

# CITIES AND COUNTIES FOR FINE/FEE JUSTICE

Presented to the Criminal Justice Council

Racial Disparities Subcommittee

April 26, 2022



## WHAT IS IT?

- A leadership network pursuing bold, innovative solutions to reform unjust fines and fees. These local leaders are rethinking their reliance on fines and fees levied on residents for infractions large and small. In recent years a growing national movement has emerged to reform ineffective fine and fee policies that drive racial injustice, economic inequality, and mass criminalization.



FINANCIAL  
JUSTICE IN  
CRIMINAL  
JUSTICE

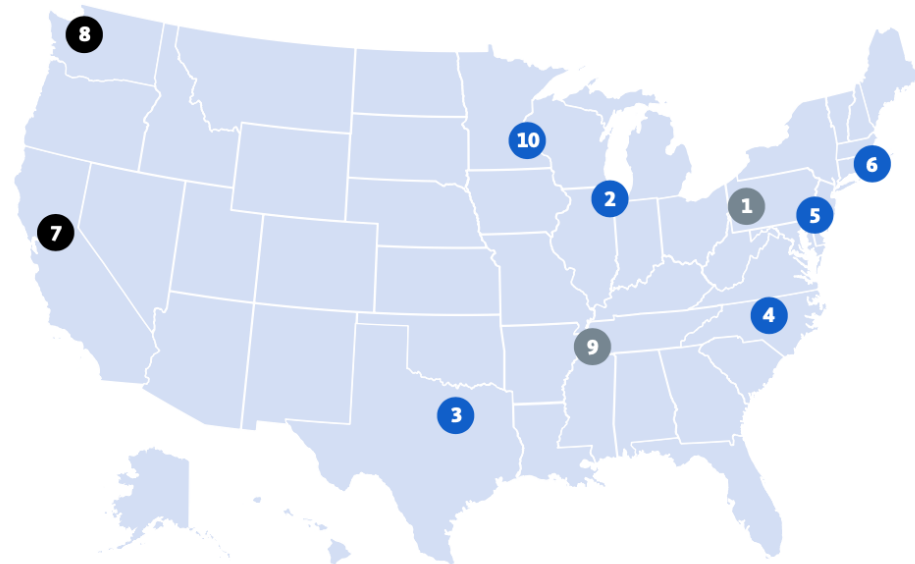
- Identify fines and fees that have a disproportionate adverse impact on low income and people of color.
- Develop and implement doable solutions

# EXAMPLES FROM THE INAUGURAL COHORT

## Cities & Counties for Fine and Fee Justice, 2020–2021 Cohort

1. Allegheny County, PA
2. Chicago, IL
3. Dallas, TX
4. Durham, NC
5. Philadelphia, PA
6. Providence, RI
7. Sacramento, CA
8. Seattle/King County, WA
9. Shelby County, TN
10. St. Paul, MN

- City Team
- County Team
- City & County Team



## AREAS OF REFORM

- Fees imposed on incarcerated people
- Debt-based driver's license suspensions
- Court debt and other court-related fines/fees
- Municipal fines and fees

# FEES IMPOSED ON INCARCERATED PEOPLE

## ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PA

- Established a \$100 monthly stipend for incarcerated people from a fund earmarked for “inmate welfare” to use to pay for phone calls and commissary items.
- Working to introduce an ordinance that would eliminate profits made off of incarcerated people by passing a \$15/hr minimum wage for incarcerated workers and pushing to make jail phone calls free.

## PHILADELPHIA, PA

- Provide funding for 165 minutes of free phone calls each week for incarcerated people
- Eliminate commissary markups
- Make phone calls and commissary items more accessible and affordable; support them to maintain connections to their support networks and ensure they have necessary hygiene and food items

## COHORT 2 APPLICATION PERIOD

- Dane County participated in the March 3<sup>rd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> CCFFJ Bootcamp
  - <https://www.policylink.org/bootcamp-overview>
- Invitation to apply completed in early April
- Next round of applications expected in early May
- Initiative launches in July 2022
- Grant funding between \$25,000 - \$75,000, customized technical assistance, access to a network of subject matter experts, reform implementation planning, communications strategy support, and opportunities for shared learning.
- Learning site teams are 2-5 team members, including: team coordinator, county stakeholders and representatives, community advocates, and people with lived experience

# DANE COUNTY—GREAT START

- Fines and Fees Subcommittee of Public Protection and Judiciary
- Juvenile Fee
- Family Court
- Collaborative subcommittee with multi-disciplinary lens and community representation



QUESTIONS?

<https://www.policylink.org/ccffj>