

Economic Opportunity Program

Department of Community Justice



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Economic Opportunity Program (EOP) is a cornerstone of our community-based approach. EOP focuses on **breaking down barriers for those who need it most**, including low-income residents, those experiencing homelessness or housing instability, and individuals with prior justice involvement. By combining long-term, relationship-based career coaching with employment resources, EOP helps participants achieve stability, job readiness, and sustainable careers.

The Department of Community Justice Economic Opportunity Program (DCJ EOP) serves those who are in probation or diversion programs. Career Coaches support EOP participants facing significant barriers to employment and aims to improve overall economic stability.

DCJ EOP provides each participant with a robust and complementary suite of services that exceeds what any organization could do individually.

SERVICES INCLUDE

- Career coaching
- Career mapping and resource planning
- Support services for job training and job search activities
- Facilitated access to WorkSource centers
- Centralized support services like rent assistance and childcare
- Training scholarships at WorkSource centers

BY THE NUMBERS: July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024

212 Participants served

46%

Identify as Black, indigenous, or People of Color

34%

Homeless or housing insecure

99%

Low income

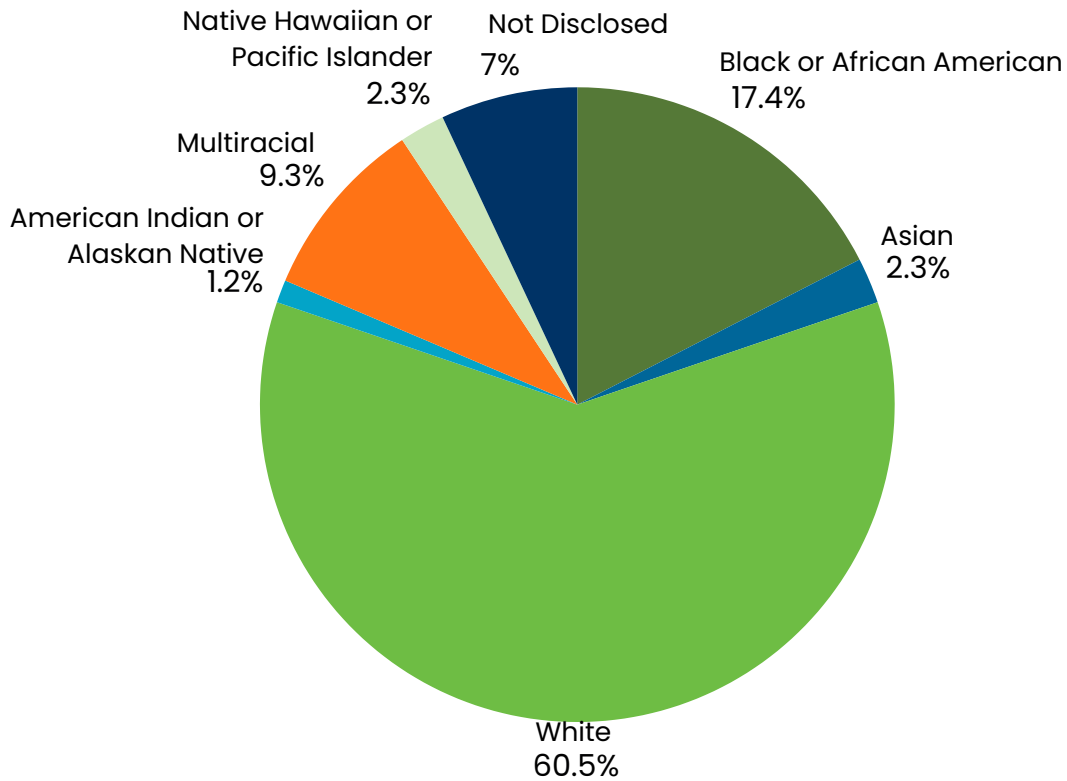
87% Exited DCJ EOP with a job that improves their housing stability through employment income

\$20.57 Average wage at program exit

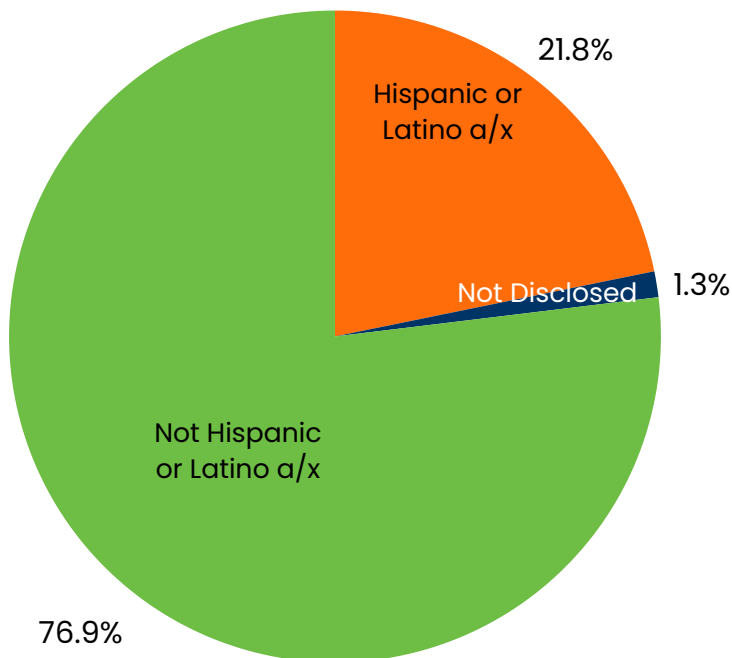
Department of Community Justice Demographics



