

SECTION I: APPLICANT INFORMATION

A. APPLICANT/DEPARTMENT IMPLEMENTING THE GRANT

COUNTY BOS : Contra Costa County	PARTNERING COUNTY(IES) (if applicable): N/A		
PARTNERING AGENCY(IES) (if applicable): N/A			
IMPLEMENTING AGENCY/ DEPARTMENT	DUN AND BRADSTREET NUMBER	TELEPHONE NUMBER	
Contra Costa District Attorney's Office	079822228		
STREET ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE
900 Ward St, 4 th Floor	Martinez	CA	94553
MAILING ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE
900 Ward St, 4 th Floor	Martinez	CA	94553

B. GRANT AMOUNT REQUESTED

\$ 1,269,166

C. PROPOSED MATCH AMOUNT

\$ 1,270,198

D. APPLICANT PROJECT DIRECTOR

NAME AND TITLE			TELEPHONE NUMBER
TBD			
STREET ADDRESS			FAX NUMBER
CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	E-MAIL ADDRESS

E. APPLICANT PROJECT FINANCIAL OFFICER

NAME AND TITLE			TELEPHONE NUMBER
TBD			
STREET ADDRESS			FAX NUMBER
CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	E-MAIL ADDRESS

F. APPLICANT DAY-TO-DAY CONTACT PERSON

NAME AND TITLE			TELEPHONE NUMBER
TBD			
STREET ADDRESS			FAX NUMBER
CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	E-MAIL ADDRESS

G. APPLICANT'S AGREEMENT

By signing this application, the applicant assures that the grantee will abide by the laws, policies, and procedures governing this funding.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, AUTHORIZED TO SIGN AGREEMENT

APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE	DATE

PROJECT ABSTRACT

Contra Costa is seeking \$1,269,166¹ from the BSCC to develop a restorative justice alternative to juvenile justice processes by establishing a pre-charge, Restorative Community Conferencing juvenile diversion program. Restorative justice offers an innovative way to interrupt the downward spiral of over-incarceration; soaring costs; racial and ethnic disparities; and detrimental outcomes for young people who have caused harm, their victims, and their communities. Restorative Community Conferencing (RCC), a form of restorative justice, is unique in its explicit goal of engaging communities to achieve healthy outcomes for youth who have harmed while meeting victim-identified needs and reducing recidivism and related social and fiscal costs. After an incident has occurred that would normally result in criminal charges, 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 restorative plan is completed within 6 months, the case is closed without charges having ever been filed. This model is intended for felonies and high-level misdemeanors that would otherwise result in probation or incarceration. Alameda County currently has the state’s oldest running RCC program, with a recidivism rate of 11.8% (compared to 31.4% for youth whose cases are processed through the juvenile justice system), a 99% victim satisfaction rate, and a cost of just \$4,500 per youth.

Through the Social Innovation Financing program, Contra Costa proposes to establish a RCC diversion program, which will be operated by a well-respected community-based organization (the RYSE Youth Center based in Richmond, California) and will receive cases from police departments, probation, and the district attorney’s office. The program will serve approximately 225 youth during the project term and will reduce recidivism rates by a minimum of 20%.

¹ The total project is projected to cost \$2,539,633. Please see the Section VII for more information on the budget.

SECTION II: STATEMENT OF NEED

This marks a unique time in our nation's history. Rising costs of incarceration and community surveillance, growing public dissatisfaction with and mistrust of the judicial system, and increased awareness of the school-to-prison pipeline are just a few factors that have led both community members and systems partners to demand meaningful reform. Contra Costa is no exception to this countrywide need for change. In Contra Costa County, 62% of parolees return to prison within two years of release.² In the juvenile justice context, according to the State of California's Department of Justice Office of the Attorney General, a total of 1,652 youth were arrested in Contra Costa in 2014 (627 of those arrests were for felonies while 1,025 were for misdemeanors).³ Of the youth arrested, 747 were African American, 430 were Latino, and 364 were White. In the same year, 851 young people were placed on probation (most often for robbery, assault, burglary, felony theft, motor vehicle theft, drug offenses, felony and misdemeanor weapons offenses, misdemeanor assault and battery, petty theft, and misdemeanor marijuana offenses).⁴ Meanwhile, the latest data from the California Department of Justice's Criminal Justice Statistics Center shows Contra Costa incarcerates roughly 273 youth per 1,000 juvenile felony arrests (well above the state average of 190).⁵ Despite large numbers of youth being placed on probation or in a detention facility, Contra Costa's youth recidivism rate remains to be estimated at around 60% to 70%⁶ with the County paying between \$65,000 and \$115,000 per year to keep a young person in juvenile hall (between \$200 and \$315 per day).⁷

Richmond, the second most populous city in Contra Costa, has a longstanding reputation for violent crime with one of the highest per capita crime rates in California

² Brown, R. (2010). *A Closer Look: Issues of Violence, Incarceration & Reentry in Richmond, CA A Criminal Justice/Reentry Brief*. Further The Work, LLC.

³ State of California Department of Justice Office of the Attorney General. *CJSC Statistics*. Available at <https://oag.ca.gov/crime/cjsc/stats/arrests>.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice. *California Sentencing Institute: A Project of the Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice*. Available at <http://casi.cjcj.org/Juvenile/Contra-Costa>.

⁶ Edgardo Cervano-Soto. *Behind Bars: The Obstacles Incarcerated Youth Face in Education*. California Pan-Ethnic Health Network. Available at <http://cpehn.org/blog/201504/behind-bars-obstacles-incarcerated-youth-face-education>.

⁷ Cost estimates obtained from Bruce Pelle, Probation Director for Contra Costa's Juvenile Hall.

and one of the highest per capita homicide rates in the country.⁸ A 2010 report by Further The Work, a Richmond-based social justice organization supporting nonprofits and philanthropies, found "Richmond's disproportionately high rates of incarceration and recidivism are both a cause and a reflection of Richmond's highly concentrated poverty, deep social stressors, and under-resourced and relatively fragmented offerings across the high-need service spectrum (prevention, intervention, diversion, and reentry)."⁹ The report goes on to describe how the city's crime rates have caused "thousands of law-abiding residents – most especially, young men of color – experience high levels of police scrutiny . . . intervention [and incarceration] . . . only to release them back into a community that is likely no better prepared to foster their success than it was when they were first incarcerated."¹⁰ Moreover, Richmond's "social service systems and local leaders, however well intended, are too often overmatched by the challenges they are asked to redress."¹¹

While the consequences of an overburdened and broken system can be detrimental to an entire community, oftentimes, the most marginalized pay the greatest cost. As is the case nationwide, young people (especially those of color) accused of crime in Contra Costa are stigmatized, labeled, punished, and removed from society. Youth incarceration is linked to many negative outcomes, including adult incarceration. Meanwhile, crime victims' needs are rarely met through criminal adjudication of those who harmed them. Indeed, victims are often overlooked, used by the system, re-traumatized during trials, and left to suffer from health problems such as post-traumatic stress as a result of their victimization and subsequent legal processes. Many times, these victims are also young people of color. The RCC process offers an alternative response to crime by creating spaces for communities to support young people in being accountable to their victims' needs in meaningful and transformative ways. This model replaces the adversarial legal system by asking communities how they would resolve harms. Rather than labeling a young person as "bad," "punishable," and "deserving of exile," the RCC process holds youth within community as they right their wrongs. Community supporters show young people they believe in them and trust their ability to

⁸ Brown, R. (2010). *A Closer Look: Issues of Violence, Incarceration & Reentry in Richmond, CA A Criminal Justice/Reentry Brief*. Further The Work, LLC.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Ibid.

make things right. This approach also shifts the locus of power away from lawyers, judges, and other state actors and, instead, places it in the communities where the harm occurred. Finally, the RCC process is intended to change the way crime victims are treated by offering them more and non-punitive options for resolving crimes while centralizing their needs.

