

Inside/ Outside

A Look at Innovative Practices to Help
Youth Returning to the Community
From Detention
Become Community Leaders

Link between detention and poverty

Certain neighborhoods overrepresented:

Queens: South Jamaica, Far Rockaway

Brooklyn: Bedford Stuyvesant, East New York, Brownsville, Bushwick

Bronx: Soundview, Morris Heights, South Bronx, University Heights, Tremont

Staten Island: St George

Link between detention and poverty

All the high-detention neighborhoods in Brooklyn, Manhattan and the Bronx are the among neighborhoods with:

- Percent of families living below poverty level
- Percent of families with incomes below \$15,000 a year

(from Citizen Committee for Children's Keeping Track of New York City's Children)

Successful re-entry models:

recognizing link between poverty and recidivism

Moving away from the traditional adult “parole” model

connecting youth re-entry with youth development and youth leadership

working with youth and their families in the communities where they live

Innovative Youth Re-entry and Leadership Programs

Children's Aid Society Community Re-entry Program

Partnership between CAS, OCFS and Boys and Girls Clubs

Innovative Youth Re-entry and Leadership Programs

ACS Juvenile Justice Initiative Bronx Re-entry Pilot Project

Reduce length of stay for Bronx youth in private placements

Offers Family Functional Therapy

Innovative Youth Re-entry and Leadership Programs

DJJ's Collaborative Family Initiative

Partnership between DJJ, John Jay College and community-based mental health providers

Innovative Youth Re-entry and Leadership Programs

Correctional Association's Juvenile Justice Project *Each One, Teach One*

Trains youth to become advocates and leaders for juvenile justice reform

10 Elements of Innovative Youth Re-entry and Leadership Programs

1. Programs that work with youth in detention and in the community

Examples:

DJJ's CFI program

Each One, Teach One program

10 Elements of Innovative Youth Re-entry and Leadership Programs

2. Programs that encourage court-involved youth to integrate with non-court-involved youth

Examples:

Children's Aid Society's Community Re-entry Program

Each One, Teach One Program

10 Elements of Innovative Youth Re-entry and Leadership Programs

3. Programs that reduce length of stay in detention or placement or serve as an alternative to incarceration

Examples:

DJJ's CFI program

ACS JJI Bronx pilot

10 Elements of Innovative Youth Re-entry and Leadership Programs

4. Programs that incorporate youth development principles including:

- providing youth with safe and supportive environments
- fostering relationships between youth and caring adults who can mentor and guide them
- supporting development of youth's knowledge and skills in a variety of ways including study, tutoring, sports, the arts, vocational education and service learning
- engaging youth as active partners and leaders
- promoting healthy lifestyles and teaching patterns of social interactions.

10 Elements of Innovative Youth Re-entry and Leadership Programs

5. Programs that incorporate popular education

Example:

Each One, Teach One Program

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6. Programs that offer financial incentives

Example:

Each One, Teach One program

10 Elements of Innovative Youth Re-entry and Leadership Programs

7. Programs that are family-focused

Examples:

DJJ's CFI program

ACS's JJI Bronx pilot

10 Elements of Innovative Youth Re-entry and Leadership Programs

8. Programs that are neighborhood-based

Example:

Children's Aid Society Community Re-entry program

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9. Programs that foster long-term relationships with and investments in youth

Example:

Children's Aid Society Community Re-entry program

10 Elements of Innovative Youth Re-entry and Leadership Programs

10. Programs that are fun and empowering.

Example:

Each One, Teach One program

Policy Solutions

- Redirect resources to a community-based continuum of supports for youth and their families including prevention, alternatives to jail and prison and re-entry programs.
- Amend Executive Law 530 to create state reimbursements for community-based juvenile justice programs.