

Community Reinvestment Account Plan

Preliminary Legislative Report



Pursuant to the 2022 Supplemental State Operating Budget, Laws of 2022, Chapter 297 (SB 5693, Section 128 (134))

**COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT
ACCOUNT PLAN**

December 1, 2022

Report to the Legislature

Director Lisa Brown

Acknowledgments

Lillian Ferraz, Project Manager, Local Government Division, writer and editor

Alice Zillah, Section Manager, Local Government Division, editor

Jasmine Vasavada, Legislative Director, Director's Office, policy review

Marissa VanHoozer, Equity & Belonging Director, CRP steering team

Mark Barkley, Local Government Division Assistant Director, CRP steering team

Megan Matthews, Office of Equity Shared Power Design Assistant Director, CRP steering team

With thanks to:

WA State Office of Equity

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Washington State Department of Commerce

Lillian Ferraz

Lillian.Ferraz@commerce.wa.gov

LOCAL GOVERNMENT DIVISION RESEARCH SERVICES

1011 Plum St. SE
P.O. Box 42525
Olympia, WA 98504-2525

www.commerce.wa.gov

For people with disabilities, this report is available on request in other formats. To submit a request, please call 360-725-4000 (TTY 360-586-0772)

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Executive summary

Overview

The Department of Commerce, in partnership with the state Office of Equity and community partners, is responsible for building a Community Reinvestment Plan to describe how funds will be invested to address racial, economic, and social disparities created by the historical design and enforcement of state and federal criminal laws and penalties for drug possession.

The final plan, due by July 2023, will guide the investment of the funds in communities across the state in four key areas, as defined by the Legislature in [Chapter 297, Laws of 2022 \(section 188 \(134\)\)](#):

- I. Economic development, which includes addressing wealth disparities to promote asset building such as home ownership and expanding access to financial resources including, but not limited to, grants and loans for small businesses and entrepreneurs, financial literacy training, and other small business training and support activities;
- II. Civil and criminal legal assistance to provide post-conviction relief and case assistance, including the expungement of criminal records and vacation of criminal convictions;
- III. Community-based violence intervention and prevention services; and
- IV. Reentry services to facilitate successful transitions for persons formerly incarcerated in an adult correctional facility or juvenile residential facility in Washington.

The project aims to engage with existing work groups, state partners, Washington residents with lived experience in these areas, and by-and-for organizations to build recommendations for future fund disbursement. This document is the preliminary report that outlines initial findings and progress to date for the final Community Reinvestment Plan.

Background

In 1971, President Richard Nixon declared a “war on drugs.” On the surface, this aimed to combat drug abuse on the supply and demand sides, but in truth it targeted disadvantaged communities, particularly Black Americans.¹ A disproportionate number of these policies focused on criminal justice enforcement and punishment for drug offenses – triggering disparate and systematic changes in the legal system. In the decades since, escalation mass incarceration, which continues to disproportionately impact Black, Indigenous, and People of color (BIPOC) Washingtonians, by restricting voting rights, economic achievement, wealth building, and educational attainment.

The resulting arrests and convictions affected more than just the people who were caught in the criminal legal system – incarceration creates struggles and disrupts families, neighborhoods and communities.

In 2012, the legalization of recreational cannabis in Washington significantly reduced the number of cannabis-related arrests, but the racial disparities in drug enforcement are institutionalized in the design and implementation of federal and state legal systems from the historical war on drugs. For example, even in states that have legalized cannabis, research shows that Black Americans are still almost twice as likely to be

¹ [Report: Nixon aide says war on drugs targeted blacks, hippies | CNN Politics](#)

arrested for cannabis-related offenses as white Americans.², adversely affecting their ability to secure housing, employment and generate wealth.

In 2022, the Washington State Legislature set aside \$200 million to invest in communities disproportionately harmed by the war on drugs. Instead of authorizing Commerce to start granting this funding, the Legislature directed that agency must first develop and present a community reinvestment plan to the Legislature. The Legislature provided \$1 million for the development of the community reinvestment plan to inform a collaborative investment plan. (See Appendix B for the full proviso text.)

Progress highlights

A request for proposals was issued June 22, 2022, to solicit a consultant firm with the required community engagement experience and research skills to produce the final study. The project plan requires broad community involvement and participation, using research-based methods to identify individuals and communities most affected by the war on drugs. With their input, the project will provide recommendations for allocating funding across the four designated categories.

The [Harriet Tubman Foundation for Safe Passage](#) (HTFFSP) was selected to design the plan. HTFFSP has proven expertise in Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC)-led community engagement and academic leadership. Its depth and breadth of experience will connect the project with communities most affected by the war on drugs. The organization's founder, Jesse Miller, leads conscious of her positionality as a person of lived experience with the legal system, community and state-level advocacy, and success as a small business owner. The consulting team consists of recognized community leaders with more than 50 years' combined experience in project leadership, and includes a faculty leader in economics at the University of Washington-Tacoma and the director of the Black Brilliance Research Project of Seattle.

The consultant firm HTFFSP consists of and is supported by several research assistants and subject-matter experts:

- Shaun Glaze, lead researcher
- Matt Harvey, Ph.D., economic researcher
- Krystal Henderson, Ph.D., qualitative analysis and mixed methods researcher

Using lived experiences as the primary qualifier, the consultant firm expanded to include community advisors and community researchers to ensure the research process is accountable to and led by the communities harmed by the war on drugs. These trusted and credible messengers ensure robust participation with methods that can increase participation of communities seldom heard by traditional community engagement. For example, engagement with Mutual Aid organizations for those experiencing homelessness, (which are often small and hyper-local), and barbershop conversations with elders who typically are not best served online.

