

TRANSFORMATIVE JUSTICE PROJECT | DOCUMENT 9

Forks in the Road

The TJP Map of Intervention Points

Vision. TJP reframes the narrative of harm, healing, and prevention.

Mission. To implement the principles and practices of Transformative Justice across all sectors of South Carolina.

Governed by: SCDC Division of Programs, Reentry, and Rehabilitative Services (oversight) | Board of Volunteers (direction) | Interdepartmental Committee (supervision)

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SUMMARY

What this is. A map of the moments in a life, a family, and a community when harm can still be turned aside. We call those moments **forks in the road**. This document names them, ranks them, and matches each one to work TJP can actually do from inside SCDC, through approved partners.

The framework. We use one tool, the **PATHS Fork Map**. P = Prevention level (for everyone, for some, for a few). A = Age and stage (from before birth to reentry and the families left behind). T = Turning point (the fork itself). H = Harm-allowing culture (the norms that let harm happen). S = System lever (how deep the change reaches, from one-time events up to rules and beliefs).

What is inside. A plain explanation of prevention science. A South Carolina fact sheet using only verified numbers. Fifteen harm categories, each with its typical path, its forks (earliest first), the culture that allows it, programs that already work (with the strength of evidence stated honestly), the TJP role, and one Keystone idea. A **Top 15 Forks** table. **30 quick-start pilots** for the first two years. The **Idea Engine**, a routine tied to the TJP Meeting Rhythm so TJP never runs out of ideas. Four photocopy-ready worksheets and dorm signs.

The rules that never bend. Residents do not contact minors directly. Every piece of youth-facing work is written, reviewed, approved, and delivered through partners and supervised programming. Peer facilitators are educators, never therapists. Every product moves up through the Interdepartmental Committee, the Board of Volunteers, and, where required, the SCDC Division of Programs, Reentry, and Rehabilitative Services.

The one-sentence case. The people who walked the path know where the forks are. TJP turns that hard-won knowledge into prevention.

Part 1: Why a Map of Forks?

ANALOGY

The river parable. A group of friends is picnicking by a river. Someone sees a child being swept downstream and jumps in to pull her out. Then another child comes, and another. Soon everyone is in the water, pulling children out as fast as they can. One friend climbs out and starts walking upstream. "Where are you going?" the others shout. "We need you here!" She calls back, "I'm going upstream to find out who is pushing them in."

Prisons, courts, and emergency rooms are the downstream rescue crew. The work is real and it saves lives, but it never ends, because the river keeps delivering people. Prevention is the walk upstream. It asks: where did this person's path split? Who was standing at that split? What would it have taken for them to go the other way?

Louis put the worry plainly: "I'm afraid we're going to run out of ideas about where and how to prevent crime." This document is built so that does not happen. It gives TJP a way to find forks on purpose, not by luck, and a routine (the Idea Engine, Part 8) that keeps the list growing for the full five years and beyond.

What a "fork" is

A **fork** is a point in time when a small, well-timed push changes the direction of a path. Three things make a fork:

1. **A decision is still open.** The child has not yet joined the group. The man has not yet picked up the gun. The family has not yet stopped talking.
2. **Somebody could be there.** A teacher, a coach, a pastor, a nurse, a cousin, an officer, a letter, a recorded voice.
3. **The cost of help is still low.** A conversation at age 11 costs less than a trial at age 19.

ANALOGY

A fork is like a railroad switch. Moving the switch lever takes one person and a few seconds. Moving a train that has already left the station on the wrong track takes a crane, a crew, and a week. Most of the justice system is cranes. TJP wants to find the switches.

Why the earliest fork is usually the best one (and when it is not)

Earlier forks tend to be cheaper, reach more people, and spare more victims. But early work only pays off if it reaches the right people and is done well. Sometimes the most powerful fork is late: the hospital bed after a shooting, the first night home from prison, the week after an overdose reversal. Those moments are called **teachable moments**: the person is open to change because the cost of the old path just became real. This map includes both kinds.

WHY TJP MUST EXIST

Researchers study forks from the outside, with surveys and arrest records. TJP residents know them from the inside. They remember the day the older boys first handed them something to hold. They remember the teacher who gave up and the one who did not. They remember what the house felt like the night before the first arrest. That knowledge is usually locked behind prison walls and wasted. TJP's vision is to reframe the narrative of harm, healing, and prevention. Nothing reframes the narrative faster than a person who caused harm saying, with evidence and humility, "Here is where it could have been stopped, and here is how." Our mission is to implement the principles and practices of Transformative Justice across all sectors of South Carolina. A map of forks is how we choose which sector, which age, and which door to knock on first.

BOTTOM LINE

Prevention means finding the switch before the train leaves. The people who rode that train know where the switches are.

Part 2: The PATHS Framework

PATHS has five parts. Each one answers a different question about a fork.

Letter	Stands for	The question it answers
P	Prevention level	Who is this for: everyone, some, or a few?
A	Age and stage	When in life does this fork appear?
T	Turning point	What exactly is the fork, the moment of choice?
H	Harm-allowing culture	What norms, codes, or silences let the harm happen?
S	System lever	How deep does our response reach: an event, a habit, a rule, or a belief?

P: The three prevention levels

Public health sorts prevention into three levels. The names sound technical, but the ideas are simple.

Level	Plain name	Who it serves	Everyday example	Prison example
Primary / Universal	"For everyone"	A whole group, no screening	Seat belts for all drivers	A consent and respect lesson for every 9th grader
Secondary / Selected	"For some"	People with known risk factors	Extra checkups for smokers	A mentoring group for kids with a parent in prison
Tertiary / Indicated	"For a few"	People already showing the problem	Cardiac rehab after a heart attack	Support for a young man just shot, to stop retaliation

ANALOGY

Think of a house and fire. **For everyone:** build with safe wiring and put smoke detectors in every room. **For some:** give extra fire checks to houses with space heaters and old wiring. **For a few:** when smoke is already in the kitchen, send the extinguisher and the fire crew. A town that only buys fire trucks will always be putting out fires.

TJP will work at all three levels, but most of our reach will be **universal** (recorded and written material for schools, churches, and families) and **selected** (materials for groups with known risk, such as children of incarcerated parents or students in alternative schools). The **indicated** level usually belongs to licensed professionals; TJP supports them with materials and credible voices, never by acting as clinicians.

A: Age and stage (the life course)

Harm does not start on the day of the crime. It grows through stages. We use eight:

1. Prenatal and early childhood (pregnancy to age 5)

2. **Elementary** (ages 5 to 10)
3. **Middle school** (ages 11 to 14)
4. **High school** (ages 14 to 18)
5. **Young adult** (ages 18 to 25)
6. **Adult** (25 and up)
7. **Reentry** (the months before and after release)
8. **Family of the incarcerated** (children, partners, and parents of people in prison)

The eighth stage is not an age at all. It is a situation that touches every age, and it is the one TJP residents are closest to. The Annie E. Casey Foundation reports that more than 5 million U.S. children have had a parent in jail or prison at some point in their lives. Parental incarceration is itself counted among adverse childhood experiences. Many forks for the next generation run straight through our visiting rooms and phone lines.

T: Turning points

A turning point is the fork itself: a first suspension, a first arrest, a first drink at 12, a first time carrying a gun, a first hit in a relationship, a release date. Turning points are where the three prevention levels meet a real person on a real day.

H: Harm-allowing culture

Every harm is allowed by something: a rule nobody enforces, a silence everybody keeps, a story everyone believes. Louis wrote, "we want to change the cultural conditions that allowed the unwanted behavior." That is the H in PATHS. Common harm-allowing conditions include:

Condition	How it sounds	What it protects
Code of silence ("no snitching")	"What happens here stays here."	The group, and whoever holds power in it
Masculinity scripts	"Real men don't back down, don't cry, don't ask."	Status, by trading away safety
Family secrecy	"We don't air our business."	The family's image, often at a child's cost
Economic desperation	"I had to eat."	Survival today, at the cost of tomorrow
Community disinvestment	"Nobody comes out here unless something happens."	Nothing; it just removes the adults and places that protect
Normalized violence	"That's just how it is around here."	Nothing; it makes harm feel like weather
Shame as punishment	"You're nothing."	The punisher's anger, while feeding the next act of violence

TJP's courses speak directly to these. Course 6, *The Engine of Violence* (Gilligan, Brown, Tangney), explains how shame drives violence. Course 11, *Acts of Violence Are Failed Requests* (Rosenberg), gives words to replace force. Course 12, *Leverage Points* (Meadows, Stevenson), shows how to change the rules and beliefs underneath.

