# COOK COUNTY JUSTICE ADVISORY COUNCIL



2023 HIGHLIGHTS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS



#### **OUR MISSION**

To promote equitable, human-centered, community-driven justice system innovation and practice through rigorous stakeholder engagement, policy work, service coordination, and grantmaking that increases community safety and reduces reliance on incarceration.

Capacity Building Domestic Violence Intervention & Support for Survivors Justice Reform Evidence Informed + Community Affirmed Racial COOK COUNTY Justice Reinvestment Equity Cohort JUSTICE ADVISORY COUNCIL Gun Violence Prevention Reconnect Community Supporting Successful Reentry Engagement Safe + Thriving Equity in Grantmaking Communities



#### **GROWTH & STRATEGIC PLANNING**

Since 2021, JAC staff has grown from 5 to over 20. New staff have joined the grants team to support the increase in federal and county level investments managed by the JAC. Positions have been added to allow for an increased focus on reentry, data and research, and legislative and policy efforts.

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# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Launched Cook County's first Racial Equity Cohort. This yearlong fellowship program centers justice system impacted community members and includes co-learning with justice system stakeholders.
- Facilitated and grew the Safety & Justice Challenge Community Engagement Committee.



# POLICY WORK

- Supported Cook County's collaborative implementation of reforms required by the Illinois Pretrial Fairness Act.
- Advocated for bill that sustained and expanded the Fist Time Weapon Offense Program that allows people with a first time, non-violent gun possession case, to participate in a probation program instead of serving harmful, mandatory prison time.



### **GRANTS & INVESTMENTS**

- Made additional awards under the Cook County Gun Violence Prevention & Reduction Grant initiative which is providing \$110 million to community-based organizations in Cook County.
- Awarded nearly \$5 million in grants under the Domestic Violence Intervention & Support Serices initiative.
- Awarded \$5 million in Cook County Starting Block Grants, for small community-based organizations to focus on capacity building, growth and sustainability.



## **REENTRY SERVICES**

- Launched Cook County Reconnect, a new reentry initiative that provides rental assistance and wraparound services to returning residents.
- Added new housing providers under the No Place to Stay program which provides supportive housing for individuals on pretrial electronic monitoring.



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