

LAKE COUNTY 2022 ANNUAL REPORT



SAFETY+JUSTICE
CHALLENGE

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A MESSAGE FROM **OUR TEAM**



 Lake County, IL

In 2018, Lake County joined the Safety and Justice Challenge to help reduce incarceration rates for individuals with low-risk, non-violent charges, and to address racial and ethnic disparities in the criminal justice system. From that time until now, we have recognized that the reliance on detention in jail disrupts the stability of individuals, their families, and the community at large while also leading to higher re-arrest rates and worse case outcomes with more back-end incarceration. Additionally, Lake County recognizes that it is critical to meet people's behavioral health needs to help them avoid more system involvement or keep them out of the system entirely. To that end, our team works tirelessly on several strategies with a mental health focus to address the aforementioned issues within the criminal justice system. These strategies include:



The SJC leadership group is comprised of the Lake County Sheriff's Office, the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit Court, Adult Probation, Lake County Public Defender's Office, the Lake County Health Department, Independence Center, NICASA, and the Lake County State's Attorney's Office.

This report was created with support from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation as part of the Safety and Justice Challenge to present Lake County' SJC strategic moves and present a plan to rethink and redesign our criminal justice system so that it is more fair, just, and equitable for all.

A MESSAGE FROM **SHERIFF JOHN D. IDLEBURG**

2022 has been an incredibly successful year making strides in responding to the needs of our community. Through the support from the Safety and Justice Challenge, we have been able to divert people in mental crisis from being taken to the jail, by dropping them off at a wellness center for behavior health assessments and local service linkage. We have been able to proactively follow-up with over 4,000 people that countywide police officers interacted with who were in behavioral health distress, providing them professional service options, reducing the likelihood they will have additional negative police interactions. These are all enhancements we have been able to make due to the expansion of our multi-agency Crisis Outreach and Support Team.

In 2022 we were able to return to in-person meetings of our Criminal Justice Community Council, where we work with community sectors and stakeholders to evaluate jail recidivism data, while identifying inequities and disparities. We are grateful for the trust and support of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation's Safety and Justice Challenge. We will continue making strides in 2023 to assess and address inequities which exist in our criminal justice system.



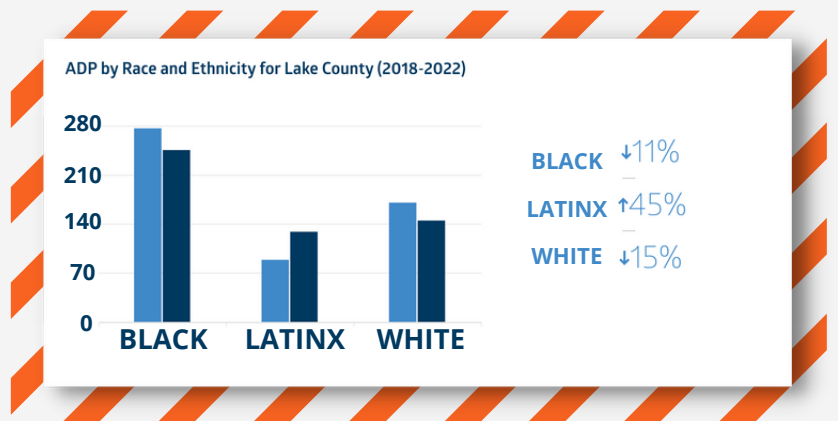
RACE & ETHNICITY STATEMENT

Racial disparities exist in the Lake County Justice System.

Previous data, collected by our strategic ally, The W. Haywood Burns Institute (BI), shows that **Black** individuals were **10x** and **Latino** **2x** as likely to be admitted to jail for warrants when compared with **White** Adults. Furthermore, they concluded that on average **Black** individuals were **10x** and **Latino** **2x** as likely to be incarcerated for all offenses that fell under Misdemeanor, Traffic, and Civil charges when compared with **White** Adults.



