



Homebase

ADVANCING SOLUTIONS TO HOMELESSNESS

01 July, 2025

Disrupting the homelessness-criminal legal system cycle through strategic partnerships

National Conference on Ending Homelessness

Today's agenda

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Introductions.

02

Background on collaboration with the criminal legal system.

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Panel discussion.

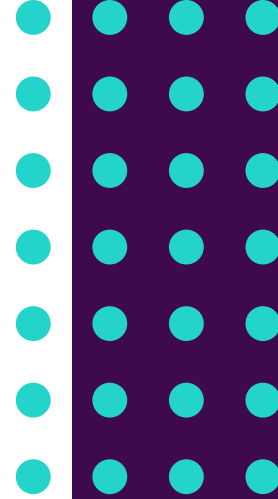
04

Break-out groups and activity.

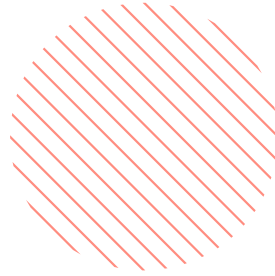
05

Conclusion.

Introductions



Our Presenters



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About Homebase

Homebase builds community capacity to end homelessness and reduce poverty, and to foster thriving, inclusive communities.

The Criminal Legal System Initiative (CLSI) seeks to improve outcomes for those impacted by the CLS, decrease CLS-involvement through housing solutions, improve public safety, and reduce strain on public resources.

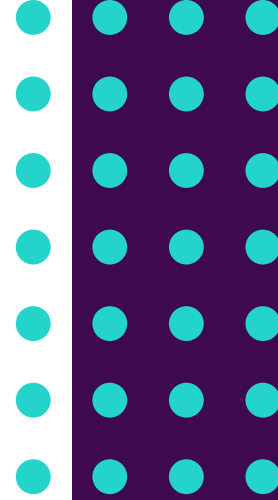


Poll

Scan below to take a quick poll about your experience collaborating with the criminal legal system.



Background on collaborating with the criminal legal system



Homelessness and incarceration

There is a cyclical relationship between law enforcement contact, housing instability, and incarceration.

Formerly incarcerated people are nearly 10x more likely to experience homelessness.

People of color and women are more likely to experience homelessness after incarceration.

People experiencing homelessness are 11x more likely to be arrested.

Even a short jail stay increases the risk of suicide, job loss, and rearrest.

Over 80% of people in jails haven't been convicted.

