

## Overview

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Project Reset is a diversion program that seeks to forge a new response to low-level offending that is proportionate, effective, and humane. Through Project Reset, eligible participants complete community-based programming during the time between arrest and arraignment. Upon successful completion, prosecutors decline to prosecute their case. The original arrest is sealed, and the person never has to appear in court, eliminating the possibility of a criminal record or a warrant being issued.

Created by the Manhattan District Attorney's Office, New York Police Department, Brooklyn District Attorney's Office and the Center for Court Innovation, Project Reset offers a more constructive approach to minor crime, expanding the array of options available to law enforcement beyond the conventional binary of prosecution or nothing. The program is an example of the criminal justice system being adaptive and responsive to community concerns. Rooted in the tenets of procedural justice, Project Reset has the potential to help improve public confidence in justice and mend relations between communities and the criminal justice system.

### Eligibility

Project Reset serves people who are issued a desk appearance ticket for eligible low-level, non-violent crimes, including drug possession, trespassing, and shoplifting. It must be the person's first arrest and they cannot be a part of any other ongoing investigation or case.

Project Reset is currently active in sections of Brooklyn and the Bronx, and in all of Manhattan. In Brooklyn, Project Reset is available to eligible 16- and 17-year-olds in the 73rd, 75th and 77th precincts in central Brooklyn. In the Bronx, Project Reset is active for all eligible adults (aged 16 and up) arrested in the 40th, 43rd, and 49th

precincts, and Police Service Areas 7 and 8. In Manhattan, Project Reset is active boroughwide for everyone aged 16 and up.

### How It Works

At the point of arrest, police alert potential participants that they might be eligible for diversion programming through Project Reset. Prosecutors review each case and refer eligible cases to one of three providers—the Center for Court Innovation, Osborne Association or Young New Yorkers—based on precinct and age of arrest. Each potential participant can consult with a defense attorney before deciding to enroll in the program.

Those who choose to participate complete an intake interview with program staff to determine the intervention that would be best suited for them. Adult participants complete two hours of programming in one day: 16- and 17-year-olds complete four hours of programming over two days. Project Reset clients are offered interventions such as group workshops, restorative circles, arts programming, and individual counseling sessions. Through their intervention, participants gain a better understanding of the criminal justice system and greater knowledge of the resources available to them in the community.