

MacArthur Foundation

April 13, 2016

The Honorable Maxine Aldridge White
Chief Judge
901 N. 9th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53233

Dear Chief Judge White:

On behalf of the MacArthur Foundation, I am writing to confirm the good news that Milwaukee County has been selected as a Core Site in the Safety and Justice Challenge Network, and will receive an award of \$2,000,000 over two years to participate in the next phase of this effort to create more effective local justice systems across the country.

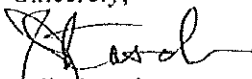
Launched last year, the Safety and Justice Challenge is the Foundation's national initiative aimed to reduce over-incarceration by changing the way America thinks about and uses jails. Milwaukee County was one of 20 jurisdictions chosen to participate in its initial phase, competitively selected from a nationwide pool of nearly 200 applicants. With the Foundation's support, a diverse leadership team representing Milwaukee County completed an intensive period of collaborative planning, working with experts to analyze local data, identify drivers of unnecessary jail incarceration, and devise ambitious plans for targeting them. On the strength of that plan, our Board has approved this two-year implementation award of \$2,000,000 and, depending on continued commitment and demonstrable progress, there is the potential for additional funding.

Nearly \$25 million in implementation grants is being made in this round to Milwaukee County and ten other jurisdictions chosen as Safety and Justice Challenge Network Core Sites, out of an initial \$75 million the Foundation has committed to this effort. We believe it is a good investment, and a necessary one. The widespread misuse and overuse of jails does incalculable harm to individuals, communities, and the social fabric of the nation as a whole, while eroding trust in the criminal justice system. We are hopeful that Milwaukee County and the other members of the Safety and Justice Challenge Network will demonstrate that significant change is possible by developing and modeling new approaches with better outcomes. The success of the Challenge will depend largely on your success. Our role will be to provide resources, technical assistance, and a network of supportive allies, as well as to draw as much attention as we can to the progress you make and the learning you and others generate.

The Safety and Justice Challenge builds on the MacArthur Foundation's more than 20 years of promoting justice reform internationally and in the United States. In addition to the creation of the International Criminal Court, we have supported seminal research influencing four Supreme Court decisions about juveniles in contact with the law and on the implications of modern neuroscience for criminal law. Our juvenile justice reform initiative, Models for Change, supported reform in more than 35 states to create more rational and developmentally appropriate justice systems. And, during the exploration of our current strategy for criminal justice reform, we supported the National Academies' report, *The Growth of Incarceration in the United States*.

We welcome and appreciate your partnership in the Safety and Justice Challenge, and look forward to your success as we work together to create a justice system that is more effective and just, and more reflective of America's core values.

Sincerely,



Julia Stasch
President

John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation
140 South Dearborn St., Suite 1200 Chicago, Illinois 60603-5285
Telephone 312.726.8000 www.macfound.org