

Examples of Law Enforcement Funding Reallocating/ Unbundling Across the United States

Updated January 2022

Prompted by cries for police reform across the U.S., many jurisdictions have pledged or made significant changes to law enforcement funding, frequently reallocating or allocating additional funding to behavioral health and community services. While the terminology, timelines, and other specifics vary, Policy Research has compiled a list of examples to serve as a resource to other communities. A selection of articles providing background is also included, with an eye toward individuals with behavioral health needs in particular, and with the acknowledgement that there are many other valuable articles and pieces available on the topic. There is also a shorter section at the end listing jurisdictional examples of reform with School Resource Officers (SROs).

This resource was first created in 2020 and is updated as of the date listed above.

Note: If your jurisdiction is making similar funding changes, please contact akrider@prainc.com to be added to this list.

A Selection of Background Articles:

- Equal Justice USA: [What does it mean to defund the police, and why should we?](#)
- The Appeal: [Community-based emergency first responders: explained](#)
- Treatment Advocacy Center: [People with untreated mental illness 16 times more likely to be killed by law enforcement](#)
- Prison Policy Initiative: [Approximately 25% of people killed by police have a serious mental illness.](#)
- Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health: [Racial inequity in fatal US police shootings, 2015–2020.](#)
- The Atlantic: [Unbundle the police: American policing is a gnarl of overlapping services that should be demilitarized and disentangled.](#)
- Urban Institute: [What police spending data can \(and cannot\) explain amid calls to defund the police](#)
- NY Times: [How do the police actually spend their time? \(A review of data in three areas\)](#)
- Treatment Advocacy Center: [Road runners: The role and impact of law enforcement in transporting individuals with severe mental illness, a national survey.](#)
 - *About one-fifth of total law-enforcement staff time and 10% of law-enforcement agencies' total budgets in 2017 went toward responding to and transporting people with mental illness. The study estimated that law enforcement nationwide had spent an estimated \$918 million transporting individuals with severe mental illness that year.*
- Arnold Ventures: [Most 911 calls are related to non-criminal issues, leading to a reimagining of how law enforcement responds to incidents.](#)
- [Defund the Police](#) tracks legislation and policy reforms proposed and passed, including those surrounding budget and reinvestment.

Jurisdictional Examples of Law Enforcement Funding Changes:

- **New York City, NY:**
 - In July 2020, the New York City Council [approved](#) shifting roughly \$1 billion away from the \$6 billion annual NY Police Department budget, reallocating \$354 million to mental health, homelessness, and education services. The budget also shifted school safety and homeless outreach away from police. Expansion of NYC’s [Crisis Management System](#) (CMS) program, which deploys teams of credible messengers who mediate conflicts on the street and connect high-risk individuals to services that can reduce the long-term risk of violence, was also planned.
 - In June 2021, [NYC officials adopted](#) the next fiscal year’s budget, which increased spending for the NYPD by \$200 million, including a \$166 million increase for overtime and \$47 million for technology upgrades.
- **Minneapolis, MN:**
 - In June 2020, the Minneapolis City Council [voted](#) unanimously to approve a potential November 2020 ballot measure to change the city charter and dismantle Minneapolis’ police force, calling instead for a department of community safety and violence prevention, with a provision for licensed law enforcement officers. Council members said they wanted to do year-long consultations with residents to identify public safety strategies that do not involve policing. At the end of that process, they would overhaul the responsibilities of the police, and give many of the duties to community groups and other programs.
 - In November 2021, 56% of [voters rejected](#) a ballot measure to replace the Police department with a new Department of Public Safety. The 2022 budget ([approved in December 2021](#)) includes just over \$191 million for the Police Department, restoring its funding to nearly the level it held before George Floyd was killed in 2020. The plan also increases funding for the Office of Violence Prevention to \$11.3 million.
- **Austin, TX:**
 - In August 2020, City Council members [voted unanimously](#) to cut its police budget by \$150 million (about a third of the \$434 million total) and reinvest the money in social services including food access, violence prevention, and abortion access. An additional \$80 million was to be cut over the following year, mostly by moving certain civilian functions out like dispatch and the forensics lab. Additionally, \$50 million was to be diverted toward a new “Reimagine Safety Fund.”
 - In February 2021, the City Council [voted to purchase](#) two motels to provide about 140 units of permanent supportive housing for those experiencing homelessness. Some of the money for the purchase will come from [a recurring \\$6.5 million fund](#) taken from the police department’s budget to provide services to residents of the motels.
 - *Note: In June 2021, Texas Gov. Greg Abbott signed a law that penalizes cities for decreasing police department funding. To avoid these penalties, cities must allocate funding to police that is at least equal to their FY 2020 budgets. Austin’s approved [2021-22 budget](#) allocated \$443 million to the Austin Police Department. About \$29 million of the new budget will be provided to "maintain and advance progress on Reimagining Public Safety," according to [the City's website](#). However, [voters rejected](#) a proposition in*

November 2021 that would have forced the City to hire hundreds of additional police officers.

