

LOS ANGELES COUNTY

**JUSTICE
CARE AND
OPPORTUNITIES**

DEPARTMENT

Media Kit

2024

Judge Songhai Armstead (Ret.) | Director



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LOS ANGELES COUNTY
**JUSTICE
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DEPARTMENT

JCOD Leadership

"At JCOD, we're planting the seeds of change to cultivate a future where one can redeem themselves from past mistakes, give rise to new opportunities and forge stronger communities."

Director, Judge Songhai Armstead, ret.



Judge Armstead is a longtime advocate for the underserved, and a justice system innovator. Before this appointment, Judge Armstead, a retired Superior Court judge, was the first leader of the Alternatives to Incarceration Office, which is now part of JCOD. Judge Armstead and her team drove the operational creation of JCOD after the Board established the department in November 2022.

Judge Armstead overcame early childhood trauma and her own lived experience to attend the UCLA School of Law where she was the first-ever African American woman elected student body president in a post-209 environment. As a criminal courts judge, in addition to general cases, Judge Armstead also heard ODR, mental health, gang diversion and other specialty cases.

Judge Armstead's programs have impacted tens of thousands of individuals, as well as organizations and governmental systems. To date, she has overseen the allocation of more than \$450 million for community investment, interventions and alternatives to incarceration.

[Judge Songhai talks about new grant investments on KTLA5](#)

JCOD's Mission

The Justice, Care and Opportunities Department (JCOD) cultivates a person-centered, coordinated continuum of care for vulnerable justice-impacted individuals and their communities. By leading collaborative system improvement efforts, we focus on prevention, diversion, and reentry to achieve community safety, wellbeing, and equitable justice.



Planning & strategy

- ✓ Policy development
- ✓ Cross-agency coordination and community engagement
- ✓ Metrics and outcome evaluation
- ✓ Funding recommendations



Program delivery

- ✓ Prevention
- ✓ Justice System Intervention & Diversion
- ✓ Stabilization
- ✓ Rehabilitation
- ✓ Reentry

JCOD Priority Areas

JCOD is focused on a broad set of activities within the pretrial system to elevate and enhance community safety



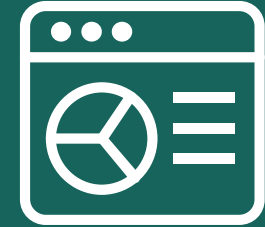
Policy Development



Coordination



**Community
Engagement**



Metrics/Evaluation



Program Delivery



Build Capacity



**Education &
Awareness**

Key Areas of Focus



CFCI Investments & Build Community Organizations

Care First Community Investment (also known as Measure J) invests an unprecedented \$288 million to advance the Board of Supervisor's Care First mission to transform Los Angeles County with innovative programs that serve our chronically under-resourced communities to address negative outcomes caused by racially driven criminal justice inequities and long-term community economic disinvestment.



Pretrial Services

Individuals detained can receive housing services and support.



Re-entry Services

Establishing programs for justice-impacted people, including diverting them out of the justice system at every turn, providing case management and assisting them with re-entry into the community.

JCOD By the Numbers



391

Contracts Managed via JCOD and Third-Party Administrators



1,000+

Current Beds funded directly by JCOD



115

Community Based Organizations Supported via Incubation Academy



2,230+

Cases diverted via the Rapid Diversion Program (RDP)



Over

30,000+

Individuals served by Reentry Intensive Case Management Services (RICMS)



1,100+

People served through the Justice Connect Support Center since 10/2023 launch. The service is available from 6:00 a.m. – 11:00 p.m. 7 days/week



CFCI Care Grant



Year 1
\$55
Million Awarded



Year 2
\$123
Million Awarded



Year 3
\$175
Million Awarded

Testimonials

“Winning funds is everything, and there is no way to put it in words. It’s been a life-changing experience for everyone on the team. They had been doing work in the community for ten years without a penny. They are now able to provide diversion space for people dealing with the justice system.”

- Bruno Hernandez, Executive Director of Be Creative STP Foundation



“Not only are we able to launch this new program, but it has allowed us to reward the people who have been volunteering with us since the beginning. We do this work because we love it and have done it on our own dime for years, but this funding has allowed us to pay folks for the great work they do.”

