



BETTER FOR EVERYONE

**Repairing Harm for Crime Survivors and Young People:
San Francisco's New Approach to Youth Restitution**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In January 2022, San Francisco launched the **AFTER Program (Aims to Foster Transformation & Ensure Restitution)**, one of the first efforts in the country to pilot an alternative to the traditional restitution process. The AFTER Program aims to set both the crime survivor and the young person who caused the harm on a stronger and more economically secure path.

The AFTER Program is a response to our broken system of juvenile restitution, which fails crime survivors and young people and their families.

The mission of California's juvenile justice system is to be rehabilitative and "to provide opportunities for growth and change by identifying and responding to the unique needs of our youth." The stated purpose of juvenile restitution is to financially compensate the crime survivor for their loss and to hold the young person accountable for their actions. A juvenile court judge may order victim restitution that requires the young person—and their parents—to financially compensate the crime survivor for losses related to the harm. In San Francisco, the average amount of juvenile restitution ordered is approximately \$1,300.

However, our existing approach to juvenile restitution fails to deliver justice for anyone. It certainly does not work for crime survivors, nor young people and their

families who lack the funds to compensate those harmed.

For crime survivors, they rarely, if ever, receive compensation. When they do, it is too late to help. In San Francisco, even after five years since restitution has been assessed, over 90% goes unpaid. When it is paid, crime survivors rarely receive it for months or sometimes years after the incident. Crime survivors often desperately need this money to be made whole. In San Francisco and throughout California, most crime survivors are people with low incomes and people of color.

For young people and their parents who owe the restitution, most live in poverty. They simply do not have the money to pay restitution. Once the restitution is ordered, and if the young person is unable to pay, a civil judgment can be issued against the young person and their parents. Their credit scores can then plummet, which makes it very difficult for the young person or their parents to rent an apartment or get a job. Unpaid restitution can create long-term barriers to financial stability.

San Francisco's AFTER Program tests an alternative to this broken system. Along with all our justice partners, the San Francisco Financial Justice Project launched the AFTER Program to demonstrate that alternatives to the traditional restitution system exist and can more effectively 1) promote community safety; 2) help make the crime survivor financially whole; and 3) hold the young person accountable and promote

their well-being while not saddling them with a debt they cannot pay. Since The Financial Justice Project launched six years ago, we have consistently heard from both crime survivors and people ordered to pay restitution that restitution fails everyone, especially people in poverty. The mission of The Financial Justice Project is to assess and reform fines and fees that have a disproportionate impact on people with low incomes and communities of color.

Through the program, crime survivors are financially compensated faster from a fund established at the District Attorney's Office. They receive payment in a matter of months, rather than waiting years or never

receiving any restitution. At the same time, the young person is held accountable by making amends in ways besides paying money that they do not have. The young person may perform community service, attend workshops and educational classes, receive job training, or participate in restorative justice conferences. A caseworker at Huckleberry Youth Programs, a community-based organization, helps the young person and their parents figure out a way to make amends that will help the young person get on a better path. The AFTER process starts by asking the crime survivor if they would like to participate in the program.



AFTER PROGRAM IN ACTION: An elderly gentleman who lives in Chinatown was robbed as he sold jade jewelry from a sidewalk table. He lost about \$1,200 worth of jewelry. As a result, he could not afford to pay his \$600 rent and feared he would be evicted. The District Attorney's Office told him about the AFTER Program. The young person responsible for the crime performed multiple weekends of community service and, along with his parents, also received counseling. The elderly gentleman received a \$1,200 check from the AFTER Program to cover his losses and was able to pay his rent, which he described as a huge relief. The young person, through counseling and community service, achieved a better, more stable path.

