



Justice Advisory Council

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A Message from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

The Justice Advisory Council (JAC) has had an impactful and progressive year! Under President Preckwinkle's leadership, our office continued to partner with our criminal justice colleagues on the reform of our system, including implementing strategies to reduce our jail population, critical bail reform in our policies and practices, and expanding community engagement work to support equity and inclusion in our reform efforts.

Contact Us

(312) 603-1133

Email:

JAC.info@cookcountyil.gov

Website:

www.cookcountyil.gov

With a goal to address individual and community violence and the myriad of social ills that face residents across Cook County, the JAC provides a comprehensive plan that includes not only a policy and legislative agenda but also an investment in community based services, particularly in the areas of violence prevention, recidivism reduction and restorative justice. In the Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 and FY2019 Cook County budgets, the JAC was appropriated \$4.08 million for these programs.

In addition to our three traditional grant areas mentioned above, \$670,000 was allocated for employment and training services for emerging adults (young persons aged 18 to 29). An additional \$1 million was awarded to pilot services aimed at supporting returning residents and \$500,000 awarded to a demonstration project focusing on pregnant and postpartum women during the pre-trial stage.

We are also continuing a best practice of issuing our traditional grants on a multi-year cycle, and as a result, new awardees have been awarded funding for 2019 – 2020. This will provide more time for service provisions to have sustainable impact and for programs to track and collect data demonstrating success. Additionally, this practice gives agencies an increased window to build capacity and develop a sustainability plan beyond the funding cycle.

We encourage community-based organizations providing services and supports to residents who are at risk of and/or involved in the juvenile and criminal justice systems to apply for our grants. This newsletter has more details about how to download opportunities including the timeline for each grant. Email JAC.Info@cookcountyil.gov if you would like to be added to our complimentary email list for future notifications and announcements.

Sincerely,

Delrice Adams, M.A.
Executive Director



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Grant Highlights

Congratulations to the 2019 – 2020 JAC Grant Awardees!

The following organizations have been awarded:

2019 – 2020 Violence Prevention, Intervention and Reduction Demonstration Grants

- ▶ Alternative Schools Network
- ▶ Enlace Chicago
- ▶ Northwestside Housing Center
- ▶ OAI, Inc.
- ▶ Precious Blood Ministry of Reconciliation
- ▶ Roseland CeaseFire
- ▶ UCAN
- ▶ Westside Health Authority

2019 – 2020 Recidivism Reduction Demonstration Grants

- ▶ Centers for New Horizons
- ▶ Felix Foundation
- ▶ Growing Home
- ▶ Haymarket Center
- ▶ LAF
- ▶ Respond Now

2019 – 2020 Restorative Justice Demonstration Grants

- ▶ Center for Conflict Resolution
- ▶ Erie Neighborhood House
- ▶ Mikva Challenge
- ▶ P.E.A.C.E. in the South Suburbs
- ▶ The Miracle Center
- ▶ Umoja Student Development

Upcoming Requests for Proposals and Requests for Qualifications

In 2019, the JAC will release several Requests for Proposals (RFP) and Requests for Qualifications (RFQ). The JAC encourages all interested service providers to register and download these solicitations on the Office of the Chief Procurement Officer's website: <http://legacy.cookcountygov.com/purchasing/public/index.php>. Capacity building workshops will begin in late summer and be offered periodically through the fall to assist organizations in creating competitive grant proposals. Organizations can sign up for notifications about these and other events by sending an email to JAC.INFO@cookcountyil.gov to join the JAC's e-mail list.

Employment Services for Emerging Adults RFQ

In early 2019, the JAC will seek experienced providers of employment and training services for emerging adults, including: job readiness training and support services, sector-specific training and support services and job placement and support services, for possible inclusion in its prequalified pool of vendors for employment and training services.

Services for Returning Residents RFQ

In early 2019, the JAC will also seek experienced providers of services for people returning from prisons, jails, and juvenile facilities, including: legal services, housing services, employment services, healthcare support services, general support services and education services, for possible inclusion in its prequalified pool of vendors for services for returning residents.



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Evaluation Services RFQ

In early 2019, the JAC will invite proposals from qualified researchers for possible inclusion in its prequalified pool of vendors for evaluation services. A successful respondent will be contracted to conduct an evaluation of the JAC's grant making process to measure the extent to which the process is aligned with best practices and the extent to which the associated policies, practices and performance indicators are likely to achieve the stated goals under each grant category.

Requests for Proposals

In an effort to streamline its traditional grant making program, the JAC has aligned all of its grant awards with the County Fiscal Year (FY) which runs from December 1 through November 30 of each year. The JAC has transitioned to two-year grant awards, and the most recent grant awards will run from December 1, 2018 through November 30, 2020. The next RFPs for our traditional grants will be released in December 2019, with contracts starting in December 2020 and will include:

Violence Prevention, Intervention, and Reduction Demonstration Grants

The purpose of violence prevention grants is to contribute to positive outcomes for program participants, improve safety in communities across the county and wherever possible reduce the overreliance on jail, detention, and the criminal justice system through one or more of the following objectives:

- ▶ Preventing involvement in violence or criminal activity as either a perpetrator or victim among those who are at risk;
- ▶ Diverting youth or adults from formal system involvement at the pre-arrest, arrest or earliest stage possible; or

- ▶ Reducing the risk of reentry or re-involvement in the criminal justice system.

