

FUNDERS FOR SAFETY & JUSTICE IN CALIFORNIA

I. FSJC Affinity Group

Funders for Safety & Justice in California (FSJC) is a newly created affinity group of national and California-based funders investing in criminal justice and public safety issues in the state. In addition, FSJC is designed to include funders whose work in other areas, (e.g., education, health, housing, workforce development, etc.) intersects with public safety, criminal justice and juvenile justice issues. FSJC is designed to promote shared learning, information-sharing and opportunities for coordinated and leveraged grant-making. FSJC will hold several learning sessions each year and sponsor special events, such as a statewide realignment summit we organized in September 2011 with more than 500 participants representing all California counties, a keynote by Governor Brown, and a series of best practice panels. Additional information is available at <http://www.calrealignment.org/about-us/september-21st-conference.html>.

Any funder interested in joining FSJC is welcome. To join, please contact: ttanner@rosenfound.org (415-644-9777).

Current members include:

- Butler Family Fund
- Ford Foundation
- Fund for Nonviolence
- James Irvine Foundation
- Open Society Foundations
- Public Welfare Foundation
- Rosenberg Foundation
- Sierra Health Foundation
- The California Endowment
- The California Wellness Foundation
- Women's Foundation of California

II. California Criminal Justice Reform Campaign

Early in 2012, a group of eight foundations¹ began supporting a new statewide criminal justice reform campaign and developing mechanisms for coordinated grant-making. The 4-5 year initiative is designed to reduce over-reliance on costly incarceration in California to allow for more effective public safety strategies and smarter investments of public dollars. A key strategy for this effort is to assist counties to implement realignment effectively, which also is an essential step to moving additional, deeper state and county-based reforms.

¹ The initial group of foundations included: Ford Foundation; Fund for Nonviolence; Open Society Foundations; Public Welfare Foundation; Rosenberg Foundation; The California Endowment; The California Wellness Foundation, and; Women's Foundation of California.

Created as a project of the Tides Center, the budget for the campaign is approximately \$4 million per year and includes support for a core staff, communications, support for counties, and grant-making. Advancing and leveraging realignment, the campaign's advocacy activities and promotion of evidence-based practices will be focused at both the state and county levels, with Los Angeles being an important focus of attention.

Campaign Goals:

1. Reduce the number of people incarcerated in California. Specifically, the campaign will focus on reducing populations such as: a) pre-trial detainees in jails; b) people convicted of nonviolent offenses in jail and prison; c) people assessed as low risk in jail and prison; d) probation and parole failures in jail and prison; and, e) women in jail and prison.
2. Reduce corrections spending in California. The campaign will promote more cost effective strategies to reduce recidivism such as evidence-based treatment programs and also promote reallocating resources into crime prevention, education and health.
3. Ensure these reductions are sustained. The campaign will work to build public support and enhance the public's literacy about the most effective public safety investments and strategies.

Campaign Strategies:

- a. Policy Advocacy. The campaign will support and advance policies that help Realignment succeed at reducing the state prison population without expanding or overcrowding county jails. The campaign will also support and advance policy change to: reform county pre-trial and sentencing practices; incentivize evidence-based practices, and; improve reentry outcomes.
- b. Communications. The campaign will engage in a variety of media strategies to reframe the public debate on public safety and advance short and long term policy and public education goals.
- c. Outreach and Alliance Building. The campaign will work with stakeholders at the local and state levels from a range of sectors including education, housing, health, law enforcement, and others.
- d. Support for Counties. The campaign will assist a select number of counties to help them reduce their jail populations and advance evidence-based criminal justice practices. Practices in these counties will be highlighted as models around the state.

For more information about the campaign, please contact Lenore Anderson, lenoreand@gmail.com, or Tim Silard, tim@rosenfound.org.

III. Aligned and Coordinated Funding

Beyond the group of funders directly supporting the multi-year campaign costs, there are many opportunities to leverage funding by aligning and coordinating grant-making with the grant-making strategies of the campaign funders or with other members of FSJC. Funders interested in exploring ways to align funding are encouraged to contact William Johnston, wjohnston@sorosny.org or Lateefah Simon, lateefah@rosenfound.org.