



Budget for Justice

Purpose: Budget for Justice (BfJ) is an alliance of organizations working to create alternatives to the formal justice system that are more capable of achieving safety, health, healing and reconciliation. We speak with a unified voice to increase safety and justice in our city, and call on the city to demonstrate fiscal responsibility by winding down outdated approaches to public safety that do more harm than good. BfJ aims at the 2019-2020 biennial city budget process, with the goal of making Seattle safer by disinvesting the city from punitive systems and reallocating the savings in effective community-based solutions.

2018 BfJ Members:

- Community Passageways
- Creative Justice
- Got Green
- Public Defender Association
- Not This Time
- Rainier Beach Action Coalition
- Washington Defender Association

The King County Department of Public Defense (DPD) endorses the BfJ probation and Snohomish County jail contract divestment proposals and the reinvestment portfolio. At this time DPD takes no position on renegotiating Seattle's jail contract with King County.

Overview of Divestment and Reinvestment: BfJ proposes that Seattle move \$1.7 million in 2019 and \$2.5 million in 2020 from probation and jail contracts to a network of community-based interventions that promote healing, reconciliation and public safety, including:

- Supporting marginalized survivors of violence through healing and accountability processes (Community Justice Project)
- Restorative pathways for youth and young adults (Community Passageways)
- Trauma-informed, healing-centered youth development (Creative Justice)
- Green career pathways reducing risk of incarceration (Got Green)
- Support for those who suffer loss from police use of force, and advocacy for improved police practices to reduce use of force (Not This Time)
- Build immigrant community capacity to secure alternatives to the justice system that avoid disproportionate immigration impacts (Washington Defender Association Immigration Project)

These community solutions are all now operating on a shoestring and are funded at a fraction of the rate of ineffective, punitive and harmful systems. It is time to align our stated values with funding to support promising community-based solutions rooted in restorative justice practices that are trauma-informed, human rights- and equity-based.

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DIVESTMENT STRATEGY

Summary. We ask that Seattle divest from harmful systems for which there is no research support, starting with Seattle Municipal Court probation, and renegotiate the jail contract so that the city gets full budget benefit from reducing its use of jail and prosecution as a response to issues of behavioral health and poverty. By committing to right-sizing municipal probation over a three-year period, Seattle can – with no loss in services or outcomes – free up \$1.7 million annually for re-investment in community-based supports that meaningfully improve public health, safety and order, and foster healing and reconciliation.

National movement to transfer resources from formal justice systems to community-based care. BfJ's proposals are aligned with a [broad-based national movement](#) to intentionally shift resources from the formal justice system to well-designed systems of care and support provided in the community, approaches that can be both more impactful and more cost-effective. It is difficult for resource-strapped local governments to make sufficiently robust investments in a new paradigm of community-based care if we continue, at a municipal level, to spend at current levels in the formal justice system. The resource demands of doing both at once are preclusive.

Fiscal responsibility. Fiscal responsibility in city spending is imperative to make Seattle more affordable, a particular concern for communities of color that have been strained and displaced by the rising cost of existing in our city.

Criminal justice system focus. Given the pressing human needs that the city budget clearly must respond to, we are especially focused on ending spending where there is no evidence the city service actually improves conditions or meets needs. The criminal justice system is a uniquely important area to look to for such unnecessary and counter-productive spending. Few contend that status quo criminal justice practices effectively enhance public safety and order, and most can see that those practices actively do harm. There is an extensive research base for both of these points.

Divest in the context of other measures that advance public health, order and safety, and foster community reconciliation and healing. Although the existing justice system has largely failed to advance public health, safety and healing, it is not sufficient to just end existing practices. Safety, health and healing are essential goals that require effort, innovation and investment. We are therefore not calling only for the end to harmful current practices, but also for the creation of a robust network of community-based approaches with demonstrated efficacy in the field.

Areas for Divestment in Seattle Justice System Budget. Budget for Justice is committed to working for the next several years to shrink Seattle criminal justice expenditures until we have eliminated expenditures on harmful or unhelpful practices. There are both immediate and longer-term opportunities.

Immediate Opportunities:

(1) Reduce SMC Probation to 10% of its current size in four years. Municipal probation, by definition, does not provide therapy, treatment or services to defendants. Rather, it monitors whether defendants are complying with terms of a sentence or disposition. The resources expended to monitor and report on defendants' ability or lack thereof to succeed with conditions (conditions many cannot afford to manage in time or money) aren't warranted by the effectiveness of this function. Despite the goodwill and positive approach of at least some probation officers, we are aware of no research base showing that probation contributes positively to SMC defendant outcomes. We stress that this is due, not to deficiencies in the performance of the probation department, but to the inherent limits of the probation role.

Seattle is behind the curve in the national conversation about shrinking probation as part of criminal justice reform. Seattle has yet to make any move to reduce municipal probation, the cost of which has mounted annually. Meanwhile, research support for the reduction of probation is mounting, as "[Less is More: How Reducing Probation Populations Can Improve Outcomes](#)," a Harvard Kennedy School report from 2017, indicates. In May of this year, 31 currently elected prosecutors, including Seattle City Attorney Pete Holmes and King County Prosecutor Dan Satterberg, signed a "[Statement on the Future of Community Corrections](#)," saying "we believe it is possible to *both* significantly address the footprint of probation and parole *and* improve outcomes and public safety." The group, convened by The Justice Lab at Columbia University and the Fair & Just Prosecution project, recommends re-allocating resources currently going to probation to community-based services and supports for people now under supervision. This mirrors the Budget for Justice formula for shifting justice system investments to community-based care.

