

Quick Self-Assessment: City Leadership to Reduce the Use of Jails

This quick self-assessment may help cities decide whether NLC's new City Leadership to Reduce the Use of Jails [technical assistance](#) is right for them. Use the quick city self-assessment checklist below to track your responses to these ten questions. If the answer to any of these questions is "no", then your city can benefit from NLC's City Leadership to Reduce the Use of Jails technical assistance. Similarly, if you are unable to answer more than a couple of these questions with your own knowledge or with a quick call to a relevant city agency, such as the police department, then you can also benefit from the technical assistance.

Related to data collection, analysis, and application to policy-making.

1. Do elected city leaders routinely receive reports of arrest and other data from the police department, including data disaggregated by race, ethnicity, gender, geography of arrest, and offense?
2. Have racial and ethnic disparities in arrests been analyzed, and if so, has this analysis resulted in any shift in policy or protocol?
3. Has the city measured the effectiveness of current policies, including any diversion initiatives, at protecting public safety, making efficient use of public funds, and improving long-term outcomes for individuals, communities, and the city?

Use of promising or model policy or programs.

4. Does the police department operate a pre-arrest diversion program (a formal policy focusing arrest on individuals who pose a public safety risk and referring others to services) and report regularly on its effects? Examples include a mobile crisis response team or crisis intervention team, law enforcement-assisted diversion (LEAD) model, and many others.
5. Does the city police department provide officers with training in mental health, substance abuse, racial and ethnic disparities, and developmentally appropriate interactions with young adults?
6. Does a triage center or other crisis-response center operate, to which officers can refer people with mental health or substance abuse needs?

Efficient use of resources.

7. Has the city allocated resources to support effective reconnections to the community, including jobs, for people returning from jail or prison?
8. Does the city or region have sufficient mental health or substance abuse treatment services to meet the needs of everyone who is in jail as a result of those needs?
9. Have elected or appointed officials recently assessed city operating or capital budget costs related to the local jail, and, if any, developed a plan to reduce costs and/or achieve greater efficiencies?

Collaboration

10. Do city elected or appointed officials participate in a county, regional or state collaborative focused on criminal justice reform?

Quick Self-Assessment Checklist

<i>Item</i>	<i>Check if in place</i>	<i>Notes</i>
Data collection, analysis, and application to policy making		
Elected leaders review arrest data disaggregated by race, ethnicity, gender, geography, and offense	<input type="checkbox"/>	
City analyzes and applies data on racial and ethnic disparities in arrests	<input type="checkbox"/>	
City measures effectiveness of public safety-related policies and programs	<input type="checkbox"/>	
City maps capacity and need for substance abuse and mental health treatment by neighborhood	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Promising or model policies or programs		
Police department operates and report on pre-arrest diversion program	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Police department trains officers in behavioral health, racial and ethnic disparities, and developmentally appropriate communications with young adults	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Available triage/crisis response center	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Efficient use of resources		
City allocates resources for residents returning from jail or prison	<input type="checkbox"/>	
City has assessed and considered efficiencies re: contributions to operating or capital costs of the local jail	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Collaboration		
City leaders participate in county, regional or state collaborative focused on the local jail	<input type="checkbox"/>	