

ANNUAL REPORT

THE BAIL PROJECT 2026

bailproject.org

Freedom should be free.

THE BAIL PROJECT

Our mission is to end cash bail and create a more fair, just, and humane pretrial system.

We envision an American criminal justice system where people are treated equally and money has no role in freedom in order to create a safer, fairer, and healthier society.



MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Growing up, my family struggled financially. I remember sharing a set of purple and pink sneakers with my mother because she could not afford to buy me my own pair. I looked forward to the days when we had chocolate-covered rice cakes in our food bank bag. We didn't call it an affordability crisis. It was just life.

Today, rising costs are impacting families across the country more than ever. At the same time, we are seeing renewed efforts to expand pretrial incarceration and move away from reforms that made our justice system safer and fairer. For families already stretched thin, cash bail adds another cost they can't afford.

This year, The Bail Project met this crisis on multiple fronts. We brought people home and supported them after release. We launched the National Bail Table with our partners, challenged harmful policy changes, and produced research that exposed growing threats to pretrial freedom.

These may look like different parts of our work, but they share one purpose: **we are helping people today while working to change the conditions that drive this crisis in the first place.**

I know what it means for a family to make hard choices because there simply isn't enough. That is why I am deeply grateful that you continue to stand with us. **Your support means another family doesn't have to face those difficult choices, and together, we can keep working toward a day when freedom no longer comes with a price.**

In solidarity,

David Gaspar
CEO, The Bail Project



HOW WE GOT HERE

For millions of families, the margin between stability and crisis is painfully thin. **In 2025, more than one in three adults could not cover an unexpected $400 expense, and 12% said they could not cover that expense at all.**

That economic reality matters in a system where freedom comes with a price tag. For someone living paycheck to paycheck, affording bail is often impossible. Days in jail can become a lost job, a lost home, or separation from family.

Now multiply those impacts by 426,000 – the number of people held in jail on any given day while awaiting trial. Many are there because they can't afford to pay bail and will sit in jail for days, months, and sometimes even years before their case is resolved.

The Bail Project's response starts with people caught in that system. We pay bail for people who cannot afford it. We provide court reminders, transportation, and connections to voluntary pretrial services. We use our work to challenge harmful policies and demonstrate a model where safety and freedom are not determined by wealth.

Bail is set in dollars. Its real cost is measured in everything a person stands to lose. This report keeps that account.

WHERE WE WORK

The Bail Project brings people home and supports them until their case is closed. We adapt our national model to the needs and context of each community we serve. Partnering with local organizations allows us to carry our work from rural counties to major metropolitan areas, showing that the need for a fair pretrial system is not confined to any one community.

Our impact extends nationwide. This map highlights the communities where we provided bail assistance and direct support this year, along with states where we advanced targeted policy campaigns.

Beyond our state and local efforts, we also work nationally to defend pretrial justice and advance reforms nationwide.

