



**Justice Center**

THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS

# How the American Rescue Plan Helps Criminal Justice Stakeholders Respond to Behavioral Health Crises

June 15, 2021 | **Alex Blandford**, *Program Director, Behavioral Health, CSG Justice Center*

**Mark Larson**, *Senior Vice President, Leadership and Capacity Building, Center for Health Care Strategies*

**Steve Allen**, *Behavioral Health Director, Oregon Health Authority*

**Brinda Penyak**, *Deputy Executive Director, County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania*

# Presentation Outline

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- I. Setting the Stage: Background and American Rescue Plan Overview
- II. Opportunities and Collaboration in Context: Local, State, and National Perspectives
- III. Getting Involved: Specific Strategies and Considerations
- IV. Q & A and Resources

# Speakers

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**Alex Blandford**, *Program Director, Behavioral Health, CSG Justice Center*

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# The Council of State Governments Justice Center

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We are a national nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that combines the power of a membership association, serving state officials in all three branches of government, with policy and research expertise to develop strategies that increase public safety and strengthen communities.



# Center for Health Care Strategies

About the Center for Health Care Strategies

A nonprofit policy center dedicated to improving the health of low-income Americans

The diagram is a circular wheel divided into four colored segments, each representing a priority area. The segments are: a yellow segment for 'Advancing delivery system and payment reform', a blue segment for 'Integrating services for people with complex needs', a green segment for 'Building Medicaid and cross-sector leadership capacity', and a light blue segment for 'Best practice dissemination'. The center of the wheel is a white circle labeled 'CHCS Priority Areas'. The wheel is surrounded by a white border with icons and labels: a lightbulb for 'Knowledge development', a group of people for 'Collaborative learning', a wrench and screwdriver for 'Technical assistance', and a megaphone for 'Best practice dissemination'.

CHCS Center for Health Care Strategies, Inc.

# Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program

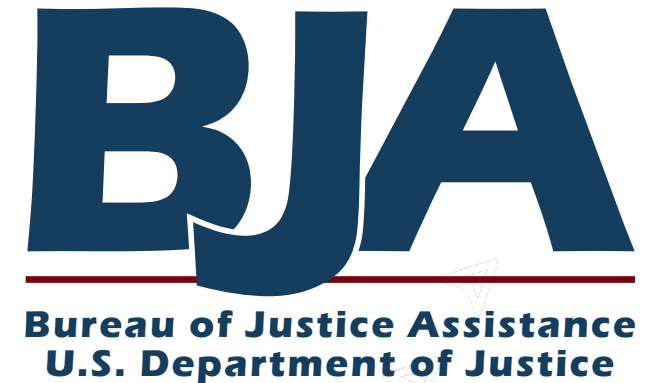
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The Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program (JMHCP) promotes innovative cross-system collaboration and provides grants directly to states, local governments, and federally recognized Indian tribes. It is designed to improve responses to people with mental illnesses and substance use disorders who are involved in the criminal justice system.

# The U.S. Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Assistance

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**Mission:** BJA provides leadership and assistance to local criminal justice programs that improve and reinforce the nation's criminal justice system. BJA's goals are to reduce and prevent crime, violence, and drug abuse and to improve the way in which the criminal justice system functions. In order to achieve such goals, BJA programs illustrate the coordination and cooperation of local, state, and federal governments. BJA works closely with programs that bolster law enforcement operations, expand drug courts, and provide benefits to safety officers.



Visit the [BJA website](#) to learn more.

