

DATA-DRIVEN JUSTICE

KEY STAKEHOLDERS: ELECTED OFFICIALS



Data Driven Justice (DDJ) is a project of the National Association of Counties that supports local jurisdictions in using data to better align resources to respond to people in crisis, particularly those who are frequent utilizers of justice, health and human services systems. This brief is one in a series outlining different roles and duties in establishing and maintaining DDJ in communities as outlined in the [Data Driven Justice Playbook](#).

This brief is for **ELECTED OFFICIALS** - positions such as county commissioners, supervisors and executives, as well as mayors and city councils, that make important policy and funding decisions for communities. These individuals are vital to local efforts as they act as champions and conveners and often have the responsibility of supporting and/or funding policies, practices and programs to serve frequent utilizers. Below are some ways that elected officials can support your community's Data-Driven Justice efforts.

BUILDING STAKEHOLDER CONSENSUS

- Identify local behavioral health, social services and criminal justice leaders to participate in stakeholders group.
- Promote buy in from key stakeholders by regularly attending and participating in meetings.
- Contribute to the development of a shared vision for improving outcomes for frequent utilizers.

UNDERSTAND THE PEOPLE YOU HOPE TO SERVE

- Collaborate with partners to create definitions of frequent utilizers and race across systems to better track and report on progress.
- Encourage community voice be included in meetings and as part of data collection efforts.

“ We [were grappling] with whether we were focusing our resources in the right places and helping individuals, families and our community in the best way possible. Were we efficiently using those dollars that we had been entrusted with to improve the lives of those we serve? After analyzing all those factors, it was an easy decision to say that we needed to prioritize justice issues especially when considering its impact on the community and the budget.”

[Community Portrait of Commissioner Janet Thompson, Boone County, Mo.](#)



ESTABLISH A FRAMEWORK FOR DATA GOVERNANCE

- Support efforts to establish data-sharing agreements.
- Identify resources from various city and county departments that can be used to support development of a data governance framework so stakeholders can share data.

CONDUCT A RESOURCE SCAN AND IDENTIFY GAPS IN SERVICES AND TREATMENT

- Participate in your community's systems mapping exercise (e.g., Sequential Intercept Mapping) to help identify availability and gaps in services, resources and processes.
- Identify potential projects or programs to support through city, county or other funding sources to fill existing gaps.

BUILD CONTINUAL DATA USE AND INFORMATION SHARING INTO CROSS-SYSTEM ORGANIZATIONAL OPERATIONS AND POLICY DISCUSSIONS

- Advocate for, sponsor and move local ordinances, policy and funding that support frequent utilizers.
- Engage neighboring communities and elected peers to glean best practices and lessons learned that can be adopted locally.
- Utilize city and county websites to post FAQs, educational materials and resources for and about frequent utilizers.
- Look for opportunities, such as conferences and panel presentations, where your community's work can be featured and highlighted.

This issue brief was created with support from Arnold Ventures as part of Data-Driven Justice, a project that aims to support local jurisdictions in using data to better align resources to respond to people who are frequent utilizers of justice, health and human services systems. For additional resources on implementing Data Driven Justice (DDJ), please refer to the [Data Driven Justice Website](#).