



### Project Impetus

The pretrial detention rates for the Southern District of Iowa reached their highest levels between July 2006 and June 2007 with detention rates of 69.5% including immigration cases and 67.3% excluding immigration cases. The detention rates at that time were significantly above the national average of 61.7% and were the highest in the 8th Circuit which averaged 57.2% during the same period.

### Project Goal

It was the awareness of the increasing detention rates that led U.S. Pretrial Services in the Southern District of Iowa to commence a project with the goal of increasing the utilization of alternatives to detention when appropriate to increase pretrial release rates while assuring court appearance and community safety.

### Project Strategy

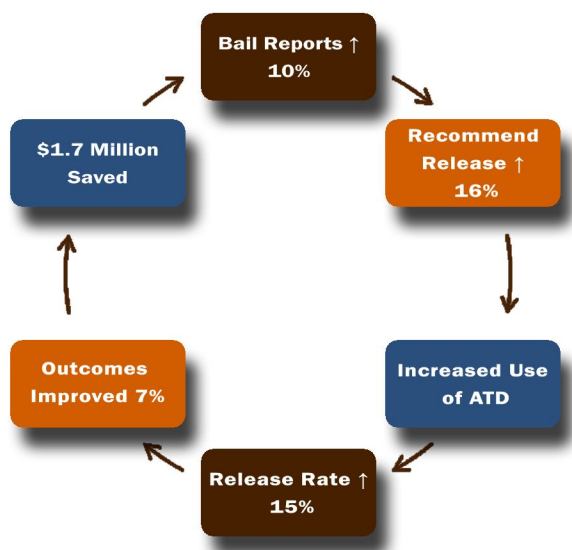
Consistent with the U.S. Probation and Pretrial Services Charter for Excellence and the principle of pretrial justice, the District utilized four primary strategies to responsibly increase pretrial release rates:

1. Allocate human/financial resources
2. Utilize a customer service approach
3. Provide pretrial specific training
4. Develop Pretrial Services identity

# Southern District of Iowa

### Performance & Outcome Measures

In consideration of the project goal and primary implementation strategies, six performance and outcome measures were identified: (1) pretrial services reports completed; (2) recommendation for release rate; (3) pretrial release rate; (4) pretrial services supervision activity including utilization of alternatives to detention; (5) supervision outcomes; and (6) cost avoidance and savings.



### Findings

The project goal of increasing the utilization of alternatives to detention when appropriate to increase pretrial release rates while assuring court appearance and community safety was achieved as evidenced by every outcome and performance measure used to gauge the success of the project.

*"In Pursuit of Pretrial Justice"*



### Project Questions and Information

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