

Survey for Criminal Justice Policy Advisors and Criminal Justice Agency Administrators (SAA) on National Criminal Justice Reform Priorities

1. Background Profile

The National Criminal Justice Association through its Center for Justice Planning (NCJP) and the National Governors Association (NGA) are collaborating on a national initiative to accelerate reform that enhances public safety and makes the most cost-effective use of public resources in five areas of criminal justice policy and practice.

The project seeks the input of policymakers across the states. The purpose of this survey is to capture key gubernatorial and senior executive branch agency staff priorities to inform the project's goals and objectives. To accomplish this, we need input from criminal justice policy advisors and state criminal justice agency administrators. The deadline to respond is Friday, June 10, 2016.

For technical assistance, please contact NGA Senior Policy Analyst Jeff Locke at jlocke@nga.org or NCJP Senior Staff Associate Tammy Woodhams at twoodhams@ncja.org.

Thank you in advance for your participation.

* 1. Using the drop down menu, please select the state or territory where you work.

* 2. Please indicate your current position:

- Governors' Criminal Justice Policy Advisor
 State Criminal Justice Agency Administrator

* 3. Please provide your contact information:

Name	<input type="text"/>
Title	<input type="text"/>
Office/Agency	<input type="text"/>
Email Address	<input type="text"/>

4. Please indicate your years of experience in the criminal justice field:

- 0-1 year
- 2-5 years
- 6-10 years
- 11-14 years
- 15-20 years
- more than 20 years

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2. Criminal Justice Councils, Boards and Commissions

* 5. Are there existing criminal justice councils, commissions, boards or policy task forces (i.e. task forces focused on information sharing standards or the use of technology) in your state?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

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3. Existing Councils

6. Please identify the councils, commission, boards or policy task forces currently in operation in your state (select as many as applicable)

- Local Criminal Justice Coordinating Council
- State planning board, council or commission
- Policy focused Task Force (e.g. information sharing)
- Reentry Council
- Community Corrections Advisory Board
- Juvenile Justice Commission
- Sentencing Commission
- Other (please list)

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4. Prior Councils

7. Are you aware of any councils, commissions, boards or policy task forces in your state that are no longer active? If yes, please list and briefly state to the best of your knowledge, why they are no longer active. If no, please skip to the next question.

1.

2.

3.

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5. Strategic Planning

* 8. Has your state developed a strategic plan for providing criminal justice services?

Yes

No

* 9. Has your state incorporated evidence-based practices and programs into the strategic plan?

Yes

No

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6. Reform Efforts to Date

* 10. Has your state undertaken statewide criminal justice reform in the last four years?

Yes

No

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7. Current Reform Efforts

* 11. What areas of the criminal justice system have these reforms focused on?

- Reforming pretrial release and bail
- Improving the reentry process and reducing offender recidivism
- Addressing mental health and substance use disorders in the justice-involved population
- Safely reducing prison and/or jail populations
- Implementing evidence based practices, including improving access to data and information sharing practices, adopting performance metrics, and integrating evaluation
- Other (please specify)

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8. Interest in Reform

* 12. How would you characterize your state's interest in state-driven, data-informed, and evidence-based criminal justice reform?

- Not interested
- Potentially interested, depending on the area of focus
- Ready to move forward
- We are already moving forward

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9. Interest in Support

* 13. If you see your state as interested in criminal justice reform and willing to move forward, are you interested in receiving additional support and technical assistance to accelerate the reform process?

Yes

No

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10. Your Priorities

* 14. The National Criminal Justice Reform Project will work in five areas of criminal justice policy and practice. Please indicate which of these five areas are of most urgent need for focus and reform based on your work in your state. Rank them in priority order from highest to lowest.

	Highest Priority	High	Medium	Low	Lowest Priority
Reforming pretrial release and bail	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Improving the reentry process and reducing offender recidivism	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Addressing mental health and substance use disorders in the justice-involved population	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Safely reducing prison and/or jail populations	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Implementing evidence-based practices, including improving access to data and information sharing practices, adopting performance metrics and integrating evaluation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

* 15. Thinking of the top priority area you identified in the prior question, what are obstacles to implementing reform in that area? Please select your top three.

