



1515 6th Street  
Coachella, CA 92236  
T (760) 972-4628  
F (760) 289-7981  
[www.alianzacv.org](http://www.alianzacv.org)

## RAP FOUNDATION APPLICATION

### 1. Name of Program:

Community Justice through Restorative Justice Practices

### 2. Name and contact information for the person responsible for the funding request should follow up be required.

Silvia Paz  
P.O. Box 38, Coachella, CA 92236  
[silvia@alianzacv.org](mailto:silvia@alianzacv.org)  
760-989-8272

### 3. Section 1. Introduction

a. Provide the applicant organization's name and mission statement.

Alianza's mission to transform the socio-economic conditions of the Coachella Valley so that people in all communities have opportunities to prosper. We do this by addressing the root cause of health inequity—advocating, through policy and systems change, to remedy the impact of poor infrastructure, environments, and education on economic, physical, and mental health outcomes in our communities.

b. When and where was the applicant organization founded?

Alianza Coachella Valley (formerly Building Healthy Communities) launched in the eastern Coachella Valley in 2009. The organization received 501 c 3 status in July 2019 with an office in the City of Coachella. With an emphasis in one Coachella Valley that works for all, Alianza takes pride in its local roots.

Our alliance is representative of NGOs and residents from Palm Springs to the Salton Sea all working under a collective impact approach to carry out campaigns for environmental justice, better learning environments in local schools, trauma-informed care, and youth leadership development

c. How often does the applicant organization's board of directors meet?

d. How many directors are currently seated?

e. How are minutes of the applicant organization's board meetings maintained?

f. What are the practices and protocol of financials for the organization and where kept?

La Mesa serves as the governing body guiding Alianza's work. The group currently seats 8 leaders from each campaign team, representatives from partner organizations, and community members all coming together through a collective impact approach. La Mesa convenes monthly to make

---

***Join The Movement!***

*Help our region thrive and ensure fairness and inclusion for all.*



1515 6th Street  
Coachella, CA 92236  
T (760) 972-4628  
F (760) 289-7981  
[www.alianzacv.org](http://www.alianzacv.org)

decisions on policies and methods to best strengthen Alianza's collective action and advance campaigns that meet the community's needs. Minutes are maintained in a Google Drive accessible to all La Mesa members. La Mesa has oversight over the organization's financials which are guided and maintained by The Practice, a full-service accounting, tax, and consulting firm with offices in Palm Desert.

#### 4. Section 2. Unmet Need

##### **a.**

In 2013 the State of California significantly altered the way they fund public education by enacting the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF). While giving school districts more autonomy over the use of state dollars, the LCFF uplifts the need to support low income, English language learners, and foster youth. These groups have been significantly impacted by high rates of suspension and expulsion as well as drop out rates; signaling an educational attainment gap.

In January of 2019, the Riverside County office of Education published the "2017-2018 Four-Year Cohort Graduation, Dropout, a-g Completion and State Seal of Biliteracy Report." The report sustains the assertion that there is still work to be done to close the achievement gap.

##### Graduation Rates

Riverside County 88.9%

**Coachella Valley Unified 81%**

Desert Sands 89.6%

Palm Springs Unified 92.4%

##### Drop-out Rates

Riverside County 5.8%

**Coachella Valley Unified 9.2%**

Desert Sands 4.8%

Palm Springs Unified 4.6%

##### A-G Completion Rates

Riverside County 42.4%

**Coachella Valley Unified 32%**

Desert Sands 46%

Palm Springs 37%

The data also shows "significant differences among student groups" with Latino, migrant, English learners, socioeconomically disadvantaged, and foster youth fairing lower than their White

---

***Join The Movement!***

*Help our region thrive and ensure fairness and inclusion for all.*



1515 6th Street  
Coachella, CA 92236  
T (760) 972-4628  
F (760) 289-7981  
[www.alianzacv.org](http://www.alianzacv.org)

counterparts. Coachella Valley Unified School District has the highest number of the above student groups compared to its neighboring districts.

For decades schools have practiced “zero tolerance” as a way to achieve school safety and promote academic achievement. The American Psychological Zero Tolerance Task Force found “zero tolerance policies may negatively affect the relationship of education with juvenile justice and appear to conflict to some degree with current best knowledge concerning adolescent development.” Evidence suggests that zero tolerance policies are disproportionately applied in communities of color and are linked to lower academic achievement among this group.