In its first year, the AFTER Program provided meaningful relief for crime survivors and for young people and their parents. Rather than waiting years to receive little to no financial support for the harm that they have experienced, crime survivors are fully compensated on a much quicker timeline than the traditional process. Since the launch of the AFTER Program:

- **Over 43 crime survivors and young people participated in the AFTER Program.**
- **Crime survivors were compensated \$1,966 on average for their losses.**
- **Crime survivors were compensated fully and much more quickly** than they are in the existing restitution process, within several months.
- **Crime survivors have been enthusiastic about the program.** The vast majority of crime survivors who are told about the program opt to participate.
- **Young people made amends and were held accountable in ways besides paying money that they do not have.** To make amends, young people have performed community service, such as working at neighborhood food pantries; received job training and connections to job opportunities; and received counseling. Their parents have also received services.
- **Young people and their parents have been excited to learn about this opportunity because of the barriers that unpaid restitution creates for themselves and their families.** And parents and other family members are also excited by the possibility of no longer being burdened by restitution and having their children be connected to important resources.

- **All of our justice partners have been enthusiastic participants in the program.** The AFTER Program is a collaboration between:
 - The San Francisco District Attorney’s Office
 - Public Defender’s Office
 - Juvenile Probation Department
 - The Bar Association of San Francisco
 - The Juvenile Justice Division of San Francisco Superior Court
 - [Huckleberry Youth Programs’ Community Assessment and Resource Center](#) (CARC)
 - The San Francisco [Financial Justice Project](#) in the Treasurer’s Office.

Based on the success and effectiveness of this program, San Francisco justice partners are developing a similar pilot program for adults in San Francisco.

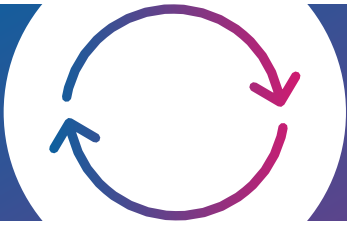
California Assemblymember Mia Bonta has also introduced [Assembly Bill 1186, The REPAIR Act](#), which would create a statewide program that is similar to AFTER. The REPAIR (Realizing Equity while Promoting Accountability and Impactful Relief) Act would provide crime survivors with more equitable, timely, and stable

compensation while setting youth who have caused harm on a more meaningful path towards accountability. If the bill becomes law, California will be the first state to pioneer a public restitution fund to give both crime survivors and young people the support they need to ensure true and sustainable public safety.

We have learned a lot about this new way of addressing restitution that works better for both crime survivors and for young people and their families. Our goal is to share what we’ve learned in this issue brief. We are proud of this program and hope that this issue brief can be used by other jurisdictions looking to reform their system of youth restitution to ensure that it works better for everyone.

“The AFTER Program is a win-win for both crime survivors and young people. The program makes crime survivors financially whole and lifts the burden of restitution off young people and their families while still holding them accountable.”

– TREASURER JOSÉ CISNEROS,
San Francisco Treasurer’s Office



What is Juvenile Restitution?

The stated purpose of juvenile restitution is to make people harmed by crime whole, and to hold youth accountable for their actions. Victim restitution is a judgment from a court that requires a person found responsible of causing harm to compensate the crime survivor or person harmed for losses related to the harm. Victim restitution can cover a wide range of expenses related to the harm, including property

loss, medical and dental expenses, counseling, loss of wages or income, funeral and burial expenses, and relocation and security expenses. In California, judges, upon reviewing documentation of the losses related to the crime, have discretion over the final amount of restitution. A person's ability to pay is not considered when determining restitution.

WHAT DOES JUVENILE VICTIM RESTITUTION LOOK LIKE IN SAN FRANCISCO?

We analyzed restitution in the juvenile system over the past five years. In San Francisco, between January 1, 2019 and December 31, 2022, there were, on average:



104
restitution
orders per year



65
young people
ordered to pay
restitution per year



\$137,000
in juvenile
restitution ordered
in total each year



\$1,317
per restitution
order



2%
of restitution ordered in
2022 has been paid
(as of March 2023)



69%
of restitution ordered was in cases
where the harmed party was an
individual (as opposed to an
organization or business)



What Problems with Juvenile Restitution Does the AFTER Program Aim to Address?

Since The Financial Justice Project launched six years ago, we have consistently heard from both crime survivors and people ordered to pay restitution that restitution fails everyone, especially people in poverty. Below are statements we have heard from crime survivors and young people ordered to pay restitution:



CRIME SURVIVORS: “There was a restitution order to pay for all that I went through. I get a check every few months, sometimes only \$2. I will be dead before I ever get enough to help me.”



