

# FOSTERING COLLABORATION BETWEEN JUSTICE AND HOUSING SYSTEM PARTNERS

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Urban Institute

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# Presentation Background

MacArthur  
Foundation



# Agenda

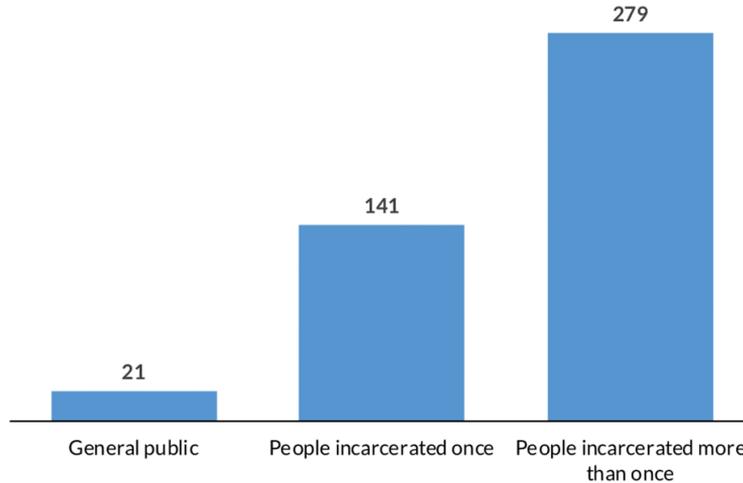
- Connections between housing instability and jail use
- Role of housing and justice sector collaboration
- Brainstorm activity

# HOUSING INSTABILITY – JAIL CYCLE

***PROBLEM:*** HOUSING INSTABILITY CAN BOTH  
LEAD TO AND RESULT FROM CONTACT WITH  
THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM.

# People with a history of incarceration are **13 times more likely** to experience homelessness than the general public

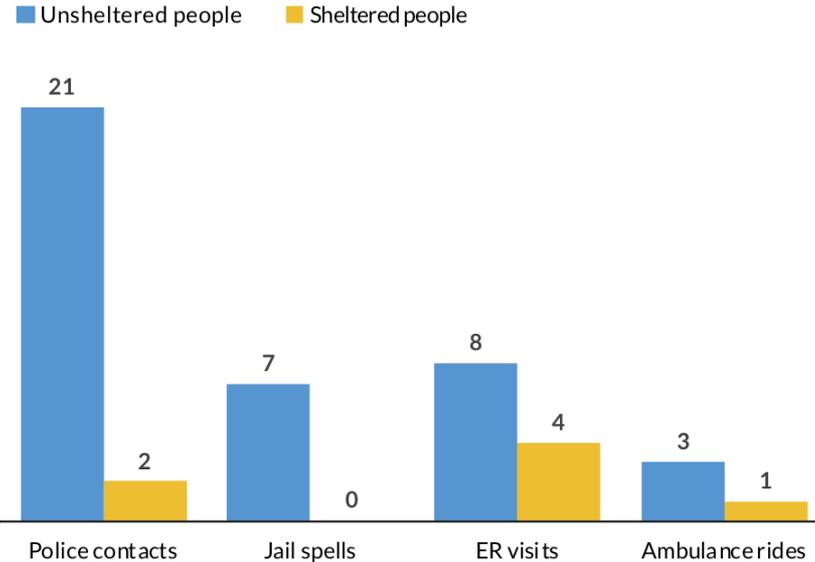
Number of people experiencing homelessness per 10,000 people in 2008



Source: Lucius Couloute, “Nowhere to go: Homelessness among formerly incarcerated people”, Prison Policy Initiative, August 2018  
Urban Institute: [Five Charts That Explain the Homelessness-Jail Cycle—and How to Break It](#)

# People experiencing unsheltered homelessness are **more likely to interact with the justice system**

Average number of interactions in previous six months



Source: Janey Rountree, Nathan Hess, and Austin Lyke, "Health Conditions among Unsheltered Adults in the US," California Policy Lab, October 6, 2019  
Urban Institute: [Five Charts That Explain the Homelessness-Jail Cycle—and How to Break It](#)

**Justice  
involvement  
creates barriers to  
stable housing**



Finding  
housing

Qualifying for  
housing



Affording  
housing

**Housing instability  
leads to higher  
likelihood of justice  
system involvement**

Increased interactions  
with police

Multiple unmet and  
underlying needs may  
be exacerbated  
through housing  
instability

