

GOVERNOR INSLEE’S POVERTY REDUCTION WORKGROUP

The Governor’s Poverty Reduction Workgroup Work Plan

1.0 OVERVIEW

In a bold step to improve the well-being of 1.9 million Washingtonians struggling to make ends meet and to reach their full potential, Governor Inslee issued a directive establishing an interagency work group on poverty reduction. Co-lead by three agencies – Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS), Employment Security Department, and Department of Commerce – the Governor’s Poverty Reduction Work Group is a constellation of state agencies, legislators, state racial and ethnic commissions, tribal and urban Indians, employers, workforce development councils, community-based organizations and philanthropy. Governor Inslee

2.0 COMMITTEE COMPOSITION

Committee Members:

Jim Baumgart	Nickolaus Lewis
Mark Bergeson	Juanita Maestas
Luba Bezborodnikova	Sandra Miller
Sue Birch	Erin Monroe
Sarah Buhayar	Nam Nguyen
Gary Chandler	Daisye Orr
Jim Cooper	Sharon Pesut
Senator Manka Dhingra	Dona Ponepinto
Eu-Wanda Eagans	Ed Prince
Colleen Echohawk	Tim Probst
Larry Eyer	Michael Reichert
Cheryl Fambles	Maria Siguenza
Erin Frasier	David Stillman
Nova Gattman	Neil Strege
Claude Green	Marisol Tapia Gonazles
James Harms	Traci Underwood
Lonnie Johns-Brown	Julie Watts
Mona Johnson	Jan Wichert
Kate Kelly	Senator Hans Zeiger
Diane Klontz	

Staff Liaisons:

Lori Pfingst, Senior Director	Carol Albert, External Communications
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3.0 GOALS

1. Provide Focused Attention and a Forum for Discussion
 - a. Hold public monthly meetings on subjects related to poverty, including root causes of poverty
 - b. Invite public speakers to present on aspects of poverty and offer recommendations
 - c. Host community listening sessions and focus groups across the state to engage advocates, service providers, and community members to better understand key challenges and barriers to service
 - d. Expand and adjust discussion of subjects based on feedback and progress

2. Develop and Promote Recommendations

- a. Analyze data related to poverty.
- b. Learn from experts, service providers, committee members and those with lived experience to identify burdens and benefits.
- c. Apply a racial equity analysis to develop appropriate strategies and recommendations related to reducing poverty.
- d. Share recommendations and results of the Committee's work with community members.
- e. Produce a 10-Year Strategic Plan that presents data on people experiencing poverty, information gathered from presentations and discussion, and recommendations made by the Committee to significantly reduce poverty in Washington state.

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Meeting	Topic(s)	Objective(s)	Requests/Questions	Potential Recommendations
December 12/20/18	<p>Panel discussion with incarcerated women</p> <p>Racial Equity Training & Racial Equity Toolkit (RET) Application</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reaffirm Committee purpose & goals • Conduct racial equity training • Review the use of a Racial Equity Toolkit to establish desired racial equity outcomes, identify harms and benefits, and develop strategies to achieve racial equity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Begin Toolkit process with an examination of criminal justice system, specifically re-entry. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use a Racial Equity Toolkit, with clear racial equity outcomes, to examine critical programs, policies, budget decisions, procedures • Ensure that racial justice is a focus in the development of a 10-year strategic poverty reduction plan.
January 1/17/19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implicit Bias Training • Steering Committee update • Practicing the Racial Equity Toolkit (RET) • Presentation on re-entry • Developing recommendations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the connection between incarceration, re-entry and poverty • Understand why people are incarcerated and system failure rather than personal failure. • Learn about and discuss recommendations developed by a re-entry task force. • Understand the racial disparities of incarcerated people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> How does the concept “continuum of care” apply to these recommendations? <input type="checkbox"/> Service Alignment? <input type="checkbox"/> What are promising models that can be replicated? 	<p>Housing Related</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case management and support after re-entry and until in stable housing. • Stable housing for single individuals and families. • Targeted support for families of incarcerated people, making family unification a priority. • Use financial incentives to increase housing inventory, particularly for certain offenses. • Introduce a fidelity bond for housing. • Develop programs for support of families impacted by incarceration of family member, beginning with assessment provide trauma-informed care, educational support, childcare, parenting support, employment assistance and housing. • Expansion of housing with wrap around services.

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide services based on a needs and risk assessment. • Secure housing for those in transition prior to release. • Employment and Education • Employment and educational opportunities located in communities of re-entry. • While incarcerated provide educational opportunities and job training in a safe and healthy environment. • Start re-entry transition planning earlier and include career exploration and exposure and employment mentors. • Criminal Justice • Decriminalize low-level crimes. • Vacate certain convictions. • Eliminate inequitable fees, fines and penalties. • Create and follow individualized release plans. • Use a reconciliation process rather than a conviction and incarceration process (King County model). • Develop a rehabilitation process that allows those with criminal justice involvement to fully re-enter community and limit disclosure requirements. • Eliminate bias in enforcement and criminal justice by mandated racial equity and cultural competency training and by diversifying the law enforcement and judicial system workforce.
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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiate transition earlier, provide wrap-around services, employee mentors with lived experience and provide grants to community-led organizations. • Eliminate the criminalization of poverty and race by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Eliminating tactics like “Stop & Frisk. ○ Decriminalizing drug addiction ○ Funding mental health and chemical dependency. <p>Data Collection and Evaluation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct global landscape analysis of current programs, initiatives, policies related to individuals and families impacted by incarceration and re-entry • Measure disparities among formerly and currently incarcerated people. • Evaluate data and assess the Certificate of Restoration (CROP) program. Working as intended? If promising, should it be expanded • Assess current service provider practices, including diverse workforce, staff with lived experience. <p>Advocacy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate for reform of State and Federal benefit programs. • Advocate for Fair Chance Housing Legislation. • Advocate to eliminate I-200. • Create partnerships with service providers and agencies to gain the perspective of people with lived experience.
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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create an Office of Diversion and Re-entry. Scale ODR programs to meet need • Expand transitional job programs • Partner w/re-entry programs to hire people to work in the homeless field • Expand base of providers • Reduce contracting regulations with public agencies • Build capacity for service providers across systems. Support joint ventures with community service providers in lieu of subcontractor model • Divert all poverty-related bookings to services rather than jail. • Conduct a fiscal, cost and power analysis of criminal justice investments and redirect half of all criminal justice spending to early intervention, diversion and behavioral health services. • Support partnerships with re-entry agencies, economic development, unions, job focused organizations to provide job training, apprenticeships and job pipeline for formerly incarcerated people. • Create (or expand funding for) a Re-entry Navigator program: The navigation support would include guidance regarding access to housing, employment, healthcare, and education and work with individuals preparing to re-enter or have already been released. • Fund programs that (1) hires and support formerly incarcerated people of color as caseworkers and managerial staff to
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				<p>support other formerly incarcerated people; and (2) trains and utilizes their entire staff in trauma informed care practices.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fund programs that provide wrap-around services for people who were formerly incarcerated and who are (or at risk of becoming) homeless. • Change policy to prevent non-violent arrests from removing individuals experiencing homelessness from city and county-controlled housing placement lists. • Work with Community Colleges and fund programs to create re-entry education programs for persons leaving incarceration. • Support development and growth of community-rooted programs and networks owned and/or led by formerly incarcerated individuals to guide successful reentry. • Rent Assistance and Housing search/stability assistance available for those currently exiting from incarceration •
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