S: System levers (Meadows' ladder, simplified)

Donella Meadows, a systems scientist, listed twelve "leverage points," places to push on a system, from weak to strong. The idea is that changing a number (more police, a longer sentence) is a weak push, while changing the rules, the goals, or the beliefs of a system is a strong push. We simplify her list into a five-rung ladder.

Rung	What changes	Example	Strength
1. Events	One-time activities	A single assembly talk	Weakest
2. Numbers and resources	How much of something	More counselors per school	Weak
3. Information and feedback	Who knows what, and when	Teachers learn the warning signs; families get a reentry checklist	Medium
4. Rules and structures	Policies, habits, routines	A school replaces automatic suspension with a restorative conference	Strong
5. Goals and beliefs (paradigm)	What people think is normal and right	A neighborhood stops believing that telling an adult is "snitching"	Strongest

ANALOGY

A thermostat. You can keep opening windows every time the room gets hot (events). You can buy more fans (resources). You can install a thermometer so people notice the heat sooner (information). You can change the thermostat setting (rules). Or you can decide the whole building should be designed to stay cool (beliefs and goals). The last two change the temperature for good. The first two just keep you busy.

A one-time talk at a school is still worth doing, because it opens doors. But TJP should always ask, "How does this event climb the ladder? Does it lead to a rule change, a new routine, or a changed belief?"

The Fork Map

Here is the whole life course on one page. Each row is a life stage. The columns show the key fork, the risk signs that mark it, the protective factors that help most, and the TJP channels that fit (1 Written, 2 Recorded, 3 Live visitors, 4 Training other incarcerated people).

Life stage	Key fork	Risk signs	Protective factors	TJP channels
Prenatal and early childhood	Parents learn to handle stress and a crying baby, or not	Parental substance use, domestic violence, housing instability, a parent incarcerated	Home visiting, a steady caring adult, safe housing	4 (fathers inside), 1 (parent letters and guides)
Elementary	Child learns to belong at school, or is labeled "the bad kid"	Aggression, early school exclusion, ACEs piling up	Warm teacher, classroom structure, mentoring	1, 2 (recorded stories for counselors)

Life stage	Key fork	Risk signs	Protective factors	TJP channels
Middle school	First group, first substance, first serious fight	Suspension, deviant peers, substance access, older recruiters	Coach or mentor, sports, clubs, a job for older teens, family communication	2, 3, 1
High school	Dropping out, first arrest, first gun, first abusive relationship	Truancy, arrest, carrying weapons, dating abuse	Graduation path, work, bystander culture, credible mentors	3, 2, 1
Young adult	Street economy vs. legal work; retaliation vs. walking away	Unemployment, victimization, gang ties, prior record	Jobs, cognitive behavioral skills, hospital-based violence intervention	1, 3, 4
Adult	Parenting, addiction, partner violence, financial harm	Heavy drinking, isolation, untreated trauma	Treatment, faith community, stable work, family repair	4, 1, 3
Reentry	The first 90 days: stable or back	No ID, no housing, old peers, no plan	Housing, work, mentors, family reunification	4, 1
Family of the incarcerated	Children carry the sentence, or are supported through it	Shame, secrecy, school trouble, repeating the cycle	Contact with parent, honest words, caring adults	1, 4, 2

Risk and protective factors (what the evidence says)

A **risk factor** raises the odds of harm. A **protective factor** lowers them. Neither is destiny. Most children with many risk factors never commit serious harm, and that fact is itself a clue: something protected them.

Factor	Type	What we know (verified)
Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs)	Risk	CDC data for 2011 to 2020 found about 63.9 percent of U.S. adults reported at least one ACE and 17.3 percent reported four or more. Emotional abuse was the most common type reported.
School exclusion	Risk	South Carolina charged thousands of students under "disturbing schools" and disorderly conduct laws before federal courts limited their use (see Part 3). Being pushed out of school removes the most common protective adult in a child's day.
Early arrest and juvenile detention	Risk	Early system contact is a well-known step toward later contact; that is why diversion (sending youth to programs instead of court) matters.
Exposure to violence	Risk	Witnessing violence at home or in the neighborhood is a recognized ACE and a driver of retaliation cycles.
Deviant peer groups	Risk	Group membership can multiply risk, especially in middle school when belonging matters most.

Factor	Type	What we know (verified)
Substance access	Risk	Early first use predicts later problems; family substance use is among the most commonly reported ACEs.
Housing instability	Risk	Moving often breaks ties to schools, coaches, and churches.
Parental incarceration	Risk	More than 5 million U.S. children have had a parent in jail or prison.
A stable caring adult	Protective	The single most repeated finding in resilience research; mentoring programs like Big Brothers Big Sisters are built on it.
School connection	Protective	Programs that keep kids attached to school (Good Behavior Game, Becoming a Man) show long-term benefits.
Skills for handling anger and impulses	Protective	Cognitive behavioral programs reduce violent arrests in youth trials (see Becoming a Man).
Economic opportunity	Protective	A summer jobs trial in Chicago found fewer violent-crime arrests among participants.
Safe, cared-for places	Protective	A randomized trial that cleaned and greened vacant lots in Philadelphia found less gun violence in poorer neighborhoods.

FACILITATOR NOTE

When residents study this table, some will see their own childhood in the risk column. That can be painful. Remind the room: a risk factor is a weather forecast, not a verdict. The protective column is where TJP lives. Any session that invites personal disclosure about childhood harm is a trauma-adjacent session and needs licensed staff present.

BOTTOM LINE

PATHS asks five questions about every fork: for whom, at what age, what moment, what culture, and how deep. The Fork Map puts the whole life course on one page. Risk factors tell us where to look; protective factors tell us what to build.

Part 3: The South Carolina Lens

TJP's mission names South Carolina, so our map must use South Carolina facts. Every number below was checked against the source listed at the end of this document. Where a number could not be verified, we say so.

Verify locally before quoting any of these in a public product; numbers change every year.

Topic	Verified South Carolina fact	Source
Women killed by men	South Carolina ranked #1 in the nation in the Violence Policy Center's "When Men Murder Women" study in 1998 and appeared in the top ten in 23 of 25 years (1996 to 2020). In the 2020 edition (2018 data), it ranked 11th, at 1.68 per 100,000. Since 2021 data, VPC has not been able to rank all states because of changes in FBI data collection.	Violence Policy Center
Women killed by men (national, 2023)	2,412 women killed by men in single victim, single offender incidents; 64.9 percent killed with guns; 89.9 percent knew their killer.	VPC, 2025 edition
Overdose deaths	1,481 drug overdose deaths in 2024, down from 2,157 in 2023 (a 31.3 percent drop). Fentanyl-involved deaths fell from 1,550 to 914. This was the second straight year of decline.	SC Department of Public Health, 2024 Drug Overdose Report
Firearm deaths	CDC lists South Carolina's 2024 firearm death rate at 19.5 per 100,000, and its homicide rate at 10.8 per 100,000. VPC ranked South Carolina 12th in the nation for 2023 at 19.1 per 100,000, against a national rate of 13.7.	CDC; VPC
Drunk driving	In 2023, 413 of South Carolina's 1,047 traffic deaths (39 percent) involved an alcohol-impaired driver, against 30 percent nationally. NHTSA's state table lists South Carolina's alcohol-impaired fatality rate at 0.68 per 100 million vehicle miles, against 0.38 nationally.	NHTSA
Juvenile justice	SC DJJ received over 13,000 referrals in fiscal year 2023 to 2024. Its arbitration program diverted 5,640 first-time, nonviolent youth from family court. Teen After-School Centers served 7,799 youth at 42 locations. 873 youth were referred to MST or FFT.	SC DJJ Accountability Report, FY2024
Status offenses and disparity	The ACLU of South Carolina (September 2026) reported that in fiscal year 2025, 14 percent of DJJ referrals and 8 percent of detentions were for status offenses (like truancy and running away), and that Black youth, about 28 percent of the state's youth, were more than 75 percent of those detained.	ACLU of SC, "Youth Behind the Fence"
School-to-prison pipeline	Over 9,500 students (some as young as 7) were referred under the "disturbing schools" law in roughly six years ending in 2016. The legislature limited the law to non-students in 2018. In 2023, the federal Fourth Circuit held the disorderly conduct and disturbing schools laws unconstitutionally vague as applied to K-12 students, noting Black students were charged under the disorderly conduct law at roughly seven times the rate of white peers.	Education Week; Kenny v. Wilson

Topic	Verified South Carolina fact	Source
Human trafficking	In 2024, SLED investigated 285 tips involving nearly 400 potential victims, most of them minors. Cases were reported in 40 of 46 counties. The National Hotline reports the top labor trafficking location as small businesses and the top sex trafficking location as hotels and motels.	SC Attorney General, 2024 Task Force Report
Child sexual abuse prevention	Darkness to Light, a national child sexual abuse prevention organization, is based in Charleston. A study of its Stewards of Children training in Charleston, Berkeley, and Dorchester counties found reports of child sexual abuse rose after the training spread, suggesting more adults were speaking up.	Letourneau et al., 2016
Home visiting	South Carolina ran one of the largest randomized trials of Nurse-Family Partnership (5,670 Medicaid-eligible mothers). The first results found no effect on adverse birth outcomes; results on child injury, abuse, and neglect were still pending.	J-PAL; JAMA 2022
Hospital violence intervention	MUSC Health's Turning the Tide Violence Intervention Program serves young people treated for violent injury in the Charleston tri-county area.	MUSC Health

CAUTION

Two facts above show why honesty matters. First, the overdose drop is good news, but 1,481 deaths is still 1,481 families. Second, the South Carolina Nurse-Family Partnership trial did not find the birth benefits many hoped for, even though older trials of the same model found large long-term benefits. Evidence can surprise us. TJP must report what the evidence says, not what we wish it said. That is the Honesty score in the Keystone.

