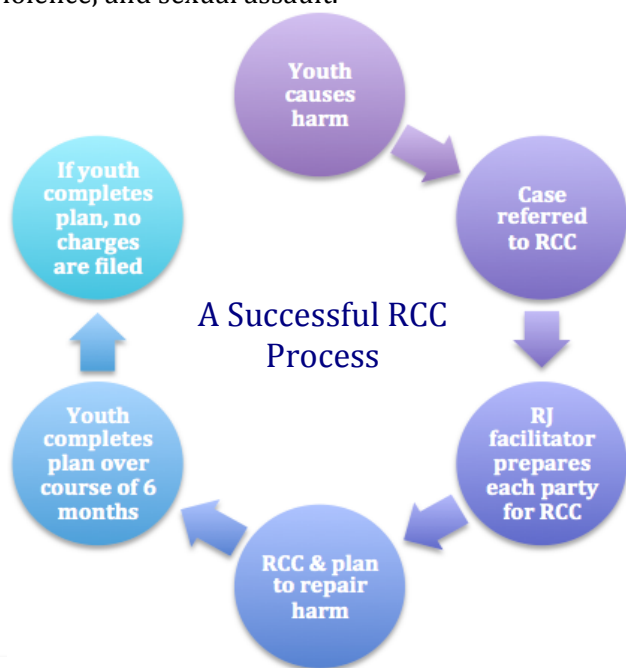


RESTORATIVE DIVERSION

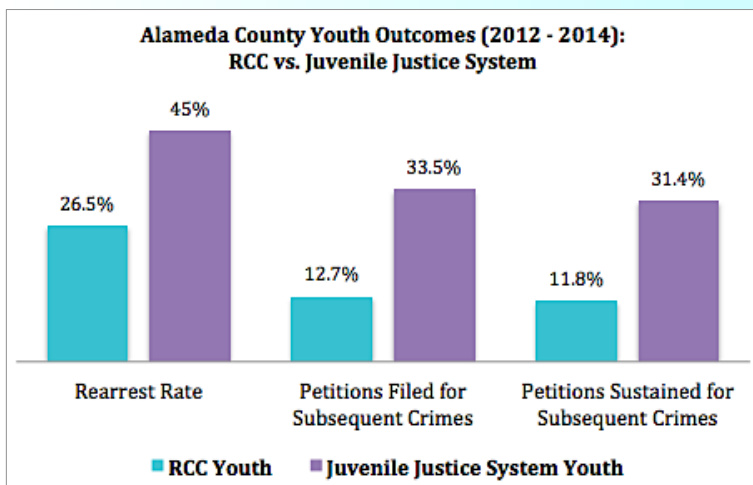
Repairing harms and relationships through the power of community.

Restorative Justice encourages constructive responses to wrongdoing. It brings those who have harmed, their victims, and affected community members into processes that repair harms and rebuild relationships. At its best, restorative justice produces consensus-based plans through face-to-face dialogues that meet victim-identified needs while supporting the positive development of those who've harmed. This can take many forms, most notably community conferencing models and circle processes.

How Does Restorative Community Conferencing (RCC) Work? RCC offers a promising way of addressing youthful wrongdoing, with its ability to reduce recidivism, satisfy victims of crimes, and increase community involvement. After an incident has occurred that would normally result in criminal charges or a school disciplinary process, RCC offers a voluntary opportunity for dialogue. During the RCC, the young person, victim, family and community members discuss the crime, its causes and effects, and produce a consensus-based plan for the young person to make things right by their victim, family, community and self. In each RCC there is self-reflection by all parties, and firm yet supportive accountability culminating in a commitment to help a young person overcome obstacles and "do right." When the plan is completed within 3-6 months, the case is closed without charges being filed. RCCs are most effective with more serious crimes, which have an identifiable victim such as robbery, burglary, car theft, assault/battery, arson, teen dating violence, and sexual assault.



The Restorative Justice Project at Impact Justice. sujatha baliga, director of the Restorative Justice Project, leads Impact Justice's efforts to institutionalize restorative justice alternatives to juvenile and adult incarceration and zero-tolerance school discipline policies across the United States. Ms. baliga successfully implemented a restorative juvenile diversion program in Alameda County, CA, that currently keeps up to 100 youth out of the juvenile justice system each year.



