

# What is the Safety & Justice Challenge?

In April 2016, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation's Safety and Justice Challenge awarded Pima County a two-year, \$1.5 million grant to fund strategies and programs designed to safely reduce the jail population.

Pima County intends to address the main reasons for the jail population, which include warrants for failure to appear on prior misdemeanor charges and arrests for low-level nonviolent offenses related to mental illness and substance abuse.

In doing so, the County intends to implement a number of innovative and common sense strategies. These include expanded risk screening for all misdemeanor defendants in order to increase post-booking releases from jail; additional substance abuse and mental health screening before initial court appearances to provide judges safe options for release to treatment instead of jail; enhanced automated call, text and email court-date reminders to reduce failure to appear rates; weekend court sessions to resolve warrants for failure to appear; and home detention alternatives made possible through electronic monitoring technology.

## Key facts

**\$66 million**

annual jail expenses

**2,377**

max capacity of Pima County Adult Detention Center

**2,136**

average daily population at Pima County Adult Detention Center in 2014

**381**

planned reduction in daily jail population

**\$2.25 million**

potential annual savings on jail costs

**\$279**

cost to process an inmate into jail

**\$85**

average daily cost per jail inmate after the first day

**80**

average percentage of jail inmates in pretrial status

**216,477**

number of bed days used in 2014 by individuals detained primarily for failure to appear in court (represents more than half of jail use for pretrial detention)

**60**

percent of jail inmates typically are included on the jail's behavioral health caseload



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