BOTTOM LINE

South Carolina has made real progress on overdoses and school discipline laws, and it still carries heavy burdens: gun deaths above the national rate, alcohol-related road deaths far above it, a long history of women killed by men, and deep racial disparities in youth detention. Each is a fork TJP can help name.

Part 4: How TJP Works at a Fork (Safety and Scope)

Before the categories, here are the rules that shape every idea in this document. They are not obstacles. They are what make TJP trustworthy enough to be invited in.

Five scope rules

1. **No direct contact with minors.** Residents never write to, call, meet, or message a specific child. All youth-facing work is **supervised, approved programming delivered through partners** (DJJ, school districts, churches, youth organizations). Letters for youth are general, unsigned or first-name-only as the partner allows, reviewed by TJP staff, approved by the Interdepartmental Committee, and delivered by the partner under its own rules.
2. **Educators, never therapists.** Peer facilitators teach, model, and share. They do not diagnose, counsel, or treat. Any work that touches trauma, abuse, or suicide risk is staff-facilitated and, where needed, run by licensed partners.
3. **No details of harm.** TJP products describe patterns, feelings, and turning points, never methods. This is absolute for abuse of minors, sexual violence, and trafficking.
4. **Victims first.** Nothing TJP produces should re-injure a survivor. Products touching domestic violence, sexual violence, or child abuse get reviewed by a victim-services partner before release.
5. **Up the chain, every time.** Residents propose. The Interdepartmental Committee supervises and approves. The Board of Volunteers guards mission fit and integrity. The SCDC Division of Programs, Reentry, and Rehabilitative Services provides oversight, and its policies govern any product leaving the institution.

The Four Channels at a fork

Channel	What it looks like at a fork	Typical first use
4. Training other incarcerated people	Residents teach fathers, mothers, and young men on the yard	Parenting from prison, retaliation, reentry
1. Written	Booklets, letters (reviewed), worksheets, policy briefs	Counselors, pastors, families, legislators
3. Live visitors	Partners come in; TJP presents and learns	Coaches, officers, youth pastors, advocates
2. Recorded	Audio and video modules produced under SCDC media rules	Middle school counselors, church youth groups, academies

The sequence **4, 1, 3, 2** still applies. Start inside, where TJP already has access and can test products safely. Then write. Then invite. Then record.

How to read each category in Part 5

Every category uses the same six parts, so the Task Force can compare them:

1. **The typical path** (4 to 7 steps)

2. **The forks** (earliest first)
3. **The culture that allows it**, and how to shift it
4. **What already works** (with an honest evidence rating)
5. **The TJP role** (courses, channels, partners, audience)
6. **A Keystone idea** (bounded, specific, South Carolina)

Evidence ratings used in this document:

Rating	Meaning
Strong	Several rigorous trials, or a top rating from a major registry (such as Blueprints "Model" or "Model Plus")
Moderate	At least one good randomized trial, or consistent quasi-experimental studies
Promising	Early positive results; needs more testing
Mixed	Some studies positive, some null or negative; quality of implementation matters a lot
Emerging	Widely used and sensible, but not yet well tested

ANALOGY

A seed and soil. A great program is a seed. The partner, the setting, and the people delivering it are the soil. The same seed can thrive in one field and fail in another. That is why "Mixed" does not mean "bad." It often means "only works in good soil."

BOTTOM LINE

TJP works at forks through partners, with paper and recordings, never through direct contact with children, and never as therapists. That boundary is what earns the invitation.

Part 5: The Harm Categories

ANALOGY

A doctor does not treat "sickness." She treats a heart, a lung, a broken bone, each with its own warning signs and its own cures. Crime is the same. Robbery and elder fraud share some roots, but their forks, their cultures, and their cures are different. So we take them one at a time.

WHY THIS IS HERE

Louis asked for "plenty of ideas for a variety of different crimes." Here are fifteen categories. Each ends with a Keystone idea, so any Keystone team can pick one up and start ADOPT on day one. None of these is a finished plan. Each is a **starting fork** for the Think Tank to test with the Four Cuts and the Five Whys.

5.1 Gang-Related and Group Violence

The typical path

1. A child feels unsafe, unseen, or broke, often at home and at school at once.
2. Older youth offer protection, money, and belonging.
3. Small favors (holding, watching, carrying) build loyalty and debt.
4. A public insult or a loss demands a response in front of the group.
5. Violence earns status, and status invites retaliation.
6. Arrest, injury, or death, and the group recruits the next child.

The forks, earliest first

Fork	Stage	Level
A younger sibling watches an older one get "put on"	Elementary	Selected
First suspension that leaves a child on the street all day	Middle school	Selected
First "favor" asked by an older teen	Middle school	Selected
First victimization (jumped, robbed, shot at)	High school, young adult	Indicated
A call-in or custom notification by police and community	Young adult	Indicated
Release from DJJ or SCDC back into the same block	Reentry	Indicated

The culture that allows it: the code of silence; the belief that respect must be taken, not earned; masculinity scripts ("never back down"); and adult absence after school. **How to shift it:** credible messengers who say out loud that the code protected the group, not them; making it normal for a young man to walk away and still be respected; filling the after-school hours.

What already works

Model	What it is	Evidence
Group Violence Intervention / focused deterrence	Police, community, and service providers meet with group members: "the violence must stop, here is help, here is what happens if it does not."	Moderate. A Campbell systematic review found a medium-sized crime reduction overall, but noted stronger effects came from weaker study designs.
Cure Violence (violence interrupters)	Outreach workers mediate conflicts and shift norms, treating violence like a contagious disease.	Mixed. Some sites show reductions; others show none or increases. Fidelity matters.
Becoming a Man (Chicago)	School-based cognitive behavioral groups for boys.	Strong (for a single program). Randomized trials found violent-crime arrests fell 45 to 50 percent during participation.
Credible messenger mentoring (Arches, NYC)	Mentors with lived experience lead group mentoring for young people on probation.	Moderate. Urban Institute found one-year felony reconviction cut by over two-thirds (quasi-experimental).
Communities That Care	A community coalition picks proven programs based on local risk data.	Promising (Blueprints) , with a 24-community randomized trial showing less delinquency and violence.

The TJP role: Course 6 (The Engine of Violence) and Course 11 (Nonviolent Communication) become a recorded "respect without violence" module for alternative schools and DJJ, delivered by partner staff. Course 13 (No One Educates Alone) trains residents as credible voices for GVI call-ins where a local program invites a recorded or live statement. **Channels:** 4 (young men on the yard first), 2, 3. **Partners:** SC DJJ, local GVI or ceasefire efforts (verify locally), alternative school principals, Teen After-School Centers. **Audience:** boys 11 to 17 in alternative placements; young men at call-ins.

Keystone idea: "The Walk-Away Toolkit." A 6-session, staff-delivered curriculum for one SC DJJ evaluation center or one alternative school, built from resident narratives (with consent) and CBT skills (cognitive behavioral skills: learning to notice a hot thought and slow down before acting) modeled on Becoming a Man, with a PROOF line on fights and referrals.

5.2 Armed Robbery

The typical path

1. Money pressure (rent, a child, a habit, a debt) meets a peer who "knows a way."
2. Small theft builds confidence; fear of being broke grows louder than fear of prison.
3. A gun is borrowed or bought; the plan is framed as "nobody gets hurt."
4. The robbery happens fast, with adrenaline and often substances.
5. Victims carry lasting trauma; the robber faces long mandatory time.