An RCC program in Contra Costa would not only decrease incarceration and recidivism rates among youth but would also help connect them to much needed resources and services. By providing a space for community members to respectfully hold young people accountable for the harms they've caused, this program would support youth in becoming their best selves. Young people who have realized their full potential are far more likely to graduate from high school than graduate to committing more serious, violent offenses as adults.

In addition to being timely, an RCC program in Contra Costa would benefit a majority of arrested youth who would otherwise be facing serious system involvement. Of the 1,652 misdemeanor and felony youth arrests in Contra Costa in 2014, approximately 888 would have been eligible for Restorative Community Conferencing (i.e., misdemeanor assault and battery, felony property offenses such as burglary and motor vehicle theft, and violent offenses such as robbery and assault).¹² Referring such eligible cases to an RCC program would allow the city's criminal justice agencies to focus their efforts on the most serious crimes, thus maximizing the use of limited resources while improving public safety. Moreover, by supporting and acknowledging the wisdom of communities to resolve their own harms, this evidence-based, victim-oriented alternative to adjudication and incarceration for Contra Costa's youth will also help to mend strained relationships between community members (particularly those of color) and the systems designed to protect them.

SECTION III: GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The goals for this proposed project are to (1) reduce the involvement of youth (especially youth of color) in Contra Costa's juvenile justice system; (2) reduce racial and ethnic disparities in Contra Costa's juvenile justice system; (3) reduce youth recidivism in Contra Costa such that youth previously adjudicated delinquent are less likely to be arrested or adjudicated delinquent for an additional offense; (4) increase

¹² State of California Department of Justice Office of the Attorney General. *CJSC Statistics*. Available at <https://oag.ca.gov/crime/cjsc/stats/arrests>.

victim satisfaction; (5) support communities and crime victims in taking ownership over processes to address crime in a way that best meets their needs; (6) ease the pressure placed on courts, correctional facilities, and probation departments – all of which are overburdened by the number of individuals cycling through the criminal justice system each year – by reducing the drain on resources and thereby allowing criminal justice agencies to focus on providing services to those who need them most; (7) transform Contra Costa's response to youthful offending in such a way that recognizes the inherent humanity and value of all young people and supports them in realizing their full potential; and (8) establish RCC as an evidence-based practice for reducing recidivism and the number of youth of color under correctional control while producing positive outcomes for victims and communities such that it may be replicated in other California jurisdictions.

With the intention of reaching these goals, this project will allow Contra Costa to (1) divert up to 225 youth out of the juvenile justice system; (2) divert crimes for which youth of color are most often placed on probation or in juvenile hall; (2) keep nearly 100% of youth who participate in RCC – and who would have been adjudicated delinquent and subsequently incarcerated – with their family, community, and school, leading to a better life course trajectory; (3) save significant County funds as restorative justice costs only \$4,500 per youth compared to the thousands of dollars it costs to process a young person through the judicial system and place them on probation or in juvenile hall (costing a minimum of \$65,000 per year); (4) dramatically improve public safety by decreasing the recidivism rate of youth who participate in RCC by at least 20%.

SECTION IV: PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Restorative Justice

Over the last several decades the United States has amassed the largest prison population in the world alongside a criminal justice system teeming with racial and ethnic disparities.¹³ This reality persists despite falling crime rates and evidence that racial minorities do not commit more crime than White individuals. Crime victims have also expressed disappointment with justice system outcomes as many have found that

¹³ US Department of Justice. (2013). *Smart on crime: Reforming the criminal justice system for the 21st century*. Attorney General Eric Holder's remarks to American Bar Association's Annual Convention in San Francisco, CA. Retrieved from <http://www.justice.gov/sites/default/files/ag/legacy/2013/08/12/smart-on-crime.pdf>

even when convictions are secured, their needs remain unmet.¹⁴ As a result of the current system's many failures, restorative justice has grown in popularity as a viable alternative, capable of reducing recidivism and incarceration, decreasing spending on public safety, increasing community involvement, and improving victim satisfaction.

Our current criminal justice system operates by asking three guiding questions: (1) What law was broken?, (2) Who broke it?, and (3) What punishment is warranted? Restorative justice invites a fundamental shift in the way we think about and address crime. This alternative model asks: (1) Who has been harmed?, (2) What are their needs?, and (3) Whose obligation are they?¹⁵ Thus, restorative justice differs from the adversarial legal process as the latter focuses on the actions of the person who caused harm, while the former prioritizes the people and relationships harmed.

When an offense occurs, legal proceedings can often be intensive and time-consuming for the responsible party, the victim, and family and community members. By contrast, restorative practices encourage constructive responses to wrongdoing by bringing those who have harmed, their victims, and affected communities into processes that repair the harm and rebuild relationships. At its best, through face-to-face dialogue, this approach results in consensus-based plans that meet victim-identified needs in the wake of a crime.

In applications with young people, restorative justice can prevent both contact with the juvenile justice system and school expulsions and suspensions. Several restorative justice models have been shown to reduce recidivism and, when embraced as a larger-scale solution to wrongdoing, can minimize the social and fiscal costs of crime. Introduced in US cities such as Louisville, Kentucky, and Baltimore, Maryland, and in larger international contexts, restorative programs have proven immensely effective. For instance, this approach has rendered youth incarceration nearly obsolete in New Zealand.¹⁶

¹⁴ See, generally, Herman, S. (2010). *Parallel justice for victims of crime*. Washington, DC: National Center for Victims of Crime.

¹⁵ Zehr, H. (2002) *The Little Book of Restorative Justice*. Intercourse, PA: Good Books.

