

OBJECTIVES: Restorative Justice Initiative in Fresno County

Funded by the California Endowment

1. **(Month 2)** Recruit, hire and orient a Project Manager who will ensure broad-based community engagement, coordinate and facilitate stakeholder planning meetings, and lead the development of the RJ policy advocacy plan.
2. **(Month 3)** Identify and recruit key community stakeholders, who have not been previously or consistently engaged in Fresno County RJ discussions, to participate in Fresno County's RJ Network.
3. **(Beginning Month 3; Ongoing)** Convene monthly meetings of Fresno County's RJ Network to educate stakeholders on primary crime and violence prevention approaches and the development of RJ in Fresno, identify shared interests, and build momentum for policy advocacy planning.
4. **(Month 4)** Establish a RJ Network Steering Committee to guide decision making and provide leadership for Fresno County RJ efforts. Steering Committee membership will represent the broad range of RJ Network stakeholders, including low-income community residents, community and faith-based organizations, academic institutions, the judiciary, county officials, and policymakers.
5. **(Month 7)** Conduct a comprehensive feasibility analysis of the most promising RJ model(s) that emphasize social norms change and adapt a preferred model for Fresno County through RJ Network stakeholder consensus, under the guidance of identified consultants and the RJ Network Steering Committee.
6. **(Month 12)** Develop a detailed policy advocacy roadmap intended to guide the formal adoption and institutionalization of the recommended RJ model. The plan will identify: 1) a policy advocacy decision making structure; 2) advocacy partners; 3) advocacy targets; 4) policy advocacy strategies and timelines; 5) identified potential funding streams; and 6) media and communications strategies to raise awareness and build support for the model.
7. **(Month 12)** Draft a white paper that describes the selected RJ model, the policy and/or system changes necessary for its integration into Fresno County's juvenile justice system, and a detailed rationale for the proposed changes, including the desired shift of social norms and projected benefits to community health and safety in at least two high-crime geographic areas.

OUTCOMES

1. Increased engagement of broad-based stakeholders in the advancement of a sustainable RJ model for Fresno County's juvenile justice system.
2. Development of a clearly defined policy advocacy plan intended to lead to the institutionalization of the selected RJ model and facilitate improved community health and safety.
3. Development of a white paper that will serve to advance the policy advocacy efforts of Fresno County's RJ Network and forecast social norms changes regarding juvenile crime and violence.

Brief Timeline of Restorative Justice in Fresno County

1976– Victim Impact Statements introduced.

1982– Probation makes first referral to VORP.

1990- Center for Peacemaking and Conflict Studies established.

1998– Community forum gives charge to provide “broad based systemic change based on Restorative Justice.”

1998– Restorative Justice Framework Committee established.

2007-2008– Development of a Restorative Justice Plan, funded by the California Endowment.