PEOPLE ORDERED TO PAY RESTITUTION: “There’s no way I will ever be able to pay this or get out from under this debt. It’s impossible.”

Hearing directly from people about the shortcomings of our current system of restitution built our understanding that the system was failing everyone involved and that we needed to find an alternative that put everyone on a more economically secure path.

The Financial Justice Project and our partners examined San Francisco’s current system of restitution and identified the following overall problems with our current system of restitution:

1. When restitution is ordered, crime survivors receive very little, if anything, because young people and their families often cannot afford to pay.

In partnership with the San Francisco Juvenile Probation Department, we analyzed restitution orders between January 1, 2019 and December 31, 2022. Over this time period, the average amount of restitution ordered was \$1,317. Restitution collection rates have been very low. After one year, just 2% of youth restitution was paid, with over 90% of dollars ordered still outstanding after five years.

This finding reflects trends across California. Public records data received by the Berkeley Law Policy Advocacy Clinic show the median youth restitution order in California is approximately \$1,500. Each year, over 12,000 young people in California are ordered to pay restitution. This data also indicates that 20% of youth restitution ordered since 2010 has been collected statewide. 88% of outstanding youth restitution is more than three years old and unlikely ever to be paid.

2. The process to determine restitution takes months, which means crime survivors do not get the immediate support they need to heal.

Crime survivors often wait years to receive the full amount of restitution that they are owed, and many never receive any of the restitution ordered. Restitution is typically determined at the very end of a case, following the finding that a young person has been held responsible for causing harm. This process can take months, which means that a crime survivor, who might need financial support to heal and move on from the harm also must wait months for the restitution order to be set. Justice partners estimate that it can take 3 to 5 months for a case to be resolved and restitution to be set, with more complex cases taking longer.

3. When restitution is not paid, there are negative impacts for crime survivors, young people, and their families.

When a young person and their parents cannot afford to pay restitution, there are serious consequences.

For crime survivors: The crime survivor does not receive the financial support that they may need to move on and heal from what happened. Many crime survivors with low incomes cannot afford to pay for what happened to them. For example, a crime survivor might need to choose between paying rent or buying a replacement cell phone or fixing a broken car window so they can take their children to school.

For young people: Most young people who are ordered to pay restitution in San Francisco are living in poverty. Most are not working and have no source of income to pay the restitution. Over the long-term, unpaid restitution negatively impacts a young person's credit score, making it more difficult for them to rent an apartment or buy a car in the future. Restitution can be pursued through wage garnishment, tax refund intercepts, and bank levies, harming a young person's financial stability.

The stated mission of California's juvenile justice system is to be rehabilitative and "to provide opportunities for growth and change by identifying and responding to the unique needs of our youth." However, for young people who are ordered to pay anywhere from several hundreds to several thousands of dollars in restitution, these restitution orders are not rehabilitative and do not support their development. Rather, this debt can pull them away from school and other youth enrichment activities and create conflict and stress within their families.

[Research](#) shows that young people who are ordered to pay restitution have a higher likelihood of recidivism. Those who are ordered to pay higher amounts of restitution and have unpaid restitution have an even higher likelihood of becoming reinvolved with the legal system.

For parents and guardians: For young people who are focused on school and may not hold a job or have a source of income, it is oftentimes parents and family members who must pay restitution, pushing the entire family deeper into poverty and financial distress. Parents are jointly held legally responsible to pay restitution, and restitution debt remains in place until it is paid. Unpaid restitution can also turn into a civil judgment against a young person's parents or guardians,



Therese Cutino, a social worker with the San Francisco Juvenile Probation Department, sees firsthand the negative impacts of restitution on young people who are ordered to pay. Therese supports young people who are in extended foster care and typically 18 to 20 years old.

"Young people don't have any family support and are just struggling to make ends meet," she said. Therese further explained that between trying to make rent, buy food, and pay for transportation, these young people have very little, if any, money left to pay their restitution orders from when they were involved in the juvenile legal system.

