

2024 Impact Report

Center
for
Justice
Innovation



January 2025

Center for Justice Innovation

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The Center for Justice Innovation is a community justice organization that centers safety and racial justice in partnership with communities, courts, and the people most impacted.

At the Center, we know it takes everyone at the table to deliver justice and safety. For more than 30 years, we've bridged communities and courts to build solutions that prevent harm, reduce system involvement, and strengthen community well-being, guided by our commitment to using rigorous research and data to create meaningful change and advance what works.

To read our full 2024 Impact Report, please visit: innovatingjustice.org/impact2024

All data pertain to Fiscal Year 2024 (July 2023 to June 2024).

CENTER FOR JUSTICE INNOVATION



Letter from Our Board Chair and CEO

Partners and Friends,

For far too long, we've been told that we must choose between justice and safety, that those two goals are in direct competition. But the reality is that to achieve true justice, we must build safety. And for communities to feel truly safe, they must feel the presence of justice.

Every day, the work we do with systems and communities shows that we need justice and safety—economic opportunity for everyone, stable affordable housing, and safe streets, free of crime and violence.

At the Center for Justice Innovation, we help people achieve justice and safety using an approach we call Community Justice.

Community Justice brings everyone—communities, courts, non-profits, the private sector, and local government—to the table to build strong, healthy communities.

Over the past 30 years, we've partnered with the courts to help hundreds of thousands of program participants get jobs, support their families, and address personal challenges, like substance use or mental health issues. We've worked alongside community members to reduce gun violence, spark economic development, transform public spaces, and empower young people to be active participants in the decisions that affect their communities. And our researchers, analysts, and practitioners have partnered with justice systems across the country to implement new approaches—like alternatives to incarceration and restorative justice practices—that reduce the harms of the justice system, elevate the voices of residents and those most directly impacted, and improve safety and justice for everyone.

In the year ahead, we will continue to invest in Community Justice to bring government and communities together to build safety and justice for as many people as we can. Thank you for being part of this vital work.

Best,

RASMIA KIRMANI

Chair of the Board of Directors

COURTNEY BRYAN

Chief Executive Officer



A More Just Criminal Justice System

From gun violence to eviction to family separation, traumatic experiences are all too common in the justice system. Far too often, our systems' punitive response to crime makes that trauma worse without delivering the safety that victims and survivors deserve. Community Justice strengthens public safety while reducing our overreliance on incarceration by connecting people in court to resources like housing, job support, and mental health care as an alternative to jail and prison.

As a long-time provider of New York City's Supervised Release Program, we have built support for this crucial alternative to cash bail that connects people awaiting trial to community-based services while ensuring they make their court dates.

"Everyone, regardless of their past, deserves to build a strong future."

JANELLE DAVIS
Brooklyn Supervised Release

10,000+

people in our court-based programs in NYC had their charges reduced or dismissed after successfully completing programming

10,565

people served in our Supervised Release programs

We seeded Community Justice nationwide by supporting more than **400** organizations across the country in implementing innovative solutions of their own. In Philadelphia, we worked with the MacArthur Safety and Justice Challenge to help advance reforms like safely reducing the use of bail and investing in community-based services, informed by the perspectives of formerly incarcerated people. We also partnered with New York Law School to launch the Institute for Justice Policy Implementation dedicated to making justice reforms work on the ground.

Reducing Violence

Gun violence, relationship violence, and other forms of interpersonal harm take a devastating toll on countless families and communities. Our teams not only work to de-escalate conflicts before they turn violent, but also incorporate restorative justice to foster healing and repair. Building on our large-scale participatory action research on youth gun culture, our new Street Action Network is working to uplift the voices of young people involved in gangs in New York City and other cities across the country to help create lasting solutions to gun violence.

Our Gender and Family Justice team supports communities across the country in responding more effectively to intimate partner violence, helping them enhance safety for survivors while engaging those who cause harm in a process of accountability and change.

1,127

people engaged in restorative justice programming

103

young people have shared their experiences in our anti-gun violence research



Supporting People with Mental Health Challenges

For people struggling with serious mental illness, many systems have already failed them by the time they end up in jail and prison. In courts in New York City and New Jersey, our full-spectrum approach crafts personalized, community-based responses—including mental health and substance use treatment, supportive housing, and help with education and employment—for people with complex mental health needs. We have broadened the horizon of reform by offering these alternatives to people with serious felony charges and co-occurring mental health needs, connecting them to robust services that reduce recidivism and foster better outcomes for all.



Our national teams use their expertise to support reforms like Los Angeles County’s Rapid Diversion Program, which has diverted more than **2,000** criminal cases by connecting people to holistic mental health support instead of jail. Our Recovery and Reform team also worked with five states to help reduce racial disparities in drug treatment courts, sharing what they learned in a research report to inform similar efforts.

Thanks in part to our advocacy, New York Governor Kathy Hochul visited our Midtown Community Justice Center to announce a **\$33 million** investment to expand mental health services for New Yorkers in the criminal justice system.

469

people served in our mental health courts

1,192

people engaged by our street outreach teams in Syracuse and Manhattan to meet immediate needs and make connections to long-term services

Building Stronger Communities

A good job and stable housing are key to a thriving life. But contact with the criminal justice system can bring that all crashing down. Through counseling, discussion groups, and art therapy, our Project Reset program—which has grown from a small pilot program serving just two neighborhoods to a model for all of New York City—helps people resolve low-level criminal cases with minimal disruption to their daily lives.

