

NUMBER OF DELINQUENCY CASES THAT ARE
DISPOSED IN JUVENILE COURT ANNUALLY:

1.7 million

NUMBER OF YOUTH UNDER 18 ARRESTED
DURING A SINGLE YEAR IN THE UNITED STATES:

2.1 million

PERCENTAGE OF YOUTH IN THE UNITED
STATES WHO WILL BE ARRESTED BY AGE 23:

33%

THE GREATEST PREDICTOR OF ADULT
INCARCERATION:

juvenile incarceration

“In the beginning, I thought this was going to be just another program that they were going to send me through to see if I failed. After some time, the program made me see things in a totally different way. I understood how I harmed others and that made me want to change and better myself. Harm lingers on a person. At first, I didn’t think anybody really cared. After the program, I became more calm and more at peace with a lot of things. I thought twice about certain situations. This program really helped me. It will change your life.”

—RCC YOUTH PARTICIPANT, AGE 17



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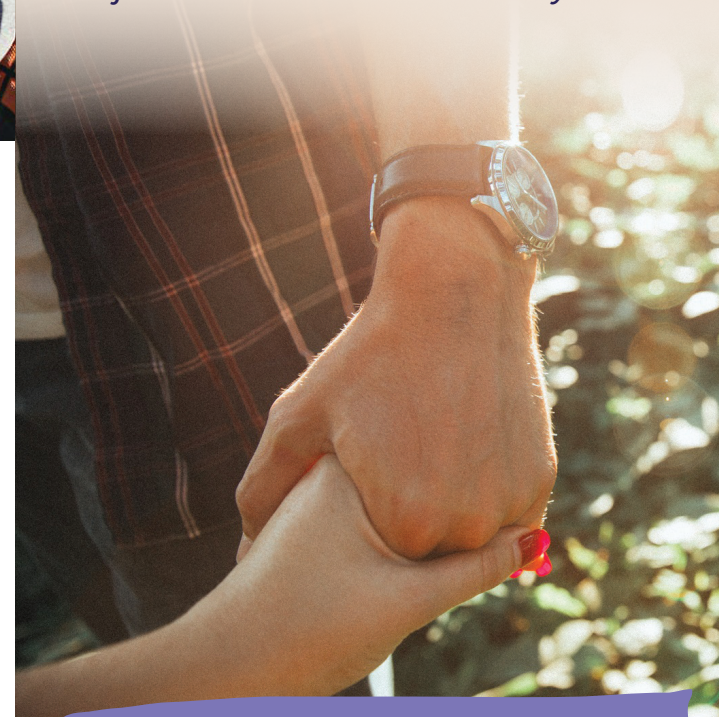
For more information on RCC and our other
programs, please visit us at:
communityworkswest.org

We would also like to thank the following
for their contributions to and collaboration
with our RCC program: San Francisco District
Attorney’s Office, the Board of State and
Community Corrections, and Oakland Unite.



RESTORATIVE COMMUNITY CONFERENCING

A justice diversion model for youth



**IF CRIME HURTS,
JUSTICE SHOULD HEAL**

What is restorative justice?

Restorative justice is a community-based approach to preventing, resolving, and healing the impacts of crime.

What is Restorative Community Conferencing (RCC)?

RCC is an evidence-based restorative justice practice used to divert youth facing criminal charges from traditional juvenile justice systems into a process where they will meet the needs of those who have been harmed by their actions.

Rather than focusing on punishment and isolation, RCC relies on accountability and making amends so that the relationships between the person harmed, the responsible youth, and their community can be repaired.

Who is involved?

- Responsible youth, their family/support
- Person(s) harmed, their family/support
- Other community members
- Law enforcement representative(s)
- RCC coordinator

RCC Outcomes Compared to Traditional Process

	RCC	Traditional
Cost per youth	\$4,500 (one-time)	\$23,000 (annually)
Rearrested within 18 months	26.5%	45%
Adjudicated delinquent (charged) within 18 months	11.8%	31.4%

- GOALS**
- ✓ The person harmed shares how they were impacted and what their needs are.
 - ✓ The responsible youth takes accountability and apologizes for causing the harm.
 - ✓ Participants gain a deeper understanding of the root causes that led to harm.
 - ✓ All parties feel heard and achieve a sense of closure.

How does the RCC process work?

Once an eligible youth's case is diverted from court and referred for RCC, we begin preparing.

First, both the youth and the person harmed must consent before engaging in the process.

Next, our RCC coordinator works with the youth to reflect on and take accountability for their actions.

Afterward, the RCC coordinator meets separately with the person harmed and any other appropriate participants to assess their needs.

Then, everyone gathers for the conference where the youth admits to their actions, apologizes to the person harmed, and hears about the impact of the harm. From this discussion, the group develops and agrees on an accountability plan and the conference ends.

Finally, the RCC coordinator stays in close contact for several months, helping to ensure the youth adheres to all elements of the plan and ultimately resulting in the DA closing the case and charges not being filed.



Different participants answer the question, **“What was the most meaningful part of the restorative community conference for you?”**

Person harmed: Contact with the youth and hearing the motivation behind their actions.

The chance to talk. Just being able to communicate, get a clearer perspective, and resolve the matter.

To hear that the youth actually cared and was truly sorry.

Law enforcement: Hearing the impact of the crime and having the youth apologize directly to the victim.

Community member: The heartfelt apology letter and how the youth met the victim so they could understand how they made someone feel and to see the hurt.

Responsible youth's family: The plan. It gives time and work for youth to grow and learn from their actions.

Responsible youth: Just saying sorry, hearing the victim's side, and being able to make up for what I did wrong.

