

The Legislature created the Washington Statewide Reentry Council in 2016

The Washington Statewide Reentry Council (Council) was created to improve public safety and outcomes for individuals reentering the community from incarceration (2SHB 2791). The Council has 15 volunteer members appointed by the Governor and a two-person staff.

The Council's statutory duties include:

- Soliciting input and participation from interested parties (e.g., criminal justice system, formerly incarcerated individuals, victims, service providers).
- Advising the Legislature and Governor on issues related to reentry and reintegration.
- Making policy and funding recommendations related to reentry and reintegration.



Reentry is the transition from incarceration into the community.

The Council must submit a progress report to the Legislature every two years. The Council does not directly operate reentry programs.

JLARC directed to review the Council every six years

The same bill that created the Council directed the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee (JLARC) to evaluate the Council every six years. The review must include the extent to which the Council's expenditures contributed toward reducing recidivism, the Council's achievement of objectives and benchmarks, and recommendations about the Council's performance and structure to ensure or improve accountability (RCW 43.380.080). This will be the JLARC's first review of the Council.

This study will address the following questions about the Council's work

1. What has the Council done to address reentry to the community following incarceration? Have those efforts improved public safety or outcomes of people reentering the community?
 - a. How has the Council considered race in its efforts, including the potential for different impacts for various populations? What other factors does the Council consider?
2. To what extent have the Council's recommendations reflected evidence-based, research-based, or promising practices?
 - a. To what extent do these practices vary based on race or other factors? Have the Council's recommendations reflected any variation?
3. To what extent has the Council solicited input and participation from a diverse group of stakeholders, including those identified in statute?
4. Are there best practices for measuring the effectiveness of advisory councils?
 - a. How is equity reflected in best practices?
 - b. Could the practices inform the development of objectives and benchmarks for the Council?

In accordance with RCW 44.28.076, JLARC staff determined there are racial equity considerations for this study and they are included in the study questions above.

Study Timeframe

Preliminary Report: January 2023

Proposed Final Report: April 2023

Study Team

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JLARC Study Process