- Kevin Waters, Executive Director of Dream Live Hope Foundation



“RDP gave me stability, confidence, and the ability to push forward.”

- Graduate of JCOD’s Rapid Diversion Program (RDP)

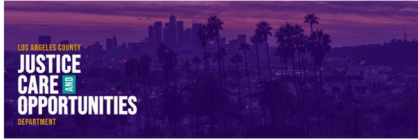
“Because of RDP, I have learned to love myself and know I have value.”

- Graduate of JCOD’s Rapid Diversion Program (RDP)

“It still really hasn’t settled on me yet. It still seems unreal because I’ve been homeless for over 1 year... Home ownership means stability responsibility and equity in myself. Building value and setting an example for the next generation.”

- Client of JCOD’s Reentry Intensive Case Management Services (RICMS) who went from unhoused to homeowner

Press Releases



MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 2, 2023

Media Contact
Avi Bernard
abernard@icod.lacounty.gov

Judge Songhai Armstead (Ret.) Sworn-In as Los Angeles County Justice, Care and Opportunities Department Director

LOS ANGELES - Judge Songhai Armstead (Ret.) was sworn in as inaugural Director of the new Los Angeles County Justice, Care and Opportunities Department (JCOD) at the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration today.

Judge Armstead (Ret.) took the oath to serve in her new role in front of the Board of Supervisors, staff and friends and family in attendance.

"I am deeply honored and profoundly humbled that the Board of Supervisors have entrusted me with first the building of and now the leading of the newest department for Los Angeles County," Judge Armstead (Ret.) said. "In partnership with our entire community, our justice partners, our community and faith-based organizations, our dedicated JCOD team, and all of our sister County departments, we will be able to create safer communities while also providing equitable care and opportunities to those most in need."

[Judge Songhai Armstead \(Ret.\) Sworn-In as Los Angeles County Justice, Care and Opportunities Department Director, October 2023](#)



MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 26, 2023

Media Contact
Avi Bernard
abernard@icod.lacounty.gov

L.A. County Justice, Care and Opportunities Department Launches Support Center and Justiceconnect.org Website Focused on Resources for Justice Involved Individuals

Pretrial services are now available through new call center 1-833-LAC-JCOD and website Justiceconnect.org

LOS ANGELES – The Los Angeles County Justice, Care and Opportunities Department (JCOD) has launched a first-of-its-kind pretrial services support center and website to help justice involved individuals navigate the justice system.

As of October 1st, the new JCOD Support Center is receiving calls at 1-833-LAC-JCOD or 1-833-522-5263 available 7 days a week from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. for justice involved individuals, their families, and the community. The Support Center can facilitate connections to a wide range of resources, including court reminders, warm handoffs to care management providers for connections to local services, and transportation assistance to housing, court appearances, probation/parole, and childcare necessary for court appearances.

The JCOD Support Center is equipped to provide more personalized assistance

[L.A. County Justice, Care and Opportunities Department Launches Support Center and Justiceconnect.org Website Focused on Resources for Justice Involved Individuals, October 2023](#)



MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 11, 2023

Media Contact
Avi Bernard
abernard@icod.lacounty.gov

Year Two Care First Community Investment Grantees to Be Awarded at Recipient Luncheon

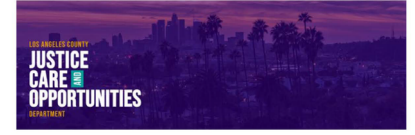
LOS ANGELES - The Justice, Care and Opportunities Department (JCOD) along with the Amity Foundation will award more than 120 community-based organizations with over \$120 million at a special luncheon on Wednesday, December 13 as part of year two of the Care First Community Investment (CFCI) Care Grants.

CFCI was created by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and placed under the stewardship of JCOD in November 2022. The Amity Foundation currently works with JCOD as a third-party administrator to help distribute the CFCI Care Grants.

Approximately 10 percent of Los Angeles County's locally generated, unrestricted revenues are allocated for direct community investment and alternatives to incarceration and distributed through CFCI grants.