More recent data show that racial disparities persist even with an overall reduction in jail population. Lake County State's Attorney Eric Rinehart says, "There can be little doubt that the data conclusively demonstrates the existence of past and present racial disparities within our Lake County legal system. We must make and announce further recommendations with concrete deadlines to maintain public confidence in the integrity of the legal system." To review the current standing of our strategies towards addressing disparities, please scan the QR code below.



2022 STRATEGY GOALS

Living Room Wellness Center

1. Police drop-off crisis triage stabilization center
2. Divert 12-15 persons per month from entering the criminal justice system
3. Serve as the hub to partner community agencies to increase health, equity, and health literacy

Crisis Outreach and Support Team

1. Mobile Crisis Co-Responder Program (deputy and social worker) with 12-15 served per month
2. Peer Recovery Specialist provides 60-90 days follow up
3. Increases community outreach
4. Use of social media and community forums where there is racial, ethnic, and health disparity

Lake County Criminal Justice Community Council

1. Quarterly Meetings
2. Covid-19 Update/Trends
3. State's Attorney's Office Domestic Violence/Overdose Trends
4. Pretrial Reform
5. Data Presentations –Loyola Center for Criminal Justice Research, Policy, and Practice

Equity Team

1. Engaging the community in monitoring our jail population drivers and eliminating racial and ethnic disparities
2. Increase the communication and trust between communities and stakeholders
3. Add community members to the decision-making table
4. Decrease the percentage of persons from communities of color admitted to the jail

Pretrial Services Initiatives

1. Public Safety Assessment Implementation
2. Judicial and Justice Partner Training
3. 50% of those have a PSA Risk Assessment completed at first appearance to receive an unsecured no-cash bond
4. 75% of all defendants appearing in Bond Court with a PSA assessment to aid the court in making a bond decision
5. Reduce over-reliance on Pretrial Supervision (884 Sept. 23, 2020)
6. Reduce the number of persons charged with technical violations by changing internal policies
7. Court Date Text Notifications

Data Dashboards

1. Sheriff's Office Jail Dashboard
2. Overall Releases By:
 - Race & Ethnicity
 - Gender
 - Most Serious Offense
3. Overall Admissions & Releases
4. State's Attorneys Office

2022 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

▶▶▶ Averages **315 guests** per month.

Demographic Breakout:

- **79%** Male
- **20%** Female
- **1%** Other
- **38%** Caucasian
- **43%** African American
- **18%** Hispanic

▶▶▶ Over **350 trained** by Justice Manager, Sandra Bankston

2023 GOALS

- 01 Increase participation of guests from the **Latinx community** including hiring additional **bilingual staff**
- 02 Develop protocols for relationships with local emergency departments and hospitals
- 03 Continue to promote the Living Room through community presentations and other marketing activities such as social media
- 04 Continue to provide **training to local law enforcement agencies**
- 05 Provide **internship opportunities** for people with lived experience to complete Certified Recovery Support Specialists credentials
- 06 **Develop research protocols** that support the effectiveness of Living Room services

This Strategy is Lead by: *Dr. Fritz Gelen & Gene Marceron*

The **Living Room Wellness Center** (LRWC) at the Independence Center provides a safe, comfortable, inviting environment where skilled Certified Recovery Support Specialists (CRSS) provide crisis intervention referrals and other needed services for guests experiencing a crisis. The LRWC is an alternative to the emergency room for guests with increased symptoms or near a crisis.

The purpose is to:

- *Offer a safe and positive environment where guests can go for support and comfort.*
- *Assist guests with developing their coping skills for enhanced interpersonal and social skills.*
- *Help guests make meaningful changes in their lives.*
- *Support guests as they seek to develop and maintain a moderate living lifestyle.*

The LRWC's efforts at **promoting racial equity and eradicating social and economic injustice** are as follows:

- *Has a diverse staff that represent the minority communities they serve.*
- *Has presented in the community at churches and community organizations that predominately serve minority populations.*
- *Trains staff in Cultural Competency utilizing research-based practices.*
- *Providing guests with culturally appropriate referrals and linkage with resources needed to combat barriers related to social and economic inequity.*

The **Crisis Outreach and Support Team**, also known as COaST, expanded an existing mobile co-responder program that dispatches a social worker or clinician and a sheriff's deputy to follow up with individuals who encountered law enforcement while suffering mental health/substance use crises. Co-responders can provide a warm handoff to the Living Room Wellness Center for linkage to services and continue to follow up with clients for 60-90 days.