This has negative impacts on their credit scores, which often comes to light when young people go to apply for their first apartment. Therese has seen multiple young people denied housing because of their bad credit. This means that they can remain unhoused, either couch surfing or waiting for approval for a Section 8 voucher. Therese and other social workers support young people to try to make payments towards their restitution, but this debt remains high and paying it off is often out of reach for most young people who are just entering adulthood.

4. Crime survivors and young people ordered to pay restitution to them are overwhelmingly low-income people of color.

Crime survivors are disproportionately low-income individuals and people of color. Locally, the San Francisco District Attorney’s Office [reports](#) a disproportionate number of crime survivors who identify as people of color. Sixty percent of crime survivors supported by the agency’s Victim Services Division identified as people of color.

A national survey by the Alliance for Safety and Justice found that the rate of victimization of individuals with family incomes less than \$15,000 was over three times the rate of those with family incomes over \$75,000.

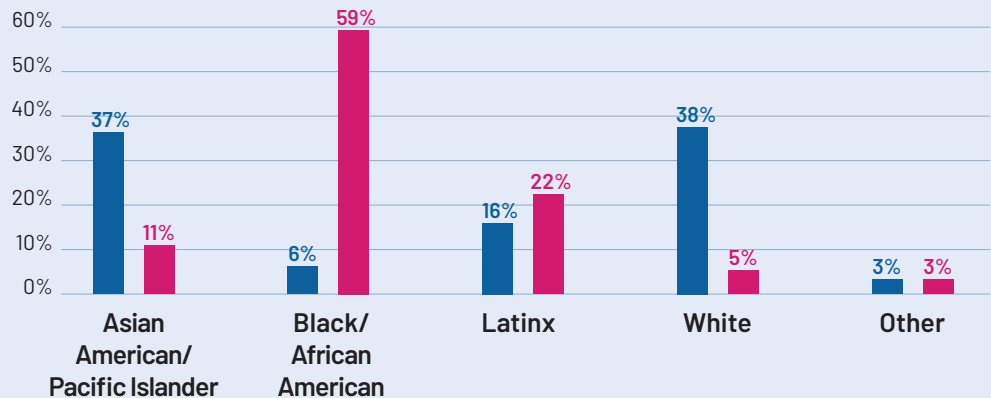
Nationally, people of color were 15% more likely to be victims of crime, and Black/African Americans were nearly one-third more likely to be victims of crime than white people.

Young people ordered to pay restitution in San Francisco are also overwhelmingly people of color. Based on data from the Juvenile Probation Department, 92% of young people ordered to pay restitution between 2018 and 2022 were people of color. 59% of young people who were ordered to pay restitution identified as Black/African American, but Black/African Americans make up just 6% of San Francisco’s general population. A [report](#) by the Public Policy Institute of California found that Black Californians are overrepresented in the criminal legal system and disproportionately stopped by law enforcement compared to white individuals.

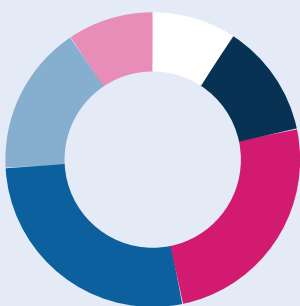
DEMOGRAPHICS OF YOUNG PEOPLE ORDERED TO PAY RESTITUTION IN SAN FRANCISCO (2019-2022)

Race/Ethnicity

- General San Francisco Population
- Young People Ordered to Pay Restitution in San Francisco



Age



- 9% <=14
- 13% 15
- 25% 16
- 27% 17
- 17% 18
- 9% >18

Gender





A New Approach: What is San Francisco's AFTER Program?

"The AFTER Program has been an essential and missing component within our community to support persons harmed and young persons to be made whole after a crime. Through AFTER, persons harmed and young people are held and supported by the community—an often missing piece—within justice reform. AFTER has utilized the community and key partnerships to make everyone whole after a crime in ways the traditional justice systems could not do on its own."

— HILLARY BUREN, Director of the Community Assessment and Resource Center, Huckleberry Youth Programs

or being connected to job opportunities, participating in restorative justice conferences—and are held accountable for their actions.

With the AFTER Program, we set out to demonstrate that alternatives to the traditional restitution system exist that help make the harmed party whole, hold the young person accountable and promote their well-being while not saddling them with a debt they cannot pay, and promote community safety.