Year two recipients awarded CFCI Care Grants include organizations that are committed to a wide gamut of programs and services including rental assistance

[Year Two Care First Community Investment Grantees to Be Awarded at Recipient Luncheon, December 2023](#)



MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 25, 2024

Media Contact
Christopher Kim
ckim@icod.lacounty.gov

Justice Care and Opportunities Department's Rapid Diversion Program Achieves Milestone of 2,000 Case Diversions

LOS ANGELES – The Justice Care and Opportunities Department (JCOD) marked a significant milestone recording its 2,000th case diversion through the Rapid Diversion Program (RDP).

On Jan. 25th, five participants were recognized at the Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center for their successful completion of the diversion program, which brought the total number of diversions through RDP to 2,000 cases since its inception in 2019.

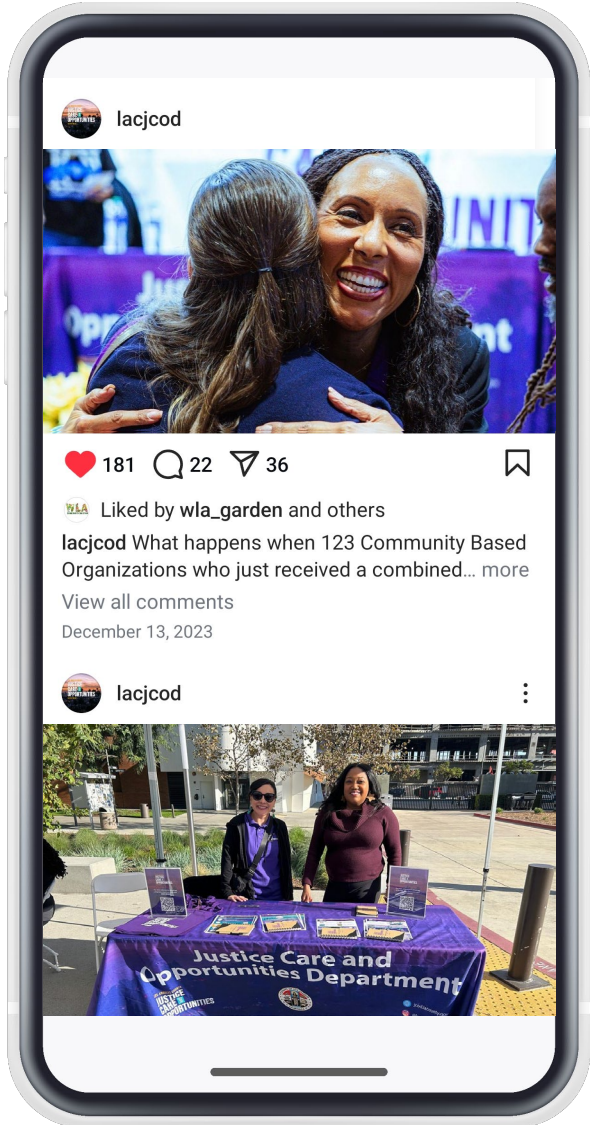
"The success of RDP exemplifies the power of collaboration when we come together to create safer communities by providing individuals with the help and support they need to return home as contributing members of society," stated JCOD Director Judge Songhai Armstead (Ret.). "Reaching 2,000 diversions is more than just a number or statistic, it represents lives changed and a path for a brighter future."

"Today is a big milestone for the Rapid Diversion Program in LA County. A program that started small with a vision to change criminal justice has done just that. RDP has evolved from one misdemeanor courtroom in downtown to fully operational in felonies and misdemeanors in 7 courthouses across LA County," said LA County Public Defender Ricardo D. Garcia. "This program is changing lives. With over 2,000 cases diverted and a 93% non-recidivism rate, our clients are not just remaining out of the system, but thriving with housing, jobs, and reunification with family members."

[Justice Care and Opportunities Department's Rapid Diversion Program Achieves Milestone of 2,000 Case Diversions, January 2024](#)

To review all press release, please go to icod.lacounty.gov/about-us/#Press

Become a JCOD Ambassador



Help Us Spread the Word!

