

Quick Stats

Agency	Program/Policy Start Date	Number Served Annually	Annual Budget
Administration for Children's Services Department of Probation	October 2012	Approximately 600 non-secure and limited secure	\$58 Million (non-secure placement only)

Problem Statement

Over 400 young people from New York City are currently held in juvenile placement facilities operated by the State. Because the vast majority of these facilities are located in Upstate areas, NYC youth are often cut off from their families and communities while in State custody. Their prospects for successful community reintegration are further damaged by the fact that the State schools are not accredited, so that work they have completed while in State custody may not be credited in NYC. Not surprisingly, despite very high costs to both the City and the State, outcomes are poor, with 75% or more being re-arrested within 3 years of release.

Research and Evidence

Keeping youth close to home will allow them to maintain or establish positive ties with their families and communities.

The NYC Department of Education will provide continuous schooling in order to minimize disruption in education and ensure that youth receive academic credit for their work in custodial settings.

Moreover, the City has an obligation to keep its residents safe, and it can better achieve this by running its own system in ways that focus on preventing adjudicated youth from re-offending.

Program Description

The ACS Division of Youth and Family Justice (DYFJ) is responsible for Children's Services' juvenile justice programming. DYFJ operates placement programs, detention facilities and prevention programs for alleged and adjudicated juvenile delinquents (JDs), alleged and adjudicated juvenile offenders (JOs) and Persons in Need of Supervision (PINS). The cases of JDs are heard in Family Court, whereas the cases of JOs are heard in Criminal and Supreme Courts.

Non-Secure Placement (NSP) and Limited-Secure Placement (LSP) will be part of a residential care continuum for adjudicated JDs in New York City overseen by the Administration for Children's Services.

The juvenile justice residential continuum will be operated utilizing the following principles:

- *Continuum of Care:* Residential placements will be part of a continuum of services for juvenile justice-involved youth that also includes community-based services, out-of-home services, and aftercare programming.
- *Models of Care Will Focus on Rehabilitative Outcomes:* Contractors will be able to articulate fundamental principles that will guide their residential work, and that are rooted in youth development and evidence-based or evidence-informed modalities. Discharge planning will begin as soon as a

Expected Outcomes	<p>youth is placed in the program. Lessons and skills taught in the residential setting will be easily transferable upon the youth's return to the community. Each youth's care and behavior change plan will be specific to the youth, and will take into account the youth's strengths and special needs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Connection to Community and Family Engagement:</i> Placed youth from New York City will stay in facilities in or close to New York City, with the opportunity to take advantage of local programs and opportunities. • <i>Improved Educational Outcomes:</i> Youth will attend and receive credits from New York City public schools or schools in which they can earn credits that readily transfer. • <i>Culturally Responsive:</i> Protocols and training for facility staff will promote cultural competence and sensitivity, and staff members will model the attitudes and behaviors we expect from youth. • <i>Safer Communities:</i> Residential care will be the latest expansion of a series of juvenile justice reform initiatives that have successfully reduced institutionalization while simultaneously reducing recidivism. • <i>Outcome Measurement and Strengthened Oversight:</i> ACS will draw upon robust quality assurance systems already in place to oversee juvenile justice placements.
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Implementation Timeline	Effective September 1, 2012
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Target Population	Adjudicated Juvenile Delinquents in New York City
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Expected Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Improved Public Safety:</i> Youth will be redirected from ineffective State placements towards local placements or other interventions proven to reduce crime and recidivism. • <i>Significant Cost Savings for City and State:</i> Reducing overcapacity at State facilities will provide savings to the City and the State. Locally-operated programs are more cost-effective than State placements. • <i>Positive Outcomes for Youth:</i> High-quality programming will better integrate youth into their families, schools and communities.
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