

Yolo County Community Corrections Partnership (CCP) 2022-23 Program Summary

Restorative Justice Partnership 2022-23 CCP Funding Summary

CCP Funds: \$522,205

Department Allocation
\$465,527 salaries and benefits
\$3,882 services and supplies

Innovation
\$52,796 salaries and benefits

Other Funding: \$2.1m
Justice Assistance Grant

CCP Strategic Plan Outcome/Strategy(s) Supported

Outcomes:

- Increased upstream prevention efforts
- Further expand Restorative Justice opportunities to help restore victims
- Further increase post-booking diversion opportunities to reduce recidivism

Strategy:

- Increase/enhance diversion efforts
- Identify opportunities to add Restorative Justice interventions to existing programs (by Dec 31, 2023)
- Implement addition of Restorative Justice interventions in existing programs (by Jun 30, 2024)

Use of Funding	Program Description
<p>Staffing:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 93.6% FTE Supervising Deputy District Attorney - Supervises the MHC/AIC and is the assigned Deputy DA for Mental Health Court and handles all cases in the RJP program and Department of State Hospitals grant. 2. 92.3% Program Director – Oversees DA Restorative Justice and Diversion Programs. 3. 100% FTE RJP Victim Advocate - Provides advocacy to victims whose cases are in the RJP program. 	<p>Restorative Justice Partnership (RJP) maintains the Neighborhood Court program model established in 2013 and continues as one of the District Attorney’s benchmark diversion programs providing an alternative to the traditional judicial system for hundreds of participants per year. The program operates collaboratively with the Public Defender, Probation, and Health and Human Services. Participants in RJP engage in a 3-step restorative justice-based mediation-style conference with members of the local community. The conference is designed to encourage accountability and reach a resolution that addresses harms and impacts from the offense committed by the participant. The conference process is preceded by behavioral health or risk/needs assessments to identify appropriate treatment and/or social service-related supports for those with felony level offenses or suspected mental health or substance use conditions. The goal is to address unmet behavioral health needs and criminogenic factors and reduce justice system involvement and recidivism. RJP also ensures victims have agency and are supported by the RJP Victim Advocate throughout this process to ensure their voices are heard and their needs are met to the extent possible.</p> <p>The RJP Advocate communicates with victims prior to filing, during proceedings and through diversion completion, or transition back into traditional criminal proceedings when applicable. They prepare CPOs and attend court to support victims during traditional proceedings as well as in the diversion process. The RJP Advocate has a current caseload of 155 cases and an additional 49 cases on warrant status checked regularly. This requires an average of 25+ communications (including calls, texts, mail, email, and in-person contacts) per week to provide basic support to each victim. The RJP Advocate is critical to ensuring that the rights of victims are met in accordance with California Constitution Proposition 9. They are also</p>

Performance Measure (PM) 1: How much did we do? **PM2:** How well did we do it? **PM3:** Is anyone better off?

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working to strengthen relationships with major retailers in the area to improve communication and collaboration around retail theft and related crimes, which are a growing concern in the region.

RJP Participation for FY 2022-2023 included the following:

- 239 conferences completed.
- 37 participants still in progress towards graduation.
- 157 successful graduates.
- 45 felony cases diverted.
- 59 case managed participants successfully completed diversion.

If the program were no longer funded, hundreds of people would be directly impacted, and the ripple effects could negatively affect countless families. Many victims and people impacted by criminal conduct would miss out on an opportunity to be directly involved and supported in the process of repairing the harms they suffered, and hundreds of offenders trying to make a positive change following a criminal offense would face additional barriers to gainful employment, housing, and supportive benefits due to having a conviction on their record. They could also face prohibitive court fees, and significant travel costs or lost wages due to court proceedings.

Victims who participated in RJP have shared the following:

- "I expected to hate it. I was raised in law enforcement and believed there should be punishment to every crime. I thought it was going to be some alternative program and that I was not going to be satisfied by it. However, [after my experience] I would now love to advocate for programs like RJP."
- "I felt like it was successful for me. I think that's what allowed me to come back to work. If I hadn't gone through the process, I don't know if I would've come back to work."

This year, RJP celebrated its 10-year anniversary, which included testimonials from stakeholders and past participants who shared the impact this program has had on their lives. One prior participant shared in person. These stories resonated and had a profound impact on the community members and volunteers present for the ceremony. They highlighted the impact of RJP and the critical service this program provides. Some of the participant statements shared are quoted below:

"I am really appreciative of the program because I know things could've been worse, because I know what the consequences could have been, but [RJP] helped me out more as a person and how to become a better person. The program helped me with a lot of opportunities to help me keep going in life." - SS

"This program taught me that even though you mess up you deserve a second chance, and you can change. Now I'm engaged, I'm helping raise a

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little girl, I have my own little family and we're getting ready to move to Texas. I've restored relationships with my family. Life is great and couldn't be better." – AC

"When I found out I was facing a felony I was afraid that my life would have been over...This program navigates you toward the correct path. This got me thinking a lot more about my career and my kids, looking towards better goals and better choices. I am proud that I'm now stable enough to take care of my family. I'm not in the streets messing around. I'm doing what's best for me...Prison is not for me." – JL

"There is not a day that goes by that I am not grateful for this program. I was able to finish residential treatment, outpatient treatment, court proceedings, begin working again, go back to school, start a career, make amends to family and friends and reunite with my children...I believe that everyone should have a chance to change their life and now I get to use my lived experience to help in my work...I hope these programs continue to help people like me!" – KT

Future goals for RJP include:

- Continuing to provide robust victim support and community engagement; to include major retailers and local businesses.
- Enhancing support and information for victims to increase understanding and participation in restorative options.
- Providing streamlined restitution process in diversion cases to ensure victims can be made whole.
- Facilitating restorative conferences/processes for all collaborative court (MH-Div) participants, where appropriate.
- Developing a prosecutor-led restorative justice program tool kit for replication state-wide.