The Lake County Sheriff's Office launched the COaST pilot program in October 2018. **In 2022 the Gurnee, Lake Forest, Libertyville, Lincolnshire, Mundelein, and Vernon Hills Police Departments all joined the charge to participate in the co-responder model for mental health-related calls.**



2022 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ▶▶▶ **4000+** contacts with persons in crisis
- ▶▶▶ Over **3000** contacted in person or by phone to offer crisis assistance (**73% contact rate**)
- ▶▶▶ Of the over 3800 contacts **only 70** have been incarcerated (**.017 incarceration rate**)

2023 GOALS

- 01 Add additional shift to increase coverage from 7am to 10pm
- 02 Do more behavioral assessments with referrals to the **Living Room Wellness Center**
- 03 Increase the amount of police agencies involved with the COAST program
- 04 Add **additional clinicians**

This Strategy is Lead by: Sgt. James Yanecek

October 2022 marked the 4 year anniversary of the Crisis Outreach and Support Team. Recently, members of our Community Engagement team were able to participate in an in-field ride along with the COaST team for the month of October, Deputy Marcos of Gurnee, and Clinician Arianna Crutchfield. Our team was pleased to see the warm reception of COaST as they traveled to schools, homes, and hospitals to meet the needs of those currently or recently facing a mental health crisis.



In addition to supporting the individual in need of care, a large part of what our COaST does is offer aid to the families of those experiencing a mental health crisis, an often overlooked and underserved group in these situations. Our team left with a renewed appreciation for the Crisis Outreach and Support Team! Services like these are vital to keeping Lake County healthy and equitable. Sheriff Idleburg is quoted as saying, **“Mental health initiatives like this are making a difference... I firmly believe that people with mental illness require services, not incarceration, and programs like this aid in that quest.”**

To learn more about our Crisis Outreach and Support Team, please scan the QR code attached below.



Sheriff John D. Idleburg launched a public-facing **Criminal Justice Community Council** (CJCC) in the fall of 2019 to provide an ongoing collaborative forum between community voices and various Lake County justice systems representatives.

Presently, the CJCC involves stakeholders from numerous sectors of our community, including law-enforcement professional, local and countywide elected officials, community service/advocacy organizations, faith-based community leaders, Lake County justice partners, and others.

The Council aims to meet quarterly, addressing important community topics such as:

- *Strengthening community-law-enforcement partnerships*
- *Ensuring all community sectors have a voice in the justice process*
- *Collaborative and innovative approach to justice reform*
- *Examining increasing levels of incarceration, including incarceration of those with mental health disorders*
- *Examining disparities in the judicial system including people of color and those in other protected classes*

2022 ACCOMPLISHMENTS



- **2** CJCC meetings covering topics such as COAST Expansion, LCSO Mental Health Interactions, & Gun Violence Prevention Initiatives



- **975+** lakecountycjcc.org site visits



- **12** monthly "The Partner" newsletter publications released
- **842** newsletter subscribers (**+398 subscribers from 2021**)
- **0** Un-subscriptions



- **1,205+** Facebook post reach (**+98% from 2021**)
- **117+** Facebook post engagements (**+104% from 2021**)
- **246+** Twitter impressions

2023 GOALS

1 Community Engagement: Connect with **4-6 community based organizations per quarter**

2 Website: Increase **organic traffic** and time spent on site through increased updates and targeted revisions

3 Audience Retention/ Growth: Across all social media platforms and website, **converting 50% of newsletter audience to social follows**

