

# CRITICAL RESISTANCE

**As we work to end cash bail, it must be integrated into our larger work for abolition. To that end, we offer some key ways to think about bail reform:**

Many impacted by the need for bail reform are arrested for lower level charges - making up the large numbers held pre-trial in jails - however **we cannot turn our backs on community members with more serious charges.** We should work for the greatest impact for all people in jail, recognizing also the harsh reality that bail reform may lead to a spike in over-charging by police and district attorneys.

Bail reform **must be combined with efforts to close or downsize jails** so that cages that are emptied are not filled again.

Local communities must work towards radical rethinking of how to **resource fundamental needs in our communities that will reduce jailing in the longterm.** These include quality and permanent housing, health and mental health care, food, and jobs/education. Whole families and whole communities need to be served through investments. Solutions should not only address an individual's "need" but rather overturn systems and logics of criminalization, policing, and imprisonment.

Solutions must **address how loved ones of imprisoned people (including women, children, caregivers, trans and queer people, and dependents) are impacted by policing, jails, prisons, and detention.** Solutions must address and change other punitive systems that impact women, children, caregivers, and families such as domestic violence courts, family courts, or agencies such as Dept of Children and Family Services.

Reforms must work to invest in **pre-arrest and pre-trial diversion programs that are non punitive,** but instead connect people voluntarily to social services, health and mental health care, substance use support, or other wrap around services. We must ensure that these programs are not financed by and operated under law enforcement to the greatest extent possible.

Bail reform must be used as yet another way to expose the white supremacist foundations of policing and work to abolish policing and the use of fines and fees that force people into jail in the first place. We must advance decriminalization, limit contact with police and limit arrests. Policing targets poor poor and working class people of color, immigrants, queer people, and people with mental health needs. **Dismantle and defund the police.**

Together we must **build localized and community based capacities for transformative and restorative justice.**