Philanthropic funding supported the restitution fund and the work of Huckleberry Youth Programs. We wanted to test out the program with philanthropic funding before we made the case for a publicly supported program.

AFTER PROGRAM FORMS AND MATERIALS

Check out [our website](#) for links to materials from the AFTER Program, including the referral form, brochures, and videos:

sfgov.org/financialjustice/news-resources/after-program

To address our broken system of restitution, the San Francisco justice partners developed the AFTER Program (Aims to Foster Transformation & Ensure Restitution). AFTER seeks to set BOTH the person harmed and the young person on a more economically stable path.

The person harmed is paid restitution from a fund and can participate in other services to support them. AFTER provides programming from a community-based organization for young people who are ordered to pay restitution, while also supporting the person harmed to meet their financial and other needs following the harm.

Through the program, young people make amends—through performing community service,

WHAT IS THE EXPERIENCE OF THE CRIME SURVIVOR AND YOUNG PERSON IN THE PROGRAM?



CRIME SURVIVOR

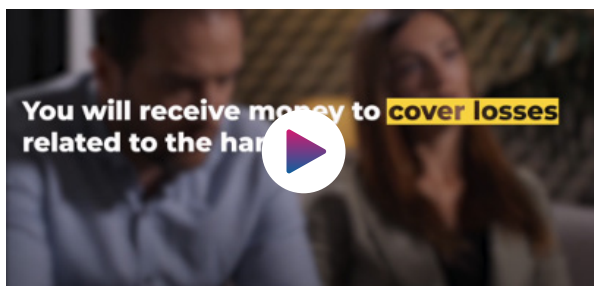
- The AFTER Program begins with a conversation with the crime survivor. A victim services advocate from the District Attorney's Office reaches out to the crime survivor to explain the program. If the crime survivor wants to participate, the victim services advocate remains their point of contact for the crime survivor while the young person completes the program.
- Once the referral is made and as the responsible young person engages in the program, the crime survivor receives funds to reimburse them for losses related to the harm.
- Crime survivors may also choose to participate in restorative justice conferencing and participate in the development of a plan to help hold the young person accountable for their actions.



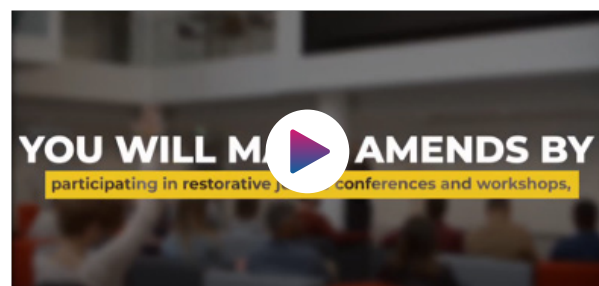
YOUNG PERSON

- Upon referral, the young person and their parents work with Huckleberry Youth Programs to determine which program option is the most appropriate for them to make amends and get on a better path. These options include performing community service, being connected to job opportunities, or participating in restorative justice workshops.
- The young person is paired with a case manager who checks in weekly with the young person and their family.
- The young person continues to work with Huckleberry Youth Programs over a period of approximately six months to be held accountable and to get the services that they need.

We created two short videos to explain the AFTER Program, one for the crime survivor and the other for the young person and their family.



[Video](#) for **CRIME SURVIVOR**



[Video](#) for **YOUNG PERSON AND THEIR FAMILY**

Who is eligible for the AFTER Program?

Young people are eligible for the AFTER Program when there is an identifiable harmed party and where the restitution amount is under \$2,500. Many AFTER referrals have involved some type of property damage (e.g., vehicle break-in or theft) where there are no other funds to support the crime survivor (i.e., cannot be compensated through the California State's Victim Compensation Board or CalVCB). We also make exceptions for amounts up to \$5,000.

The vast majority of AFTER payments, 88%, are under \$2,500. In addition, stakeholders agreed that the program should primarily focus on individuals who have experienced harm, and not larger companies that have insurance and other financial means to repair harm caused.

Who administers the AFTER restitution fund?

