

## Strategies Page

### **Court Reminder System**

Cook County and the Circuit Court are building an automated telephone court reminder system to remind individuals of their upcoming court appearances. In addition, we will create a website where defendants or interested parties can enroll to receive reminders. This strategy's goal is to reduce failures to appear (FTA) in court and subsequent warrants, and reduce the number of defendants who are held in custody due to warrants for FTA.

### **Comprehensive Bond Review**

The Comprehensive Bond Review (CBR) Pilot is made up of two separate strategies that work together to achieve Cook County's goals of reducing use of pre-trial detention, and addressing ethnic and racial disparities, while maintaining public safety. In the first strategy, the prosecution and defense will work together on misdemeanor cases and determine which ones can be released without payment of money bail. In the second strategy, defendants who are detained on low money bonds will be brought before the Court for a "second look" hearing to determine if they can be safely released. In these ways, we hope to reduce the use of jail for defendants who do not pose a risk of failing to appear in court or a risk to public safety.

### **Emerging Adult Data Collection/Analysis**

Research has shown that cognitive development continues until age 24 and beyond. Young adults pose a unique opportunity and challenge for criminal justice systems. This strategy's goals are to analyze data on justice-involved young adults in Cook County, and analyze local and national programs for them. Data analysis will show us how this population moves through the system from arrest to disposition of a case. The landscape analysis will assist us in identifying possible gaps in policy, practice, or programs that could improve individual outcomes and strengthen public safety.

### **Point of Arrest Diversion**

A Law Enforcement Work Group is exploring the feasibility of pre-booking diversion for low level offenses and persons with behavioral health needs. We are also exploring how to increase law enforcement officers' discretion to respond to certain nonviolent offenses with a citation rather than arrest, thereby deflecting low-level offenders from jail.

### **Enhanced Pretrial/Probation**

The strategy's purpose is to enhance pretrial supervision of felony defendants in the community with increased staffing and training, and implement a risk assessment for misdemeanor defendants.



### **Working with the Cook County Health and Hospitals System**

In this strategy, the Cook County Health and Hospitals System (CCHHS) will train frontline criminal justice staff to improve services for justice involved persons. Staff to be trained will include pretrial officers, probation officers, assistant public defenders, and assistant state's attorneys working in diversion programs. We will also link justice involved persons with CCHHS Care Coordinators who will assist them to obtain medical, mental health, and substance abuse treatment. This goal of this strategy is to link people involved in the criminal justice system to health and other services, to provide the support needed to help them not return to the criminal justice system.

### **Implicit Bias Training**

The purpose of implicit bias training is to educate people about the unconscious biases in their decision making, and how to reduce this bias. We are providing implicit bias training to criminal justice system staff so that we can start to tackle the racial and ethnic disparities that are present in our criminal justice system.