Justice investment utilizes criminal justice and behavioral health experts from the CSG Justice Center to

- Collect data that is often siloed and underanalyzed to spotlight the most pressing trends and drivers of crime, recidivism, and costs;
- Meet with a range of stakeholders and review statutes, policies, and current practices;
- Deliver findings to state leaders in clear, compelling, and actionable presentations;
- Help address implementation challenges once changes are adopted; and
- Establish an ongoing data monitoring process.

RESULTS
The justice reinvestment approach has resulted in significant and cost-effective public safety improvements across the country, such as

- Investments in effective law enforcement strategies to reduce crime;
- Expanded access to addiction treatment and other programs proven to reduce recidivism for people on supervision;
- Improved accountability at less cost with swift and proportionate responses to violations of supervision;
- Double-digit reductions in recidivism rates due to investments in smaller supervision caseloads, training, and policy changes; and
- Prioritization of prison space for people convicted of the most serious and violent offenses, thus averting prison construction and/or reducing prison overcrowding.

States use a justice reinvestment approach to:

- Tackle local public safety and health challenges, from recent crime trends to people who have behavioral health needs.
- Scale up recidivism-reduction efforts such as increasing the use of risk and needs assessments, the quality of supervision, and access to effective, research-based programs and services.
- Manage costs associated with state prison and local jail population trends.

State policymakers are grappling with upticks in violent crime, the opioid epidemic, people who have mental illnesses in the justice system, high rates of recidivism, and the high cost of corrections, all while trying to improve services for victims and increase opportunities for people returning to communities from jail and prison.

To tackle these issues, more than 25 states have partnered with The Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center to use a justice reinvestment approach.
1. EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
In conversations with CSG Justice Center staff, state leaders indicate their interest in exploring a justice reinvestment approach.

2. ORIENTATION MEETINGS
CSG Justice Center staff meet with state leaders to discuss the justice reinvestment process and the state’s objectives. These meetings include leaders in corrections and community supervision agencies, the governor’s office, the legislature and the judiciary, as well as other key stakeholders in the criminal justice system. The CSG Justice Center will also assess the state’s capacity to collect, share, and analyze data across key points in the criminal justice system.

3. APPROVAL
Justice reinvestment is funded by the U.S. Department of Justice’s Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) and The Pew Charitable Trusts (Pew). State leaders must submit a letter of interest to BJA and Pew, which will be reviewed to assess the readiness of the state to undertake a justice reinvestment project.

4. DATA COLLECTION
States that benefit most from justice reinvestment are able to provide case-level data, inclusive of basic demographics, that cover arrests and criminal history, sentencing, jails, prison, probation and parole supervision, and behavioral health.

5. INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE
States create a committee—informally or by statute or executive order—to guide the justice reinvestment effort. While states tailor the composition and leadership of their committee to meet their needs, all committees should include representatives from all three branches of government and key criminal justice stakeholders.

6. LAUNCH
Most states plan a public announcement for state leaders to launch the effort and outline big-picture goals. Usually this involves a press conference with the governor, chief justice, Senate president, Speaker of the House, and other key officials formally launching the state’s justice reinvestment effort.

7. PROJECT PHASES
The first phase of a project, including data analysis, stakeholder engagement, and the development of policy recommendations, typically lasts between 9 and 18 months. For states that adopt policy changes based on the analysis, the CSG Justice Center continues to partner with the state for an additional 24 to 36 months to support the implementation of these new policies and track their impact.