



STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office of Governor Tim Walz

75 Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. ♦ Suite 130 ♦ Saint Paul, MN 55155-1611

November 12, 2020

Heather Tubman-Carbone, PhD
Senior Policy Advisor
Bureau of Justice Assistance
810 Seventh Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20531

Dear Ms. Tubman-Carbone:

The State of Minnesota is facing significant economic challenges going into Fiscal Year 2022-2023. As such, there is potential for budgetary cuts as they relate to Minnesota's criminal justice system, resulting in consequences for those system agencies. While this possibility does not change our priority of keeping our fellow Minnesotans safe, it does create an opportunity to reexamine the ways in which we are funding transformative services that protect and strengthen the safety and connectedness of communities. In light of the diversity in service delivery systems that contribute to public safety, both for individuals who have caused harm and for individuals who have experienced harm, this conversation requires broad engagement by agencies that serve offenders and victims alike.

I write to request a partnership between the State of Minnesota and the Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center for targeted data analysis on the use of funds and fund allocation for justice system partners. The CSG Justice Center will facilitate discussion between the Minnesota Department of Corrections and a broad range of stakeholders, including but not limited to the Minnesota Association of Community Corrections Act Counties, Minnesota Association of County Probation Officers, Violence Free Minnesota, and Minnesota Alliance on Crime, to articulate the base level services that must be afforded funding in the next biennium.

This conversation is urgent and discrete in requiring considerable time and energy be devoted over the next month. Over the coming weeks, the State of Minnesota is working diligently across all agencies to develop sound budget recommendations for the Legislature's consideration in the January 2021 legislative session. The work done by this group will supplement the Justice Reinvestment Initiative proposal currently envisioned as a broader, outcome-driven conversation on community safety and criminal justice system effectiveness.

The coronavirus pandemic has forced governments around the world to reexamine and reform community safety services and expenditures, and the State of Minnesota is no exception. I look forward to partnering with you on this monumentally important work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. J. Walz".

Tim Walz,
Governor

Cc: Paul Schnell, Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Corrections
Travis Gransee, President, Minnesota Association of Community Corrections Act Counties
Jim Schneider, President, Minnesota Association of County Probation Officers
Carli Stark, Public Safety Policy Analyst, Association of Minnesota Counties