The forks, earliest first: (1) a teen's first paid job, or the lack of one; (2) the first time a peer offers "easy money"; (3) the first time carrying a weapon; (4) a debt or addiction crisis; (5) the night before, when one friend could still say no.

The culture that allows it: "get it how you live"; flashing money as proof of worth; seeing a store clerk as a building, not a person. **How to shift it:** victim-impact education that makes the clerk human; celebrating legal hustle (trades, small business); peer permission to say "I'm out."

What already works

Model	Evidence
Summer youth employment (One Summer Chicago Plus)	Moderate. A randomized trial found fewer violent-crime arrests among teens offered summer jobs plus mentoring.
Becoming a Man (CBT)	Strong for violent-crime arrests in youth.
Restorative justice conferencing (victim and offender meet)	Moderate for victim satisfaction and some reduction in repeat offending (see Further Study: Sherman and Strang).

The TJP role: Course 10 (Redemptive Compassion) and Course 2 (The Unmaking of a Criminal) become a written "The Person Behind the Counter" booklet, co-reviewed by a victim-services partner. Course 9 (Identity Is a Vote) becomes a money-and-identity module for workforce programs. **Channels:** 1, 3. **Partners:** SC Works centers, youth job programs, victim-services agencies. **Audience:** 16 to 24 year olds in job-readiness programs.

Keystone idea: A 4-session "Fast Money, Long Time" module for one SC youth workforce program, pairing honest math (sentence lengths, lost wages) with CBT skills and a victim perspective, piloted with staff delivery and a pre/post measure.

5.3 Domestic and Intimate Partner Violence

The typical path

1. A boy grows up seeing violence at home and learns that control equals love or power.
2. In early dating, jealousy and checking a phone are treated as normal.
3. Isolation: the partner is cut off from friends and money.
4. Threats, then violence, often escalating around pregnancy, separation, or a gun in the house.
5. Children witness it, and the cycle is handed down.
6. The most dangerous time is often when the partner tries to leave.

The forks, earliest first

Fork	Stage	Level
A child witnesses violence and nobody names it	Elementary	Selected
First dating relationship; ideas about jealousy and control form	Middle and high school	Universal
First controlling behavior, noticed by friends	High school, young adult	Universal

Fork	Stage	Level
Pregnancy and new parenthood	Adult	Selected
First police call or protection order	Adult	Indicated
Batterer intervention or release from incarceration	Adult, reentry	Indicated

The culture that allows it: "what happens in this house stays in this house"; religious or family pressure to stay; men raised to see asking for help as weakness; jokes that make abuse normal. **How to shift it:** coaches, pastors, and men with credibility naming control as weakness, not strength; teaching bystanders what to say; honest talk in churches.

What already works

Model	Evidence
Safe Dates (middle and high school)	Moderate to Strong. Rated "Effective" by CrimeSolutions; a 4-year follow-up found less psychological, physical, and sexual dating abuse perpetration.
Coaching Boys Into Men	Moderate. A cluster-randomized trial in high school athletics found coaches' talks increased bystander intervention; a one-year follow-up found reduced abusive behavior.
Green Dot bystander program	Moderate. A 26-school Kentucky trial found more than a 50 percent drop in self-reported sexual violence perpetration and 40 percent less overall interpersonal violence.
Nurse-Family Partnership	Strong (Blueprints "Model") for long-term outcomes in the original trials; the SC trial's early results were null on birth outcomes.
Batterer intervention programs	Mixed. Studies of traditional programs show small or uncertain effects; honest reporting matters here.

The TJP role: Course 11 (NVC) for families; Course 6 (shame) for men's groups; Course 3 (The Science of Safety) to explain why threat shuts down thinking. A written "Before You Hit" guide for men's church groups, reviewed by a DV advocacy partner. Residents teach inside first (Channel 4): men preparing for release and fathers.

Partners: the SC Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (SCCADVASA), local shelters, pastors.

Audience: men 18 to 40; church men's ministries; high school coaches.

Keystone idea: "Coach's Corner: Respect Is the Play." A 10-card set of coaches' talks for one SC high school athletic program, adapted with permission from Coaching Boys Into Men principles, plus a recorded resident message on shame and control (reviewed by a DV partner).

CAUTION

Never design a product that encourages couples' "mediation" in violent relationships without a DV expert. Safety planning belongs to trained advocates.

5.4 Abuse of Minors (Physical, Emotional, Neglect, Sexual): Prevention Only

CAUTION

This section is written at a strictly protective level. TJP products on this topic never describe how abuse happens, never include grooming scripts or methods, and never put residents in contact with children. The focus is adult responsibility, bystander action, organizational safeguards, and support for survivors. Every product is reviewed by a licensed child-protection partner before release.

The typical path (protective view)

1. A parent or caregiver is overwhelmed: stress, poverty, substance use, their own untreated childhood harm.
2. Adults around the child notice something is off but do not know what to do, or fear "getting involved."
3. Organizations (churches, teams, camps) lack clear safety rules like two-adult policies.
4. The child senses that telling is not safe or will not be believed.
5. Harm continues, and the child carries it into adulthood.

The forks, earliest first

Fork	Who acts	Level
Pregnancy and the first year	Home visitors, family, fathers	Universal and selected
Toddler years, when crying and stress peak	Parenting programs	Universal
An organization writes its child-safety policy	Church, team, school leaders	Universal
An adult notices a warning sign	Any adult	Universal
A child tells	The adult who listens and believes	Indicated
A survivor seeks healing	Child advocacy centers, therapists	Indicated

The culture that allows it: family secrecy; "don't air our business"; respect for adults that silences children; organizations protecting their reputation over children; the belief that "it doesn't happen here." **How to shift it:** make protecting children every adult's job; make safety policies normal and expected, not insulting; teach adults to believe and respond calmly; honor survivors.

What already works

Model	Evidence
Nurse-Family Partnership	Strong in original trials: 58 percent fewer substantiated reports of child abuse or neglect at 15-year follow-up (Blueprints).
Stewards of Children (Darkness to Light, Charleston)	Promising (CrimeSolutions): trained adults showed more knowledge and more preventive behaviors. An SC county study found reporting increased after training spread.

Model	Evidence
Circle of Security Parenting	Promising (CEBC rating 3): mixed but encouraging results on caregiver sensitivity and stress.
Organizational safeguards (two-adult rule, screening, training)	Emerging as a studied package, but widely endorsed by child-protection experts.

The TJP role: TJP's safest and strongest role here is with **adults**. Course 4 (Trauma and the Brain) and Course 3 (Safety) support a parents-inside curriculum: "What Children Need When Things Are Hard." Course 12 (Leverage Points) supports a policy brief for churches on child-safety policies. Residents who are parents learn attachment basics from licensed staff and partners (Circle of Security is delivered by trained facilitators, so TJP would host it, not teach it). **Channels:** 4 (parents inside, staff-led), 1 (church policy brief), 3 (Darkness to Light facilitator visit). **Partners:** Darkness to Light, child advocacy centers, Children's Trust of South Carolina (verify program fit), chaplains. **Audience:** incarcerated parents, church leaders, youth ministry volunteers.

Keystone idea: "The Safe Church Starter Kit." A two-page policy template and a one-hour adult training plan for one SC congregation or denomination district, built with Darkness to Light materials and reviewed by a child advocacy center, with a PROOF line on policy adoption.

5.5 Drug-Related Crime (Possession, Distribution, Drug-Driven Property Crime, Overdose)

The typical path

1. Pain comes first: trauma, loss, injury, anxiety (Maté's question: "not why the addiction, but why the pain").
2. Early use at 11 to 14, often from a family member's supply.
3. Use becomes self-medication; selling becomes a way to pay for it or to earn.
4. Arrests for possession or theft; jail interrupts work and family.
5. Release with lowered tolerance; overdose risk is highest in the first weeks.
6. Death, or a return to the cycle.

The forks, earliest first: (1) a home with substance use, where a child needs a safe adult; (2) first use in middle school; (3) first possession arrest (diversion vs. record); (4) first nonfatal overdose (the teachable moment); (5) release from incarceration (overdose danger); (6) a family member who learns what to say, and carries naloxone.

The culture that allows it: shame and secrecy about addiction; "junkie" language; the idea that selling is the only real job; families that cannot talk about a relative's use. **How to shift it:** treat addiction as a health problem with a moral dimension, not a moral problem only; normalize naloxone the way we normalize fire extinguishers; give families a script for loving honesty.

What already works

Model	Evidence
Good Behavior Game (1st grade)	Promising to Moderate. 14-year follow-up found less alcohol abuse and, among males, less illicit drug use and antisocial behavior.
Communities That Care	Promising. Less substance initiation and delinquency; benefits through age 23.