Budget for Justice calls for a 30% reduction in the probation budget each of the next three years, reaching 10% of current spending by Year Four (2022). This reduction in probation capacity has already occurred in the other large local court addressing misdemeanors – King County District Court, which all but eliminated its probation department more than a decade ago. There is no evidence that outcomes for District Court misdemeanants are any worse than those in Seattle Municipal Court due to its much smaller probation unit.

The Budget for Justice call to "right-size" SMC probation is no disrespect to the individuals who presently staff the probation department. Many of those people are warm, compassionate, skilled and talented. We recognize that they have an expectation of ongoing employment, and the three year schedule for reduction takes into account the importance of finding them appropriate employment elsewhere in City departments. The problem is not the staff--it's the

institution and its role. Monitoring people struggling because they don't have access to resources to succeed is not something we can afford, fiscally or in human terms.

Further supporting the call to shrink SMC probation, some of the specialized probation work now done in SMC possibly can be consolidated with King County District Court Veterans' Court and Mental Health Court. Seattle's Veterans' Court and Mental Health Court are under-subscribed, and similar services are offered in regional courts that Seattle may be able to integrate with. The Council could request via Statement of Legislative Intent (SLI) that Seattle Municipal Court convene an inter-jurisdictional work group to explore this option.

Many individuals who in the past would have been monitored by SMC probation are now receiving clinically robust services for high needs through programs like the Vital Program funded by King County, will be supported by case management provided through the expanded LEAD program, and/or will be assisted by the 180 Program via the City Attorney's pre-filing diversion effort.

The savings generated by a 30% reduction in the SMC probation budget annually total \$1.7 million per year in 2019 and 2020. See "Court Compliance" costs in the [City Budget Book, p. 304](#). **This amount in itself is sufficient to fully fund the minimum operations needs of the Budget for Justice proposed investment strategies.**

(2) Re-negotiate jail contract with King County, and zero out budget allocation for booking Municipal Court defendants into the Snohomish County Jail.

The City of Seattle contracts with King County to house Seattle misdemeanor defendants, both pre-trial and those serving sentences or held on probation compliance warrants. The King County jail contract involves a "floor," whereby Seattle pays a fixed floor amount regardless of how few individual misdemeanants are booked by SPD. We recognize that the City Budget Office is already forecasting a \$1 million reduction in the jail budget in 2019 under 2018 levels, which we commend. See Jail Services Budget costs in the [City Budget Book, p. 509](#). Making a concerted effort to re-negotiate Seattle's contract for jail services with King County to eliminate the "floor" will allow the City to gain further savings for re-investment in the Budget for Justice portfolio of community-based alternatives, particularly as benefits are realized from the reduction in probation and continued utilization of pre-booking diversion strategies.

Sharply reducing probation, as described earlier, will reduce probation compliance warrant bookings and reduce jail utilization. Expansion of pre-booking diversion options (e.g., LEAD, which has just expanded to include theft, property destruction, trespass, obstructing and unlawful bus conduct as pre-booking diversion eligible offenses) can further reduce jail utilization substantially.

To accomplish actual savings, of course, it is necessary that Seattle fully commit to utilizing more effective pre-booking diversion strategies such as LEAD to make the least necessary use of

the jail. Fortunately, such alternatives are well-developed and are available to be used more widely.

Seattle also contracts by the unit (by the individual booked) with the Snohomish County Jail to book and hold defendants. The city should also rule out any bookings into the Snohomish County jail, which would by definition reflect over-incarceration practices. Budget for Justice commits to standing beside City of Seattle leaders in approaching King County to re-negotiate the jail contract terms.

Budget for Justice recommends zeroing out any amount budgeted for Snohomish County jail utilization in 2019-2020. Further, the Council should proviso jail spending on the condition that the Mayor seek to renegotiate the King County jail contract, removing the “floor” so that Seattle can fully realize the budget benefits of reduced bookings and jail stays for Municipal Court defendants.

Longer term:

(3) Do not add, and further reduce, judicial positions at Seattle Municipal Court (SMC). Over the past 20 years, SMC judge positions have been reduced from 12 to 7 as caseload has fallen. The reduction was due to more thoughtful City Attorney filing practices and shifts in police enforcement patterns, as awareness has increased that we can’t arrest our way out of behavioral health problems and issues of mass poverty. If filings continue to decline--which should follow from expansion of pre-booking and pre-filing diversion eligibility to include charges which represent a large percentage of the SMC caseload—Seattle may be able to further reduce the number of judicial positions without adverse impact on workload or case processing time.

Reducing judicial positions comes along with reducing support staff positions, and the savings realized are significant. There have been discussions in the past year about adding a judge position due to court congestion and the volume of cases. Instead, if existing community-based alternatives for adults (in addition to those proposed here for new investments) are used appropriately, it likely will be possible to further reduce the number of SMC positions before the next election cycle. Expansion of community-based diversion options including LEAD and the 180 Program’s pre-filing diversion work with the City Attorney are promising ways to address problematic behavior without prosecution, and to reduce the SMC workload without adverse impact on public safety.