¹⁶ In 1988, New Zealand's government commissioned a report identifying government practices that resulted in institutionalized racism. The report confirmed Māori were over-represented in negative statistics relating to health, education, housing and unemployment, and concluded that this was the result of a "monocultural bias" favoring non-Māori culture. In response, New Zealand passed the Children, Young Persons, and Their Families Act of 1989, transforming the nation's juvenile justice system, which now relies entirely on Family Group Conferencing (FGC) to address youthful offending. FGC is a form of restorative justice whereby a young person who has offended meets with his/her family, victims, and others to talk about how they will help the young person make things right and learn from his/her mistakes. New Zealand has found that FGCs reduce recidivism, increase victim satisfaction, and promote a sense of responsibility in those who have harmed.

Restorative Community Conferencing (RCC)

The principles of restorative justice have led to the creation of a number of programs designed to address and resolve conflicts in different contexts, including crime. While restorative justice takes a number of forms, perhaps the most prominent is the Restorative Community Conferencing (RCC) approach, which, according to a 2007 international meta-analysis, is effective at reducing recidivism, among other significant benefits.¹⁷ Modeled after the New Zealand Family Group Conferencing (FGC) model, RCCs involve an organized, facilitated dialogue in which young people, with the support of family, community, and law enforcement, meet with their crime victims to create a plan to repair the harm done. It is most effective with serious crimes in which there is an identifiable victim, such as in the case of robbery, burglary, car theft, assault/battery, arson, and teen relationship violence.

There is power in the simplicity of the RCC process. When police apprehend a young person for committing a crime, rather than sending the case through traditional juvenile justice processes, the referring agency (police, probation, or district attorney) contacts a nonprofit organization trained in the RCC approach. The organization reviews the file and, if it accepts the case, the referring agency places the case in a holding pattern, neither dropping nor charging it. Next, the organization's RCC coordinator sends out letters and program brochures to the accused youth and his/her parents. The letters are followed by a phone call and a home visit to answer questions and encourage participation in the program. If the young person accepts responsibility and agrees to participate, letters and brochures are sent to the victim, again followed by phone calls and visits. No fewer than two meetings are held with both parties to determine amenability and safety and to allow youth and their victims to independently assess the harms, needs, and obligations resulting from the crime.

By agreement with the district attorney, all communications in RCC, in preparation for the RCC, and in the completion stage are confidential and cannot be used against the youth. This encourages complete honesty about the crime and its causes and effects. It also encourages the participation of some victims who would like to hold youth accountable but are unwilling to engage directly with legal systems.

Within a few weeks following preliminary meetings, the RCC takes place at a neutral location, such as the nonprofit organization's office. Through the conference, the

¹⁷ Sherman, L., & Strang, H. (2007). *Restorative justice: The evidence*. Retrieved from http://www.iirp.edu/pdf/RJ_full_report.pdf

young person, his/her victim¹⁸, supporters of both, and community members come together to discuss the crime and its causes and effects. In each RCC, all parties engage in self-reflection, firm yet supportive accountability, and apologies, all culminating in a commitment to help a young person overcome obstacles and mend social ties. During the RCC, participants produce a consensus-based plan for the young person to repair the harm done. Such a plan typically includes four objectives: to “do right” by one’s victim, family, community, and self. If the RCC participants are unable to come to agreement on the plan or the youth fails to complete the plan, the case is returned to the referring agency (e.g., police, probation, or the court).

The RCC coordinator monitors the plan during the completion stage. An agreements/case manager may also verify and assist with plan completion and coordinate services needed beyond the scope of the RCC. The program director receives the cases from the district attorney or other referring agency and provides monthly status reports to them. The plan is generally completed within three to six months, at which point the case is closed without charges ever being filed.

Evidence Base for Restorative Justice

An analysis of available data gathered since 2012 reveals that of the young people who completed Alameda County’s RCC program (which has been in operation for over seven years), 26.5% were rearrested compared with 45% of a matched sample of youth whose cases were processed through the juvenile justice system. Notably, only 11.8% of the RCC youth were subsequently adjudicated delinquent compared to 31.4% of the matched sample. Along with lower rates of re-offending, RCC offers governments the potential for significant cost savings. While the average young person arrested in Alameda costs the County \$23,000 in related probation costs per year, Alameda’s RCC program carries a lower marginal cost of approximately \$4,500 per case. In addition to reducing recidivism rates and fiscal costs, victim satisfaction for the program has remained over 98%. Moreover, roughly 50% of Alameda County’s RCC participants have been African American and 30% have been Latino. This is consistent with the program’s explicit goal of reducing racial and ethnic disparities in the County. Finally, with the program prioritizing serious offenses, 61% of the conferences have involved felony charges.

Other available research conducted both within the United States and internationally has found restorative justice is effective at reducing recidivism rates while

¹⁸ Occasionally, if the victim declines to participate directly, he or she may choose a surrogate victim.

improving victim satisfaction compared with traditional, adversarial court processes. For instance, the largest randomized experiment to date evaluating the effectiveness of restorative justice on recidivism rates in the wake of violent crimes was conducted in Australia's Canberra RISE project. The assessment determined that, over the course of four years, the frequency of arrests among individuals under the age of 30 who were assigned to restorative justice was 84% lower than the control group.¹⁹ In another study, a systematic review of programs in the United States, Australia, and the United Kingdom found restorative models decrease the risk of reoffending, especially for violent crimes.²⁰ The researchers found restorative processes also benefit victims in a number of ways, including reducing post-traumatic stress symptoms, increasing satisfaction with the resolution of their case, and lessening the desire for violent revenge. Finally, the review determined that restorative justice was more economical than conventional justice systems as it not only prevents crime but also costs less to administer.²¹

Social Innovation Financing Program: RCC in Contra Costa

Through this Social Innovation Financing project, Impact Justice will work with Contra Costa to establish a RCC juvenile diversion program that will operate as a post-arrest, pre-charge model. This approach allows for the individual accused of a crime and the respective victims and community members to reap the benefits of the restorative process without having to suffer the debilitating and direct collateral consequences associated with judicial system involvement. Moreover, a pre-charge restorative program allows the County to keep costs as low as possible by avoiding the use of court time and resources. Contra Costa anticipates that the RCC program will serve up to 100 young people per year (starting with at least 50 youth in the first year, 75 in the second year, and 100 in the third year) and will reduce youth recidivism rates by a minimum of 20%.

The Richmond Police Department and Contra Costa District Attorney's Office will act as referring agencies, having the option to refer juvenile cases to RCC. The Contra

¹⁹ Sherman, L.W. & Strang, H. (2007) *Restorative Justice: The Evidence*. The Smith Institute, 68.

²⁰ Strang, H., Sherman, L., W., Mayo-Wilson, E., Woods, D., & Ariel, B. (2013). Restorative justice conferencing (RJC) using face-to-face meetings of offenders and victims: Effects on offender recidivism and victim satisfaction. A systematic review. *Campbell Systematic Review*, 9(12), 1–59. See also Sherman, L., & Strang, H. (2007). *Restorative justice: The evidence*. Retrieved from http://www.iirp.edu/pdf/RJ_full_report.pdf

²¹ Ibid.

