



Retha Onitiri, PMP

Salvation and Social Justice

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Retha Onitiri is the Program Director Consultant at Salvation and Social Justice (SandSJ) a non-partisan Black faith-rooted organization and a racial justice leader in New Jersey. SandSJ's advocacy has led to the statewide adoption of racial impact analysis for sentencing, voting rights restoration for people on probation and parole, the independent prosecutor law, and restricting solitary confinement. At SandSJ, Retha provides expertise and support in a variety of areas including strategic planning, new program development and implementation, and project management. Retha utilizes change management methodologies, process improvement, and people strategies to exceed organizational targets and uplift communities.

Recently, she spearheaded an effort for SandSJ, which resulted in the organization receiving a \$500,000 grant from New Jersey's Office of Attorney General to create a community-based restorative justice violence intervention program in Trenton.

Prior to joining SandSJ, Retha served as the Director of Community Engagement at the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice (NJISJ) for six years. At the Institute, Retha was responsible for building a coalition for change on issues pertaining to criminal justice, economic mobility, and democracy and justice. She led efforts to establish local advocacy coalitions in major cities across New Jersey, hosted community events, and identified issues and community-based solutions. Moreover, she successfully led a statewide community-engagement initiative to create and introduce the Restorative and Transformative Justice for Youths and Communities Pilot Program bill (S2924), signed into law on August 11, 2021. This legislation will be transformative for young people of color in New Jersey whose lives have been devastated by our broken youth justice system.

Currently, Commissioner Retha Onitiri sits on the Millstone Township Historical Preservation Commission, co-chairs the Grants Committee, and was instrumental in securing a New Jersey Historic Preservation Fund in the amount of \$50,000 for fiscal year 2022. She is an advisory for coLab Arts, which engages artists, social advocates, and communities to create transformative new work. And in 2020, Retha co-founded the New Jersey Restorative Justice Network, which brings together people from different disciplines to expand restorative justice practices across New Jersey.

Before NJISJ, Retha worked in the for-profit sector and oversaw Readiness Project Management of complex telecommunications High Leverage Networks and Services and Skills Development projects for a Software Integration organization.

Retha is a certified Project Management Professional (PMP) and has her Masters in Management from Stevens Institute of Technology. Finally, Retha is an avid reader, loves historical nonfiction books, and enjoys all forms of the arts.