

# Justice Counts

ACTIONABLE DATA TO BOLSTER PUBLIC SAFETY



BJA  
BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE



Justice  
Center

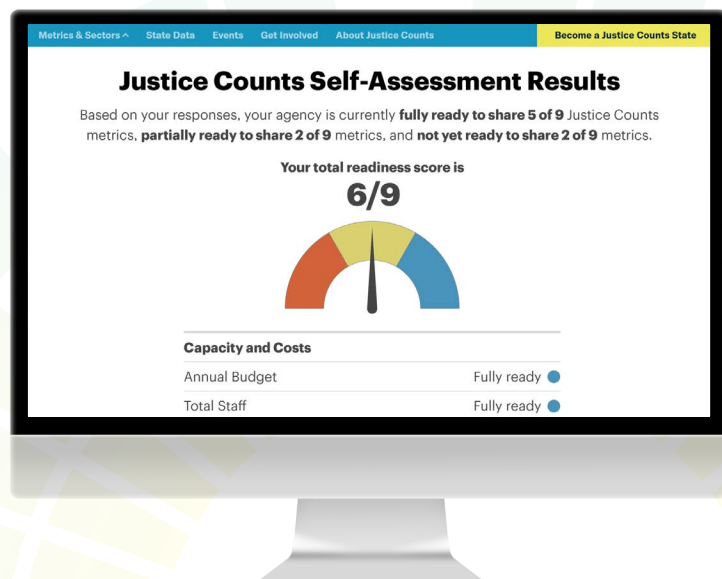
Policymakers are often forced to make critical decisions about the safety, liberties, and tax dollars of their constituents using limited or stale criminal justice data. In the face of significant challenges and fiscal pressures, our leaders need up-to-date information from across the justice system, presented in a way that is easy to understand and utilize.

Justice Counts is an initiative led by the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs' Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), The Council of State Governments Justice Center, and a first-of-its-kind national coalition of 21 partners to develop and help implement consensus-driven metrics for criminal justice agencies to provide policymakers with more accurate, accessible, and actionable data.

The Justice Counts metrics were developed in partnership with a wide range of experts across the criminal justice system, representing officials at every corner of our nation's state, county, and municipal justice systems. More than 100 people, agencies, and entities worked to balance a complex range of issues to select the Justice Counts metrics through seven subcommittees specializing in each criminal justice sector. These metrics were then shared to and advanced by the Justice Counts steering committee, made up of active state and local officials—from law enforcement, to corrections, to legislatures, and beyond.

The Justice Counts metrics are designed to be both usable for policymakers and feasible for the agencies providing data. Justice Counts provides an opportunity for states and agencies to join a national movement for better criminal justice data. Participating states and agencies gain access to a suite of tools and resources to better understand, implement, and utilize the metrics; a national digital infrastructure to simplify and consolidate data entry; and automated data displays of trends across time and geography that refresh monthly.

There are opportunities for 10 states to become members of the Founding States Program and receive an exclusive, hands-on technical assistance package, including direct support to policymakers and agencies as well as early access to the digital infrastructure. Interested states must demonstrate a strong commitment to using data to present a timely, cross-system picture for policymakers and the public. Justice Counts will be most successful when state leaders work collaboratively and openly across municipal, county, and state criminal justice agencies that currently collect and house needed data.



Here are five ways states can demonstrate that they are ready to be a founding Justice Counts state.

1.

### **Executive Order**

Your state's governor can issue an order directing criminal justice agencies to participate in Justice Counts.

2.

### **Legislative Resolution**

Your state's legislature can issue a resolution encouraging agencies to participate in Justice Counts.

3.

### **Letter of Request**

Criminal justice leaders from across the system can come together to commit to Justice Counts and request technical assistance.

4.

### **Working Group Request**

An existing cross-system body working on criminal justice data or policy issues can also issue a letter of request to be a Justice Counts state.

5.

### **Self-Assessment Participation**

If 30 percent of a state's criminal justice agencies demonstrate interest through the self-assessment, the state can be accepted as a Justice Counts state.

The self-assessment and templates for each of the above can be found on <https://justicecounts.csgjusticecenter.org/become-a-justice-counts-state/>.

There are also limited opportunities to apply to an Implementation Grant program to receive BJA-funded training and technical assistance.

You can learn more about the Justice Counts metrics, find tools and resources, and sign up for work sessions or legislative briefings by visiting [justice-counts.org](https://justice-counts.org) or contacting [justicecounts@csg.org](mailto:justicecounts@csg.org).

**Visit [justice-counts.org](https://justice-counts.org) to learn more.**

#### **Justice Counts Partners**

[American Jail Association](#)

[American Probation and Parole Association](#)

[The Council of State Governments Justice Center](#)

[Correctional Leaders Association](#)  
[CNA](#)

[International Association of Chiefs of Police](#)

[Justice Management Institute](#)

[Measures for Justice](#)

[National Association of Counties](#)  
[Research Foundation](#)

[National Association of State Budget Officers](#)

[National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors](#)

[NRI](#)

[National Criminal Justice Association](#)

[National Center for State Courts](#)

[National Conference of State Legislatures](#)

[National District Attorneys Association](#)

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