<https://www.apa.org/pubs/info/reports/zero-tolerance-report.pdf>

The last 10 years have seen a movement both nationally and at the state level to shift from zero tolerance policies to support the social-emotional needs of students. Emerging research points to the “urgency of integrating social, emotional, and academic dimensions of learning to improve student outcomes” and behavior. Not only can Schools have a significant influence on social, emotional, and academic development. The wider community (families, community institutions, etc.) must be engaged to enhance the strength, depth, and pace of acquisition of social emotional competencies. [https://assets.aspeninstitute.org/content/uploads/2017/09/SEAD-Research-Brief-9.12\\_updated-web.pdf](https://assets.aspeninstitute.org/content/uploads/2017/09/SEAD-Research-Brief-9.12_updated-web.pdf)

**b.**

Restorative Justice practices have been adopted by school districts across the State, including Coachella Valley Unified School District. Restorative Justice aims to achieve a shift from punitive discipline methods to restorative practices that address the root causes of conflict and misbehavior, and in so doing supporting the social emotional well being of individuals.

Community Justice is born as a natural next step of Alianza’s successful effort to address the social emotional needs of students through restorative justice practices at Coachella Valley Unified School District. With the school district’s second year of training in restorative justice practices in their middle schools, first year in high schools, a desire to expand these practices to our communities has emerged among the parents familiar with restorative justice. Engaging communities in restorative justice can strengthen the effort already started within the schools. The goal of the community justice campaign is to increase the understanding and practice of restorative justice in community settings to shift our community’s response to conflict and misbehavior from punitive to restorative, thus creating alignment between our communities and efforts at our schools.

The program outline below delineates the approach of restorative justice practices, starting with community building as a foundational element of restorative justice. The premise in this approach

---

***Join The Movement!***

*Help our region thrive and ensure fairness and inclusion for all.*



1515 6th Street  
Coachella, CA 92236  
T (760) 972-4628  
F (760) 289-7981  
[www.alianzacv.org](http://www.alianzacv.org)

asserts the importance of relational values in preventing and resolving conflict and promoting a culture shift.

**Community Building Training:** 12 hour training where participants engage more deeply with Circle as a tool to build meaningful relationships in a wide range of settings. Participants will explore and practice Circle design and facilitation, deepening their understanding of real- world applications of RJ theories. The training also supports participants in creating strategies for working with challenging behaviors that often emerge in Circle, and developing messaging to encourage adoption of Circle as a Restorative Practice in their school/district.

#### **English Session Logistics**

# of Hours: 12  
# of Participants: up to 18  
# of Trainers: 1

#### **Spanish Session Logistics**

# of Hours: 12  
# of Participants: up to 18  
# of Trainers: 1

**Harm and Conflict Advanced Circlekeeper Training:** 18 hour in-depth training on the planning and facilitation of Harm and Conflict Circles. Training includes extensive role plays and opportunities to practice coaching accountability for student and adult stakeholders.

#### **English Session Logistics**

# of Hours: 18  
# of Participants: up to 18  
# of Trainers: 1

#### **Spanish Session Logistics**

# of Hours: 18  
# of Participants: up to 18  
# of Trainers: 1

**Restorative Practices & Trauma Sensitivity Training:** 2.5 hour training that introduces participants to basic trauma theory and the embodied effects of traumatic experiences, while exploring Restorative Practices as a trauma sensitive modality. Training includes experiential learning, self-reflection, and concept presentations. Recommended for participants with basic familiarity with Circle experience.

---

***Join The Movement!***

*Help our region thrive and ensure fairness and inclusion for all.*



1515 6th Street  
Coachella, CA 92236  
T (760) 972-4628  
F (760) 289-7981  
[www.alianzacv.org](http://www.alianzacv.org)

### **English Session Logistics**

# of Hours: 2.5  
# of Participants: up to 18

# of Trainers: 1

### **Spanish Session Logistics**

# of Hours: 2.5  
# of Participants: up to 18  
# of Trainers: 1

**Restorative Dialogue Training:** 4 hour training exploring dialogue skills that affirm positive relationships and provide interventions to shift towards accountability and self-directed actions. Participants, through role plays and self-reflective work, practice using a relationship centered paradigm to respond restoratively to challenging behaviors.

