



**\$84 Billion**  
**\$1.1 Trillion**

It is typically reported that mass incarceration costs the U.S. ~\$84 billion dollars per year. In truth, when all factors are accounted for, the amount is closer to **1.1 Trillion dollars (6% of GDP)**. The vast majority of these expenditures fall on the shoulders of families and communities of the incarcerated.



**Positive Cooperative Justice**

*Because problems can't be solved  
at the same level of thinking  
which created them*

Yet despite these outrageous expenses  
it continually fails to accomplish  
its core mission:

**“To Serve and To Protect”**

**This current criminal justice system is not however broken. It works exactly as it should be expected to, based on its construction. It is based entirely on wrong ideas about how to make society safer for the select few whom it serves.**

**PCJ offers a comprehensive competitive model for the replacement – not reform – of this well-oiled and deadly machine we call criminal justice. It provides a model for competing with the status quo model, starting at the level of a single community.**

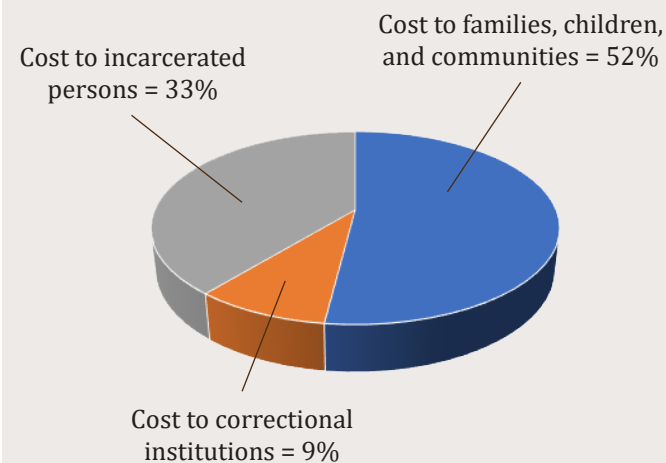
This is everyone's opportunity, but we need to create it from the ground up.

We can have a justice system which is *fair*, *functional*, and *equitable*. A true justice system, one deserving of the name, one which works to **resolve** ongoing systemic problems, not to **exacerbate** them.

The existing criminal justice system was born in the *imagination*s of people. If a new kind of justice system can be imagined, it can be built. Let us imagine and then create one based on the ideals which the United States has always aspired toward: democracy, fairness, integrity, and inclusion held in balance with self-determination.

The U.S. criminal justice system  
costs approximately  
**1.1 Trillion Dollars (6% of GDP)**  
per year as of 2016

### Incarcerated Costs by Group



Source: Institute for Advancing Justice Research and Innovation, Washington University, St. Louis

**PositiveCooperativeJustice.org**

**seekPCJ.org**

# PCJ provides a comprehensive framework for what justice really means

Justice does not need to rest on finding someone to *blame*. It is not served by causing damage to someone or some group **for any reason**. We can create a new set of systems. One which builds up our communities and helps people find functional ways of getting through life without doing harm to themselves or others. In so doing, we can look not just to address our problems, but also to build on our strengths as communities, families and individuals.

- We can prevent crimes, not just deal with their aftermath
- We can resolve conflicts
- We can uplift people and communities
- We can make our neighborhoods safer without armed guards and barbed wire
- We can hold people accountable without tossing them in the garbage
- We are better than what we have been doing and it is time we show it

To learn more or find out how you can help this vision become reality, go to:

[seekPCJ.org](http://seekPCJ.org)

[PositiveCooperativeJustice.org](http://PositiveCooperativeJustice.org)

## PCJ is...

### ➤ Positive

- in the sense of seeking positive outcomes
- in the sense of aiming to address strife while inflicting as little harm as possible
- in the sense of scientific positivism, requiring evidence to support ideas
- in the sense of positive psychology, the school of thought which is akin to preventative medicine, and suggests that healthy, happy minds do less harm than unhealthy, unhappy ones

### ➤ Cooperative

- in the sense that all involved are given consideration, offered inclusion, and encouraged to participate
- in the sense that all facilities and apparatus will be owned by the communities they serve and the people they employ and house, and that any economic benefits of their operation will be felt by those communities and those who have been harmed

### ➤ Justice

- in the sense of restoring balance
- in the sense of fairness, integrity, and consideration

## PCJ will be...

- **Community Centered:** transparently operated, community owned and operated, based in centralized, inviting and safe locations
- **Science Centered:** employing state-of-the-art methods and treatment, research driven and responsive to change
- **Beneficial:** providing a wealth of services and resources to the communities it serves
- **Sustainable:** generating equitable and forward thinking sources of economic security for communities and individuals
- **Nonviolent:** focused on violence prevention and conflict de-escalation; employing non-lethal and harm minimizing intervention tactics during any unavoidable physical confrontation
- **Non-punitive:** aiming to disrupt ongoing harms and prevent their continuation; restricting persons' liberties based solely on objective needs and effects
- **Responsible:** bringing those who have caused harm to account and compelling them towards meaningful action moving forward
- **Restorative:** providing all necessary resources and support for healing for those who have experienced trauma or loss
- **Safety Conscious:** abandoning antagonistic tactics and arbitrary prohibitions in favor of equitable and effective strategies for ensuring the health, safety and well-being of all involved
- **Human Centered:** elevating peoples' needs for creativity, self-expression and personal development; fostering interpersonal and community relationship development

## We Need a New Kind of Justice System!

Locking people away, socially ostracizing, bankrupting or killing them just to make ourselves feel that justice has been done **does not protect the public**. The data is clear. Criminal justice is based on misinformation and fear. The things which work well to protect lives and promote social harmony are known. PCJ would devote its energies towards utilizing **what works**.