This Strategy is Lead by: *Sheriff John D. Idleburg*

In 2021, a strategic step of the CJCC was the inclusion of a Community Engagement Specialist (CE) and Digital Media Specialist (DM). CE, Monique Johnson, and DM, Kania Robinson, collaborated through 2022 to bring the goals of the CJCC to life through projects such as a monthly newsletter, "The Partner, strategic social media campaigns, and connections with community partners. Discovering hidden gems in the community was, by far, one of the greatest highlights this past year for this duo. **"Expanding the visibility of our efforts in the CJCC has been a pinnacle of the year in my eyes."** says Robinson. **"As a member of the community that I am tasked to serve, I am grateful to extend the reach of all that we do so that more community members and leaders are able to benefit."** Learning and understanding what local organizations are doing, highlighting them, and educating others in the community about the great things happening have propelled much of what the CJCC has been able to accomplish this year. Of her role, Johnson says, **"I had no clue about all the amazing local organizations and have been inspired by what they do and are doing. I wonder how many others are in the same space with no idea."** The conversion rate doesn't lie! The work of our Community Engagement Specialist and Digital Media Specialist, in collaboration with the whole of our CJCC leadership team, has lead to



47% Audience Growth



98% Increase in Reach

To learn more about the CJCC and the ongoing efforts of our Community Engagement and Digital Media Team, please scan the QR code attached below.



The **Equity Team** works with professional facilitators on engaging the community in the process of addressing policy change and working towards racial equity in Lake County.

In January 2020, the Lake County Sheriff's Office contracted with two independent consultants to engage the community on the topic of bail reform through a series of focus groups. The initiative was ultimately completed in September 2020 with the submission of a report to the Sheriff's office. The Lake County Sheriff's Office produced an Executive Summary from the findings presented by the focus groups that can be reviewed by clicking the QR code below.

In **2022**, the Equity Team expanded its approach by launching into a small-group breakout format. These workgroups all focused on reducing failure to appear arrests and incarcerations and included focuses such as "Use of Summons instead of Arrest Warrants", "Best Practices for Warrant Resolution", and "Reduce Backlog of Unserved Warrants". Most notably, the Equity Team was instrumental in a case study conducted by Justice System Partners with the focus of understanding court absence and reframing the failure to appear narrative. You can review the full study via the lakecountycjcc.org website when it is released in **early 2023**.

2022 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Established and met as **small groups**
- Developed an actionable policy** to not issue a warrant for first time failure to appear on low-level, non-violent misdemeanors
- Submitted policy** to the judiciary for consideration

2023 GOALS

- Reduce Gun Violence** through Restorative Justice Philosophies, Statistics, & Tactics
- Advocate for the **investment of resources** in at-risk individuals
- Increase judiciary support of upcoming policy and reform initiatives birthed out of workgroups



This Strategy is Lead by: Holly Kerr

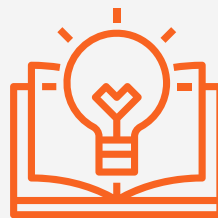
The Bail Reform Community Outreach Initiative (BRCOI) is a community-centered approach focused on introducing Lake County to the work of the Equity Team and the efforts being led by Lake County Sheriff's Department and the Lake County Pretrial system partners. By centering communities with personal experiences regarding Lake County's Pretrial system and by understanding the depth and breadth of communities and their needs, solutions can be explored to strengthen Lake County's Pretrial Criminal Justice system.

BRCOI is intentional work beginning with the principles, values, and purpose to include communities most affected by Lake County's Criminal Justice System and those whose purpose it is to serve these communities. The purpose of BRCOI is **(1)** to engage community members who are most affected by the Lake County's Criminal Justice System to speak on their concerns, challenges, needs, and readiness to partner with Lake County Criminal Justice System; **(2)** to collect qualitative data to dignify the stories and lives represented by the quantitative data that has been collected by the Equity Team, and **(3)** to have meaningful conversation on Lake County Bail Reform, Pretrial issues, and community relations with the Lake County Criminal Justice system.

The findings from the focus groups and personal community interviews were thematically divided into three categories:



Healing



Education



Advocacy

To review the findings and read the report in its entirety, please scan the QR code below.



In 2021-2022, Lake County improved **pretrial decision-making** by providing information on a majority of persons appearing at the first appearance, including a completed validated risk assessment. The goal was to provide a risk assessment on **75%** of people appearing in bond court. This goal was gladly exceeded as data shows that from July 2021 - November 2022, **96%** of those who appeared in bond court received the assessment. The Pretrial Services strategy also includes a program to provide court date reminders to increase court appearance rates.

