



Council Member Sara M. Gonzalez serves as Chairperson of the City's Juvenile Justice Committee.

DJJ To Implement Program Services For Youth In Detention

The Department of Juvenile Justice is in the process of adding programs offered to youth in detention using funds from the Juvenile Justice Committee of the New York City Council. The new programs, being funded with \$302,000 allocated by Committee Chair Sara M. Gonzalez and the members of the Committee, will cover a variety of program areas and will compliment programs already underway.

The existing programs, including literacy, dance, arts & crafts, writing, violence prevention and conflict resolution, swimming, yoga, and educational programs, were created using an additional \$632,960 allocated by the Juvenile Justice Committee.

Utilizing City Council funding, DJJ will develop new programs to address the needs of youth in detention while providing them with learning experiences and creative and constructive activities. The programs are specifically tailored to suit the needs of boys and girls in both secure and non-secure detention, and to help youth develop pro-social skills and provide advocacy after being released from detention.

Among the new programs are:

- **Education Advocacy Services** by Advocates for Children of New York;
- **Tolerance and Citizenry Education** provided by the Simon Weisenthal Center;
- **Personal Growth and Development Program** by Giant Thinking;
- **Literary Services** by Rise Up and Walk Youth Outreach;
- **Therapeutic Art Program for Youth in Family Court Detention Rooms** provided by the Afrikan Poetry Theatre, Inc.; and
- **Violence Reduction and Planning** programs provided by the Research Foundation of CUNY and Medgar Evers College.

Director of Intergovernmental Affairs Nicole Halsey said, “This funding presents another opportunity for the Department to strengthen its programming for youth in detention and we thank the Juvenile Justice Committee for their continued support.”

Using innovative programming, the Department seeks to provide youth alternatives to delinquency when they return to their community by introducing new ideas and opportunities.