- **Seattle, WA:**
 - The City Council's 2021 budget included several cuts and unit transfers from the Seattle Police Department, totaling nearly \$35.6 million. Some specific initiatives included:
 - The Council voted unanimously to remove police from the city's Navigation Team, which duties include removing encampments of people who are unhoused. In October 2020, the Council passed a bill to establish a new Unsheltered Outreach and Response Team of eight civilian staff to replace the Navigation Team and coordinate resources to people experiencing homelessness (with the provider community doing all direct outreach).
 - The 2021 budget tripled the size of Seattle's Health One program, an integrated unit of firefighters and public health professionals, launched at the end of 2019 as a pilot and previously a single vehicle team. The expanded unit will scale up to respond to additional public health 9-1-1 calls. Seattle [also allocated \\$30 million](#) to a participatory budgeting process to give city residents a say in how the money will be used for public health and safety purposes. Approximately \$12 million of this funding was directly diverted from the Seattle Police Department.
 - In December 2021, [the City Council approved](#) a 2022 city budget that cuts police funding for the second year in a row, by more than \$7 million. However, the budget made no cuts to the Police Department's hiring plan, which anticipates hiring 125 new officers in 2022.
- **Chicago, IL:**
 - The Mayor's FY2021 budget contained an \$80 million cut to the Police Department, including a \$34 million cut from funding already vacant positions, bringing an end to four consecutive years of raising the police budget.
 - In October 2021, the City Council [approved](#) the FY22 budget, which boosted police spending to \$1.9 billion, up from \$1.7 billion in 2021 (a \$189 million increase). While the amount of police funding went up, the number of officer positions essentially remained the same (14,095 full-time equivalent positions in the police department in 2021, with the new budget recommending expansion to 14,102 positions).
- **Los Angeles, CA:**
 - In June 2020, the City Council [voted](#) to cut \$150 million (of \$1.8 billion total budget) from the Police Department budget, halting a planned increase in funding. The \$150 million would be redirected toward community-building projects and health and education initiatives in minority communities.
 - In November 2020, [voters passed Measure J](#), which requires LA County to allocate 10% of its general funds towards social and community services, including alternatives to incarceration. Central to the measure is a requirement that this money cannot be used for policing or prisons.
 - As of November 2021, the Mayor's [proposed 2022-23 budget](#) includes a 12% increase (of \$213 million) to the LAPD budget.

- **San Francisco, CA:**
 - On 7/31/20 the Mayor [announced](#) a \$120 million cut from the city police and sheriff's departments over the next two years, redirecting funding toward addressing disparities in the Black community including in housing, mental health and wellness, workforce development, economic justice, education, advocacy, and accountability. This plan also reduced the need for armed police interventions in schools.
 - In October 2020, San Francisco [announced](#) a new unarmed mobile street crisis response team to begin operating by the end of November, with a goal of growing the program to six city-wide, 24/7 teams by March 2021. The teams would consist of paramedics, mental health professionals, and peer support counselors.
 - In December 2020, the president of the city's police union [signed a letter of intent](#) passed by the Board of Supervisors identifying 17 types of calls in which civilians could be the primary responders, including homelessness and quality of life calls, non-criminal mental health calls, juvenile disturbances, public health violations, traffic congestion, and parking violations.
 - The Mayor's [2021-22 budget](#) (signed in July 2021) increased funding to maintain police staffing levels.
 - In December 2021, the Mayor [stated](#) she would seek a supplement to the current budget to pay for "emergency police funding," as well as other initiatives, while continuing the Street Crisis Response Teams and the major expansion of mental health beds.
- **Berkeley, CA:**
 - On 6/15/20 the City Council [moved forward](#) with a proposal to eliminate police from conducting traffic stops and instead create and use a separate department of unarmed civilian city workers to also handle transportation projects and enforcing of parking. The City Council also set a goal of cutting the police budget by 50%. On 2/23/21, the Council [approved](#) a package of police reform changes including conducting traffic stops only for violations that endanger public safety, instead of minor traffic violations, a change also aimed at reducing racial disparities in stops.
 - In 2020, the City Council voted to hold vacant 23 officer positions and seven civilian positions at BPD. The city is [planning to keep](#) those positions vacant in FY22, for a savings of \$6.6 million.
 - As of July 2021, several reforms are now being implemented including the Specialized Care Unit, which would re-assign non-criminal police service calls to trained crisis-response field workers who would respond to such calls. Other proposals, such as re-assigning basic traffic enforcement to a newly created Department of Transportation, are pending changes in state law.
 - The 2022 budget [contained](#) nearly a \$7.5 million increase in police funding from the 2021 budget.
- **Oakland, CA:**
 - In April 2021, the City Council [finalized approval](#) for a pilot program, Mobile Assistance Community Responders of Oakland (MACRO), which will utilize trained two-person

