

Justice Reinvestment Initiative

Presentation to the House & Senate Committees on the Judiciary, & the Charitable, Penal, and Correctional Institutions Subcommittee

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What is the Vera Institute of Justice?

The Vera Institute of Justice combines expertise in research, demonstration projects, and technical assistance to help leaders in government and civil society improve the systems people rely on for justice and safety.

Vera is an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization.



Overview

1. Justice Reinvestment Initiative (JRI)
2. JRI Phase I
3. JRI Phase II
4. Vera's Assistance

Justice Reinvestment Initiative

What is Justice Reinvestment?

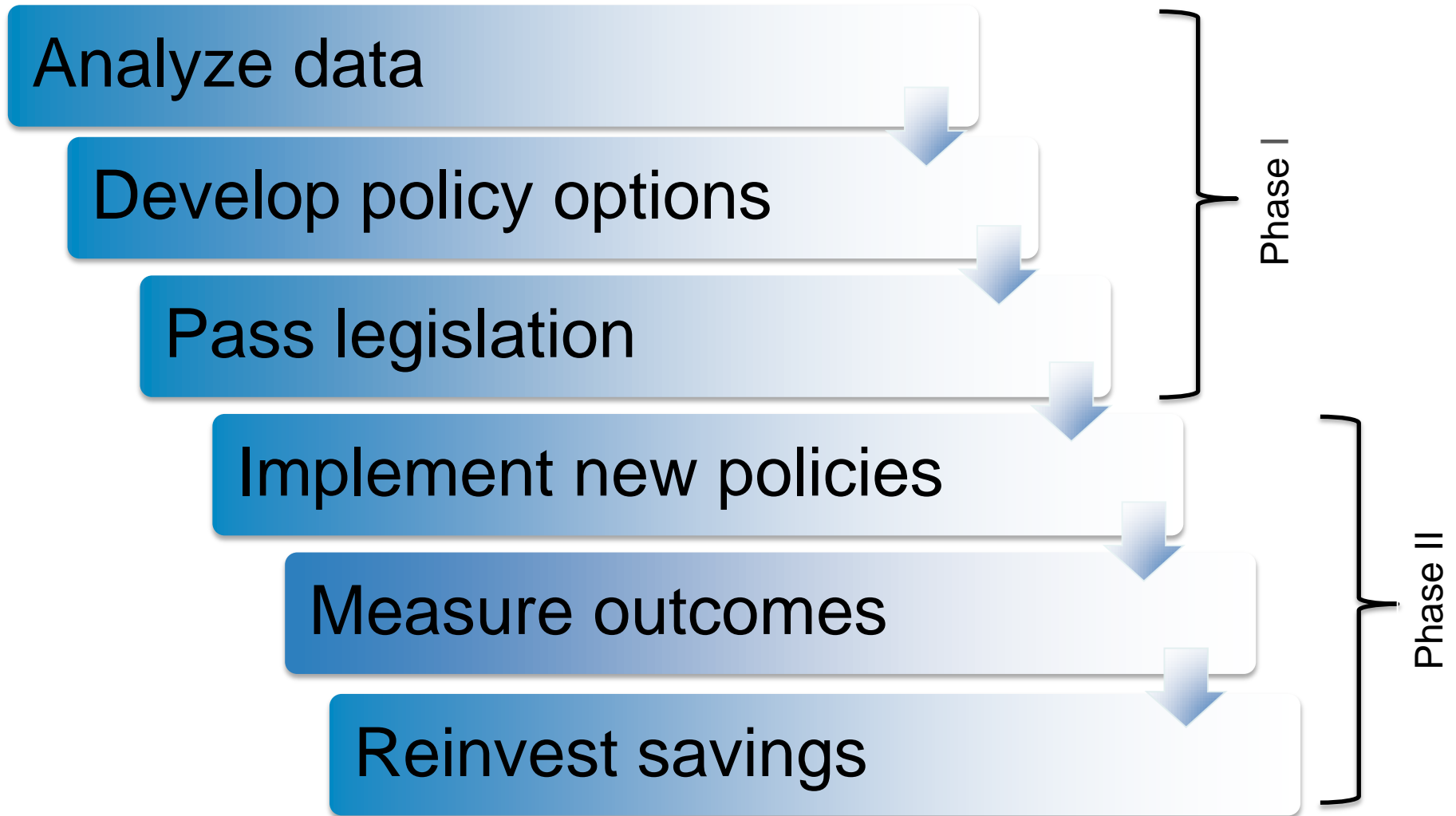
It is a **data-driven approach** to reduce spending on corrections and **reinvest** savings in **evidence-based strategies** designed to increase public safety.



