

# Scaling Restorative Community Conferencing Through a Pay for Success Model

## Highlights

### Overview

In December 2013, The California Endowment funded the National Council on Crime and Delinquency (NCCD) and Third Sector Capital Partners, Inc. (Third Sector) to conduct a feasibility study on restorative community conferencing (RCC) to better understand its potential to be used in a Pay for Success (PFS) project. RCC shows promise as an intervention that could be scaled through PFS given its preventive focus and the promising initial outcomes of youth served through RCC.

- NCCD and Third Sector focused their feasibility analysis on Alameda County, California, where the Community Works West RCC Intervention currently serves 75 youth annually.
- An analysis of available data gathered since 2012 has revealed that of the young people

who completed the Community Works West RCC Program, 26.5% were rearrested, compared with 45.0% of a matched sample of youth whose cases were processed through the juvenile justice system.

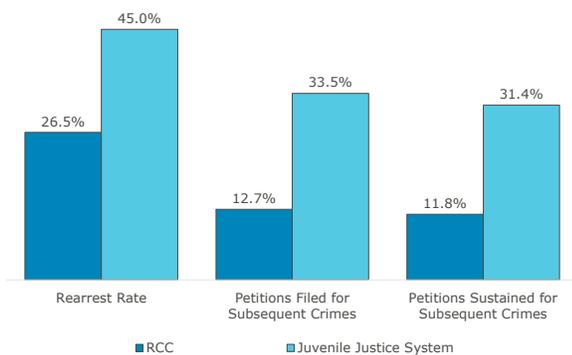
- Notably, only 11.8% of the RCC youth were subsequently adjudicated delinquent—that is, determined by the court to have committed another delinquent act—compared with 31.4% of the matched sample of youth whose cases were processed through the juvenile justice system.
- This program carries significant cost-saving potential, as these lower rates of reoffending combine with a one-time cost of \$4,500 for an RCC intervention versus \$23,000 per year for a youth on probation.



## Restorative Community Conferencing

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. Community Works West has been operating the RCC program in Alameda County for more than six years through positive relationships with community and criminal justice stakeholders.

**Youth Outcomes: RCC Versus Juvenile Justice System**



## Restorative Community Conferencing and Pay for Success

NCCD and Third Sector modeled a prospective five-year PFS project with RCC.

- Over three years of service delivery, the project would enroll 700 youth and avoid over 150,000 days in probation (approximately 238 days in probation per youth enrolled).
- The government payer would pay \$75 per avoided day in probation. These success payments would be capped at \$4 million. Funders would provide \$3 million in up-front

working capital in a mix of loans and grants to finance the project.

- The service provider would require about \$2.5 million in cost reimbursement, as well as an estimated \$600,000 in PFS project costs.

## Takeaways and Next Steps

Through our assessment of RCC in the context of PFS, we believe that governments should consider PFS contracting as an innovative tool to scale RCC services, although establishing RCC and scaling services need to be carefully considered. Additionally, we note the following high-level considerations for any interested stakeholders.

- Service-provider capacity building is critical for success. In order for service providers to rigorously implement RCC and scale services with fidelity in a PFS project, they need to carefully plan for expansion.
- Governments must engage with stakeholders to fully understand the potential savings and benefits of implementing RCC. While the costs and benefits detailed in the full report provide a useful proxy for interested stakeholders, each government will have its own detailed costs and priorities in regards to juvenile justice and RCC. Government engagement is key for fully understanding how RCC can benefit a community and what savings to government could be realized through a PFS project.
- All project parties must provide commitment and resources prior to PFS project construction and launch. In order to successfully develop a project, stakeholders must dedicate resources and demonstrate their commitment to the project.

### Read the Full Report

To read the full feasibility assessment report on scaling RCC using a Pay for Success model, visit [http://nccdglobal.org/sites/default/files/publication\\_pdf/rj-pfs-feasibility-report.pdf](http://nccdglobal.org/sites/default/files/publication_pdf/rj-pfs-feasibility-report.pdf).