# Presentation Outline: I

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## **I. Setting the Stage: Background and American Rescue Plan Overview**

## II. Opportunities and Collaboration in Context: Local, State, and National Perspectives

## III. Getting Involved: Specific Strategies and Considerations

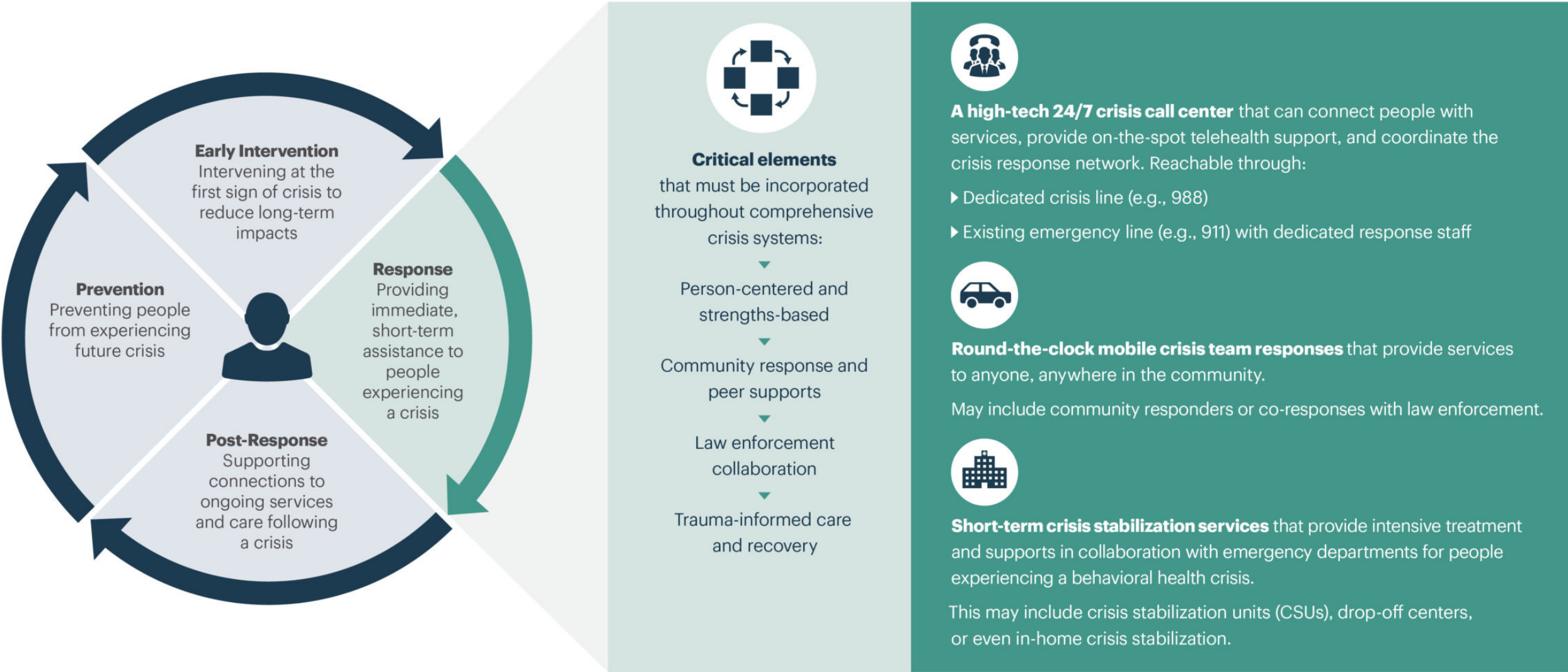
## IV. Q & A and Resources



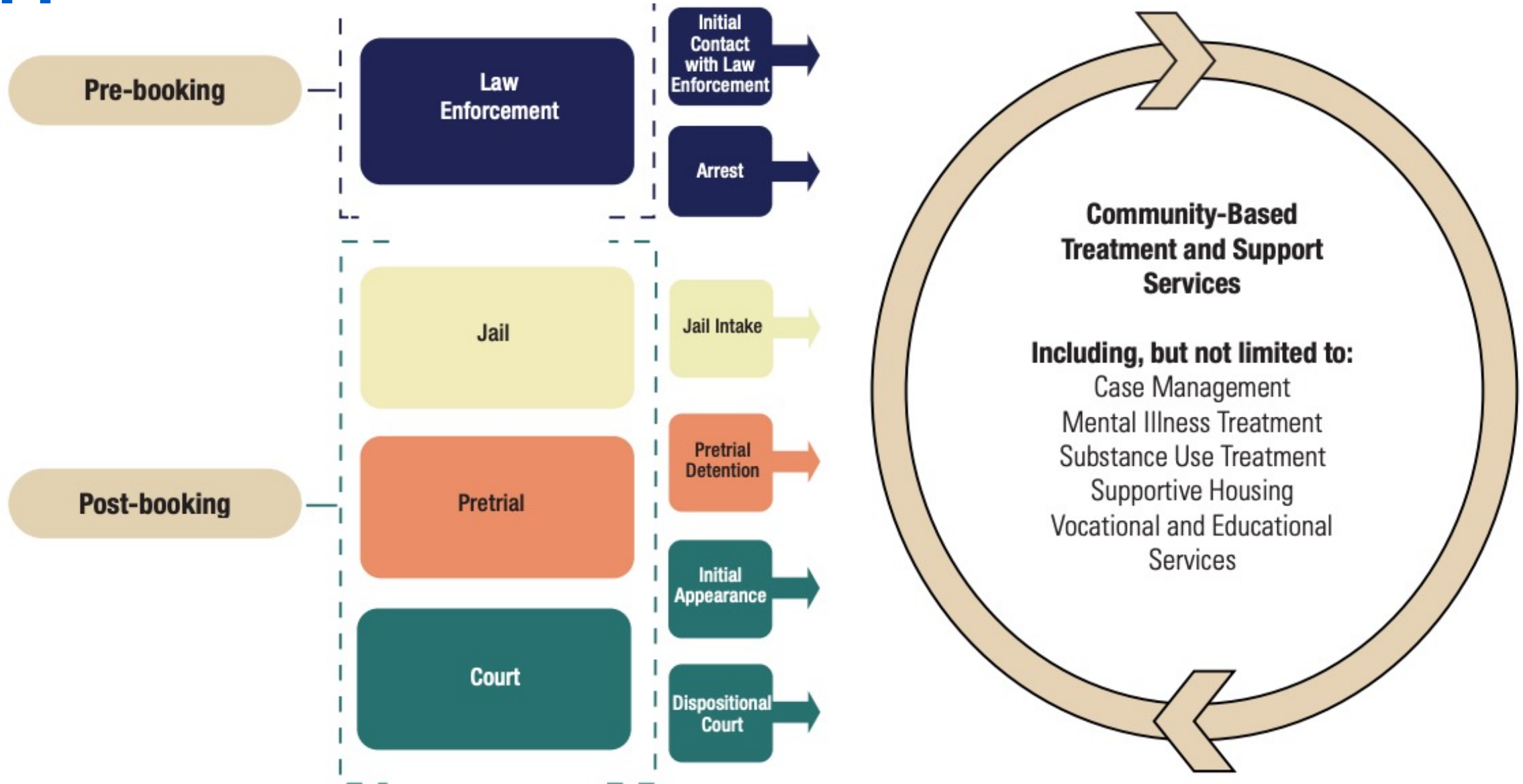
# Setting the Stage: Background

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# A Comprehensive Crisis Strategy with Essential Components of Local Crisis Responses



# Diversion with connections to community care and supports



# Setting the Stage: American Rescue Plan Overview

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# American Rescue Plan Overview

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- **\$1.9 trillion** American Rescue Plan to invest in public health and safety programs and promote stronger, more equitable communities
- **More than \$59 billion** can help increase access to health care treatment and services for people in the justice system
- **More than \$2 billion** to incentivize states and localities to invest in community crisis systems



# Collaboration Based on Public Health and Safety Goals

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- Funding from a **variety of sources**
- Working **across communities, systems, sectors, levels of government**
- Partner **effectively**

# Presentation Outline: II

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I. Setting the Stage: Background and American Rescue Plan Overview

**II. Opportunities and Collaboration in Context: Local and State**

III. Specific Strategies and Considerations

IV. Q & A and Resources

# State and Local Perspectives

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Brinda Penyak, *Deputy Executive Director, County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania*

