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GUIDING VALUES



STRENGTHS-BASED

Strengths-based approaches focus on an individual or community's strengths rather than on their challenges or deficits. Community-led diversion should focus on the skills, knowledge, and interests of youth, families, and communities.



TRAUMA INFORMED

Trauma-informed approaches understand the impact of trauma and how it manifests. Community-led diversion should prioritize safe environments, transparency, peer support, power sharing, and cultural relevance to minimize the impacts of trauma that youth may have experienced.



ANTI-RACIST AND EQUITY-FOCUSED

Persistent inequalities in the juvenile legal system mean that community-led diversion needs to be designed with an explicit goal to end racial, ethnic, and other group-based disparities in the juvenile legal system. Attending to the various intersecting systems of oppression based on race, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, class, disability, and citizenship status is critical for developing community-led youth diversion efforts that are equitable and just.



HOLISTIC WELL-BEING AND SAFETY

Community well-being reflects a combination of economic, social, political, environmental, and cultural factors and conditions that enable individuals and communities to flourish. Community-led diversion should incorporate these factors into diversion programming.



RESTORATIVE NOT PUNITIVE

At its core, restorative justice is a process whereby the parties involved, including the responsible person and all those impacted by the harm, work together to resolve an offense while focusing on how their decisions will impact their future. Through repairing harm, youth can take responsibility and meet the needs of the people and communities harmed while avoiding punitive processes that can have lasting negative effects.

