

Diversion, Specialty Courts & Justice System Improvements



People need treatment—not jail—when behavior is driven by behavioral health needs.

Why it matters? Diversion improves safety, reduces costs, & increases recovery and stability.

What we’re addressing? High rates of substance use, mental health crises, and repeat justice involvement

What this plan supports?

- Diversion programs and specialty courts
- Treatment & peer support connected to justice settings
- Youth-focused prevention and intervention
- Reduced recidivism

Key Investments

- Expansion of pre-booking and post-booking diversion pathways
- Strengthening drug, DWI, and mental health courts
- Justice-embedded treatment, peer support, and re-entry coordination
- Youth-focused diversion and prevention models

Reduced Recidivism: Evidence shows that addressing underlying psychiatric or addiction issues can drop recidivism rates by as much as **30%** compared to traditional jail time.

Budget

Year	%	Level	Justification
1	25%	\$250,000	These programs need a dedicated and dependable investment that they can build, enhance, and scale from utilizing braided and leveraged investments. Focus on proven best practices and enhancing existing programs for alternatives to detention, specialty courts, re-entry coordination, and jail-based programs paired with treatment.
2	25%	\$250,000	
3	25%	\$250,000	

3-Year Targets

- Divert **500+ individuals annually** from incarceration to treatment
- Reduce **repeat justice involvement** among participants by **15–25%**
- Increase **treatment engagement rates** for justice-involved individuals to **75%+**

Impact: Treatment replaces jail for behavioral health-driven offenses.