The Restorative Justice Project's approach is unique in its explicit goal of engaging communities to centralize victim-identified needs while reducing incarceration, recidivism, racial and ethnic disparities, and related social and fiscal costs. To that end, the Restorative Justice Project offers training and technical assistance in two primary models: Restorative Community Conferencing (RCC) and Circle Process. With generous support from The California Endowment, the Restorative Justice Project is assisting counties throughout California and across the nation to implement pre-charge, restorative diversion programs.

99%
of Alameda County
RCC **victim**
participants said they
would participate
in another RCC

IMPACT JUSTICE is committed to reducing the number of people involved in our criminal justice systems, improving conditions for those who remain incarcerated, providing meaningful opportunities for successful re-entry, and attending to crime victims' needs. Home to some of the foremost leaders in juvenile justice, violence prevention, research and evaluation, restorative justice, and youth development, Impact Justice provides an array of technical assistance to criminal justice and community stakeholders.

For more information, please visit www.impactjustice.org

THE RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PROJECT

Repairing harms and relationships through the power of community.

What Does The Restorative Justice Project at Impact Justice Do?

Impact Justice is committed to building restorative programs across the nation that live up to the best restorative justice has to offer.

- **Technical Assistance:** The Restorative Justice Project is training and providing technical assistance to jurisdictions who seek to implement Restorative Community Conferencing (RCC) as a pre-charge diversion model for youth accused of crime. For instance, as an advisor to Community Works West (CWW), an Oakland-based nonprofit organization, the Restorative Justice Project provides ongoing consultation and support to a partnership between CWW and the Alameda County District Attorney's Office to divert 95 young people each year from the juvenile justice system. The Zellerbach Foundation has also funded the Restorative Justice Project to assist the San Francisco district attorney's office in replicating this program. In addition, The California Endowment has awarded a grant to support similar Restorative Community Conferencing efforts in other California sites such as Long Beach, Santa Ana, Richmond, and San Diego.
- **Circle Training:** The Restorative Justice Project offers circle training for community-based organizations, law enforcement agencies, community members, and others. Unlike RCCs, circle processes can be used in a broad range of contexts from welcoming an individual back into the community after a period of incarceration to addressing conflict between community partners or creating a space for healing following a tragedy.
- **Research:** In addition to assisting in the establishment of restorative diversion programs, the Restorative Justice Project collects and evaluates data on these models. By comparing outcomes for youth whose cases are addressed through restorative processes to outcomes for matched samples of young people whose cases are sent through the juvenile justice system, the Restorative Justice Project is developing reliable quantitative data on the effectiveness of restorative diversion programs.
 - The US Department of Justice's Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) funded the Restorative Justice Project to develop a report on what it means for a restorative justice program to be both culturally responsive and victim-oriented.
- **Pay For Success:** PFS contracting is a new form of performance-based contracting through which government reimburses third parties for funding effective social service providers who achieve agreed-upon outcomes. The Restorative Justice Project has been working to scale Alameda County's RCC diversion program through a PFS model.
- **Toolkit:** The California Endowment has funded the Restorative Justice Project to create a robust toolkit for jurisdictions looking to implement pre-charge, Restorative Community Conferencing diversion programs. Through descriptions of past success stories and best practices, this toolkit will provide a step-by-step guide to building relationships with community and criminal justice system stakeholders and establishing a culturally responsive victim-oriented restorative diversion program. This toolkit will include sample documents such as a Memorandum Of Understanding to ensure the confidentiality of restorative processes.
- **Child Sexual Abuse:** The Restorative Justice Project is working to establish restorative justice models geared towards addressing child sexual abuse. To that end, the Ms. Foundation has provided funding for circles with South Asian child sexual abuse survivors. The Restorative Justice Project's Nuri Nusrat has also received a Soros Justice Fellowship to create a restorative diversion model to address the particular needs caused by child-on-child sexual harm.

For more information about the Restorative Justice Project,
please contact sbaliga@impactjustice.org

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