

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PROGRAMS IN OREGON



Restorative Justice (RJ) is an approach that seeks to repair harm by responding to the needs of those who have been impacted and providing opportunities for those responsible to be part of an accountability process. Victims, survivors and community members guide a process that supports healing and safety for all.

In 2021, the Oregon legislature laid the foundation for more survivor-centered approaches to crime by creating the Criminal Justice Commission's Restorative Justice Grant Program. The \$4M investment led to the creation and expansion of eight restorative justice programs. These projects serve rural and metropolitan communities across Oregon.



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Over the last year, impressive progress has been made in program design and initial pilot cases are showing promising results. The Legislature has the opportunity this session to allocate \$4 million to these programs, which will allow these important victim-centered accountability processes to fully take root, and further expand in communities across the state.

IMPORTANT SUCCESSES

- 7 new pilot programs created (and 1 existing program expanded) to engage and serve rural and metropolitan counties in Oregon;
- implementation of evidence-based models of RJ with significant data backing their efficacy;
- dozens of successful pilot cases completed within several new programs, increased success rates within existing programs;
- cross-sector collaboration between community-based organizations, service providers and system partners to divert criminalized cases;
- significant investment into trainings, workshops, and skill-development opportunities for new program staff;
- capacity building and a dramatic increase in the number of RJ facilitators in state;
- new and growing relationships with national RJ experts;
- strong collaboration between funded programs to share important information for collective success.

WHY FUNDING MUST BE RESTORED

- to fully realize the original goals of House Bill 2204 and the Restorative Justice Grant Program;
- to further embed referral mechanisms between community service providers;
- to identify a greater number of candidates who can qualify for restorative justice programs;
- to allow staff retention and prevent costly turnover;
- to grow collaborations with experts in cognitive and behavioral sciences, diagnostic health services, and criminal law;
- to increase access to trainings, workshops, and other educational opportunities in specialized topics;
- to enhance and expand data collection within and around programs;
- to encourage community-based organizations to develop and lead restorative justice processes across Oregon