

Adolescent and Young Adult Programs

The Staten Island Justice Center offers special programs for local youth and young adults on Staten Island, with a focus on those with or at risk of justice involvement. The Justice Center provides participants with leadership development tools and connects them to opportunities that promote positive engagement with the community. Each year, we serve more than 150 young people.

Youth Impact

In Youth Impact, teens hear actual court cases involving their peers. Through referrals from Richmond County Criminal Court, the New York City Police Department, schools, and the Department of Probation, cases are diverted from the criminal justice system to Youth Impact. Staff train teens to serve as judge, advocates, and jurors who hear cases of peer respondents and determine sanctions that seek to repair harm and link respondents to social services that can help them avoid further contact with the criminal justice system. Young people who successfully complete Youth Impact typically have their cases dismissed. In a typical year, a dozen young people participate as members and more than 50 young people are referred to Youth Impact as an alternative sanction.

Project READY

Project READY is an alternative-to-detention program that provides case management, after-school programming, and rigorous compliance monitoring for young people with pending delinquency cases in Family Court. The program stresses individual accountability, law-abiding behavior, and adherence to court-mandated parole conditions. Staff use a wide range of engagement strategies for participants and family members to promote compliance. Family court judges are provided with timely, accurate, and comprehensive information.

Youth who successfully complete Project READY are more likely to avoid placement and receive community-based dispositions than those who are detained.

AIM (Advocate, Intervene, Mentor)

In conjunction with the New York City Department of Probation, AIM seeks to build stronger and safer communities, reduce crime and recidivism, and promote lifelong gains for youth involved in the juvenile justice system. As an alternative-to-placement program, AIM provides one-on-one mentoring for young people between the ages of 13 and 18. The program addresses age-specific needs and issues, and helps participants develop positive community bonds. The AIM program works intensively with 11 young people in 2018.

Works Plus

In collaboration with the New York City Council and the Department of Probation, Justice Community Plus engages Staten Island youth ages 16 to 24 who are affected by gun violence in pro-social activities that focus on educational advancement, life skills, and job readiness. Each year, over two dozen young people from Staten Island engaged with Works Plus.

Youth Wellness Initiative

Provides robust mental health services, aimed at decreasing the likelihood of long-term

system involvement, to young people on Staten Island involved in the justice system. Court-involved youth are provided with mental health assessments by a licensed clinician who create engagement plans based on the needs identified in the assessment. Youth are also offered a menu of services, such as individual short-term counseling, peer mentorship, restorative justice circles, and/or civic engagement opportunities, as determined clinically appropriate to address underlying needs that spurred justice system involvement.

For More Information

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