Steve Allen, *Behavioral Health Director, Oregon Health Authority*

# Presentation Outline: III

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- I. Setting the Stage: Background and American Rescue Plan Overview
- II. Opportunities and Collaboration in Context: Local, State, and National Perspectives
- III. Getting Involved: Strategies and Considerations**
- IV. Q & A and Resources

# Getting Involved: Strategies and Considerations

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Group Discussion



# Essential Strategies for Crisis Care and Diversion

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**Strategy 1:** Helping communities build comprehensive crisis response and early diversion systems for people with BH needs

**Strategy 2:** Supporting community-based programs and models to help build a full continuum of care and services post-crisis

# Essential Strategies: Considerations and Next Steps

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Review eligible entities



Determine community needs








Identify opportunities to represent the needs of the community



Make connections to share info and join forces

# Key: Strategies & Components

Strategy			
1. Crisis Response	Crisis system components		
			
	24/7 Crisis Call Center	24/7 Mobile Crisis	24/7 Crisis Receiving & Stabilization Services
2. Capacity of and Connections to Community Care			
			 Early criminal justice diversion opportunities




# Essential Strategy 1

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**Strategy 1: Helping communities build comprehensive crisis response and early diversion systems for people with BH needs**



**Strategy 2: Supporting community-based programs and models to help build a full continuum of care and services post-crisis**

# Strategy 1: Relevant Funding


Funding Source	Strategy & Components	Specific Considerations
State and Local Fiscal Recovery		Talk to local government and explore how all allowable uses could be leveraged, especially for short-term needs exacerbated by pandemic.
Funding for Expansion Grants for Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs)		Explore ways to work with CCBHCs, especially given requirement that they provide mobile crisis services. Identify providers that already qualify as CCBHCs or those that could be eligible to explore partnership opportunities (map of existing CCBHCs in handout).
Funding for State Planning Grants		Connect locally; make the case to the state Medicaid agency.



# Strategy 1: Relevant Funding (continued)

Funding Source	Strategy & Components	Specific Considerations
Community Mental Health Services Block Grant		<p>Connect with administering agency in your state/territory to determine how funds will reach local level, esp. with “set aside” (list in handout).</p> <p>Determine how to best access and leverage these funds, making the case for supporting crisis services and early diversion activities.</p>
Funding for Expansion Grants for Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs)		<p>Explore ways to work with CCBHCs, especially given requirement that they provide mobile crisis services.</p> <p>Identify providers that already qualify as CCBHCs or those that could be eligible to explore partnership opportunities (map of existing CCBHCs in handout).</p>

# Strategy 1: Relevant Funding (final)

Funding Source	Strategy & Components	Specific Considerations
Funding for COVID-19 Testing, Contact Tracing, and Mitigation Activities		<p>Reach out to your local public health department.</p> <p>Explore whether funds can be leveraged to sustain or expand local efforts to divert people with behavioral health needs from incarceration as part of efforts to “mitigate the spread of COVID-19”</p>

# State & Local Reflections

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- Brinda Penyak, *Deputy Executive Director, County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania*
- Steve Allen, *Behavioral Health Director, Oregon Health Authority*

# National Reflections

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- Mark Larson, *Senior Vice President, Leadership and Capacity Building, Center for Health Care Strategies*

# Essential Strategy 2



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**Strategy 1: Helping communities build comprehensive crisis response and early diversion systems for people with BH needs**



**Strategy 2:** Supporting community-based programs and models to help build a full continuum of care and services post-crisis



# Strategy 2: Relevant Funding

Funding Source	Strategy & Components	Specific Considerations
Funding for Expansion Grants for CCBHCs (repeated)		Explore ways to work with CCBHCs as they help expand community access to range of integrated, evidence-based addiction and mental health services. Identify providers that already qualify as CCBHCs or those that could be eligible to explore partnership opportunities
Funding for Community Health Centers and Community Care		Reach out to awardees and identify ways to incorporate into a continuum of services

