



2026 Legislative Focus:

***Reshaping the Shared Responsibility
of County Jails in Kentucky***



President

Adam O'Nan

Union County Judge/Executive

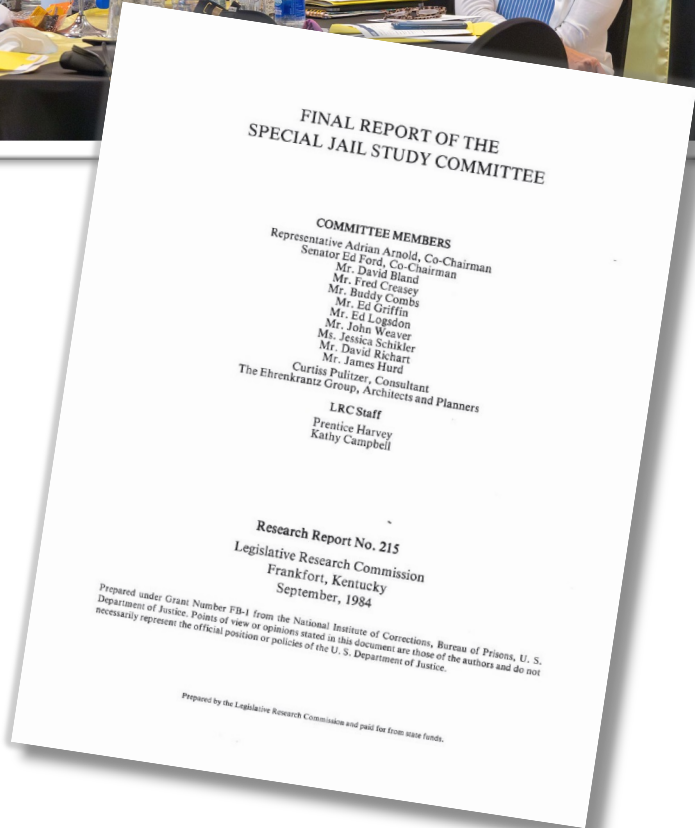


Immediate Past President

Dan Mosley

Harlan County Judge/Executive

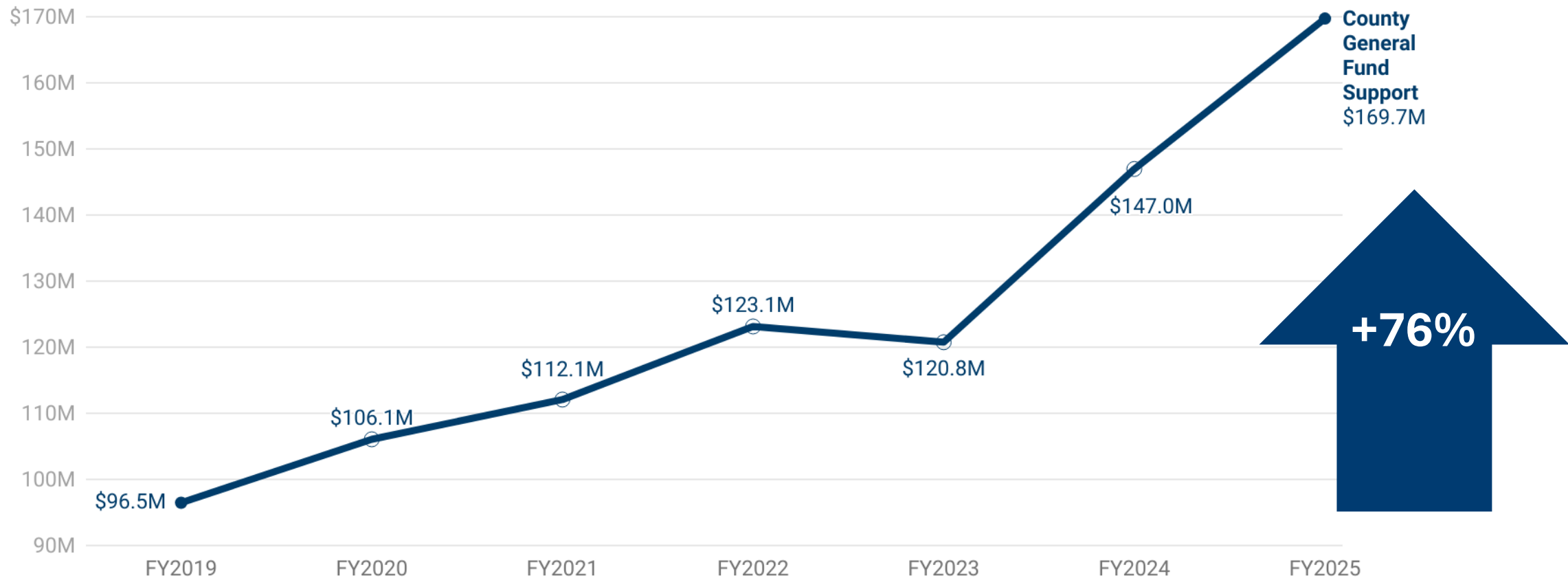
County jails: A perennial issue



County jails at a crisis point



County general fund support for jails FY2019 - FY2025



Source: KACo analysis of Uniform Financial Information Reports, FY2019-FY2025 (excludes Fayette and Jefferson)

