

Dane County: Pathways to Pretrial Advancement

Technical Assistance Provider

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Overview

Pathways to Pretrial Advancement is a 12-month strategic planning and technical assistance initiative designed to help jurisdictions assess and strengthen their pretrial systems. Through this initiative, Dane County will partner with APPR to evaluate current pretrial practices, identify opportunities for improvement, and develop a clear, actionable implementation plan. With support from the [Wilson Sheehan Lab for Economic Opportunities \(LEO\)](#) at the University of Notre Dame, Dane County will also explore opportunities to incorporate rigorous research and evaluation into its priority improvement areas.

Initial Priority Areas for Dane County

1. Reducing Failure to Appear (FTA) rates
2. Strengthening the diversion continuum

What This Work Includes

Examine the Current System

- Map pretrial processes from arrest through case resolution
- Analyze key pretrial data metrics
- Conduct a jail analysis (length and drivers of pretrial detention)
- Develop findings report and recommendations

Learn Best Practices

- Apply APPR's Roadmap for Pretrial Advancement
- Explore evidence-based policies and practices

Prioritize & Plan for Change

- Identify practical, data-driven improvement strategies
- Distinguish short-term wins from long-term reforms
- Develop an implementation plan (roles, timelines, training, communications)

Research & Evaluation Opportunity (LEO)

- Learn fundamentals of evaluation
- Assess readiness for research
- Develop a research plan where feasible

Jurisdiction Expectations

- **Meet regularly:** Convene a workgroup and participate in monthly meetings over 12 months
- **Stay engaged:** Actively participate in learning, discussions, and planning activities
- **Use data:** Support decisions with data and evidence
- **Complete work:** Use provided resources and complete assigned tasks
- **Collaborate:** Engage cross-agency partners and work collectively
- **Plan for action:** Develop a clear implementation plan with defined roles and timelines
- **Explore research:** Assess feasibility of working with LEO on evaluation
- **Include community voice:** Engage stakeholders, including impacted individuals