

COLLABORATIVE DEFENSE TOOLKIT



Community Resource Checklist

Collaborative Defense encourages defense providers to connect their clients to social services. Thinking beyond the needs of the criminal case requires public defenders to target many of the underlying instabilities that lead clients to interactions with law enforcement, or collateral penalties that negatively impact a client's circumstances following an arrest. These needs can be incredibly wide-reaching and defense agencies can struggle to determine where to start.

When designing an expanded scope of client services, defense agencies should identify the highest priority resources that clients need to address urgent goals. It can be difficult to identify where to initially devote attention. This checklist provides a clear breakdown of possible community resources that defense agencies should attempt to locate in their respective jurisdictions. While not exhaustive nor compulsory, this list names general types of service providers that can typically be found in each county. This can be a framework for resource mapping for support staff members if they are unsure of the kinds of services to identify for their resource guide.

Once this checklist is completed to the best of their ability, defense agencies can further expand their networks of community resources and formulate deeper partnerships with the providers listed. This list should also be altered to reflect the basic resources available in a Public Defender's jurisdiction, so as not to misinform support staff of what services they should be locating for clients in the surrounding community.