

## Overview

The Staten Island Justice Center seeks to reduce crime and incarceration by providing court-involved participants with supportive services and by engaging the community in prevention programs.

### Criminal Justice Programs

- **Project Reset:** is a pre-arraignment diversion program that utilizes a proportionate and effective response to low-level offending. Through Project Reset, participants avoid a criminal record by completing community-based programming. Project Reset in Staten Island is provided by the Staten Island Justice Center in partnership with the Richmond County District Attorney's Office. Programming options include interactive groups grounded in the tenets of procedural justice and cognitive behavioral therapy, as well as individual sessions focused on connecting individuals with appropriate community-based services. These sessions give participants space to reflect on their arrest experience and how to avoid further involvement with the criminal justice system.
- **Supervised Release Program:** with the support from the City of New York, the Staten Island Justice Center operates a supervised release program for misdemeanor and felony defendants that reduce the reliance on pretrial detention while enhancing the fairness of the justice system. In addition to supervision and case management, the program provides referrals to voluntary community-based or onsite programming.
- **Alternatives to Incarceration:** The Staten Island Justice Center offers a number of short- and long-term social service options, includ-

ing clinical intakes and assessments, case management, and specialized programming (including community service, Driver Accountability Program, and the Theft Accountability Program). Services also include referrals to onsite and community-based programming (including psycho-educational programming, job training, counseling, and GED classes). Through these alternative-to-incarceration services, the Justice Center seeks to better address the underlying causes of peoples' involvement in the criminal justice system, reducing the likelihood of future involvement and increasing community safety.

### Youth and Family Programs

- **Youth Impact:** engages youth across New York City and Newark, NJ to become transformative leaders in their communities and beyond. In paid internships, members learn leadership skills, prevent youth involvement with the



criminal legal system through peer-led diversion, and develop and pilot projects to create positive community impact. Youth Impact seeks to work with youth who have been directly impacted by criminal legal systems in the belief that those who have been most impacted are best able to lead and develop meaningful solutions and influence their peers.

- **Project READY:** is an alternative-to-detention program that provides case management, mentorship programming, and rigorous compliance monitoring for young people ages 12-18 with pending juvenile delinquency cases in Family Court. The program is designed to support youth accountability with a trauma-informed lens, adherence to court-mandated parole conditions, and connect youth one-to-one with a mentor. Staff use a wide range of strengths-based engagement strategies for program youth and their family members to promote compliance and personal growth beyond court involvement. Youth who successfully complete Project READY are more likely to avoid Placement and receive community-based dispositions.
- **AIM (Advocate, Intervene, Mentor):** is an Alternative to Placement program that provides one-on-one mentoring for young people between the ages of 13 and 18. AIM is designed to help participants address age-specific needs, develop positive social bonds, and engage with their community in a positive and meaningful way. Mentees are



paired with a youth engagement specialist—a mentor that supports their growth and development throughout the duration of the program. AIM is a program in partnership with the New York City Department of Probation and is intended to reduce crime and recidivism as well as promote long term growth for court involved youth.

- **Works Plus:** In collaboration with the New York City Council and the Department of Probation, Works Plus engages Staten Island youth and adults ages 16 to 30 who are affected by gun violence in pro-social activities that focus on educational advancement, life skills, and job readiness. Works Plus services are intended to help participants from all backgrounds achieve a higher level of work readiness/employability, while reducing the likelihood of participation in violent activity. Services include career awareness, connections to educational opportunities, assistance with job search competencies, and case management with an emphasis on soft skill and basic life skills development. Each year, over two dozen young people from Staten Island engage with Works Plus.
- **Youth Wellness Initiative:** addresses trauma and promotes healing for youth 13-18 years old who have been involved with the justice system or are at risk. The services provided target the trauma youth may have experienced by shedding light on a range of topics such as identity, overcoming obstacles, dismantling stereotypes, discovering healthy outlets, violence, and promoting healing. Youth learn coping mechanisms that help them to navigate through life experiences. The program works to decrease the likelihood of long-term justice involvement by providing youth with a menu of services such as mental health assessments, needs-based engagement plans, individual short-term counseling, and group workshops that provide youth with peer support.
- **Next STEPS (Striving Toward Engagement and Peaceful Solutions):** is an initiative of the Mayor's Action Plan that offers youth

(16-24) in the Stapleton neighborhood of Staten Island one-on-one and group mentoring services. Next STEPS youth are engaged through a cognitive behavioral-therapy and social justice-based curriculum intended to help them increase their leadership capabilities and develop skills to find meaningful work and positive community engagement opportunities, including educational and recreational activities, employment, and internships. Next STEPS participants receive stipends and are paired with a youth engagement specialist—a mentor that is available for intensive support, advice, and guidance throughout the duration of the program.

## Community Justice Programs

- **Transformative Reentry Initiative:** is a program meant to reduce recidivism, promote public safety, and reduce the impact of justice involvement by providing supportive services in partnership with individuals, families, and communities that are facing the challenges of sustaining successful reintegration into free society. The program engages justice-impacted individuals that are 18 years or older in comprehensive programming and services including peer-mentorship, employment and education opportunities, workforce development, restorative justice, holistic health and wellness, family engagement and support, and community resources.

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### For More Information

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