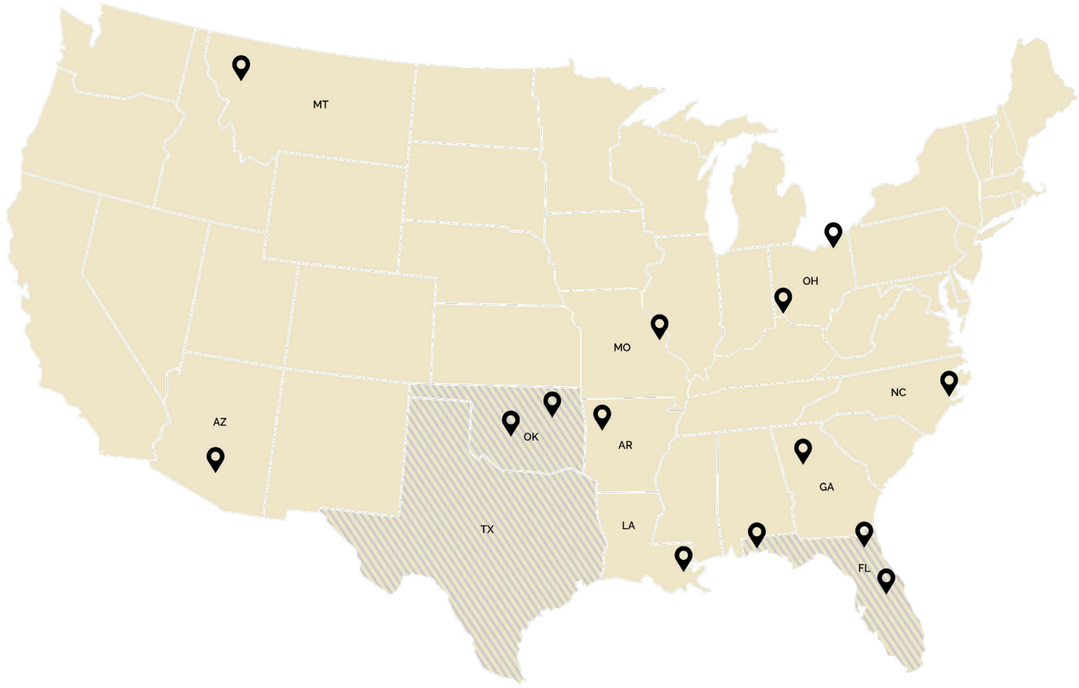
Bail Assistance

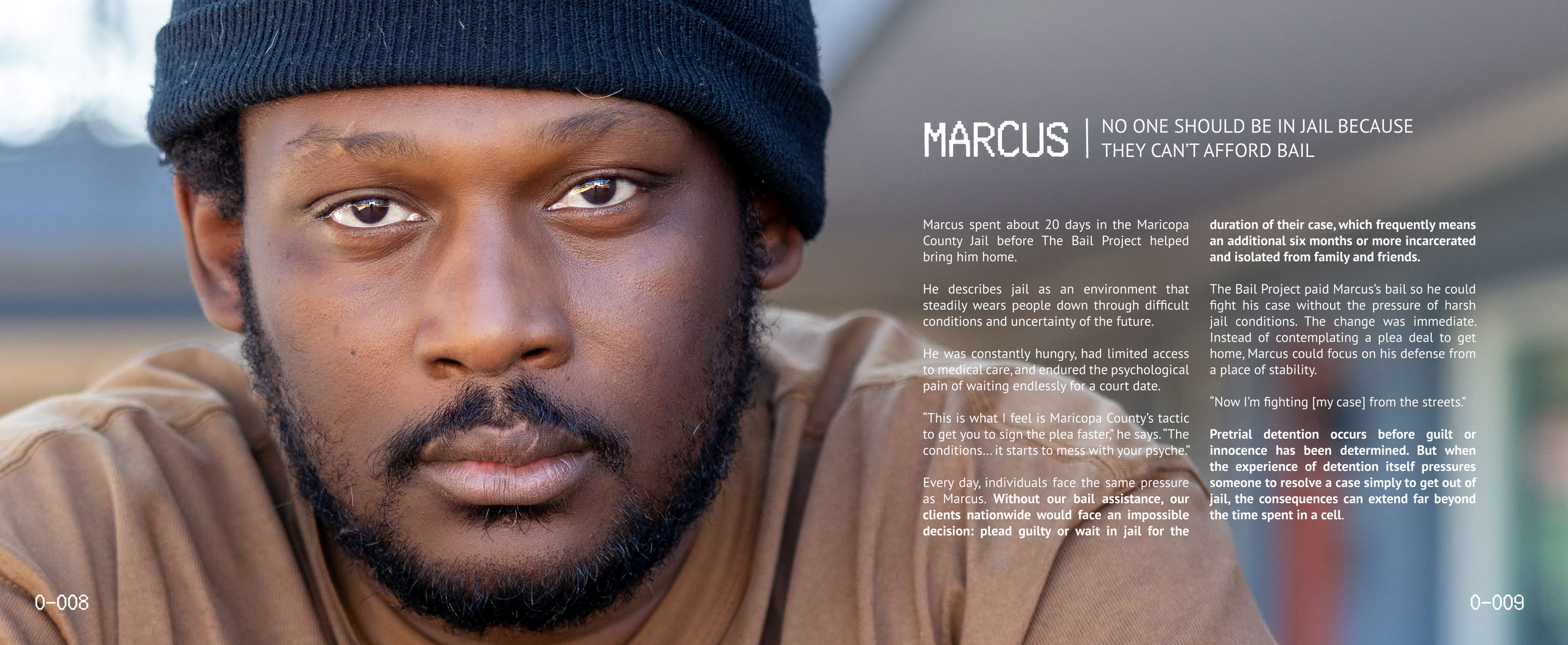
AR - Fayetteville*
AZ - Phoenix
FL - Jacksonville
FL - Orlando
FL - Pensacola
GA - Atlanta
LA - New Orleans*
MO - St. Louis *
MT - Flathead Reservation
NC - New Bern*
OH - Cincinnati
OH - Cleveland
OK - Oklahoma City
OK - Tulsa

*designates a partnership site

Policy Campaigns

Florida
Oklahoma
Texas





MARCUS | NO ONE SHOULD BE IN JAIL BECAUSE THEY CAN'T AFFORD BAIL

Marcus spent about 20 days in the Maricopa County Jail before The Bail Project helped bring him home.

He describes jail as an environment that steadily wears people down through difficult conditions and uncertainty of the future.

He was constantly hungry, had limited access to medical care, and endured the psychological pain of waiting endlessly for a court date.

"This is what I feel is Maricopa County's tactic to get you to sign the plea faster," he says. "The conditions… it starts to mess with your psyche."

Every day, individuals face the same pressure as Marcus. **Without our bail assistance, our clients nationwide would face an impossible decision: plead guilty or wait in jail for the duration of their case, which frequently means an additional six months or more incarcerated and isolated from family and friends.**

The Bail Project paid Marcus's bail so he could fight his case without the pressure of harsh jail conditions. The change was immediate. Instead of contemplating a plea deal to get home, Marcus could focus on his defense from a place of stability.

