

# UTAH JUSTICE REINVESTMENT







## Improving Public Safety, Addressing Treatment Needs

In the decade prior to Utah’s engagement with the Justice Reinvestment Initiative (JRI), the state’s prison population grew 18% and was on track to increase another 37% in the next 20 years at a cost of \$500 million.

In 2015, Utah lawmakers passed House Bill 348, JRI legislation intended to reduce recidivism and hold individuals accountable while controlling the state’s prison spending.

Two years after implementing HB 348, Utah’s prison population fell 12%, and the state diverted more people convicted of nonviolent offenses to alternatives to incarceration.

### Additionally, as a result of the legislation:

GOAL	LEGISLATIVE CHANGES	ANNUAL REPORT OUTCOMES
Expand behavioral health treatment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investment into substance abuse and mental health treatment programs</li> </ul>	 <b>\$1.5M</b> upfront investment into treatment  <b>31%</b> increase in admissions to treatment
Shift prison spending to serious threats to public safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduced penalties for certain nonviolent and drug offenses</li> </ul>	 <b>21%</b> decrease in the number of people incarcerated for a nonviolent offense  <b>41%</b> decrease in the number of people incarcerated for drug possession alone
Strengthen community supervision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expanded eligibility for probation for certain offenses and restricting the use of incarceration for certain supervision revocations</li> </ul>	 <b>14%</b> increase in the use of supervision as an alternative to incarceration  <b>20%</b> increase in the number of high or intensive risk people on probation, focusing supervision resources on those who need more support

Funded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, the Crime and Justice Institute (CJI) provided technical assistance to support Utah as the state implemented HB 348 to expand behavioral health treatment, focus resources on serious threats to public safety, and strengthen community supervision.

**CRIME AND JUSTICE INSTITUTE CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Barbara Pierce**  
 Director of Justice Initiatives  
 bpierce@cjinstitute.org  
 207.400.7594

**Examples of the assistance CJI provided to help Utah reach the goals of HB 348:**

GOAL	IMPLEMENTATION ASSISTANCE
Expand behavioral health treatment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Supported the development and implementation of a screening process in county jails statewide for substance use and mental health</li> <li>▶ Conducted an analysis to identify gaps in the availability of evidence-based programming across the state</li> </ul>
Shift prison spending to serious threats to public safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Supported the Sentencing Commission as it created new sentencing guidelines</li> <li>▶ Advised judges on changes to criminal history information for sentencing decisions</li> </ul>
Strengthen community supervision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Supported the development, training, and rollout of the new Response and Incentive Matrix to guide appropriate use of incentives and sanctions</li> <li>▶ Assisted in developing quality assurance procedures and implementation of quality assurance procedures for a new risk and needs assessment to better identify individuals' risk of recidivism and enable supervision staff to focus resources on those at the highest risk</li> </ul>



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