



# RESTORATIVE DENVER

An alternative to the traditional criminal justice system

Restorative Denver is a partnership between The Conflict Center and the Denver District Attorney's Office, offering a **community-based restorative justice** alternative for adults referred through the program.

## WHAT IS RESTORATIVE JUSTICE (RJ)?

Restorative justice (RJ) is a response to crime that focuses on addressing and repairing the harm caused by a criminal offense. RJ helps people harmed by crime (victims) feel supported and empowered, and allows the people who caused harm (defendants) to understand the impact of their actions and repair the harm they caused to the greatest extent possible. RJ focuses on making things right and reintegrating participants back into the community with the skills and awareness to prevent future crime.

### WHAT WE DO

RESTORATIVE DENVER uses a restorative practice called a community-group conference. After preparation, trained facilitators bring together the person harmed, person who caused harm, community members, and support people to discuss what happened, the resulting harm, who was impacted, and how the defendant can repair the harm. The conference results in a contract that the person who caused harm must complete in order for the charges to be dismissed and the case sealed.

### BENEFITS IN THE COMMUNITY

- Affords victims a voice*
- Greater public safety*
- Reduces recidivism*
- Engages and empowers the Denver community*
- Better outcomes*
- Increases understanding & empathy*
- Cost savings per case*

### AT THE END OF OUR FIRST YEAR...

Oct 2019 - Oct 2020

65

*people were referred to Restorative Denver*

35

*successfully completed the program*

24

*people's cases were in progress towards completion*

### ADDRESSING RACIAL DISPARITIES

The criminal justice system is typically designed to punish and incarcerate offenders without much consideration for restorative approaches, while burdening communities and taxpayers with financial and societal impacts. Through Restorative Denver, we disrupt inequities and racial disparities in the criminal justice system and shift energy and resources to community-based efforts as an alternative to punitive punishment and incarceration.

Visit us at [conflictcenter.org](http://conflictcenter.org)