

# An Overview of the Pretrial Justice Collaborative

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MDRC Center for Criminal Justice Research

Justice System Partners

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JUSTICE SYSTEM PARTNERS



# Research Team and Project Roles

<b>Cindy Redcross</b>	Project Director
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<b>Emily Brennan</b>	Research
<b>Daron Holman</b>	Research
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<b>Zach Del Pra</b>	Implementation Specialist
<b>Dr. Brian Lovins</b>	Implementation Specialist
<b>Emily Numbers</b>	Implementation Specialist
<b>Claire Brooker</b>	Implementation Specialist



# Project Background and Goals

- Pretrial Justice Collaborative (PJC) goals:
  - 1) Help partner jurisdictions assess the performance of their pretrial release interventions, with a focus on court appearance outcomes.
  - 2) Identify the least burdensome pretrial supervision interventions necessary to maximize court appearance.
- Eight partner jurisdictions
  - New York, NY
  - Yakima County, WA
  - Santa Cruz County, CA
  - Dane County, WI
  - Lucas County, OH
  - Harris County, TX
  - City and County of Denver, CO
  - Mesa County, CO



# Study Approach : Two tiers of research

## **Tier 1: Process and Descriptive Analysis (all 8 sites)**

- What are the practices and policies around pretrial release conditions and intervention strategies? How is pretrial supervision implemented?
- What are court appearance rates for defendants assigned to various release conditions and interventions?

## **Tier 2: Impact Studies with Rapid Cycle Feedback (4 sites)**

- Is a particular pretrial supervision intervention more effective than a less restrictive intervention on court appearance, case outcomes, and new crime charges?
- Does a less burdensome intervention decrease defendants' court appearance?



# Tier 1 Research Activities

Interviews with pretrial services staff, judges, defense attorneys, prosecutors; observe relevant activities such as risk assessment process, first appearance hearings.

Site visits



The research team will request data documentation, codebooks, and data files from the administrative office of the courts and pretrial services.

Data assessment



The research team will map and document pretrial case flow and release decision points.

System and process mapping



Policies and statutes related to pretrial release conditions and eligibility for specific interventions, risk assessments, and decision-making frameworks.

Document review



Analysis of recent trends in court appearance outcomes for defendants assigned to various release conditions and interventions.

Analysis of court appearance trends



Determine interest, ability, process, and TA for participation in impact study.

Assess feasibility for Tier 2



# Tier 2 Impact Studies

Possible interventions to test in one jurisdiction		
Test	Intervention Testing Examples	
	Program Intervention	Status Quo Intervention
1.	No Check-ins	Phone Check-ins Only
2.	Phone Check-ins Only	In-person Check-ins
3.	Pretrial Reporting	Pretrial Reporting and Drug Testing

Rapid Cycle Outcome	
Court appearance (first 90 days)	
Full Evaluation Outcomes	
Court appearance rates	
New charges pretrial	
Disposition	
Time to disposition	



# Tier 2 Research Activities

Work with pretrial services to figure out how to assign clients on pretrial supervision to different modes of contact / requirements in a “random” way.

Define Research Groups



Provide training and technical assistance for pretrial services staff on assignment and monitoring of implementation

Technical assistance



Provide ongoing consultation and feedback during second year

Ongoing support



Rapid cycle feedback on court appearance outcomes and preliminary impacts every 90 days throughout second year

Rapid cycle feedback



Peer learning community webinars hosted by research team

Learning community webinars



Full impact evaluation and stakeholder briefings on results

Impact evaluation



***Provide irrefutable evidence about the relative effectiveness of different modes / conditions of supervision***

# Outcomes (Tier 1\*\*)

- Pretrial release conditions/bail setting
- **Court appearance/failure to appear**
- Bench warrants
- Case dispositions and time to case dispositions
- Re-arrests
- Pretrial supervision levels, contacts, compliance (Tier 2)
- Other?

\*\*Some of the above will also be outcomes in Tier 2 impact analyses





# Data Elements We'll Request

Case or event level data:

- Defendant demographics and criminal history
- Risk assessment scores/information
- Arrest dates and charges
- Pretrial release conditions and bail setting
- Hearings and hearing outcome
- Bench warrants
- Court appearance and failure to appear
- Case outcomes/dispositions
- Pretrial services data: supervision levels, contact date and type, non-compliance, discharge dates and reasons, etc.