Data clearly shows that Lake County has made progress towards its goal of improving the criminal justice system, particularly in the areas of reducing the jail population, **improving pretrial release decision-making**, addressing community engagement and equity, and creating and enhancing behavioral health treatment options.

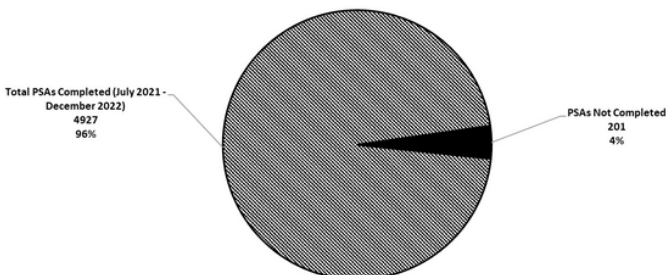
2022 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ▶▶▶ Successfully launched a new pretrial risk assessment tool - the **Public Safety Assessment (PSA)**.
- ▶▶▶ Exceeded the goal of completing risk assessments on **75%** of offenders appearing in Bond Court.

2023 GOALS

- 1 Reduce the number of persons charged with "pretrial supervision" technical violations by changing internal policies.
- 2 For defendants that receive a PSA assessment, increase the percentage from 2022 of unsecured releases for persons at first appearance.
- 3 Reaching **90%** of all defendants appearing for their "First Appearance" with a PSA assessment to aid the court in making a bond decision.

Percent of PSAs Completed for First Appearance Between July 2021 - December 2022



This Strategy is Lead by: *Todd Schroeder & Margaret Fontana*

PUBLIC DEFENDER
**COURT DATE TEXT
REMINDER PROGRAM**

The Lake County Public Defender's Office launched a voluntary court date text reminder program on **June 1, 2019**. Public Defender clients elect to participate to receive text reminders of upcoming court dates to the cell phone number they provide. The clients can opt to receive the texts in English or Spanish. To date, **518 clients participated** and **received 252,909 texts reminders** of their court dates at no charge. **Only 36 failed to appear in court** on their scheduled court date, resulting in a **96.44% successfully appearing in court**.



518

Clients Participated



252,909

Text Reminders Sent

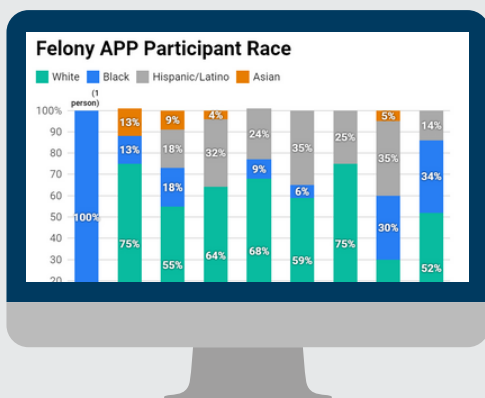


96.44%

Appeared in Court

Lake County has been working to increase **data capacity and transparency**. In response to feedback from previous CJCC meetings, the Sheriff's Office launched a public-facing jail data dashboard.

Through a partnership with Loyola University of Chicago, the Lake County Sheriff's Office had the ability to create comprehensive, centralized views of jail data for review and analysis by the community. This data display allows the community to see information such as **monthly jail population, and demographical data such as race, ethnicity, gender, age, felony or misdemeanor charges, as well as if the inmate is being held due to pretrial requirements, Judge ordered sentence or being held for U.S. Bureau of Prisons (contract)**. In addition, Loyal and Milwaukee County District Attorney's office assisted in creation of the Lake County State's Attorney data dashboard for launch in 2022. To navigate through all of our comprehensive dashboards, please use the QR code linked to the right.