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INVESTMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Although the existing justice system has largely failed to advance public health, safety and healing, it is not sufficient to just end existing practices. Safety, health and healing are essential goals that require effort, innovation and investment. We are therefore not calling only for the end to harmful current practices, but their replacement by a network of community-based approaches with demonstrated efficacy in the field. We are fortunate in Seattle to have some truly exceptional community solutions. These programs have well-developed methodologies and widespread community legitimacy. They respond to well-understood needs in ways that have demonstrated viability, and they promote healing, strengthen connections, and foster reconciliation. What they lack is stable, adequate funding. The table below highlights the community-based services and strategies we are asking that Seattle invest in.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Service/Strategy	Provider	Funding Sought (2019) (Minimum – Full Funding)
Supporting marginalized survivors of violence through healing and accountability processes	Community Justice Project	\$245,000 - \$518,000
Restorative pathways for youth and young adults	Community Passageways	\$400,000 - \$2.25 million
Trauma-informed, healing-centered youth development	Creative Justice	\$150,000 - \$400,000
Jobs reducing risk of criminal behavior	Got Green	\$188,000 - \$328,000
Public education and engagement for better policing and safer communities, and support for those suffering loss from police use of force	Not This Time	\$242,000 - \$549,600
Build immigrant community capacity to secure alternatives to the justice system that avoid disproportionate immigration impacts	Washington Defender Association Immigration Project	\$130,000 - \$180,000

A brief summary of each of these community solutions follows.

Recommended Strategy/Service: Restorative Pathways for Youth & Young Adults

Name of Recommender(s): Community Passageways

Description of Need

In 2016, King County held 887 youth in detention. Our current juvenile justice pipeline has a disproportionately harmful impact on youth of color that often culminates with detention. Though youth of color represent less than half of King County's youth population, in 2016 they represented 67% of all referrals, 80% of all filings, and 84% of all youth in detention. Once a referral has been made, youth of color are twice as likely to have their case filed and 29% less likely to be referred to a diversion program. The disproportionality is particularly stark for black youth, who represent just 10% of the population yet over half of all filings and over half of all days spent in detention. These disparities begin with a broader trend, that youth of color are more likely to be arrested when engaging in the same behaviors as white youth.

Even though the filings for youth occur thru King County, about 35-50% of all charges and crimes diverted to Community Passageways occur in Seattle City limits or zip codes. Both preventing entry into detention and allowing youth to access Pre-trial and Pre-filing Diversion through SB6550 will have the largest impact in Seattle communities. The Seattle City Council resolution on Zero Youth Detention can be advanced directly through enhancing Community Passageways' capacity to accept cases of youth from Seattle presently referred to Juvenile Court, identified by the King County Prosecutor or the Department of Public Defense.

African American youth are overrepresented in all dispositions for juvenile rehabilitation compared to other youth. Juvenile justice involvement is linked to poor academic performance both prior to and following court contact. This is stark comparing the Washington State class of 2015 4-year whose graduation rate was 78.1%, but just 23% of the court-involved cohort had graduated by the end of at least 5 years of follow-up. Results were worse for youth with more serious sanctions—13% of youth on probation and 16% of youth committed to JR had graduated according to the Washington State Center for Court Research.

Community Passageways addresses the root causes of the issues youth are facing within their communities, the classroom, and within the criminal justice system. We do this first by offering positive dispositions when a young person has had to take to the streets to sell drugs, steal, and commit crimes. We give them an understanding that even though those are negative actions, they have developed ways of surviving that no curriculum or college can ever teach them. We help them understand that they can also take that same wisdom, resilience, and knowledge that they have acquired surviving in the streets and adapting it to something legal and invest those skills in their community to be successful at it since they have worked so hard to survive. We also link ambassadors who have lived thru some of the same experiences as the families we serve to go into the home and address issues of basic

needs, homelessness, build parenting capacity, etc., so the young person does not continue dealing with the same environments contributing to their trauma while they are expected to change.

In 2017, Community Passageways removed at least a collective 626 months of jail time off the table for 35 felony charges by dropping or reducing them and linked all those youth to employment or education re-engagement in collaboration with the King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, King County Department of Defense, community based agencies with a shared mission of creating alternatives to incarceration in the Juvenile Justice Equity & Steering Committee, and school based partners such as South Lake where 37/85 students are homeless on average.

By continuing this approach to offer restorative pathways for juvenile justice, Community Passageways seeks to reduce intergenerational trauma and fulfill a public health approach to juvenile justice. If youth who commit crimes are receiving dispositions where less than 20% of them go on to graduate high school or be employed, then this only repeats the cycle of intergenerational trauma when court involved youth are left unable to access positive pathways or be economically secure, which reroutes them back to the criminal justice system. And only by reducing these harms and creating accountability to charges with restorative dispositions, we are able to reduce the harms done to youth who were already at risk from factors of homelessness, on reduced price lunch, and receiving special education, prior to their incarceration. With positive pathways to success, court involved youth can thrive as a generation of leaders who contribute to communities rather than engage in criminal activities as they struggle under economic burdens and intergenerational trauma.

