

Pathways to Pretrial Advancement Cohort 2 Informational Webinar

October 22, 2026

Dr. Kelvin L. Banks & Orleney Rojas

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Agenda



1. **Welcome & Introductions – Dr. Kelvin L. Banks**
2. **Pathways to Pretrial Advancement Overview – Orleny Rojas**
3. **Application Process & Site Selection Timeline – Orleny Rojas**
4. **LEO Research Partnership Overview – Orleny Rojas**
5. **Next Steps & Closing – Dr. Kelvin L. Banks**

Presenters



**Dr. Kelvin L.
Banks**

Associate Director
Center for Effective
Public Policy (CEPP)



Orleny Rojas

Senior Manager
Center for Effective
Public Policy (CEPP)

Polling Question



What role do you serve in your respective jurisdiction?

1. Case Manager
2. County Administrator
3. Court Administrator
4. Judicial Officer
5. Pretrial Director/Manager/Supervisor
6. Pretrial Officer
7. TA Provider
8. Other

Overview: Pathways to Pretrial Advancement

Orleny Rojas

What Is Pathways?



Nationwide call for county, municipal, or tribal governments (or relevant agencies) to apply for a competitive strategic planning opportunity



Up to eight (8) localities will receive 12 months of facilitated strategic planning and technical assistance from APPR



An implementation-ready plan for one or more specific pretrial policy or practice changes that the locality itself chooses



Learn what causal research involves and explore a potential research partnership with LEO at the University of Notre Dame

Two Distinct Opportunities

1 APPR Strategic Planning

What every selected locality receives

- 12 months of facilitated strategic planning and technical assistance
- Professional facilitation, expert coaching, immersive learning, peer support, and online resources
- Ends with an implementation-ready plan for a change the locality chooses
- Includes education on causal research concepts and feasibility



2 LEO Research Partnership

Separate, for localities that qualify

- For localities that develop a research question and meet LEO's criteria
- LEO-governed, multi-stage process to design and implement a study funded by Arnold Ventures
- Extends beyond the 12-month Pathways engagement
- Not included or promised with selection into Pathways

What Will Selected Sites Do?

Over 12 months, each site will:

- 1 Identify critical decision points and assess policies and practices based on data, evidence, and best practices
- 2 Explore policies and practices that strengthen foundational pretrial standards through the APPR Roadmap
- 3 Select practical changes that enhance fairness, public safety, and effectiveness
- 4 Develop an implementation plan with roles, timelines, stakeholder engagement, and success metrics
- 5 Assess readiness for potential rigorous research by learning evaluation concepts



Prioritize and Plan for Implementation



Prioritize Change Targets

- Use the system review and cross-agency dialogue to identify potential targets
- Test assumptions and identify challenges
- Distinguish quick wins from long-term efforts
- Arrive at a clear, achievable list of changes with a well-defined rationale



Create an Implementation Plan

- Assign owners, timelines, and milestones
- Outline training, communications, and technology needs
- Define success measures
- Set a governance schedule to track progress and address issues

Targets may come from the APPR Roadmap or from outside it. What matters is that the locality has the authority, will, and capacity to make the change.

Project Activities and Timeline

Activity	Feb '27	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan '28
1. Examine the Current System	Initial Planning	Establish Team Foundation Complete Jail Overview Conduct System Mapping										
2. Learn Best Practices			Review APPR Roadmap	Focus on Roadmap policies of interest (best practices, empirical research, and examples from the field)								
3. Investigate & Prioritize Improvements						Analyze Jail Overview and System Map	Agree on Specific Improvements (including feasibility of implementation)					
4. Learn About Research				Webinar (LEO)		Follow-Up Discussions (LEO)						
5. Develop Implementation Plan											Develop Implementation Plan	
6. Test Research Partnership								Identify Research Questions & Explore Feasibility (LEO)			If Feasible, Explore Evaluation Design (LEO)	
Workgroup Meetings		Site Visit	Virtual	Virtual	1 Site Visit / 1 Virtual		Virtual	Virtual	Virtual	1 Site Visit / 2 Virtual		