Model	Evidence
SBIRT (screening and brief intervention)	Moderate for unhealthy alcohol use (USPSTF grade B for adults); weaker for other drugs.
Naloxone and harm reduction	Strong consensus that naloxone reverses opioid overdose; it is a core public health tool.
Drug courts	Moderate. NIJ's multi-site evaluation found less drug use and less crime, with a net benefit of about \$5,680 to \$6,208 per participant.
LEAD (Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion)	Promising to Moderate. Seattle participants had 60 percent lower odds of arrest in the six months after entry, 57 percent lower over the longer follow-up, and 39 percent lower odds of a felony charge.
MST and FFT (teens)	MST: Strong (Blueprints "Model Plus"). FFT: Promising (Blueprints), with fewer new drug charges in a certified study.

The TJP role: Course 8 (Ask a Different Question) is the heart: a family addiction education series ("The Pain Beneath the Habit") for visiting families and church recovery ministries. Course 7 (Mindfulness) and Course 5 (Somatic response) support relapse awareness. Channel 4: residents teach men nearing release about overdose risk after release and where naloxone is available (verify SCDC and DPH policy). **Partners:** SC DPH, recovery community organizations, drug courts, faith-based recovery. **Audience:** families of people in prison; residents within 12 months of release; church recovery groups.

Keystone idea: "The First 14 Days." An overdose-prevention and reconnection guide for men released from one SCDC institution, co-built with a recovery partner and SC DPH materials, with a PROOF line on guide delivery and 90-day follow-up contacts.

5.6 Firearm Violence and Retaliation

The typical path

1. A young person is threatened or sees someone shot.
2. Fear says "carry"; carrying makes every argument deadlier.
3. A disrespect or social media post sparks conflict.
4. Someone is shot; friends feel honor-bound to answer.
5. Retaliation, then counter-retaliation, often between the same small networks.

The forks, earliest first: (1) first exposure to gun violence (child); (2) first time carrying; (3) a social media conflict before it goes to the street; (4) the hospital bed after being shot (the most powerful teachable moment); (5) the funeral, where friends decide what happens next; (6) safe storage in homes with children and teens.

The culture that allows it: "if you get hit, you hit back"; guns as proof of manhood; mistrust of police so deep that people "handle it themselves"; the online stage where disrespect goes public. **How to shift it:** make choosing life a sign of strength; spread the credible-messenger voice ("I took the shot back and lost 15 years"); safe storage as parental love.

What already works

Model	Evidence
Hospital-based violence intervention (HVIP)	Promising to Mixed. Many programs report lower reinjury; a 2026 EAST guideline review exists (see Sources); rigorous trials remain limited. MUSC's Turning the Tide operates in Charleston.
GVI / focused deterrence	Moderate (see 5.1).
Cure Violence	Mixed (see 5.1).
Vacant lot greening	Moderate. A Philadelphia randomized trial found a 29 percent drop in gun violence near restored lots in neighborhoods below the poverty line.

The TJP role: Course 3 (Safety) and Course 5 (The Unfinished Response) explain the body's fight response behind retaliation. A recorded "Before You Answer" message for HVIP programs, produced under SCDC media rules and delivered by the partner's staff at the bedside or in follow-up. **Channels:** 2, 1, 4. **Partners:** MUSC Turning the Tide, other SC trauma centers (verify), GVI programs. **Audience:** young men 16 to 30 recovering from violent injury.

Keystone idea: "Letters From the Other Side of the Shot." A set of five reviewed, anonymous letters from residents who retaliated, packaged for one SC hospital violence intervention program's case managers to use at their discretion, with a feedback form for case managers.

5.7 Property Crime and Burglary

Typical path: boredom and no supervision; small shoplifting; peers dare; burglary for money or drugs; arrest; a record that blocks jobs, which pushes back toward theft.

Forks, earliest first: after-school hours (3 p.m. to 6 p.m.); a first shoplifting incident (diversion or record); substance use starting; first burglary charge (arbitration vs. court); a job after release.

Culture that allows it: "nobody gets hurt, they have insurance"; neglected, empty buildings and lots; seeing neighbors as strangers. **Shift it:** victim voices (burglary victims often describe lasting fear at home); neighborhood care; youth ownership of places.

What works: SC DJJ's arbitration program (diverted 5,640 first-time, nonviolent youth in FY2024; outcomes: verify locally); vacant lot greening (Philadelphia trial: 22 percent drop in burglaries); after-school programs like DJJ's Teen After-School Centers (served 7,799 youth; evidence on crime: **Emerging**, verify locally); restorative conferencing (**Moderate**).

TJP role: Course 10 (empathy) supports a written victim-perspective module for youth arbitration programs; Course 12 supports a "Care for the Corner" guide for church and neighborhood cleanups. **Channels:** 1, 3. **Partners:** solicitors' offices running arbitration, DJJ. **Audience:** first-time youth offenders in arbitration (through program staff).

Keystone idea: "Your Front Door, My Choice." A 2-session victim-perspective module adopted by one SC circuit's youth arbitration program, built with a victim-services reviewer.

5.8 DUI and Vehicular Harm

Typical path: heavy drinking treated as normal; "I'm fine to drive"; no ride plan; a first DUI stop; repeat offense; a crash that kills or injures.

Forks, earliest first: family drinking norms seen by children; prom and graduation season; the first time riding with a drunk driver; the first DUI arrest (screening and treatment); ignition interlock period; release after felony DUI.

Culture that allows it: "everybody drives home after a few"; rural distances with no rides; friends who don't take keys. **Shift it:** make taking keys an act of friendship; residents serving time for DUI deaths speaking to groups (a powerful credible voice).

What works: ignition interlocks (**Strong** while installed: median 67 percent fewer re-arrests across 13 studies; effects fade after removal, per the Community Guide); SBIRT for alcohol (**Moderate**, USPSTF grade B). South Carolina's 39 percent alcohol-impaired share of traffic deaths (2023) makes this one of the state's clearest forks.

TJP role: Course 7 (Attention) and Course 9 (Identity) feed a recorded "The Drive Home" message for high school driver education and DUI education programs. Residents convicted of felony DUI are uniquely credible.

Channels: 2, 3. **Partners:** SC Department of Public Safety highway safety office, MADD South Carolina (verify), DUI education programs (ADSAP, verify locally). **Audience:** teens in driver's education; people in DUI programs.

Keystone idea: "One Seat Empty." A 20-minute recorded module for one SC county's DUI education program, telling a resident's story (with victim-family consent where the victim is identifiable), with pre/post intentions measure.

5.9 Sexual Violence Among Adults

Typical path: boys learn scripts that treat sex as conquest; alcohol used as cover; friends laugh along; a boundary is crossed; silence and victim-blaming; repeat behavior.

Forks, earliest first: middle school ideas about gender and respect; high school parties; college or military entry; the first time a friend laughs at a "joke" about coercion; the bystander moment at a party or bar.

Culture that allows it: victim-blaming ("what was she wearing"); treating consent as vague; male peer approval; institutions protecting reputations. **Shift it:** make consent clear, ordinary, and expected; give bystanders simple actions (Green Dot's "direct, distract, delegate"); men holding men accountable.

What works: Green Dot (**Moderate**, 26-school trial, over 50 percent less sexual violence perpetration); Coaching Boys Into Men (**Moderate**); Safe Dates (**Moderate to Strong** for sexual abuse perpetration in dating).

TJP role: Course 11 (NVC: asking, not taking) and Course 6 (shame and masculinity). A men's module inside first (Channel 4), then a written guide for men's ministries. Victim-services review mandatory. **Partners:** SCCADVASA, rape crisis centers, college prevention offices. **Audience:** men in reentry and men's ministry groups.

Keystone idea: "What Real Strength Asks." A 3-session men's group curriculum for one SC reentry or faith-based men's program, built with a rape crisis center, focused on consent and bystander courage.

5.10 Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Prevention Level)

Typical path (protective view): a young person is isolated, often a runaway, in foster care, or without stable housing; someone offers care, a place to stay, or work; dependence grows; exploitation follows; shame keeps the person silent.

Forks, earliest first: housing instability and running away; aging out of foster care; the first adult who notices something wrong (a teacher, a hotel clerk, a small business neighbor); the first contact with police or a hospital.

Culture that allows it: treating exploited youth as offenders instead of victims; silence around sex and money; demand from buyers who never face the harm. **Shift it:** "see the child, not the charge"; educate hotel and small business workers (SC's top reported locations); address demand directly with men.