PM#1: How Much Did We Do?

- 387 RJP Referrals (CY 2022)
- 13% Felony Filings diverted to RJP (CY 2022)
- 196 conferences held (CY 2022); 183 YTD for CY 2023
- 5 collaborative court participants completed conferences through RJP (CY 2023)

PM#2: How Well Did We Do It?

- 81% Enrollees Graduated (CY 2022)
- 160 participants successfully completed conference agreements (CY 2022)
- 51 case managed participants successfully completed treatment/engagement (CY 2022)

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PM#3: Is Anyone Better Off?

- 133 case managed participants completed pre- and post- conference Self-Sufficiency Survey showing statistically significant improvements in the areas of Access (to social services), Employment, and Income
- 98% Post-Conference Satisfaction Rate
- 8.5% 3yr Recidivism Rate



COUNTY OF YOLO
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: June 14, 2023

Contact: Nicole Kirkaldy, RJP Program Coordinator
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**Yolo DA's Restorative Justice Partnership Program
To Hold Ten-Year Anniversary Celebration**

(Woodland, CA) – June 14, 2023 The Yolo County District Attorney's Restorative Justice Partnership (RJP) program is celebrating its 10-year anniversary with a recognition ceremony at 12 noon on Wednesday, June 21, 2023. RJP held its first conferences in Davis on June 3, 2013. In ten years, more than 2,700 people have been diverted through RJP's volunteer-driven 3-step conference process. This process prioritizes accountability and making amends to victims and the community. Participants who engage in RJP can avoid the barriers to future education, employment, licensing, housing, and more, that can result from a conviction.

RJP's conference model was designed with input from local law enforcement and leaders in the restorative justice field who would go on to establish the Yolo Conflict Resolution Center. RJP has helped raise the bar for thoughtful, innovative criminal justice reform. The RJP conference model is now utilized by Yolo's collaborative courts (Mental Health Court and Addiction Intervention Court) and has been replicated in counties across the nation. This recognition celebration will honor the program's accomplishments and highlight the positive impacts it has had on the community. The ceremony will also serve as an opportunity to thank the program's partners, stakeholders, volunteers, and participants.

The public is invited to join in the celebration, which will be held in the Atrium of the Yolo County Administration building, located at 625 Court Street, Woodland, CA. For more information, please contact Nicole Kirkaldy at Nicole.Kirkaldy@yolocounty.org or 530-666-8378.

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COUNTY OF YOLO
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
JEFF W. REISIG, DISTRICT ATTORNEY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**District Attorneys Restorative Justice Partnership Program
Receives \$2.1 Million Justice Assistance Grant**
Board of State and Community Corrections approved the grant
which will sustain and expand the program

Woodland, CA – April 14, 2023 – On April 13, 2023, the CA Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) formally approved a grant of \$2,145,000 over three years to support the Yolo County District Attorney’s Restorative Justice Partnership (RJP) program. The DA’s RJP grant application ranked number one out of 10 mid-size counties competing for funding.

RJP is Yolo’s flagship prosecutor-led adult criminal diversion program and uses a facilitated conference model which prioritizes accountability and repairing harms according to the principles of restorative justice. Yolo DA remains at the forefront of the restorative justice movement and has built a track record of success over its nearly ten years of operation. The program significantly expanded eligibility criteria in 2019 and achieved the goal of diverting 10% of the County’s filed felonies. This new grant will maintain the 2019 expansion and fund additional behavioral health staff to address gaps in mental health service capacity. The new positions will serve as mental health liaisons and provide supportive case management to participants facing significant barriers to success.

Diversion provides a pathway for individuals to address criminal offenses outside the traditional court process without obtaining a conviction. An independent evaluation in 2017 found that RJP graduates were 37% less likely to recidivate, and only 5.9% of program participants were rearrested within one year of completing the program. Some of the barriers to program success that have been identified include untreated mental health and/or substance use, and socioeconomic needs. RJP participants can now receive case management services, benefits screening, and rehabilitative programming to address these barriers as part of their diversion. An independent evaluator from an academic institution is currently working on RJP Outcome Measures for the past three years.

RJP's innovative model relies on trained community volunteers who donate their time to enable the program to operate. These volunteers serve as the voice of their communities to express how they have been harmed and what is needed to make things right. They play an integral role in making criminal justice more healing and helping individuals make amends and reintegrate into the community. Program volunteer Lorna C describes the process this way: “[We] look for ways to better understand them, ways to identify, to help them understand, and also understand the myriad harms that can come to ourselves, our community, our family... And we know when done well and they are almost invariably done well, [this] will impact a person, will make a positive influence on their life for possibly years to come...”

Want to join this dedicated group? RJP will hold a 2-part volunteer panelist training this Spring. Interested Yolo residents can sign up to volunteer by emailing RJPartnership@yolocounty.org or by visiting the DA website at: <https://yoloda.org/progressive-programs/restorative-justice-partnership/> for more information.

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