The KACo Board of Directors endorsed the issue of **reshaping the shared responsibility for county jails in Kentucky** as its primary legislative priority for the 2026 Regular Session, to include:

- Incentivizing regional jails
- Clarifying responsibility for pre-trial felony detainees
- Redefining the state inmate housing model

Incentivize Regional Jails





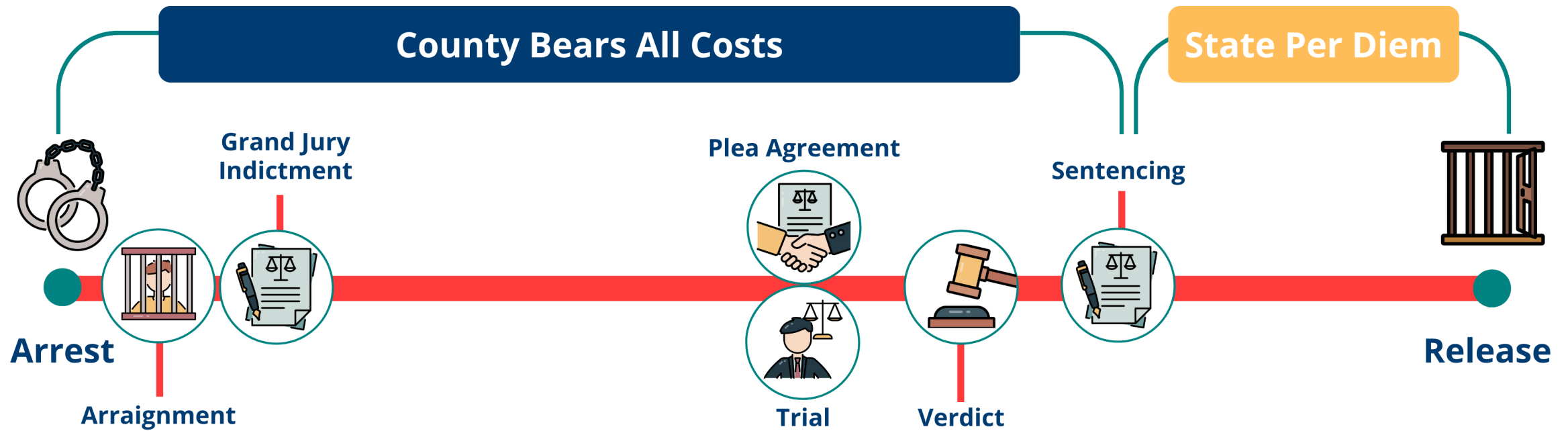
Incentivize Regional Jails:

- Provide one-time funding for regional jail construction.
- Allow 96-hour holdover facilities.
- Amend the regional jail authority board statute.
- Increase the closed county jail supplement.
- Provide a one-time incentive payment for regionalizing.

