

Cook County Justice Advisory Council



Advisory Board Meeting
Sept 8, 2023

Justice Advisory Council



Mission:

To promote equitable, human-centered, community-driven justice system innovation and practice through...



Investing, Engaging
and Advocating for



To increase community safety and
decrease involvement in /reliance
on the criminal legal system

Operations & Staffing

- Reentry: Welcome Nicole Munoz, Re-Entry Service Manager and Kornelia Fudala as Re-Entry Service Specialist.
- Policy: Welcome Kayla Posley and Kathryn Culleeny - Policy Analysts supports our policy operations.
- JAC staff is now at 20. This represents significant growth and we plan for some continued growth over the next year.

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Policy

Advancing JAC priorities, legislation and administrative reforms in Cook County informed by best practices, national trends, innovations, and information gleaned from the tables at which we sit.

ARPA Initiatives

- Cook County Reconnect: Rental Assistance & Services for Returning Residents
- Domestic Violence Intervention and Support Services
- Justice Reinvestment Initiative

Working Groups & Networks

- Mayoral Community Safety Strategy
- Working groups for the Cook County Policy Roadmap: Safe & Thriving, Healthy, Vital
- Free2Move Coalition
- Electronic Monitoring
- Illinois Reentry Council + 6 subgroups

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Legislative Affairs

- Pretrial Fairness Act Implementation
- Signing of FTWOP into law + early success stories
- Legislator Briefings
- Legislative Agenda
 - Juvenile Court Act
 - Price of commissary items
- County Budget: analyzing public safety budgets and preparing for ways to engage the public and identifying opportunities for public comment

DISCRETIONARY PROBATION FOR FIRST-TIME, NON-VIOLENT GUN POSSESSION

Expanding on a successful program that has reduced nonviolent admissions to the Illinois Department of Corrections while retaining prosecutorial and judicial discretion.

What this bill does:

- › Removes the sunset date, allowing this successful Program to continue indefinitely.
- › Allows people age 21 and older to participate in the Program if they meet certain criteria.
- › Condenses the Program period into 6-18 months, providing a wider range of options for sentencing.

What this bill doesn't do:

- › FORCE any county, prosecutor, or judge to sentence someone to probation instead of prison. The program can be used only with consent of the prosecution and approval of the judge.
- › CHANGE any other criteria for Program eligibility. People who have past convictions or adjudications for violent offenses or current allegations of violence or Orders of Protection are not eligible.
- › PREVENT anyone from being sentenced to prison if they violate Program terms.

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COOK COUNTY STARTING BLOCK GRANTS



Building Capacity, Supporting Growth

Grants & Investments

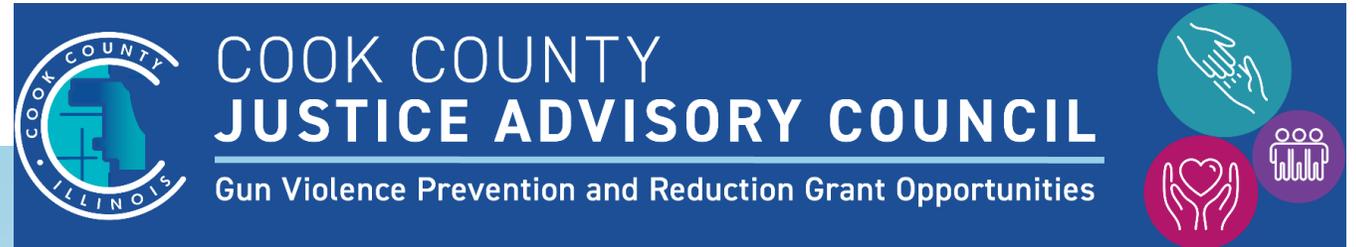
Cook County Starting Block Grants

- A capacity building grant opportunity for small, non-profit organizations to focus on strengthening how they run (ex. strategic planning, leadership development, improving accounting , data management etc.)
- Open to non-profit organizations with annual operating budgets at or under \$1 million. Can serve the community in a variety of sectors (arts and culture, economic development, health, violence prevention etc).
- Funded through the JAC and the Cook County Equity Fund, created to address historic and continued disinvestment and inequities in Cook County. Organizations will receive up to \$100,000 in over two years
- 2023 Application period: August 7 - Friday, Sept 8. Up to \$5 million in Starting Block Grants in will be awarded in 2023 with a subsequent grant award cycle planned for 2024.
- The grant period for this first cycle of awards is November 1, 2023 – October 31, 2025.

