

JUSTICE REINVESTMENT INITIATIVE

CHAPTER 515 JUSTICE REINVESTMENT ACT



WHAT IS THE JUSTICE REINVESTMENT INITIATIVE?

Justice Reinvestment Initiative (JRI) is a data-driven approach to:

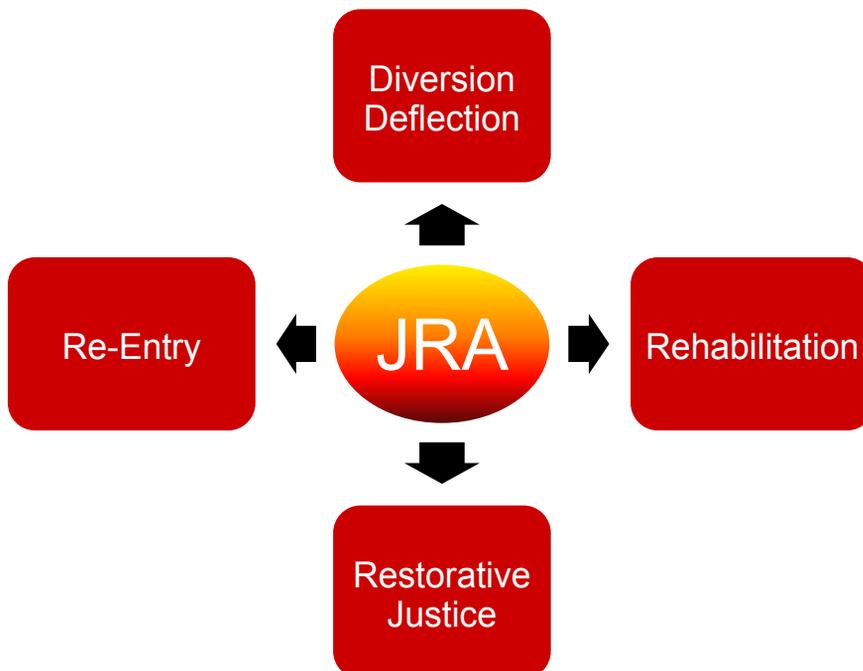
- Improve public safety by reducing recidivism
- Use criminal justice resources more effectively
- Reinvest in programs, services, and treatment proven to reduce likelihood of reoffense and improve offender outcomes.

THE JUSTICE REINVESTMENT ACT

Based on the recommendations of the JRCC, Maryland passed the Justice Reinvestment Act (JRA) Chapter 515 of 2016. The Justice Reinvestment Act, fully enacted on October 1, 2017, represents the most comprehensive criminal justice reform to pass in a generation.

Major Provisions of the JRA

- Focuses prison beds on serious, repeat violent offenders
- Emphasizes treatment for those struggling with addiction
- Elevates the voices of victims of crime
- Strengthens community supervision
- Expands opportunity for ex-offenders
- Establishes oversight mechanisms to ensure reforms are followed



Local Detention Gaps and Needs

Substance Use and Mental Health Disorder Gaps and Needs Analysis

Two electronic surveys were disseminated to all 23 local detention centers in the state. The purpose of these surveys was to determine inmates' treatment needs and available treatment services within the local detention centers. One survey addressed substance use disorder and the other addressed mental health. Survey questions sought information related to:

Maximum bed capacity and average daily population

Types of substance use disorder and mental health assessments conducted at intake

Number of inmates diagnosed with co-occurring disorders

Number of inmates diagnosed with substance use disorder and mental illness

Number of substance use disorder and mental health treatment beds available

Types of treatment provided for inmates with substance use disorder and mental illness

Steps taken to connect an inmate with a substance use disorder or mental illness to treatment services prior to their release

JRA – PERFORMANCE INCENTIVE GRANT FUND

Annually the JRI Oversight Board determines savings based on reduction in prison population from the prior year.

If a State prison or part of a State prison closes, the Oversight Board must determine the savings from the closure.

Division of savings

- 50% to Performance Incentive Grant Fund
- 50% to additional services as identified in JRCC Report

JRI Oversight Board administers the Performance Incentive Grant Fund, with the Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention being the final arbiter on awards.

At least 5% of a grant to a county must go toward protecting and enhancing victims' rights.

Performance Measures

The Governor's Office of Crime Control has developed a comprehensive list of performance measures which will be used to measure the impacts of various JRA reforms and policies.

Measures will be requested from 6 agencies:

- Department of Public Safety & Correctional Services
- Administrative Office of the Courts
- Maryland Department of Health
- Maryland State Commission on Criminal Sentencing Policy
- Department of Budget and Management
- Local detention centers

Data Collection

- 126 performance measures created
- Capture data for court ordered substance use disorder assessments and treatment

Desired Outcomes

- Increased and timely access to treatment for offenders with a substance use disorder
- Increased alternatives to incarceration

JRA Impact on Behavioral Health

JRA has profound potential impacts on behavioral health programs, health in justice, and justice involvement within the substance using population

- Sentence reduction on low level theft and drug possession charges
 - Decreased sentence length means sentencing primarily to local detention centers
- Sentence reduction for drug distribution charges
- RICO Asset forfeiture provision
 - Directs proceeds from criminal conspiracy gang statute to substance-use treatment fund to be disbursed by the Secretary of Health
- Expansion of expungement categories to remove collateral consequences for justice involved individuals (ex. Peer Recovery Specialists)

JRA & Behavioral Health Partnerships

The shifting of criminal justice priorities on outcomes and rehabilitation offer new opportunities to pool funding and services.

- Expansion of jail-based treatment programs in state corrections and local detention centers
- Earlier evidence-based assessment of inmate needs
- Focused reentry case-planning, including Medicaid enrollment

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