"Now I'm fighting [my case] from the streets."

Pretrial detention occurs before guilt or innocence has been determined. But when the experience of detention itself pressures someone to resolve a case simply to get out of jail, the consequences can extend far beyond the time spent in a cell.

WHAT CASH BAIL COSTS A PERSON

Cash bail is often presented as a neutral number: $500. $2,500. $20,000. But the number alone tells us almost nothing about what it means to the person expected to pay it.

And detention begins charging interest immediately.

A day in jail can mean a missed shift, lost wages, a childcare emergency, or an untreated health need. A few more days can put a job at risk, threaten housing, relationships, and the ability to prepare a defense.

The pressure to make the case end – even by accepting a plea – grows as everything outside the jail becomes harder to hold onto. In our *USA Today* op-ed "When You're Broke, Cash Bail Is a Freedom You Can't Afford," published in June 2026, we point out that even a brief pretrial stay makes someone 30% more likely to plead guilty just to get home.

These harms are not evidence that detention was necessary. They are consequences of making money a condition of freedom. Incarceration can impose punishment long before a verdict.

No one should be in jail simply because they can't afford bail.



HOW WE BRING PEOPLE HOME

Cash bail is supposed to help ensure people return to court. In practice, it can make pretrial freedom depend on what a person can afford.

In the United States, the average bail is $500 for a misdemeanor and $10,000 for a felony. That puts pretrial release out of reach for many of our clients. The Bail Project removes that financial burden by providing free bail assistance.

Once we receive a referral, our Bail Disruptors meet the individual, either in person at the jail or by phone, and begin mapping out a plan for support.

We pay bail at no cost to the client and with no strings attached. In this way, our model directly challenges the for-profit bail bond industry, which charges families a nonrefundable fee for its services – often around 10% of the total bail amount.

Our support doesn't end at release. We provide court reminders, transportation assistance, and connect clients with trusted community partners for voluntary housing, treatment, employment, and other services.

Once our clients' cases close, the bail returns to our bail fund and goes to someone else who needs assistance.

* * THE RESULTS SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES * *

RELEASES SUPPORTED	42,829
THROUGH FREE BAIL ASSISTANCE	36,757
THROUGH PRETRIAL PILOT PROGRAMS	6,072
UNIQUE CLIENTS SERVED	40,788
BAIL ASSISTANCE PROVIDED	OVER $111 M
COURT APPEARANCE RATE	92%
DISMISSAL RATE	29%

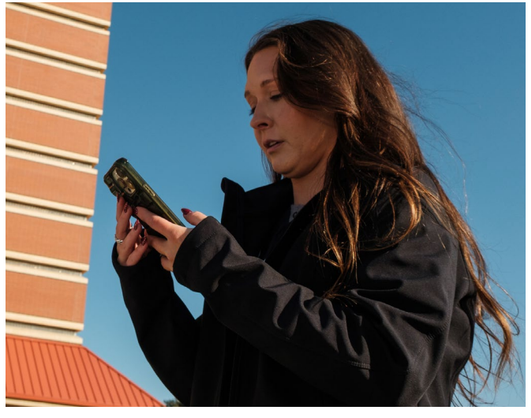
PROVIDING COURT SUPPORT

Once our clients return home, our continued support throughout their cases is critical.

One service we provide is automated court reminders. Our staff review court dockets for updates to our clients' cases and add new court dates to our records. Clients are notified via automated messages seven days and one day before each court date. The messages also offer transportation assistance to help them get to and from court.

Providing court reminders is common sense – people are more likely to go to court if they know when they are supposed to be there. Studies show that people who receive court reminders are more likely to appear than those who do not. Our data tracks with this pattern.

Still, only 18 states and Washington, D.C. have comprehensive statewide court date reminder programs, meaning most Americans are not guaranteed reminders about upcoming court appearances. By providing automated reminders, we are filling this information gap for our clients today while advocating for reminder systems to become standard practice nationwide.