Description of Solution

CP interrupts the school to prison pipeline by supporting youth at multiple stages which include *Prevention* with school and community-based programs, *Diversion* to provide prosecutors a powerful alternative to prosecute, *Intervention* to offer an opportunity-based model for youth with existing sentences that empowers the justice system to access community based plans that help youth build assets to avoid future justice involvement, and *Detention* with different program options to change length of stay, establish alternatives to detention or focus on youth needs for successful reentry.

CP students and families are served by community ambassadors (CAs) who grew up in the same communities as the youth they serve, allowing them to understand their strengths and challenges. This approach effectively serves the youth, but also positively impacts the community ambassadors and their families by providing gainful employment for many deemed unemployable. The community ambassadors, many of whom have had experiences with the justice system, have a long term impact in their families, not only financially, but as their children witness them going to work every day instead of falling back into the justice

system, they are empowered to choose a positive path for themselves as well.

CP integrates the cultural responsiveness of our community ambassadors and credible messengers with services that emphasize evidence and trauma informed approaches. We partner with preventative and trauma informed resources such as King County Best Starts for Kids Initiative to innovate programming such as CP-FIT (Community Passageways-Family Integrated Transitions) where community ambassadors receive 18 months of training which teach them dialectical behavioral teaching skills and other evidence informed tools to start not only working with youth that are systems involved, but we are also working with the guardians of the youth, the siblings of the youth, and even their friends.

CP realizes that just working with the youth alone is not going to get the results that we are looking which are sustainable and stick in the long term. We have to literally change and positively influence the environment of that youth. And we have to change the environment that the youth operates in, our focus is not just on curing the issues or even stabilizing that youth, but to put a focus on the family such as a single mother who is struggling and trying to raise a group of siblings in low income housing with minimal resources who feels helpless. Our CAs come into the home to work with the mom to help her with what she needs from job training to drug rehab to homelessness and basic needs such as food stamps. While we are doing that, we also work with the siblings in the school and helping them find internships and work skills or connect them with rental assistance to get them into their own apartments to have the house be less crowded. The only way we are able to succeed with this process is connecting CAs who the parent guardians and youth can relate to and in this process, we build relationships with the guardians of the youth and the peers of the youth. We have CAs that go to the schools and collaborate with the counselors and principles to keep the youth accountable to their attendance and also link the mom to come into the school to advocate for her own child. We duplicate this effort in the justice system and social service system to teach these guardians how to advocate for their child and empower them in their environment. When we re-build each of the supports influencing a court involved youth and invest in their success, the negative impacts of the system and its racially disproportionate effects can be mitigated. Kaeshon Adams is one of many young adults who successfully went through our re-entry process and felony diversion program. Kaeshon first sought out Community Passageways when he was 19 years old and facing 3 felony charges. After receiving support from our coaches through the criminal justice process, we were able to drop all 3 felonies with no jail time. Today, Kaeshon has his own two-bedroom apartment, two cars, and is in the process of starting his own business.

Specific Ask

We could absorb an investment of \$2.5 million in this action for 2019 and \$2 million in 2020, which directly translates into decarceration and stabilization for 150 justice system-involved or –exposed youth and young adults. Based on our efforts with our Best Starts for Kids partnership, about \$400,000 has allowed us to work with 45 youth by supporting three full-

time and two part-time staff positions. We would like to work with 150 youth and expand our programming through the schools, courts, and jails which necessitates about 15 community ambassadors and five operations support individuals for those ambassadors as well as including all the basics of employee benefits, rent and youth stipend costs.

For more information: Contact Dominique Davis, dom@communitypassageways.org, (206) 751-2225

Recommended Strategy/Service: Trauma-Informed, Healing-Centered Youth Development

Name of Recommender: Creative Justice

Description of Need

Despite decades of research showing that wholesale incarceration of minors is counterproductive public policy, the United States jails adolescents at a rate five times higher than the next highest nation, South Africa. Jailing youth does little to make our communities safer. Instead, we just put kids further at risk, we subject them to additional trauma, and we waste taxpayers' money. In doing so, we harm young people's well-being and dampen their future prospects and ability to thrive.

If we look at the juvenile justice system through the lens of racial equity, things get even more bleak. We know that people of color are disproportionately represented in all phases of the justice system, from initial police contact to arrest, prosecution and sentencing. Here in Seattle and King County, authorities have done much work to reduce the reliance on detention in dealing with our young people. But there are still stark racial disparities in who has benefited from the effort. Less than 10 percent of the region's youth demographic is black, yet they still make up about half of the juvenile detention population. Almost three-quarters of those incarcerated in King County are youth of color. Such racial disproportionality in a justice system failing to provide reform calls for creative dismantling.

Creative Justice builds community with the young people most impacted by the school-to-prison pipeline. Designed to empower individual and systemic transformation, CJ engages youth in social justice learning and artistic collaborations that challenge systems of oppression, helping them reimagine a society in which their liberation is not only possible, but sustainable by the community itself.

Inherent in the guiding philosophy of Creative Justice is the idea of delivering service in a trauma-informed, healing-centered framework. This type of delivery is shaped by the recognition of the ways adverse childhood experiences impact the daily lives of participants. These experiences may be direct or indirect, where the young person may be a victim of or a witness to said events, including instances of violence, death, injury or abuse. We compound the negative impact of these experiences with justice system involvement—each stage (arrest, sentencing and incarceration) a traumatic event itself. Since we know race plays a disproportionate role in determining frequency and severity of system contact, status quo is wholly unacceptable.

