



Greetings!

Thank you for your interest in becoming a member of the Community Justice Network for Youth (CJNY). CJNY is a unique collection of community-based organizations that primarily serve young people of color. Over the past 10 years we've grown to over 200 member groups across the U.S.

For centuries public officials and foundations did not consider the voices of the people that are most impacted by their decisions. In order to address this deficiency, James Bell of the Haywood Burns Institute and Bart Lubow of the Annie E. Casey Foundation invited seven community-based organizations to the Alex Haley Farm in Clinton, TN. These organizations represented a cross section of communities of color that specialized in delivering exemplary services to youth in their communities.

At Haley Farm it was realized that there were other organizations across the country in similar situations and that we should explore developing a network. This network would be a national force of grass-roots organizations that serve young people of color as well as a place for organizations within the network to support each other around their unique needs. In November of 2000, we came together with over one hundred people, representing 40 organizations, youth leaders and cultural artists. At this meeting the attendees established an Organizing Council and the Community Justice Network for Youth was born. We are now 10 years deep into the processes of building a movement across the country to "Stop the Rail to Jail" for children of color from poor communities.

We are excited to connect with new organizations that embrace our mission and values. We harness our values with the belief that young people who are in trouble with the law are lacking essential resources to be recognized as valuable members of society and can be served best in their communities. It is our belief that organizations like yours have considerable expertise in changing young peoples' lives. There is tremendous value in the peer-to-peer exchange of ideas amongst programs like yours.

There is no cost at this time to become a CJNY member. As a member organization you will be joining a national vehicle of practitioners that share the vision of creating real solutions to replace the failed justice model as represented by unaccountable institutions, high recidivism rates and poor re-entry services and outcomes. We connect our members through hosting national and regional conferences and peer to peer exchanges. We provide technical assistance in the form of curriculums, program development, etc. We aim to provide all of the resources that our members need to participate in network activities. As well, members are asked to provide TA and connect with other CJNY members within the peer exchange program.

We welcome you and look forward to building with your organization and the Community Justice Network for Youth. As always, if we can answer any question or supply you with further information please do not hesitate to contact us.

Community Justice Network for Youth
475 14th Street, Suite 800
Oakland, CA 94612
415-321-4100
www.cjny.org



In Strength and Struggle,
Community Justice Network for Youth Staff Team

Core Purpose

To protect and improve the lives of youth of color, poor children and their communities by ensuring fairness and equity throughout all public and private youth serving systems.

Mission Statement

The Community Justice Network for Youth (CJNY) is committed to the empowerment of children, youth, families and communities that are being served by governmental systems by promoting the availability of effective, culturally appropriate interventions for youth in poor communities, particularly communities of color. CJNY identifies, promotes and help expand the work and capacities of effective community based organizations that provide interventions to children in trouble with the law. CJNY works to develop and expand local, state and national networks of community-based providers committed to youth of color so that community-based agencies can effectively influence public policy that now often adversely impacts youth of color.

Values

We believe:

1. Children cannot be rehabilitated when housed in cages.
2. All young people deserve to be treated equally and fairly by the systems that serve them.
3. All young people have a voice that should be heard and included in the decision-making processes that impact their lives.
4. To protect and improve the lives of young people of color and poor children we must intentionally engage their communities.
5. Most young people in trouble with the law are best served by alternatives to incarceration.
6. The process of making change and achieving fairness and equity for youth of color and poor children must be one that is intentionally inclusive of many voices and opinions by convening traditional adversaries and creating an environment that is respectful of divergent views.
7. When young people of color and poor children are provided with sufficient resources, guidance, support, safety, and positive interventions, they can fulfill their potential as contributing members of their communities.

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8. A data-driven approach is essential to address systemic issues that involve race.

CJNY Central Long Term Goals (10 Years)

1. Models of juvenile justice systems that are restorative, accountable, fair and equitable will have been implemented and replicated throughout the United States.
2. There will be a major increase in the use of small community-based residential and non-residential programs and a major shift away from the use of large prison-like institutions for youth rehabilitation.
3. Local communities will have increased capacity to ensure equal opportunity for youth of color and poor children by holding child and youth serving systems accountable.
4. There will be a diverse cadre of traditional and non-traditional leaders committed to and working towards fair and equitable juvenile justice systems.



CJNY Membership Form

To join CJNY your organization must agree with CJNY’s mission and values statement. Please review these before completing this form. You will receive a follow up call from CJNY staff to arrange a new member orientation upon receipt of this membership form.

Name of Organization

Contact Person for Your Organization

Address

() _____

Phone

() _____

Fax

() _____

Additional Number

_____ **E-mail**

Brief Description of Services:

Signature

_____ **Date**

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