



# Funding Jail Closure 2024-25 Final Changes Budget

**June 25, 2024**

## **Background/Context**

**LA County cannot on its own simply shut the doors of Men's Central Jail.**

**Closing the jail—while urgently needed—requires the cooperation of the courts and the County's other justice partners.**

To achieve our goal, we need to work together to further reduce the pretrial jail population to bring down the overall jail population. We are hopeful that the Superior Court's new Pre-Arrestment Release Protocols will lead to the release of more individuals accused of non-violent, non-serious offenses without compromising public safety. The County's Justice, Care and Opportunities Department is continuing to build capacity for services that support pretrial releases. Speeding the criminal court process to reduce pretrial jail time is another lever to help reduce the pretrial population.

The Justice, Care and Opportunities Department reported to the Board of Supervisors in June on the many steps and programs required to reach the goal of closing MCJ. That report, [linked here](#), also outlines progress that has already been made by JCOD, the Sheriff's Department, Correctional Health Services, the departments of Mental Health, Public Health and Health Services, and other partners working in collaboration to further reduce the jail population and expand community-based resources that can support alternatives to incarceration.

Other key Board initiatives, including the Homeless Initiative, Poverty Alleviation Initiative and Care First Community Investment, also work to improve conditions in communities in ways that should ultimately work to further reduce our jail population, which is already down roughly 30% from pre-COVID levels.

An important part of this commitment is the \$300.6 million allocated to Care First Community Investment for fiscal year 2024-25. This represents the Board's pledge to set aside 10% of locally generated unrestricted revenues for alternatives to incarceration and direct community investment (based on voters' approval of Measure J and the Board's own policy).

The idea of a set aside came from a 2020 Board motion. From the time this concept was launched just four years ago, this commitment has grown to represent a share of local revenues that is greater than that allocated to all but five other County

departments. In addition, this year, CFCI has \$223.4 million in one-time funding, unspent and carried over from prior years, for a total of \$524 million that can be put to use serving individuals and communities in the upcoming fiscal year. More detail on programs supported by this funding can be found below.

Supporting alternatives to incarceration to lower the overall jail population without compromising public safety is critical to our ability to close Men's Central Jail.

### **How the Final Changes Budget Supports Jail Closure**

The Final Changes to the Recommended Budget, adopted by the Board on June 24 for the 2024-25 fiscal year beginning July 1, includes \$18.5 million in new funding for multiple programs that support reducing the jail population or will help close the jail.

Highlights include:

- \$3.8 million for the transfer of **Jail Closure Implementation Team (JCIT)** operations from JCOD to CEO.
- \$12 million in Mental Health Services Act funding for the **Office of Diversion and Reentry** to help grow the ODR Housing Program to 3,450 beds.
- \$0.8 million and 5.0 positions for **Correctional Health Services** to expedite the transfer of individuals from County jails to State hospitals in accordance with the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) consent decree.
- \$1.0 million for 4 new positions for the **Justice, Care and Opportunities Department** to support pretrial services, on-site program and enhanced data analysis and evaluation. This is in addition to 24 new positions approved in April for JCOD's new Independent Pretrial Services Agency.
- \$925,000 in grant funding for the **Public Defender** from the MacArthur Foundation to support the Alternative Diversion Pathway project, which aims to link clients to mental health treatment to facilitate diversion efforts.

In addition, the CFCI funding highlighted above supports a wide variety of alternatives to incarceration and direct community investment, including:

- \$13.4 million in continued full-year funding for three programs implemented in fiscal year 2022-23 by JCIT that focus on housing slots, beds and residential treatment for individuals exiting our jails:
  - 92 JCOD Reentry Beds
  - ODR Maternal Health Program, 50 interim beds

- Substance Abuse Prevention and Control Community Treatment Program and Recovery Bridge Housing
- \$28.0 million for 70 acute/subacute, locked community-based mental health beds for individuals leaving or being diverted from the jails, to serve those with moderate to severe mental health issues in non-carceral care settings.
- \$28.8 million for new programs and initiatives developed by JCOD:
  - \$21.5 million for 400 Specialized Treatment for Optimized Programming (STOP) interim housing beds where individuals may serve the remainder of a jail sentence in the community with supervision.
  - \$7.3 million to support one-time capital costs for the new 96-bed subacute facility to be operated by the Department of Mental Health at LA General Medical Center.
- \$119.6 million to support multiple permanent supportive housing and interim housing initiatives for justice-involved individuals, including the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion program and Housing for Health permanent supportive housing.
- \$22.8 million for independent pre-trial supports and services.
- \$43 million for a variety of other reentry, housing and diversion services, including substance use disorder court-based diversion, the Vermont DOORS / Community Reentry Center and the Breaking Barriers Rapid Rehousing and Jobs program.

There is also one-time funding available to support capital projects and services for alternatives to incarceration programs.

- \$85.2 million allocated to **capital projects** in earlier budget phases for:
  - The partial or complete demolition of Men’s Central Jail;
  - Building out the robust system of care in communities and the County’s Alternatives to Incarceration;
  - Modification and renovation of existing jail facilities without expansion; and
  - Project management, support services and related work.