Staff and mentors with Creative Justice are trained and equipped to identify and address the symptoms of this trauma, using art to create a space where we can all begin to heal.

Description of Solution

Creative Justice uses art to amplify youth voices and address the root causes of youth incarceration like racism, classism, and other forms of oppression. Instead of further stigmatizing and isolating young people in crisis, CJ asks the community to rally around them, providing creative development and meaningful interactions with supportive adults and peers. But more importantly, we have asked our local government and juvenile justice system to behave differently, too: by viewing our youth with a wider lens, trusting the community to address its own needs, and celebrating the strengths and creativity of young people who are trying to navigate a complex world.

As we continue to provide dynamic artistic experiences for our young people that delve into issues of equity and justice, Creative Justice provides opportunities for local government and courts to move closer to fulfilling their pledge to reduce youth incarceration. Through our agreement with the King County Prosecuting Attorney's office, participation in Creative Justice is used as mitigation for youth at any stage of their court involvement, with benefits ranging from community service hours to full dismissal of charges. The impact of the experience, however, is much more far reaching than the court cases themselves. Participants develop authentic relationships with mentors and offer their own ideas and creativity to address the social issues that affect them. This bolsters their safety net while strengthening the protective factors that keep them healthy and safe. Building community in this way, Creative Justice offers a new vision of what justice can be, reminding the court that secure confinement is not necessary.

Creative Justice isn't just providing a youth incarceration alternative to our region or arts instruction to our youth, we are building next generation leadership through our youth board. Past program participants have opportunities to stay engaged, driving the direction of the program in paid opportunities to develop community projects, to speak on issues like gentrification, mass incarceration and the school-to-prison pipeline, and to provide training to artists, educators and the community at large on the role of arts in healing. CJ youth leaders have led workshops locally at Seattle Public Library and the King County Youth Development Coalition and the Museum of History and Industry, as well as nationally at the Open Engagement conference in Chicago. Their art has exhibited at City Hall, Gallery 4Culture, The New Foundation, UW Law School and MOHAI.

Specific Ask

Support from the City budget is essential to Creative Justice meeting the needs of our participants and community. Currently, all staff are part time contractors. Growing our staffing capacity thru additional FTE positions allows us to serve more youth, to better outreach to families and participants, and to coordinate services with other agencies to deliver wraparound support in the way of mental health care, drug and alcohol treatment, housing assistance and school enrollment issues. These essential services help them avoid pitfalls that can lead to their further justice system involvement and are the right way to care for our youth—cheaper, more effective and more equitable than incarceration. We recommend an investment of \$400,000 in 2019 and \$400,000 in 2020 to allow Creative Justice to fully fund its work. A minimum investment of \$150,000 is needed to establish a baseline of organizational capacity.

For more information: Contact Aaron Counts, Creative Justice,
aaron@creativejustice.4culture.org – 206-300-5573

Recommended Strategy/Service: Green career pathways reducing risk of incarceration

Name of Recommender: Got Green

Description of Need

There is a severe lack of opportunity for system involved youth. A few months ago, Organizing Director James Williams was in the room after a Circle at Community Passageways when several young adults began to work the room asking for signatures on multiple petitions that were being circulated to get Initiatives on the ballot. The young people pushing the petitions were proud of themselves for having landed the job. One young man shared with peers how much money he had made in previous weeks and where they could go to get hired.

When James read the petitions, he realized that one or two of them were advocating for things that were not in the best interest of the young people who had asked me to sign. For example, they were pushing a petition to repeal Seattle's Head Tax (that Head Tax was written in such a way that funding would have come to Community Passageways to fund services). A friend of his asked him why he wasn't telling the young people to stop getting signatures. He told her he wished adults could do a better job of creating meaningful employment that is accessible to young people in our community.

Got Green's original vision had been to create good Green Jobs for members of our community. The desire to make more opportunities accessible to system-involved young people in our community had been a driving force behind more recent work Got Green has invested in to create the Green Career Pathways Fellowship.

Got Green was founded 10 years ago, when a group of folk from the south end received a workforce development grant from the Obama Administration for the purpose of training black and brown young people from historically oppressed communities in skills to survive and thrive in the coming Green Economy.

In October 2016, Seattle City Council unanimously passed the Green Pathways Resolution developed by Got Green's Young Leaders committee and co-sponsored by Councilmembers Lisa Herbold and Mike O'Brien. As a South Seattle-based grassroots organization, Got Green organizes for environmental, racial, and economic justice. By cultivating community leaders in the Green Movement, Got Green aims to ensure its benefits reach low income communities and communities of color, those disproportionately negatively impacted by climate change (these are the same communities that are also most affected by the Prison Industrial Complex). The goal of the Young Leaders committee is to campaign for green careers with livable wages for young people in our communities, an overwhelming need identified through face-to-face surveys with over 150 young adults of color in Seattle, the majority living in poverty.

