



August 9, 2018

Dear NACo,

We are joining the Data-Driven Justice initiative to address two key populations: (1) “high-utilizers,” often chronically homeless individuals, with mental illness, substance use disorders and health problems who repeatedly cycle through multiple systems, including jails, hospital emergency rooms, shelters and other services; and (2) people held in jail before trial because they cannot afford to bond out, not because they are a risk to the community or a risk of flight.

We commit to advance innovative solutions that can better serve these key populations, support a resilient and thriving community and more effectively and efficiently use public resources, including:

1. Create or expand real- or near-real-time local data exchanges that combine justice, health or other system data, as appropriate and consistent with applicable legal and privacy protections, to identify high-utilizers of multiple systems;
2. Divert key populations from the criminal justice system and link them to treatment providers, care management or other community-based services; and
3. Implement data-driven risk assessment tools to ensure decisions on pretrial release are informed by empirically validated approaches to gauging defendants’ risk to the community, not by ability to pay or other extralegal information.

In addition, we commit to continue to convene a stakeholder group that includes multiple components of our government, other systems and community partners that will work together to initiate and implement innovative data-driven justice solutions.

Over the coming months, we will outline a plan to advance the strategies in Anderson County, South Carolina. In addition, Anderson County will participate in data-driven justice activities hosted by NACo as appropriate, engage with NACo and other DDJ communities on our progress and participate in communications and public engagement that make sense for Anderson County.

Casey Collins will coordinate the initiative on my behalf, will report directly to me with respect to this initiative and will be the lead point of contact for communications related to Data-Driven Justice.

Sincerely,

Rusty Burns  
Administrator, Anderson County

**Tommy Dunn**  
Chairman, District 5

**Craig Wooten**  
Council District 1

**Tom Allen**  
Council District 4

**Cindy Wilson**  
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**ANDERSON COUNTY**  
SOUTH CAROLINA