What works: awareness training for frontline workers (**Emerging**; widely used, little rigorous outcome evidence); housing and runaway services (**Emerging**); SC's investment of \$6.5 million in residential programs for minor victims (2024 report) shows state commitment.

TJP role: TJP should **not** build youth-facing trafficking content. Its role is adult-facing: a Course 12 policy brief on housing instability as a fork; a demand-reduction module for men (Course 6, Course 10). **Channels:** 1, 4.

Partners: the SC Attorney General's Human Trafficking Task Force, victim-service agencies. **Audience:** men inside; church leaders.

Keystone idea: "The Buyer Is the Market." A demand-reduction module for men in one SCDC unit, reviewed by the Task Force partner, with a PROOF line on attitude change measured by a validated scale chosen with a university partner.

5.11 Fraud and Financial Exploitation of Elders

Typical path: an older adult is lonely or confused; a caller or "friend" builds trust; urgency and secrecy ("don't tell your kids"); money moves; shame keeps the victim quiet. Some exploitation comes from family members under money pressure or addiction.

Forks, earliest first: isolation of an elder; the first suspicious call; a family member's addiction or debt; the bank teller's moment of doubt.

Scale: The FBI's 2024 Internet Crime Report found people 60 and older suffered the most losses, nearly \$5 billion, and filed the most complaints.

Culture that allows it: elders ashamed to admit they were fooled; families who don't talk about money; seeing scams as "not real crime." **Shift it:** make "hang up and call someone" normal; church-based check-in networks.

What works: bank and caregiver training, and elder check-in programs (**Emerging**).

TJP role: residents convicted of fraud know the scripts of pressure and trust. Their role is to name the **warning signs** (urgency, secrecy, unusual payment methods), never to teach methods. A Course 12 written guide for church senior ministries. **Channels:** 1, 3. **Partners:** Area Agencies on Aging, AARP South Carolina (verify), banks. **Audience:** senior adults and their families.

Keystone idea: "Hang Up, Call Up." A one-page warning-sign card and a 30-minute church talk script for one SC Area Agency on Aging region.

5.12 School Violence and Bullying

Typical path: a child is excluded or bullied; adults miss or dismiss it; the child either withdraws or strikes back; suspension removes the child from school; the grudge grows; in rare cases, serious violence.

Forks, earliest first: classroom climate in early grades; the first bullying incident an adult sees; the first suspension; the student who "leaks" a threat to a peer (the bystander moment); return from suspension or DJJ.

Culture that allows it: "kids will be kids"; "snitching" rules among students; zero-tolerance discipline that removes instead of repairs. **Shift it:** make telling a trusted adult an act of protecting friends, not snitching; restorative practices to repair harm.

What works: anti-bullying programs overall (**Moderate:** a meta-analysis of 44 evaluations found about 20 percent less bullying and 17 to 20 percent less victimization); restorative practices (**Mixed:** a Pittsburgh randomized trial cut suspension days 36 percent vs. 18 percent in control schools but did not reduce violence or arrests and showed weaker middle-grade results); Good Behavior Game (**Promising**).

TJP role: Course 11 and Course 2 (restorative justice) feed recorded modules for middle school counselors. Course 12 supports a policy brief on alternatives to suspension. **Channels:** 2, 1. **Partners:** school districts, SC Department of Education (verify), school counselor associations. **Audience:** middle school counselors and their students.

Keystone idea: "The Return Conference." A restorative re-entry meeting guide for students returning from suspension, piloted in one SC middle school with counselor delivery.

5.13 Animal Cruelty as a Warning Sign

Why it is here: Researchers and the FBI treat animal cruelty as a serious crime and a signal: in many homes where animals are harmed, people are harmed too (see Further Study). It is a fork where children and families can be reached early.

Forks: a child hurting animals (a signal of distress, not a label); a home where pets are threatened as control in domestic violence; a DV victim who will not leave because of a pet.

Culture that allows it: "it's just a dog"; animals as property only. **Shift it:** teach that cruelty to animals is a red flag worth caring about; pet-friendly shelters.

What works: "the Link" cross-reporting between animal control, child welfare, and DV services (**Emerging**); pet-inclusive DV shelters (**Emerging**).

TJP role: Course 10 (de Waal on empathy across species) supports a written guide for animal control and DV partners. **Channels:** 1. **Partners:** humane societies, DV shelters. **Audience:** animal control officers, DV advocates.

Keystone idea: A "See the Link" one-page cross-referral guide for one SC county's animal control office and DV shelter.

5.14 Other Significant Categories

Category	Earliest fork	Culture to shift	Proven model to study	TJP course and channel
Youth suicide and self-harm (a harm that often travels with violence)	Isolation; a peer notices	"Don't talk about it"	Staff-led, licensed programs only (verify with DMH)	Course 7; Channel 1 for adults only
Carjacking and youth auto theft	Joyriding dares, social media	Status from risk	Summer jobs, CBT (see 5.2)	Course 9; Channel 2
Online exploitation and sextortion of teens	First contact from a stranger online	Shame that keeps teens silent	Adult awareness through school resource officers	Course 12 brief; adults only
Violence inside prisons	Arrival at a new yard	"Convict code"	TJP itself, plus restorative circles	Course 11; Channel 4
Child neglect driven by poverty	Loss of housing or work	"Bad parents" story	Home visiting, concrete supports	Course 12 brief; Channel 1

BOTTOM LINE

Across fifteen categories, the same forks keep showing up: a child with no safe adult, a first suspension, a first arrest, a first weapon, a first substance, a hospital bed, a release date. Fix those forks and many harms shrink at once.

Part 6: The Top 15 Forks

WHY THIS IS HERE

Fifteen categories produce more forks than any team can chase. This table ranks the fifteen forks where TJP can do the most good soonest. **Leverage** means how deep and wide the change could reach (using the five-rung ladder in Part 2). **Feasibility** means how realistic it is for TJP to act, given zero internet, partner access, and SCDC rules. Each is scored 1 (low) to 5 (high). The Horizon Review should re-score this table every quarter.

Rank	Fork (stage)	Why it matters	Leverage / Feasibility	First TJP move
1	Children of incarcerated parents (family)	Over 5 million U.S. children affected; TJP residents are the parents	5 / 5	Parenting-from-prison module (Channel 4)
2	Reentry: the first 90 days	Overdose, retaliation, and return are highest early	4 / 5	"The First 90 Days" guide (Channel 1)
3	First suspension or school exclusion (middle school)	Removes the protective adult; opens the street	5 / 3	Recorded counselor module; suspension policy brief
4	Youth in DJJ before adult charges (high school)	Last fork before adult prison	4 / 4	Reviewed letters and recorded modules via DJJ
5	First dating relationship (middle and high school)	Where control scripts form	5 / 3	Coaches' respect talk; Safe Dates advocacy
6	The hospital bed after a shooting (young adult)	The strongest teachable moment for retaliation	4 / 3	Letters for HVIP case managers
7	Families of people with addiction (all ages)	Families are the first responders	4 / 4	Family addiction education (Course 8)
8	Church and youth organization safety policies (all ages)	One policy protects every child in the building	5 / 3	Safe Church Starter Kit
9	After-school hours (middle school)	The peak window for group trouble	3 / 3	Materials for Teen After-School Centers
10	Men inside, before release (adult)	Teaching 1 man reaches his whole household	4 / 5	Channel 4 modules on DV, consent, and parenting
11	Officer training (all ages)	One officer meets thousands of forks	4 / 2	Academy guest module (Channel 3)

Rank	Fork (stage)	Why it matters	Leverage / Feasibility	First TJP move
12	Youth arbitration and diversion (high school)	Keeps first-timers out of court	3 / 4	Victim-perspective module
13	DUI education (adult)	SC's alcohol-impaired death share is 39 percent	3 / 4	"One Seat Empty" recording
14	Community places: vacant lots and cleanups (all)	Proven to cut gun violence in a randomized trial	4 / 2	Policy brief and church partnership
15	Elder isolation (adult)	Largest reported fraud losses nationally	3 / 4	"Hang Up, Call Up" card

ANALOGY

A car's dashboard shows only the gauges you need while driving: speed, fuel, temperature. It does not show every bolt in the engine. The Top 15 is TJP's dashboard. The full category list in Part 5 is the engine manual.

BOTTOM LINE

Start where TJP already stands: parents inside, men nearing release, and families in the visiting room. Then move outward to schools, churches, hospitals, and officers.

Part 7: Thirty Quick-Start Pilots for the First Two Years

ANALOGY

A seed catalog lists thirty seeds, but a good gardener plants three rows this spring, watches what grows, and plants more next season. This list is the catalog. The Three-Pilot Cap is the garden plan.

