

MEDIA RELEASE: Tuesday, October 8, 2024

Contact: Makala Blake, 510-368-3919, mblake@safeandjust.org

DOJ Awards \$5 Million to Expand Trauma Recovery Center Model

New Federal Victim Assistance Funding to Expand Services for Crime Survivors Nationwide

WASHINGTON – The [Alliance for Safety and Justice](#) (ASJ) and [National Alliance of Trauma Recovery Centers](#) (NATRC), a project of the [University of California San Francisco](#) (UCSF), announced today that the NATRC has been awarded a major grant from the U.S. Department of Justice’s Office for Victims of Crime. The \$5,000,000 in new funding – [FY24 Trauma Recovery Center Demonstration Project](#) – will allow the NATRC to establish Trauma Recovery Centers (TRCs) in communities most affected by violence and oversee a national funding process to subcontract with organizations to start new Trauma Recovery Centers in underserved communities. The NATRC will provide technical assistance to support those centers’ implementation and operations. The funding is both a major boon to communities struggling to break cycles of violence and victimization and a testament to the growing consensus around the effectiveness of the TRC model.

“Research shows that without support, victims of crime can face several challenges post victimization including instability, addiction, mental health challenges, revictimization, and future contact with the justice system themselves,” **Shakyrá Diaz, Alliance for Safety and Justice Chief of Federal Advocacy**. “Stopping the cycle of crime starts with supporting people and families in crisis. The TRC model delivers immediate, essential, wrap-around services to crime victims that help them to recover and gain stability. Growing this model means growing public safety.”

Depending on the needs of victims and their families, TRC services can range from trauma and grief counseling to help with emergency housing, navigating the legal system, and applying for victim compensation.

“We know that TRCs work because the evidence is [borne out](#) in the experiences of crime survivors assisted by this model,” said **Dr. Gena Castro Rodriguez, National Alliance of Trauma Recovery Centers Executive Director**. “It’s proven to create positive outcomes in crime victims’ lives – from lower rates of PTSD, substance abuse and homelessness to higher rates of employment among those served by a TRC. We are so excited to be able to partner with ASJ to expand this model into communities that really need these essential services and where crime victims currently lack access to the care and support that all victims deserve.”

NATRC, in partnership with stakeholders, crime survivors, and community members, will conduct a comprehensive landscape analysis to identify communities needing TRCs and select three to five new TRCs in high-need areas through a competitive process. The TRC model, developed in 2001 by Dr. Alicia Boccellari, founder and Professor Emeritus at UCSF, and implemented in 54 communities across the country, uses a comprehensive, flexible approach that emphasizes assertive community outreach, evidence-based trauma-focused treatment, and clinical case management that coordinates and integrates services.

ABOUT ALLIANCE FOR SAFETY AND JUSTICE

The Alliance for Safety and Justice is a national organization that aims to win new safety priorities in states across the country. It partners with leaders to advance state reform through networking, coalition building, research, education, and advocacy. It also brings together diverse crime survivors to advance policies that help communities most harmed by crime and violence, as part of Crime Survivors for Safety and Justice – its national network of over 100,000 crime survivors. For more information, visit <https://allianceforsafetyandjustice.org>.

ABOUT NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF TRAUMA RECOVERY CENTERS

The National Alliance of Trauma Recovery Centers offers a learning community to 54 Trauma Recovery Centers across the U.S., and that number continues to grow. The organization shares best practices and innovations, advocacy updates, and provider support, along with support for Trauma Recovery Center implementation and program development through the TRC Technical Assistance Program. NATRC also serves as a catalyst to advocate for just and equitable healing services for all. For more information, visit [the NATRC.org](http://theNATRC.org).

###