2022 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Updated and maintained Data Dashboards for the **Lake County Jail & Lake County CJCC**

2023 GOALS

- 1 Provide the community with further data transparency through the implementation of **expanded Data Dashboards**
- 2 Consistently update all present Data Dashboards



This Strategy is Lead by: Bernard Malkov

In **2017**, the Lake County Sheriff's Office received a **\$50,000 Safety and Justice Challenge Innovation grant from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation**. The Sheriff's Office partnered with **Nicasa Behavioral Health Services** and with the assistance of MacArthur's strategic ally, **Urban Institute**, developed a **Jail High Utilizer Program** (JHUP). All the grant funds were used to hire a licensed clinical and peer specialist who provided a warm handoff to persons transitioning to the community. Home visits were conducted to continue support, empower and guide clients to make positive life choices. The majority of services provided to the clients included linkage to Medicaid and/or medical appointments (**17**) substance use treatment (**24**), mental health treatment (**12**) and transportation (**15**). The JHUP engaged 41 clients, of which 16 were successfully discharged, 3 clients moved out of the county, 7 clients were terminated unsuccessfully, and only 15 clients were rebooked in the jail.

In **2018**, the Lake County Sheriff's Office received **\$700,000 from the MacArthur Foundation** to fund five strategies, a full-time data coordinator, and part-time project director. These strategies included: **(1)** Jail high utilizer warm handoff to community resources; **(2)** Court date text reminder to Public Defender clients; **(3)** Education and training on racial and ethnic disparities in the criminal justice system **(4)** First court appearance criminal investigations; and **(5)** Policy changes informed by the JFA Institute Stress Test.

Lake County Justice Partners supplemented the MacArthur Foundation funding with in-kind staffing to implement the five strategies and **\$100,000 in-kind gap funding received from the Healthcare Foundation of Northern Lake County** (HFNLC) to implement an expanded High Utilizer program doubling the number of participants to **60** served by the current case manager (Innovation Funds ended March 31, 2018) and a peer specialist. The HFNLC funded these two positions from May 1, 2018 through April 30, 2019, with the same culturally sensitive intensive case management goals identified in the Innovation grant; a warm handoff from jail reentry with assessments and treatment services provided in the community to address the persons needs and prevent recidivism. As the number of participants in the High Utilizer program expanded, an additional case manager was added, funded by MacArthur.

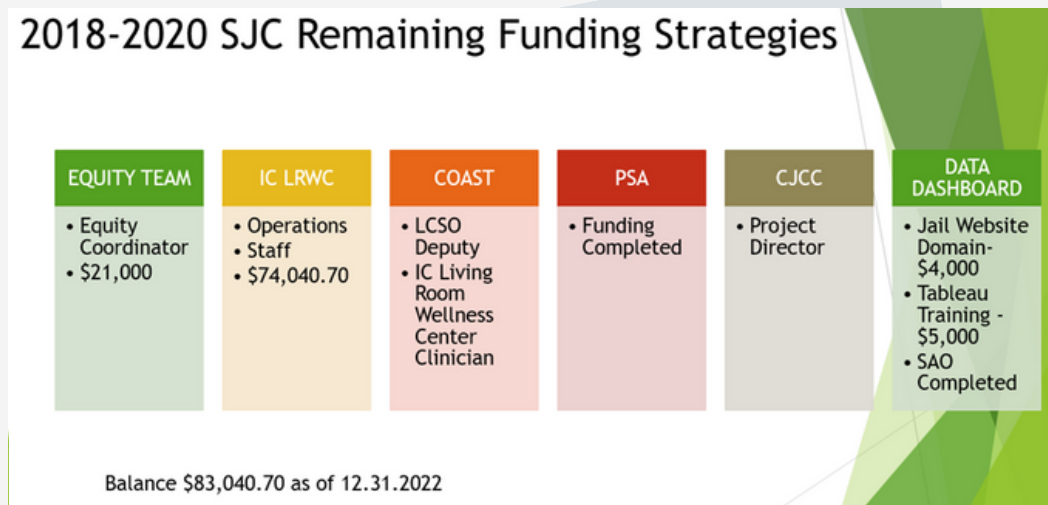
The first year of the expediated pretrial assessment strategy was funded by the in-kind justice stakeholders to work through obstacles and hurdles for implementing expediated pretrial assessments in year two. To bridge these hurdles, Probation agreed to pilot a comprehensive criminal history investigation for the top five law enforcement agencies that transported the greatest number of persons to bond court.

