

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE



ACCOUNTABILITY THROUGH DIALOGUE

Restorative justice focuses on repairing injuries caused by criminal offenses and addressing the underlying reasons for defendants' actions. By creating a platform for defendants and victims of crime to speak to each other and determine tangible ways to repair harm done, restorative-justice-based programs increase victim satisfaction, encourage accountability, and reduce recidivism, creating safer communities.

MODEL PROGRAM: COLORADO RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PILOT PROGRAM

In 2013, Colorado State Representative Pete Lee spearheaded a successful bipartisan restorative justice bill establishing four pre-filing diversionary pilot programs for juveniles charged with certain low-level offenses. During the program, kids speak face-to-face with their victims, working out a plan of action to repair the harm done to the victim and the community.

Participants in the pilot program were overwhelmingly satisfied. A 2017 report indicated a statistically significant increase in youth accountability after completing the program, and preliminary data showed low rates of recidivism for juveniles more than one year out of the program.

TIDC funds indigent defense innovation in Texas counties.

TIDC provides funding for improving indigent defense processes and technology.

Programs that measure and ensure the quality of representation are priority areas for funding.

**MODEL PROGRAM:
TRAVIS COUNTY NEIGHBORHOOD CONFERENCE COMMITTEE**

Travis County’s Neighborhood Conference Committee (NCC) program diverts first-time juvenile misdemeanants to educational classes and support resources to address the social factors that put the child on a path to delinquency. In a conference setting, NCC staff, trained in restorative justice principles by University of Texas’s Institute for Restorative Justice and Restorative Dialogue, meet with juveniles, their parents, and a trained volunteer representing the community to develop a plan to restore justice.

Resolutions are specific to each case and consist of a combination of the following items:

- Anger Management Classes
- Community Service
- Book Reports
- Apology Letters
- Food Bank & Clothing Access
- Homework Assistance
- Tutoring Sessions
- Transportation to Classes
& Community Service

150+ juveniles per year pass through this program.

TIDC INNOVATION SERIES



For more information on restorative justice and other innovative practices, go to:

tidc.texas.gov/innovation

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512-936-6994



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