civilian teams of EMTs and community members to respond to non-violent, non-criminal behavioral health calls instead of police. The program will operate within the Oakland Fire Department.

- In June 2021, city councilmembers redirected [\\$18 million](#) proposed for police spending from the Mayor’s budget to alternative methods of violence prevention. The previous two-year Police Department budget was \$635 million. The city budget passed June 2021 will invest \$4 million in [MACRO](#).
- In December 2021, the Council voted to add two new police academies and unfreeze positions within the Department to add 60 new officers. The new budget [passed](#) in June 2021 includes \$674 million for the Police Department, a \$38 million increase.
- **Portland, OR:**
 - In 2020 the [City Council cut](#) \$15 million from the Police Department’s budget. An additional \$12 million was cut due to pandemic-caused economic shortfalls. As a result, school resource officers, transit police and a gun violence reduction team were disbanded.
 - In November 2021, the Council [unanimously passed](#) a budget that increased the current \$230 million police budget by \$5.2 million. The added police spending includes signing bonuses for new officers, funding a retire-rehire program and bolstering recruitment with the goal to hire 200 additional sworn officers and 100 unarmed community safety officers by 2024.
- **Salt Lake City, UT:**
 - In June 2020, the City Council [unanimously approved](#) a \$5.3 million funding cut to the Police Department. More than \$2 million will be reserved until a [new committee](#) on racial equity and policing can be formed and another \$2.5 million of the budget will be redirected to a social worker program housed within the Police Department.
 - In July 2021, the Council [approved](#) a 5% increase to the Department’s budget. The city budget also set aside \$2 million to explore alternative options to law enforcement calls for service.
- **Washington, D.C.:**
 - In July 2020, the D.C. Council [unanimously approved](#) a budget cutting \$15 million from the police department. A large portion of the money would be refunded to public safety efforts outside of D.C.’s law enforcement including gun violence prevention, the Office for Neighborhood Safety and Engagement, and social work programs.
 - On 4/1/21 the D.C. Police Reform Commission issued their report, [Decentering Police to Improve Public Safety](#), which included recommendations to “adopt a plan that will strategically realign District agency budgets, including MPD’s budget.”
 - In August 2021, the D.C. Council [approved](#) a budget with a compromise on the Mayor’s request to hire more police officers: the Council split \$11 million taken from infrastructure investments in the \$14 billion budget for fiscal 2022 and allocated \$5 million for D.C. police hiring and \$6 million to violence prevention programs.