Each idea below is small enough to ADOPT in one course cycle (weeks 7 to 9 build and pilot). Each needs a PROOF line written before building and Interdepartmental Committee approval before any product leaves the Task Force. **Reminder:** residents never contact minors directly; all youth work goes through partners.

#	Pilot	Fork	Course(s)	Channel and partner
1	Letters to youth in DJJ: general, first-name-only letters, reviewed by TJP staff, approved by the Committee, delivered by DJJ staff at their discretion	Youth in DJJ	13, 9	1; SC DJJ
2	Parenting from prison module: 6 sessions, staff co-facilitated	Children of incarcerated parents	1, 11	4; chaplains
3	Family Reunification Toolkit: what to say, what to expect, first-month plan	Reentry, family	11, 3	1; reentry partners
4	Recorded modules for middle school counselors on shame, anger, and asking for help	School exclusion	6, 11	2; school districts
5	Coaches' shame-and-respect talk: 10 short cards	Dating, group violence	6	1, 3; high school athletics
6	Church youth group sessions, delivered by youth pastors from TJP scripts	Middle school	9, 10	1; churches
7	Officer academy guest module: "What we wish officers knew at the fork"	Officer contact	2, 3	3; SC Criminal Justice Academy (verify)
8	"The First 90 Days" reentry guide	Reentry	9, 8	1, 4; reentry programs
9	"The First 14 Days" overdose-prevention guide	Reentry, overdose	8	1; SC DPH
10	Family addiction education for visiting families	Families	8	1, 3; recovery groups
11	NVC for families handout set	Domestic conflict	11	1; visiting room
12	Storybook recording program review: study whether an approved read-aloud program exists or could be piloted	Children of incarcerated parents	13	2; chaplains (verify policy)

#	Pilot	Fork	Course(s)	Channel and partner
13	Leverage Series policy brief #1: alternatives to school suspension	School exclusion	12	1; legislators, advocates
14	Leverage Series policy brief #2: status offenses and the DJJ door	DJJ	12	1; ACLU of SC, DJJ
15	"Before You Answer" recorded message for HVIP	Retaliation	3, 5	2; MUSC Turning the Tide
16	"The Person Behind the Counter" victim-perspective booklet	Robbery	10, 2	1; victim services
17	Safe Church Starter Kit	Child abuse prevention	12, 4	1; Darkness to Light
18	Men's consent and bystander module (inside)	Sexual violence	11, 6	4; rape crisis center review
19	DV "Before You Hit" guide for men's ministries	Domestic violence	6, 11	1; SCCADVASA review
20	"One Seat Empty" DUI recording	DUI	7, 9	2; DUI programs
21	"Hang Up, Call Up" elder fraud card	Elder fraud	12	1; Area Agency on Aging
22	Youth arbitration victim module	Property crime	10	1; solicitors' offices
23	Teen After-School Center activity pack (staff-delivered)	After-school hours	9, 7	1; DJJ
24	"Return Conference" guide for students back from suspension	School exclusion	2, 11	1; middle schools
25	Yard mentors for new arrivals: residents welcome young men to TJP-supervised orientation	Prison violence	13	4; Committee
26	Father's letter-writing workshop: helping residents write honest, age-appropriate letters to their own children (normal mail rules apply)	Children of incarcerated parents	11, 10	4; chaplains
27	Caregiver guide: "Talking to a child about a parent in prison"	Family	4, 3	1; visiting room, schools
28	Pastor's toolkit: preaching and teaching on shame, violence, and repair	Culture	6, 2	1, 3; churches
29	Resident speaker bureau (recorded panels for approved audiences)	Many	13	2, 3; Board of Volunteers
30	Fork Data Brief: an annual summary of Fork Log patterns for partners	All	12	1; university partners

FACILITATOR NOTE

Pick no more than three pilots at a time. The One Change rule applies: when a pilot wobbles, change one thing and test again. Record each verdict (ADOPT, ADJUST, ABANDON) in the TJP Evidence Workbook.

CAUTION

What could go wrong.

A letter or recording re-injures a victim who recognizes the writer. Remedy: anonymize, and run victim-services review. **A product glamorizes the life** it warns against. Remedy: test with an outside Observer; cut war stories. **A partner uses material outside its purpose.** Remedy: a written use agreement for each product. **Too many pilots at once.** Remedy: the Three-Pilot Cap. **Promising more than the evidence supports.** Remedy: state the evidence rating on every product.

BOTTOM LINE

Thirty pilots is two years of work. Start with numbers 2, 8, and 11, which TJP can build and test inside the institution before anything goes out.

Part 8: The Idea Engine (So TJP Never Runs Out)

ANALOGY

A kitchen never runs out of food because someone checks the pantry on a schedule, keeps a shopping list on the fridge, and listens when diners say what they want. The Idea Engine is TJP's pantry routine. Ideas come in from five doors, get written in one place, get sorted on a schedule, and the best ones get cooked.

The five doors ideas come through

Door	Source	How to harvest it safely
1. Narratives	Personal Narratives, especially their "Roots" and "Turn" themes	Only with the writer's written consent. Harvest the fork, not the details of harm. Anonymize.
2. Visitors	Partners, speakers, volunteers	Ask every visitor one question: "Where do you see the fork in your work?"
3. Partner requests	Schools, churches, DJJ, agencies	Log every request, even ones TJP cannot fill yet.
4. Data	Evidence Workbook, public reports brought in on paper by staff	Look for rising numbers and new places.
5. Residents and staff	Anyone in the Think Tank or Task Force	The Fork Log sits open on a table at all times.

The Fork Log

One sheet (Worksheet 3) or one tab in the TJP Evidence Workbook. Every idea gets a line: date, door, fork, stage, harm category, possible partner, and status (New, Studying, Pitched, Piloting, Adopted, Parked).

The Idea Engine rhythm (tied to the TJP Meeting Rhythm)

Meeting	What happens to ideas	Time
Check-In (daily)	Anyone may say "Fork Log" and add an idea in one sentence. No discussion.	1 minute
Tactical (weekly)	Read new entries aloud. Tag each with PATHS letters. Nothing is rejected here.	10 minutes
Strategic (monthly)	One month each quarter, the big topic is " Forks ": sort the log with the Two Doors and LESS filter; pick up to three for a Keystone Pitch.	2 hours
Horizon Review (quarterly)	Re-score the Top 15 Forks. Retire forks. Promote new ones. Report changes in the TJP Monthly Report.	45 minutes

Four prompts that always produce new ideas

1. **"Walk it backward."** Take any harm and ask "what happened just before that?" five times (the Five Whys in reverse time).
2. **"Who else was standing there?"** At every fork, list every adult who was nearby. Each is a possible audience.
3. **"What would the sign say?"** If this fork had a road sign, what would it say? That sentence is often the core of a product.
4. **"Which course speaks here?"** Run the fork past all 13 courses. At least one always fits.

FACILITATOR NOTE

Harvesting from Personal Narratives needs care. The Narrative belongs to its writer. A staff member, not a peer, asks for consent, in writing, and the writer may withdraw it at any time. Record the fork ("left school after the second suspension"), never the harm details.

BOTTOM LINE

Ideas run out when nobody writes them down. The Fork Log, five doors, and a quarterly "Forks" Strategic meeting keep the pantry full.

Part 9: Why TJP Must Exist

WHY TJP MUST EXIST

Because the map is inside. Most crime prevention is designed by people who never stood at the fork. They are skilled and caring, but they are guessing at the moment of choice. TJP residents are not guessing. They can tell a middle school counselor exactly what the first favor sounded like. They can tell a coach exactly which insult felt worth dying over. They can tell a pastor exactly what the family would not say.

Because the forks run through our own families. More than 5 million U.S. children have had a parent behind bars. Every TJP resident who is a parent is standing at a fork right now, for a child. Prevention does not have to wait for release.

Because South Carolina's numbers demand it. A firearm death rate above the national average. Alcohol-impaired drivers involved in 39 percent of traffic deaths. A long history near the top of the nation for women killed by men. Black children making up more than three-quarters of youth detained while being about a quarter of the youth population. These are not only statistics. They are forks that were missed.

Because the narrative needs reframing. The old story says people in prison are the problem. TJP's vision, to reframe the narrative of harm, healing, and prevention, says people who caused harm can become part of the answer, under honest supervision, with evidence, and with victims first.

Because the mission is statewide. To implement the principles and practices of Transformative Justice across all sectors of South Carolina, TJP needs a map of where those sectors meet a life at its turning point. This is that map.

ANALOGY

A mountain guide is not the person who never got lost. It is the person who got lost, found the way back, and now marks the trail so others do not have to. TJP residents, working under the Committee, the Board, and the SCDC Division, are learning to be trail markers.

