

## **Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Reauthorization Act of 2022**

Each year, there are an estimated two million people with serious mental illnesses admitted to jails across the nation, with three-quarters of that population also suffering with substance use issues. Once incarcerated, individuals with mental illnesses tend to stay longer in jail and upon release are at a higher risk of returning to incarceration than those without these illnesses. The Justice and Mental Health Collaboration (JMHCP) provides grants directly to states and localities to improve responses to people with mental illnesses who are involved in the criminal justice system. The grantees are required to collaborate with a mental health agency.

JMHCP is authorized through the Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Act (MIOTCRA) which connects state and local governments with necessary resources to plan and implement initiatives designed to increase public safety, reduce state and local spending, and improve the lives of people with mental illnesses and their families.

JMHCP first passed in 2004, and was most recently reauthorized in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act, connects mentally ill offenders with members of law enforcement, courts, and corrections who are trained to handle their cases and work together to develop comprehensive solutions within the criminal justice system. This bill would reauthorize JMHCP for five years while centering suicide prevention as a key goal, increasing access to case management services, bolstering the roles of co-responder and crisis intervention teams, training law enforcement, and continuing its strong support of mental health courts.

The grants authorized through JMHCP have been awarded to 49 states and the District of Columbia. Grants may be used for a broad range of activities to meet a community's needs. This includes:

- Universal mental health screening and assessment in jail
- Mental health and substance use treatment
- Mental Health Courts
- Cross-training criminal justice and mental health personnel
- Reentry services

**Endorsing organizations:** The Council of State Governments Justice Center, National Alliance on Mental Illness, National Association of Counties, National Association of Police Organizations, American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors, National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors, National Conference of State Legislatures, National Criminal Justice Association, National District Attorneys Association, National League of Cities, National Sheriffs' Association, and Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities