



County of Santa Cruz

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County to Participate in Results First Initiative

The Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors approved participation in the Results First Initiative by the County criminal justice system today. The County has been selected as the second California partner county to participate in this national initiative, coordinated by the Pew-MacArthur Foundations. The study will assess the costs and benefits of criminal justice programs through the use of extensive data collection and analysis. This data can then be used by policy makers to inform decisions based on the return on investment for these programs as it relates to both cost and ability to reduce recidivism.

“The Results First Initiative will allow the County of Santa Cruz to implement an innovative cost-benefit analysis approach that helps us invest in policies and programs that are proven to work,” stated County Administrative Officer, Susan Mauriello.

Results First is working with 14 states and 2 California counties to implement cutting-edge cost-benefit analysis tools to identify options that provide the best outcomes for citizens while improving fiscal health. Results First provides intensive technical assistance to states and counties to help them adopt and customize a cost-benefit analysis model to their own policies and programs.

“Our Board wisely adopted our participation in this effort that will ensure both public safety and efficient use of public dollars. Results First is in step with our long standing commitment to data driven practices that yield the best results for our county. Through this initiative we will have a system to objectively evaluate and monitor our justice system interventions into the future,” noted Scott MacDonald, Chief Probation Officer.

Results First builds on the successes of the nonpartisan Washington State Institute for Public Policy (WSIPP), which developed a research and analysis model to inform its policy and budget decisions. According to Results First, use of the WSIPP cost-benefit model to assess adult and juvenile justice programs helped Washington State achieve considerable savings while reducing crime rates and juvenile arrest rates below national averages.

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