Part 10: Signs for the Dorm

SIGN FOR THE DORM

UPSTREAM. Pulling people out of the river is good. Finding out who is pushing them in is better.

SIGN FOR THE DORM

Find the switch before the train leaves.

SIGN FOR THE DORM

I know where the fork was. Now I help others see it.

SIGN FOR THE DORM

PATHS: Prevention level. Age and stage. Turning point. Harm-allowing culture. System lever.

SIGN FOR THE DORM

A risk factor is a forecast, not a verdict.

SIGN FOR THE DORM

Did you log a fork today? (Post above the Fork Log table in the Think Tank.)

SIGN FOR THE DORM

Never the method. Always the moment. (Post in the Task Force build area.)

SIGN FOR THE DORM

Every product goes up the chain. Residents propose. The Committee supervises. The Board guards. The Division oversees.

Worksheet 1: Fork Finder

FACILITATOR NOTE

This worksheet is **optional**. It asks about turning points, not details of harm. Nobody is required to share it. If writing it brings up strong feelings, stop and talk with staff. Staff facilitate any group discussion of this worksheet.

Name or initials (optional): _____ Date: _____

Instructions: Think about the road that led you here. You do not need to describe anything that happened in detail. Just name the **forks**: moments when things could have gone another way.

Life stage	A fork I remember (a few words)	Who was nearby who could have helped?	What might have turned me another way?
Early childhood (0 to 5)			
Elementary (5 to 10)			
Middle school (11 to 14)			
High school (14 to 18)			
Young adult (18 to 25)			
Adult (25 and up)			

Which fork, if any, felt like the biggest? _____

What was the culture around you saying at that fork? (a rule, a code, a saying) _____

A protective factor I did have (a person, a place, a skill): _____

If I could put one sign at that fork, it would say: _____

May a staff member discuss using the fork (not the details) in the Fork Log? Yes / No / Ask me later

Signature (only if Yes): _____ Staff witness: _____

Worksheet 2: Intervention Point Analysis

Team: _____ Date: _____ Harm category: _____

1. The fork (one sentence): _____

2. PATHS tags

Letter	Our answer
P: Prevention level (for everyone / for some / for a few)	
A: Age and stage	
T: Turning point (the exact moment)	
H: Harm-allowing culture (norm, code, silence)	
S: System lever (event / resources / information / rules / beliefs)	

3. The typical path to this fork (4 to 7 steps)

Step	What happens
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	

4. Who is standing at the fork? _____

5. What already works here (name, evidence rating, source)?

Model	Evidence rating	Source checked by
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6. TJP fit

Question	Answer
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Which course(s) speak here?

Which channel first (4, 1, 3, 2)?

Which partner delivers it?

Does this involve minors? If yes, how is it partner-delivered and supervised?

Victim-services review needed?

7. Leverage (1 to 5): _____ Feasibility (1 to 5): _____

8. Draft **PROOF** line: Problem Number _____ Result Number _____ Observer _____ On this date _____ Fail
Line _____

Worksheet 3: Idea Engine Log (The Fork Log)

Month: _____ Keeper: _____

Doors: N = Narrative (consented) / V = Visitor / P = Partner request / D = Data / R = Resident or staff

Status: New / Studying / Pitched / Piloting / Adopted / Parked

Date	Door	Fork (one sentence)	Stage and harm category	Status
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Tactical review done (date and initials): _____

Sent to Strategic "Forks" meeting (list line numbers): _____

Worksheet 4: Keystone Idea Pitch

Team members (3 to 5): _____

Title of our idea: _____

1. The one real, bounded South Carolina harm (who, where, when, how):

2. The fork we are targeting and why it is early enough to matter:

3. The culture we want to shift (the H in PATHS):

4. The evidence behind our approach (name, rating, source):

5. The product, in one breath (LESS test):

Item	Our answer
Courses we draw on	
Channel(s)	
Delivering partner	
Audience (one named real person type)	
Minors involved? Supervision plan	
Victim-services or licensed review	
Leverage rung (1 to 5)	

6. PROOF line (written BEFORE building)

Problem Number	Result Number	Observer	On this date	Fail Line
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7. What could go wrong, and our safeguard:

Approvals: Interdepartmental Committee _____ Date _____ Board of Volunteers _____
Date _____

Further Study

FURTHER STUDY

These are chosen for depth and for how well they connect to the 13 courses. Staff can bring printed copies or excerpts; residents have no internet.

- **Donella Meadows, "Leverage Points: Places to Intervene in a System" (1999) and *Thinking in Systems* (2008).** The source of the ladder in Part 2. Core to Course 12.
- **Blueprints for Healthy Youth Development (University of Colorado).** A registry that rates youth programs as Promising, Model, or Model Plus. The best single place to check a program's evidence.
- **CrimeSolutions (National Institute of Justice).** Rates programs as Effective, Promising, or No Effects. Staff can print program profiles.
- **California Evidence-Based Clearinghouse for Child Welfare (CEBC).** Ratings for parenting and child-protection programs, including Circle of Security.
- **CDC, "Preventing Adverse Childhood Experiences" and the ACEs prevention resources.** Plain-language strategies for families and communities.
- **Annie E. Casey Foundation, *A Shared Sentence* (2016).** The case for supporting children of incarcerated parents. Essential for pilots 2, 3, 12, 26, and 27.
- **Heller et al., "Thinking, Fast and Slow? Some Field Experiments to Reduce Crime and Dropout in Chicago," *Quarterly Journal of Economics* (2017).** The Becoming a Man trials. Connects to Courses 1 and 7.
- **David Kennedy, *Don't Shoot* (2011).** The story behind Group Violence Intervention, written by its founder.
- **James Gilligan, *Violence: Reflections on a National Epidemic* (1996).** Shame as the engine of violence. Core to Course 6.
- **Gabor Maté, *In the Realm of Hungry Ghosts* (2008).** Addiction as a response to pain. Core to Course 8 and the family addiction pilots.
- **Howard Zehr, *The Little Book of Restorative Justice* (2002, revised 2015).** Short and clear. Core to Course 2 and the school pilots.
- **Lawrence Sherman and Heather Strang, *Restorative Justice: The Evidence* (2007).** A careful review of restorative conferencing results.
- **Violence Policy Center, *When Men Murder Women* (annual).** Staff can check the current edition each October (Domestic Violence Awareness Month).
- **South Carolina Department of Public Health, annual Drug Overdose Report.** Bring in the new edition each year for the Fork Log's Data door.
- **Darkness to Light (Charleston, SC), Stewards of Children.** A South Carolina-born program for adults; a natural partner for the Safe Church Starter Kit.
- **National Link Coalition** materials on the link between animal cruelty and human violence (verify current publications).

Sources

All numbers in this document were checked against these sources in September 2026. Staff should re-verify before any public use.

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3. Violence Policy Center. *When Men Murder Women: An Analysis of 2023 Homicide Data* (September 2025). vpc.org/studies/wmmw2025.pdf
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6. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. "South Carolina" state statistics page (2024 firearm, overdose, and homicide rates). cdc.gov/nchs/state-stats/states/sc.html
7. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. *State Alcohol-Impaired-Driving Estimates: 2023 Data* (DOT HS 813 726). crashstats.nhtsa.dot.gov
8. South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice. *2024 Annual Accountability Report* (Agency Code N120). scstatehouse.gov/reports/aar2024/N120.pdf
9. ACLU of South Carolina. "New report exposes dangerous conditions, widening inequality in S.C. juvenile justice system" (*Youth Behind the Fence*, September 9, 2026). aclusc.org
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11. South Carolina Attorney General. "Attorney General Alan Wilson releases 2024 SC Human Trafficking Task Force Annual Report" (January 2025). scag.gov
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15. Blueprints for Healthy Youth Development. Program pages: Nurse-Family Partnership (Model); Multisystemic Therapy (Model Plus); Functional Family Therapy (Promising); Communities That Care (Promising); Good Behavior Game (Promising). blueprintsprograms.org
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18. Annie E. Casey Foundation. *A Shared Sentence: The Devastating Toll of Parental Incarceration on Kids, Families and Communities* (2016). aecf.org

19. University of Chicago Crime Lab. "Becoming a Man (BAM)" project page; Heller, S., et al., *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 132(1), 2017.
20. Braga, A., Weisburd, D., and Turchan, B. "Focused Deterrence Strategies and Crime Control: An Updated Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis." *Criminology and Public Policy* (2018); Campbell Collaboration summary, cebcp.org.
21. County Health Rankings and Roadmaps, What Works for Health. "Cure Violence Model" (rated Mixed Evidence). countyhealthrankings.org
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