The Green Pathways Fellowship will be rooted in Rainier Valley Corps' successful approach to cultivating young leaders and strengthening organizations. The Fellowship will put the Green Pathways Resolution directly into action by swiftly creating equitable pathways that move underrepresented communities beyond entry-level positions in the environmental field. In the process, the Fellowship will incubate and model equitable recruitment, engagement, and development strategies that can be leveraged by the City and other employers.

Description of Solution

Got Green's Young Leaders propose the City of Seattle fund a pilot program of the Green Pathways Fellowship in partnership with the Rainier Valley Corps. The Young Leaders believe this program will accrue to a shared goal of building career pathways in the green economy for marginalized and historically underrepresented groups in Seattle. Got Green and Rainier Valley Corps have a shared goal of accepting at least 20% of fellows to the program who have current or previous involvement with the court system. To make this possible, the Green Pathways Fellowship will give preference to accepting applicants who have current or previous involvement with the court system. Recently, Creative Justice and Community Passageways have agreed to ensure these opportunities are available to young people they work with by making referrals to this Fellowship.

Hosted and facilitated by the Rainier Valley Corps, the Green Pathways Fellowship will place fellows with organizations committed to environmental restoration and justice. In addition to a living wage and benefits, fellows will receive mentorship, coaching, access to networks, and long-term career development prospects. Partnering organizations will be evaluated based on racial, economic, and social justice criteria and will be responsible for fellows' income. The program will launch in August 2019, and funding of about \$300,000 is needed for staffing, evaluation, and program costs.

Specific Ask

We recommend an investment of \$328,000 in this action for 2019 and \$328,000 in 2020 to fully fund the Green Pathways Fellowship program for 20 Fellows each year. More limited investments of \$247,000 would fund 15 fellows per year to go through the program. A minimum investment of \$188,000 could fund a pilot for 6-8 Fellows in year one, followed by a larger investment of \$247K or \$328K to fully fund year two.

For more information: Contact James Williams, Got Green, James@gotgreen.org, (253)883-9548

Recommended Strategy/Service: Public education and engagement for better policing and safer communities, and support for those suffering losses from police use of force

Name of Recommender: Not This Time

Description of Need

It is the time in America’s history for racial reconciliation and accountability, particularly when it comes to policing, and Not This Time is playing a central role in Seattle. Not This Time serves families who have lost loved ones to police violence and connects those most affected by policing with policy makers and governing bodies. NTT educates the public and engaged marginalized communities with policies related to better policing, police accountability and oversight. Not This Time also hosts large public gatherings with elected officials, community leaders, police oversight organizations, and law enforcement leadership. Not This Time empowers the voices of family members of those killed by the police to create space for healing, activism, and change.

Description of Solution

Not This Time is a young non-profit that has effectively filled a void in the local landscape, supporting families who have suffered losses due to police use of force, and amplifying their perspectives in advocating for policy reform. NTT is ready to scale up the organization. To achieve our goals, we host weekly meetings in the Central District at the Seattle Vocational Institute and have found that this keeps interested community members engaged and also gives a place for people to come when their family needs help. NTT not only offers connections with government leaders, service providers, lawyers, and media resources but also provides a community of support for those in the midst of tragedy.

Not This Time recently held a community forum with the three finalists for the Seattle Police Chief opening, where Black clergy, racial justice activists, communities of color, and the general public could engage the candidates, ask questions, and hear directly their positions. Not This Time has also excelled in engaging the media and has been featured in print, online, and televised media on countless occasions. This has elevated the perspective of those most impacted when police resort to the use of force, as they seek ways to transform similar interactions in the future.

Specific Ask:

Not This Time is requesting \$242,000, contributing to an overall project budget need of \$549,600.00 for the 2019 and \$604,560 for 2020. This will cover Family Services, Organizing & Policy Development, Donor Development, and Operating Expenses.

For more information: Contact Andre Taylor, Not This Time, info@notthistime.global, (323) 747-6974

Type of Strategy/Service: supporting marginalized survivors of violence through healing and accountability processes

Name of Recommender(s): Community Justice Project at the Public Defender Association

Description of Need:

A central goal of any community is the safety of its members. Yet, our reliance on prosecution and incarceration as a frontline approach to violence and crime only exacerbates harm in our most marginalized communities. It does not serve the needs of those who are imprisoned or cycling through the courts. Instead, punitive measures exacerbate the very conditions that lead to crime: conviction and incarceration result in barriers to occupational opportunities, student loans, public assistance, housing, promote isolation and shame, and increase individuals' exposure to violence and trauma.

Further, it does not deliver on the safety it promises, nor does it support the healing that is necessary for individuals and communities to move forward after experiencing harm. The same marginalized communities that are overrepresented in our criminal legal system are also the most likely to be victimized by violence and least likely to access victim services. For example, teens and young adults ages 18 to 25 accounted for nearly half of King County's 74 homicide victims in 2017. Black males accounted for a disproportionate number of those homicide victims —35 percent—, with seven Black females making up another nine percent in a county where Black individuals account for less than seven percent of the population. It's not surprising then that less than half of those who experience violent crime, report their experience to local authorities — many either cannot or do not want to call the police because of risk of deportation, police harassment and brutality, fear of exile from community, and re-traumatization. Even if survivors do report a crime, many experience dissatisfaction with the process, do not receive the services they need, and are further harmed by their engagement with the system. Moreover, most violent crime is experienced by people in intimate family, romantic, or community relationships. In such cases, the sentencing priorities of prosecutors frequently do not match the needs of survivors, nor facilitate the healing or accountability that survivors deserve. Lastly, most victim services and resources are intertwined with the criminal justice system. For example, victims of crime and violence are not eligible for crime victim compensation funds to reimburse them for therapy or other self-identified needs in the aftermath of harm, if they do not cooperate with police investigations and prosecution of their named assailant. For individuals who chose to opt out of the criminal justice system as a response to the harm they have experienced, there is almost no support. In crafting policy and budget, we have virtually divested entirely from community-based and healing-centered responses to harm for marginalized survivors.

