People with intellectual disabilities are over-represented in the criminal justice system. This over-representation may be attributed, in part, to the criminal justice system's failure to understand and accommodate the needs of people with intellectual disabilities. People with intellectual disabilities often face challenges in the criminal justice system due to a lack of understanding of their needs and the complexities of their cases. The criminal justice system is often not equipped to handle the unique challenges faced by people with intellectual disabilities, such as difficulties in understanding complex legal concepts and the inability to communicate effectively.

In addition, people with intellectual disabilities may be more susceptible to victimization due to their vulnerability and lack of understanding of their rights. This vulnerability can lead to situations where people with intellectual disabilities are targets of crime or are falsely accused of crimes they did not commit. The criminal justice system can exacerbate these vulnerabilities through its failings in understanding and accommodating the needs of people with intellectual disabilities.

Furthermore, the lack of training and understanding of the criminal justice system among law enforcement, judicial officers, and other professionals involved in the criminal justice system can contribute to the over-representation of people with intellectual disabilities. Professionals who do not have a thorough understanding of the unique challenges faced by people with intellectual disabilities may make decisions that are harmful to these individuals.

In conclusion, the over-representation of people with intellectual disabilities in the criminal justice system is a serious issue that requires urgent attention. Efforts must be made to improve the understanding and accommodation of the needs of people with intellectual disabilities within the criminal justice system to ensure that they receive fair and just treatment. This can be achieved through better training of law enforcement, judicial officers, and other professionals involved in the criminal justice system. Additionally, policies and practices that are more accommodating of the needs of people with intellectual disabilities should be implemented to reduce the over-representation of people with intellectual disabilities in the criminal justice system.
system can only be improved if the following long-overdue strategies