Costa Probation Department also plans to begin referring cases to RCC once their staff has the capacity to do so. Having three sources for case referrals will allow for a larger number of youth to be diverted to RCC since the decision to divert will not rest with a sole entity. Eligibility for enrollment in Contra Costa's RCC program will be open to youth who have been arrested for high-level misdemeanors and low-level felonies in which there is an identifiable victim (e.g., assault/battery, robbery, arson, car theft, teen dating violence, and burglary) and the responsible youth would otherwise be exposed to significant contact with the juvenile justice system.

The program will be housed at the RYSE Youth Center ("RYSE") in Richmond. RYSE provides programming in the areas of community health; education and career; media, arts, and culture; youth leadership; and youth justice. RYSE was born out of a youth organizing movement initiated in 2000 in response to a string of homicides amongst young people near Richmond High School that galvanized students to take action to address the violence and lack of safety at school and in the community. Students organized vigils and community forums with over 1,500 youth and community members and met and worked with local officials and stakeholders on a comprehensive assessment of youth-identified priorities and solutions. These efforts culminated in creation of the RYSE Youth Center, which opened its doors on October 18, 2008. Since then, RYSE has established itself as an invaluable resource for young people and has earned the support and trust of the community. The organization has partnered with other community groups, Supervisor John Gioia's office, the West Contra Costa Unified School District, and other local government agencies. RYSE's staff is skilled in working with youth; implementing restorative justice practices; has a deep understanding of the intersectionality between race, class, and sexuality; and represents the community in which the center is located. Moreover, the organization already has a memorandum of understanding with the Contra Costa County Probation Department and the Richmond Police Department to divert "low- to moderate-risk" young people charged with various offenses to RYSE's diversion program (this program does not currently use the RCC model and does not divert more serious offenses). RYSE's history, expertise with handling juvenile diversion cases, and connection with the community makes it uniquely situated to oversee Contra Costa's proposed RCC program. If the County is selected for this Social Innovation Financing project, RYSE will hire at least two new staff members to facilitate RCCs full-time.

A number of RYSE's staff have already begun to receive training in restorative justice from Impact Justice's Restorative Justice Project and will participate in Impact Justice's RCC training in the coming months. As this proposed project's lead, Impact Justice is prepared to continue providing RYSE, as well as systems partners, with the training and technical assistance needed to implement a RCC diversion program. Impact Justice, a national innovation and research center, has been working with local, state, and national government and community partners to reduce our nation's over-reliance on incarceration and address related racial and ethnic disparities. Impact Justice's Restorative Justice Project leads the nation's efforts to institutionalize restorative justice alternatives to juvenile and adult incarceration and zero-tolerance school discipline policies across the United States. The Restorative Justice Project successfully implemented the restorative juvenile diversion program in Alameda County that currently keeps up to 100 youth out of the juvenile justice system each year. The Restorative Justice Project has also assisted San Francisco, Long Beach, and San Diego in replicating this model. As this proposed project's lead, the Restorative Justice Project is more than prepared to provide the technical assistance and training necessary to support Contra Costa in implementing a pre-charge, RCC diversion program.

Furthermore, the Restorative Justice Project has already begun to gauge community interest in this model. For instance, in 2015 the Restorative Justice Project met with a number of Contra Costa community members including representatives from RYSE, Urban Strategies Council, Further The Work, and Catholic Charities to discuss the possibility of establishing a restorative diversion program in Richmond. The meeting participants were not only open to such an approach but were also excited to explore how they could get involved. The continued support and wisdom of these community members will help improve the level of community-based services available to young people during their plan completion phase.

SECTION V: CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS

All of the necessary community, criminal justice system, and third-party partners have indicated their support for and willingness to participate in a pre-charge, Restorative Community Conferencing juvenile diversion program for Contra Costa. For instance, as indicated in their attached letter of commitment, the proposed service provider, the RYSE Youth Center, has agreed to take on the role of operating the

Restorative Community Conferencing program. To this end, RYSE will hire additional staff members to act as the full-time RCC facilitators for this program. These facilitators will receive youth cases referred from the Richmond Police Department, Contra Costa Probation Department, and District Attorney's Office. Once the facilitators receive a case, they will meet individually with the young person who caused the harm, his or her family and supporters, the victim(s), and the victim's supporters in order to prepare all participants for the RCC. The facilitators will then arrange and mediate the conference and oversee the youth's completion of the agreed upon reparative plan. These RYSE facilitators will also keep the referring agency (i.e., police, probation, or the district attorney's office) abreast of the young person's progress and notify them once he or she completes the plan. The Richmond Police Department, Contra Costa Probation Department, and Contra Costa District Attorney's Office have all submitted letters of commitment indicating their enthusiasm to participate in this project.

While RYSE is conducting the RCCs, the City University of New York's Institute for State and Local Governance (ISLG), the proposed project's evaluator, will collect data from RYSE and systems partners (i.e., the Richmond Police Department, probation, and the district attorney's office) over the course of the project's five-year term to evaluate the effectiveness of the program. Specifically, the ISLG will compare outcomes for youth who participated in RCC to a matched sample of youth whose cases were processed through the regular juvenile justice system. The ISLG has expressed a willingness to complete this evaluation as indicated in its letter of commitment.

The identified consortium of investors (the Irvine Foundation, Nonprofit Finance Fund, California Organized Investment Network, and California Endowment) have also indicated they are prepared to consider investing in this proposed project provided Contra Costa is selected as a BSCC Social Innovation Financing grant recipient. Such an investment will fund this project's implementation and evaluation and will be repaid at the end of the project's term provided the RCC program is successful (that is, provided the program successfully achieves a 20% lower recidivism rate for youth who complete the RCC process). In addition to this group of investors, Impact Justice has been in communication with the Open Philanthropy Project, Langeloth Foundation, and Laura and John Arnold Foundation about investing in this program. Impact Justice is looking forward to continuing conversations and securing agreements with some or all of these investors if Contra Costa is chosen as a BSCC grantee.

As the proposed project's lead, Impact Justice will train relevant RYSE staff in RCC and provide ongoing, bi-monthly (twice a month) technical assistance and support to the organization. Impact Justice will also train systems partners in diverting youth cases to RCC, work with the district attorney to develop a Memorandum Of Understanding protecting the confidentiality of communications made during the RCC process, and support each referring agency in gradually expanding the number and types of cases they divert to RCC. Furthermore, Impact Justice will convene biannual meetings with RYSE and representatives from the Richmond Police Department, Contra Costa Probation Department, and Contra Costa District Attorney's Office to discuss the program's progress, address concerns, build inter-agency relationships, and attend to any other issues as they may arise.