Given the District Attorney's role in direct support and outreach to crime survivors, the District Attorney's Office administers the restitution fund and works closely with the person harmed to document the total amount of loss. The District Attorney's Office strives to compensate the person harmed as soon as possible to reduce any additional waiting time and so that the person harmed can have their financial needs met on a faster timeline.

How are young people held accountable?

By working with Huckleberry's CARC, young people participate in classes or workshops, perform community service, receive job training, or participate in restorative justice conferences to be held accountable. In addition, Huckleberry Youth Programs helps the young person build their connections to their neighborhood through community-based organizations and other services that they might need, like case management, mental health counseling, and mentorship. For young people who may be disconnected from their community, this has strengthened their sense of belonging while also helping them to build confidence and gain valuable life skills and responsibility. Huckleberry Youth Programs also sees that parents of young people also become more connected to existing supports and resources by learning about what their children are doing as part of the AFTER Program.



D. IS 19 YEARS OLD AND WAS INVOLVED IN A THEFT WHEN HE WAS A TEENAGER.

The Court required him to pay \$1,800 in restitution, money that he didn't have. As part of the AFTER Program, he completed ten weekends of community service with a community-based organization, wrote a reflective essay, and continued case management with Instituto Familiar de la Raza in San Francisco. After D. successfully completed the AFTER Program, his restitution was paid off and he is now working as a mechanic. Reflecting on his experience with the program, D. said: **"Thank you for making the program what it is. My family and I couldn't afford to pay, so I'm grateful that the restitution I owed was didn't have to come out of pocket."**

Who has participated in the AFTER Program?

Over the first year of the program, 20 young people and their families and 23 harmed parties have participated in AFTER. **The demographics of both young people and people harmed who have participated in the program demonstrate how our restitution system disproportionately harms people of color.**



AN UBER DRIVER HAD STOPPED AND WAS TAKING A REGULAR STRETCH BREAK WHEN HE WAS ROBBED BY A GROUP OF YOUNG

PEOPLE. He wasn't making enough money to purchase a replacement phone. He needed the restitution money to buy a new phone so he could continue to work and get back on his feet. In Court, he described the hardship of what happened to him and his own background growing up without much money. He encouraged the young people involved, who were in the courtroom, to go to school and create a better path for themselves. After this testimony, the young people were all successfully engaged in the AFTER Program and the crime survivor received the \$2,000 that he needed. The young people all performed community service.



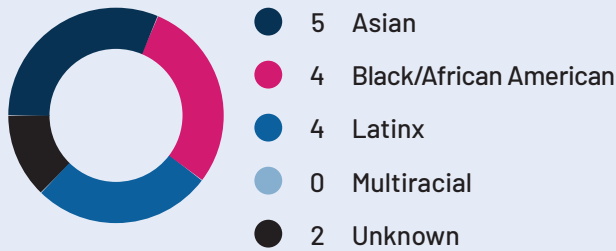
A. WAS STRUGGLING IN SCHOOL, GOT MIXED UP IN THE WRONG CROWD, AND WAS FOUND RESPONSIBLE IN A ROBBERY INCIDENT. He

lives with his elderly grandparents, who did not have the financial resources to pay their grandson’s restitution order of \$800. When the AFTER Program was presented as an opportunity, there was a sense of relief for the whole family. Through the AFTER Program, A. performed ten weekends of community service in a Latinx community in San Francisco, distributing food to elders in his neighborhood at the local food pantry every Saturday morning.

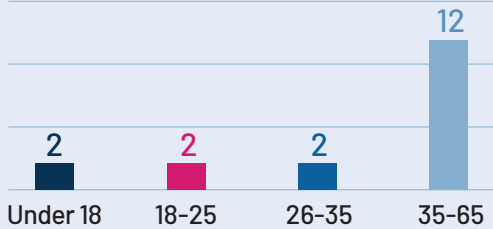
A. said, “it felt good to give back to the community, to provide people with food and groceries,” and enjoyed the service so much that he completed an additional 20 hours of community service for which he received school credit. In addition, A. also completed three sessions of online workshops as part of the program and made employment connections. Since the AFTER Program, A. has become much more connected to his community and is on a better path.