Despite politicians' claims that we must get tough on "criminals" out of respect for victims, it is clear that the needs of most survivors are not met by the criminal justice system. We need to take a close look at what really reduces violence in our communities, and how communities heal from its aftermath. We know that when survivors of violence, for instance,

have access to culturally relevant support, break isolation and engage with other survivors, and have agency to help co-create systems of accountability and healing, some remarkable things happen that are much more in line with our goals and values than the mass imprisonment we're seeing now. We can craft policies and services that address survivor and community needs, center accountability and healing, and insist on racial equity.

Description of Solution

The Community Justice Project (CJP) uses restorative justice-based circle process to address the harm associated with both violence and mass incarceration and grassroots organizing and leadership development to elevate the visions of justice and safety as defined by members of the communities whose lives are at stake in the legal system's response to crime and violence.

For marginalized survivors in Seattle, we are piloting a restorative justice-based circle process that offers a space to break isolation and build community with other survivors of violence. Circles are community-based and decoupled from criminal proceedings. The circles involve opportunities for survivors to share their stories and hear from individuals engaged in a voluntary accountability and healing circle process. Our first circle is in its tenth month and includes participants that are primarily who have lost loved ones to violence and/or survived gun violence, sexual assault, or domestic violence. We also offer RJ facilitation training to our survivors and people who have caused harm. In doing so, we are collectively co-creating responses to violence, harm and trauma that are not centered in the criminal justice system while helping birth community-based, culturally competent approaches to violence that facilitate healing and avoid over-reliance on prisons and jails.

We believe that when policy advocacy is led directly by crime survivors from the communities most represented in our justice system, more effective paths forward emerge. Through leadership and trainings we deepen our collective understanding of how systems of power create conditions that perpetuate violence in our homes and daily lives, and utilize narrative storytelling, community organizing, and policy reform to re-frame narratives around violence and push for accountable and constructive responses. The goal is to empower survivors to influence criminal justice practice and policy, especially responses to violence that are often justified in terms of victims' needs but ignore the actual experiences and needs of survivors. It may be surprising to some that a majority of crime victims, even when profoundly impacted by their experience with violence, overwhelmingly favor a system that focuses on rehabilitation rather than incarceration. Survivors in our community have identified policies that increase resources for adequate housing, schools, and sex education, as well as community-based responses after harm has occurred such as free or affordable culturally competent healing and trauma centers, restorative justice processes, and victim support services that do not hinge on police reports and prosecution. These insights from crime survivors are not currently represented in public discourse and must be held up as an invaluable perspective. The CJP is dedicated to ensuring that the future of criminal justice

reform in Seattle is responsive to crime survivors' needs and guided by their visions of justice, healing, and safety.

Support from the City budget is essential to Community Justice Project meeting the needs of our participants and community. Our programs have received wide acknowledgement in a short time due to the impact that this work has had on the lives of the individuals we work alongside and uplift. As a result of our deep, robust practices, trauma-informed theoretical framework and strong commitment, we have received many requests to expand our circle opportunities for more survivors, provide training to other organizations both locally. These requests represent important opportunities to shift the paradigm locally, and to center public policy discussions on the harm caused by mass incarceration and the actual needs of survivors. We would like to be able to respond to these requests fully over the next year, to re-imagine responses to violent crime by: (1) expanding the reach of our RJ-based circle processes while continuing our commitment to address barriers to participation by the most marginalized survivors by providing transportation, language translation and childcare (2) deepening the leadership capacity among both survivors and the justice-involved to teach healing practices and advocate for policy change; and (3) developing thoughtful diversion programs with prosecutors and law enforcement to implement new ways of responding to violent crime. We expect King County to become a testing ground for innovative, RJ-informed diversion approaches that can be taken to scale in communities across the country.

Specific Ask:

Currently, we have only one fte paid permanently, another fte is paid through a grant funded position ending in 2019, and three part other staff are part time contractors. Growing our staffing capacity thru additional FTE positions allows us to serve more marginalized survivors. We recommend an investment of \$500,000 in 2019 and \$500,000 in 2020, and could make a meaningful start with investments of \$250,000 in each year.

For more information, contact:

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Type of Strategy/Service: Build immigrant community capacity to engage in justice system reform efforts, and community-based alternatives in particular, to ensure that programs, policies and practices enhance noncitizens ability to participate, provide culturally competent services and avoid disproportionate immigration consequences such as deportation.

Name of Recommender: Washington Defender Association’s Immigration Project

Description of Need:

The Trump Administration moved quickly to carry out promises for mass removal of millions of noncitizens. Those with criminal convictions, including low-level offenses are the top priority. Many of these convictions resulted from conditions of poor legal representation and involve noncitizens and families with long-standing ties to the US. The ICE enforcement dragnet also targets those arrested, charged or even suspected of committing a criminal offense. Being involved with the justice system puts noncitizens at the greatest risk of becoming part of the deportation pipeline.

