

# INTEGRATED DATA SYSTEMS

TIDC INNOVATION SERIES



## BETTER MANAGEMENT, BETTER COORDINATION

Errors and delays in criminal justice information sharing can cause cases to drag on and costs to spiral. When agencies go paperless, they can improve the accuracy of their information and the speed with which they collect and transmit it. When multiple agencies share this information electronically using integrated systems, these benefits multiply.



### **TIDC funds indigent defense innovation in Texas counties.**

Online indigent defense management systems are a priority program area for TIDC funding.

18 Texas counties have received TIDC grants to implement Tech Share Indigent Defense.

### **MODEL PROGRAM: TECHSHARE**



The Texas Conference of Urban Counties developed its nonprofit TechShare program to streamline criminal justice processes. Through TechShare, counties pool the cost of switching to modern justice data systems. TechShare's indigent defense application, developed in partnership with TIDC, automates and standardizes attorney appointment and payment processes, and seamlessly connects county offices. It not only improves local oversight, but greatly simplifies state reporting duties.

TechShare is just one example of online case management. Public and private defender offices around the country, including in Lubbock, Harris, and Collin Counties, use defenderData™ for case tracking, billing, and document storage. Some indigent defense programs, like that in Travis County, have created custom systems tailored to their local standards and needs, but adaptable to other jurisdictions. No matter the model, data systems often increase accountability and efficiency.



## **MODEL PROGRAM: WISCONSIN STATE PUBLIC DEFENDER**

In 2015, Wisconsin State Public Defender (SPD) partnered with the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute to overhaul its case management system. Through its Reporting, Analysis and Mining Project (RAMP), it created an automatic data feed from courts to public defenders.

SPD assigns private attorneys to around 40% of indigent defense cases in Wisconsin. Now that it has access to court data, SPD can monitor private and public attorneys' caseloads, assess their performance, and quickly make assignments and payments.

# BENEFITS

## OF INTEGRATED DATA SYSTEMS

- ✓ Automate attorney appointments
- ✓ Track attorney jail visits and CLEs
- ✓ Improve reporting capabilities
- ✓ Increase transparency and accountability

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For more information on integrated data systems and other innovative practices, go to:

[tidc.texas.gov/innovation](http://tidc.texas.gov/innovation)

//// Or call us—you may qualify for grant funding:

512-936-6994

  
TEXAS INDIGENT DEFENSE COMMISSION