JRI States

- Arkansas
- Delaware
- Georgia
- Hawaii
- Kansas
- Kentucky
- Louisiana
- Oklahoma
- Ohio
- Oregon
- Missouri
- New Hampshire
- North Carolina
- South Carolina
- South Dakota
- Pennsylvania
- West Virginia

JRI Model



JRI Phase I

Phase I

Analyze data



Develop policy options



Pass legislation

Phase I

Analyze data

Drivers identified in Phase I:

- Underutilization of probation - AR's probation supervision rate was 23% below the national average in 2009
- Long prison sentences for non-violent offenders - more than half of inmates were convicted of a non-violent offense
- Delayed transfer to parole - more than half of inmates were held 6 months beyond their presumptive TED

Develop policy options

The working group identified three broad goals for policy development:

1. Protect public safety and reduce recidivism by strengthening community supervision
2. Improve government efficiency and effectiveness through data collection and performance measurement
3. Contain corrections costs by concentrating prison space on violent and career criminals

Pass legislation

- PA 570: The Public Safety Improvement Act of 2011
- Projected to save Arkansas taxpayers \$875 million in averted prison construction and operation costs by 2020

Pass Legislation

Act 570 has 13 components:

1. Require DCC to use Evidence-Based Practices
2. Allow earned discharge from probation and parole
3. Allow DCC to sanction probationers administratively
4. Raise probation fees, create “best-practices fund,” and study victim restitution
5. Improve parole release process and strengthen reporting requirements

Pass Legislation

6. Expand Medical Parole
7. Accelerate release to Electronic Monitoring for low-level offenders (120 and out)
8. Launch HOPE pilots
9. Establish the Performance Incentive Funding grant program
10. Expand eligibility criteria for drug courts and strengthen reporting requirements

Pass Legislation

11. Encourage compliance with the sentencing guidelines and strengthen reporting requirements
12. Revise drug statutes to distinguish between drug users and career criminals
13. Modernize theft statutes and establish penalties proportional to the offense

JRI Phase II

Phase II

Implement new policies



Measure outcomes



Reinvest savings

Phase II

Implement new policies

- Modify rules, regulations, and policies
- Train staff
- Educate stakeholders
- Complete system upgrades/modifications

Phase II

Measure outcomes

- Identify relevant data elements
- Create data collection tool
- Report on outcomes

Phase II

Reinvest savings

- Agree on reinvestment strategy
- Reach consensus on reallocation of savings
- Calculate reinvestment formula

Vera's Assistance

Vera's Assistance

✓ Implementation planning

✓ Seed funding

Performance measures

Reporting

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Implementation planning

- ✓ Develop the Act 570 Roadmap: identify goals, activities, timelines, challenges, resources, etc.
- ✓ Identify state priorities for seed funding
- ✓ Apply to BJA for seed funding

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Seed funding

What can the funding be used for?

- To kick-start Phase I policies

What does BJA look for?

