



Safety + Justice Challenge Grant Overview and Renewal Update

Presented by

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Presentation Agenda



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

- Overview and Background of the Safety and Justice Challenge
- SJC Challenge Strategies for 2018-2020
- SJC Challenge Progress
- SJC Challenge Strategies for 2021-2023
- Recommended Motion & Requested Action





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

A \$246 million national initiative to reduce over-incarceration and advance racial equity in local criminal justice systems by changing the way America thinks about and uses jails.

The grant brings the Foundation's total investment in Buncombe County to \$3.55 million to date.

There are 21 implementation sites nationwide, including Buncombe County, implementing reforms to make their local justice system more equitable and more effective.

Buncombe County has surpassed the original SJC goal to reduce the jail population by 15% with the average monthly population declining by 30% between February 2019 and January 2021.



BUNCOMBE COUNTY



Timeline + Progress of Work

SJC Innovation Site
November 2016 to April 2018

Infrastructure Development
November 2018 to April 2019

Implementation
September 2019 to Present

SJC Implementation Award
October 2018 to March 2021

Planning + Logistics
May 2019 to August 2019

Grant Renewal
Proposed:
April 2021 – March 2023



Current SJC Positions

County Positions

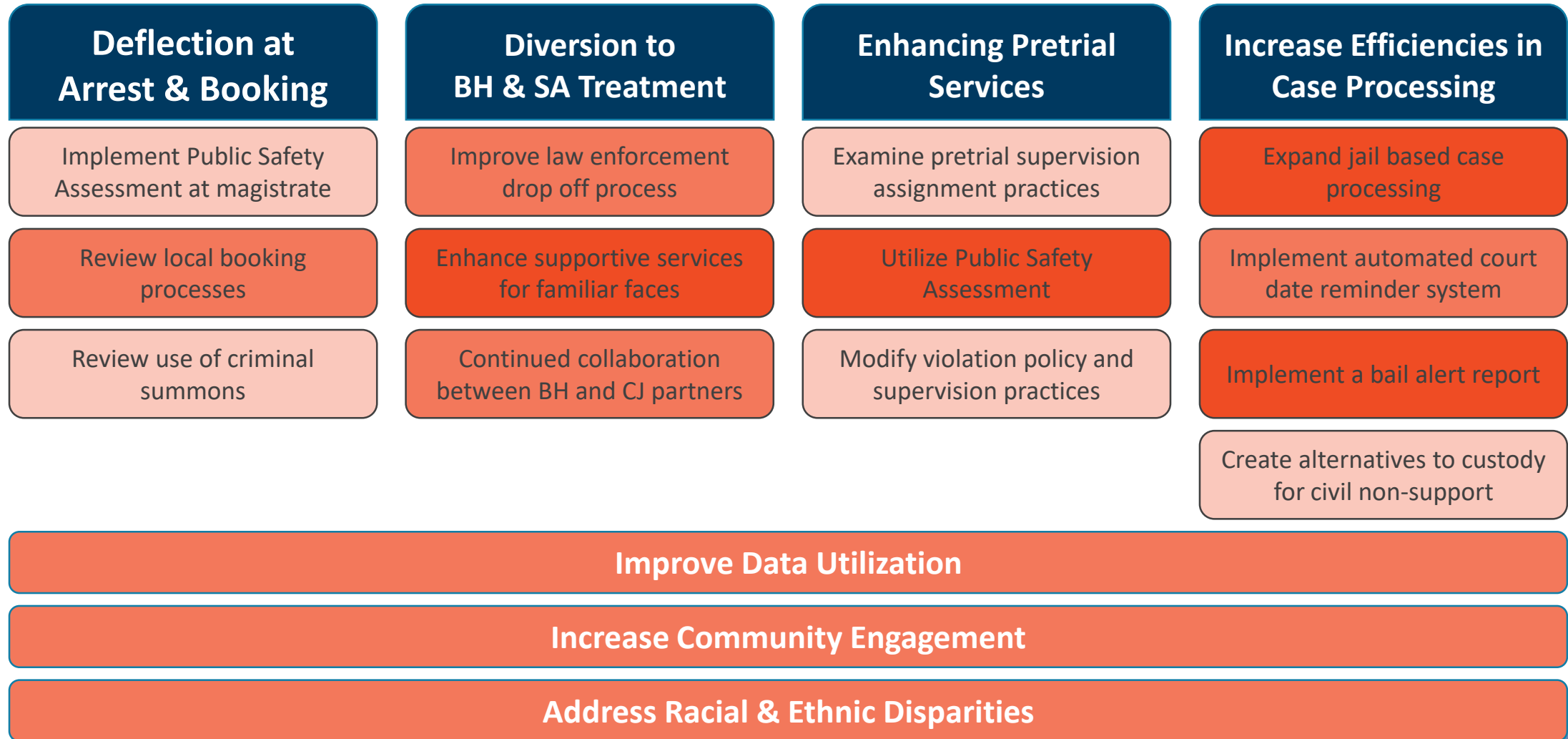
- 5 FT and 2 PT Pretrial Screeners
- 1 Grant Manager
- 1 Management Analyst