Recidivism Reduction Demonstration Grants

Proposed projects shall provide services in the targeted areas of health, housing, education and employment for the purposes of reducing recidivism rates within Cook county. The program model may focus on providing street-level diversion from the criminal justice system for individuals at risk of detention.

Restorative Justice Demonstration Grants

The purpose of restorative justice grants is to mitigate harm while balancing the needs of the victim, the offender and the community. This involves incorporating restorative justice principles (accountability, community protection, competency development and relationship building in communities) to improve community safety through one or more of the following objectives:

- ▶ Diverting youth or adults from formal system involvement at the arrest or pre-arrest stages;
- ▶ Reducing the risk of involvement in violence either as a perpetrator or victim;
- ▶ Reducing the reliance on detention and incarceration through the use of alternative community solutions to crime;
- ▶ Reducing the recidivism rates of victims or perpetrators.

Women's Pregnancy and Postpartum Services Demonstration Grants

In early 2019, the JAC will invite proposals from experienced providers to provide services for justice-involved women who are pregnant or post-partum. This will be a one year grant opportunity.



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South Suburban Safe and Thriving Communities Project

The JAC has a grant under the Safe and Thriving Communities: Uniting and Enhancing Community-Based Violence Prevention, Defending Childhood, and National Forum Approaches project from the U.S. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. Through this project, the JAC partners with the Housing Authority of Cook County to reduce violence in the south suburbs. In August, the Housing Authority of Cook County announced the awardees for their services for south suburban youth request for proposals. Adults Active in Youth Development, Ford Heights Community Service Organization, Restoration Ministries, and Youth Guidance received awards to provide services to youth in Ford Heights, Harvey, and Robbins. Congratulations to the awardees!

Legislative Update

Youth Opportunity and Fairness Act

In 2017, the Justice Advisory Council and other juvenile justice advocates successfully worked to pass the Youth Opportunity and Fairness Act, which greatly expanded access to automatic expungement for some juvenile offenses and improved the confidentiality rules related to those records so they could not jeopardize a young person's future education and career opportunities. Since the passage of that bill, law enforcement raised a number of concerns with how these fairly large changes were to be introduced. The JAC, again as part of a coalition, worked with representatives of law enforcement to address their logistical

concerns while not altering the substance and benefits of the law in a bill that was passed this fall in Springfield (Senate Bill 1993). This collaborative negotiation marks a great achievement in fighting for and expanding juvenile justice in a way that incorporates all voices so that those changes can be long lasting.

Upcoming Branch Courthouse Closings

On January 4, 2019, two branch courthouses located at 2452 W. Belmont Ave. (Courtrooms 29 and 42) and 155 W. 51st St. (Courtrooms 34 and 48), will be closing. Their cases will be transferred to other locations starting on January 7, 2019. The Justice Advisory Council is working alongside other Offices Under the President of the Cook County Board and the other elected County Officials to create a communications and outreach plan to help ensure that these changes will not negatively affect access to justice for Cook County residents. In advance of the closure, all individuals with cases that will be moved will have notifications sent to them via the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County, as well as notifications in court and on their court orders. In the event that an individual still appears at a closed courthouse, the individual will find signs with hotline numbers they can call to learn the correct location of their court case and to contact either the Public Defender's Office or State's Attorney's Office to notify them of their delay.



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Meet the JAC Team

Delrice Adams is the Executive Director of the JAC, leading the team since May 2018. Previous to joining the county, Delrice worked for the Chicago Department of Public Health Office of Violence Prevention and Behavioral Health. As an Administrator with Public Health, she oversaw the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) portfolio of violence prevention initiatives for the office and coordinated multiple community partners and violence prevention stakeholders around collective impact goals. Delrice holds a master's degree in Social Service Administration from the University of Chicago. As the Executive Director, she is responsible for overseeing the public safety agenda for Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle.

Ali Abid is the Program Coordinator for the Cook County Justice Advisory Council. Before joining the JAC, Ali was the Senior Criminal Justice Policy Analyst for Chicago Appleseed Fund for Justice and a George N. Leighton Fellow for the Study of Prisoners' Rights. Ali has taught and published on topics related to mass incarceration and race, prisoners' rights, and restorative justice. Ali is a graduate of the John Marshall Law School. As the Program Coordinator, Ali participates in public safety reform initiatives including legislation at both the state and county levels and administrative reforms among the Cook County stakeholders. Additionally, Ali serves on the Evaluation Committee for the JAC's violence prevention grants.

