



**City of Dallas**

# **Cities and Counties for Fine and Fee Justice**

**Workforce, Education, and  
Equity Committee  
October 12, 2020**

Genesis D Gavino, Resilience Officer  
Office of Equity and Inclusion  
City of Dallas

# Presentation Overview



- Background/History
- Purpose
- Cohort Activities
- Next Steps

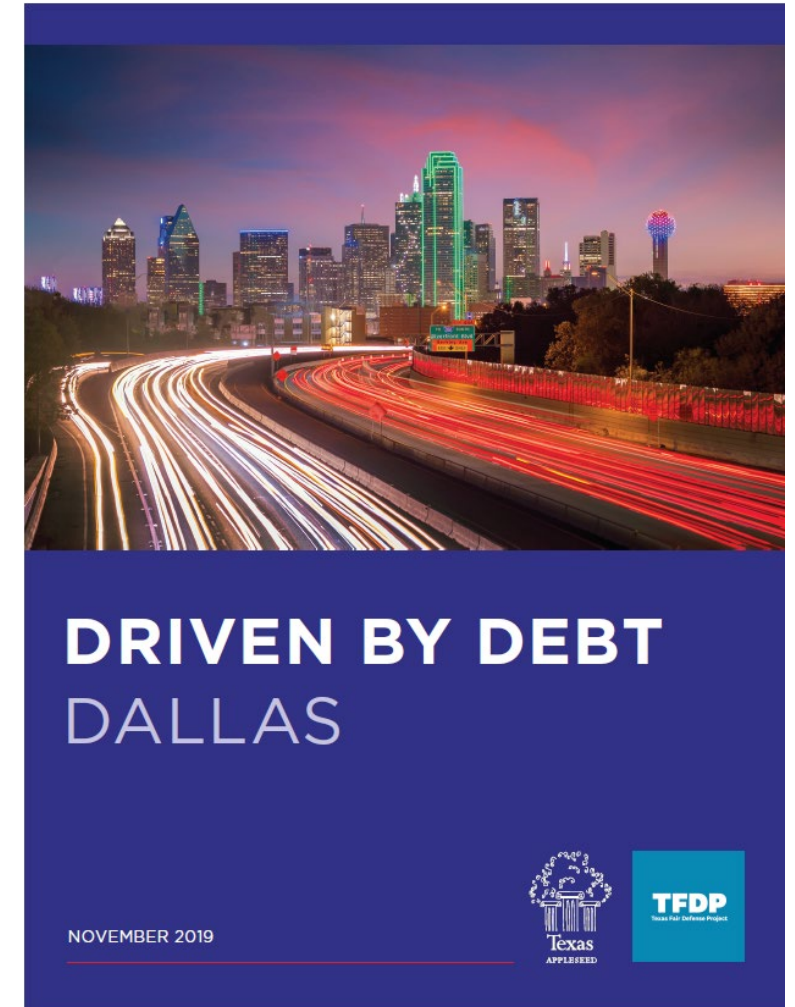




# Background/History



Ensuring Opportunity  
Through Driver's License  
Restoration & Reform:  
**What Cities Can Do Now**



# Background/History



- Cities and Counties for Fine and Fee Justice
  - \$50,000 Grant
  - 18-month program
  - Access to technical expertise and guidance
  - Membership in a cohort of other teams to develop customized solutions with community input



