



Dane County, WI
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Dane County Selected For National Cohort on Alternative 911 Emergency Response

At today's Dane County Community Justice Council meeting, it was announced that Dane County has been selected for the Harvard Kennedy School Government Performance Lab's (GPL) Alternative 911 Emergency Response Implementation Cohort. The initiative is designed to help state and local jurisdictions improve alternative approaches that can safely redirect 911 calls to unarmed staff trained to de-escalate crises and link people in need to community-based resources.

Learn more about the Cohort: <https://govlab.hks.harvard.edu/news/harvard-kennedy-school-government-performance-lab-announces-2023-2024-alternative-911>

"CJC members include City, County, and State officials, as well as those with lived experience. Joining national learning cohorts has been key to systems improvement in criminal justice. The Dane County CJC is pleased to learn of the ongoing effort to improve approaches to alternative responses to crisis. We look forward to learning more and working collaboratively with partners" said Community Justice Council Chair Clerk of Circuit Court Carlo Esqueda.

Gloria Gong, GPL's Executive Director said "we are thrilled to welcome 10 new jurisdictions and four returning jurisdictions to the GPL's largest-ever Alternative 911 Emergency Response Implementation Cohort. We look forward to working with Cohort participants to develop, improve, and expand the use of unarmed emergency response teams that can be directly dispatched to 911 calls. The innovations these jurisdictions are testing will not only allow them to better respond to people in crisis but will also contribute to nationwide improvements in alternative 911 systems as an increasing number of jurisdictions seek to reimagine their emergency responses."

The GPL selected the 2023-24 Cohort from a highly competitive applicant pool of 40 jurisdictions around the country. Selection criteria included the jurisdiction's vision and commitment to equitably improving community safety and wellbeing; support from local leaders; collaboration across government departments; and commitment to have alternative response teams respond directly to 911 calls.

The 10 new jurisdictions selected for the Cohort are: Alexandria, VA; Amherst, MA; Baltimore, MD; Cambridge, MA; Lawrence/Douglas County, KS; Los Angeles, CA; Madison/Dane County, WI; Portland, OR; Sacramento, CA; and Tucson, AZ.

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The 16 member Dane County Community Justice Council is a collaborative body created in Dane County ordinance to collaborate and improve public safety, racial equity and data driven decisions. For more information: cjc.countyofdane.com.