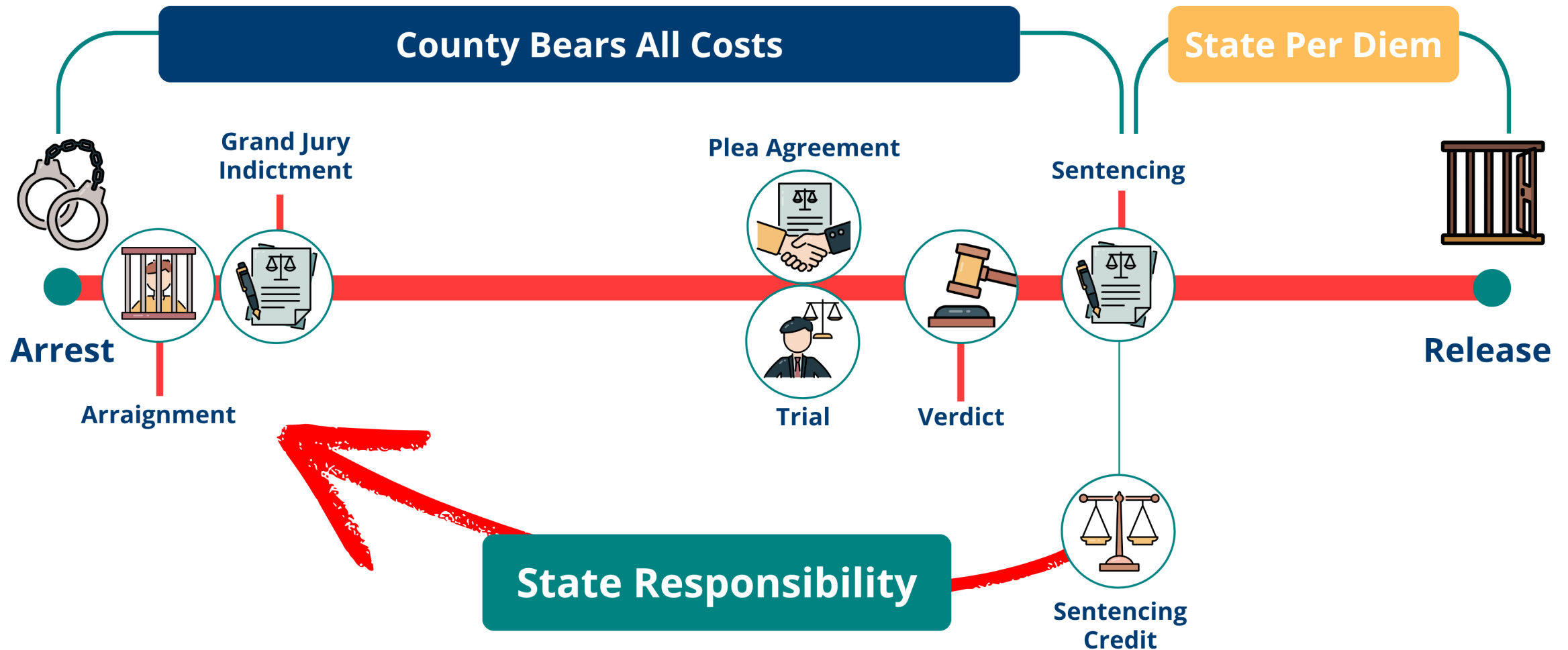
Clarify Responsibility for Pre-Trial Felony Detainees



Who's responsible?



Credit for time served



Clarify Responsibility for Pre-trial Felony Detainees:

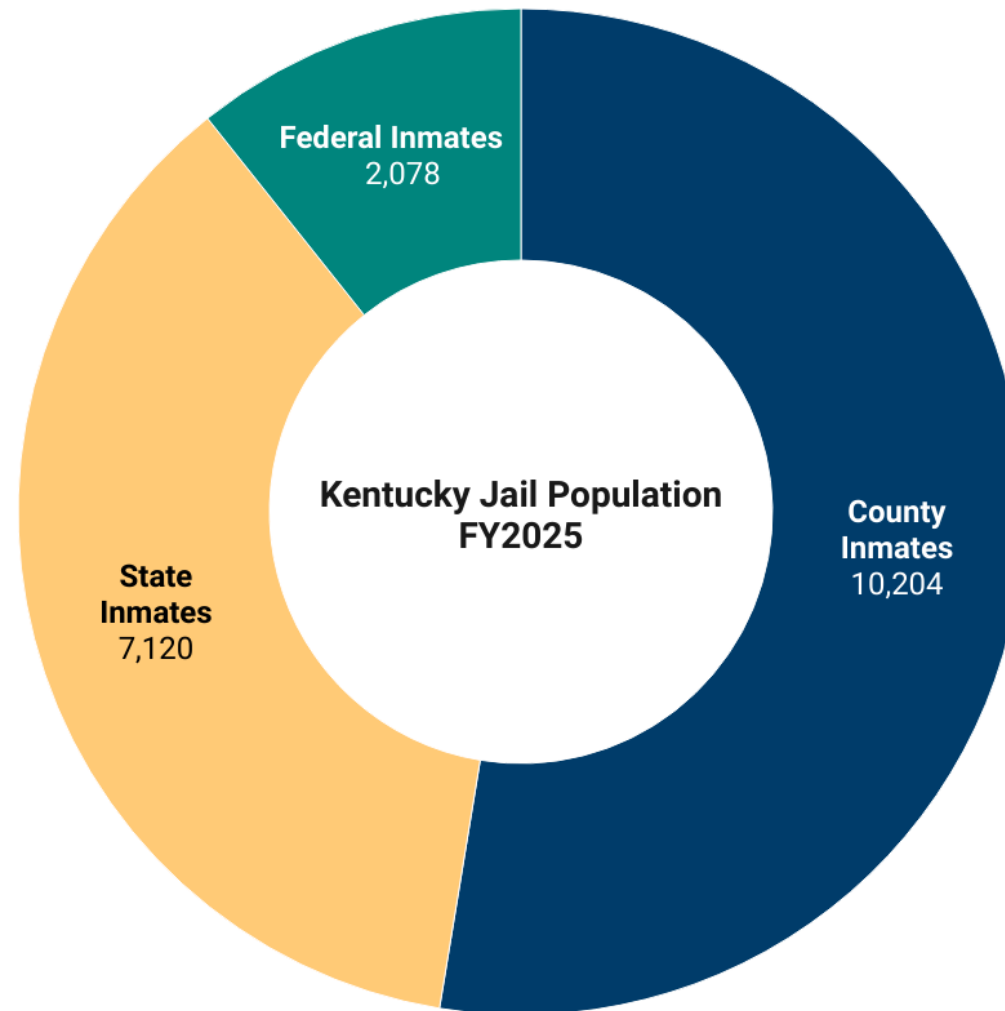
Credit for time served - reimburse counties for the credit for time served an inmate receives when sentenced on a felony charge.