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Grants & Investments



Gun Violence Prevention & Reduction Grants

- “JAC Community of Care” being launched through a partnership with the University of Chicago Office of Civic Engagement.
- The Community of Care is a space for violence prevention organizations to come together, collaborate, and innovate to help build safer communities in Cook County. Through shared insights, resources, and support including leadership development, we aim to establish trust and strengthen relationships among violence prevention service providers.
- The first convening of the Community of Care is in September, with quarterly events over 14 months. Over 200 representatives from the 150 JAC funded violence prevention service provider organizations are expected to attend.

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Data & Research

- Reporting data/analysis completed for Gun Violence Prevention and Reduction Grant initiative (grant cycles 1 & 2)
 - Slight modifications have been made to the tool (additions of participant zip codes and cumulative numbers of people served)
- Intergovernmental Partnership on Violence Prevention (IGP)
 - Modification of the data tool for the Community Violence Intervention (CVI) organizations
 - Orientation for the tool debuted at the IGP Community of Practice on July 12 with a reorientation for all street outreach agencies on September 15
 - Working closely with IGP stakeholders on the enhancing the performance workgroup
- Collaborating with University of Chicago on evaluation of Cook County Reconnect initiative
- Coordinating with Community Engagement on evaluation

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COOK COUNTY
RECONNECT

Rental Assistance and Services for Returning Residents



Reentry Services

Cook County RECONNECT: Rental Assistance and Services for Returning Residents

- \$23 million ARPA funded Reentry initiative managed by the JAC with partnership from the Housing Authority of Cook County
- Successful pilot phase with soft launch in August
- To date we have one individual housed, 22 individuals prepping for onboarding and orientation and many individuals being referred on a daily basis.
- Referral pathways are parole officers and community based service provider partners. Over 30 community referral partners are participating.

No Place to Stay (NPTS)

- Revising MOU's to add SUD/MH First Aid Training and to standardize practices across all partner agencies/housing providers
- Adding new providers

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Community Engagement

- Community Engagement Committee continues to meet monthly
- Cook County Equity Fund Hearing and Community Townhalls
 - CookCountyIL.gov/service/racial-equity

SJC Racial Equity Cohort

Community Engagement Initiative centering on a cohort of system impacted fellows, working with internal justice system representatives to identify drivers of racial disparities and work towards solutions.

- Equity Cohort is in 3rd quarter
- Cohort fellows and system representatives are receiving equity training focused on anti racism in organizations and other topics
- Moving towards culminating project, shaped and led by the fellows



COOK COUNTY EQUITY FUND HEARING



Join President Toni Preckwinkle and the County team to learn about Cook County's Equity Fund and systems level changes across the county

**THURSDAY
SEPT. 14, 6PM**

**Livestreamed on
facebook.com/PresidentPreckwinkle**



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Communications

Pretrial Fairness Act

- Illinois Justice Project held a media education event on 9/7 modeled after the Cook County Media Summit. Approximately 20 members of the media attended.
- The JAC continues to convene a group of communications staff from Cook County criminal justice offices. Group has been discussing media coverage, preparing joint statements and is preparing for post PFA implementation coverage.

Outreach and communications related to grant opportunities and programs including Cook County Reconnect and Cook County Starting Block Grants.

COOK COUNTY STARTING BLOCK GRANTS

Building Capacity, Supporting Growth



Cook County has a new grant opportunity for small community based non-profit organizations to focus on capacity building and organizational development.

The 2023 grant application period is open
August 7 - September 8

Visit CookCountyIL.gov/JACGrants to learn more.

LETTERS

Letters: Despite Paul Vallas' claims in his op-ed, Cook County courts are ready for the end to cash bail

Chicago Tribune • Published: Aug 02, 2023 at 5:00 am



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