

Vision for Probation and Parole Reform

The Problem

- **The national movement for criminal justice reform has largely overlooked the vast reach of correctional control in the community.**

1 in 55 AMERICANS Nationwide, 4.5 million people—or 1 in 55 Americans—are on probation or parole, otherwise known as community supervision. That's twice the number of people in jails and prisons.

- **Community supervision is intended, in part, to provide an alternative to incarceration,**

but it has evolved into one of the largest drivers:

350k PEOPLE In 2016, nearly 350,000 people were admitted to jail or prison because they violated the terms of their probation or parole.

- **Many people are sent back to prison for technical violations** of supervision such as missing appointments, failing to pay fines or fees, or testing positive for drugs.

- **Without oversight, community supervision can deepen inequities by:**
 - Entrenching poverty through steep fees
 - Widening racial disparities
 - Offering inadequate support for people with mental health and substance use treatment needs

- **We know that reducing supervision can be accomplished alongside gains in community safety.** From 2007 to 2016, 37 states reduced community supervision populations and saw a drop in crime.

We are working to redefine America's community supervision approach to help create safer communities, reduce corrections costs, and make probation and parole fairer and more effective.

Goals for Reform

➤ The Laura and John Arnold Foundation aims to research and reform probation and parole because we believe that targeted and evidence-based community supervision can:

- ▶ Improve public safety by reducing crime committed by people under supervision
- ▶ Promote better outcomes and fair treatment for individuals on community supervision
- ▶ Decrease financial and human costs associated with returns to prison and jail for revocation

Our Strategy

➤ To achieve these goals, we need a fundamental shift in focus from catching failure to promoting success

1 Determine how state policy can maximize public safety benefit of community supervision

We support policies that ensure the right people are on supervision and that interventions address their needs.

2 Understand how to safely reduce probation and parole failures while maintaining community safety

We support research to increase our understanding of the reasons for violations—both what drives the behavior of someone on supervision as well as the response by the officer, agency, or court.

3 Accelerate the adoption of evidence-based best practices and promote culture and leadership needed for sustainable reform

We support implementation of equitable and effective practices that will help reorient community supervision toward a culture of success.

4 Promote justice and fairness

We support research and advocacy that uncovers and remedies economic and racial disparities in probation and parole.