



Frequently Asked Questions

RPIC Healing Harms Volunteer Training

Restorative Practices In Communities (RPIC) - Who We Are:

CCEJ's Restorative Practices in Communities (RPIC) department offers multiple pathways for community members to access us in times of conflict to either receive preventative training, offer their time as a volunteer, or receive facilitated support to move with their community through personal conflict in their life. For institutions, we offer a robust diversion program that shifts the paradigm of narrow punishment to holistic healing and accountability. We are a low cost service provider, utilizing facilitated dialogue grounded in restorative justice principles as well as mediation practices as a conflict resolution model and healing tool.

RPIC hones in on the root causes of conflict - from both an interpersonal relationship lens as well as interrupting the ways traditional justice systems perpetuate cycles of oppression, in particular towards Black, Brown, indigenous and other communities of color. As a team of restorative justice practitioners, we are dedicated to eliminating bias, bigotry racism and other forms of oppression through community education offerings, conflict resolution circle and participating in local and regional coalitions that advocate for creating a more restorative Southern California.

Role of a Circle Keeper:

With a focus on relationships, our circle keepers create a facilitated space for those impacted by a harm or conflict to meet together to share their story, express needs, take responsibility for the impact of one's actions and collaboratively create agreements to support healthy resolution and meaningful healing steps for all participants involved. Cases are referred by community members, families, schools, police departments, courts, group homes, public housing and community based organizations. Case referrals may range from (but not limited to): physical assault; vandalism; robbery; sexual harassment; minor drug offenses; child custody issues; cultural, self-identity or bias-based tension; post incarceration re-entry support; family based conflict or neighbor disputes.

Volunteer Commitment:

Case Support: Volunteers are expected to support a minimum of 3 cases over the course of one year. Volunteers are contacted when a new case is referred to RPIC and participate in preparation sessions and RJ process connected to the case. The length of a case varies per referral's need.

Volunteer Stipend: Volunteers will be reimbursed their transportation mileage for case support with opportunities for small stipends based on certain referral requirements.

Quarterly Professional Development Sessions: We hold quarterly gatherings for our volunteers. The goal is to deepen a sense of community among volunteers, share an opportunity for self-care, offer relevant professional development workshops and provide support to each other related to our cases.