Post on social media about our programs

Be a featured speaker at our events

Promote JCOD in your circles

Partner with us!

Social Media Posts

Post #1

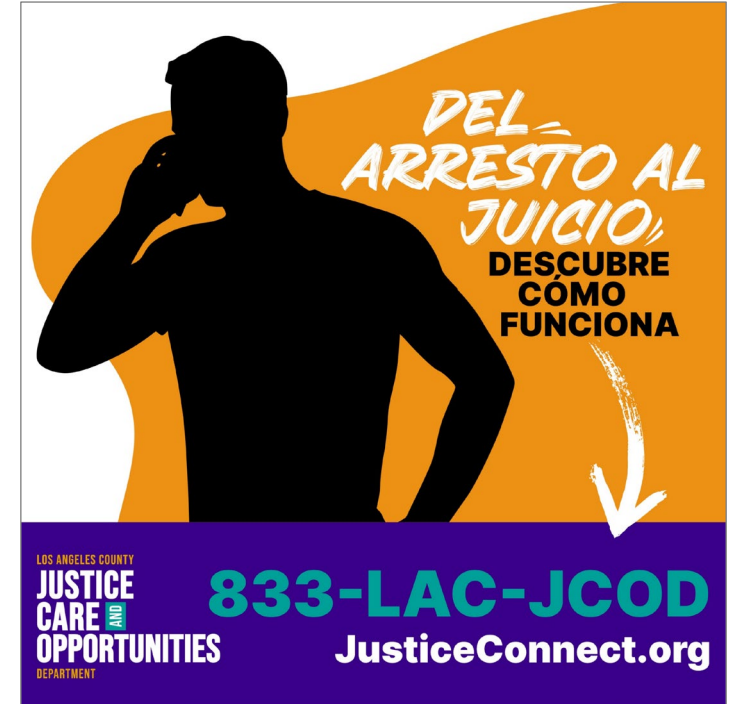
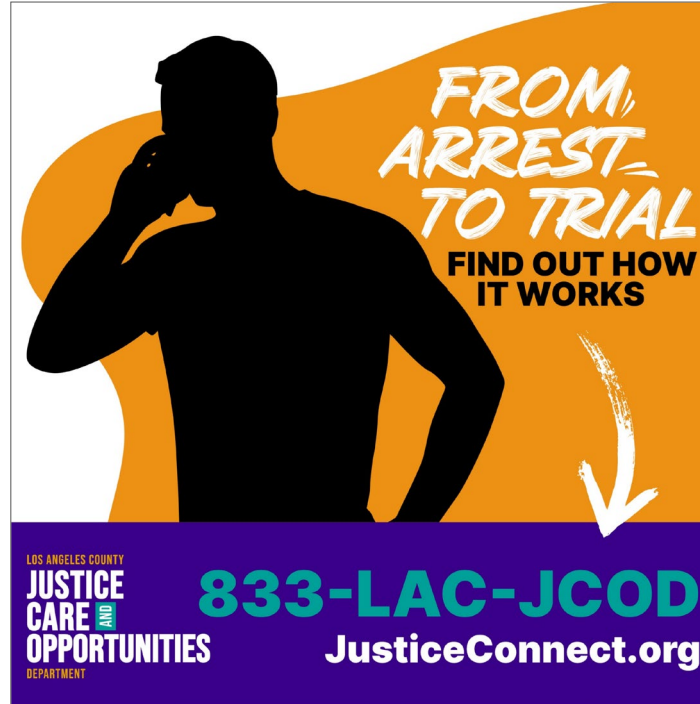
(Justice Connect Post)

Instagram Copy

Did you know LA County has a free call center to provide support for those who have been arrested, released from jail and services for their families? The LA County Justice, Care and Opportunities Department (JCOD) connects people with free transportation to court, housing services and much more. The Justice Connect call center is open 6am-11pm, 7 days per week – just call 833-LAC-JCOD. Visit JusticeConnect.org for more information

X (Twitter) Copy

Did you know LA County has a free call center for those who've been arrested, released from jail & for their families? The Justice, Care and Opportunities Dept provides transportation to court, housing services & much more. Open 6a-11p, 7 days/wk – 833-LAC-JCOD. JusticeConnect.org



Social Media Posts

Post #2

(General JCOD Post)

Instagram Copy

The LA County Justice, Care and Opportunities Department (JCOD) helps justice-impacted individuals by providing support before they go to trial, assisting those who are reentering society and funds community-based organizations with hundreds of millions of dollars in grants. Learn more about their programs at [JCOD.lacounty.gov](https://www.jcod.lacounty.gov).