Securing the Board of Supervisor's Support For This Proposal

As previously stated, all of the necessary community, systems, and third-party partners have indicated their support for and willingness to participate in this project. Nonetheless, as a result of a Contra Costa County policy requiring the Board of Supervisors to secure a majority vote prior to formally endorsing a grant proposal, Impact Justice was unable to secure the Chair of the Board of Supervisors' signature in time for the February 1, 2016 due date. Nonetheless, Impact Justice has met with two of the five Board members: District I Supervisor John Gioia whom has expressed excitement for the implementation of a pre-charge, Restorative Community Conferencing juvenile diversion program in the County and District II Supervisor, and Board Chair, Candace Andersen. Impact Justice hopes to work with Supervisor Andersen and Supervisor Gioia's staff to address the full Board of Supervisors at an upcoming, Board meeting and secure the requisite number of votes in favor of this project as soon as possible.

SECTION VII: EVALUATION

The City University of New York's Institute for State and Local Governance (ISLG) will act as the evaluator for this proposed project (as indicated in their attached letter of commitment). The ISLG assists current and future leaders in government and non-government organizations, nationally and internationally, by offering research, technical assistance, and executive development to help achieve improvements in the structure, financing, delivery, measurement, and evaluation of critical public services. The organization's staff is particularly skilled in collecting and analyzing data, designing

and implementing impact evaluations, developing and using performance indicators, building rigorous evaluations into plans for new programs, and completing both process and outcome studies. Among its many areas of focus, the ISLG is experienced in working with criminal justice systems. For instance, the Institute's current projects include the MacArthur Foundation's Safety and Justice Challenge, the Criminal Justice Investment Initiative, the NYC Task Force on Behavioral Health and the Criminal Justice System, and feasibility assessments of Pay for Success projects for juvenile justice interventions.

During this proposed project's pre-implementation phase (or "ramp-up" period), the ISLG will work with RYSE, the Richmond Police Department, Contra Costa Probation Department, and Contra Costa District Attorney's Office to develop mechanisms through which the ISLG will collect data from each agency. Once the program begins, the ISLG will identify a control group using "propensity score matching." To that end, the ISLG will match each of the youth who participates in the RCC diversion program with a youth who is adjudicated through the regular court process. Each pair will be matched by gender, race, birth date, offense, zip code, and number of prior offenses. Data on new offenses, petitions filed and sustained, and dispositions for all youth in the two cohorts will be compared as part of the analysis. This will enable the ISLG to compare young people who enroll in RCC with very similar youth who were processed through the juvenile justice system to understand their different trajectories. The primary question in the comparison of the RCC youth with those who are processed through the court system will be whether the RCC youth commit fewer, more, or the same number of new offenses as those who were court adjudicated. After collecting data on RCC youth and court adjudicated youth during the first three years of the proposed project, the ISLG will use the remaining two years to continue tracking the young people in both cohorts. If by the end of the five-year project term, the ISLG determines that the RCC youth have demonstrated a recidivism rate at least 20% lower than the court adjudicated youth, the ISLG will declare Contra Costa's RCC juvenile diversion program to be a success.

As an independent evaluator with no proprietary, monetary, or other personal interest in the success or failure of this project, the ISLG will be impartial in evaluating this proposed program and determining whether the performance target has been achieved. In order to further safeguard the objectivity of its evaluation, the ISLG will not share collected data or program participants' identifying information with Impact Justice,

the service provider, or any systems partners. In fact, the ISLG will primarily communicate with Impact Justice, the service provider, and systems partners in order to discuss ways in which to improve the ISLG's data collection methods. Moreover, the ISLG will maintain its own secure database and will not allow any third parties access to its contents. Finally, the ISLG will be compensated for its services on a regular basis and such payments will not be contingent upon the ISLG producing a positive evaluation of Contra Costa's RCC diversion program.

SECTION VII (a): BUDGET NARRATIVE

Counties typically spend thousands of dollars each year to keep a youth on probation or in juvenile hall. For instance, Alameda County spends an average of \$23,000 annually on related probation costs per young person. This estimate does not include other expenses incurred such as the costs associated with the public defender and district attorney's offices as well as court and police resources post-arrest. In contrast, Restorative Community Conferencing programs carry a lower marginal cost of approximately \$4,500 per case. Moreover, with their significantly lower recidivism rates, RCCs save counties additional money by reducing the likelihood that a youth who participates in the program will commit future offenses. Furthermore, RCC participation helps to alleviate symptoms of post-traumatic stress associated with victimization, thereby allowing victims to return to work and other day-to-day responsibilities faster than if their case was processed through the current criminal justice system.

The total cost for this proposed project will be \$2,539,633. The County will match 100% of the requested grant funds by committing \$1,270,198 in both cash and in-kind contributions. Impact Justice will work closely with the County to raise the capital necessary to fund this match (See the Professional Services Narrative under Section VII(b)3). Investors will pay for all programmatic costs excluding the 10% indirect costs and in-kind matches, and will be paid back in full with a 2% return on their investment upon the successful completion of the project.

SECTION VII (b): PROPOSED BUDGET

BUDGET TABLES: The following does not count toward the total of 20 pages allowed for narrative. Complete the following tables, **using whole numbers**, for the grant funds being requested for the grant period (May 1, 2016 to October 31, 2019).

Applicants must provide a minimum **100 percent (100%) match**; of the grant funds requested. Matching funds may be met through cash, in-kind, or a combination of both.

All funds shall be used consistent with the requirements of the BSCC Grant Administration and Audit Guide, July 2012 (<http://www.bscc.ca.gov/resources>).

BSCC FUNDING
Total Amount of Grant Funding Requested From BSCC: \$1,269,166 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Amount of BSCC Grant Funds To Be Allocated For Operational Costs (cannot exceed more that 10% of grant funds requested): \$120,000Amount BSCC Grant Funds To Be Allocated For Repayment To Investors: \$1,149,166

CASH MATCH
Source(s) : Contra Costa County (Pending County approval)
Total Amount of Cash Match: \$897,968 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Cash Match To Be Allocated For Operational Costs: \$0Cash Match To Be Used For Repayment To Investors: \$897,968* *Includes 2% ROI for Investors

IN-KIND MATCH
Source(s): Contra Costa County (Pending County approval)
Total Amount of In-Kind Match: \$372,500 <ul style="list-style-type: none">In-Kind Cash Match To Be Allocated For Operational Costs: \$0In-Kind Cash Match To Be Allocated For Repayment To Investors: \$0

INVESTOR FUNDING
Source(s) and amounts: Identified investor pool and other potential investors
Total Amount Requested from Investors: \$2,006,993*
*Will receive \$2,047,133 in return (2% ROI)

Use the information above to complete the table on the following page.
Please verify the accuracy of the total funds requested and total match amounts
because columns and rows do not auto-calculate.

**OPERATIONAL COSTS OF PFS GRANT PROGRAM FOR THE
THREE-YEAR PROJECT PERIOD**

While recognizing agencies may use different line items in the budget process, the line items below represent how the BSCC will require grantees to report expenditures. Match funds may be expended in any line item, and must be identified as to their respective dollar amounts and source of the match. The 'Other' category funds should be budgeted for travel purposes for one mandatory grantee briefing meeting (*to be held in Sacramento, date TBA*) as well as other proposed travel. Applicants projecting to utilize grant funds for Indirect Costs may not use more than 10 percent of the state grant funds for this line item.

