

# JUSTICE REINVESTMENT HAS INSTITUTIONAL AND SYSTEMIC BARRIERS THAT NEED TO BE ADDRESSED

## SB 1510 DIRECTS NEEDED INVESTMENTS TO REDUCE RACIAL DISPARITIES IN OREGON'S PRISON SYSTEM

When creating Justice Reinvestment (JRI) in 2013, advocates and the state neglected to ensure that JRI funds get to historically underserved communities, nor that the reforms would impact women and people of color equitably. To address those structural inequalities in JRI, a few changes have been made since this program's inception:

- In 2017, the Oregon Legislature passed HB 3078 to prevent the need to open a second prison for women; in the years since JRI's passage, the program had not been successful in driving down the women's prison population;
- In 2019, the Oregon Legislature passed HB 3064 to study how JRI has impacted historically underserved communities, and whether culturally-specific organizations were receiving JRI resources

The CJs report resulting from HB 3064's passage found that: "Culturally specific providers are the preferred delivery model for servicing historically underserved communities. Currently, however, the use of culturally specific providers within JRI is rare.

***"Culturally-specific providers traditionally have been excluded from consideration for JRI treatment subcontracts and victim services allocations—a reflection of institutional and systemic barriers.***

*"For the 2019-2021 biennium, none of the contracted community providers offered culturally specific services. Similarly, of the victim service providers represented, many provided culturally specific women and children's services, but other historically underserved communities were not represented."* (p. 28)" [CJC HB 3064 Report](#)

SB 1510 directs \$10 million to be invested in culturally-specific organizations and bridge the systemic and institutional barriers to these organizations receiving JRI dollars by also providing programmatic and technical assistance to culturally-specific organizations and culturally-responsive service providers.