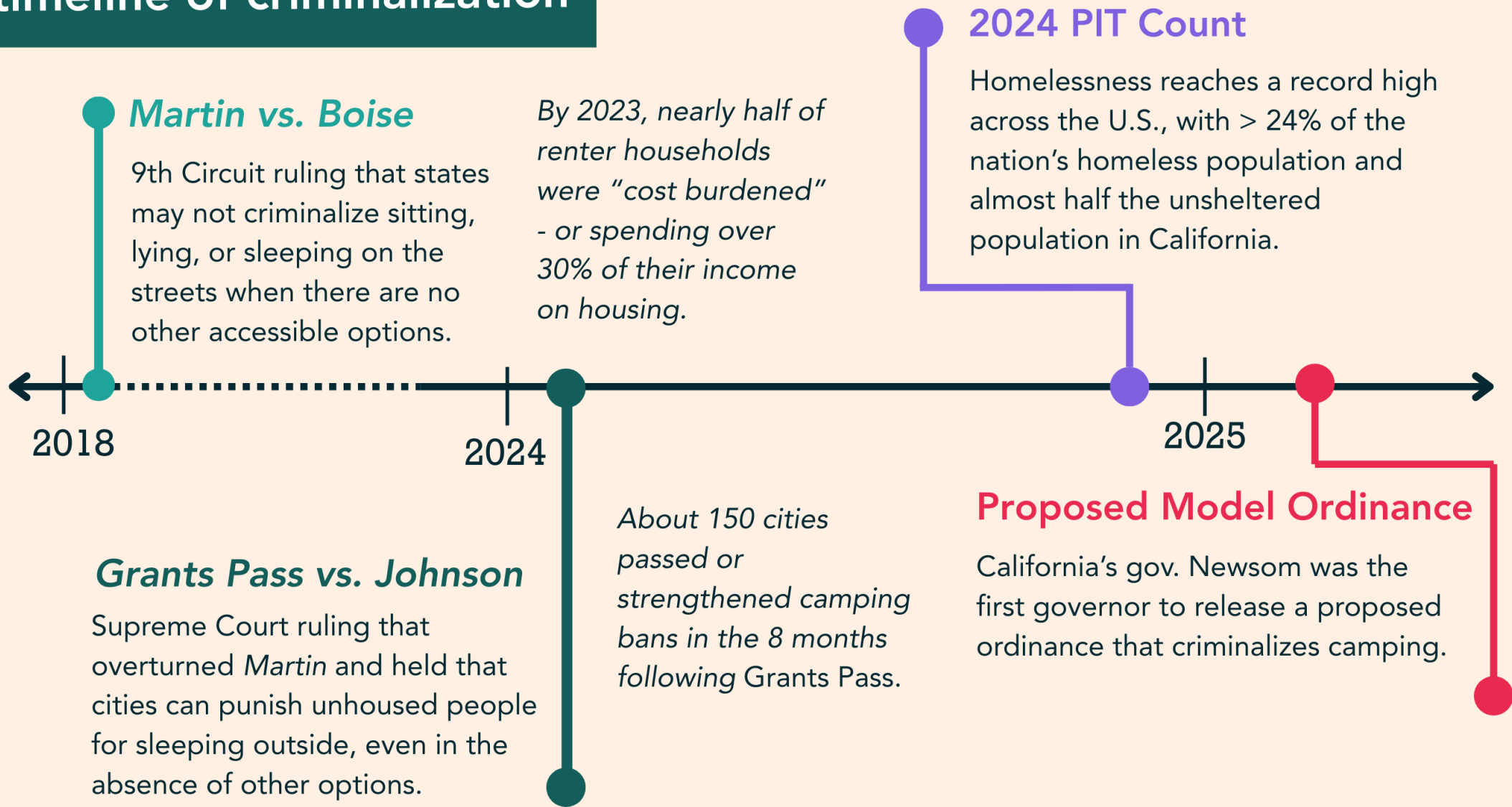
Pretrial detention can lead to loss of housing and benefits.

People on supervision often face housing instability – and conditions can make it harder to get housed.

Technical violations are the main reason for incarceration for people on supervision.

Criminalization makes disrupting this cycle even more important.