Traditional research has been criticized by many BIPOC researchers because of its legacy of erasure of community's voice and underreporting of community solutions. This systematic underrepresentation of communities harmed by policies that target their communities has cultivated a mistrust of traditional research, especially that of government agencies.

² ACLU Marijuana report 2021

One challenge for this work is the nuance required in conducting research on behalf of Washington state in a way that adequately recognizes the harms done to specific and diverse communities. This research cannot undo the centuries of harm, but by providing many meaningful ways to participate, review and refine the process, HTFFSP aims to create a research methodology that can acknowledge the harms and create tangible solutions that help address some of the impacts of structural racism.

In its first two months, the HTFFSP has:

- Convened a steering team that meets weekly and includes representation from the Office of Equity and Commerce's policy team
- Developed a process to define communities harmed by the war on drugs
- Developed a communications and engagement plan
- Engaged multiple organizations and hundreds of community members and stakeholders
- Collected and analyzed data from state and federal sources
- Engaged communities through surveys, text messages, email, and phone calls, and amassed a list of over 800 direct contacts
- Launched a project website (www.wa-reinvest.com), which had over 1,200 visits in its first 15 days
- Conducted the first of five planned focus groups
- Conducted interviews with Native and Indigenous scholars, public defenders, BIPOC small business owners, and more than 200 BIPOC mental and behavioral health service providers, reentry service providers, and violence prevention specialists
- Presented an initial research plan for stakeholder feedback
-

Initial findings

A review of literature and data on the impacts of the war on drugs reveals the following findings:

- Black, Latino and Indigenous people are disproportionately criminalized for cannabis.³
- BIPOC communities are disproportionately impacted by racial, economic and social disparities.⁴
- When considering economic opportunity, Latino (46%), Black (43%), and Native communities (38%) are among the highest percentages of people living below the self-sufficiency standard.⁵
- When considering poverty, including deep poverty, Black and Indigenous communities experience the highest percentages, when controlling for racial demographics in Washington.⁶
- When considering legal costs, (such as user fees and lawyers) the greatest impacts have been demonstrated for single mothers; Black, Indigenous, and women of color; LGBTQ+ people; and people with disabilities, according to the Washington State Gender and Justice Commission. This same commission found that "while men face higher legal financial obligations (LFO), women face greater challenges trying to pay both their own LFOs and those of people close to them."⁷

³ Washington State Gender and Justice Commission, ACLU Washington. Court Filings for Adult Marijuana Possession Plummet.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Washington State Department of Social and Health Services' 2021 report "A Washington Without Poverty and Injustice.": "Indigenous, Black and Brown communities experience the undue burden of poverty in our state, and structural racism intersects with other forms of systemic inequality to produce disparities in poverty rates among single parents with young children, youth, the LGTBTQ community, rural families, people with disabilities, and immigrants and refugees."

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ From the 2021: How Gender and Race Affect Justice Now: Final Report issued by the Washington State Gender and Justice Commission " Indigenous and Black people in Washington state were more likely to be harmed or killed by law enforcement, more likely

- Indigenous women are murdered at significantly higher rates than women of other races. The crisis of missing and murdered Indigenous women and people is an important consideration.⁸
- Incarcerated women, LGBTQ+ people, and youth are at significantly high risk of sexual assault while in confinement. These assaults are examples of some of the harm caused by the war on drugs.⁹
- The Gender and Justice Commission analyzed Washington's felony judgment and sentencing data and found that "Black, Indigenous, and women of color are convicted and sentenced at rates two to eight times higher than white women. In addition, the types of crimes for which women and men are convicted vary greatly. Women were convicted and sentenced in relatively higher proportions in drug, property, and fraud categories, compared to violent and sex offenses."¹⁰
- While every community has been impacted by drugs, not everyone was treated equally. Certain communities experienced years of excessive incarceration through a systemic design. For example, nearly a quarter of a million people were arrested in Washington for cannabis possession from 1986 to 2010.¹¹ Although young Black and Latino individuals use cannabis at lower rates than young whites, Washington arrested Blacks at 2.9 times the rate of whites. Latino and Native Americans individuals were arrested at 1.6 times the rate of whites.¹²

Next steps

Community engagement and research activities will continue until March 2023. Based on initial consultation from communities with lived experience (those whom experienced incarceration due to illicit drug manufacturing, sales, or use or their immediate relations) HTFFSP has made targeted outreach to BIPOC communities in the first phase of the project, and will move into more general outreach in the identified communities harmed by the war on drugs. This outreach is in partnership with the Community Vetting Team, which was built through the project and comprises representative voices with lived experience in incarceration due to drug possession. It will help manage community collaboration and leadership in community healing. This empowered team, along with other civic-minded partnership-focused methods, will ensure that community voices are heard in the final recommendations. Compilation and analysis of all the quantitative and qualitative research will inform the final Community Reinvestment Plan that guides investment of the funds appropriated by the Legislature.

to be searched or arrested by law enforcement, more likely to be incarcerated, and more likely to have a high legal financial obligation compared to non-Hispanic white people."

⁸⁻⁹ Ibid

¹¹ Washington State Gender and Justice Commission, ACLU Washington. Court Filings for Adult Marijuana Possession Plummet

¹² Ibid.

Research overview

HTFFSP is using [data justice](#) and community-based participatory action as the key methodologies for research in this project.

Historically, data collection and analysis was used to reinforce oppressive systems that result in divestment and often inappropriate and harmful policies, especially against BIPOC communities. Data justice is an approach that redresses methods of collecting and disseminating data that harmed marginalized communities. Data justice aims to capture forms of knowledge and lived experiences that are community-centered and community-driven.

