

Restorative Justice is an innovative, outcome-based and cost-effective alternative to our juvenile justice system.

It is a comprehensive alternative that brings together the offender, victim and community to make things right.



Restorative Justice has worked effectively since 2011 in Jefferson County, with the strong support of judges, prosecutors, victims of crime and community leaders.

We resolve more than 200 cases every year.



Our restorative approach finds alternatives to the current criminal justice system. The process is voluntary and inclusive of the needs of all parties.

Four-Step process

- **Offender Conference Meeting**
- **Victim Conference Meeting**
- **Final Conference**
- **Ongoing Case Management**

Restorative Justice cuts recidivism by more than half.

23 percent

**For Restorative Justice
Participants**

56 percent

**For Traditional
Juvenile Justice System**



Restorative Justice is one-third the cost.

**Cost for individuals served by Restorative Justice:
\$1,014 per case**

**Cost for individuals in the traditional juvenile justice
system: \$3,166 per case**

Jefferson County Project

- Continued the three (3) projects involving 1) diversion option for youth, 2) disposition option for youth, and 3) diversion option for young adults, ages 18 to 25.
- Recognized by the juvenile justice system as one of two programs serving youth/families with no lapse in intake and processing after closures due to COVID.
- This year, referrals into juvenile justice system have decreased 55% when compared to this same time last year but the number of referrals to VOA RJ has only decreased 22%.



Southeastern Kentucky Project

- In July, implemented a new youth restorative justice project in the southeastern Kentucky counties of Clay, Jackson, Leslie, Knox, Laurel, Whitley, and McCreary Counties.
- Provided introductory restorative justice training to Judges, County Attorneys/Assistant County Attorneys, Department of Public Advocacy Attorneys, AOC Court Designated Worker Program staff.



Southeastern Kentucky Project

- Members of AOC FAIR Teams and RIAC for all 7 counties
- Receiving referrals
(referrals into juvenile justice system down approximately 50% in all 7 counties)



Involvement in the juvenile justice system is a critical turning point for Kentucky youth – and for management of our criminal justice system and incarceration costs.

Will youth enter the revolving door of the prison system and become a lifelong budget and community burden, or will they find an alternative path and become productive neighbors and tax paying citizens?