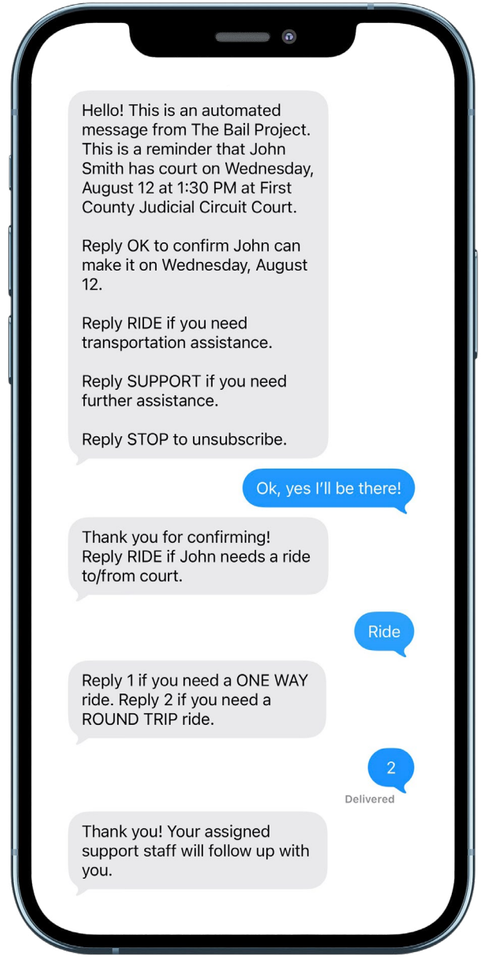


Over the past fiscal year, our team sent 10,423 automated reminders, notifying clients of 5,381 court dates. While most of these reminders went directly to clients, we also sent many messages to people in our clients' support networks, including spouses, family members, and close friends. We offer that flexibility because getting to court often requires support from others.

In addition to sending automated court reminders, staff at The Bail Project made 9,000 outreach attempts, including phone calls, individualized text messages, and emails to clients and their support networks to ensure information was shared about upcoming court dates.

4,878 **RIDES TO AND FROM COURT FOR BAIL PROJECT CLIENTS IN FY26**

9 miles **MEDIAN ONE-WAY DISTANCE**





LATANDRA | SAFETY STARTS WITH STABILITY

Latandra spent 95 days in jail because she could not afford $2,500 bail.

Her arrest came after a close friend died from a fentanyl overdose. Latandra called 911 and stayed with him until paramedics arrived. Weeks later, she learned he had died. Because she still had his phone and bank card, she was charged with unauthorized use of a financial instrument.

In jail, Latandra was cut off from treatments she relied on, including medications for opioid use disorder and mental health conditions. She became severely ill and struggled through weeks of withdrawal.

Over three months later, The Bail Project secured her release.

Our support didn't end with bail. We coordinated with a reentry program in Pensacola, giving Latandra a stable place to go after release, along with transportation, employment assistance, and a community of support.

Latandra's experience is not unique – a third of our clients report a history of substance use and more than one in four report a history of mental illness. These individuals are often forced to go through painful and life-threatening withdrawal in jail, when they would be better served in a hospital or supportive medical environment.

For Latandra, our support became a turning point. "I've been blessed in ways I didn't even ask for," she shared.

She continued her recovery and found work with a local company. She has now been sober for a year and says the patience and support she received helped her begin healing from trauma that shaped much of her life. Today, Latandra wants to use what she has lived through to give hope to others.

WHAT CASH BAIL COSTS A FAMILY

Families nationwide are making impossible financial decisions every day – pay rent or buy groceries, pay for childcare or pay the utility bill – often with nothing left for an unexpected expense.

A $1,000 bail on a low-level charge is an ordinary amount in courtrooms nationwide. The burden falls hardest on low-income households, where a single arrest can upend an entire family's life. **Many families turn to a commercial bail agent and pay a nonrefundable fee because the alternative is leaving the person they love in a jail cell.**

For parents, the stakes are especially high. Women jailed because they can't afford bail earn a median income of $11,000 a year. Over 80% of women in jail are mothers or primary caregivers who can lose their jobs, housing, custody of their kids, and public assistance within days of incarceration.

Children pay the consequences of their parents' incarceration. More than 150,000 children have a parent in jail because of bail on any given day. They face higher rates of depression, behavioral problems, trouble in school, and Black families carry the heaviest burden: by age 14, one in four Black children has had a parent incarcerated, compared with one in 25 white children.



When freedom depends on money, families pay the price – in lost income, disrupted care, and time together that cannot be replaced.

Date _____ 19____

M _____ CLIENT DEMOGRAPHICS

Address _____

Reg. No. Clerk	
PARENT WITH A CHILD UNDER 18	60%
BLACK	61%
WHITE	23%
LATINO/LATINX	11%
NATIVE AMERICAN/ALASKAN NATIVE	3%
ASIAN OR PACIFIC ISLANDER	<1%
OTHER RACE	1%
MALE	72%
FEMALE	27%
TRANS/NON-BINARY	<1%
AGES 18-29	36%
AGES 30-39	32%
AGES 40-49	19%
AGES 50-59	9%
AGED OVER 60	4%

KIARA | THREE MONTHS TAKEN

Kiara was focused on her future when a warrant she never knew existed landed her in the St. Louis County Jail.

Years earlier, she had fought to regain custody of her daughter and believed the legal matter behind the warrant had been resolved. Instead, she was arrested, and her bail was set at $50,000 – an amount she could not afford.

She remained in jail for three months.

From jail, she missed a job opportunity she had been preparing for and milestones in her daughter's life. She coped by exercising, attending church services, taking a parenting class, and doing her best to keep her mind occupied.

Eventually, Kiara's father and attorney connected her with us, and we paid her bail. Within two days, she was home.

But freedom did not return the three months of progress and time she had lost. Despite the challenges ahead, Kiara remained determined to make the best of her new start: "The big thing is to be responsible. Take care of my daughter. Do what I got to do."