PROPOSED BUDGET LINE ITEMS	INVESTOR FUNDS	CASH MATCH	IN-KIND MATCH	GRANT FUNDS Administrative Purposes (10%)	TOTAL
1. Salaries and Benefits	\$0	\$0	\$200,000	\$0	\$200,000
2. Services and Supplies	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
3. Professional Services	\$692,493	\$225,753	\$0	\$466,741	\$692,493
4. Community-Based Organization (CBO)	\$1,012,500	\$330,075	\$0	\$682,425	\$1,012,500
5. Indirect Costs	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$120,000	\$120,000
6. Fixed	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
7. Data Collection	\$0	\$0	\$172,500	\$0	\$172,500
8. Program Evaluation	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$0	\$0	\$300,000
10. Other (eg. travel)	\$2,000	\$42,140	\$0	\$0	\$42,140
TOTAL	\$2,006,993	\$897,698	\$372,500	\$1,269,166	\$2,539,633

The proposal must provide sufficient detail in each category below (subsections 1 - 9) regarding how state grant and match funds will be expended to implement and operate the proposed project as identified in the Budget Table (above). The proposal must provide justification that the amount of funding supporting the project is reasonable and appropriate given the proposed project's design and scope, and describe other funding streams that may be used to support the proposed project.

1. SALARIES AND BENEFITS (e.g., number of staff, classification/title, salary and benefits)

Investor Funds: \$ 0

Requested Grant Funds: \$0

Matching Funds: \$ 200,000

Narrative: Under this proposal, Contra Costa County will supply an in-kind match contribution in the form of \$200,000 of county employees' time over the course of the

project term. Specifically, the County will work to authorize the equivalent of \$20,000 each year from both the Contra Costa District Attorney's office and Richmond Police Department to provide a 20% FTE to coordinate and manage this project. This in-kind match will allow the County to reduce their cash match while providing essential personnel for the completion of this project.

2. SERVICES AND SUPPLIES (e.g., office supplies and training costs)

Investor Funds: \$ 0

Requested Grant Funds: \$ 0

Matching Funds: \$ 0

Narrative: This proposal does not allocate any funds for services or supplies.

3. PROFESSIONAL SERVICES: (e.g., consultative services - include name of consultants or providers)

Investor Funds: \$ 692,493

Requested Grant Funds: \$ 466,741

Matching Funds: \$225,753

Narrative: Impact Justice will provide a variety of professional services for this proposed project. These services fall into three main categories:

- a) **Project lead:** As the project lead, Impact Justice staff will help to manage and organize the activities of the involved systems and community partners to ensure project tasks and activities progress in a coordinated, timely, and efficient fashion.
- b) **Restorative Justice and Restorative Community Conferencing (RCC)**
Expert: Impact Justice's Restorative Justice Project has unique expertise in the use and implementation of restorative justice and the Restorative Community Conferencing model, which will be fundamental to this project. Impact Justice will provide training, technical assistance, and on-going support to the program service provider (RYSE) and county staff to ensure the successful implementation of the project.
- c) **Investor Capital Consultant:** Impact Justice has a strong track record of raising investor capital for projects similar to this proposal. Impact Justice staff will consult with Contra Costa County to assist in attracting the required capital to fund the County's required match.

This budget includes funding for five Impact Justice personnel to assist with the project implementation over the course of the project term. The Proposed Budget Attachment

shows a breakdown of Impact Justice staff salaries and FTE allocations for this proposal. The detailed budget shows the percent full-time equivalent various IJ staff will be expected to work on this project, based on a 2,080-hour year. Hourly rates are based on standard consulting rates with a 3% per year inflation escalator. It is expected that Impact Justice staff will spend a significant amount of time during the first year to launch the project and will taper off as the project gets underway, begins to become self-sustaining, and other project parties take on larger roles.

4. COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION CONTRACTS (e.g., detail of services - provide name of CBO)

Investor Funds: \$ 1,012,500

Requested Grant Funds: \$ 682,425

Matching Funds: \$330,075

Narrative: The community-based organization, RYSE, will be responsible for implementing and managing the day-to-day operations of the RCC program. RYSE has provided a cost estimate of \$4,500 per youth for this program. The proposed budget expects an escalation of clients each year for the first three years, going from 50 in the first year, to 75 in the second year, and 100 in the third year. This proposal does not allocate any funds for RYSE in the 4th and 5th years. The expectation is that those years will be focused on program evaluation and the cost savings and success of this project will be sufficiently evident by then that the county or other government entity will take over funding for the RCC program to continue operating.

5. INDIRECT COSTS: Indicate percentage and methodology for calculation. In the “Grant Funds” column of the previous table, this total may not exceed 10% of the total funds requested. In the “Match Funds” column of the previous table, agencies may expend up to their Indirect Cost Rate (over and above 10%) for match funds supported by state or local dollars.

Investor Funds: \$ 0

Requested Grant Funds: \$ 120,000

Matching Funds: \$ 0

Narrative: Approximately 9.4% of grant funds are allocated for administrative indirect costs, which are expected to be highest in the first year as the project ramps up to full capacity and will be much lower in the remaining 4 years. These funds will be used exclusively for administrative costs associated with implementing and managing this project. Although there is no direct match of these funds from the County, this proposal

allocates other costs to the County to make up for the difference such that the County ultimately matches slightly more than 100% of the grant funds.

6. FIXED ASSETS / EQUIPMENT (e.g., computers, other office equipment necessary to perform project activities)

Investor Funds: \$ 0

Requested Grant Funds: \$ 0

Matching Funds: \$ 0

Narrative: This proposal does not call for the use of any fixed assets or equipment.

7. DATA COLLECTION (e.g., programming services, data analysis)

Investor Funds: \$ 0

Requested Grant Funds: \$ 0

Matching Funds: \$ 172,500

Narrative: This proposal allocates \$172,500 over the 5 years of the project for data collection. The proposed budget assumes that Contra Costa will provide a mid-to-senior-level data / IT expert to collect and compile data for the program evaluator. As this employee would likely be a county employee, this budget item is considered an in-kind match and is thus not included in investor funds.

8. PROGRAM EVALUATION (e.g., evaluator, materials)

Investor Funds: \$ 300,000

Requested Grant Funds: \$ 0

Matching Funds: \$ 300,000

Narrative: The City University of New York's Institute for State and Local Governance has signed a letter of support agreeing to the proposed budget and committing to working on the evaluation of this program. We have allocated \$75,000 in the first two years for project ramp-up and \$50,000 each year thereafter.

