

# MacArthur Safety & Justice Challenge

Pima County Superior Court  
K. Kent Batty, Court Administrator

# What is the Challenge?

- An initiative to reduce over-incarceration by changing how America thinks about and uses jails
  - Five-year, \$75 million investment by John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation launched February 11, 2015
  - Competition to help jurisdictions create fairer, more effective local justice systems through BOLD INNOVATION

## Phase 1- Planning grant

- Awarded \$150k in May 2015 to develop a plan for system change to:
  - Reduce the jail population by 15-19%
  - Reduce racial and ethnic disparities (RED)
- Required extensive data collection and analysis to:
  - Identify drivers of jail population across decision points in the system
  - Identify RED at each decision point

# Jail Bed Drivers and RED

Primary jail bed drivers:

1. Warrants for FTA
2. Misdemeanor charges (e.g., DV, DUI, shoplifting)
3. Lower-level felony charges (e.g., possession/use of a dangerous or narcotic drug, aggravated criminal damage)

RED found across points in the system, particularly for African-Americans, Native Americans, and Hispanics

## Phase II Implementation - Application

- Creating implementation plan for broad system change
- Innovations developed by planning and policy teams
  - Included decision-makers from:
    - County administration, jail, Superior Court, LJ courts, law enforcement, prosecution, defense, and community organizations
  - Included input from individuals and families impacted by incarceration

# Innovations

1. Court System Innovations and Treatment Alternatives
  - Extend evidence-based pretrial risk screening to all defendants
  - Add a behavioral health screen prior to Initial Appearance and expand pretrial supervision capacity
  - Train criminal justice system partners (including judiciary) on implicit bias and the use of money bail

## Innovations, cont.

2. Reduce incidence of FTA
  - Implement reminder systems
  - Offer more accessibility to court through periodic weekend warrant resolution courts
3. Expand the use of home detention/electronic monitoring
  - Include those sentenced to the jail on felonies but out on work release

# Impact

- County applied for \$2.9m over two years
- Innovations, if successful, will reduce the jail population by 20%
  - Would potentially allow closure of six 64-person pods at the jail; savings = estimated **\$2.7m/year**
- Phase II winners will be announced on April 13<sup>th</sup>