

Justice Reinvestment in Vermont Implementation Technical Assistance



After enacting comprehensive Justice Reinvestment (JR) legislation, Vermont state leaders have the opportunity to request continued technical assistance from The Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center to support the implementation of JR policies. Implementation (or “Phase II”) technical assistance is made available by the U.S. Department of Justice’s Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) at no cost to the state.

What is included in implementation technical assistance?

1. Twelve to 24 months of expert technical assistance customized for Vermont including:
 - Targeted implementation support informed by research and lessons learned from other states, including assistance for state agencies to develop evidence-based programs, policies, procedures, and tools
 - Assistance establishing performance measures, collecting data, and monitoring outcomes to ensure implementation is data driven
 - Ongoing stakeholder engagement to inform a collaborative and consensus-based process that strengthens the sustainability of JR policies
2. A one-time implementation grant up to \$500,000 from BJA that passes through the CSG Justice Center to Vermont. Potential funding uses include:
 - Hiring a JR coordinator
 - Training staff
 - Evaluating programs
 - Upgrading information technology
 - Developing data dashboards
 - Establishing quality assurance mechanisms

What does Vermont need to do to get started?

- Establish an interbranch, inter-agency body to guide implementation, monitor outcomes, and provide oversight and accountability (*Vermont’s Justice Reinvestment legislation includes an oversight body which meets this requirement*).
- Submit a letter of interest signed by leadership from all three branches of government, including key agency directors and both political parties, demonstrating Vermont’s continued commitment to Justice Reinvestment and agreeing to submit regular data monitoring reports to the CSG Justice Center for the duration of Phase II and two years after.
- Identify one-time capacity-building needs and work with CSG Justice Center staff to begin the implementation grant application process.
- Agencies impacted by the policy changes begin creating implementation plans and identifying areas where CSG Justice Center staff can provide additional guidance to ensure successful outcomes.

What is the difference between Phase I and Phase II Technical Assistance?

	Phase I	Phase II
<i>Working Group Primary Objective</i>	Developing policy recommendations informed by an intensive data analysis and stakeholder engagement process	Overseeing policy implementation and monitoring outcomes, in addition to other statutorily required duties
<i>Working Group Meeting Schedule and Duration</i>	Intensive monthly meetings over a 4–6-month period	Less frequent meetings every 3 to 6 months over a 2+ year period*
<i>Data</i>	Examining historical data across the criminal justice system	Developing and monitoring performance metrics and data collection methods specific to enacted JR policies
<i>CSG Justice Center Technical Assistance Focus</i>	Conducting a system analysis, guiding the development of policy recommendations, and assisting as needed during the legislative session	Assisting state agencies in implementing policy changes, building capacity for data collection and other implementation needs, and communicating outcomes to key state leaders and stakeholders
<i>CSG Justice Center Technical Assistance Timeline</i>	Intensive support over a 9–18-month period	Initial intensive support that gradually decreases over a 1.5–2-year period as implementation progresses

*The meeting schedule for Vermont’s Phase II Working Group may need to be more intensive during the first six months of implementation to perform all required duties prior to the 2021 legislative session.

Who are Vermont’s main points of contact during Phase II?

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