



News from the Shelby County Mayor's Office

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Shelby County Wins MacArthur Foundation Grant to Reduce Jail Incarceration

The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation announced this week that Shelby County Government is again one of nine (9) communities across the nation to receive a \$150,000 grant to continue reform work aimed at safely reducing the jail population by changing the way America thinks about and uses jails.

“This grant demonstrates Shelby County’s continued commitment to find more appropriate ways to treat non-violent offenders and use taxpayer dollars more effectively,” said Shelby County Mayor Mark H. Luttrell, Jr.

The Shelby County Sheriff’s Office operates the men’s jail at 201 Poplar Avenue and Jail East for women at 6201 Haley Road in east Memphis. **“We want to ensure our jails are only being used to house those who pose a risk to the community. Jail is often a gateway to deeper and more lasting involvement in our criminal justice system,”** said Shelby County Sheriff Bill Oldham.

Overall, Shelby County wants to utilize the MacArthur Foundation grant to address problems identified by a planning team in 2015 and work to implement corresponding solutions. Priorities include:

1. Focus on decreasing admissions to the Shelby County Jail, for both the adult men and women’s facilities
2. Make better use of safe pre-trial release options
3. Reduce the time to dispose of in-custody felony cases

Shelby County’s multi-agency work team will apply for more grant money from the MacArthur Foundation next year. If awarded, Shelby County could receive funds to continue the implementation plan.

About the MacArthur Foundation

The MacArthur Foundation supports creative people and effective institutions committed to building a more just, verdant and peaceful world. In addition to selecting the MacArthur Fellows, the Foundation works to defend human rights, advance global conservation and security, makes cities better places, and understands how technology affects children and society. More information about the Foundations work, include the justice field, is available at www.macfound.org

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