

May 5, 2025

The Honorable Jerry Moran
Chairman
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and
Related Agencies
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Hal Rogers
Chairman
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and
Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chris Van Hollen
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and
Related Agencies
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Grace Meng
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and
Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Moran and Rogers and Ranking Members Van Hollen and Meng:

As the undersigned national, state, and local organizations, we write to express our strong support for continued funding of the Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program (JMHCP) in the FY 2026 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies appropriation bill.

As a program with bipartisan support, JMHCP supports initiatives for people with mental illnesses and co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders who interact with the justice system. For nearly 20 years, JMHCP grantees have helped promote public safety and save public resources by safely diverting people from the criminal justice system into treatment and comprehensive support services. These programs also provide training for law enforcement and other public safety officials while fostering collaboration between justice and treatment professionals. Ultimately, through these efforts, many communities have been able to reduce state and local costs on public safety while improving outcomes for the people affected by mental illnesses and substance use disorders.

Originally enacted in 2004, JMHCP was reauthorized in 2008, 2016, and 2022 through the Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Act with broad bipartisan support. Two years after the initial legislation was passed, JMHCP launched and has since funded more than 800 grants across 50 states, plus the District of Columbia, Guam, American Samoa, and the Northern Mariana Islands.

State and local governments use JMHCP grants for a broad range of activities, including establishing crisis intervention teams, prosecutor-led diversion, holistic defense, mental health court programs, creating or expanding community-based treatment programs, supporting the

development of curricula for police academies and orientations, and providing treatment and transitional services in jails. Crisis intervention teams, alongside other evidence-based practices authorized under the legislation, such as treatment courts, have demonstrated success in reducing recidivism, enhancing public safety, and allowing criminal justice resources to be more effectively allocated for traditional crime fighting purposes.

By investing in JMHCP programs, law enforcement officers across the country are better equipped to handle calls involving people with mental illnesses or co-occurring disorders. JMHCP has made it possible for them to access training designed to help them handle complex situations involving people with behavioral health needs in crisis. It has also funded co-response teams, so that a behavioral health clinician is there right alongside law enforcement, where safe, to help defuse a crisis and make a warm connection to needed treatment. It has also funded crisis receiving centers, which create a safe alternative to jail for people in crisis. Additionally, through its funding for peer learning, JMHCP has made it possible for law enforcement and their behavioral health partners to learn from each other and others doing this work.

Our criminal justice partners cannot keep our communities safe and strong without mental health and substance use collaboration. JMHCP fosters the sort of partnership and innovation that helps identify and treat the behavioral health needs that often bring people into contact with police, the courts, and jail. It recognizes that the most efficient way to solve a complex problem is to bring leaders together around a shared goal and help them apply national best practices to local priorities.

We are grateful for your longstanding commitment and leadership in ensuring that our communities are kept safe through responsible and smart initiatives, and we respectfully ask for your continued support of the crucial Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program in the FY 2026 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies appropriation bill.

Sincerely,

1. Council of State Governments Justice Center
2. A Bella LaFemme Society
3. Acivilate, Inc.
4. Addiction Policy Forum
5. AJs Counseling and Consultation
6. Alabama Goodwill Industries, Inc.
7. All In Community of the Ohio United Methodist Conferences
8. American Foundation for Suicide Prevention
9. American Jail Association
10. Amiracle4sure, Inc.
11. Anchorage Reentry Coalition
12. Association of Prosecuting Attorneys

13. Bear River Health Department
14. Behavioral Health Foundation
15. Behind the Walls, Between the Lines
16. Benedict Center
17. Bold North Recovery
18. Brighton Police Department
19. California State Association of Counties
20. Casa Grande Alliance, Inc.
21. Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, Inc.
22. Center for Creative Justice
23. Center for Employment Opportunities
24. Centerstone
25. Chaffey Community College
26. Changing Outlooks
27. Circles of Spirit
28. City of Chicago Office of Public Safety Administration (OPSA)
29. City of Norwalk, Connecticut
30. City of Shreveport, Louisiana
31. Clermont County Mental Health and Recovery Board
32. Clinical Consultants
33. Collaborative Support Programs of New Jersey
34. Colorado Mad Moms
35. Community Matters
36. Community Mental Health of Ottawa County
37. Compostela Community Family Cultural Institute
38. Connections Health Solutions
39. Cornerstone Community Housing
40. Cornerstone Services
41. Correctional Leaders Association (CLA)
42. County of Westchester Department of Community Mental Health
43. Criminal Justice Policy Research Institute
44. Cumberland County Guidance Center
45. Cure Violence Columbus (Georgia), Inc
46. DeKalb, Illinois Police Department
47. Disability Rights Maryland
48. Dismas Charities, Inc.
49. EAC Network
50. Equality Healthcare
51. Empowering Lives Counseling
52. Escape The Odds Education
53. Everlasting Life Foundation CDC
54. Fair and Just Prosecution
55. Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health
56. Florida Mental Health Advocacy Coalition