9. OTHER (e.g., travel expenses)

Investor Funds: \$ 2,000

Requested Grant Funds: \$ 0

Matching Funds: \$ 42,140

Narrative: Our budget allocates \$2,000 for travel, assuming 14 trips of approximately 50 miles each (round trip) per year. Assuming the Federal reimbursement rate of \$0.57 per

mile, this works out to about \$400/year for travel. In addition, the 2% return rate for investors is included in the county's matching funds.

SECTION VIII: ADMINISTRATIVE WORKPLAN AND TIMELINE

Provide an administrative plan with timeline for the major activities to be accomplished or obstacles to be cleared in order to achieve the five-year funded project (e.g., recruiting, selecting staff and/or contracting with an expert consultant or provider, analyzing data, conducting training sessions, development of project evaluation, determining sustainability plan/funding, etc.). Detail critical implementation activities occurring in Year 1 of the project. The following table is not included in the 20 page narrative limit.

Activity	Timeframe
Pre-implementation / “Ramp-up” Period	
Finalize contracts with the investor(s) and evaluator (the CUNY Institute for State and Local Governance (ISLG))	May 2016 – June 2016
RYSE will hire at least two new staff members who will be the full-time, designated RCC facilitators for this project	May 2016 – June 2016
Impact Justice will train RYSE’s new staff members in restorative justice and Restorative Community Conferencing	July 2016
Impact Justice will meet with the Contra Costa District Attorney to establish a Memorandum of Understanding providing that no statements made in preparation for or during the RCC process can be used against participants in future court proceedings	July 2016
The ISLG will meet individually with the Contra Costa Probation Department, District Attorney’s Office, Richmond Police Department, and RYSE to develop a plan for collecting data from each entity	July 2016 – September 2016
Impact Justice will meet individually with the Contra Costa Probation Department, District Attorney’s Office, and Richmond Police Department to identify the types of youth cases each agency will divert to RCC	August 2016
Impact Justice will meet individually with the Contra Costa Probation Department, District Attorney’s Office, and Richmond Police Department to train relevant staff in diverting youth cases to RCC	August 2016 – September 2016
Project Implementation Period	
The Contra Costa Probation Department, District Attorney’s Office, and Richmond Police Department will all begin diverting the agreed upon youth cases to RYSE’s RCC program (collectively sending a minimum of 50 cases by September 2017)	October 2016

The ISLG will begin collecting data on RYSE's RCC program participants and on a matched sample of youth whose cases are not diverted to RCC	October 2016 – October 2019
Impact Justice will conduct bi-monthly check-in calls / meetings (twice a month) with relevant RYSE staff to discuss the program's progress, troubleshoot issues as they arise, and provide additional technical support as needed	October 2016 – October 2019
All community and systems partners (i.e., RYSE, the ISLG, Impact Justice, and representatives from the probation department, district attorney's office, and Richmond police department) will meet to discuss the RCC program, issues that have arisen, and opportunities to expand the number and/or types of cases diverted to RYSE's RCC program	April 2017
The Contra Costa Probation Department, District Attorney's Office, and Richmond Police Department will expand the number of youth cases diverted to RYSE's RCC program (collectively sending a minimum of 75 cases by September 2018)	October 2017
All community and systems partners will meet to discuss the RCC program, issues that have arisen, and opportunities to expand the number and/or types of cases diverted to RYSE's RCC program	October 2017
All community and systems partners will meet to discuss the RCC program, issues that have arisen, and opportunities to expand the number and/or types of cases diverted to RYSE's RCC program	April 2018
The Contra Costa Probation Department, District Attorney's Office, and Richmond Police Department will expand the number of youth cases diverted to RYSE's RCC program (collectively sending a minimum of 100 cases by September 2019)	October 2018
All community and systems partners will meet to discuss the RCC program, issues that have arisen, and opportunities to expand the number and/or types of cases diverted to RYSE's RCC program	October 2018
All community and systems partners will meet to discuss the RCC program, issues that have arisen, and opportunities to expand the number and/or types of cases diverted to RYSE's RCC program	April 2019

The evaluator (the ISLG) will stop collecting data on new youth cases sent to RYSE's RCC program and will, instead, continue to track the recidivism rates for the cohort of youth who participated in RCC (from October 2016 through September 2019) and the matched sample of youth whose cases were processed through the regular juvenile justice system during the same time period	October 2019 – September 2021
The ISLG will finalize the evaluation of RYSE's RCC program and will determine if the program achieved the agreed upon reduction in recidivism (at least 20%) for the youth who participated in the program	October 2021



January 29, 2016

Board of State and Community Corrections
Corrections Planning and Programs Division
2590 Ventura Oaks Way, Suite 200
Sacramento, CA 95833
Attn: Colleen Stoner, Field Representative

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Stephanie Medley and I am the Youth Justice Director at the RYSE Youth Center in Richmond, California. I am writing to express our organization's eagerness to establish a Restorative Community Conferencing program in Contra Costa under the BSCC's Social Innovation Financing program. RYSE is a "by-youth, for-youth" center offering a range of activities, programs, and classes for young people including media arts, health education, employment and educational support, and youth justice services. RYSE is a collaborative project of youth, community groups, Board of Supervisor John Gioia's office, the City of Richmond, the West Contra Costa Unified School District, and other government agencies. In the youth justice context, RYSE offers programming that strengthens young people's ability to successfully navigate the Juvenile Justice System and supports them in being advocates for change. RYSE's Youth Justice Department currently has an MOU with the Richmond Police Department and Contra Costa Probation Department to divert low-level juvenile cases to our organization's 8-week program focused on positive ways to cope with stress, non-defensive communication, and education and career support. If Contra Costa is selected as a Social Innovation Financing Program grant recipient, we will be able to serve a greater number of the county's youth through an innovative RCC program.

A number of our staff have already participated in Impact Justice's restorative justice training and is preparing to participate in their Restorative Community Conferencing training in the coming months. It is with great hope for our county's youth that we ask the BSCC to select Contra Costa for this pay for success grant project.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Medley
Youth Justice Director at the RYSE Youth Center

Probation Department
Administrative Offices

50 Douglas Drive, Suite 201
Martinez, California 94553-8500
(925) 313-4180
FAX (925) 313-4191

Contra
Costa
County



Philip F. Kader
County Probation Officer

Board of State and Community Corrections
Corrections Planning and Programs Division
2590 Ventura Oaks Way, Suite 200
Sacramento, CA 95833
Attn: Colleen Stoner, Field Representative

January 13, 2016

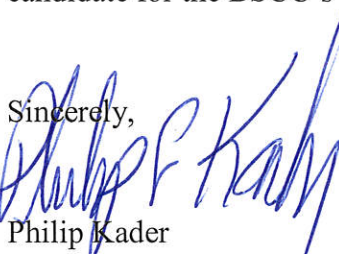
To Whom It May Concern:

As Contra Costa County's Chief Probation Officer, I am writing to express my support for the successful implementation of a restorative juvenile diversion program in our County. The mission of our office is to improve public safety by providing evidence-based prevention, investigation, and supervision services. I believe Restorative Community Conferencing (RCC) is consistent with this mission as it is an evidence-based model effective at reducing recidivism, thereby increasing public safety while preventing "at-risk" youth from becoming ensnared in the school-to-prison pipeline.