Our newly-launched New Rochelle Community Justice Center partners with local businesses to connect justice-involved young people to internships, helping them build work experience while supporting the local economy. In Brownsville, Brooklyn, we host a leadership program for young women that provides career development opportunities in industries in which women of color are underrepresented. And we partner with New York City’s Summer Youth Employment Program to offer hundreds of young people paid work experience in sectors like digital media, photography, community organizing, and social service.

234

young people received meaningful summer work experience at our sites across NYC

We also organize community-led “placekeeping” projects where teams of residents work together to revitalize neglected public spaces. This year, public housing residents at the Polo Ground Towers in Harlem helped create a multisensory “playscape” catering to neurodivergent children.

“[Youth participants] expressed how safe they feel here and how they’ve benefited from the programs they’ve participated in and the relationships they’ve built with our staff.”

WESLEY THOMPSON
Queens Community Justice Center







Community for Community

Every year, young people from our Brownsville Community Justice Center mark the end of their summer programming in digital media and music production with [B]Live, a music and arts festival celebrating resilience and talent in Brownsville, Brooklyn. [B]Live also included creative arts stations, local food trucks, connections to community-based resources, and free haircuts and manicures for residents.

“[B]Live is more than just a festival—it’s a celebration of our strength, creativity, and everything that makes us proud to call this place home.”

KWESI JOHNSON
Brownsville Community Justice Center

In partnership with Freedom Reads, the National Book Foundation, and bookstore owner Lori Feathers, we supported the first-ever Inside Literary Prize to give more than 200 people in prison a chance to participate in the cultural conversation by serving as judges in a national book award.

We’ve helped thousands of New York and New Jersey residents stay safely housed by providing rental assistance, helping tenants get critical repairs, and ensuring residents can get rent adjustments when needed. We also work towards long-term housing stability through financial education, help with budgeting, and connections to legal services and public benefits.

In collaboration with the Housing Solutions Lab, we also explored how justice systems and housing agencies across the country have partnered to break cycles of housing insecurity and justice involvement. Drawing on a national survey and interviews with practitioners, our research highlighted innovative policies and programs to inspire reforms nationwide.

3,859

residents received help with housing needs like rent, repair requests, and eviction prevention

Financials

July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024

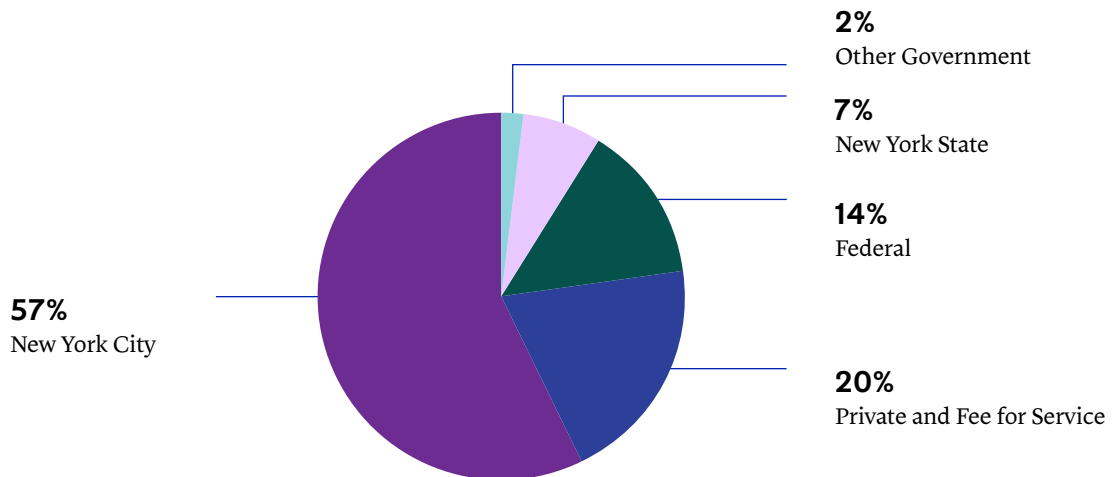
Total in Expenditures: \$104,868,000

Programs and Departments	Expenditures
Access to Justice Programs	1,551,000
Bronx Child Trauma Support	220,000
Bronx Community Justice Center	5,480,000
Bronx Community Solutions	4,922,000
Brooklyn Justice Initiatives	23,413,000
Brooklyn Mental Health Court	809,000
Brownsville Community Justice Center	2,982,000
Civil Justice	585,000
Community Safety Operations	116,000
Court Reform Operations	729,000
Harlem Community Justice Center	577,000
Manhattan Justice Opportunities	3,629,000
Midtown Community Justice Center	2,924,000
Neighborhood Safety Initiatives	5,575,000
Neighbors in Action	5,043,000
New Rochelle Community Justice Center	484,000
Newark Community Solutions	2,792,000
Parent Support Program	660,000
Queens Community Justice Center	6,101,000
Red Hook Community Justice Center	3,149,000
RISE Project	1,567,000
Staten Island Justice Center	7,947,000
Strong Starts Court Initiative	2,429,000

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Syracuse Programs	1,664,000
Young Parent Initiative	196,000
Youth Action Institute	413,000
Westchester Court Education Initiative	158,000
Technical Assistance	
Community Justice	3,436,000
Gender and Family Justice	2,843,000
International Technical Assistance	436,000
Recovery and Reform	4,176,000
Tribal Justice	507,000
Policy	1,654,000
Research	3,263,000
Administration, Technology, Planning and Oversight	2,438,000
Total	104,868,000

Sources of Funding



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