The results of these policies have been swift, predictable and harsh: 2017 saw a 42% increase in ICE apprehensions – a 25% increase in Seattle - resulting in a dramatic increase in deportations. Additionally, federal contracts with private detention facilities increased, along with federal criminal prosecutions for non-violent immigration offenses such as illegal entry into the US, a misdemeanor. This is the most recent chapter in a decades-long, racially-motivated process of criminalizing migration.

Deportation on this scale impacts countless individuals who, despite mistakes, have been valued members of our communities for years or decades, as well as their citizen and non-citizen family members who are entirely innocent and rely upon them. As of 2016 18% of Seattle and 22% of King County residents were foreign born. It is by now well-documented, based upon the government’s own data, that communities where local governments, such as Seattle and King County, have taken steps to ensure they do not collaborate with ICE enforcement activities experience LOWER crime rates and higher employment. Given these circumstances, Seattle city government must continue to take steps that ensure all members of our community are shielded from disproportionate justice system consequences, such as deportation. Everyone must be given the opportunity to be contributing and valued members of our communities.

Implementing justice system changes that prioritize diverting people out of the justice system and into community-based services has better outcomes for everyone. For noncitizens it is the single most effective, and needed, strategy to avoid the severe consequence of deportation. Public trust, a key to effective law enforcement, is at issue. Increased risk of deportation by immigration authorities discourages victims and witnesses from reporting or assisting in solving crimes and negatively impacts defendants’ ability to engage in their defense. This erosion of public trust and due process compromises the work of law

enforcement, the integrity of the justice system, and the safety of our communities.

Current circumstances present an opportunity for city government to enable immigrant communities to be at the table as we move forward with developing community-based alternatives, specifically, those proposed by Budget for Justice allies, as well as other systemic policies and practices. It is essential that immigrant communities participate in movement for community-centered justice in order so that solutions to ensure they are accessible to culturally diverse communities and they include meaningful protections from deportation and other immigration consequences. It has never been more urgent that noncitizens be at the table and included in opportunities to be diverted out of the criminal justice system.

Description of Solution:

In December 2016, the Washington Defender Association’s Immigration Project and the Public Defender Association convened immigrant rights, faith, labor and justice system organizations throughout Seattle and King County to form the Justice Advocacy Network (JAN). JAN works to ensure that changes to justice system policies and practices, such as those that divert people out of the justice system and protect against disproportionate punishment include protections against deportation, do not foreclose avenues to obtain or keep lawful immigration status, and encompass culturally competent services that allow noncitizens to effectively participate.

JAN played a critical role in initial steps towards the goals outlined above including:

- Sustaining a table of over 30 organizations, including “grassroots” and “grass-tops” advocates that engaged in local, regional and national advocacy;
- Assisting Seattle City Council’s efforts to pass the City’s 2017 Immigration Resolution;
- Leading the effort to pass King County’s 2018 Immigration Ordinance, a national model, that was supported by police and prosecutors as well as communities;
- Collaborating with Seattle City Attorney and the Department of Public Defense to ensure that necessary immigration provisions were included in the petition requesting the Seattle municipal Court to eliminate all marijuana convictions prior to them being decriminalized;
- Working with the City Attorney and County Prosecutor to include immigrant needs and concerns in expansions to pre-trial diversion and the list of offenses that would no longer be prosecuted;
- Reviewing LEAD program protocols to ensure noncitizen protections and support expansion.

Future work: Additional resources would give the Justice Advocacy Network the ability to:

- Build capacity within immigrant communities to be at the table and participate in on-going advocacy to expand and develop community-based alternatives, pre-trial diversion, and other justice system and local government initiatives related to justice system reform;
- Facilitate integration and greater collaboration between immigrant community

organizations and other community-based organizations, including budget for justice allies;

- Advocate for Seattle City Council to pass an ordinance to codify practices and expand protections that keep people out of the deportation pipeline, including those involved in the justice system;.
- Support Prosecutors, Public Defenders, Law Enforcement Judges, and other stakeholders to work with immigrant communities to better understand the local justice system, know their rights and request their participation in developing community-based alternatives and other related initiatives, with a particular emphasis on ensuring they are culturally competent;
- Work with prosecutors, law enforcement, and courts to further expand pre-trial diversion policies and practices and the list of low-level offenses that are no longer a priority for prosecution so that those who cannot be diverted out of the justice system, will not face disproportionate consequences, including deportation.

The community-based solutions proposed by the Budget For Justice Alliance advance justice system reforms and protect noncitizens. This is a real opportunity to truly provide justice for all.

Specific Ask:

Washington Defender Association's Immigration Project seeks at least \$130,000 toward a gap of \$180,000 in FY 2019 and \$220,000 in FY 2020 to resource immigrant communities' capacity to participate in and lead the Justice Advocacy Network priorities outlined above, engage with other justice system stakeholders, and be a part of furthering the development of community-based alternatives. A majority of the funds provided will go directly to immigrant community organizations.

For More Information: Contact Annie Benson Washington Defender Association.
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