



# THE INSTITUTE *for* RESTORATIVE JUSTICE *and* RESTORATIVE DIALOGUE

## VICTIM OFFENDER MEDIATION TRAINING

**“Restorative justice is not simply a way of reforming the criminal justice system; it is a way of transforming the entire legal system, our family lives, our conduct in the workplace, our practice of politics. Its vision is of a holistic change in the way we do justice in the world.”**

As evidenced by recent legislative efforts, the endorsement of national associations, and well-documented outcome studies, there's increased interest within the criminal justice system and schools to use restorative justice principles and practices for responding to low-level crimes and wrong doing. Unfortunately, interest outstrips current resources as there are few trained practitioners to create and advise programs or provide direct services. Competent mediators have been trained in a settlement driven model that responds to disagreement, which differs significantly in both process and philosophy from a restorative justice process driven model that responds to harm.

Victim Offender Medication (VOM) is used principally as a diversionary practice across the criminal justice spectrum – from pre-charging to post-incarceration, as well as alongside the criminal justice process. There are numerous low level crimes that historically respond well to VOM as indicated by over four decades of research showing recidivism drops of between 25 and 32%. ViOM is also used to address the harm related to Tier 2 and Tier 3 instances of wrongdoing in schools.

This three-day skill-based training is designed to give participants the tools to conduct victim-centered Victim Offender Mediation for low level crimes, wrong doing in schools, neighborhood and community disputes, and issues involving juveniles and young adults. The training will additionally focus on creating opportunities for VOM within existing systems as well as new avenues of application, engaging stakeholders, and adapting strategies to a variety of contexts.

Topics will include:

- Principles of restorative justice
- Understanding the victimization experience
- Understanding the experience of offenders
- Characteristics of humanistic mediation
- Preparation for mediation
- Facilitation of mediations
- Management of restitution and repair of harm
- Referral sources and intake
- Networking and building support among criminal justice stakeholders
- Elements of sustainable programs
- Adjusting VOM to diverse contexts

The training will be capped at 20 participants. Preference will be given to those who work within schools and the criminal justice system and those for whom an introductory training will be most valuable.