

# THE BAIL PROJECT

Freedom should be free.



## The Problem

The cash bail system upends the presumption of innocence and the notion that everyone is equal under the law. It does it by punishing people in low-income communities and communities of color, fueling economic inequality and systematic racism in the legal system. Time after time, people who can't afford bail remain in jail before trial, while those with money buy their liberty. Those free on bail can return to their jobs and families while awaiting trial. They can continue to be active members of their communities. Each year, an estimated 2.5 million people sit in jail before they are given a trial because they cannot afford bail.



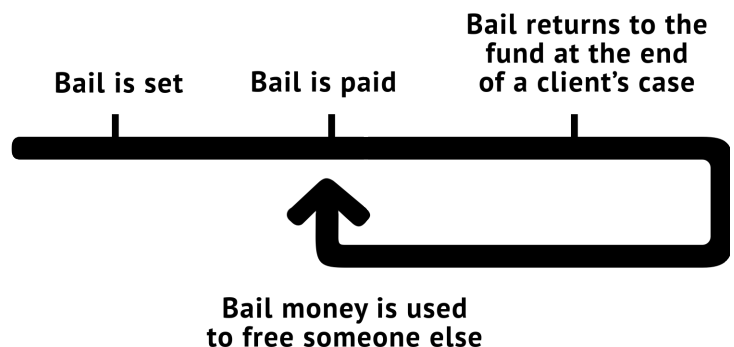
## The Response

The Bail Project is a national nonprofit organization established to combat mass incarceration by disrupting the cash bail system—one person at a time. We restore the presumption of innocence, reunite families, and challenge a system that criminalizes race and poverty. We're on a mission to end cash bail and create a more just, equitable, and humane pretrial system.



## Our Model

Our first step is to provide free bail assistance to thousands of low-income people every year. Through our model of **Community Release with Support**, we then connect those we help to voluntary services and resources based on their needs and provide them with court reminders and transportation assistance for the duration of their case. As people appear in court, the bail payments are returned to our **National Revolving Bail Fund** so we can reuse the funds to help more people. 100% of online donations to The Bail Project are used to bring people home, and our services are completely free. Along with providing bail assistance and pretrial support, we also work actively to eliminate cash bail. To help the public understand this critical issue, we use the power of human stories and data to make the case for ending cash bail and investing in communities and in alternatives to incarceration.



## Our Team

The Bail Project has local sites in more than two dozen cities and towns across the United States. Our community-based teams of advocates, client support specialists, and bail disruptors work with over 140 direct service partners to support people for the duration of their cases. To date, we have provided free bail assistance to more than 15,000 individuals.



## Our Goal

We believe that ending cash bail is one of the defining civil rights and racial justice issues of our day. Through our efforts, we seek to transform pretrial justice for future generations, bringing us one step closer to ending mass incarceration and racial and economic disparities in the U.S. criminal legal system.

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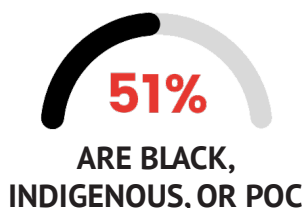
The Bail Project combats mass incarceration by disrupting the money bail system — one person at a time. We restore the presumption of innocence, reunite families, and challenge a system that criminalizes race and poverty.

## Louisville

In Louisville, we are providing an immediate lifeline to people in need right now, while working to advance reforms that eliminate cash bail and create a more humane and equitable pretrial system in the future. Our Louisville clients represent those most impacted by the criminal legal system.

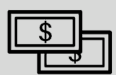
*Cash bail is the single biggest driver of incarceration in America, filling jails with people who are accused of crimes, but not yet convicted. It's time to reimagine a criminal justice system that is more just, humane, and equitable.*

Through our **National Revolving Bail Fund** we've posted nearly \$58M in bail assistance and provided community-based pretrial support to over 20,000 low-income and indigent people in more than two dozen jurisdictions across the country.



## COMMUNITY RELEASE WITH SUPPORT

Here's how we work in Louisville:



### Bail Assistance

We have provided bail assistance for **3,615** individuals allowing them to return to their families, jobs, and communities, and to fight their cases from a position of freedom.



### Court Appearance Support

Once our clients are free, we provide court reminders and transportation to court if needed. We've supported Louisville clients return to **11,679 court dates**, for a **90% court appearance rate**.



### Community-Based Services

As part of our process, we ask clients about their needs and provide voluntary referrals to social service providers in the community. The most common service requests are for **housing**.



### Fairer Case Outcomes

The result is that **15%** of Louisville clients have all their cases dismissed. Through our client court appearances, **97% of Louisville bail funds** have revolved allowing us to support additional clients.

## WORKING TOWARDS SYSTEMIC CHANGE

By harnessing evidence from our model and the power of human stories and data, we seek to:

- 1 End cash bail and motivate broad adoption of Community Release with Support
- 2 Share tools to support jurisdictions that want to implement this model
- 3 Catalyze broader positive and anti-racist pretrial reform across the United States



