

THE BAIL PROJECT

Services and Impact: Quick Facts

The Bail Project

The Bail Project (TBP) is a nonprofit that provides free bail assistance and community-based pretrial support to low-income people. Our organization serves communities in **24 jurisdictions** across the nation. To date, our local teams of client advocates have helped over **14,000 individuals** who would have otherwise languished in jail while awaiting court dates. Through these efforts, we have mitigated the harm of wealth-based detention and systemic racism on low-income communities and communities of color, helped reduce jail overcrowding and saved jurisdictions millions of dollars.

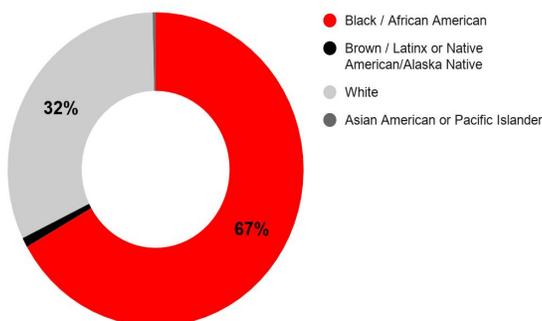


The Bail Project – Indianapolis

Since November 2018, our Indianapolis team has provided free bail assistance to **753 low-income local residents**, while supporting them during their pretrial process with court reminders, transportation assistance, and voluntary referrals to social services. We call this model **Community Release with Support**, and our track record shows that it works as an alternative to cash bail. **At the vast majority of our sites, our clients appear for over 90% of their court dates even though they have no financial obligation to us or the courts.**

Over the past year, **the average bail TBP posted in Indianapolis was \$2,269, which equates to approximately two months of salary for the typical individual that is unable to afford bail.**

Race & ethnicity of TBP Indianapolis clients



Our clients in Indianapolis are predominantly from communities of color; **68% percent are Black or Brown**. Twenty-percent of our clients are women and half are between the ages of 26 to 40 years-old. **Over 65% percent have children**. Over 70% request immediate assistance with one or more needs, including transportation to court (42%), healthcare (27%) and mental health support (26%). Our model connects clients to services and resources to address these basic needs with the goal of ensuring return to court, stabilizing lives, and breaking cycles of incarceration.

The Goal: Creating a More Equitable System

The original purpose of cash bail was to create a financial incentive for people to return to court. It was never meant to trap legally innocent people in jail before conviction. In fact, the Constitution explicitly prohibits the use of excessive bail. Yet, on any given day, over 50% of people in Indiana's jails have not been convicted of a crime. This injustice disproportionately impacts Black Americans, who make up a quarter of the state's jail population - but only 10% of its residents - and women, who are the state's fastest-growing jail population.

Our work demonstrates that cash bail is not necessary in the first place. As evidence that most individuals are determined to return to court and seek resolution to their cases, **less than 3% of our Indianapolis clients have forfeited their bail.**

To date **over 350 of our Indianapolis clients have already resolved their cases in court.** Their case outcomes provide additional proof that cash bail is unnecessary and unjust. **Twenty-one percent of clients have all of their cases dismissed once they can mount a legal defense from a position of freedom. 87% percent are not required to spend any additional time incarcerated.**

To learn more about **The Bail Project – Indianapolis**, please contact Devi Davis, Indianapolis Operations Manager, devid@bailproject.org or visit bailproject.org.