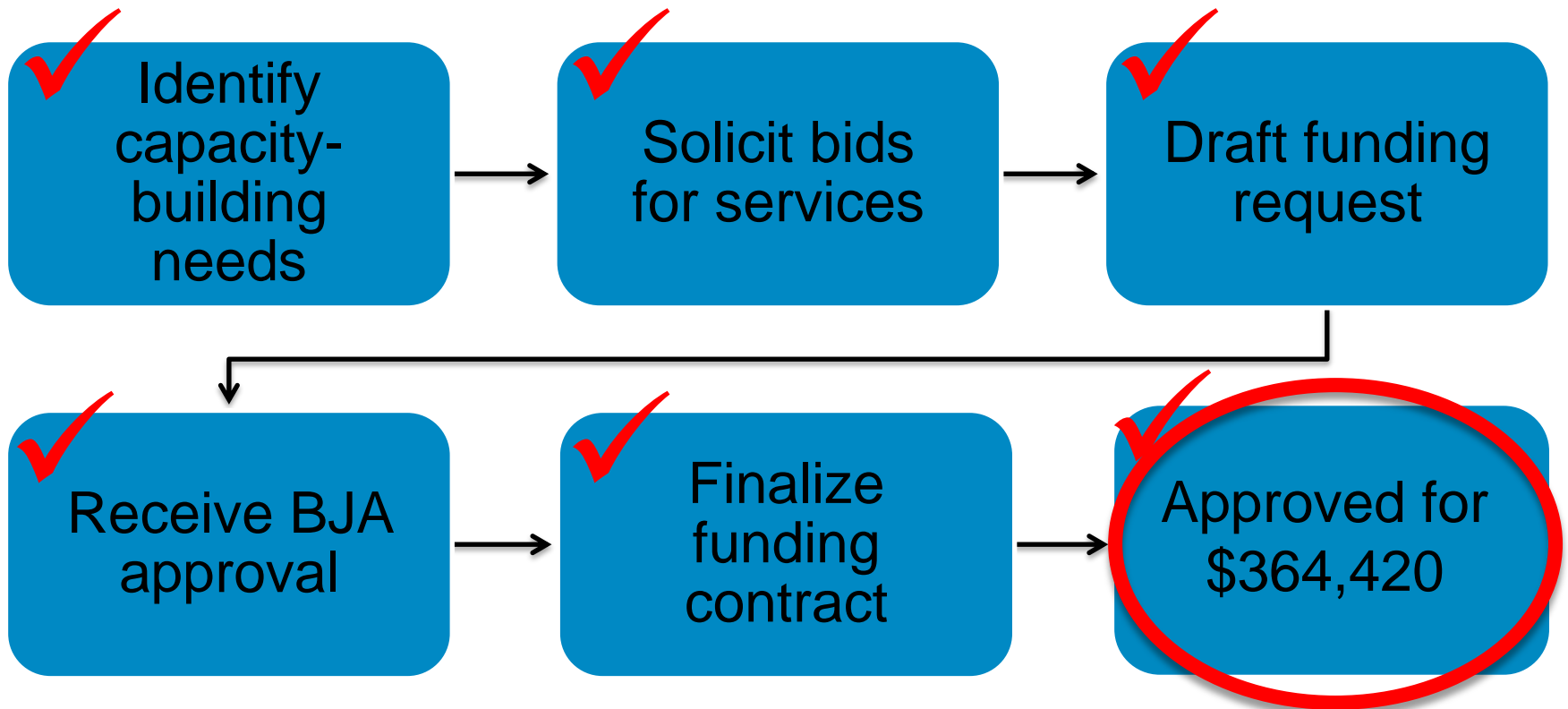
- Capacity-building activities

How much money is available?

- Approximately \$200,000 to \$400,000

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Seed funding



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Seed funding

DCC's approved seed funding:

- 1. Skill-Based Trainings and Education**

Training in evidence-based practices for DCC and ADC

- 2. Technical Assistance in Developing the PIF Grant Program and Planning Grants**

Consultant to assist the BoC in developing the five-site performance incentive funding grant program and planning grants for 10 sites to develop applications to the grant program

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Seed funding

- 3. Implementation of a Place-based Supervision Pilot Program**
Tablets for place-based supervision pilot project
- 4. Assessment of the Implementation of the Arkansas Accountability Interventions Matrix**
Consultant to conduct a process evaluation of DCC's ArAIM implementation

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Performance measures

- Identify relevant data elements
- Develop data collection tool
- Produce monthly reports
- Report to Oversight Work Group

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Performance measures

High-Level Performance Measures

- Crime rate
- ADC population
- Probation population
- Number of revocations
- County jail backup

Performance measures

Agency-level Performance Measures

- Offenders scored at each risk level
- Offenders on each supervision level
- Earned discharge credits awarded
- Amount generated for best practices fund
- Parole hearings by outcome

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Reporting

- Quarterly Tracking Reports
- Monthly check-ins
- Monthly performance measures reports
- Final report to BJA

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