The Justice Equity Services Index (JESI) identifies L.A. County’s justice-related, community-based supports and services in low to highest service areas to inform where to shift investments and capacity-building supports towards equity and justice.

To best track and make sense of the broad range of services across L.A. County, the JESI splits justice-related, care-first providers into different categories based on their self-identified primary activity. We then grouped these service types into four main components to align with the broader service spectrum embraced by initiatives such as Measure J and the ATI Initiative:

- **Health & Wellness**, including behavioral and physical health and wellbeing services.
- **Housing & Employment**, including housing, shelter, employment, and career training services.
- **Prevention & Intervention**, including prevention, reentry, and youth development services.
- **Community Services & Advocacy**, including human services, advocacy, and community action services.

Before the development of the Justice Equity Services Index (JESI), policymakers and advocates had only anecdotal and lived-experience insights to assess the local landscape of community-based providers capacity whose prevention, intervention, and reentry services are the bedrock of our community system of care. Without such comprehensive, spatially-oriented data, it was difficult for policymakers and advocates to determine how to best direct critical service funding to where it is most needed according to the Justice Equity Needs Index (JENI) – let alone determine the impact those allocations have made over time.

Now, more than ever, with the L.A. County Board’s adopting the Alternatives to Incarceration (ATI) Initiative, voters’ passage of Measure J, and the Board’s commitment to close Men’s Central Jail, policymakers and advocates require quality information to detect where the need for care is most pronounced and what the corresponding community-based service supply is to fulfill the promise to move towards a “care-first, jails last” approach.
The JESI primarily relies on data from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) on tax-exempt organizations to identify low to highest service areas. Based on input from community-based organizations and county experts, we narrowed the IRS data to the most relevant justice-related, care-first organizations and grouped them into JESI’s four components.

The JESI includes individual component scores by ZIP Code as well as an overall JESI score. Component scores are based on the number of organizations in each ZIP Code, the income of those organizations, and the ZIP Code’s population. The final JESI score is calculated by averaging the four component scores and assigning a percentile value from 0 to 100, with 100 being the highest level of services. ZIP Codes are then split into five service level categories—Highest, High, Moderate, Low, and Lowest—based on their percentiles value, with the Highest category indicating ZIP Codes within the top 20% of service levels.

Justice Equity Services Index (JESI)

JESI Service Level by ZIP Code*

- Lowest (0-19th Percentile)
- Low (20-39th Percentile)
- Moderate (40-59th Percentile)
- High (60-79th Percentile)
- Highest (80-100th Percentile)
- JESI Not Available

* The higher the level of services, the greater the number and/or size of organizations in the ZIP Code relative to the population.

L.A. County Supervisor Districts
L.A. County Freeways

Advancement Project California’s Equity in Community Investments team partners with communities of color to equip them with the budget and advocacy tools necessary to win sustainable investments. To learn more about the Justice Equity Services Index, visit: bit.ly/JusticeEquityServicesIndex (URL is case-sensitive)