The fundamental premises of data justice are that data should:

- Make visible community-driven needs, challenges, and strengths
- Be representative of community
- Treat data in ways that promote community self-determination

Community-based participatory action research (CB-PAR) is a collaborative research approach that involves building up stakeholders as partners throughout the research process. Community stakeholders participate in establishing the research question, developing data collection tools, data analysis, and reporting on findings. This framework aims to address the practical concerns of community and fundamentally changes the roles of researcher and who is being researched. The CB-PAR framework begins with a community's issue, proposed action, or strategy, and then supports or enhances this action with community-based and engaged research.

Data collection and community engagement methods

The project team will provide multiple in-person and virtual opportunities to meet community where they are, including focus groups, interviews, case studies, and surveys. Additionally, spatial and quantitative data sets informed the original priority setting and continue to inform the areas of focus for the consultant firm. Both the quantitative and qualitative data are consistently shared and checked by community, in alignment with the CB-PAR methodology and the data justice approach.

The team leveraged existing relationships with community leaders and invited them to serve as trusted messengers to communities disproportionately impacted by racism and systems of oppression to review the proposed approach and plan. In addition, the team reached out to grassroots leaders who had known experiences with the legal system from different regions of the state.

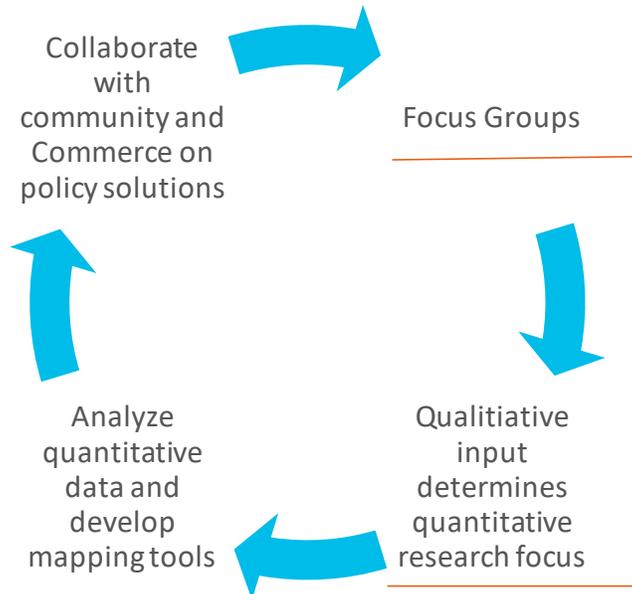
The consultant group is working in partnership with Commerce to collect data and information from a variety of state agencies and programs, including:

- The Office of Equity
- The Department of Health's Social Equity in Cannabis Task Force
- The Department of Commerce's Reentry Council
- The Department of Commerce's Homeowner Disparities Work Group
- The Governor's Poverty Reduction Work Group
- The Office of Public Defense
- The Office of Civil Legal Aid
- The Department of Children, Youth, and Families
- Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
- Department of Financial Institutions

Defining communities harmed by the war on drugs

When building the definition of communities harmed by the war on drugs, HTFFSP is centering people with lived experience. This aligns with the HTFFSP's research values of collaborating and honoring relationships at the speed of trust, and the principles of data justice.¹³¹⁴

First phase: People with lived experience define the process



For this research, HTFFSP defines **lived experience** as having experienced or witnessed first-hand the impacts of the inequitable design and enforcement of state and federal criminal laws and penalties for drug possession and manufacturing. For early focus groups and interviews, this definition is narrowed to people who have experienced the most direct harm from drug policies; meaning individuals who have been incarcerated due to charges for the sale or manufacturing of illicit drugs or have at least one close contact, and those who has been incarcerated for drug possession charges.

Concurrently, the consultant firm conducted stakeholder interviews and discussions to learn more about state agency priorities around the war on drugs. HTFFSP used the initial feedback to inform which quantitative data can serve to further examine the impacts. The data will be vetted with community members during the next phase of the project. Here are some of the key perspectives the consultant group has heard so far:

- Recognizing the structural racism embedded in design and enforcement of state and federal criminal laws and penalties for drug possession and manufacturing. This means being explicit that this policy targeted BIPOC residents of Washington state, and the funding should prioritize these communities.
- Recognizing the mental, spiritual and embodied impacts of structural racism. Community members were adamant that the harm was not just in terms of physical detention and incarceration, but also in the harms that result from the over-surveillance, over-policing, over-incarceration, and over-sentencing present throughout the criminal legal process. Communities are eager to talk about harm in ways that

¹³ Brown, A. (2017). Emergent strategy. AK Press.

¹⁴ [Why Research & Data Justice – Coalition of Communities of Color \(coalitioncommunitiescolor.org\)](https://www.coalitioncommunitiescolor.org/why-research-data-justice)

include these impacts, and how this makes it more difficult for affected people to access intergenerational healing.

- Relatedly, the importance of considering harm from a community-level perspective, not just individual. Community members and stakeholders both described how important it is to consider how existing public datasets may not adequately capture the kinds of harm and impacts that communities have experienced – and continue to experience.

As part of the charge of the proviso, the HTFFSP is working with by-and-for organizations. While parallel work to define by-and-for organizations is being led by the Office of Equity and Commerce, for the purposes of this report and early research, HTFFSP is temporarily using the following definition for **by and for organizations**:

'By and For Organizations' are operated by and for the community they serve. Their primary mission and history is serving a specific community and they are culturally based, directed, and substantially controlled by individuals from the population they serve. At the core of their programs, the organizations embody the community's central cultural values. These communities may include ethnic and racial minorities; immigrants and refugees; individuals who identify as LGBTQ+; individuals with disabilities or who are deaf; and Native Americans.¹⁵

Spatial and quantitative data approaches

In focus groups and outreach, HTFFSP asked communities harmed by the war on drugs about what data are important to consider when describing its impacts. Communities discussed the necessity to center structural racism when considering economic impacts and the solutions that can effectively address them.