### **English Session Logistics**

# of Hours: 4  
# of Participants: up to 18  
# of Trainers: 1

### **Spanish Session Logistics**

# of Hours: 4  
# of Participants: up to 18  
# of Trainers: 1

### **COVID-19 Adaptations**

In light of the impact COVID-19 is having on our communities, now more than ever our communities are in need of opportunities to connect and address emotional wellbeing. We understand the uncertainty in our ability to be able to gather in person and are ready to create an inclusive and virtual community for these trainings with some adaptations. Should gatherings become feasible, we could have a combination of the in-person trainings above and the virtual trainings below.

The online workshops and training, facilitated by CCEJ and supported by Alianza, will feature interactive learning and dialogue, with frequent use of break out groups for small group discussions and learning. Each workshop and training will be anchored by tools that can be put into easy use by participants. The training will be offered in English and Spanish.

---

***Join The Movement!***

*Help our region thrive and ensure fairness and inclusion for all.*



1515 6th Street  
Coachella, CA 92236  
T (760) 972-4628  
F (760) 289-7981  
[www.alianzacv.org](http://www.alianzacv.org)

**Virtual Restorative Practices & Trauma Sensitivity Training:** 1.5 hour training that introduces participants to basic trauma theory and the embodied effects of traumagenic experiences, while exploring Restorative Practices as a trauma sensitive modality. Training includes self reflection and concept presentations.

**Dialogue Training:** 3 hour training exploring dialogue skills that affirm positive relationships and provide interventions for practitioners to shift individuals towards accountability and self-directed actions. Participants, through role plays and self-reflective work, practice using a relationship centered paradigm to respond restoratively to challenging behaviors.

**Authentic Community Building Online Workshop:** 1.5 hour workshop providing strategies for building and strengthening relationships and connections through online platforms. Workshop will explore tools like games, story sharing, and dialogue, with opportunities for practice by participants.

**Understanding Needs Based Theory & Application Workshop:** 1.5 hour workshop on Needs Based Theory, a core Restorative Justice framework that provides a powerful way for understanding people's actions and emotions, especially in times of conflict. Workshop will feature a framework overview, break out discussions focused on application, and case studies.

**Centering Play & Joy in Relationships Workshop:** 1.5 hour workshop focused on practices to build joy through play in groups of any size. Providing games designed to work effectively over online platforms, these workshops will allow participants to practice using games in their contexts.

**c. trough e.**

The training will reach a total of 36 participants, primarily parents ages 18+. Assuming an average family size of 4, a total of 144 individuals will be impacted by these training sessions. Indirectly, by these parents becoming stronger partners in their child's schools, and ongoing efforts to support restorative justice practices, the impact will trickle down to our education system.

**f.**

As a collective impact alliance, Alianza's efforts are done in partnership with community residents, non-profit organizations, and technical assistance providers. Our partners include Coachella Valley parents, a parent group engaging community members from Salton City to Coachella schools.

---

***Join The Movement!***

*Help our region thrive and ensure fairness and inclusion for all.*

Youth Leadership Institute which provides communications support. The LGBTQ Center of Palm Springs which supports inclusivity. Lideres Campesinas whose work on combating domestic violence aligns with the use of restorative justice practices. Partnership Letter is attached.

Our technical assistance provider and partner is the California Conference for Equality and Justice, providing training specializing in the areas of Equity and Inclusion Education, Restorative Justice Practices, Youth Leadership Development, and InterGroup Dialogue. MOU is attached.

**5. Section 3. Evaluation**

**a.**  
 The Alianza Community Justice Campaign will evaluate the impact of the training on participants that take the Restorative Justice (RJ) training. This group will be identified as the RJ focus group. To complement the quantitative pre and post-survey, the qualitative evaluation will include the anecdotal responses after each training to monitor the progress of objectives. The participants will participate in an evaluation based on the number of RJ training sessions to determine the impact on youth and families.

The methodology for evaluation at the end of each training will gather anecdotal stories of the impact that the training has on the focus group. The anecdotal information will capture the knowledge content in a group/circle setting by a scribe using empowering/evaluative questions.

