

FROM TAXI TO TAKEOFF:

Planning and Implementing Early Diversion in Los Angeles and Beyond

Inspired by learnings from LA County's Rapid Diversion and Prefiling Diversion programs – and grounded in the Center for Court Innovation's long history of launching and operating diversion programs – this guide summarizes recommendations for jurisdictions seeking to increase community-based care alongside criminal justice reform.

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Carefully consider how to make early diversion programming most impactful for participants.



Best practices implore the use of broad inclusion criteria and early diversion.



Create infrastructure to effectuate diversion at the early stages of a case.

Embedding service navigators and clinicians in courthouses or booking stations means that participants can be connected to resources quickly and successfully.



Prioritize the client profile over charge.

Ideally, programs should seek participants based on their need and potential to benefit from programming rather than a rigid charge-based approach to eligibility.



Each diversion site may operate differently.

Even within the same jurisdiction, differences in operations and culture around diversion are to be expected; try to develop an adaptable model.



Seek out cross-sector collaborations.

Specifically in the program planning phase, gathering diverse perspectives can lead to inspired innovations and more holistic programming.

There are many recipes for success in diversion.



Leveraging existing infrastructures, respecting local cultures, and building cross-sectional alliances can take many forms.

Data should be used to promote equitable practices for diversion.



Data should be used at all stages to ensure the target population is being served.



Use relevant and detailed data at the planning stage.

To ensure equity and effectiveness of programming, it is necessary to dig into not just aggregate data, but data reflecting the target population.



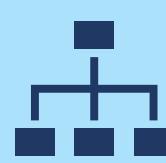
Review program performance on an ongoing basis.

To ensure the right people are being served, program data needs to be audited and reviewed frequently.



Make data planning a team effort.

Data collection typically involves inputs from a variety of stakeholders. Bringing all voices to the table as soon as possible will ensure data is accurate and complete when it's needed.



Clarify roles and responsibilities around data management.

Many decisions need to be made regarding data, including who is responsible for collection, cleaning, storing, and analysis.

Planning for data is planning for success.



Taking time to make sure that the processes surrounding data use and data collection are prioritized will set a program up for long term success.

Full report available here: <https://www.courtinnovation.org/publications/taxi-to-takeoff-early-diversion-los-angeles>

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