Contracted Positions

- 1 Assistant Public Defender
- 1 Assistant District Attorney
- 1 Jail Re-entry Diversion Case Manager

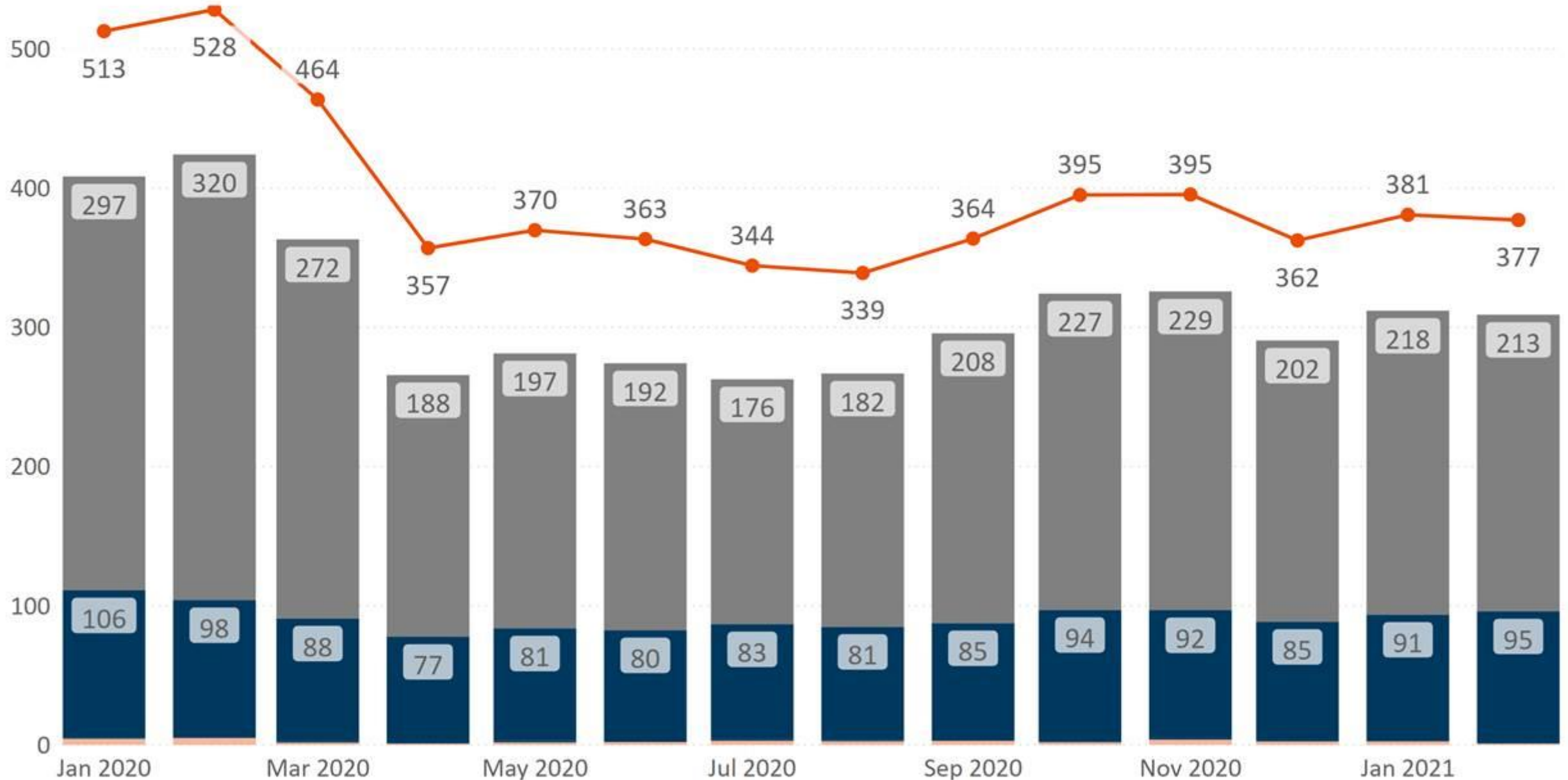


2018-2020 SJC Strategies & Activities



SJC Average Daily Population by Race and Average Daily Population

Race Description ● AMERICAN INDIAN / ALASKAN NATIVE ● ASIAN / PACIFIC ISLANDER/ ● BLACK ● WHITE ● Average Daily Population



SJC Key Outcomes 2018-2021

- **Safely reduce the jail population:**
 - Original goal of 15% reduction (target of 327).
 - Lowest point in July, when ADP reached 262 (a 42% decrease).
 - Current ADP hovering around this level (1/25/21 ADP was 330).
- **Not seeing related increases in crime:**
 - Total incidents reported from Mar-Aug 2020 was 5.6% less than in 2019
 - Lower recidivism rates for those released: 14% of those released on own recognizance/unsecured bonds between Mar-Jun 2020 returned to custody in 2 months, compared to 17% prior to COVID.



SJC Outcomes 2018-2021

- **Racial Equity**

- Racial Equity Tool
- JRAC and County Leadership's Declaration of [Racism as a Public Safety Crisis](#)
- Education & training

- **Community Engagement**

- 9 events, 500+ participants
- Virtual town hall on justice in time of COVID with over 4,250 views

- **Community Safety & Violence Prevention**

- SPARC, Umoja, My Daddy Taught Me That and the Racial Justice Coalition



SJC Goals 2021-2023

- **Awarded \$1.75 Million**
 - Sustaining Jail Population Reductions
 - Reducing Racial & Ethnic Disparities
 - Building Community Engagement and Trust



2021-2023 SJC Renewal Stakeholder Engagement

Collected 100+ ideas	Survey	JRAC Work Sessions	Community Input	Alignment w/SJC Goals