# FOCUS ON COLLABORATION

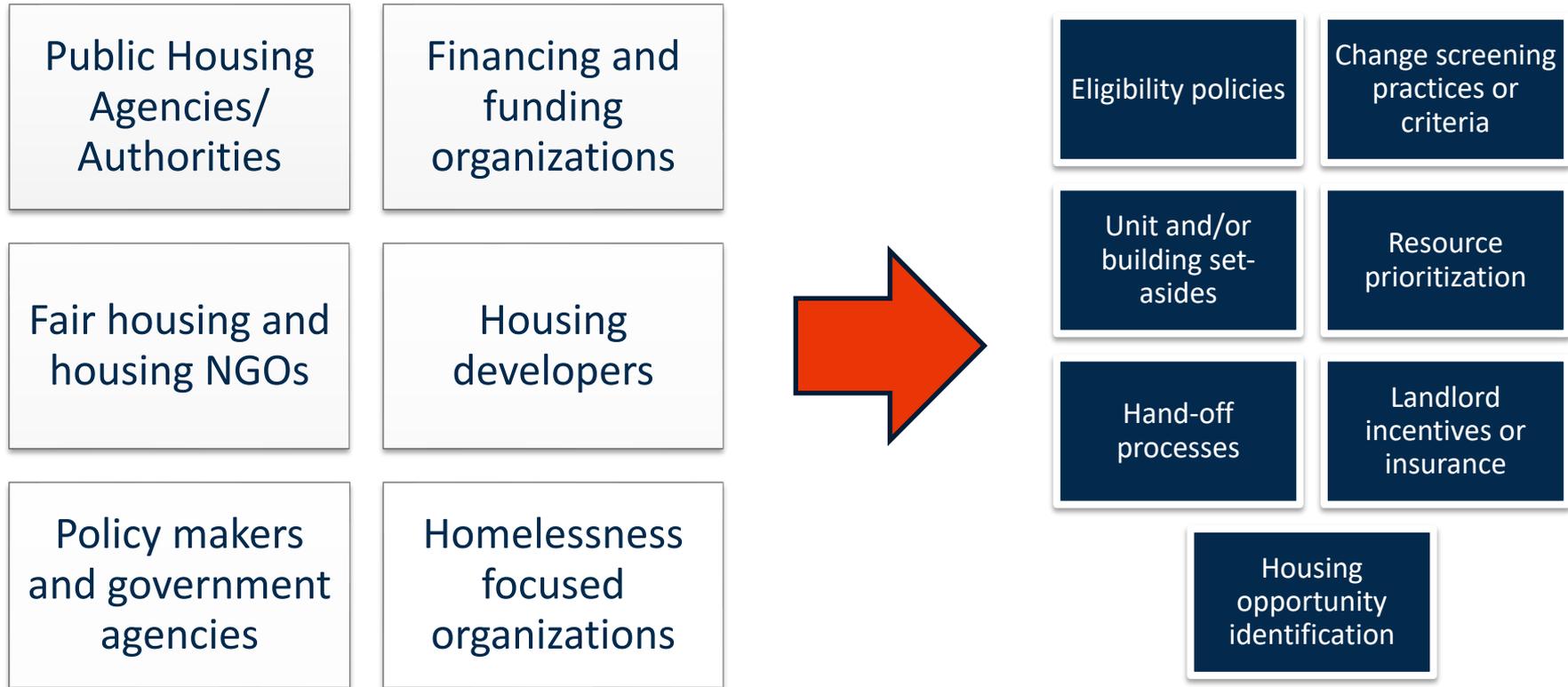
# Importance of building collaboration

Housing and the criminal justice sectors have **a shared interest** in keeping people stably housed and out of jail

These sectors have historically **been siloed**, lacking shared communication, data, terminology, funding, and accountability

Lack of engagement can reinforce a **de-prioritization of justice-involved** individuals for existing housing, **limit innovation**, and **reduce development of new housing** options for justice-involved people

# Actors and Solutions That Can Enhance Collaboration



**Strong local  
partnerships  
produce  
results**

## Coming Home NYC: Family Reentry Pilot Program

- **Partners**: NYC Housing Authority + NYC and NY state corrections agencies + NYC Department of Homeless services + Vera + Corporation for Supportive Housing
- **Purpose**: reunites formerly incarcerated people with their families in public housing to create supports
- **Focus**: access to public housing with families; reentry services

Source: [Vera Institute](#)

# Strong local partnerships produce pathways

Source: [CSH](#)

## Home for Good Ohio

- Partners: Corporation for supportive housing + Ohio Department of Corrections + Ohio Housing Finance Agency
- Purpose: Link people with disabilities and/or history of homelessness to supportive housing and referrals
- Focus: Rental assistance subsidy; housing supports

# Strong local partnerships produce innovation

Source: [Impact Justice](#)

## Homecoming Project

- **Partners:** Enterprise Community Partners + Impact Justice
- **Purpose:** Provide housing in a tight housing market for people exiting incarceration to bridge housing and social gaps
- **Focus:** Use share economy to subsidize homeowners to rent a room; provide screening and matching services

# Strong local partnerships produce policies

Source: [Illinois.gov](https://www.illinois.gov)

## Illinois: Public Housing Access Bill

- **Partners:** legislature + Restoring Rights and Opportunities Coalition
- **Purpose:** Remove barriers to public housing for those with criminal history
- **Focus:** Limits “look back”; removes ineligibility for public housing

# BREAKOUT ACTIVITY

# Instructions

- Split into breakout groups
- 10 min individual reflection on existing collaboration and housing solutions
- 10 min discussing opportunities for expansion
- 5 min documenting an action you can take to improve or create local collaboration.

# Discussion Questions

## Reflect on current collaboration

What current collaborations or touch points exist between housing stakeholders and the justice system?

Where do these collaborations happen?  
What issues are they focused on?

Do you know if the housing solutions on the worksheet exist in your jurisdiction?

## Areas of opportunity for deeper collaboration:

What are the gaps in current practice?

What actors or agencies are not at the table, but should be?

What policies, programs, or decisions need to be made to encourage more collaboration?

Which actors or agencies would need to?



[SafetyAndJusticeChallenge.org](https://SafetyAndJusticeChallenge.org)