Some of the data sets HTFFSP is examining are:

- The Centers for Disease Control's Social Vulnerability Level represents how access to housing and transportation – or how demographics including race, disability and household composition – might make some communities more vulnerable than others, particularly as it relates to the need for support and recovery assistance.
- Local governments, such as the City of Seattle Office of Planning and Community Development, created indices to help represent communities' access to opportunity (combined data indicators of education, economic, transit, civic infrastructure and health) or risk for displacement (combined indicators of vulnerability, amenities, development potential and median rent). This approach allows agencies to create maps and analyses that explore how to address the specific communities affected by possible policy interventions.
- The Research and Data Analysis Division at the Department of Social and Health Services provides census block group-level data to inform community risk profiles. The profiles aggregate data on income and assistance programs, health outcomes, services for Medicaid recipients, percentage of population that is legal system-involved, employment levels, access to mental health and substance use treatment, and number of individuals accessing state-funded housing.
- The Administrative Office of the Courts has caseloads reports for superior, district and municipal courts.
- The Department of Health provides data on injury deaths including homicides, suicides and drug/alcohol induced deaths by county.

¹⁵ Kitsap County Department of Human Services' Kitsap Eviction Prevention Assistance (KEPA) Program

Communications plan

Leading with the web

The project website (www.wa-reinvest.com) is optimized for feedback and project transparency. Visitors can view the project timeline, proviso, data resources and information on how the public can engage. Content and documents on the website include information about Commerce's process for requesting translations into other languages. There are multiple options for the public to provide information to the consultant firm via written surveys, video surveys, audio surveys, emails, or calendar events.

Diving into community locations

The project recognizes that in-person outreach is essential to meeting people where they are at – and tapping into the networks of communities who are seldom heard in online outreach. For this reason, the consultant firm coordinated outreach in culturally situated communities (such as Black- or BIPOC-owned businesses locations (such as barbershops) to increase communication with community members. This includes kiosks for data collection, as well as interviews and outreach opportunities to spread the word about the Community Reinvestment Plan and opportunities to contribute. By partnering with trusted organizations and businesses, we are supporting investments into community as part of the creation of the plan, building trust, and helping to heal some of the harm of community disinvestments.

Focused engagement throughout the state

"Quit coming to us because you think we have all of the problems. Come to us because you know we have all of the solutions." – Abigail Echo-Hawk, Chief Research Officer, Seattle Indian Health Board

The consultant group is making every effort to ensure all regions of the state are invited to participate. The plan includes means for outreach and collaboration with Black, Latino, Native American, and other communities of color, who are those most impacted. Other consulted communities could include those who are:

- Currently and previously incarcerated
- Families of color impacted by the foster care system
- Individuals or families denied access to education, housing, or employment due to a drug-related charge or conviction
- Individuals and families who receive public assistance
- LGBTQ-centered substance abuse support groups
- Tribal-affiliated recovery program participants
- Narcotics Anonymous participants who were involved with the illegal sale/manufacturing of drugs

The **equitable outreach principles** described below are being used:

- Involve people disproportionately impacted by racism and systems of oppression in early strategy conversations and planning as an advisory group and to review local data and assessments.
- Target and create partnerships with organizations predominantly led by BIPOC Washingtonians to find opportunities to build their capacity and support local strategies for safety and achievement.
- Build a culture of evidence that promotes communities of color as the experts of their own experience and have the right to research, the right to know, and the right to be heard as a crucial part of transformative change.

- Conduct specific outreach to the immigrant and refugee communities, as well as communities with limited English proficiency, to understand and track their unique safety needs and ensure language barriers are addressed.
- Participate in the social initiatives predominantly led by BIPOC Washingtonians; that is, show up in community and collaborate.
- Use the Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE) communication guide to pitch stories that affirm, counter, and transform. Highlight local stories of initiatives led by BIPOC Washingtonians.
- Any consultants/vendors must possess both the experience and skills needed to work with diverse populations, particularly the Black community.
- Serve as a coordinated and networked hub of information about policies to advance equity work within the region in partnership with other organizations.
-

Innovative practices, accountability and transparency

Diverse participation that empowers community and increases civic engagement, including funding compensation for participation, is part of the research plan for this project.

Prioritizing people with experience with incarceration

To help develop a project that is accountable to the communities harmed by the war on drugs, the consultant firm continually seeks the guidance of people who have been incarcerated to help ensure that the priorities and expertise of those impacted remains a focus. This focus has resulted in seeking consultation and advice from people who have been incarcerated, including people who now deliver services related to reentry, economic development, violence prevention and intervention, and legal assistance.

Outreach and collaboration with Black, Latino, Native American, and additional communities of color

Statewide engagement with Black and Latino communities is a strong focus of the outreach and collaboration for this project. While these are not the only communities harmed by the war on drugs, there is a recognition that the specific structural racism inherent in the design and enforcement of policies related to the war on drugs disproportionately affected these communities in unique ways. Recognizing the special expertise of communities harmed, and the specific remedies they are seeking to redress the harm, is essential to effectively supporting communities who have been under-resourced and over-targeted for harm and excluded from opportunities.

Outreach to additional consulted communities

The consultant firm started outreach to tribal-affiliated liaisons, stakeholders, and recovery program participants. Learning how to respectfully navigate and amplify the trusted relationships with tribes in the region is a focus area for outreach that is part of the creation of the Community Reinvestment Plan.

Providing resources and trauma-informed strategies

HTFFSP plans to utilize a trauma-informed approach that includes mental health support resources for stakeholders who have lived experience in this work. The consultant firm heard about this need in the initial focus group, and has already started to compile resources lists to support the comprehensive mental health and healing needs for community members involved in this work. This includes attention to the intergenerational nature of trauma and resilience.

