



THE CREDIBLE MESSENGER JUSTICE CENTER

The Credible Messenger movement has emerged based on a core belief that communities have within them transformative resources to lift up justice-involved people in a comprehensive and positive way. It works from the inside out: justice involved/at-risk young people who have a higher risk of re-offending are matched with specially trained adults with relevant life experiences (often previously incarcerated, Returned Citizens) called Credible Messengers, who share their background.

The Vision: Whole Justice for Everyone

To foster authentic partnerships between justice systems and communities that reduce incarceration and recidivism by engaging the whole individual in relationships of lasting change, investing in community-based resources and changing the way that government and society view the value and potential of justice-involved people.

The Mission: Supporting the Credible Messenger Movement

To advance knowledge about the impact of credible messenger work, amplify the voices of credible messengers, and ensure credible messengers have the professional and personal supports necessary to thrive in their current roles and beyond.

CURRENT PROGRAM OFFERINGS AND SERVICES:

Professional Development

A robust offering of training opportunities to enhance the skills of credible messengers in their day to day work and to help them advance in their field.

Connections to Higher Education

In partnership with the Murphy Institute of the City University of New York, credible messengers can pursue a 16-credit Community Leadership Certificate at the City University of New York (CUNY.) This program is specifically designed to eliminate barriers for adult learners who may have faced challenges pursuing higher education.

Holistic Support

Credible Messengers who are on the front lines of this critical work are provided the wellness and support resources they need, including confidential access to counseling for mental health and wellness support; financial planning resources; and legal support and representation.

The Credible Messenger Institute

is a six-session intensive healing and support group for Credible Messengers who are looking to connect to a community that provides personal and professional support, coaching and development. Participants walk away feeling supported, invigorated, and with a solid grasp of healthy mentoring from “the inside, out”.



Advocacy/Convenings/Information Sharing

Annual “Unleashing the Power of Positive Transformation” conference, gathering a diverse array of presenters from across the country and across disciplines.



Technical Assistance to Programs and Jurisdictions Nationwide

On-site “immersion” experiences where delegations can see community-government partnerships in action; speak with credible messenger mentors and the young people they serve; and spend structured classroom time developing their own plans to bring the credible messenger model back home. CMJC also offers post-immersion technical assistance and support.



Sharing Research and Best Practices/Generating Evidence

A growing on-line publications and research library.

CMJC Advisory Council

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National Youth Partnership Strategist, Youth First Initiative

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Associate Vice President of Policy, The Fortune Society

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Dr. Divine Pryor
Executive Director, Center for NuLeadership

Jim St. Germain
Co-Founder and Chairperson, Preparing Leaders of Tomorrow

The Credible Messenger Justice Center is a collaboration among three entities that brings deep expertise on the needs of justice-involved people from the different perspectives of community, system (government) and a university.



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