

Opportunity for Rural Counties to Receive FREE Assistance on Data Collection for Public Defense Systems

Background

In small and rural counties across California, counties are often tasked with administering public defense contracts with very limited data. County decisions are sometimes made without even the most basic information on caseloads and the number of attorneys needed to represent the indigent clients within a jurisdiction. There may be limited awareness or capacity as to what data points are important to collect for indigent defense systems, how to access the data, where and how to maintain the data, and how to analyze the data for decision-making.

This project aims to help counties understand their specific data needs and how to make improvements. Teams from the Center for Justice Innovation and the National Institute for Criminal Justice Reform, will work with the Office of the State Public Defender to provide no-cost assistance to three (3) counties.

Site Eligibility Criteria

- The applicant should be a county entity and/or criminal legal system actor that is interested in better understanding the data collection gaps and needs in their indigent defense system in order to improve services to their constituents.
- Applicants are limited to counties with no institutional office for public defense services.

Site Application Process

- Complete a short application form, [click here](#)
- Join an interview via Zoom
- Site notified of selection
- For questions, email caneel.fraser@ospd.ca.gov