- **Baltimore, MD:**
 - In June 2020, the City Council [approved](#) \$22.4 million (less than 5%) cut to the Police Department’s \$550 million 2021 budget, including nearly \$7 million from overtime spending.
 - The **State of Maryland** introduced [Senate Bill 286](#) in January 2021 to discourage law enforcement participation in mental health crisis response. If passed, the state Department of Health must require crisis response grant funding requests to contain standards that “minimize law enforcement interaction for individuals in crisis.” The measure would also give 911 the authority to dispatch crisis response teams. The bill was [reintroduced](#) in June 2021 as the Community-Based Response Act.
 - In June 2021, the City Council’s [approved budget](#) included a \$555 million allocation for the Baltimore Police Department, with a \$28 million increase in spending to cover employee health insurance and higher pension obligations.
- **St. Louis, MO:** In April 2021, newly elected Mayor Tishaura O. Jones [passed several amendments](#) to the FY2022 budget. The funding allocated to police officers in the city had not changed over the past two decades, despite an overall decline in the number of officers. The new \$4 million reallocation will be distributed across four areas: The Affordable Housing Trust Fund, Victim Support services, increasing the capacity of the Department of Health and Human Services, and affirmative litigation and legal support for the Civil Rights Enforcement Agency. The 2021-22 budget [took effect](#) in July 2021.
- **Philadelphia, PA:**
 - In June 2020, the City Council [approved](#) a 2021 fiscal year budget that reduced \$33 million in Police Department funding (cancelling the mayor’s previously planned \$19 million increase for the department) and allocated \$45 million into affordable housing, arts funding, and social services addressing poverty.
 - In 2021, Philadelphia's City Council voted to keep the general budget for the Philadelphia Police Department at approximately the same amount for 2022 as it was in 2021 (\$727 million). The council did vote, however, to send the department an additional \$14 million to equip all officers with Tasers over the next five years.
- **Albuquerque, NM:**
 - On 6/15/20 [the Mayor announced](#) the formation of a new public safety department, [Albuquerque Community Safety](#), designed to relieve stress on the city’s police. Instead of the police or fire departments responding to 9-1-1 calls related to inebriation, homelessness, addiction and mental health, the new division deploys unarmed personnel made up of social workers, housing and homelessness specialists, and violence prevention coordinators. Mayor Keller stated that the department’s creation will start with a focus on “[restructuring and reallocating resources](#)” that the city is already investing in different areas, saying he anticipated “tens of millions of dollars that will move” with the department’s creation. The Department [launched](#) in September 2021.
 - In May 2021, the City Council [passed](#) a budget raising the Police Department’s funding to about \$222 million, or roughly 4.5% higher than previous levels. Funding was allocated for about 100 additional officers, as well as funding for new positions,

including 11 investigators to support internal affairs and the department's reform obligations, and two communications staffers. The council-approved budget also contained \$7.7 million for the new Community Safety Department, enough to pay for 61 full-time positions.

- **Newark, NJ:**
 - On 6/24/20 the Mayor [signed an ordinance](#) to redirect \$12 million of the city's \$229 million 2020-22 public safety budget to the Office of Violence Prevention, which was also given a permanent headquarters.
- **Norman, OK:**
 - In June 2020, the city [deducted \\$865,000](#) from the Police Department by eliminating nine salary positions. The city determined the funds would be allocated to general "community outreach and social programs." In a lawsuit filed by the local Fraternal Order of Police, the Oklahoma State Supreme Court [later ruled](#) that the City Council's meeting on June 16, 2020 violated the state's Open Meeting Act and that the vote to reallocate police funding was moot because of that violation.
 - In June 2021, the City Council [approved](#) a budget after considering taking \$500,000 from the Police Department and using it to fund a mobile crisis response unit. While the Council left the Police Department's budget intact, they moved \$500,000 from the general fund to pay for the mobile crisis response unit.
- **Durham, NC:**
 - In June 2019, the City Council voted against hiring 18 new patrol officers (a \$1.2 million request) after a public campaign led by a group called [Durham Beyond Policing](#), deciding to explore a new "community safety and wellness task force" instead. While the city's [2021 budget](#) did include an increase of \$1.2 million for the Police Department, \$1 million was also added for a Community Health and Safety Task Force to "potentially take on some of the responsibilities of policing the city over time."
 - When they [approved](#) their new annual budget in June 2021 with Police Department funding at about the same level, Durham City Council members reallocated five unfilled jobs from the Police Department to create a new Community Safety Department, which will utilize civilians to respond to some 911 calls.
- **Arcata, CA:**
 - The City Council [unanimously voted](#) on 6/17/20 to approve a 2020-21 budget that reduced Police Department funding by \$752,000.
 - The Council's [approved](#) 2021-22 budget increased funding for the Police Department, while determining that six of the Department positions would remain frozen, including two police officers and one over hire office.
- **Rochester, NY:**
 - The City Council [approved](#) a budget in June 2020 to cut \$3 million (nearly 4 percent of the total \$95 million) in police funding and reduce recruitment by half. On 9/6/20, officials announced that the [Office of Crisis Intervention Services](#) and its budget would be moved to the city's Department of Recreation and Human Services.
 - On 1/21/21 the [Person in Crisis Team](#) was launched. The 24/7 14-person team responds to certain "low acuity" mental health calls to 911 or 211 (those not involving weapons,

injuries, or other potential risks) to do assessments, refer to services, and/or arrange transportation to a community provider. The pilot program will initially cost \$600,000 (\$350,000 of which came from money saved from a reduction in the size of the police recruit class) and will run through June 2021.

