Introduction to Shared Safety

Evanston Human Services Committee

August 31, 2020

https://allianceforsafetyandjustice.org/
Introductions

Evangeline Semark
Evanston Community Member; Mother of Yakez Semark; Survivor
evasemark@me.com

John Maki
Local & State Government Best Practices Director
Alliance for Safety and Justice
jmaki@safeandjust.org

Marisa Arrona
Local Safety Solutions / Shared Safety Project Director
Alliance for Safety and Justice
marisa@safeandjust.org
FROM Security for Some

TO Safety for All
ILLINOIS CRIME VICTIMS’ VOICES
THE FIRST-EVER SURVEY OF ILLINOIS VICTIMS’ VIEWS ON SAFETY AND JUSTICE

VICTIMS PREFER A JUSTICE SYSTEM THAT FOCUSES MORE ON REHABILITATION THAN PUNISHMENT

By a margin of nearly 3 to 1, victims believe that prison makes people more likely to commit crimes than to rehabilitate them.

More than half of all victims prefer that the criminal justice system focus more on rehabilitating people who commit crimes than punishing them.

3 TO 1
PRISON MAKES PEOPLE MORE LIKELY TO COMMIT CRIMES

53%
PREFER FOCUSING ON REHABILITATION

VICTIMS PREFER ALTERNATIVES TO PRISON AND INVESTMENTS IN NEW SAFETY PRIORITIES

By a margin of 2 to 1, victims prefer holding people who commit crimes accountable through alternatives to prison such as rehabilitation, mental health treatment, drug treatment, or community service to putting them in prison.

By a margin of 9 to 1, victims think Illinois should invest more in schools and education rather than invest more in prisons and jails.

HOLD PEOPLE ACCOUNTABLE THROUGH ALTERNATIVES TO PRISON

PUT THEM IN PRISON

9 TO 1
INVEST MORE IN SCHOOLS

Link to report.
Criminal Justice

Community Groups, Not Police, Will Likely Get $20M From Criminal Justice Grants

By Patrick Smith
June 28, 6:01 a.m. CT

After a push by anti-violence groups, and in the midst of calls to defund police, an Illinois committee has voted to send $20 million in COVID-19 grant money from the U.S. Department of Justice to community-based organizations, rather than law enforcement agencies.

Link to article.

Anti-Violence Groups Band Together To Lobby For A Slice Of $20M In Federal Funds

By Patrick Smith
April 24, 6 a.m. CT

The pitch? Don't give all the money to law enforcement when community-based programs are providing essential services during this crisis.

The "Coalition for Shared Safety" is looking to get a portion of about $20 million in federal funding. That money has been designated for criminal-justice work across the state. The coalition includes domestic violence support groups, rape crisis centers and organizations that work to end Chicago gun violence.

Organization leaders say this is an unprecedented partnership because it combines so many different types of anti-violence groups that have never come together before.

They say their unique — and collective — message is that money should not go solely to law enforcement agencies, when there is a growing need for help among community-based organizations still providing essential services that address and help stem violence.

Link to article.
What is Shared Safety?

5 Blueprint Principles for Shared Safety

- Shifting to a Public Health Frame
- Wellbeing is Safety
- Crime Survivors at the Center
- Breaking the Cycle of Harm
- Making the System Work

http://sharedsafety.us/
Crime Survivors are anyone who:

- has been directly impacted by or experienced crime/violence,
- has witnessed crime/violence,
- has had daily life impacted by crime/violence.

Generally, the most harmed and least helped.
**TRADITIONAL CRIMINAL JUSTICE APPROACH**

- Siloed.
- Uses a criminal justice lens: Responds after a crime occurs.
- Relies on incarceration as the primary tool.
- Fails to protect most vulnerable communities (Safety for some).
- Responds based on severity of offense.
- Assumes victims needs = punishment.
- Narrowly measured by crime rates.

**SHARED SAFETY APPROACH**

- Integrated.
- Uses a public health lens: Prioritizes prevention, intervention, treatment, and healing.
- Increases investments in and opportunities for pre- and post-arrest diversion.
- Recognizes that low-income communities of color are at highest risk for repeat and violent crime (Safety for all).
- Graduated responses based on risk, harm, need.
- Recognizes victims needs = healing.
- Measured by impact on community safety and well-being.
Building New Constituencies to Win Safety for All

Alliance for Safety and Justice (ASJ) is a multi-state organization that aims to replace over-incarceration with more effective public safety solutions rooted in crime prevention, community health, rehabilitation and support for crime victims. Focused on the largest states in the country, we partner with state leaders and advocates to achieve safety and justice reforms through advocacy, organizing, coalition building, research and communications.

Our History

Launched in 2016, ASJ is currently engaged in eight states (Florida, Illinois, Ohio, Michigan, Texas, Arizona, Pennsylvania and our flagship in California-Californians for Safety and Justice). We are justice data and policy experts, grassroots organizers, attorneys and campaigners – we combine research and smart policy proposals with lobbying, constituency building and alliances to win changes in state laws.

ASJ is the sister organization of Californians for Safety and Justice, also a project of Tides Center and Alliance for Safety and Justice Action Fund, a 501(c)4 project of The Advocacy Fund.

https://allianceforsafetyandjustice.org/