57. Focus Forward Project, Inc.
58. Franklin County, Ohio Municipal Court
59. Front-Line Community Services
60. Gemeinschaft Home
61. Genesis Behavioral Health Services, Inc
62. Goodhue County Court Services
63. Grant County, Wisconsin Treatment Court
64. Hancock County Board of Alcohol, Drug Addiction & Mental Health Services
65. Hub for Integration, Reentry & Employment
66. Humility Project Inc
67. IJIS Institute
68. Indiana Reentry Corporation
69. Integrated Services of Kalamazoo
70. J Spencer Foundation
71. Johnson County Mental Health Center
72. Just Detention International
73. Justice By Objectives
74. JustLeadershipUSA
75. Kings Against Violence Initiative (KAVI)
76. La Red Health Center
77. Latino Coalition for Community Leadership
78. Law Enforcement Leaders to Reduce Crime & Incarceration
79. Leap Institute
80. Little Rock Police Department
81. Lived Experiences
82. Luck & Associates
83. Maryland Legislative Coalition
84. Massachusetts Department of Children and Families
85. McPherson County, Kansas Jail
86. Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute
87. Metta Association
88. Miami-Dade Sheriff's Office
89. Michigan Collaborative to End Mass Incarceration
90. Michigan Liberation
91. Minnesota Association of Resources for Recovery and Chemical Health
92. Minnesota Recovers
93. Missouri 9th Judicial Circuit Treatment Court
94. Montana Counseling Services
95. Montgomery County Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health, Inc.
96. Morgan County Community Corrections
97. National Alliance on Mental Illness
98. National Alliance on Mental Illness, Central Virginia
99. National Alliance on Mental Illness, Johnson County, Iowa
100. National Alliance on Mental Illness, Maryland

101. National Alliance on Mental Illness, Minnesota
102. National Alliance on Mental Illness, New Jersey
103. National Association of Counties
104. National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers
105. National Association of Police Organizations
106. National Association of Social Workers
107. National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors
108. National Council for Mental Wellbeing
109. National District Attorneys Association
110. National Incarceration Association
111. National Working Positive Coalition
112. Nebraska State Senator, District 11, Terrell McKinney
113. New Castle County Emergency Communications Division
114. New York City Department of Correction
115. North Dakota Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation
116. North Lawndale Employment Network
117. Northern Children's Services
118. Northstar Correctional Education Services
119. Ohio Association of Local Reentry Coalitions
120. One Net Coalition, Inc.
121. Owning My Own Truth
122. Pacific County Health & Human Services
123. Paradise Independent Living, LLC
124. Paroled2pride
125. Participatory Defense of Inland Empire
126. Pennsylvania Counseling Services
127. People Advocating Recovery
128. Police, Treatment, and Community Collaborative (PTACC)
129. Prison Policy Initiative
130. Productive Offenders of Society Foundation
131. Project Restart Atlanta Inc
132. Ravalli County Sheriff's Office
133. Redemption Outreach Services, Inc
134. Restorative Justice Project Maine
135. Rockdale County Stepping Up Initiative
136. RPM Ministries Inc DBA Good Shepherd Recovery House
137. Rutherford County Sheriff Office
138. Santa Clara County DA Office
139. Saunders County Youth Services
140. SEAL Inc. (Success in Every Area of Life)
141. Shady Hills Mission Chapel
142. Silent Victims of Crime
143. Southwest Iowa Mental Health Court
144. Southwest Texas Regional Advisory Council

145. Sponsors, Inc.
146. Starting Point Inc
147. Stay Harmless, Inc.
148. Stick and Stay Prevention Inc.
149. Still Waters Professional Counseling
150. Strafford County, New Hampshire
151. Tag Outsourcing
152. Take Action Today
153. TASC, Inc. (Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities)
154. Texas Harm Reduction Alliance
155. The Center for Policing Equity
156. The Fort Cavazos Community Habitat for Humanity
157. The Helping Way Transitional Program for Men
158. The Insight Alliance
159. The National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Agency Directors (NASADAD)
160. The NYC Justice Peer Initiative
161. The Rock Enterprises And Development Corporation
162. Thought Jot
163. Touch A Heart
164. Treatment Advocacy Center
165. Tri-County Opportunities Industrialization Center (OIC)
166. USF Criminal Justice, Mental Health and Substance Abuse Technical Assistance Center
167. Utah Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers
168. Vermont Citizens United for the Rehabilitation of Errants
169. Vermont Department of Corrections
170. Volunteers of America Chesapeake & Carolinas, Inc.
171. Walking in My Truth, Inc.
172. Watercourse Way Wellness Services
173. West Michigan Community Mental Health
174. West Orange Police Department
175. Wife After Prison
176. Wise Resource Development
177. Youth Recovery Connections
178. 21st Century Policing LLC
179. 5K Bird Walk for Recovery