

Youth, Young Adult, and Family Programs

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. The Justice Center offers a range of programs for local youth and young adults on Staten Island, with a specialized focus on those with or at-risk of justice involvement.

Youth and Family Programs

Youth Impact engages youth across New York City and Newark, NJ, to become transformative leaders in their communities and beyond. The Youth Impact program is a multi-pronged youth leadership development program with a goal to keep young people in school and out of the criminal legal system. The program focuses on peer-led mentorship and violence intervention and prevention practices to inspire community safety and healing from a youth-centered perspective. The program primarily uses a restorative justice model through structured in-school violence intervention partnerships and organized civic engagement. Participants develop hard skills

including oral and written communication, facilitation, conflict resolution, and research processes; learn the impact and infrastructure of the justice system; and receive training in community planning and organizing.

Project READY is an alternative-to-detention program that provides case management, mentorship programming, and rigorous compliance monitoring for young people ages 12 to 18 with pending juvenile delinquency cases in Family Court. In lieu of detention, the program provides services for youth involved in the juvenile justice system, offering individualized supervision and support strategies to ensure return to court without re-arrest. The goal of the program is to engage youth in promoting positive behaviors, healthy relationships,

and problem-solving skills that will allow them to remain safely in the community while their case proceeds. To achieve these goals, Project READY connects youth to age-appropriate and accessible vocational, educational, and social programming. Youth who successfully complete Project READY are more likely to avoid placement and receive community-based dispositions.

AIM (Advocate, Intervene, Mentor), an Alternate to Placement (ATP) program, helps high-risk youth ages 13-18 years old under probation supervision avoid out-of-home placement and recidivism. Instead of placement after a case is judged, 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 is a flexible work readiness wrap-around program providing services to participants referred through Crisis Management System program partners. Works Plus programs will serve participants in a manner designed to meet participants “where they are,” both in terms of locality and type/intensity of services needed. Works Plus services include career awareness services, connections to educational opportunities, assistance with job search competencies, and

case management with an emphasis on soft skill and basic life skills development as a means towards work readiness.

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.

Justice Scholars Network works with the students and staff of Eagle Academy for Young Men of Staten Island to prevent and reduce school violence. This staff- and peer-led initiative focuses on training staff in violence prevention, peer mediation, and restorative justice circle models. The Justice Scholars Network also trains youth in the same areas, but through a youth-lens and with a special emphasis on peer mediation and empowerment.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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