Criminal Justice

Americans deserve a safe society that prevents crime and builds thriving communities while upholding all people’s constitutional and civil rights. Arnold Ventures (AV) supports research and policy to reduce crime and improve outcomes for everyone involved with the criminal justice system.

Research shows that many public policies and strategies in criminal justice fail to reduce crime in our communities. Some current efforts also harm people's liberty, safety, and economic well-being. This status quo undermines trust in public institutions, inflicts disproportionate harm on low-income families, puts law enforcement and corrections officers at unnecessary risk, and squanders public resources needlessly incarcerating people beyond the point of public benefit.

By identifying and implementing the most effective public safety policies, AV hopes to build the security people need to flourish in their communities.

How We Work

AV focuses its strategies, grants collaborations, and resources in four pillars to identify root causes of problems and implement sustainable, scalable solutions.

COMMUNITY SAFETY
The evidence is clear that we need more and better policing. We also support research on other deterrence and prevention strategies, such as summer youth employment programs, cognitive behavioral therapy, and ways to reduce lead exposure for young children.

TRANSPARENCY
To increase the number of well-researched solutions across the entirety of the justice system, we invest in improving data collection and transparency.

PRETRIAL DETENTION
To address the harm of unnecessarily detaining people pretrial, we help courts make decisions based on risk to community safety, rather than financial resources. Strategies being considered to better-target pretrial detention include early access to counsel, expedited case processing, risk assessment, automatic release for low-risk cases, and the use of nonfinancial release conditions and supportive services such as court notifications.

REHABILITATION
To reduce excessive sentences and incentivize rehabilitation, we support an array of policy options, including earned time and parole eligibility, which can reduce crime inside and outside prison.

To ensure criminal records do not prevent people from contributing to society after completing their sentence, we support solutions like access to health care and public benefits.

ABOUT ARNOLD VENTURES

Arnold Ventures is a philanthropy committed to improving the lives of American families, strengthening their communities, and promoting their economic opportunity. Arnold Ventures invests in research to understand the root causes of America’s most persistent and pressing problems, and supports evidence-based solutions to address them.