

How Cities Contribute Toward Reducing Jail Numbers

Issue:

Cities rarely in the lead on efforts to reduce the use of jails despite having opportunities to contribute.

Opportunity:

Strong starting points for cities to contribute to jail use reduction goals include

- public-facing support from elected city leaders,
- police departments or municipal courts implementing diversion, and
- collaboration with counties.

Emerging Examples of City Led Early Diversion from Jail			
<i>Types of Pre-arrest Diversion</i>	Who diverts	Eligible offenses	Diversion to what
Birmingham, Alabama	Police, Sheriff or City Attorney (prosecutor for Municipal Court)	Disturbing the peace-type offenses	Community-led restorative justice
Gainesville, Florida	Police	Misdemeanors	County and other community services
Madison, Wisconsin	Police	Disorderly conduct (non-domestic violence)	Restorative court and other services
Savannah, Georgia	Police	Property/quality of life charges	Case management, services, no charge
St. Louis, Missouri	State Court through Police	Felonies at discretion of court	Court summons without pretrial detention