Kiara entered jail while building a future for herself and her daughter. Three months of detention interrupted that progress. Once home, she could begin putting those plans back in motion.



WHAT CASH BAIL COSTS A COMMUNITY

The harms of cash bail do not end with the individual. When a person is detained, families lose income, employers lose workers, and communities lose caregivers and neighbors.

Homelessness, untreated mental illness, and addiction are all real challenges facing our communities. Too often, jails are asked to respond to social needs they were never designed to solve. Incarceration can deepen the instability people are already experiencing – disrupting housing, employment, health care, and family connections – and extending those consequences to the communities around them.

The scale of that impact is enormous. Local jails hold about 675,000 people on any given day, nearly 70% of whom are unconvicted. **Housing so many people in jail is enormously expensive: more than $14 billion each year.**

The harms of incarceration are also distributed unequally. Black Americans are incarcerated in local jails at a rate that is almost four times that of white Americans. When a system ties release to money, longstanding racial and economic inequities can shape who is most able to buy their way home – and whose families and communities are most exposed to cascading consequences of detention.

That instability compromises community safety and erodes trust. When courts provide fair hearings, reminders, and access to services, people return to court and have the opportunity to keep their life on track. Communities are healthier and safer for it.





A PARTNERSHIP IN OKLAHOMA CITY

In Oklahoma, nearly 10,000 people sit in local jails on any given day. Most remain in a cell because they cannot afford bail.

The Bail Project posts bail to secure our clients' pretrial freedom. But pretrial release is only the first step. Nearly 70% of Oklahoma clients bailed out in the past year shared a need for ongoing support, with many returning from jail to unstable housing, economic insecurity, or unmet behavioral health needs.

That's why we partner closely with the Diversion Hub, a trusted service provider in Oklahoma City that connects justice-involved individuals to wraparound support.

We provide free bail assistance and court reminders, while Diversion Hub connects people with the resources they need: case management, court navigation, housing, behavioral health services, employment assistance, and access to public benefits.

Diversion Hub and The Bail Project share the philosophy that services should be 100% voluntary and guided by our clients.

By working with Diversion Hub, we are showing what a better pretrial system can look like – one centered on freedom and support. Together, we provide coordinated services from the moment of release onward, keeping families together, reducing unnecessary incarceration, and demonstrating that communities can support people safely without relying on cash bail or pretrial detention.

DEFENDING PROGRESS AND BUILDING WHAT'S NEXT IN FLORIDA

In Florida, The Bail Project worked on both sides of the policy equation: stopping legislation that would make the pretrial system more harmful while building momentum for reforms to make it fairer.

We led the fight against SB 600 / HB 1017, legislation that would have benefited the commercial bail industry while restricting the work of charitable bail funds.

We brought together community leaders, advocates, and other partners to educate lawmakers about what was at stake. We paired direct legislative outreach with public advocacy, highlighting the critical role charitable bail funds play in keeping people from being jailed simply because they lack money.

The legislation was defeated – and the coalition defending pretrial justice in Florida emerged stronger.

We also helped elevate another source of unnecessary detention: the use of unreliable field drug tests. According to national data from the University of Pennsylvania's 2023 report "Guilty Until Proven Innocent: Field Drug Tests and Wrongful Convictions," around 773,000 arrests every year use these tests, and around 30,000 are estimated to result in false arrests based on faulty tests.

This year, the Florida Legislature conducted its first statewide analysis of field drug testing, documenting serious concerns about its use. Our advocacy helped put the issue on the legislative agenda and build the case for reform.

We enter the next legislative session positioned to advance these fights against wrongful detention.



TURNING A PLATFORM INTO ADVOCACY

This year we partnered with rapper and singer Armani White to bring the case against cash bail to a new generation.

In October 2025, Armani's mugshot went viral after he was arrested for filming a video on the side of a Kentucky highway. That encounter became a national headline and an opportunity for him to speak out about cash bail. Over the past year, Armani has lent his platform to a simple argument: freedom shouldn't come with a price tag.

Armani's music is a reflection of his experiences growing up in West Philadelphia and witnessing how the criminal justice system affects people of color and punishes poverty. But he believes a more equitable and humane pretrial system is possible.

"The only thing that you can do is hope to be able to change the system."



CALEIGH | PROGRESS UNINTERRUPTED

By the time Caleigh was arrested, she had already made big changes in her life.

She was drug-free, working at a car wash, and caring for her newborn son. Then, charges connected to an earlier period of drug use caught up with her.

"They were old drug charges," Caleigh says. "I had already gotten sober and had a baby. It definitely put a ringer on my life."

Her bail was set at $4,500. Caleigh and her family could not afford to hire a bail bond company, so she remained in jail for four weeks.

The separation was especially painful because her son was only four months old. Video calls offered little comfort to an infant who could not understand why his mother was suddenly on a screen instead of at home.

The Bail Project paid her bail, allowing Caleigh to return to her family while her case continued.

She made every court appearance and spent the following months caring for her baby and continuing her recovery.