Demographics of Crime Survivors Who Participated in the First Year of the AFTER Program

Race/Ethnicity



Age



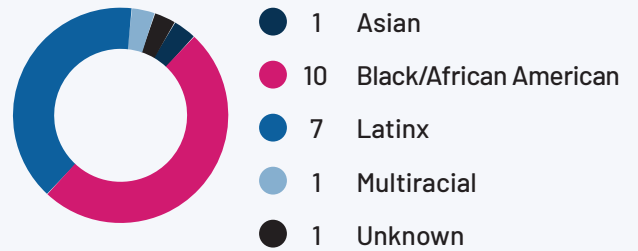
Gender Identity

MALE
13

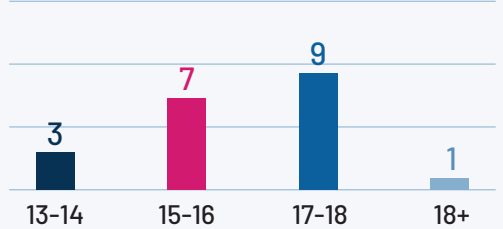
FEMALE
5

Demographics of Young People Who Participated in the First Year of the AFTER Program

Race/Ethnicity



Age



Gender Identity

MALE
19

FEMALE
1

“The AFTER Program helps to create healing and restorative justice and truly changes the opportunity and futures for young people, their families, and communities.”

- REBECCA MARCUS, Legal Education Advocacy Program Attorney, San Francisco Public Defender's Office

“The restitution system often fails both harmed parties and justice-involved individuals. AFTER turns, an often lose-lose system, into one that can benefit those involved and lead to some resolution. There is so much opportunity for both the person harmed and the young person.”

- GABRIELA BAYOL, Victim Services Advocate, San Francisco District Attorney's Office

What are the results of the AFTER Program?

The AFTER Program has provided meaningful relief for crime survivors and for young people and their parents. Rather than waiting months to receive little to no financial support for the harm that they have experienced, crime survivors are able to be fully compensated through the AFTER Program on a much quicker timeline than the traditional process.

- **Over 43 crime survivors and young people participated in the AFTER Program.**
- **Crime survivors were compensated \$1,966 on average for their losses.**
- **Crime survivors were compensated fully and much more quickly** than they are in the existing restitution process, within several months.
- **Young people made amends and were held accountable in ways besides paying money that they do not have.** To make amends, young people and their parents have: performed community service, such as working at neighborhood food pantries; gotten trained and connected to job opportunities; and received counseling. Their parents have also received services.

YOUTH JUVENILE RESTITUTION PILOT PROGRAMS IN OTHER CITIES

San Francisco joins other jurisdictions who are beginning to pilot alternatives to juvenile restitution. To date, we are aware of pilot programs in Washtenaw County, MI; Philadelphia, PA; and King County, WA.

The table below summarizes these four pilot programs.

Program Overview	Launch Date	Funding Source	Restitution Cap
<p>Washtenaw County, MI (Ann Arbor) launched a juvenile restitution program in May 2022 through a partnership with the Washtenaw Justice Project, Washtenaw County Prosecutor’s Office, and Public Defender’s Office. The program allows justice-involved youth to earn up to \$1,000 towards restitution payments by staying out of trouble and following the terms of their probation. The Prosecutor’s Office estimates that approximately 75% of juvenile restitution cases are assessed at \$1,000 or less.</p>	2022	Private	\$1,000, higher amounts considered on a case-by-case basis
<p>Philadelphia, PA launched a pilot program in 2022 for four months for 29 young people who were ordered to pay restitution. Restitution payment was capped at \$500. An evaluation from Drexel University is forthcoming.</p>	2022	Private	\$500
<p>King County, WA (Seattle) launched a pilot program in 2021 to address juvenile restitution through a community diversion program, Restorative Community Pathways (RCP). RCP diverts youth from the juvenile legal system and provides funds, up to \$1,000, to crime survivors immediately without them needing to go through a lengthy court process. Through RCP, young people are supported by community organizations that specialize in restorative justice.</p>	2022	Public	\$1,000
<p>San Francisco, CA’s AFTER Program provides community-based programming for young people that have a financial restitution obligation to fulfill, while also supporting the person harmed to meet their financial needs. Through AFTER, the young person makes amends by receiving services, participating in restorative justice conferences, workshops, performing community service, or being connected to job opportunities. The crime survivor receives restitution through a fund.</p>	2022	Private	\$5,000, higher amounts considered on a case-by-case basis



What Have We Learned from the AFTER Program?