The initial Sheriff's Office COAST mobile response team was funded by in-kind staff. The Health Department provided a social worker 3-days per week and the Sheriff's Office provided one deputy. As the success of the programs increased MacArthur funds supported a second social worker.

To address the racial disparity of the jail population, educational training was provided to Lake County judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, and Sheriff's Office and municipal police supervisors.

From **2019-2022**, MacArthur approved six budget modifications to spend down the remaining grant funds and invited the Sheriff's Office to apply for a **second \$700,000 Implementation grant**. The grant funds are managed by the Lake County Sheriff's Office Business Office with in-kind funds.

As of **December 31, 2022**, there remains **\$83,040.70** in the **2018-2020** MacArthur Foundation grant fund, which consists of **\$74,040.70** for our Living Room Wellness Center staff and expenses and **\$21,000** dedicated for an Equity Coordinator. A no-cost extension was approved by the MacArthur Foundation **through September 30, 2023**.



In **2020**, Lake County piloted the MacArthur Foundation's Sustainability Planning Guide program using the sustainability of the Living Room Wellness Center as it's focus. The Sheriff's Office, Independence Center, and Lake County State's Attorney's Office developed a blended funding stream. Currently, the facility is funded by the MacArthur Foundation, federal, state, and local grants. The federal grant is renewable. In addition, our HFNLC grant funds two nurses at the LRWC and is renewable. Scan the QR code below to learn more about these strategies and outcomes.



In **2021**, the MacArthur Foundation awarded the Lake County Sheriff's Office a **second \$700,000 Implementation grant** to fund six strategies: **(1)** Equity Team; **(2)** Living Room Wellness Center; **(3)** COAST mobile response team; **(4)** Public Safety Risk Assessment implementation and Court Date Text Reminder Programs; **(5)** Criminal Justice Community Council; **(6)** Data Dashboards.

Strategy	Equity	IC- Living Room Wellness Center	COAST	PSA/Texts	CJCC	Data Dashboards	Grant Management
Percentage	15%	40%	7%	1%	0%	26%	11%
	Fellows, Training, and Hospitality	Staff, Electronics, and Indirect	IC-LRWC Social Worker	Text Phones & Plans		Staff, Software License, and Training	Staff, Network/Local Travel, and Office/Support Supplies
	\$ 103,000	\$ 283,021	\$ 50,000	\$ 8,000	\$ -	\$ 180,320	Staff \$ 56,000
							Travel \$ 17,939
							Office Supplies \$ 1,720
Sub Total	\$ 103,000	\$ 283,021	\$ 50,000	\$ 8,000	\$ -	\$ 180,320	\$ 75,659
Total	\$ 700,000						

The Lake County Sheriff's Office and Justice Partners are working on sustainability of its strategies beyond current grants. One example was to use LRWC clinicians to assist COAST. In addition, **Lake County Workforce Development agreed to match the MacArthur Foundation \$60,000 microgrants to fund our Community Engagement Specialist and Digital Media Specialist for one year.**

The Sheriff's Office received approval for a no-cost extension of the **2020-2022 remaining SJC funds of \$506,477 to support strategies through 2024.** With increased community participation the strategies can seek additional funding beyond current grants.

2020-2024 SJC Remaining Funding Strategies

EQUITY TEAM	IC LRWC	COAST	PSA	CJCC	DATA DASHBOARD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Equity Training \$21,000 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operations Staff \$283,021 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LCSO Deputy IC Living Room Wellness Center Clinician \$20,474 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PSA Funding Completed \$5,000 Text Reminders - \$3,000 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project Director Community Engagement Specialist Digital Media Specialist Data Coordinator \$120,262 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jail Website Domain - \$4,000 Tableau Training - \$9,920 SAO Completed

Trips and Training \$12,823
Office Supplies and Hospitalities \$26,577

Estimated Balance \$506,477 as of 12.31.22