



Salt Lake County Justice Reinvestment Initiative  
grant application submitted June 2, 2017

**Executive Summary**

There are two groups of people—the vulnerable and those preying upon them—that are found in large numbers in and around the Rio Grande Street area in downtown Salt Lake City. Without enough treatment or jail capacity to accommodate this population, a public health and safety crisis has taken over the area. To help tackle the crisis, Salt Lake County launched “Operation Diversion” in September 2016. Utilizing one-time funding, the county made 63 new residential beds available. After the three phases of Operation Diversion concluded, voluntary treatment referrals came through the city’s Community Connections Center. Enough additional one-time funding extends treatment capacity until the end of 2017.

Initial data shows that treatment retention among some clients was low. It is clear that more structure is necessary to improve treatment engagement rates for future Operation Diversion activities. Salt Lake County seeks to serve those who are candidates for treatment through a new risk and needs based specialty court program.

The county is investing a total of \$5.6 million in acquiring—through contracts with other county jails—up to 300 jail beds, to free up space and lessen booking restrictions.

The county is requesting \$8 million (over two years) to help address the unmet need for individuals through a Specialty Court program to serve the misdemeanor population created by the Justice Reinvestment Initiative (JRI); expand the county’s evidence-based Intensive Supervision Program (ISP), which has reached its 200-client capacity; add 10 residential treatment beds to support existing Salt Lake County Drug Court programs; make permanent the investment in 63 residential treatment beds currently in use. Other ideas for on the ground changes that the county supports include potentially closing Rio Grande Street to create programmable service delivery space; work with the Salt Lake County Health Department to increase frequency of clean ups in the area; transform the island strip along 500 West to allow private policing and the ability to ask individuals to leave; relocate the state liquor store away from Rio Grande; work with the Downtown Alliance to support new community ambassador program to deter illegal activity downtown.

Homeless service system providers are working with the county to move towards the model featured in the three new homeless resource centers. Families will be relocated from Rio Grande to housing by July 15<sup>th</sup> and those spaces will not be backfilled. A third-

party intake and assessment procedure is being phased in to quickly identify individual needs and direct them towards appropriate services. The county also supports the expansion of Catholic Community Service's current I.D. system, to ensure efficient access to necessary services.

Salt Lake County will continue to lead on programs that fulfill the promise of the Justice Reinvestment Initiative—treatment, not jail, for those who stand to benefit and more efficient use of tax dollars in pursuit of safe communities.