**b.**  
 Alianza and CCEJ will administer both a pre-survey and a post-survey to trainees to measure what information is learned from the training and the level of confidence to lead Restorative Justice tiers during the program. At the conclusion of each session, after the anecdotal stories, participants will complete a detailed questionnaire to improve the training after each session. Lastly, there will be a conclusive questionnaire at the final training session.

**c.**  
 No. CCEJ and Alianza will draft, collect, and compile evaluation.

**d.**

Objective	Process /Measures	Data Tool	Timeline
Kick-off planning meeting	⇒ Meeting with CCEJ and Alianza Project Manager to prepare for	⇒ Google doc and hangouts	⇒ Month 1

	logistics and reserve locations		
Current parent leader's growth become trained in the arch of Restorative Justice	⇒ Previous knowledge ⇒ What they are looking forward to	⇒ Survey tool (paper/via phone)	⇒ Month 2
Community Building Training-18hrs Spanish session English session	⇒ RJ Theories ⇒ RJ circle	⇒ Attendance ⇒ Participation ⇒ Survey tool after training	⇒ Every training ⇒ Month 3-4
Harm and Conflict Advanced Circlekeeper Training-18hrs Spanish session English session	⇒ Coaching ⇒ Facilitation	⇒ Attendance ⇒ Participation ⇒ Focus group and survey after training	⇒ Every training ⇒ Month 5-6
Restorative Dialogue and Trauma Sensitivity Training-2.4 hrs Spanish session English session	⇒ Trauma informed practices	⇒ Attendance ⇒ Participation ⇒ Survey tool after training	⇒ Every training ⇒ Month 7
Restorative Dialogue Training-4hrs Spanish session English session	⇒ Empowering questions ⇒ Listening skills	⇒ Attendance ⇒ Participation Focus group and survey after training	⇒ Every training Month 8
Strategize how to Implement content acquired in community and schools	⇒ Restorative Justice in School and community	⇒ Level of participation ⇒ Tactics developed with Restorative Justice lead by the participants	⇒ Month 9-12

**Join The Movement!**

*Help our region thrive and ensure fairness and inclusion for all.*



1515 6th Street  
Coachella, CA 92236  
T (760) 972-4628  
F (760) 289-7981  
[www.alianzacv.org](http://www.alianzacv.org)

6. Section 4. Budget (See attached budget)

- a) What is the amount requested from RAP Foundation? **\$25,000**
- b) What is the budget period (stated in months and not to exceed one year)? **12 months**
- c) What is the total operating budget of the organization? **\$2.1 M**
- d) What is the total proposed program budget? **\$44,880**
- e) Will other grantors be approached to fund the project/program? If so, how much money is being or will be sought from other funders? **Alianza has general operating funds that have been allocated to our Community Justice campaign. These funds will continue to cover staffing needs. RAPs funding will be allocated toward the cost of training.**

7. Describe how your organization is adapting to the COVID-19 public health crisis to serve or provide programs for your target population.

While Alianza's work is to remove barriers to full economic and health opportunities for people, and not the provision of direct services, COVID-19 has called us to be responsive to the people we traditionally engage in our work, in different ways.

Our COVID-19 Response includes:

- Phone banking-- reaching people where they are and connecting them with resources to help them pay bills, access food, and education about COVID-19. Since mid February we have made a total of 15,000 calls with a 25% response rate.
- Homebound Food Distribution--Many of the families we work have limited access to transportation, going out to get food puts them at risk if they have to obtain a ride from a neighbor and cannot follow social distancing guidelines. Alianza partnered with FIND Foodbank and Pueblo Unido CDC to implement a door-to-door food distribution program for the agricultural community working in mobile home parks.

As part of the phone banking program we have identified families who are in need of food and have partnered with Aziz Farms and CV Harvest to distribute food door-to-door to these families. Additionally, Alianza has set aside funds to respond to emergency cash assistance needs of those who are undocumented. Alianza has received funds from the California Immigrant Resilience Fund to support this effort.

Currently Exploring:

- Partnership with local growers to get resources and education on COVID-19 to farmworkers

---

***Join The Movement!***

*Help our region thrive and ensure fairness and inclusion for all.*