



The creation of the Justice Reinvestment Equity Program will help communities of color and other historically underserved communities meaningfully engage with the Justice Reinvestment process and stay out of prison

Since the original creation of the Justice Reinvestment program by the state in 2013, several studies have been conducted to determine the impact of the program. One of these analyses was done by Multnomah County, the state's largest county. This report found:

“Multnomah County's adult population' in 2014 was 76% White and 24% people of color. However, the criminal justice system's makeup does not match that of the community. As Figure 11² shows, the Black population was overrepresented in the comparison group and both MCJRP groups, while there were fewer members of the White and Asian populations as compared to the make-up of the community.”

[Examining the Implementation of Justice Reinvestment in Multnomah County.](#)

Other studies have shown the importance of culturally-specific organizations in reducing program drop-out rates and increasing successful outcomes for communities of color and other historically underserved populations:

“This match creates fewer clients departing prematurely from services, making better use of services and improving mental health outcomes and life skills functioning, plus being retained in services for longer periods of time (Hohman and Galt, 2001). Additional research emphasizes their retention in services and staying involved for longer periods of time.”

[In Defense of Culturally-Specific Organizations: Understanding the Rationale and the Evidence.](#)

The lack of historical investment in culturally-specific organizations through the Justice Reinvestment program has led to poorer outcomes for the communities that could benefit from these services the most. Racism and discrimination are woven into the fabric of the criminal justice system, and the overrepresentation of people of color in the system and other historically underserved communities, combined with the lack of investment in culturally-specific organizations, shows historic discrimination that must be rectified.

The creation of the Justice Reinvestment Equity Program will reduce these racial disparities and improve outcomes for communities of color and other historically underserved populations.

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