Through the AFTER Program, we have learned that there is an alternative to our traditional system of restitution that ensures that BOTH the young person who caused the harm and the person harmed can be set on a more economically secure path.

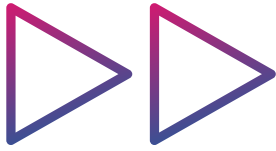
- **Crime survivors have been enthusiastic about the program, which gets them more financial resources quickly.** Rather than waiting months to receive little to no financial support for the harm that they have experienced, crime survivors are able to be fully compensated through the AFTER Program on a much faster timeline than the traditional process.
- **Young people can make amends and be held accountable in ways besides paying money that they do not have.** Young people have also been excited to learn about this opportunity because of the barriers that unpaid restitution creates for themselves and their families. And parents and other family members also are excited by the possibility of no longer being burdened by restitution and having their children be connected to important resources.
- **Young people and their families who are ordered to pay restitution learned about the extent that unpaid restitution can have on long-term financial stability.** We have learned strategic ways to explain the benefits of the program to the young person, who might not understand what restitution is or the negative impacts of restitution on their credit score or future financial aspirations.
- **Collaboration among all justice partners is key.** We are grateful to our partners who have co-created this program with us through a collaborative effort. AFTER would not have been possible without the support from the District Attorney's Office, the Public Defender's Office, The Bar Association of San Francisco, Juvenile Probation, and the Court.
- **Importance of reflection and flexibility.** Our justice partner working group meets once a month. Our role

"The AFTER Program not only grants economically challenged young individuals involved in the justice system the chance to repair the harm they've caused to others and learn essential life skills, but also safeguards them from future financial burdens that could prevent access to housing, employment, or financial security that will enable them to be productive and contributing community members."

- GABRIEL CALVILLO, Assistant Chief Probation Officer, San Francisco Juvenile Probation Department

at The Financial Justice Project is to facilitate these meetings and serve as a neutral party among the juvenile justice stakeholders. We routinely discuss how the program is working, surface areas where there can be changes or adjustments, and suggest improvements to the process. For example, the referral form to the program continues to be a living document and updated to capture information needed to best support crime survivors and young people.

- **Importance of continuous training and mindset shifts.** The AFTER Program is a new approach. It took some time to ensure that all parties were aware of the program and understand its eligibility and guidelines. We are also working with the Court and juvenile justice stakeholders to try to set restitution earlier in the process so that a referral to the AFTER Program can be made. We continue to work on ways to embed this program into the juvenile legal system.



What is Next?

We are proud of what we have implemented in San Francisco and hope that this spreads similar reforms to other counties in California and across other states.

- **Expansion to create an AFTER Program for adults.** In San Francisco, we are beginning to work with our justice partners at the District Attorney’s Office and Public Defender’s Office to expand AFTER into the adult criminal legal system.
- **Statewide bill in California.** In California, in 2023, Assemblymember Mia Bonta (D-Oakland) introduced [Assembly Bill 1186](#), the REPAIR (Realizing Equity while Promoting Accountability and Impactful Relief) Act, which would provide crime survivors with more equitable, timely, and stable compensation while setting youth who have caused harm on a more

meaningful path towards accountability. If passed, California will be the first in the nation to pioneer a public restitution fund to give both crime survivors and young people the support they need to ensure true and sustainable community safety.

The AFTER Program is a truly collaborative effort among San Francisco’s justice partners. We are grateful to our partners at Huckleberry Youth Programs, the San Francisco District Attorney’s Office, Public Defender’s Office, The Bar Association of San Francisco, Juvenile Probation, and the Juvenile Justice Division of the Superior Court.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, please visit The Financial Justice Project website at sfgov.org/financialjustice and check out AFTER Program materials at sfgov.org/financialjustice/news-resources/after-program.

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