A timeline of criminalization

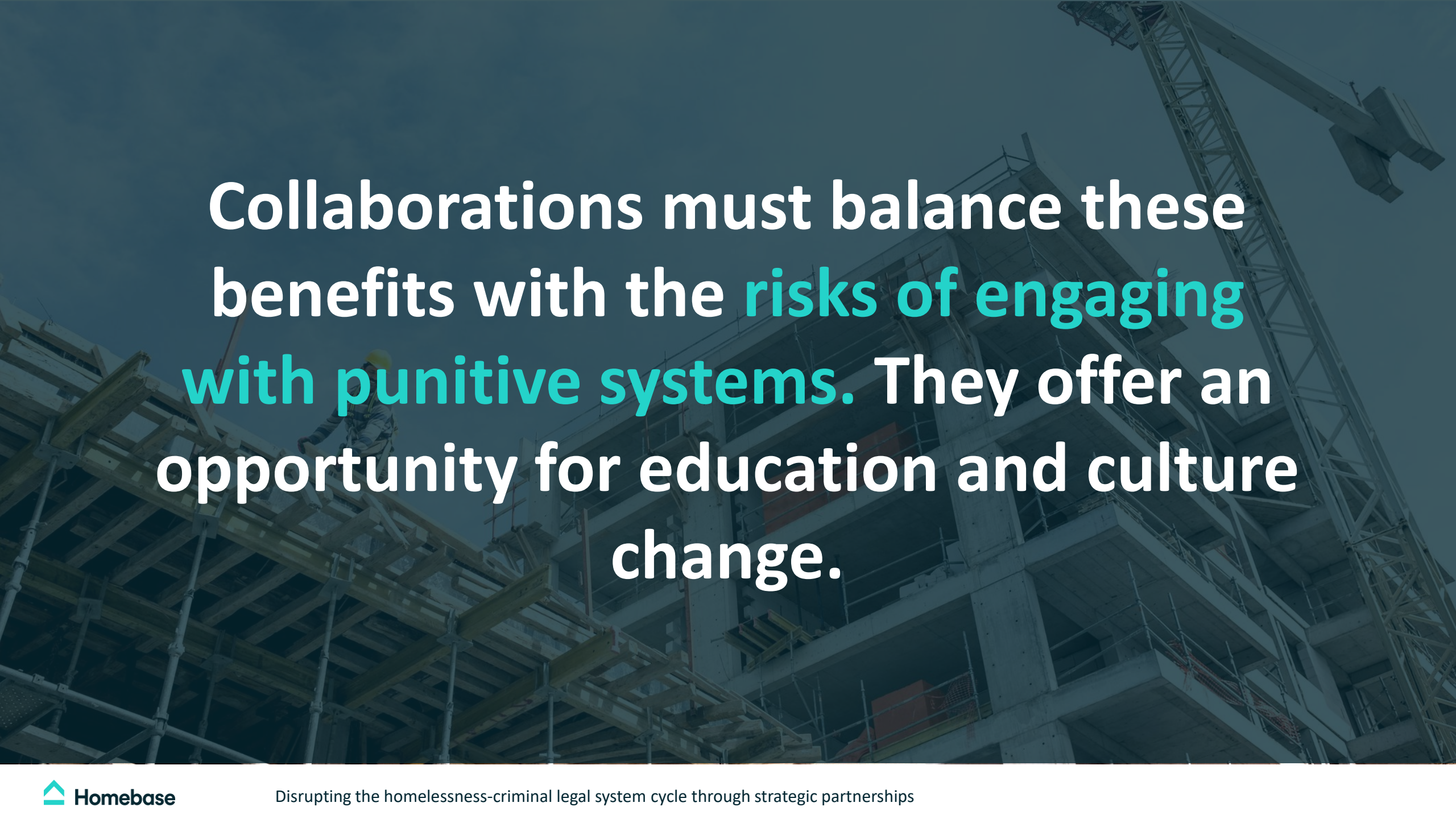


Breaking siloes is key

Collaboration with the criminal legal system can...

- Help ensure that resources available in both systems are known and utilized.
- Open new funding opportunities.
- Reduce criminal legal system involvement for people experiencing housing insecurity.
- Help people with records find housing.
- Reduce the barriers posed by ongoing Court involvement in people's lives as they build stability.



A low-angle, upward-looking shot of a multi-story building under construction. The concrete frame of the building is visible, with numerous levels of scaffolding and wooden formwork. A construction worker wearing a yellow hard hat and safety gear is visible on one of the scaffolding levels. A large tower crane is positioned to the right of the building, its arm extending upwards. The sky is a clear, pale blue.

Collaborations must balance these benefits with the risks of engaging with punitive systems. They offer an opportunity for education and culture change.

Criminal legal system partners

When we talk about a local criminal legal system, who is typically involved?

Police

Public
Defender

Pretrial
services

District
Attorney

Courts

Correct-
ions

Probation

Sheriff

Local gov

Reentry
providers

Advocates

State
agencies

Criminal legal system partners

When we talk about a local criminal legal system, who is typically involved?