We are inspired by the existing work of community leaders to connect communities to useful resources that have been vetted by community members and mental health experts, such as culturally specific supports

including the Native Project, Strong Hearts Native Helpline, Therapy For Black Girls, Teen Link, WA Listens, and the Trevor Project.

Next steps for engagement

In the coming month, these initial pieces of outreach will be collected and analyzed to build out the larger-group engagement strategies that will occur in the second half of the project. The consultant group will create and share an engagement calendar for its activities with communities identified as harmed by the war on drugs. These events will be hybrid and occur across the state and in a multitude of mediums. The prioritization of which of the four areas named in the proviso (see Appendix B) should be invested in and the community-vetted successful methods of community growth will then be turned into workable policy solutions for the final report.

Second phase: Community voices define policy solutions



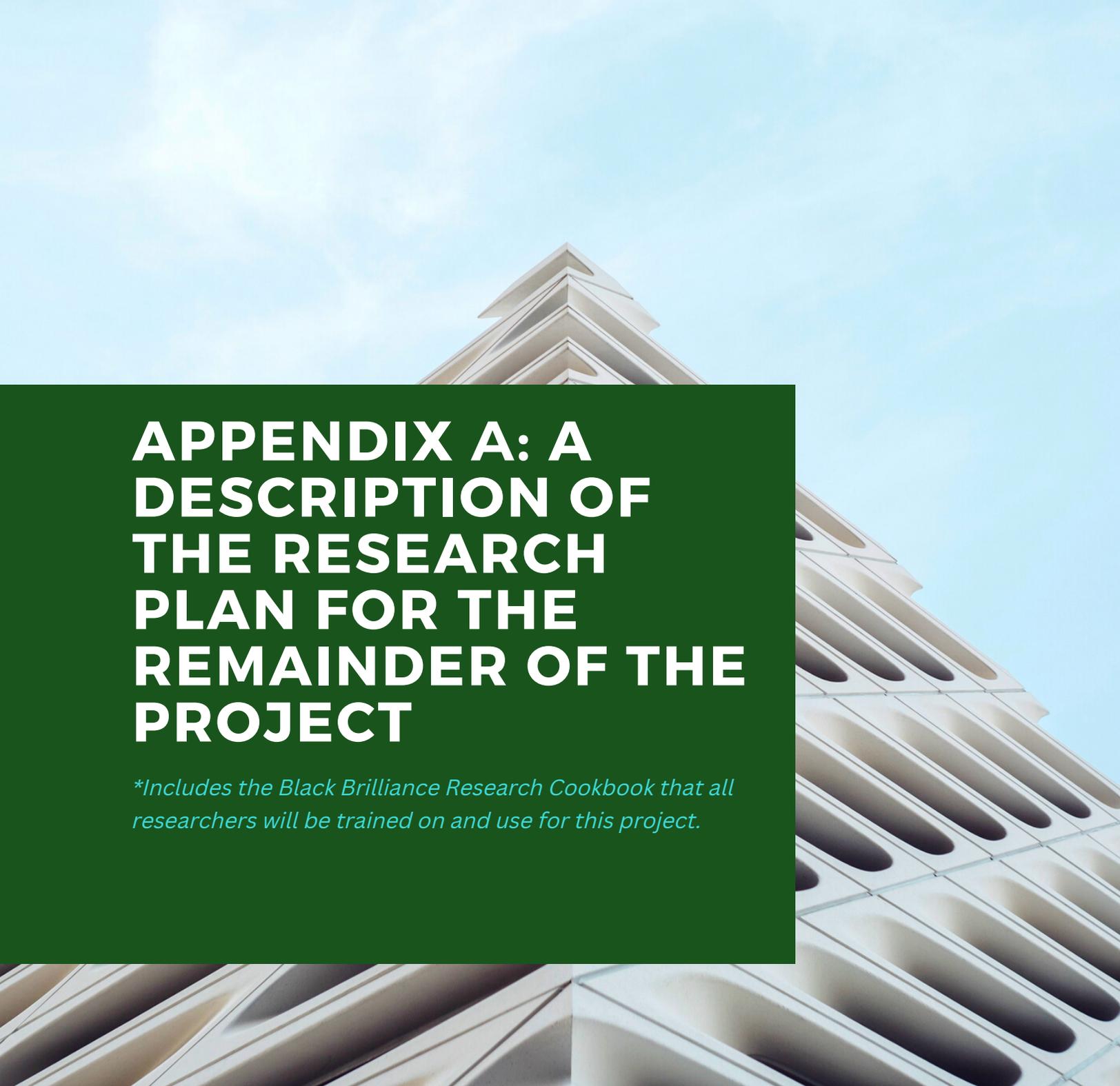
More information on how the HTFFSP is building out this complex collaboration strategy in the Communications Plan Matrix below.

