



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: JULY 9, 2018

Alameda County and the City of Oakland participate in national convening to discuss young adults in the justice system

San Francisco – As a part of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation’s Safety and Justice Challenge, leadership from **Alameda County and the City of Oakland** participated in a convening in San Francisco bringing together nearly 50 state and local officials and 10 national experts to discuss policy reform for young adults in the justice system. They were joined by teams from Albuquerque and Bernalillo County, N.M.; Bellingham and Whatcom County, Wash.; Indianapolis and Marion County, Ind.; Kalamazoo and Kalamazoo County, Mich.; and Overland Park and Johnson County, Kan.

During the convening, local county and city leaders worked with state legislators to develop an action plan to address the needs of young adults in their communities to avoid justice system contact. Leaders had the opportunity to learn from national experts and other city, county and state officials on topics including racial and ethnic disparities, data sharing and integration, diversion and early intervention and reintegration tactics for justice-involved young adult populations. Leaders also had the opportunity to exchange ideas within peer groups.

Chief Probation Officer, Wendy Still, said of her time at the Academy – “the greatest part of being able to participate in the Academy with our partners at the City of Oakland was the opportunity to collaborate with experts in cutting edge research on effective strategies for young adults in the justice system. We learned about innovative programs that have been designed and were able to work with our city partners to strengthen our collaboration and expand our knowledge. We have already begun utilizing our key learnings to expand diversion opportunities for young adults and develop innovative programs to reduce violence, incarceration and victimization among this population that will ultimately result in a safer community overall.”

The convening kicked off the Intergovernmental Policy Academy: Young Adults and the Justice System. As strategic allies in the Safety and Justice Challenge, the National Association of Counties (NACo), the National League of Cities (NLC) and the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) will support these teams of city, county and state leaders to align local and state policies toward reducing the use of jails for young adults. In addition, all teams will work to improve information and data-sharing policies and practices across jurisdictions. The Academy is a year-long program that includes the initial intergovernmental convening, technical assistance and a follow up convening in 2019.

Over the next year, **Alameda County and the City of Oakland** plan to work collaboratively on achieving the following goals through this initiative:

1. Aligning policies across all levels of government that reduce the prevalence of young adults in jail;
2. Develop and sustainably fund a robust continuum of evidence-based, community treatment services as alternatives to jail; and
3. Strengthen diversion at early intercept points and implement validated risk and needs assessments.

About the Safety and Justice Challenge:

The Safety and Justice Challenge is providing support to local leaders from across the country who are determined to tackle one of the greatest drivers of over-incarceration in America—the misuse and overuse of jails. With an initial five-year, \$100 million investment by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, jurisdictions selected through a competitive process receive financial and technical support in their efforts to rethink justice systems and implement data-driven strategies to safely reduce jail populations. The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation’s Safety and Justice Challenge recognizes that there are better, fairer, and more effective alternatives to excessive jail incarceration.

###