize resources across various sectors, such as behavioral health, housing, medical care, and social services, to support justice initiatives. By fostering partnerships between justice agencies and service providers, CJCCs can improve outcomes for individuals involved in multiple systems while reducing overall costs. Examples include partnering with behavioral health providers to deliver services in jails or engaging housing departments to assist chronically homeless individuals who frequently interact with the justice system. Leveraging these resources aligns with the CJCC's mission to enhance public safety and community well-being.

5

Inter-Local Partnerships

Criminal justice costs and responsibilities are shared across counties, municipalities, and states. CJCCs provide a valuable platform for building alliances with other governmental entities and pooling resources to achieve shared goals. For example, some jurisdictions fund CJCC staff positions through annual contributions from participating member agencies, showcasing the potential for inter-local partnerships to bolster CJCC operations. By collaborating across jurisdictions, CJCCs can strengthen public safety and improve system-wide efficiency.

6

Outside Funding

Securing external funding is another vital strategy for advancing CJCC initiatives. While federal grants and state-distributed technical assistance dollars are less frequent than in the past, opportunities remain for innovative, data-driven projects. Additionally, national and local foundations have increased their support for criminal justice reform, especially for initiatives that are scalable and replicable. Private sector contributions, including from corporations and local businesses, are also becoming more common, particularly for community-enhancing projects like public safety initiatives. Building strong data capabilities within the CJCC enhances competitiveness for these funding sources.

Source: Eberly, Thomas. *County Elected Officials Guide to Criminal Justice Decision Making*. Bureau of Justice Assistance. 2016