

Before spending tens of millions of dollars on renovating/consolidating the county jails and sheriff's office, let's use the recommendations in the reports below in order to have safer communities where the people of Champaign County can thrive! And where a few more people will want to live and work and create businesses which will increase funds available to continue these programs!

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**Champaign County Community Justice Task Force Recommendations in 2013**

1. Integrate **Restorative Justice** principles throughout the justice system
2. Expand **Pre-Trial Services** into a comprehensive pre-trial services program to avoid unnecessarily incarcerating people not convicted of a crime
3. Develop a **Comprehensive Behavioral Health System of Care** that avoids incarceration, reduces recidivism and promotes rehabilitation for persons with mental health and substance use disorders
4. Expand **Community Sanctions** to include a full range of community-based diversion, deferred adjudication, and sentencing options
5. Establish a **Re-Entry Program** for people returning to the community after completing a sentence in an Illinois Department of Corrections prison
6. Identify and acquire **Adequate Funding** for recommended strategies, including an increase in the percentage of the public safety sales tax funds for preventive measures from 5% to 30%
7. Create a **Coordinating Council to Plan and Coordinate Steps** to reduce recidivism in the county, further restorative justice, and ensure the criminal justice system operates both effectively and cost-effectively
8. Form a **Racial Justice Task Force** to identify measures needed to address the disproportionate number of African-Americans in the county jail
9. **Collect Data, Set Performance Standards and Measure Outcomes** that will enable programs to meet goals, be more cost effective and be more successful in reducing recidivism
10. **Provide Training and Public Engagement Opportunities** to further systemic improvements in the criminal justice system

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Racial Justice Task Force Recommendations in 2017

- A. **Overarching Recommendations –**
- (1) Establish a **Restorative and Criminal Justice Coordinating Council** to reduce racial disparity in the criminal justice system, and
 - (2) Establish a **Community Engagement Oversight Commission.**
1. **Community Engagement Recommendations:** includes specific methods; developing a county-wide Racial Justice Task Force Community Justice Data Portal; and develop annual assessments.
 2. **Police Practices Recommendations:** Includes community collaboration; officer and staff multicultural awareness; hiring practices of Sheriff's Office; encouragement to local law enforcement to take similar measures.

3. **Pretrial Jail Confinement Recommendations:** Court order to allow jail to expand issuance of Notices to Appear at court (instead of incarceration) when arrestees are booked; use validated risk-assessment tools and trained staff to limit use of money bail; ensure that risk assessment tool has least possible adverse impact on African Americans; ensure that arrestees receive automated reminders before court dates.
4. **Fees and Costs Recommendations:** County Board should allocate funds to enable Circuit Clerk's office to waive court fees for those below federal poverty (FPL) level and to reduce fees for those at 101-400% of FPL. Until state enacts such legislation; advocate to pass related laws at state level; and work for other measures to decrease negative impacts of fees and fines on low income individuals, including loss of drivers' licenses (see report).
5. **Restorative Justice Recommendations:** Integrate restorative practices in adult and juvenile criminal justice systems and in the community, and ensure that it is planned and implemented equitably. The Restorative and Criminal Justice Coordinating Council should oversee the planning and implementation.
6. **Juvenile Justice Recommendations:** Reduce black youths' contact and involvement in the juvenile justice system by beginning with prevention and diversion. Increase use of the Youth Assessment Center and decrease use of the JDC. Increase trainings for law enforcement, probation, and court personnel (as well as on multiple community groups with contact with youth) on trauma, the Adverse Childhood Experiences Study (ACES), and restorative justice.
7. **Housing Recommendations:** The Housing Authority of Champaign County should change eligibility policies so individuals with criminal conviction records can access their housing and vouchers except when the US Dept. of HUD prohibit that; the County Board should urge HACC to change this, and should urge the Champaign City Council members to repeal section 17.4-5 of the city code that allows landlords to reject tenants with conviction records.

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**Resources:**

**Champaign County Community Justice Task Force Report, June 2013:**

<http://www.co.champaign.il.us/cjtfreport.pdf>

**Institute on Law and Public Policy Report, October 2013:**

[http://www.co.champaign.il.us/sheriff/MasterPlan/ILPP\\_CHAMPAIGN\\_COUNTY\\_FINAL\\_REPORT\\_09-24-13.pdf](http://www.co.champaign.il.us/sheriff/MasterPlan/ILPP_CHAMPAIGN_COUNTY_FINAL_REPORT_09-24-13.pdf)

**Champaign County Racial Justice Task Force Report, October 2017**

<http://www.co.champaign.il.us/countyboard/rjtf/1710RJTFReport.pdf>

**Various resources, including an overview of NIC, CJTF, and ILPP Reports and data on racial disparities:**

<https://programsnotjails.com/resources-and-links/>

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