CRP Communications Plan matrix

Communication	Audience	Goals	Schedule	Format	Responsibility
Interim report	Commerce Legislative aides Public	Communicate current progress, challenges, and next steps	Nov. 1, 2022	PDF document Presentation Website	Commerce HTFFSP

Initial report	Commerce Legislative aides Public	Communicate findings to inform necessary political process to support Community Reinvestment Plan development	December 2022	PDF document, website	HTFFSP
Website	Public	Introduce project timeline and background, inform the public on how to engage, and informal reporting	Launched Oct. 15, 2022 Updated bi-weekly	Online wa-reinvest.com	HTFFSP
Podcasts	All stakeholders	Inform public on opportunities to engage	November 2022 - December 2022	Online Streaming Services, Linked on website	HTFFSP
Community events	Public	Larger events and activities to inform final report	Varies, Confirming dates	In-person Virtual	HTFFSP
Office hours	All stakeholders	Create real-time two-way feedback space for community and interested parties to partner in dialogue around the research process or overall project	Weekly	In-person Virtual	HTFFSP
Print and SMS outreach	All stakeholders	Reach community members, by-and-for organizations, service providers, and stakeholders	October 2022 - May 2023	Phone In-person	HTFFSP
Kiosks	Public	Collect real-time data Provide project updates Engage in the idea portal Register for events and outreach	November 2022 - February 2023	Rotating kiosks at community common areas (such as barbershops)	HTFFSP
Explainer videos	Public	Inform public on opportunities to engage	November 2022 -	Short-form content	HTFFSP

			February 2023		
Research cookbook	Community researchers Public	Inform public about how research is done, train community researchers	October 2022 - January 2023	PDF document, video format, and website	HTFFSP
Final report	Governor Legislature Public	Report and synthesize the information collected to date Present deliverables	At project end - June 2023	PDF document	COMMERCE HTFFSP



APPENDIX A: A DESCRIPTION OF THE RESEARCH PLAN FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE PROJECT

**Includes the Black Brilliance Research Cookbook that all researchers will be trained on and use for this project.*

PREPARED BY

*Harriet Tubman Foundation for Safe Passage
Research Team*



CRP Researcher Training, Support, and Work

Training and Support

- The **CITI Program: Human Subjects Research Ethics Training** educates researchers about the ethical principles around researching with humans and the regulatory requirements for conducting research on human subjects.
- Onboarding meetings help provide context, answer questions, and provide support.
- A research manual "cookbook" helps guide the work. The cookbook includes research methods, templates, examples, and step-by-step guides.
- Video and live training provide support and direction.
- Research professionals provide technical and review support for all necessary aspects of the research process.
- Anti-oppression education and discussions take place regularly.

Relationships to the research

More than 100 researchers, including youth, elders, people with different levels of experience with the criminal legal system and homelessness, artists, healers, educators, etc.

- Researchers are involved in every step of the process, including developing research topics and research questions, data analysis, and reporting findings.
- Researchers aren't just collecting data; they are bringing their full expertise to what needs to be studied, how best to collect that data, and how to present it in a way that is accessible and accountable to the communities they serve.
- Researchers are building relationships across research teams. This project was built with a strong focus on relationship building and facilitation, which has resulted in new collaborations and new insights.

Visit <https://about.citiprogram.org/en/course/human-subjects-research-2/> for more details about the CITI Program research ethics training researchers completed.

Community Reinvestment Plan Research Leads and Organizations



Researcher Team Criteria

Each team member has been directly impacted by the War On Drugs and brings different expertise and contributions to the work. In all cases, researchers are committed to the following:

- Be curious
- Be accountable to the communities you're connected to
- Work to build and support relationships with each other and with community

Community-Centered: Advisory Group and Community Researchers

A group of community members who have been directly impacted by the War on Drugs will be convened to inform, support, and challenge the project to honor lived experience through the process. Additionally, growing from the priorities identified directly by impacted communities, community researchers are being brought on through the Fall and Winter to explore asset-building, community-based well-being worker programs, and strategies to eliminate the racial wealth gap in Black and BIPOC community contexts.

Researcher Team Overview

Research Leads:

- **Lead:** Shaun Glaze, Chief Consulting Officer of Inclusive Data & Research Director of Black Brilliance
- **Quantitative:** Dr. Matt Harvey, Assistant Professor of Economics at University of Washington Tacoma
- **Mixed Methods:** Dr. Krystal Henderson, Professional Consultant & Researcher

Support Team:

- (5) Part-time Research Assistants

Community Participation:

- Targeted Focus Groups Monthly
- Advisory Steering Group Monthly
- Community Researchers Group

Project SME Advisors:

- Jeff Klein (SME Financial Well-Being)
- Korbett Mosesly (SME Reentry Services)



Community Reinvestment Plan

RESEARCH METHODS



Research Methodology

Community Reinvestment Plan

We believe that those closest to the issues are closest to the solutions; so we are using a data justice approach, a group of community researchers with lived experience are leading the project to review available data, review feedback, and conduct research using robust research methodologies. to inform the reinvestment recommendations.

Examples of research methods in use:

- Focus groups
- Interviews
- VideoAsks
- Case Studies
- Surveys
- Datasets

CRP involves 100+ paid researchers who worked collaboratively to determine:

- What does community need in terms of investment in "Economic development"?
- What kind of "Civil & criminal legal assistance" to support successful reentry?
- What are the highly impactful "Community-based violence intervention and prevention services" and what are some of the ways in which government invest in them?
- What are the the highly impactful "Reentry services" and what are some of the ways in which government can invest?
- What do you need to thrive?

Research Framework:

- Utilizing a Participatory Action Research (PAR) framework to create knowledge for social change
- Engaging a Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR) collaborative framework that pulled from the strengths of our community partners to define actions for social change to reentry and enhance economic development
- Employing community assessment surveys to match Seattle residents' unmet needs with resources in order to involve more Seattle residents in the participatory budgeting process. For instance, many of our researchers needed computers and/or internet access to participate in our research.