- 2022 HB 211, Rep. Meredith
- 2022 SB 81, Sen. Wheeler

Redefine State Inmate Housing Model



State inmate population in jails

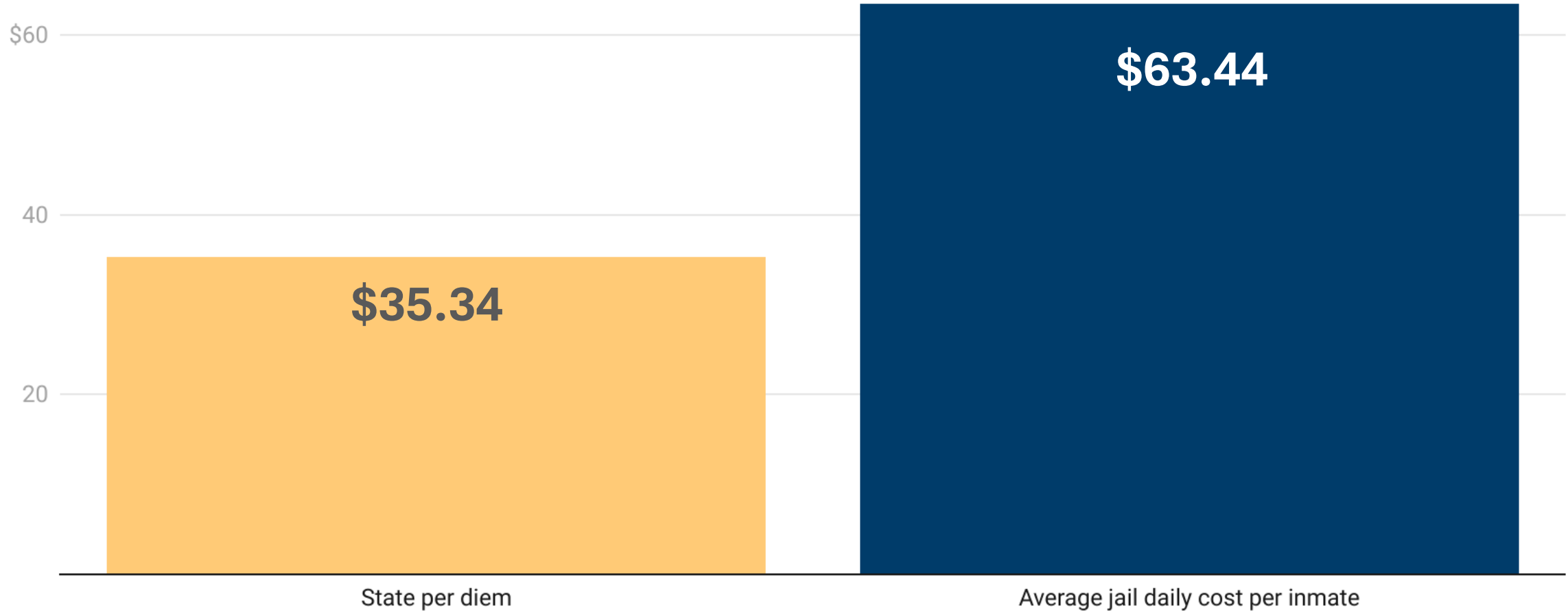


Source: Kentucky Department of Corrections, "Weekly Jail Report," July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025

State inmate per diem



FY2025 state per diem vs actual jail costs



Source: KACo analysis of Uniform Financial Information Reports, FY2025 (excludes Fayette and Jefferson)

Redefine the State Inmate Housing Model:

- Require the Department of Corrections to have contracts with each fiscal court or regional jail authority based on actual costs.
- Require jails to provide certain programming to house state inmates.



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Jim Henderson
Executive Director/CEO



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Stronger Counties. Stronger Kentucky.