

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES
The Stepping Up Initiative
www.StepUpTogether.org

Fact Sheet

Project Overview:

- NACo initiative in conjunction with the Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center and the American Psychiatric Foundation (APF)
- Long-term national effort to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in jail
- Initiative launched on May 5, 2015 on Capitol steps in Washington, D.C.
- Website established to provide an on-line tool kit and information on webinars, research and best practices
- National summit to be held in Spring 2016 in Washington, D.C.
- Following the summit, participants will be notified of potential opportunities for more intensive assistance through federal and private grant programs

Project Objectives:

- Provide a national Call to Action and raise awareness about the factors contributing to over-representation of people with mental illness in the jail
- Assist counties, along with state partners, to focus on results and take efforts to the next level by using action-oriented, comprehensive strategies to provide needed services
- Highlight jurisdictions that have implemented innovative and proven practices such as Washington, D.C.; Johnson County, Kansas; Miami-Dade County, Florida; and Sacramento County, California

Recommended Actions at the County Level:

- County elected officials are being asked to pass a resolution to sign on to the Call to Action (template provided) to demonstrate strong county and state leadership and a shared commitment to achieving results
- Jurisdictions are encouraged to convene representatives involved in the issue (or leverage existing teams) to conduct local assessments and develop action plans that incorporate research-based approaches and program evaluations

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