Research Methodology

Community Reinvestment Plan

Description of Research Methods Used (page 1 of 2)

Focus Groups

- Discuss and write research goals with researchers and stakeholders
- Review BBR research cookbook and training materials for best practices; seek consultation as needed
- Create a conversation guide, including what specific questions to discuss
- Invite participants and confirm availability
- Moderate the focus group while taking notes
- Identify quotes and themes from the focus group, based on research goals and analysis

Interviews

- Discuss and write research goals with researchers and stakeholders
- Review BBR research cookbook and training materials for best practices; seek consultation as needed
- Create interview protocol, including interview questions, , uniquely tailored to community engaged in the research
- Moderate the focus group while taking notes and asking follow-up questions for rich discussion
- Identify quotes and themes from the focus group, based on research goals and analysis

Video Asks

- Video Ask, a web app, which also works on Android and iPhone, and allows researchers to provide status updates on research and reinvestment and receive answers, suggestions, and feedback, face-to-face.
- Develop questions on a bi-weekly basis to ask for community feedback and suggestions
- Provide updates on research findings and emerging themes
- Engage in two-way conversation with community to report on research updates and seek feedback on direction and focus
- Share synthesized data about emerging activities within 4 areas of investment and consistently check our alignment to community priorities
- Identify quotes and themes from Video Asks, based on research goals and analysis
- Download the data and make charts and graphs, based on research goals and analysis

Research Methodology

Black Brilliance Research Project

Description of Research Methods Used (page 2 of 2)

Case Studies

- Discuss and write research goals with researchers and stakeholders
- Review research cookbook and training materials for best practices; seek consultation as needed
- Review existing literature or data about the research direction or goal
- Identify a specific example or case related to your research direction
- Describe reasons or justifications people might use to exemplify, expand, or challenge your case. For example, a case where a police officer kills an unarmed disabled black person
- Use methods to explore a case, for example, interviews, focus groups, secondary data review. News archives, case law, and policies may all help inform a case study.
- Describe and analyze the case

Surveys

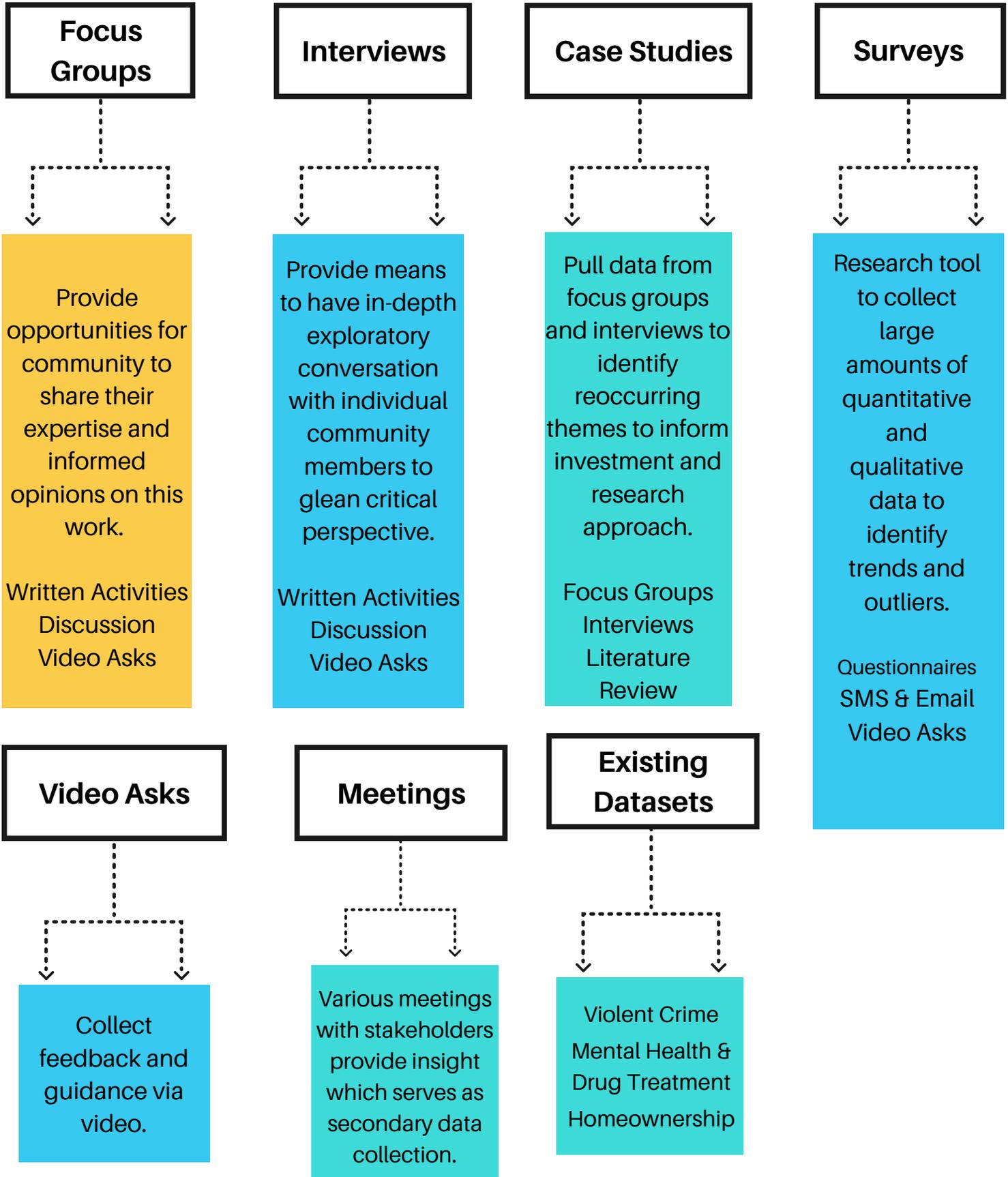
- Discuss and write research goals with researchers and stakeholders
- Review research cookbook and training materials for best practices; seek consultation as needed
- Create an initial survey, typically using Qualtrics or a similar tool to collect responses
- Test and edit the survey to fit research goals and to ensure accessibility
- Share the survey with appropriate strategies, based on goals. For example, when seeking feedback from a particular language community, teams provide a survey and/or researchers who can use that language
- Keep the surveys open for at least two weeks, unless there is an identified need for a shorter survey
- Identify quotes and themes from the survey, based on research goals and analysis
- Download the data and make charts and graphs, based on research goals and analysis