Caleigh eventually served a nine-month sentence. When she returned home, the passage of time was impossible to miss.

"He was walking. He was talking," she says of her son. "And he wasn't doing any of that when I had left."

Caleigh believes deeply in the possibility of reform. "Everybody has the opportunity to change their life around," she says.

Three months at home did not resolve Caleigh's case. But they allowed her to care for her infant son and continue the progress she had already made while awaiting its resolution.

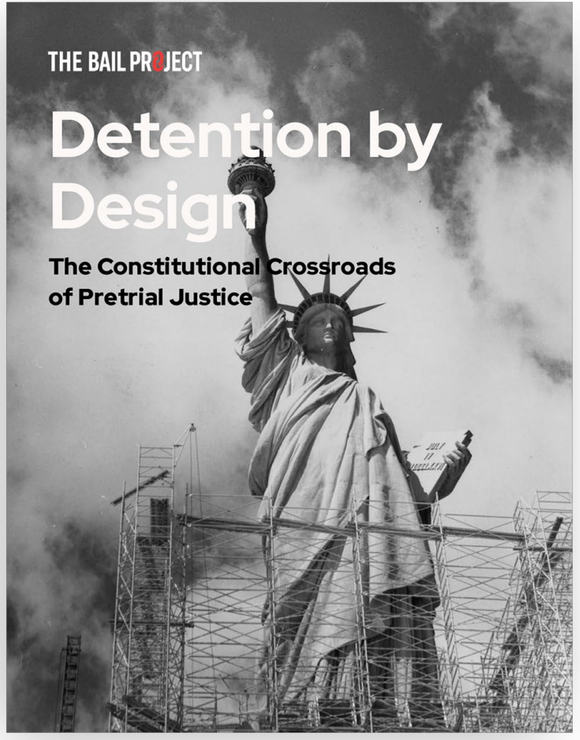
THE COST TO ALL OF US

Freedom isn't one right among many. It's the foundation that makes every other right possible. Pretrial liberty is rooted in the presumption of innocence and was designed to make detention the exception, not the default. Yet those protections are increasingly under threat.

The stakes reach anyone who values constitutional rights. Without strong safeguards, changes promoted in the name of public safety expand detention and erode the presumption of innocence.

The Bail Project documents this trend in our report, *Detention by Design: The Constitutional Crossroads of Pretrial Justice.* We found that more than a quarter of states with a constitutional right to pretrial release have proposed or enacted amendments that weaken critical due process protections and make it easier to jail people before trial. The report maps this national trend and gives advocates a framework for evaluating these changes by examining who can be detained, what safeguards exist, and what due process is guaranteed.

We face a choice about what kind of system we're willing to pay for. We can keep spending billions on unnecessary detention and the instability it creates, or we can invest in approaches that make individualized decisions, protect due process, and help people succeed while their cases move forward.



> ***"The constitutional right to bail is a cornerstone of pretrial liberty. At its core, the right to bail means the right to pretrial release — not just through money, but through fair and reasonable conditions."***
>
> The Bail Project, *Detention by Design,* 2026.

LAUNCHING THE NATIONAL BAIL TABLE

Across the country, a new wave of federal and state proposals is seeking to roll back bail reform and expand pretrial incarceration. Meeting that challenge requires more than responding to individual bills. It requires a coordinated national movement.

That is why The Bail Project launched the National Bail Table with partner organizations. Today, the National Bail Table brings together more than 100 local, state, and national advocacy organizations to defend hard-won reforms, respond to emerging threats, and strengthen the movement for pretrial justice.

The Bail Project serves as a convener and resource, connecting advocates working across federal, state, and local campaigns and creating opportunities to share strategy, research, and lessons from past fights. This year, we brought dozens of advocates and experts directly to members of Congress, helping policymakers understand what is at stake when federal action threatens successful state and local reforms.

We also rapidly mobilized when President Trump introduced an executive order targeting bail reform. Through strategic media relations, expert commentary, and opinion writing, we helped shape the public conversation, earning key placements in The New York Times and USA Today and serving as a trusted source for reporters. By responding quickly and clearly, we ensured that the voices of people directly affected by the pretrial system were part of the national debate.

We also created new ways for people to make their voices heard. Through our digital advocacy platform, VoterVoice, constituents can defend pretrial justice in their communities and take action on critical legislation by directly contacting their elected officials.

Together, these efforts support a stronger national infrastructure capable of responding to threats, protecting progress, and advancing a safer and fairer pretrial system nationwide.

23 FEDERAL AND STATE BILLS ENGAGED



SETTING A NEW STANDARD IN OKLAHOMA

This year, The Bail Project helped move a practical package of reforms farther through the Oklahoma Legislature.

SB 1381, the Pretrial Release Pilot Program, centered on three proven ideas: access to counsel at bail hearings, timely hearings, and court notifications. Together, these reforms would strengthen due process while giving people the information and support they need to come back to court.

