

Statement of Purpose and Goals

Approved April 20, 2016

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The Justice Reinvestment Coalition of Alameda County is composed of community-based and advocacy organizations committed to creating a fair and just public safety system based on effective practices that invest in our communities, our families, and our people. A fair and sustainable system that eliminates criminalization and acknowledges that detention and incarceration impoverish our communities and harm public safety.

The Justice Reinvestment Coalition believes it is time for Alameda County to redirect its spending priorities. Specifically, we ask that Alameda County criminal justice budget decisions be guided by the following **principles**:

1. Invest in opportunities, services, resources and programs that address root causes and empower communities.
2. Utilize community based and restorative practices over traditional punitive law enforcement approaches to public safety and protection and take into account social determinants of health and ends the disproportionate impact the criminal justice system has on race, class, age and zip code.
3. Fund culturally competent, peer based programs and services.
4. Increase community safety while ending mass incarceration.

Justice reinvestment means more than making better decisions about investment of public funds, it also means changing policies and practices which lead to ineffective results both in terms of successful reentry of those who have been incarcerated or impacted by the system but also in terms of increased community safety. Below we identify specific goals which, when coupled with better investment decisions, can lead to safer communities across the county.

GOALS

I. Reduce Incarceration in Alameda County

A. *With respect to juveniles, Alameda County shall:*

1. Stop the practice of charging juveniles as adults.
2. Stop pretrial detention of juveniles through cross-system and community based alternatives and diversion.
3. Eliminate fines and fees associated with incarceration (reports, phone calls, parking, expunge records, etc.) levied against juveniles and/or their guardians.

4. Support and facilitate expunging and sealing juvenile records.
 5. Increase cross-systems coordination of service delivery and support.
 6. Restore due process for immigrant youth and end collaboration with ICE.
- B. *With respect to **adults**, Alameda County shall:*
1. Expand pre-trial diversion and restorative justice programs.
 2. Expand pretrial release with evidence-based assessment programs.
 - a. More releases on “Own Recognizance” (OR)
 - b. More supervised pretrial release
 - c. Alternative forms of pretrial release
 - d. Lower bails and implement alternatives to bail
 3. Reduce Probation Terms to no more than three years.
 4. Restore due process for immigrant adults and end collaboration with ICE.
 5. Eliminate fines and fees associated with probation, (reports, phone calls, etc.) levied against incarcerated or formerly incarcerated individuals; reduce charges for commissary.
 6. Expand and support the Clean Slate Program.
- C. Limit the Capacity of the Jail
1. Not undertake additional jail construction.
 2. Not authorize any expenditure or approve any outside grants or gifts for use in the militarization of law enforcement, for example, no drones.

II. Re-Invest Law Enforcement and Alameda County Funds into Community-Based Solutions

Alameda County Shall:

- A. Invest in the communities and neighborhoods most impacted by mass incarceration
- B. Do everything possible to reduce the total jail population. This includes putting a stop to the practice of housing inmates from other jurisdictions.
- C. Invest in those who are incarcerated and returning home from incarceration
 1. Provide access to pre-release planning, programs, education, and job skills development for those in custody.
 2. Dismantle barriers that prevent those returning from incarceration from accessing quality services and opportunities for success.
 3. Expand access to higher education, affordable housing, mental and medical healthcare, public transportation, and living wage work for individuals returning from incarceration.
 4. Ensure that individuals have access to pre and post-release screening and assistance applying for disability-related benefits and services.
 5. Invest in training and employment for formerly incarcerated individuals, including the implementation of local hiring goals.

III. Improve Implementation of AB109

Alameda County shall:

- A. Prohibit the use of AB109 funds to close county agencies’ budget gaps.
- B. Require the creation of line item budgets for all AB109 allocations and the line items should align with the goals and strategies adopted in the plan.
- C. Allocate at least 50% of annual AB109 funds to services provided by community-based organizations.

- D. Create AB109 plans and allocations that align with the goals and strategies of AB 109 and Penal Code §17.5 with a plan that incorporates all of the specifications of Penal Code 17.5, including:
1. Acknowledges that building and operating more prisons to address community safety concerns are not sustainable, and will not result in improved public safety.
 2. Reinvest criminal justice resources to support community-based corrections programs and evidence-based and promising practices.
 3. In a timely manner, such as no later than June of each year, so that service delivery can begin at the start of the fiscal year.
 4. In cooperation and dialogue with community based organizations.
 5. In a transparent manner.

IV. Implement Both the Letter and Spirit of Prop 47

- A. Maximize reclassification of individuals eligible for Prop 47 relief.
- B. Remove barriers to reclassification.
- C. Audit all potential savings derived from the implementation of Prop 47, and work to assure their reinvestment in community based services as required in the language of the ballot measure.
- D. Ensure fair implementation of Prop 47 and maximize public awareness by supporting events that inform the reentry community of resources and services available to them.

V. Increase Transparency and Accountability within Alameda County Budget and Decision-making Processes

- A. County funding shall be subject to full transparency and accountability through the use of detailed line-item budgets and measurable metrics.
- B. Require public agencies and community-based organizations receiving public funds to use evidence-based practices and hold them accountable for meeting program performance and outcomes standards.

Justice Reinvestment Coalition of Alameda County

Contact through the Urban Strategies Council, which hosts its monthly meetings.
Urban Strategies Council, 1720 Broadway, Oakland, CA 94612 | (510) 893-2404