Kim Davis-Ambrose is the Community Engagement Coordinator. She has worked in several inner-city communities as a Transitional Advisory Council Facilitator, Community and Parent Coordinator for Chicago Public schools

and as a Program Coordinator for the Chicago Housing Authority. Most recently she has utilized her talent as a Restorative Justice Facilitator, Community Outreach Specialist, and Resource Coordinator for SGA Youth and Family Services. Kim received her Bachelor of Science from Northeastern Illinois University and is a 2019 candidate for her MSW at Chicago State University.

LaToscha Hoover performs grant management duties, oversees compliance, and develops strategies to provide for a more successful grant tracking process for the federal, state and county grants within the JAC portfolio. LaToscha's previous experience includes her role as a Project Manager for a non-for-profit social services agency on the westside of Chicago managing the agency's workforce development program, as well as being employed by Charter Schools USA as the Regional Director of Grants Compliance, where she oversaw the local, state and federal rules and regulatory laws for all educational grants in the Midwest region, totaling more than \$50 million.

Rebecca Janowitz joined the staff of (then) Fourth Ward Alderman Toni Preckwinkle after practicing law in the private sector for almost two decades. She subsequently worked for the Chicago Public Schools and the Cook County Sheriff's Office, before joining the JAC. Her work at the JAC includes program development, grant making, and policy analysis. She holds a BA in History from the University of Sussex, a JD from Loyola Law School, Chicago, and a Master's in Public Policy from the University of Chicago's Harris School.



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Evelyn Sanchez is the International Innovations Corps – UChicago Fellow. Evelyn graduated with a Master's in Public Policy from the University of Chicago in 2018. Before moving to Chicago, she worked on international development issues in Mexico City. Currently, she collaborates with JAC on projects focused on facilitating data reporting and improving resource allocation.

Wynetta Scales is the Executive Assistant supporting the Executive Director. Mrs. Scales was previously employed by the Chicago Public Schools for more than 10 years with experience in managing contracts, accounts payable, payroll and budget. Mrs. Scales holds a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration with a

concentration in Management, and maintains the financials of the grants and personnel of the office.

Nicole Seaton is the Grants Coordinator at the JAC. Prior to this position, she spent 15 years as a grant writer and program coordinator for organizations in Illinois and the Cheyenne River Lakota Nation in South Dakota. She holds a Master of Arts in Sociocultural Anthropology from Arizona State University, where she partnered with tribes to conduct fieldwork with rural, Native American gangs. As the Grants Coordinator, Nicole is responsible for the development of grant processes and policies as well as the supervising the activities and performance of JAC grants management staff.

Safety and Justice Challenge

Cook County has been participating as a site in the Safety and Justice Challenge (SJC) since May 2015. The Safety and Justice Challenge is a national initiative funded by the MacArthur Foundation to provide support to local leaders to address the misuse and overuse of jails in their jurisdiction through strategies that safely reduce jail populations and eliminate ineffective, inefficient, and unfair practices that take a heavy toll on people of color, low-income communities, and people with mental health and substance use issues.

Cook County is implementing four key strategies as part of the SJC Initiative, including a court reminder system, comprehensive bond reform, diversion and community engagement. The JAC is leading the community engagement strategy, which involves a multi-agency, coordinated effort seeking diverse community input and inclusion.

See the attached flyer for more information on the SJC Initiative. To learn how you can be involved, please contact Kim Davis-Ambrose, SJC Community Engagement Coordinator at Kim.DavisAmbrose@cookcountyil.gov or (312) 603-1139.

The Justice Advisory Council newsletter is a platform to communicate and disseminate information to Cook County residents demonstrating the efforts being made to reduce the overreliance on incarceration for adolescents and adults.



Learn how COOK COUNTY is RETHINKING JAIL



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

Treatment As An Alternative To Jail

People who need mental health or substance use support can get treatment in place of arrest, when appropriate, through Community Triage Centers and Mobile Crisis Teams.

For Mobile Crisis Support in North Lawndale, West & East Garfield Park, and Austin, call:

(833) 413-HELP (4357)

For more information about Community Triage Centers, call:

(773) 745-2620 (West Side)

(773) 291-2500 (South Side)

In emergency situations call **911**

Changing Our Bail System

Under new reforms, unless a person is considered a threat to public safety or risk for failure to appear in court, bail must be set in an amount a person can afford.

Court Date Reminder System

Many people have a warrant issued for arrest because they fail to appear for court. Help you or your loved ones remember a court date by signing up for voice and text reminders at:

<https://courtreceiver.cookcountyil.gov>

Community Engagement

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Find information about how you can add your voice to the conversations around criminal justice reform at:

sj.challenge@cookcountyil.gov

[http://www.cookcountycourt.org/
HOME/SJC.aspx](http://www.cookcountycourt.org/HOME/SJC.aspx)

The **Safety and Justice Challenge (SJC)** is a national initiative supported by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation to safely reduce the overuse of jails. Since joining the initiative in 2015, the number of people in jail in **Cook County** has declined by over **25% (or 2,000 people)**.