Administrative Office of the Courts

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Courts share data with criminal justice agencies to launch statewide project

SANTA FE – A new criminal justice data-sharing project makes its first release of information next week to law enforcement, prosecutors, public defenders, jails and other governmental agencies.

The Judiciary is sharing a court hearing dataset that will allow criminal justice agencies to better track when police officers and attorneys as well as criminal defendants and jail inmates need to appear in court.

The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) and its Judicial Information Division will make additional data available through the New Mexico dataXchange platform in coming months: Information about people wanted on arrest warrants, individuals who are subject to restraining orders in domestic violence cases, orders for the pretrial release and detention of criminal defendants, and sentencing and criminal case disposition.

“Data sharing can help improve the justice system and enhance public safety,” said AOC Director Artie Pepin. “The goal is to create a data warehouse that criminal justice and behavioral health agencies and courts can easily access to inform decisions with timely, objective information and to operate more efficiently.”

A measure enacted last year (House Bill 267) directed the New Mexico Sentencing Commission (NMSC) to establish a data-sharing network for criminal justice information. Local criminal justice coordinating councils (CJCCs) can obtain state grant money from the Commission to help agencies share information. One of these grants, $125,000 in fiscal year 2020, financed the initial development and launch of the dataXchange platform with the support of CJCCs in 10 of the 13 judicial districts.

“This project is a step forward toward the pursuit of a more modern, intelligent, careful and coordinated justice system,” said NMSC Executive Director Linda Freeman.

The dataXchange platform allows participating agencies to view and download court data, analyze it by creating maps and charts, and establish a machine-to-machine data feed into an agency's external computer system.

The Judiciary will be the first to upload data because many agencies use court-related information.

The Legislative Finance Committee and the Department of Finance and Administration have recommended $500,000 in their budget proposals for the next fiscal year to continue the statewide project — expanding available datasets and the number of agencies sharing their data. In the future, the project hopes to offer publicly accessible datasets online to improve governmental transparency and accountability.

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