I am also excited by the prospect of the RYSE Youth Center implementing a pre-charge, RCC diversion program as Contra Costa's Social Innovation Financing project. Our department has partnered with RYSE in other juvenile diversion contexts and has been very impressed by their expertise and proficiency in serving young people. Moreover, I am familiar with Impact Justice's work and believe in their ability to provide the training and technical assistance necessary for our county to turn this project into a successful pay for success program.

In light of the dedication and expertise of our community and systems partners, I am confident Restorative Community Conferencing in Contra Costa will be a successful program. I believe they are an excellent candidate for the BSCC's Social Innovation Financing Program.

Sincerely,


Philip Kader
Chief Probation Officer
Contra Costa County



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

Mark A. Peterson
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

January 22, 2016

Board of State and Community Corrections
Corrections Planning and Programs Division
2590 Ventura Oaks Way, Suite 200
Sacramento, CA 95833
Attn: Colleen Stoner, Field Representative

To Whom It May Concern:

As the District Attorney for Contra Costa County, I am writing to express my support for and willingness to participate in the BSCC's Social Innovation Financing program to establish a pre-charge, restorative juvenile diversion program in our jurisdiction in collaboration with Impact Justice, RYSE, and the Richmond Police Department. Our office is committed to seeking justice, enhancing public safety, and working to prevent crime.

We believe Restorative Community Conferencing is capable of forwarding these goals by attending to crime victim's needs, holding youth accountable for harms they cause, and reducing the likelihood that those young people will commit future offenses. We have a growing interest in utilizing this type of approach, greatly anticipate expanding its use in our communities, and see this Social Innovation Financing program as an excellent pilot project.

In addition to being supportive of the RCC model, we also have faith in the ability of the community-based organization (RYSE) to run this proposed program as they have experience working with youth and implementing juvenile diversion programs.

We hope you will strongly consider selecting Contra Costa County as one of the Social Innovation Financing Program grant recipients as our community could benefit greatly from this recidivism reduction model. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (925)-957-2218.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark Peterson", is written over the word "Sincerely,".

Mark Peterson
Contra Costa County District Attorney

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE

City of
Richmond

January 19, 2016

Board of State and Community Corrections
Corrections Planning and Programs Division
2590 Ventura Oaks Way, Suite 200
Sacramento, CA 95833
Attn: Colleen Stoner, Field Representative

To Whom It May Concern:

As interim Chief of Police for the city of Richmond, I would like to express my excitement for and willingness to participate in a Contra Costa Restorative Community Conferencing juvenile diversion program as one of the BSCC's Social Innovation Financing projects. Richmond has struggled for decades with crime and other problems typical of many urban areas. Although much of the violence in our city is concentrated in relatively small areas, its impact is felt city-wide, leaving residents in every neighborhood desiring a safer community. I believe restorative justice offers an opportunity for us to address some of those concerns by utilizing proven methods to reduce youth crime while centralizing victims' needs.

In addition to believing in the RCC model, our department has had a positive and lasting relationship with the RYSE Youth Center, which is slated to run the county's RCC program. Our former Chief of Police, Christopher Magnus, worked closely with RYSE to develop a juvenile diversion program for lower-level offenses. This program has since flourished under RYSE's leadership. We are confident an RCC diversion program for more serious crimes will be equally as successful, if not more so. We also welcome the assistance of this proposed project's intermediary, Impact Justice, which has years of experience partnering with community-based organizations and systems partners to replicate RCC juvenile diversion programs.

We hope you will select Contra Costa as one of your Social Innovation Financing Program grant recipients as our community could greatly benefit from an RCC approach to addressing youth crime.

Sincerely,

Allwyn Brown
Chief of Police



CUNY INSTITUTE FOR STATE & LOCAL GOVERNANCE

Michael Jacobson
CUNY Institute for State and Local Governance
10 East 34th St., 5th Floor
New York, NY 10016

January 27, 2016

Board of State and Community Corrections
Corrections Planning and Programs Division
2590 Ventura Oaks Way, Suite 200
Sacramento, CA 95833
Attn: Colleen Stoner, Field Representative

Dear Board of State and Community Corrections,

As the Executive Director of the City University of New York's Institute for State and Local Governance (ISLG), I am writing to express our willingness to participate in the Board of State and Community Corrections' Social Innovation Financing program as the evaluator for Contra Costa's Restorative Community Conferencing project. ISLG assists current and future leaders in government and non-government organizations, nationally and internationally, by offering research, technical assistance, and executive development to help achieve improvements in the structure, financing, delivery, measurement, and evaluation of critical public services. Our organization is experienced in working with juvenile diversion and other innovative criminal justice programs, as well as collecting and comparing data from treatment groups and matched samples of individuals to produce rigorous program assessments. As the evaluator for Contra Costa's proposed Social Impact Financing program, we will work closely with the County's community and systems partners to provide an unbiased evaluation of the program's effectiveness at reducing youth recidivism. In large part, this will be accomplished through comparison of the rate at which youth who participate in Restorative Community Conferencing are rearrested and subsequently adjudicated delinquent to the rate for those who do not. For additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 646-664-3481 or Michael.Jacobson@islg.cuny.edu.

Sincerely,

Michael Jacobson
Executive Director
CUNY Institute for State and Local Governance



George Gascón
District Attorney

January 29, 2016

Board of State and Community Corrections
Corrections Planning and Programs Division
2590 Ventura Oaks Way, Suite 200
Sacramento, CA 95833
Attn: Colleen Stoner, Field Representative

To Whom It May Concern:

As District Attorney for the City and County of San Francisco, I am writing to encourage the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) to select Contra Costa County as a Social Innovation Financing program grant recipient to increase the number of California counties establishing pre-charge, Restorative Community Conferencing (RCC) juvenile diversion programs.

Since 2013, my office has been using RCC for a range of juvenile felony offenses. Our program, called Make it Right, is based on the Alameda County RCC program and the work of the Restorative Justice Project and tailored to the needs and resources of San Francisco. My office views RCC as a true alternative to prosecuting cases, and has committed to using it for specific categories of offenses that have deep impact on victims and communities. While we are still in our pilot and evaluation stage, I believe that RCC offers a meaningful alternative to our traditional juvenile justice system, with the promise of better outcomes for both our young people and those who are impacted by their behavior.

I have been extremely satisfied with the RCC process and believe it has been a groundbreaking and effective approach to addressing youth crime in our county. I trust this model will be equally successful in Contra Costa as a BSCC Social Innovation Financing program.

Sincerely,



George Gascón
District Attorney