



Culturally-specific services are effective for providing services to victims of crime and victims of intimate partner or domestic violence (IPV).

When Justice Reinvestment was first created in 2013, it established that 10% of all victim service funding go to community-based providers. These investments have been helpful in serving victims of crime across the state.

The Justice Reinvestment Equity Program will invest in programs that are best suited to serve communities of color and crime survivors of color.

One of the allowable uses of the Justice Reinvestment Equity Program are services for victims of crime. Some of these investments may bolster the existing JRI resources that will continue to be allocated to victim service providers in each county. The data shows that culturally-specific services are very valuable for victims of crime and domestic violence:

“In the early years of the anti-domestic violence movement, the injuries, harms, trauma, and isolation caused by abuse were compounded by difficulties survivors had of finding advocates who could speak their language, understand their experiences of violence, relate to their cultural contexts, and connect them to the appropriate assistance.” [A to Z Advocacy Model: Asians and Pacific Islanders Build an Inventory of Evidence-Informed Practices.](#)

Other studies have come to similar conclusions:

“Several authors have indicated a need for culturally-specific IPV interventions to adequately address the issue of IPV within the African-American community. This exploratory study was designed to ascertain, from African-American survivors, what their experiences were with mainstream IPV interventions and how their experiences with a culturally-specific domestic violence agency was different from those experiences. Overall, women described mostly problematic experiences with mainstream services and positive experiences with the culturally-specific agency.” [Improving Services to African American Survivors of IPV: From the Voices of Recipients of Culturally Specific Services.](#)

The Justice Reinvestment program has done a good job of investing in victim service providers across the state, but additional investments could help provide culturally-specific services to more people who could benefit from these services.