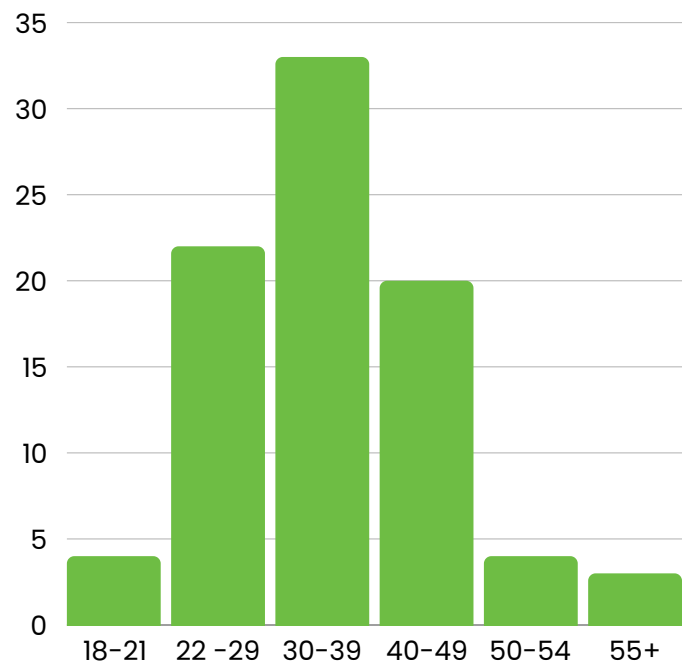
RACE



ETHNICITY



AGE



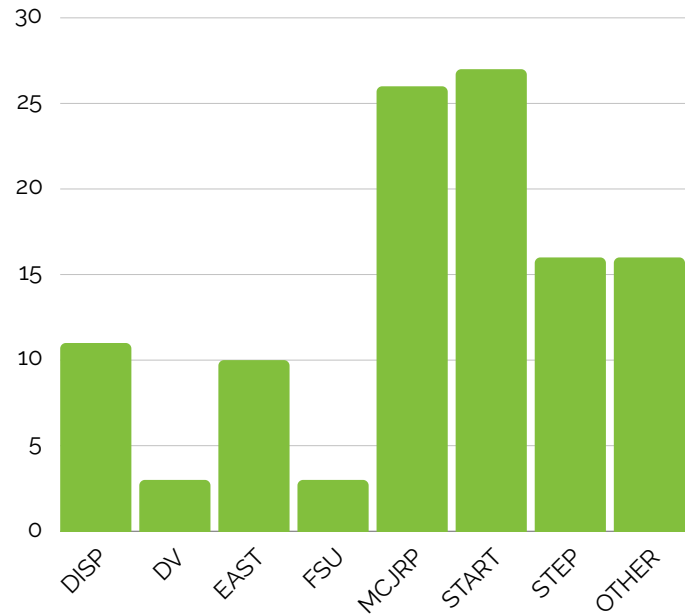
For more information, visit worksystems.org or contact Deanna DSouza, Worksystems Community Programs Manager at ddsouza@worksystems.org or 503-478-7359.

Department of Community Justice Funding, Partners & Participants



FUNDER	BUDGET
Multnomah County Dept of Community Justice	\$218,219
Worksystems	\$209,768
TOTAL	\$427,987

REFERRALS BY DCJ PROGRAM



COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICE PROVIDERS



SUCCESS STORY: From Recovery to Purpose

The participant enrolled in the DCJ Employment Program in May 2023, while residing at the Men's Residential Center (MRC). From the beginning, they made it clear that recovery was their top priority. Respecting this, their Career Coach provided space and consistent support, meeting monthly to check in and stay aligned with their treatment journey.

In April 2024, after successfully completing treatment, the participant transitioned into Bridges to Change housing. They proactively reached out to schedule an in-person meeting with their Career Coach to explore employment and long-term career goals. Their dream: to become a Certified Recovery Mentor (CRM) and use their own lived experience to support others on a similar path.

To help them achieve that goal, the Career Coach guided the participant through the scholarship application process and they were awarded a \$425 scholarship to cover the cost of CRM training.

Understanding the importance of immediate income while pursuing certification, the Career Coach also helped them secure a "survival job" at a local 7-Eleven. It was the participant's first job in over 15 years—a major milestone. They were overjoyed to be employed and eager to attend CRM training on weekends while working during the week.

Once the CRM training is completed, the participant plans to register with the Mental Health & Addiction Certification Board of Oregon and begin applying for Certified Recovery Mentor positions. This journey—from prioritizing recovery, to stable housing, to meaningful employment—reflects their strength, resilience, and commitment to giving back.

Their progress is a testament to what's possible when recovery is honored, and support is personalized and consistent. With the right guidance and resources, they are not just rebuilding their life—they're preparing to help others do the same.