



Center for
Justice Planning

Enhancing Data Quality within Prosecution Offices

New NCJA TTA Opportunity

As a State Administering Agency (SAA), do you fund prosecution programming with Byrne JAG or other federal or state funds? Do your funded prosecution programs struggle with ensuring good quality data? If so, this new opportunity may be for you!

NCJA is partnering with Measures for Justice to offer selected sites free hands-on support to assess and improve the quality of their data, and ultimately move towards a path of reliable, accessible, transparent and actionable data.

ABOUT MEASURES FOR JUSTICE

Measures for Justice (MFJ) collaborates with local communities, including prosecutors, courts, police and the general public to make high-quality criminal justice data transparent and accessible, leading to greater system accountability.

MFJ hosts a [national portal](#) of court data that illustrates local criminal justice system performance and Commons, a data platform that helps agencies set and track policy goals in collaboration with their communities and seeks to increase data transparency and accessibility across the country.

MFJ works to help agencies understand the data they already have and improve its quality and usability.



How can my state benefit from this opportunity?

Support from MFJ would help a prosecutor's office with assessing and improving the quality of its data. Ultimately, with access to high-quality data, the office would be better positioned to understand both the nature of the office's work and its implications, enabling staff to make policy decisions based on solid evidence. Additionally, access to high-quality and transparent data will better equip and empower SAA offices in strategic planning efforts.

MFJ and NCJA are recruiting sites that could be a good fit for participation in this initiative. If selected, an SAA and corresponding local agency that supports, or might consider supporting, prosecution-related programming with Byrne Justice Assistance Grant or other funding would work alongside MFJ to undergo phases 1 and 2 of the current Groundwork Initiative (details on the next page). Throughout this process, MFJ will help prosecutors and their offices evaluate the strengths and challenges of their current data practices, provide specific recommendations for improvement, and put agencies on the right path to having reliable, accessible, transparent and actionable data. Through support from the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), participation is free to sites and has the potential to bolster the use of high-quality, trusted data in the strategic planning process among sites and their corresponding SAA offices.



How does the initiative work?

MFJ offers flexible support to the sites. The support provided can be broken into five distinct phases. Sites can choose which phases to participate in, as well as the timing of participation. **Currently, NCJA is supporting work in phases 1 and 2 (the Groundwork Initiative), while phases 3, 4 and 5 are currently being scaled by MFJ.** The future phases will include the implementation of recommendations, monitoring of progress and potential evaluation of the impact of the collaboration with MFJ. Although only phases 1 and 2 are supported through this TTA project, sites that work with MFJ through NCJA would be welcome to explore these subsequent phases independently.



PHASE 1: Groundwork

Data culture and data infrastructure assessment (using the Wayfinder tool) plus data sample audit.



PHASE 2: Groundwork

Recommendations offered based on information gained in Phase 1.

In phases 1 and 2, using Wayfinder, a data culture and infrastructure assessment, paired with a data sample audit, MFJ evaluates data culture within the agency, highlights what an agency is doing well and what can be improved, and offers a set of actionable recommendations that can be implemented to address the challenges that were identified. At a minimum, the processes of phases 1 and 2 would yield a deep understanding of data culture and use within the prosecution agency, as well as a roadmap for improving data infrastructure and data collection efforts.

The agency would receive recommendations from MFJ regarding how to improve data quality and reliability, which, when implemented appropriately, would lead to cleaner, more consistent and more comprehensive data.

INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE?

Reach out to Elisa Nicoletti, NCJA Data Center Manager at enicoletti@ncja.org, or (771) 233-6828.

NCJA Center for Justice Planning: [NCJA.org/Strategic-Planning](https://www.ncja.org/Strategic-Planning) ▪ Measures for Justice: [MeasuresForJustice.org](https://www.MeasuresForJustice.org)

This document was created with the support of Grant No. 2019-YA-BX-K002 awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance. The Bureau of Justice Assistance is a component of the Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Institute of Justice, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the SMART Office, and the Office for Victims of Crime. Points of view or opinions in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.