- Excessive, outdated or lack of regulation (federal or state)
- Non-regulatory legal obstacles, such as unfavorable case law or statutes
- Inadequate federal or state funding
- Politics (e.g. legislature, unions, interest groups)
- Lack of public support
- Lack of legislative support
- Lack of data about a policy problem or priority area
- Inability to share information effectively across state agencies
- Need for improved cross-agency coordination and involvement
- Scarcity of qualified staff
- Lack of training
- Lack of political will
- Resistance to change (from the field or within an agency)
- Turf issues or lack of collaboration and coordination (e.g. absence of ability or willingness for different system stakeholders to work together)
- Lack of financial resources or concern regarding the financial investment required to implement evidence-based programs or practices.
- Lack of sufficient quality control mechanisms (e.g. auditing to ensure offender risk and need assessment tools are properly administered and case management plans reflect assessment findings; auditing to ensure service providers follow evidence-based practices)
- Other (please specify)

16. In addition to the areas listed above, please indicate up to three other areas of reform that are a high priority for your governor:

Area 1

Area 2

Area 3

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11. Pretrial Release and Bail Reform

The National Criminal Justice Reform Project (NCJRP) will support the adoption of data-driven, evidence-based policies and practices in up to five states. The questions below seek to gather awareness of, and interest in, specific programs and practices that can lead to transformative reform. Please select up to three choices in each category that you consider as priorities to address critical challenges in your jurisdiction.

* 17. Pretrial release and bail reform (select up to three)

- Validated pretrial risk assessment
- Alternatives to cash bail
- Law enforcement led pre-arrest division
- Prosecutor led diversion
- Crisis intervention training
- Drop off centers for non-violent offenders
- Community supervision
- Access to community-based substance abuse and mental health treatment
- No change is needed
- Other (please specify)

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12. Improving Reentry

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* 18. Improving the reentry process and reducing offender recidivism: prison and jail practices (select up to three)

- Pre-release transition planning
- Expanded educational opportunities and job training
- Expanded mental health and substance abuse services
- Implementation of cognitive behavior therapy programs
- Frequent family visitation
- Short-term services and treatment for misdemeanants
- No change is needed
- Other (please specify)

* 19. Improving the reentry process and reducing offender recidivism: post release practices (select up to three)

- Parole board use of risk assessment instruments
- Reduced supervision caseloads
- Reentry courts
- Day reporting centers
- Linkage to behavioral health (continuum of services)
- Mitigating collateral consequences of criminal convictions related to statutory restrictions on occupational licensing and/or access to public housing, food stamps, and/or government-sponsored education grants
- Eliminating barriers to employment
- Facilitating linkages to housing and addressing homelessness
- Providing certificates of rehabilitation
- No change is needed
- Other (please specify)

* 20. Improving the reentry process and reducing offender recidivism: responding to technical violations (select up to three)

- Implementing administrative rather than judicial sanctions
- Use of sanctioning grids or guidelines
- Swift and certain response (H.O.P.E. model)
- Specialized prison units for short revocation stays
- No change is needed
- Other (please specify)

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13. Addressing Mental Health

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* 21. Addressing mental health and substance use disorders in the offender population (select up to three)

- Pre-arrest and pretrial diversion
- Crisis Intervention Treatment training for law enforcement
- Assertive Community Treatment (ACT)
- Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT)
- Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT)
- Motivational Interviewing for Substance Abuse Disorders
- Supported housing
- Supported employment
- No change is needed
- Other (please specify)

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14. Safely Reducing Jail and Prison Populations

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* 22. Safely reducing jail and prison populations: sentencing reform (select up to three)

- Restoring judicial discretion
- Judicial use of risk assessment
- Eliminating or reducing mandatory minimum sentences
- Eliminating or reducing life without parole sentences
- Eliminating or reducing felony sentences for non-violent drug possession and use
- No change is needed
- Other (please specify)

* 23. Safely reducing jail and prison populations: alternatives to incarceration (select up to three)

- Problem solving and specialty courts
- Smart probation (H.O.P.E. model)
- Diversion of offenders with mental illness, non-violent drug offenders; Expansion of community-based mental health and substance abuse treatment
- No change is needed
- Other (please specify)

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15. Implementing Evidence-Based Practices

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* 24. Implementing evidence-based practices across the criminal justice system (select up to three)

- Replicating successful programs with fidelity
- Improving access to data and information sharing practices
- Establishing cross-jurisdictional data access and information sharing policies
- Implementing information sharing standards by criminal justice, substance abuse, and behavioral health agencies
- Establishing privacy protection policies for criminal justice data
- Adopting performance metrics and integrating evaluation into programs
- Establishing protocols for auditing criminal justice data for accuracy and completeness
- No change is needed
- Other (please specify)

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16. Thank You!

Thank you for your input!

For more information about the National Criminal Justice Reform Project, please [click here](#) and [here](#). For more information about National Criminal Justice Association (NCJA) please visit [our website](#). For more information about the National Governors Association (NGA), please [click here](#).