X (Twitter) Copy

The LA County Justice, Care and Opportunities Department (JCOD) helps those who've been arrested before they go to trial, those reentering society & funds community-based organizations with \$100s of millions in grants. Find out about their programs at [JCOD.lacounty.gov](https://www.jcod.lacounty.gov)



Branding Guidelines

Logo

The JCOD logo represents the bold and unifying efforts of the Justice Care and Opportunities Department.

(The logo file is provided in PNG and SVG formats. The SVG is a vector file that can be scaled up or down in size without losing any of its resolution. When using the logo in print materials or if enlarging the logo is necessary, we recommend using the SVG file.)

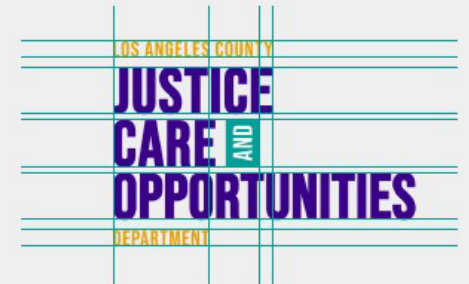
jcod.lacounty.gov

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Logo Grid

jcod.lacounty.gov



Branding Guidelines

Color

These colors pull together the strength and hopefulness of the JCOD brand. They can be used flexibly, but are most powerful when overlaid to add boldness and vibrancy to the brand.

#009F98	#3B0089
#E6A027	#00645D
#EFEFEF	#000000

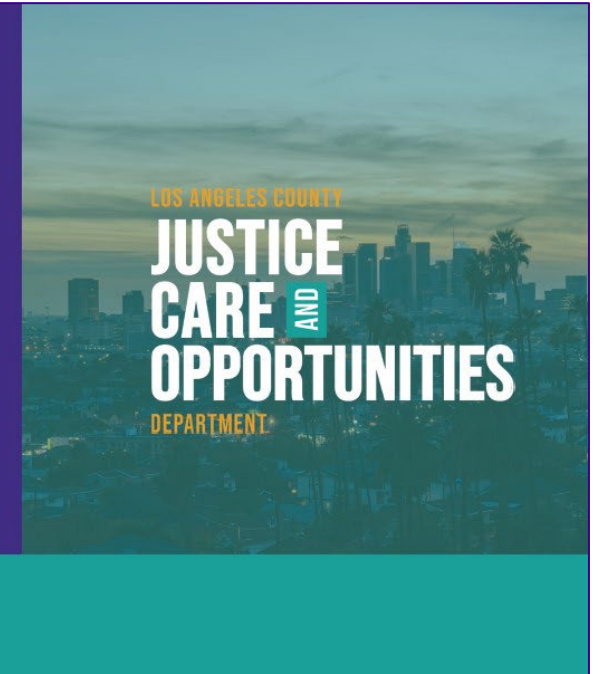
jcod.lacounty.gov



Logo Application

When placing the logo over an image, add a filter using a primary brand color to ensure contrast.

jcod.lacounty.gov



Contacts & Socials

Director of External Affairs: Brenda Duran

Bduran@jcod.lacounty.gov

Media Inquiries

PIO@jcod.lacounty.gov



Community Outreach

Drive JCOD's community outreach initiatives to ensure that impacted communities are aware of JCOD's charge and informed of the activities needed to execute on the department's vision



Communications and External Relations

Broaden public understanding and drive community engagement by connecting a robust network of key partners and stakeholders serving the justice involved population

Website:

www.JCOD.lacounty.gov

Justice Connect

www.JusticeConnect.org

1-833-LAC-JCOD/1-833-522-5263

Social media:



@LACJCOD

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