

ILLINOIS SENTENCING POLICY ADVISORY COUNCIL

2024 STRATEGIC PLAN

The Illinois Sentencing Policy Advisory Council (SPAC) was established in 2009 (see PA 096-0711) to collect, analyze, and present data from all sectors of the criminal justice system to evaluate and measure the implications of sentencing and corrections policy decisions. Now that SPAC has been in existence for almost 15 years, it is time to develop a strategic plan to guide the next 15 years. The goals and strategies identified in this plan will ensure the sustainability of SPAC for decades to come.

VISION

We believe that lawmakers and stakeholders of Illinois should use reliable data and non-partisan policy analysis when making decisions about sentencing and corrections policies. Doing so when developing sentencing and corrections legislation and policies will promote a fair, consistent, and effective criminal justice system for our state.

MISSION

We provide reliable data, research, and policy analysis to lawmakers and criminal justice stakeholders to inform decisions related to developing sentencing and corrections legislation and policies.

CORE VALUES

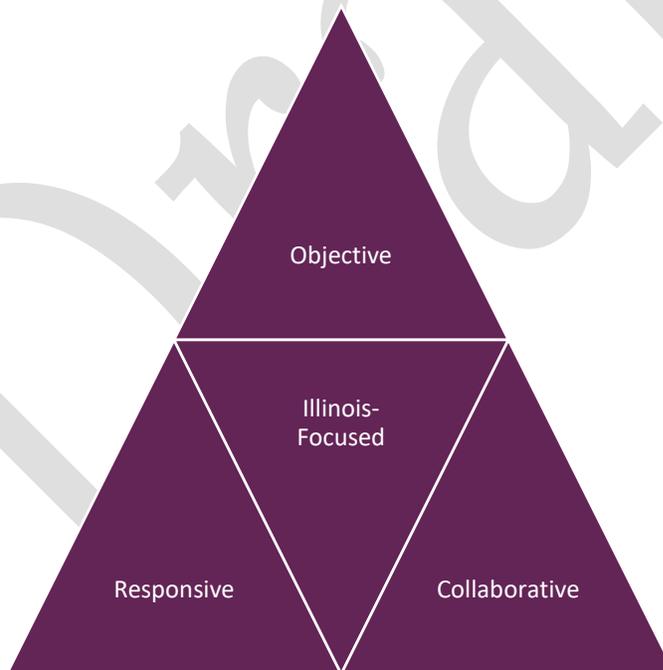
SPAC's data, research, and policy analysis are guided by four core values:

Responsive – We respond to requests and feedback from stakeholders, lawmakers, and the public, and we adapt as methodologies and access to data evolves.

Illinois-Focused – We provide data, research and analysis specific to the policies, priorities, and infrastructure of Illinois.

Collaborative – We build strong and cooperative relationships with lawmakers, criminal justice stakeholders, and the public.

Objective – We provide data, research, and policy analysis that is non-partisan and does not align with or advance a political party or policy objective.



GOALS

Goal #1: Reinforce the infrastructure of SPAC to ensure sustainability.

Strategic Objectives

- Develop and implement project management system (1 year)
- Write the SPAC operating manual (1 year)
- Work with lawmakers to proportionately grow the budget (1-3 years)
- Develop and implement a pay plan to ensure staff are paid a competitive and fair salary (1-5 years)
- Update the backend of the website (1-3 years)
- Establish a listserv to regularly communicate and share updates with stakeholders (1-5 years)

Goal # 2: Evaluate and, as applicable, improve existing reports and publications. (E.g., evaluate and improve the accessibility of published reports on the website, identify opportunities to update and expand reports, develop a publishing schedule where applicable, and support other efforts to stabilize reports.)

Strategic Objectives

- Develop one-pagers/infographics (1 year)
- Redesign Impact Statements (1-2 years)
- Improve the front-end of the website (1-2 years)
- Develop a process for soliciting feedback from the Council and stakeholders (1-5 years)
- Develop a publishing calendar for reports (Trends, Prison Pies, Average Exit Profiles, Disparities, Results First, etc.) (1-5 years)

Goal #3: Revise and update cost-benefit analysis and other analyses used to measure criminal justice system costs and correctional resources.

Strategic Objectives

- Revise the methodology for and/or update the costs associated with sentencing policies and the benefits we hope to get from those costs (1-4 years)
- Revise the methodology for victimization costs and update estimates using new cost research (1-2 years)
- Revise the methodology for analyzing and making recommendations related to corrections costs (1-5 years)
- Revise the methodology for calculating jail costs and update cost estimates (1-5 years)

Goal #4: Expand the policy team to provide policy analysis equal to the research analysis and data we provide, including developing policy reports and other deliverables.

Strategy

- Reorganize the agency into policy team and a research team (1-3 years)
- Add a researcher to the policy team (1-3 years)
- Develop and strengthen the “Policy Outcome” section in Impact Statements (1-3 years)
- Develop and publish “Historical Context” papers/resources (1-5 years)

Goal #5: Reinforce data sources and access to data to ensure we can keep providing our existing reports and analysis and expand our reports and analysis.

Strategy

- Evaluate existing data sources and develop a plan to reinforce and/or revise how data is collected, stored, analyzed (1-5 years)
- Add an IT/data manager if needed (1-10 years)
- Expand the collection of clerk data, probation data, and electronic docket access (1-10 years)

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