

OVERVIEW

States and communities across the country are preparing for, or already facing, the difficult challenge of addressing COVID-19 in their correctional facilities. In response, corrections agencies nationwide are considering policies to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, including reducing jail and prison populations. The Crime and Justice Institute (CJI) has the expertise to assist local and state jurisdictions in making these challenging and time-sensitive decisions.

CJI CAN PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

- 1. POLICY ANALYSIS & DEVELOPMENT.** CJI can assist in analyzing current policies and, if necessary, developing new or expanded release options that identify and prioritize the release of individuals who pose minimal risk to the community. CJI's policy analysis will include a review of administrative policies, statutes, and court rules to assess current release authority, eligibility criteria, and the decision-making process in each state or local jurisdiction. CJI will then use that information to support the development of targeted and specific options to expand or streamline release decisions that identify and prioritize the safe transition of appropriate individuals to the community.
- 2. DATA ANALYSIS & IMPLEMENTATION PLANNING.** CJI can assist jurisdictions in analyzing their correctional data to identify individuals who meet the designed criteria for release. CJI can also provide guidance on planning for the release of individuals onto community supervision amid the changing COVID-19 environment that is unfamiliar to both those being supervised and those responsible for supervision. This guidance will be driven by CJI's expertise and experience with what works to reduce recidivism.
- 3. DATA TRACKING & OUTCOME MEASUREMENT.** For jurisdictions interested in tracking and examining outcomes of the population released as a result of COVID-driven release decisions, CJI can assist with the development of a plan to track and measure outcomes and can conduct data analysis and assess outcomes. CJI's analysis will include a comparative analysis of similarly situated individuals who were released under normal procedures.
- 4. PREPARING FOR WHAT COMES NEXT.** Corrections agencies around the country have responded to COVID-19 by making urgent decisions and instituting temporary policy and practice changes in institutions and on community supervision. At some point, corrections agencies will need to consider which newly enacted policies and practices to adopt as permanent and which to return to pre-COVID standards. Individuals on community supervision will have lived under very different circumstances during "shelter in place" orders and behavioral expectations may need to be adjusted. As restrictions are lifted, transitioning to pre-COVID expectations will require an adjustment period. CJI can work with jurisdictions to facilitate this transition by preparing a revised supervision planning process and developing a data collection and analysis process.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT: Len Engel, Director of Policy and Campaigns
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The Crime and Justice Institute (CJI) bridges the gap between research and practice with data-driven solutions that drive bold, transformative improvements in criminal and juvenile justice systems.