The Bail Project helped advance the legislation through policy research, sustained engagement with lawmakers and stakeholders, and a public and media education campaign explaining why Oklahoma needs a better approach to pretrial justice.

The work helped build meaningful legislative momentum. SB 1381 passed the Oklahoma Senate with near-unanimous support – an important demonstration that common-sense pretrial reform can earn backing in the state.

The bill ultimately did not receive final approval in the House, but its progress changed the starting point for the next fight. Lawmakers, advocates, and constituents built greater understanding of the reforms, strengthened relationships around the issue, and established a foundation for renewed legislative action.

We leave the 2026 session with more support, more momentum, and a stronger path toward lasting pretrial reform in Oklahoma.



MICHAEL | WHAT FREEDOM RETURNS

Michael spent 12 days in jail before his wife learned about The Bail Project.

She was pregnant with their son and had been endlessly calling bail bondsmen, trying to find a way to bring him home. Again and again, she was turned away, and Michael remained in a cell. After years of fighting to overcome drug addiction, Michael had a relapse and now wondered if all the progress he made was slipping away.

The Bail Project paid his bail. What came next shows what freedom can make possible.

Michael returned home and committed himself to his recovery. He entered drug court, where treatment and accountability replaced jail.

Since his release, he completed the program, finished probation, and has remained sober and out of jail.

Michael returned home in time to welcome his new baby boy. He and his wife were able to put a down payment on a four-bedroom home. The life that had seemed out of reach while Michael was in jail became something his family could build upon.

Today, Michael speaks openly about addiction and the years he spent incarcerated. His life is proof that a person's past does not determine their opportunity for a future.

That is what freedom returns.

THE DIFFERENCE FREEDOM MAKES

When someone isn't forced to await court from a jail cell because of cash bail, they can continue living the life detention would otherwise interrupt: earning a paycheck, caring for children, receiving treatment, and preparing for court.

Children get their parents back at the dinner table. They are spared their parents' absence and the loss of sleep, changing moods, and slipping grades that can come with it.

Returning home can change case outcomes, too. A person preparing their defense from home can more easily meet with their attorney, gather documents, maintain their income, and provide for their family. They are also less likely to face the impossible choice between accepting a plea deal and remaining separated from their children. **Nearly 30% of our clients have had all of their cases dismissed outright.** Without support from The Bail Project, those individuals may have endured days of unnecessary incarceration or pleaded guilty despite their innocence just to go home.

We already know bail isn't necessary for people to return to court. **Our clients return to 92% of their appearances – not because their own money was on the line, but because they receive a court reminder, a ride, and support while remaining in their communities.**

But the greatest benefits of freedom are felt in people's everyday lives. Individuals can keep working and maintain access to critical health care and treatment programs. Families remain intact, children are spared the harms of incarceration, and communities are stronger and more equitable.



A MISSION BORN FROM EXPERIENCE

Lucretia was nine years old when her mother went to prison for five years. She and her siblings were raised by their grandparents – they did their best, but the family needed more support.

A local organization helped Lucretia and her siblings visit their mother and participate in after-school programs and summer camp. Its founder became Lucretia's lifelong mentor and eventually encouraged her to start her own nonprofit, the Patricia Ann Doyle Foundation, to support children of incarcerated parents.

Lucretia's experience became her mission. As a Bail Disruptor for The Bail Project, she understands what's at stake when incarceration separates a parent from a child. **Every day, Lucretia meets with people being held before trial and offers them empathy, support, and a path back to their families.**

Keeping families together is at the heart of The Bail Project's mission. No parent should remain in jail before trial simply because they cannot afford bail, and no child should lose precious time with a parent because their family lacks money. **By paying bail and supporting people after release, we help keep families together and protect the relationships that incarceration can take away in an instant.**



SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHT



JULIA QUINN: HELPING OTHERS REWRITE THEIR STORIES

"The current system is patently unfair." For Julia Quinn, that conviction is reason enough to act. Julia is the *New York Times* bestselling author of the Bridgerton novels, the beloved series that inspired the hit Netflix show. Her books have given millions of readers a world of happily-ever-afters, and by supporting The Bail Project, she is giving others the chance to find theirs. Her generosity helps remove the financial barriers to freedom, so people can return to their families and communities while they fight their cases. **We're grateful to Julia for her support and for lending her voice to the movement for a fairer justice system, because the amount of money someone has should never dictate the story of their life.**

STEPHANIE & STEVE SILVERMAN: CHAMPIONING FREEDOM

Stephanie and Steve Silverman embody what it means to be true champions of our mission. They were introduced to The Bail Project by their daughter, a former public defender whose passion for pretrial reform brought our mission close to home. What began as a family connection became a lasting commitment to helping families in need. Beyond their generous financial support, Stephanie and Steve contribute decades of experience in government relations, political affairs, and regulatory law. They have advised our advocacy efforts as we navigate complex legislation, helping us think differently about policy. Stephanie and Steve have opened their hearts and their doors to us, and that kind of partnership has made a meaningful impact. **We admire Stephanie and Steve's conviction for fairness and equal justice, and we are grateful for their unwavering belief in our mission.**



A NEW CHAPTER IN LEADERSHIP

This year brought changes to our board of directors and, with it, our deep gratitude for the individuals who have helped lead The Bail Project.