## Strategy 2: Relevant Funding (continued)

Funding Source	Strategy & Components	Specific Considerations
Funding for Community-Based Local Behavioral Health Needs		Collaborate with behavioral health crisis response partners to ensure they apply
Funding for Community-Based Funding for Local Substance Use Disorder Services		Coordinate with local organizations on applying for harm reduction funding

# Presentation Outline: IV

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- I. Setting the Stage: Background and American Rescue Plan Overview
- II. Opportunities and Collaboration in Context: Local, State, and National Perspectives
- III. Getting Involved: Specific Strategies and Considerations
- IV. Resources and Q & A**

# Resources

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# Taking the Call Conference

- National conference on innovative community responder models
- Register now: <https://csgjusticecenter.org/taking-the-call/>



# Upcoming Webinar on Community Engagement

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- **Community Engagement: Planning and Ongoing Support for Community Responder Programs**
- July 1, 2021, 1:00–2:30 p.m. ET
- **Register now:**  
<https://csgjusticecenter.org/events/community-engagement-planning-and-ongoing-support-for-community-responder-programs/>

# Funding Opportunity: Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program

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## Apply Now!

- Supports cross-system collaboration to improve public safety responses and outcomes for individuals with mental illnesses or co-occurring mental illness and substance use disorders who come into contact with the justice system
- **Apply Here:**  
<https://bja.ojp.gov/funding/opportunities/o-bja-2021-95004>

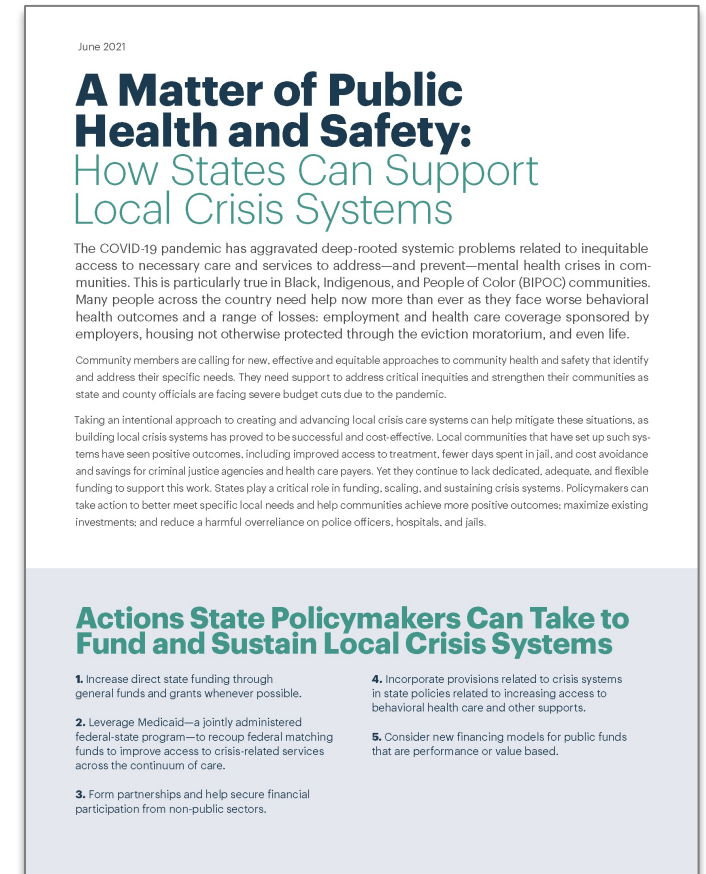
## Informational Webinar

- **Date:** Tuesday, June 15, 2020
- **Time:** 3:00-4:30 p.m. ET
- **Register now:**  
<https://justicecenter.webex.com/justicecenter/onstage/g.php?MTID=e7b5b28b99a355e66f66e1bc82793663f>



# A Matter of Public Health and Safety: How States Can Support Local Crisis Systems

- Details five actions state policymakers can take to fund and sustain local crisis systems and provides case examples
- <https://csgjusticecenter.org/publications/a-matter-of-public-health-and-safety-how-states-can-support-local-crisis-systems/>