Public defenders represent people who can't afford an attorney in criminal cases.

Some estimates suggest 80% of people can't afford a lawyer - yet people often don't get adequate indigent representation (e.g., at bail hearings).

- Public defenders struggle with chronic underfunding, understaffing, and huge caseloads.
- Public defenders may not always be aware of CoC resources or a client's relevant history in the community.
- Collaboration can help dismiss charges, get people out of detention, connect people to resources, reduce sentence severity, and reduce returns to incarceration for violations.

[The Marshall Project.](#)

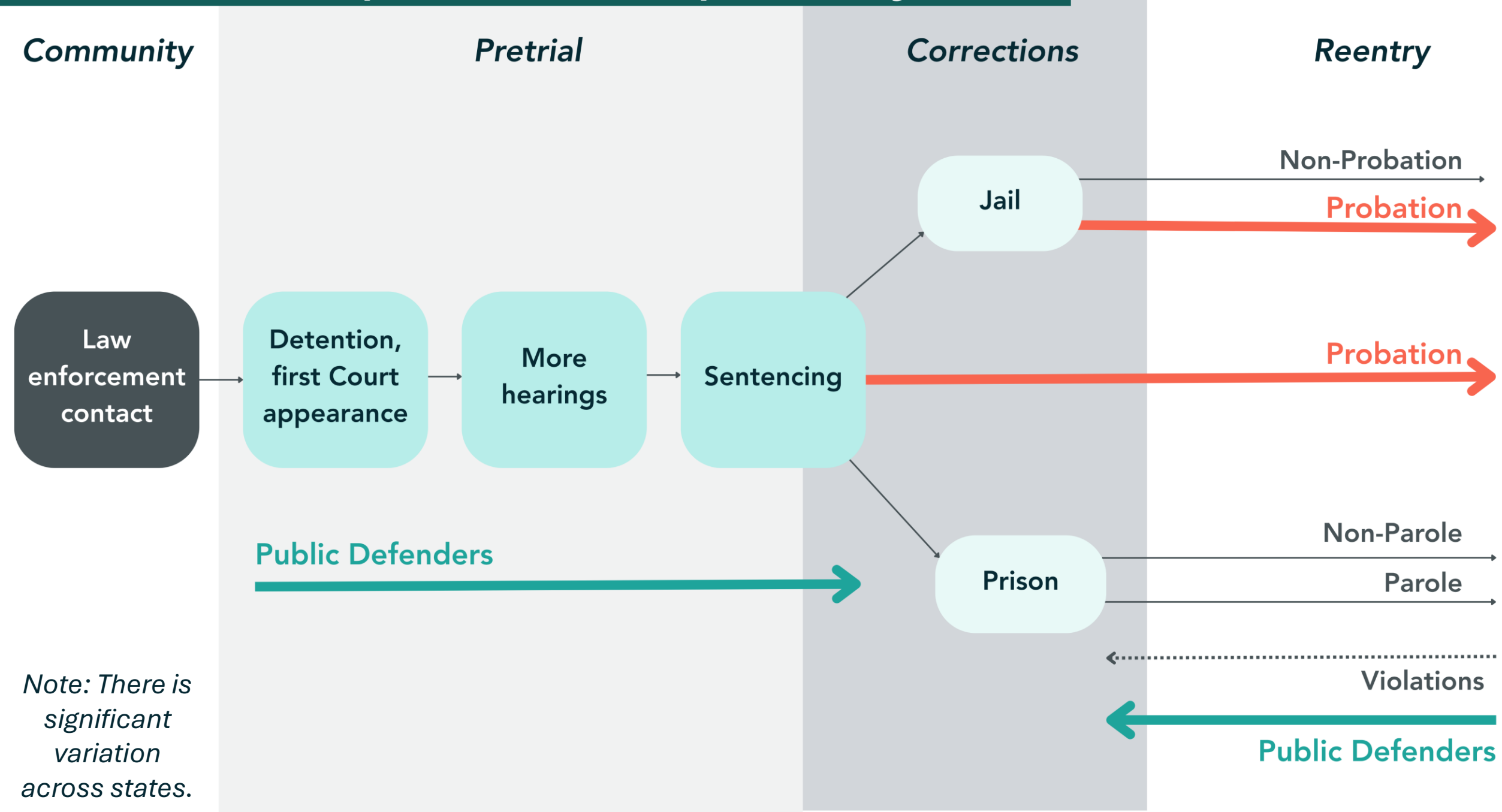
Probation departments supervise people serving sentences in the community.