- In June 2021, the City Council [approved](#) a new budget, providing the Police Department with \$90.4 million, a decrease of about 4.7 percent from the previous year. The cut was achieved primarily by shifting oversight of animal services to the Department of Recreation and Human Services. The budget also granted \$5 million to the Police Accountability Board and expanded the city's new Person in Crisis team.
- **Ithaca, NY:**
 - In March 2021, the Ithaca Common Council [unanimously approved](#) Mayor Svante Myrick proposal to create a taskforce to explore replacement of the city's Police Department with a Department of Public Safety. The new department would include both armed "public safety workers" and unarmed "community solution workers," all of whom would report to a civilian director of public safety instead of a police chief.
 - Two police officer positions that were eliminated in 2021 are being restored in the city's [2022 budget](#) to fill existing vacancies. With those new positions, Ithaca's police budget for 2022 totals \$12.8 million, up from \$12.5 million in 2021. Ithaca's police reform committee, the Re-Imagining Public Safety task force, also received funding in the 2022 budget, totaling \$700,000.
- **Hartford, CT:**
 - In June 2020, the City Council [unanimously voted](#) to reduce/reallocate the Police Department's budget by 6%. About \$1.6 million will be cut and \$1 million reallocated within the Department toward social services including domestic violence teams, increased training, and trauma counseling.
 - In May 2021, the Council approved a 2022 budget with 7.4 percent increased law enforcement funding, from \$44.9 million to \$48.3 million.
- **Prince George's County, MD:**
 - On 6/16/20 County Executive Alsobrooks [announced](#) that officials plan to forgo expanding a police training facility and would instead use county Police Department funds for a \$20 million public health facility to treat mental health and addiction needs. The reallocation was approved and [officials broke ground](#) on the facility in April 2021.
 - The County's 2022 police budget decreased by \$12.6 million from the 2021 spending plan, attributed to vacancy rates, limited recruit classes and overtime totaling \$9.5 million. This includes \$291,600 toward hiring a director of race and equity and two psychologists within the Department, which are recommendations from the county's police reform work group.



Jurisdictional Examples of School Resource Officer (SRO) Reform (last updated April 2021):

- **Minneapolis, MN:** The school board voted unanimously on 6/2/20 to cancel its contract with the Minneapolis Police Department to provide SROs. The Park and Recreation Board, University of Minnesota, museums, and other venues have [also chosen to limit](#) or end their collaboration with the Police Department.
- **Denver, CO:** In a unanimous vote on 6/11/20, the Board of Education agreed to remove SROs from school, ending the contract with the Denver Police Department. The existing SROs will be reduced by 25% before the end of 2020 and the rest will be removed no later than 6/4/21.
- **Portland, OR:** On 6/4/20 Superintendent Guerrero [announced](#) that Portland Public Schools will discontinue the regular presence of SROs. New investments in counselors, social workers, and culturally specific partners are also proposed.
- **Oakland, CA:** The school board [voted unanimously](#) on 6/25/20 to eliminate its 67-member internal police force, Oakland Unified, laying off members as of 12/31/20. The about \$4 million cost savings could be used to hire more counselors and social workers and allow for the return of some restorative justice coordinators who were let go in 2019-20 to close budget gaps.
- **Milwaukee, WI:** The Board of School Directors [voted unanimously](#) on 6/18/20 to terminate its contract with the Milwaukee Police Department in its public schools.
- **Madison, WI:** The school board [voted unanimously](#) on 6/29/20 to end its contract with the Madison Police Department for SROs, effective immediately.
- **Portland, ME:** The school board [voted](#) on 7/1/20 to remove SROs from Deering and Portland High School. More than \$150,000 is built into the district's budget for the officers, which will be diverted toward programs "like supporting security at large events and de-escalation training for staff."
- **Rochester, NY:** The City Council [voted](#) on 6/16/20 to end the SRO program in the Rochester City School District.
- **Charlottesville, VA:** Charlottesville City Schools, the city, and Charlottesville Police Department [made a joint decision](#) to remove SROs.
- **Illinois House Bill 29:** In January 2021, a state representative [introduced a bill](#) to keep police officers off school grounds unless there is an imminent threat of danger.
- **Oregon Senate Bill 238:** In January 2021, [a bill was introduced](#) to prohibit school boards from employing law enforcement personnel, and require that certain money budgeted for law enforcement be "redistributed to community outreach and to meeting students' mental and behavioral health needs."

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