*Data may originate from multiple sources (e.g. AOC, pretrial services)*

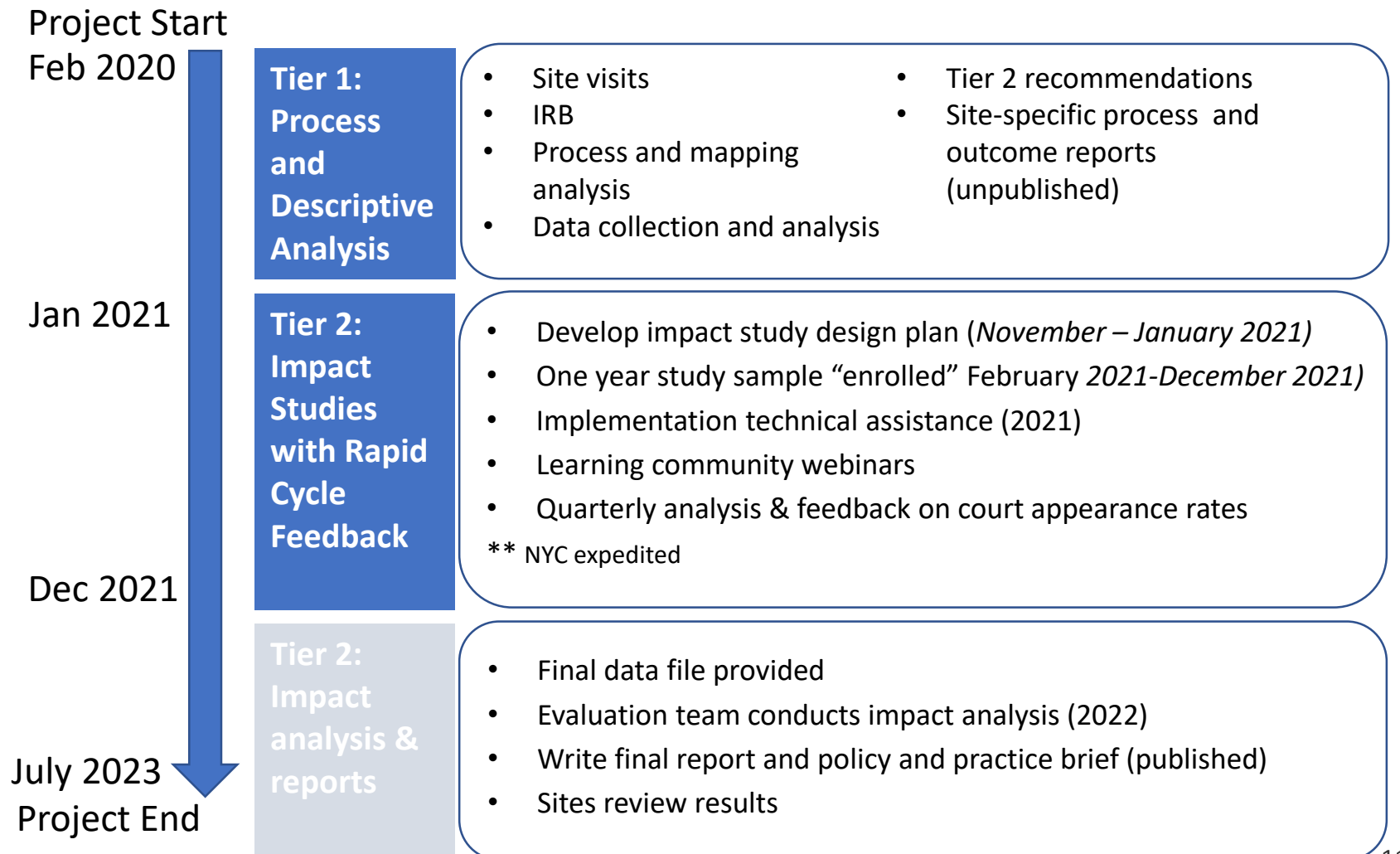


# Tier 1: Deliverables (February 2020-December 2020)

- Site-specific research report with results from Tier 1 data analysis:
  - System and process map
  - Release conditions
  - Trends in court appearance rates over recent timeframe
  - Court appearance and case outcomes for:
    - All cases
    - By release condition
    - Charge class
    - Defendant race/ethnicity, risk level, age
  - Pretrial services participation and outcomes
  - Other site-specific analysis
- Feasibility and TA recommendations for Tier 2



# Timeline



# What to expect in 2020

- Introductory and planning call with site teams (February-March)
- Implementation study site visit (March-April)
- Monthly check-in calls (Ongoing)
- Data collection (May or sooner)
- Data analysis and feasibility/impact design planning (May-October)
  - Second site visit for some sites in Fall 2020
- Process and outcome reports (Summer-December)
- Tier 2 finalists determined (November or sooner 2020)

\*\*\*NYC expedited due to recent study by MDRC



# Site Teams

<b>NYC, NY</b>	Kristin/Cindy, Justine, Brit
<b>Harris, TX</b>	Cindy, Brian, Daron
<b>Santa Cruz, CA</b>	Kristin, Bret, Emily/Chloe
<b>Yakima, WA</b>	Bret, Lily, Claire (consult)
<b>Dane, WI</b>	Melanie, Claire, Chloe
<b>Lucas, OH</b>	Bret/Cindy, Zach, Daron
<b>Denver, CO</b>	Melanie, Zach, Emily B.
<b>Mesa, CO</b>	Melanie, Zach, Emily B.