Large Data

- Review of large statewide datasets
- Disaggregation of datasets by key demographic data, county, city, and neighborhood
- Utilize a data visualization tool to map the geographic locations of key indicators
- Ongoing review of Washington State Department of Health and similar data dashboards

RESEARCH METHODS

Quantitative and Qualitative Integration



This is How Our Team Collects Data



Simplify statistics

We use statistics and numbers to talk about and understand common issues and integrate data with maps and stories



Ask for nuance in stories

We ask deeper questions about how the War on Drugs affects us, individually and collectively



Bring elders & youth together

Our elders hold important wisdom and expertise that grounds us; our youth grow legacies forward



Amplify solutions

We're often asked to over-explain well-known problems, but now we will build new solutions



Blending Quantitative and Qualitative Data and Methods

Data and findings are analyzed collectively and reported out regularly to community for transparency and accountability.

LITERATURE REVIEW

We explored existing work, community stories, previous data, and findings

SECONDARY DATA ANALYSIS

We are continuously running new analyses on existing data conducting research with new people

FOCUS GROUPS INTERVIEWS MEETINGS & VIDEO ASKS

Using Zoom, phone calls, and in-person meetings

CASE STUDIES

We are collecting stories about what's working and conducting in-depth analysis on how to apply those insights

SURVEYS AND EXISTING DATA SETS

We are collecting data and through surveys; most surveys have both quantitative and qualitative data to help understand community members' experiences. We are also exploring statistically significant differences with large data sets

MIXED METHODS ANALYSIS

We are analyzing quantitative and qualitative data together in order to ensure data sets are in relationship

“Data can be as diverse as we are.”

Appendix B: Community Reinvestment Account Plan proviso language

COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT ACCOUNT PLAN - \$1 MILLION

(134) \$1,000,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2023 is provided solely for the department to develop a community reinvestment plan to guide the distribution of grants from the community reinvestment account created in section 947 of this act.

(a) The department shall, in partnership with the office of equity, and "by and for community organizations" as defined by the office of equity, develop a community reinvestment plan for how funds would be distributed to address racial, economic, and social disparities in communities across the state created by the historical design and enforcement of state and federal criminal laws and penalties for drug possession. The community reinvestment plan should address funding in the following areas:

(i) Economic development, which includes addressing wealth disparities to promote asset building such as home ownership and expanding access to financial resources including, but not limited to, grants and loans for small businesses and entrepreneurs, financial literacy training, and other small business training and support activities;

(ii) Civil and criminal legal assistance to provide post-conviction relief and case assistance, including the expungement of criminal records and vacation of criminal convictions;

(iii) Community-based violence intervention and prevention services; and

(iv) Reentry services to facilitate successful transitions for persons formerly incarcerated in an adult correctional facility or juvenile residential facility in Washington.

(b) The plan must include a timeline for regular review by the department and the office of equity, criteria for eligible communities and programs, development of accountability measures to ensure that distribution and use of funding meets intended purposes, and tracking of outcomes for the funds. At a minimum, the plan must address how the community reinvestment account funding will:

(i) Produce significant long-term economic benefits to the state, a region of the state, or a particular community in the state;

(ii) Result in significant long-term economic benefits in the form of new jobs, job retention, increased personal wealth, or higher incomes for citizens of the state or a particular community in the state; and

(iii) Ensure that:

(A) Projects or programs do not require continuing state support;

(B) An expenditure will not supplant private investment;

(C) An expenditure is accompanied by additional public or private investment; and

(D) Nonprofit, faith-based, and grassroots organizations are prioritized for funding.

(c) In developing the plan, the department is encouraged to incorporate existing and ongoing work from relevant task forces and work groups including, but not limited to, the social equity in cannabis task force, the reentry council, and the homeownership disparities work group.

(d) The department shall submit a preliminary report to the governor and relevant committees of the legislature by December 1, 2022. A final report on the implementation plan must be submitted to the governor and relevant committees of the legislature by June 30, 2023.

COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT ACCOUNT PROGRAMMING - \$200 MILLION FY23

NEW SECTION. Sec. 719. A new section is added to 2021 c 334 (uncodified) to read as follows: FOR THE OFFICE OF FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT—COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT ACCOUNT General Fund—State Appropriation (FY 2023). \$200,000,000 TOTAL APPROPRIATION. \$200,000,000. The appropriation in this section is subject to the following conditions and limitations: The appropriation in this section is provided solely for expenditure into the community reinvestment account created in section 947 of this act.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 947. A new section is added to chapter 43.79 RCW to read as follows:

(1) The community reinvestment account is created in the state treasury. Revenues to the account shall consist of appropriations and transfers by the legislature and all other moneys directed for deposit into the account. Moneys in the account may be spent only after appropriation.

(2) Expenditures from the account may be used by the department of commerce for:

(a) Economic development, which includes addressing wealth disparities to promote asset building such as home ownership and expanding access to financial resources including, but not limited to, grants and loans for small businesses and entrepreneurs, financial literacy training, and other small business training and support activities;

(b) Civil and criminal legal assistance to provide post-conviction relief and case assistance, including the expungement of criminal records and vacation of criminal convictions;

(c) Community-based violence intervention and prevention services, which may include after-school programs focused on providing education and mentorship to youths; and

(d) Reentry services to facilitate successful transitions for persons formerly incarcerated in an adult correctional facility or juvenile residential facility in Washington.

(3) The distribution of the grants under this section must be done in collaboration with the governor's office of Indian affairs and "by and for community organizations" as defined by the department of commerce and the office of equity.