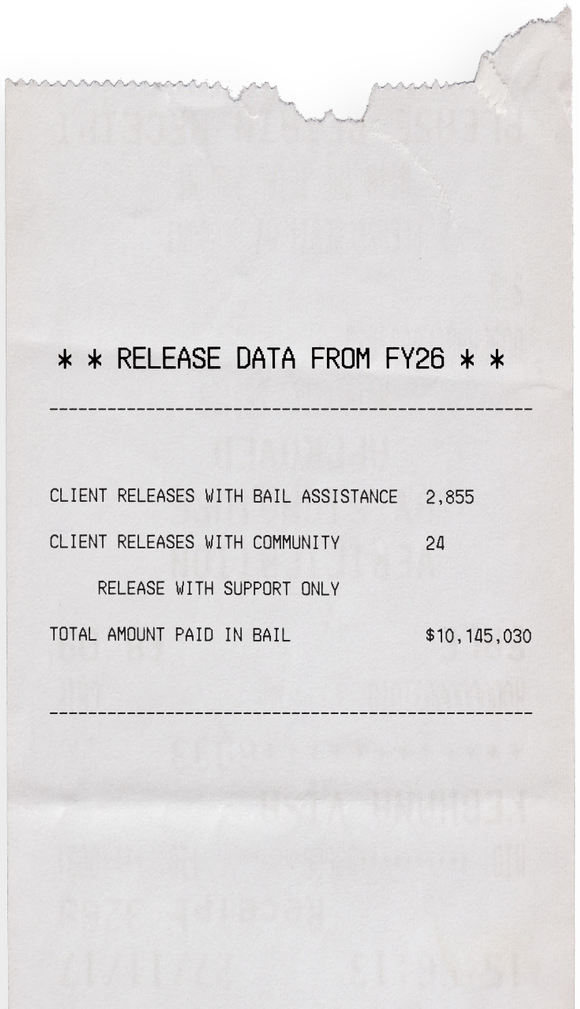
We said farewell to our Board Chair, **Mike Novogratz,** whose leadership helped make freedom possible for thousands of people and strengthened The Bail Project during our founding years.



We also celebrated **Lili Lynton** as our new Board Chair. After serving on the board for nine years, Lili brings her leadership and experience to the next chapter of this critical work.



Finally, we welcomed **Josh Riddick** to the board. Josh is a community organizer and justice advocate based in Indianapolis. A former pastor, racial equity trainer, and civic dialogue facilitator, he now organizes with LiveFree Indiana, where his work focuses on community-based approaches to public safety and developing emerging Black leaders.



OUR INVESTMENT IN FREEDOM

In FY26, we spent $9.9M of our $13.9M budget on program services. What that number does not reflect is the additional $10.1M in bail we paid to get people home. Taken together, these two numbers represent a $20.0M investment that The Bail Project made last year to free our clients and advance research, policy, and communication strategies to end cash bail.

FORM 11 1-34
PRINTED IN THE U.S.A.

FINANCIALS

No 459195

DATE					AMOUNT
OPERATING REVENUES					
INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTIONS					$3,127,325
FOUNDATION GRANTS					$858,928
CORPORATE CONTRIBUTIONS					$204,138
OTHER INCOME					$1,583,280
TOTAL OPERATING REVENUES					$5,773,671
OPERATING EXPENSES					
PROGRAM SERVICES					
BAIL ASSISTANCE & CLIENT SUPPORT					$6,525,617
POLICY ADVOCACY					$1,088,172
PUBLIC EDUCATION					$940,271
RESEARCH & EVALUATION					$1,341,871
TOTAL PROGRAM SERVICES					$9,895,931
SUPPORTING SERVICES					
MANAGEMENT & GENERAL					$3,067,014
FUNDRAISING					$1,011,795
TOTAL SUPPORTING SERVICES					$4,078,809
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES					$13,974,740
EXCESS OF OPERATING REVENUES OVER OPERATING EXPENSES					$(8,201,069)
NET ASSETS AT BEGINNING OF YEAR					$58,284,279
				NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR	$50,083,210

* All financials are pre-audit.



THANK YOU

Throughout this report, you have seen what is possible when freedom doesn't depend on a person's bank balance. This year, you helped ensure thousands of people could return home without having to purchase their freedom.

Because of you, our clients made it home to their children, their jobs, and their communities, with the chance to fight their cases in freedom rather than from a jail cell. From bail assistance to policy wins, your support helped reduce harm, keep families together, and forge a path toward a future where freedom is not for sale.

Our work is proof of what happens when people and communities come together to choose dignity over punishment, evidence over fear, and support over unnecessary incarceration. Together, we are building a safer, fairer, more humane pretrial system – one person, one family, and one community at a time.

Thank you for standing with us. Thank you for believing that freedom should be free.