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## RISE Project

The RISE Project addresses the intersection of gun violence, intimate partner violence, and gender-based violence in communities most impacted by harm. A project of the Center for Justice Innovation, RISE partners with community members, credible messengers, and local organizations across New York City to build safety, accountability, and healing outside of carceral systems. RISE is grounded in the belief that violence is preventable—and that communities already hold the knowledge, relationships, and leadership needed to interrupt harm, shift norms, and create safer futures. We work alongside communities to strengthen alternatives to punishment-based responses and develop community-rooted pathways for care, accountability, and healing.

### **Preventing and Responding to Intersectional Violence**

RISE addresses the intersections of community violence, gun violence, and gender-based violence by breaking down siloes, working directly with gun violence prevention networks to address gender-based violence, and implementing community-based prevention efforts.

- *Training and Partnering with Credible Messengers*

We collaborate with trusted leaders from gun violence prevention networks and community-based orgs to design prevention strategies that are locally grounded and culturally responsive. These leaders are equipped to intervene safely, de-escalate harm, and connect to support in moments when systems often fail to respond.

- *Youth Engagement*  
We partner with youth-serving organizations to facilitate norm-change conversations around healthy relationships, consent, accountability, and gender-based violence. Youth on the RISE is a youth-centered initiative that supports young people to engage their peers and communities in violence prevention, promote healthy relationship norms, and reduce tolerance for IPV through tailored workshops and leadership development.
- *Public Education, Campaigns, and Community Events*  
We design neighborhood-based campaigns, community activations, and public education efforts that challenge harmful norms, elevate community voice, and foster collective dialogue around safety and healing.

### **Building Pathways to Accountability**

There are limited non-mandated options in New York City for people who want support to stop causing harm. RISE focuses on voluntary and mixed-voluntary accountability pathways that center behavior change, responsibility, and harm reduction.

- *Individual Counseling*  
We offer voluntary counseling and interventions for individuals seeking to change harmful behaviors, prevent future violence, and access stabilizing resources.
- *Group Interventions*  
We provide group programs for youth and adults who have caused harm in their intimate relationships. These programs are non-mandated. Groups

explore trauma, accountability, gender norms, and pathways toward healthier relationships.

- *Respect First*  
RISE is the city-wide provider for Respect First, a 16-week program for youth ages 13–21, combining voluntary and mandated referrals. Respect First supports young people in understanding harm, building accountability, and developing healthier ways of relating across friendships, dating relationships, families, and community contexts.

### **Strengthening Community Leadership**

RISE invests in community members and frontline workers as leaders in violence prevention and centers survivors not only as recipients of services but as leaders, advisors, and partners in shaping community responses, public education, and accountability practices.

- *Capacity Building and Technical Assistance*  
We provide tailored trainings, workshops, and ongoing coaching to community organizations, credible messengers, and systems partners to strengthen responses to gender-based violence and support healthy relationship norms.
- *Mayor’s Action Plan for Neighborhood Safety*  
Through the MAP NYCHA Domestic Violence Technical Assistance Program, RISE works directly with residents in public housing developments most impacted by violence to build community capacity to prevent and respond to domestic violence through prevention, intervention, and leadership development.

- *Men Rising*  
Men Rising engages men as partners in gender-based violence prevention by building accountability, leadership, and peer support. Weekly groups create space for men to examine masculinity, power, relationships, and responsibility—while strengthening their capacity to intervene, respond to harm, and support safety in their communities.

### **Fostering Healing and Safety**

- *Crisis Intervention and Referrals*  
RISE provides brief crisis interventions, safety planning, and referrals for individuals experiencing harm and for individuals seeking support to prevent future harm. We work in close coordination with community partners to respond to violence-related incidents and support community healing.

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### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

Email: [riseproject@innovatingjustice.org](mailto:riseproject@innovatingjustice.org)

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