Nationally, about 2.9 million people are on probation – which is over half the entire population under correctional control.

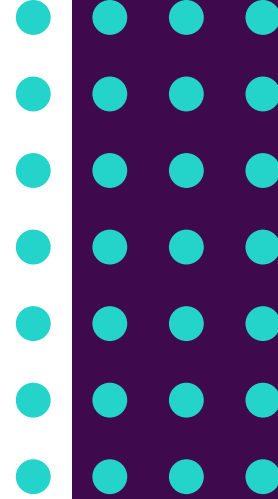
- Probation officers help people gain stability but also enforce their supervision conditions. Violations are a major driver of incarceration for people on supervision.
- Probation officers can struggle with large caseloads, fulfilling multiple roles (e.g., law enforcement, social worker), and a lack of knowledge about resources available to clients.
- Collaborations can help clients with records access and stay in housing – and create opportunities for advocacy and culture change.

[Prison Policy Initiative.](#)

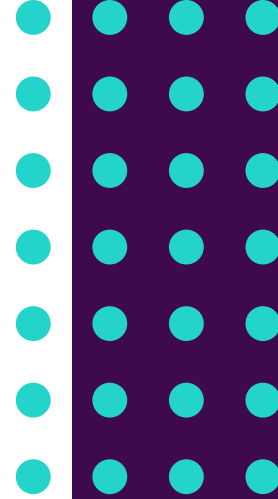
Where do these partners show up in the system?



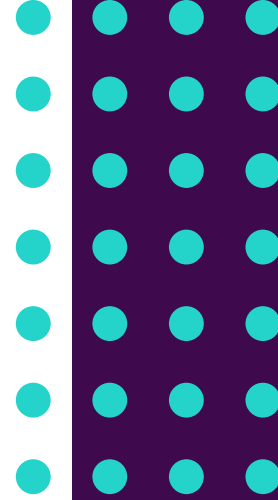
Panel discussion



Breakout groups and activity



Conclusion

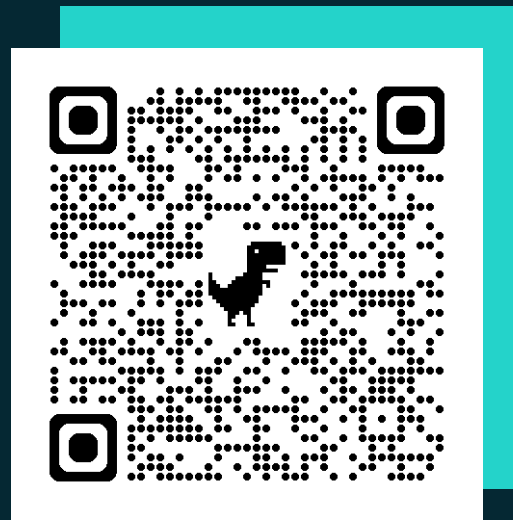


Questions and Discussion



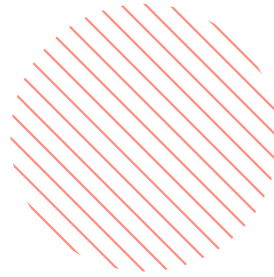
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<http://tinyurl.com/HomebaseSignUp>

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