

# JUSTICE REINVESTMENT IN MARION COUNTY

## What is Justice Reinvestment?

### IT'S ABOUT HELPING PEOPLE SUCCEED OUTSIDE OF PRISON.

Marion County community corrections officers manage 3,600 people on post-prison supervision and probation. The county is using proven strategies that give non-violent property and drug offenders, and offenders returning from prison, the tools to succeed. During 2015-17, Marion County will receive \$3.5 million through Oregon's legislatively-adopted Justice Reinvestment Initiative to support those strategies.



### IT'S ABOUT HELPING VICTIMS OF CRIME.

Helping crime victims find safety and rebuild their lives is a priority of the Justice Reinvestment initiative. Ten percent of Marion County's justice reinvestment grant will be used to help victims of crime.

### IT'S ABOUT PUBLIC SAFETY.

The primary objective is public safety. This approach creates an appropriate balance between holding offenders accountable, conducting needed treatment programs, and sending violent and dangerous offenders to prison, while measuring results.

## Why should I care about Justice Reinvestment?

1. Given the right treatment and supervision, offenders can and do change their lives to become responsible, contributing community members.
2. Neighborhoods and communities are safer when non-violent property and drug offenders change their lives.
3. Keeping someone in prison is expensive. Taxpayers pay \$94.55 per day for each prisoner. For an average sentence, that adds up to more than \$100,000 per prisoner.

## How does Justice Reinvestment work?

Justice reinvestment consists of two primary goals: recidivism reduction and prison diversion. Recidivism means that an offender does not commit a new felony crime within three years of release, although this measure will change soon to include arrests.

### RECIDIVISM REDUCTION

**GOAL: Prevent those who have served a prison sentence from re-offending and going back to prison.** 600 adults are released annually from prison to Marion County custody.

Under traditional parole and probation practices, Marion County's recidivism rates were as high as 36%. By 2014, this rate dropped to an all-time low of 14%. Today, persons released from prison participate in assessments to determine their motivation to change and risk to reoffend. Based on assessment scores, offenders are assigned supervision, mentors, substance abuse or mental health treatment, employment skill building, rental assistance, and even parenting classes. County officers connect with more than 100 local employers to open doors for clients who are ready to work.

### PRISON DIVERSION

**GOAL: Divert non-violent drug and property criminals away from prison.** Through justice reinvestment, certain non-violent property and drug offenders are no longer sent to prison. Instead, they are held accountable at the county level with electronic monitoring or stays in the county jail or transition center. These offenders undergo the same intensive assessments, supervision, and treatment services as offenders released from prison.

*"I've been in prison four times doing a total of 12 years. The choice for me was to continuously go in and out of prison, hurt my kids and continue to victimize people, or for me to reevaluate myself, decide that the past was the past and to move on. I decided to move on. I found the right support with Marion County parole and probation officers. They care. They wanted me to succeed."*

Jason  
SOAR graduate

## How is Marion County spending its Justice Reinvestment dollars?

### 1. Recidivism Reduction Strategies

Recidivism reduction continues to be a core goal for clients returning to local communities from prison or jail. Marion County's rate dropped from 36% in 2002 to an all-time low of 14% in 2014. Strategies include:

- **Link Up** – Mentoring and treatment services targeting high and medium risk reentry clients with co-occurring substance abuse and mental health disorders.
- **Student Opportunity for Achieving Results (SOAR)** – An intensive 12-week program conducted on the Chemeketa Community College campus, offering cognitive-based programming and enhanced supervision, parenting classes, alcohol and drug mentoring, employment support, and treatment services.
- **De Muniz Resource Center** – A one-stop reentry resource center operated by Community Action Agency, the center helps reentry and diversion clients with referrals and direct services.
- **Transition Services/Housing** – Rental assistance for newly-released clients.
- **Substance Abuse Treatment** – For high and medium risk clients that enhances offender motivation, addresses addiction and criminogenic risk factors, and strengthens behaviors leading to a clean and sober lifestyle.
- **Family Support Program** – Supports families with young children where the family has been impacted by incarceration through home visits, parent education, treatment, and other relief nursery interventions.



### 2. Prison Diversion Strategies

More than half of Marion County's grant funds focus on prison diversion:

- **Senate Bill 416 Prison Diversion Program** – This program diverts non-violent medium to high risk property and drug offenders from state prison to intensive community supervision.
- **Jail Reentry Program** – A 90-day treatment and mentoring program targets inmates at the county's Transition Center.
- **Adult Drug Court** – Diverts drug offenders from incarceration in partnership with an alcohol and drug treatment provider.
- **Other Enhancements** – Reduces Marion County's prison intakes, with particular focus on sentencing alternatives and probation violations; creates a new Family Sentencing Alternative Pilot Program to support clients with custody of minor children; aligns specialty treatment programs, such as Marion County's drug and veterans courts.



### 3. Victim Services Strategies

Two strategies strengthen public safety by expanding victim services:

- **Victim Assistance, Bilingual Services** – A bilingual victim advocate housed at the Center for Hope and Safety will assist with restraining orders and victim support, fostering healing while meeting victim needs.
- **Ten Percent Allocation** – Grant funding will be shared evenly between two qualified nonprofit providers: the Center for Hope and Safety and Liberty House.

#### Questions ? Contact:

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