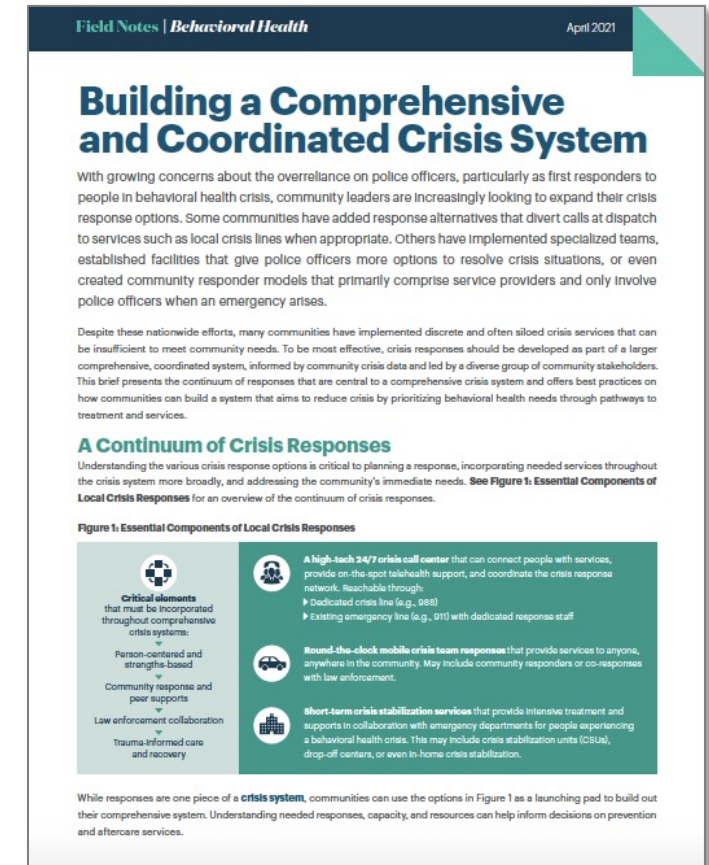
# American Rescue Plan Act of 2021: Guide to Advancing Justice-Related Goals

- Outlines need-to-know information about how state and local leaders can leverage American Rescue Plan funding to advance eight key criminal justice priorities.
- <https://csgjusticecenter.org/publications/american-rescue-plan/>



# Building a Comprehensive and Coordinated Crisis System

- Highlights the continuum of responses and offers guidance for building a system that addresses local needs
- <https://csgjusticecenter.org/publications/building-a-comprehensive-and-coordinated-crisis-system/>





# New Center to Help Build and Strengthen Justice and Mental Health Partnerships

**Free center that offers assistance and resources to jurisdictions to help improve collaborative responses for people in the criminal justice system who have mental illnesses or co-occurring substance use disorders**

- Provides on-demand support via request form within three business days
- Assists jurisdictions at varying intensities
- Can include peer connections, consultation with subject matter expert, training, and tailored resources

**Visit:**

**<https://csgjusticecenter.org/resources/justice-mh-partnerships-support-center/>**



Photo courtesy of Shutterstock



# Law Enforcement-Mental Health Collaboration Support Center

**Free center that provides training, resources, and support to communities wanting to improve their law enforcement responses to people with behavioral health conditions or intellectual and developmental disabilities**

- Offers on-demand support via request form
- Responds to requests in three business days
- Provides light, moderate, and intensive assistance
- Includes training, peer connections, and subject matter expert connections

**Visit:** <https://csgjusticecenter.org/resources/le-mh-collaboration-support-center/>



Photo courtesy of Matt Popovich via Unsplash

# Questions and Answers

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# Thank You!

Join our distribution list to receive updates and announcements:

<https://csgjusticecenter.org/resources/newsletters/>

For more information please contact Alex Blandford at  
[ablandford@csg.org](mailto:ablandford@csg.org)

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