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**FAIRFAX COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY STEVE DESCANO ANNOUNCES  
RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PROGRAM AWARDED MICROSOFT GRANT**

Fairfax, VA – Fairfax Commonwealth's Attorney Steve Descano announced today that a victim-centered young adult restorative justice program, created by the Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney in collaboration with local nonprofit NVMS Conflict Resolution Center, has received a grant from Microsoft and the Urban Institute to advance racial equity and reform in the criminal legal system.

NVMS will use this added funding to expand the OCA's restorative justice diversion program, Adult Accountability for Safer Communities (AASC), launched by CA Descano's office in 2022. The AASC program accomplishes three main goals: providing an alternative to incarceration for youth whose brains are still developing, giving victims a voice in determining how the harm done to them is resolved, and reducing recidivism. AASC will use tools provided by Microsoft to improve programming and reduce bias throughout the referral process.

"This grant will allow us to build on the success of the AASC program," said **CA Descano**. "AASC is one of the most powerful tools our office has to build long-term community safety, lower crime in our neighborhoods, and make the system work as it should."

*About the Catalyst Grant Program:* NVMS is one of 25 nonprofit organizations across the country selected to join the Catalyst Grant Program, an initiative by the Urban Institute and Microsoft to support local communities that are using data and technology to reform racial bias out of our legal system. NVMS was chosen following a highly competitive selection process and will receive funds to cover project implementation; assistance on data, policy, and community engagement from Urban; access to technology and related support; and peer learning opportunities. Key learnings and resources emerging from the Program will be shared with and beyond the justice reform field. Find out more at [urbn.is/catalyst2025](https://urbn.is/catalyst2025).

"We are thrilled to be a part of the Catalyst Grant Program," said **Arleen Borysiewicz, Executive Director of NVMS**. "Beyond the overwhelmingly positive effect that AASC will continue to have on our legal system, as a result of this grant, we will be able to identify patterns within the program in order to advance reform, avoid racial bias, and support overall community safety."

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