



News Release

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Charleston County Selected to Participate in new Initiative to Break Link between Housing Instability and Incarceration

Website: <https://www.charlestoncounty.org/departments/da-community-services/jhp.php>

Charleston County is one of four communities selected for participation in the launch of the Just Home Project, a national program designed to advance community-driven efforts to break the link between housing instability and jail incarceration. The initiative is led by the [John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation](#), with technical support and coordination by the [Urban Institute](#).

"Charleston County is thrilled to have the opportunity to partner with the MacArthur Foundation on this project," said Deputy County Administrator of Community Services Christine DuRant. "We look forward to building upon the successful progress already established by our Criminal Justice Coordinating Council and the Charleston Center, as well as capitalizing on new resources being dedicated to housing by the County. With support from the Urban Institute, our team aims to create a community-informed program that takes a housing-first approach paired with targeted supportive services for individuals caught in the revolving door between homelessness and incarceration. Our hope is that this demonstration project will set the stage for additional efforts that contribute to decreasing jail population and tackling the racially disparate footprint that the criminal justice system has on our community."

Collaboration with local organizations and agencies will be a top priority for Charleston County as it leads the region in the Just Home Project. One80 Place will be instrumental to Charleston County as we begin our planning efforts. Stacey W. Denaux, CEO, states that "One80 Place is keenly aware of the perpetual cycle some homeless individuals are caught in, between jail and homelessness. The hard work of the CJCC's pilot program shed light on systems failures and missed opportunities to disrupt this cycle."

Funding from the MacArthur Foundation will support our community's efforts to implement thoughtful solutions to help these vulnerable individuals find and maintain housing success. At the conclusion of this six-month planning period, Charleston County will have the opportunity to receive additional grant funds and/or impact investments from MacArthur to support an implementation period through February 2024. To help participating communities acquire or develop housing that meets the needs of justice-involved individuals, MacArthur plans to provide long-term loans totaling up to \$15 million across the four participating sites. Charleston County is also a participant in the MacArthur Foundation's [Safety and Justice Challenge](#), an initiative that began in 2015 to reduce the overall jail population as well as racial and ethnic disparities in jails. More information on Charleston County's Criminal Justice Coordinating Council's work with the Safety and Justice Challenge can be found at cjcc.charlestoncounty.org.

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- written by the Public Information Office -