

## **LUCAS COUNTY**

### **2018 Safety and Justice Challenge Fact Sheet**

#### ***We've got a problem to fix:***

- The Lucas County Corrections Center has struggled with overcrowding for decades. Those held in the jail on three common low-level misdemeanor charges represent the largest volume of all jail bookings. African Americans comprise 57% of individuals held on these three offenses. Additionally, 57% of those released from the Lucas County Corrections Center have behavioral health needs. An appropriate law enforcement alternative for deflecting people with behavioral health needs from the jail is lacking.
- Of those awaiting trial in jail, 12.5% are recommended for release but held by judicial decision.
- Average length of stay for those in the jail is increased by prolonged case processing durations, with particularly adverse impacts on those with behavioral health needs.
- African Americans represent 19.5% of the County's general population, however make up 58% of custodial arrests over a five-year period (2010-2014). African Americans are also underrepresented in diversion opportunities for the same period.
- Probation violations make up 32% of the sentenced population in jail in Lucas County. This population is adversely impacted by a lack of coordinated policies and practices among the five independent adult probation authorities in Lucas County, and the duplicative and/or conflicting standards that increase the likelihood of probation violations.

#### ***There are proposed solutions to create a fairer, more effective local justice system:***

- Lucas County is addressing the overuse of jails through five strategies, building on previous reform efforts with an additional \$1.65 million grant from the MacArthur Safety and Justice Challenge, bringing the Foundation's total investment in Lucas County to \$3.5 million to date.
- Law enforcement officers will be provided with an alternative to booking for individuals facing non-violent misdemeanor charges as well as those with mental health and/or substance use disorders. Law enforcement receives ongoing training on topics including crisis intervention, implicit bias, and procedural justice, among others. Use of all-purpose citations will be expanded for non-violent, non-victim low-level felonies suitable for a summons in lieu of arrest.
- Validated risk assessment tools will continue to inform judges' decisions to release appropriate pretrial defendants on electronic monitoring units, and indicate eligibility for administrative release for individuals sentenced to jail. Additional staff will ensure risk assessments are conducted across all courts, and tablets will improve access to risk scores in courtrooms.
- A Population Review Team continues to conduct weekly case-by-case reviews of the pretrial population to identify individuals who may be appropriate for release or expedited case resolution. Those with mental health, housing and/or substance use needs facing felony charges are identified and connected to services.
- Diversion expansion and ongoing procedural justice training will continue to reduce jail utilization for nonviolent misdemeanor offenses and address the underrepresentation of African Americans in diversion programs.
- Ongoing coordination of probation practices will reduce violations resulting in incarceration. Initiatives include county-wide information sharing, utilization of evidence-based practices, use of validated risk assessment tools, establishing common quality assurance practices, and creating peer support services.

#### ***Who is helping to affect change?***

- Lucas County's reform efforts are being led by the Lucas County Commissioners with support from a broad network of stakeholders, including the County Sheriff, Chiefs of Police, County and Municipal Court Judges, County and Municipal Prosecutors, County Public Defenders, the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, the



Supported by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

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Community Corrections Planning Board, the Mental Health and Recovery Services Board, and various community leaders.

