



# Stepping Up Framework

*Reducing the Number of People with Mental Illnesses in Jail: Six Questions County Leaders Need to Ask (Six Questions)* represents foundational thinking of the Stepping Up initiative that encourages counties to assess their existing efforts to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in jail by considering the following questions:

- 1 Is our leadership committed?**
- 2 Do we conduct timely screening and assessments?**
- 3 Do we have baseline data?**
- 4 Do we conduct a comprehensive process analysis and inventory of services?**
- 5 Have we prioritized policy, practice and funding improvements?**
- 6 Do we track progress?**

Stepping Up urges county leaders to review current practices and to adopt policies, programs and practices that are informed by their impact on the following measures:



**Reducing the number of people with mental illnesses booked into jail**



**Reducing the length of time spent in jail**



**Increasing connections to treatment**



**Reducing recidivism**

## Stepping Up Resources

The Stepping Up partners have developed an online toolkit with a wealth of resources that are continuously updated to provide the latest information on research and best practices to counties. Resources are all publicly available on the Stepping Up website and include:



**Monthly webinars and networking calls**



**A project coordinator handbook**



**Educational workshops at NACo and partner conferences**



**Guidance on measuring the number of people with mental illnesses in jail**



**Quarterly calls of smaller networking groups of rural, mid-size and large/urban counties that have passed Stepping Up resolutions**



**Written and online tools that are companions to the *Six Questions* report that present the latest research and case studies for county officials**

**To learn more or join the initiative please visit [StepUpTogether.org](http://StepUpTogether.org)**

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