

Innovation Fund: Guidance Regarding Potential Implementation Site Funding

This brief memo elaborates upon Urban's February 5 email correspondence to Innovation Fund sites regarding the opportunity to become implementation sites. To further its commitment to local criminal justice reform, the MacArthur Foundation will be investing in a cohort of new Implementation sites with funding of up to \$1 million per year over two years. Selected Innovation sites will be invited to apply for implementation funding. As stated in that email, jurisdictions seeking implementation funding must commit to strategies that will significantly reduce their jail populations by 2020. Below, you will find details of the process and the timeline.

Is implementation funding right for my community?

- Do we have commitments from the necessary leaders to substantially change the way jail is used in our community?
- Can we produce a case-level data extract to determine jail population drivers? (See Step 3 below)
- Are we comfortable accepting recommended strategies from JFA that may not align with our Innovation Fund or other reform priorities?
- Are we ready to hit the ground running on jail population reduction strategies? *You will be subject to a high level of scrutiny, visibility, and accountability. There will be an expectation that you deliver on proposed outcomes for jail reduction.*

Please note that there is no expectation that your jurisdiction pursue SJC implementation funding, and you should consider whether this opportunity and timing are right for your community. Please inform your Urban TA lead whether you are interested in being considered at your earliest convenience, and not later than **February 26**

What is the process?

Step 1: Readiness Assessment

Per the Foundation's request, Urban will provide MacArthur with an assessment of each site's Innovation Fund implementation performance, as well as insights regarding each site's capacity for broader justice system reform and commitment across the necessary partners to undertake bold and ambitious efforts to reduce jail use and populations. The assessment will focus on sites':

- Performance in the Innovation Fund
- Capacity for broader system reform
- Commitment for broader system reform

We recognize there may be efforts past and present in your jurisdiction that demonstrate capacity and commitment to system reform that we may not be aware of due to the targeted focus of the Innovation Fund. We welcome you to submit to your TA lead up to 5 documents substantiating these efforts to us for consideration and incorporation into the readiness assessment, along with a one-page summary document describing the documents and why they were selected. Supporting examples could include reports, policies, and procedures, committee charters, and data analysis. These documents do not need to be specifically



related to jail population reduction, and can be efforts in other justice reform areas that indicate relevant capacity or commitment. Please note that these documents will be used internally to inform our readiness assessment, and not shared with the Foundation.

Urban is asking sites that wish to do so to supply the additional documentation described above regarding capacity for and commitment to broader system reform by **February 26**.

Step 2: Invitation to apply for implementation funding

Informed by the readiness assessments, the Foundation will invite a select group of current Innovation Fund sites to engage in the implementation funding application process.

Step 3: Jail population driver analysis

Invited jurisdictions will be expected to provide a case-level data extract for analysis by the JFA Institute to identify key jail population drivers. This extract will include data on the population currently in your jail, in a snapshot form, and data on 12 months of releases from your jail. See attachment A for more detail on the data elements that would be requested at this stage.

JFA will provide a written summary of your key jail population drivers to provide guidance in the development of strategies to significantly reduce your jail population. Your application will be expected to address the identified drivers.

Step 4: Prepare and submit application

Applications will be due in early June of 2018, and we anticipate final funding decisions in September of 2018