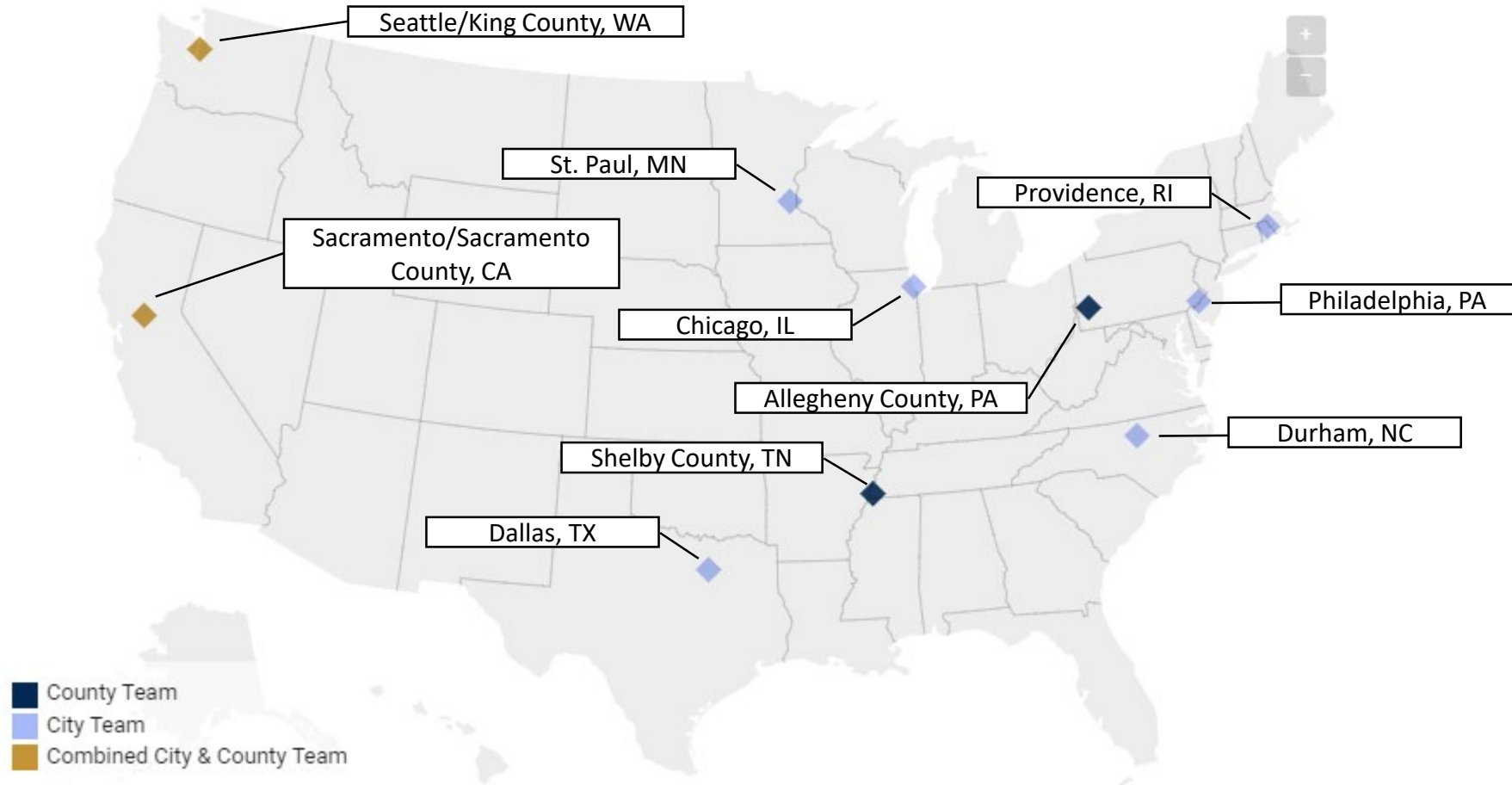
# Background/History



## Cities & Counties for Fine and Fee Justice

2020-2021 Cohort

**PolicyLink**



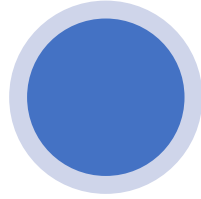


# Dallas Team



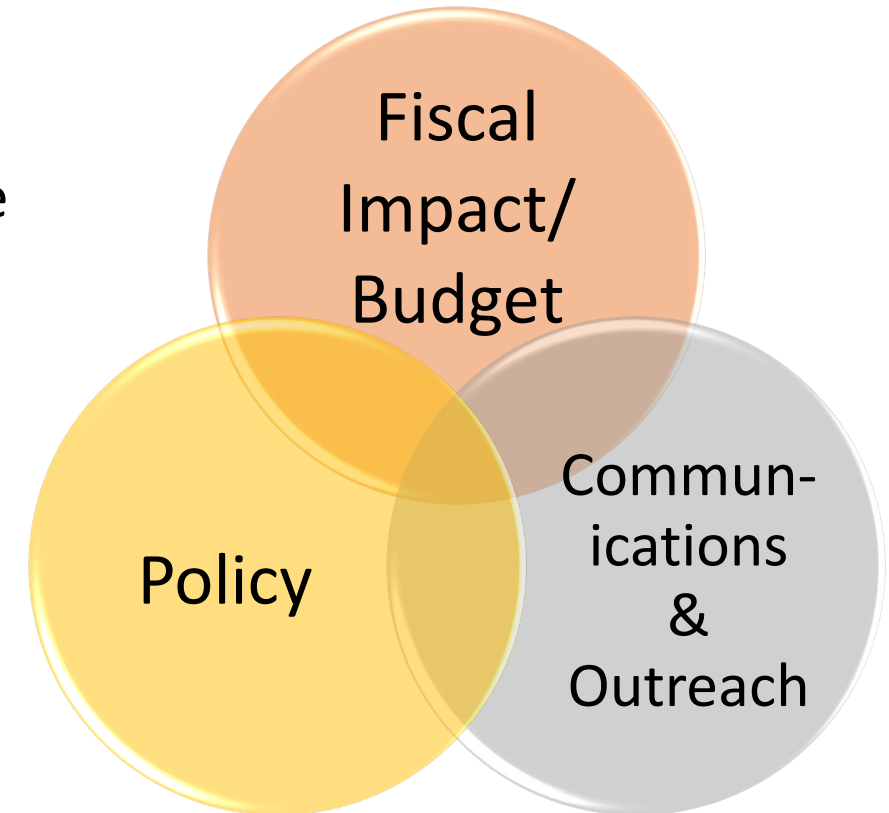
## Internal

- Dallas Animal Services
- Dallas Fire-Rescue
- Dallas Municipal Court
- Dallas Public Library
- Dallas Water Utilities
- Mayor and City Council Office
- Office of Budget
- Office of Communication, Outreach and Marketing
- Office of Community Care
- Office of Environmental Quality and Sustainability
- Office of Equity and Inclusion



## External

- Dallas County
- Texas Appleseed
- Texas Fair Defense Project
- Texas Organizing Project



# Purpose



- Fines and fees have increased in size and severity, and often exceed people's ability to pay them.
- When people cannot pay fines or fees, a cascade of consequences set in.
- Fines and fees disproportionately impact low-income people and people of color.

## Indicator 40: Fines and Fees

60

-3

### Definition

Ratio between the average amounts of fines and fees paid by Black and Asian defendants for cases adjudicated guilty by City of Dallas Municipal Courts.

### Results

2018: Black (B): \$369.90 Asian (A): \$256.77

B-to-A ratio = 1.44, score 63

2019: Black (B): \$368.72 Asian (A): \$243.85

B-to-A ratio = 1.51, score 60



# Cohort Activities



- Webinars and deep dives into topics
  - Engaging community and government stakeholders to conduct fine and fee assessments
  - Effective framing and messaging
  - Understanding budget and revenue considerations
  - Developing, passing, and implementing policy agendas





# Cohort Activities



- Fine and Fee Assessment
  - Community Engagement to engage impacted individuals to understand which fines and fees are causing harm; develop an understanding about how imposing and collecting fines and fees impacts real people
  - Government Stakeholder Engagement to gather basic information regarding fines, fees, and collection practices from key government stakeholders.
- Fine and Fee Reform Plan
  - Target a specific fine or fee and develop a plan to reform or eliminate the fine or fee
  - Advancement or development of an actionable plan of at least three fines or fees



# Next Steps



- Council Action
  - October 13, 2020 - Agenda Item #36 – Acceptance of grant funds
- Committee Presentations
  - January 2021 – Cohort Update
  - April 2021 – Final Presentation and Recommendations





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