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community listening sessions Existing SJC workgroups Renewal workgroup Interviews with JRAC members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Surveyed JRAC and SJC workgroup members to prioritize strategies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> JRAC work sessions to discuss top strategies and confirm support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Engagement Workgroup phone calls and survey 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conferred w/Vera (site coordinator) + MacArthur



2021-2023 SJC Renewal Strategies

Enhancing Pretrial Release Strategies

- Implement PSA at magistrates
- Maintain use of non-financial release conditions at the levels seen during COVID
- Increase pre-arrest and jail diversion strategies

Increasing Efficiencies in Case Processing

- Continue Jail Review Team
- Increase use of court notification system
- Increase early access to defense counsel

Advancing Racial Equity

- Hire Racial Equity Consultant
- Use Racial Equity Tool
- Ongoing education and training
- Partner with community to identify root causes driving increasing racial inequities and co-design solutions

Increasing Community Engagement

- Increase understanding of justice system
- Partner with community to identify root causes and develop interventions to address drivers of incarceration, including FTAs and violence
- Support establishment of Drivers' License Restoration Initiative

Advancing Community Safety and Violence Prevention

- Partner with community organizations to address community safety
- Develop Strategic Plan with justice stakeholders



SJC Renewal Positions

County Positions

- 5 FT and 2 PT Pretrial Screeners (1 year)
- 1 Grant Manager
- 1 Management Analyst
- 1 Equity Consultant
 - (new)

Contracted Positions

- 1 Assistant Public Defender
- 1 Assistant District Attorney
- 1 Jail Re-entry Diversion Case Manager



Recommended Motion & Requested Action

- 1) Accept grant
- 2) Approve related budget amendment
- 3) Approve one (1) new and extend nine (9) grant-funded positions, as long as grant funding available.



Questions?

