

**MILWAUKEE COUNTY AWARDED CAPSTONE GRANT BY  
MACARTHUR FOUNDATION SAFETY AND JUSTICE CHALLENGE**

**Funding Will Support Ongoing Racial Equity, Community Engagement, and  
Data Initiatives at the Local Level**

**MILWAUKEE, WI – February 8, 2023** – The Milwaukee Community Justice Council (CJC) is the recipient of a three-year, \$570,000 capstone grant from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. The grant marks a total of \$6.21 million invested in Milwaukee County as part of the [Safety and Justice Challenge](#) (SJC), a \$323 million national initiative to eliminate unnecessary jail use and racial inequities in local criminal justice systems.

Since being selected to join the SJC Network in 2016, the CJC has convened stakeholders to monitor jail trends and streamline case movement through the criminal legal system; expanded the continuum of care for system-involved persons with behavioral health needs; hired analysts to better utilize data for policymaking; added capacity for diversion and deferred prosecution agreements; launched a court reminder program; supported racial equity conferences; hosted reentry resource fairs; released community subgrants; and held a community dialogue series.

“The CJC is grateful for this capstone award and the continued partnership with MacArthur Foundation,” said Erin Perkins, CJC Safety and Justice Challenge Project Manager. “Local SJC partners are proud of our accomplishments over the last several years and have made great strides in shifting SJC-supported personnel and activities onto other resources, so they will continue beyond the life of the grant.”

Looking to the future, the CJC will leverage capstone funding to further support racial equity efforts, facilitate community engagement, complete strategic planning, sustain data capacity, and memorialize SJC work to date.

“Since 2007, the CJC has brought community and system partners to the table as we rethink criminal justice in Milwaukee,” said County Executive David Crowley. “Through its Safety and Justice Challenge, MacArthur Foundation provided a critical opportunity to deepen our collaborative work, implement necessary system change, and continually uplift the experience and voices of justice-involved residents. Moving forward, we will sustain our efforts to produce more equitable outcomes for system-impacted individuals and families, all while ensuring that our work is reflective of the community’s needs.”

This round of funding will promote sustainability at the county level of the strategies the CJC developed throughout its SJC participation.

More than seven years since its public launch, the SJC initiative has grown into a collaborative network of 74 sites in 33 states modeling and inspiring reforms to create more fair, just, and equitable local justice systems across the country.

“I am proud to celebrate and reflect on the progress made by the Safety and Justice Challenge cities and counties over the past seven years. This initiative shows that communities can bridge their differences in pursuit of a more equitable and just response to people in conflict with the law,” said Laurie Garduque, MacArthur Foundation’s Director of Criminal Justice. “With innovative and evidence-based solutions now in place, these communities have the framework to sustain their progress and the tools to respond to the challenges that lay ahead.”

A number of organizations will continue to provide technical assistance and counsel to the CJC, Milwaukee County partners, and the other jurisdictions involved in the Safety and Justice Challenge. These include Activating Change, the Alliance for Safety and Justice, the Association of Prosecuting Attorneys, the Brennan Center for Justice, the Center for American Progress, the Council on Criminal Justice, the Council of State Governments Justice Center, the Center for Court Innovation, Everyday Democracy, the Institute for State and Local Governance at the City University of New York, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, JFA Institute, JustLeadershipUSA, Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity, the Leadership Conference Education Fund, the National Association of Counties, the National Center for State Courts, the National Center for Victims of Crime, the National Conference of State Legislatures, the National League of Cities, the National Legal Aid & Defender Association, the Pretrial Justice Institute, Policy Research, Inc., Prison Policy Initiative, R Street Institute, Race Forward, Shriver Center on Poverty Law, The Justice Management Institute, the Vera Institute of Justice, the W. Haywood Burns Institute, Urban Institute, and Bennett Midland.

More information about the work underway in Milwaukee County can be found on [www.Milwaukee.gov/CJC](http://www.Milwaukee.gov/CJC) as well as on [www.SafetyandJusticeChallenge.org](http://www.SafetyandJusticeChallenge.org).

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### **About the MacArthur Foundation**

The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation supports creative people, effective institutions, and influential networks building a more just, verdant, and peaceful world. MacArthur is placing a few big bets that truly significant progress is possible on some of the world's most pressing social challenges, including advancing global climate solutions, decreasing nuclear risk, promoting local justice reform in the U.S., and reducing corruption in Africa's most populous country, Nigeria. In addition to the MacArthur Fellows Program and the global 100&Change competition, the Foundation continues its historic commitments to the role of journalism in a responsive democracy as well as the vitality of our headquarters city, Chicago. More information about the Foundation's criminal justice reform work can be found at [www.macfound.org/criminaljustice](http://www.macfound.org/criminaljustice).

### **About the Milwaukee Community Justice Council**

Created by Milwaukee County Board resolution in 2007, the Milwaukee Community Justice Council is made up of Milwaukee-area criminal justice agencies, local governments, and residents working collaboratively to ensure a fair, efficient, and effective justice system that enhances public safety and quality of life in our community. Though initially created to enhance coordination and collaboration among criminal justice agencies, local leadership included "community justice" in the CJC name to emphasize the importance of including community and community priorities in its work. The Council is committed to fostering opportunities for diverse perspectives to be heard and establishing collaborative, transparent decision-making around criminal justice policy. The Council is governed by an Executive Committee, comprised of the leadership from participating criminal justice organizations. Milwaukee County Circuit Court Chief Judge Mary Triggiano is the current CJC chair. More information on the Council can be found at [Milwaukee.gov/CJC](http://Milwaukee.gov/CJC).

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