Pretrial Workgroup Roles

Project Champion

6–10

hours per month

Senior decision-maker, policymaker, or agency head who advocates for the initiative, removes obstacles, secures leadership support, and sets agendas and goals with the Team Lead

Team Lead

5+

hours per week

Daily coordinator and primary liaison with APPR who schedules work, tracks tasks, and keeps the team aligned; ideally a senior staff member with project management authority

Pretrial Workgroup

Monthly

meetings for 12 months

Key system and community members who review data, deepen their understanding of best practices, and make policy or process decisions; named in the application

Expectations for Participation



Meet monthly over 12 months to review the system and identify priorities



Participate regularly in project activities, learning opportunities, and online resources



Engage in collaborative decision-making on policy and practice changes



Create a work plan to guide implementation of the changes identified



Engage community stakeholders, including those impacted by pretrial practices, whenever possible

Workgroup roles may include prosecutors, judges, defense attorneys, pretrial services directors, jail administrators, law enforcement, court administrators, victim services staff, and community organizations and representatives.

Application Process & Site Selection Timeline

Orleny Rojas

What to Expect in the Application

The application is more detailed than a typical letter of interest. It asks localities to demonstrate readiness in three areas:



Threshold Eligibility

Baseline requirements that every application must meet before it is scored. This is a competitive process.

Required



Data & System Capacity

Specific questions about the data you collect, which systems hold it, and whether it can be produced at the individual case level.

Diagnostic, not disqualifying



Openness to Rigorous Research

Whether you would consider a phased or randomized implementation approach, if later needed to enable a rigorous study.

Not a commitment to any design

Threshold Eligibility Requirements



Eligible applicant

A county, municipal, or tribal government, or an agency of one



Existing collaborative structure

A multidisciplinary workgroup, CJCC, or equivalent body that has met regularly for at least the past 12 months



Identified policy or practice target(s)

One or more specific pretrial changes you can name and intend to pursue



Documented leadership commitment

Letters of support from each agency needed to make the change, signed by each agency's leader



Dedicated staff capacity

A Team Lead with employer-confirmed protected time and a Project Champion with authority (or direct access to authority) over the change



Applications that demonstrate these elements will be especially competitive.

Describe the Changes You Want to Make

- a Be concrete** What would be different, for whom, and starting when? Don't limit yourself to the Roadmap list.
- b Realistic timeline** When could a decision on this change be finalized, and what needs to happen to get there?
- c Authority** Who holds authority to make each change (presiding judge, prosecutor, sheriff, county board, state statute)? Have they been consulted, and what did they say?
- d Progress and barriers** What has already been done locally toward this change, and what is standing in the way?
- e Value of Pathways** What advantages can Pathways provide, or what gaps can it fill, from your perspective?

How to Apply



Complete the PDF application

Eligibility checklist, narrative and data questions, and Workgroup roster



Gather letters of support

From every Workgroup agency, signed by each agency's leader



Confirm and authorize

Project Champion and Team Lead check the acknowledgments and sign



Email your application

Send the application, letters, and any optional materials to APPR

Submit to: Dr. Kelvin L. Banks (KBanks@cepp.com) and Orleny Rojas (ORojas@cepp.com)

Optional: an organizational chart, existing group charter, or other brief documents that help us understand your structure

Important Dates

October 22, 2026



**Informational
Webinar & Office
Hour**

November 16, 2026



Application Deadline

January 4, 2027



**Selection
Announcement**

Feb 2027 – Jan 2028



Project Duration



Questions about the RFA?

Contact Dr. Kelvin L. Banks (KBanks@cepp.com) or Orleny Rojas (ORojas@cepp.com) at the Center for Effective Public Policy.

Next Steps & Closing Remarks

Dr. Kelvin L. Banks

Key Takeaways



Apply by November 16, 2026

Selection announced January 4, 2027; the project runs February 2027 – January 2028



Meet all five threshold requirements

An application missing information will not advance to scoring



Two distinct opportunities

Every site receives 12 months of APPR strategic planning; a LEO research partnership is separate and not guaranteed



Bring your full team to the table

A Project Champion, Team Lead, and multidisciplinary Workgroup, with letters signed by agency leaders

Any Questions?



Contact Us



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