

Quick Stats-Expanded Program

Agency	Program/Policy Start Date	Number Served Annually	Annual Budget
City University of New York (CUNY)	September, 2008	160 (FY11)	\$3,000,000 (FY11)
YMI Expansion	August, 2012	300	\$2,000,000*

*Does not include \$3,100,000 CEO innovation funds

Problem Statement	Among young adults aged 18 to 24 who are in poverty, youth exiting detention and young adults returning from incarceration are at particularly high risk of becoming disconnected from school and work. The majority of individuals with criminal records returning to NYC come back to poverty-stricken neighborhoods with few job opportunities and little social capital. Without intervention, two-thirds are likely to be re-arrested. ⁱ
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Research and Evidence	<p>The Civic Justice Corps (CJC) concept was piloted several years ago in Oregon. The Community Justice Department for Deschutes County, Oregon, organized probationers and parolees into a workforce team available for public, community based projects. The goals of this program were two-fold: to teach court-involved individuals new skills and to host a highly visible illustration of these individuals' contributions to the local community.ⁱⁱ This intervention was quickly recognized as promising for court involved youth, and, in 2006, the U.S. Department of Labor funded the expansion of the project to 11 sites. Researchers Gordon Bazemore and David Karp describe CJC programs as having the following core attributes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community service acts as a restorative practice that repairs harm caused by persons under criminal justice supervision to victims and communities and provides a tangible public benefit; • Persons under criminal justice supervision benefit from participating in community service, enhancing their ability to be law-abiding and productive citizens; and • Service is a mechanism to rebuild severed relationships between lawbreakers and community members, and re-establish trust and positive status of offenders in the community.ⁱⁱⁱ <p>In an evaluation of a Canadian juvenile offender community service program, researchers found that participants often maintained relationships with supervising agencies and a few were hired after completing required service hours.^{iv} Studies that compare community service participation with alternative sentences document some reduction in recidivism, or at the very least, no increase in recidivism.^v</p> <p>A Mathematica Policy Research study of six major transitional job programs across the country, including the Transitional Work Corporation program in Philadelphia and the Community Jobs Program in San Francisco found that between 81% and 94% of participants who successfully completed one of these programs were placed in unsubsidized employment after their transitional jobs ended.^{vi}</p>
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Program Description	The NYC Justice Corps brings young adults involved with the criminal justice system together with their communities to identify and address unmet
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Community Needs	<p>community needs. Through meaningful and reparative service to their communities, internships, and job and educational opportunities, the NYC Justice Corps provides Corps members with practical skills, social support and leadership training. By actively partnering with the NYC Justice Corps, communities own the success and reintegration of their young adults. The NYC Justice Corps aims to improve the education and employment outcomes of Corps members, keep them out of the criminal justice system, and support community development in specific New York City communities.</p> <p>The initiative employs a sequenced model. The first phase includes Corps member orientation and individual assessments, skill-building and team-building activities. In the second phase Corps members engage as a team in executing projects that repair and improve the community. Through this service learning model, Corps members build individual soft skills, teamwork ability, and leadership skill, and are provided with an opportunity to connect with their communities. Corps members are then placed in a subsidized internship with job coaching and support. This phase helps Corps members assess their work-readiness by simulating real work experience and expanding their professional networks. At the end of the internship, Corps members graduate from the Justice Corps but receive continued alumni services support in pursuing employment and educational goals. In addition to expanding Corps members' long-term employment prospects, program enrollment provides Corps members with stipends and incentives.</p> <p>The City University of New York (CUNY), through John Jay College of Criminal Justice, oversees all contracts. In partnership with CEO, John Jay College provides policy direction and program development support.</p> <p>This program is being replicated through the Young Men's Initiative, and will build on lessons learned from the original model.</p>
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Implementation Timeline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RFP was launched in January, 2012; four providers selected to begin services starting in July.
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Target Population	<p>The program serves young adults ages 18 to 24 who are on probation, parole, recently discharged from the NYC jail system or NYS prison, or currently or recently enrolled in an alternative-to-incarceration program. The program targets several communities with high rates of poverty and incarceration including the South Bronx, Harlem, East New York/Brownsville, and Jamaica.</p>
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Expected Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain Corps members in permanent, unsubsidized employment or educational activities Reduce recidivism rate among Corps members Develop the communities' capacity to provide direct services to formerly incarcerated individuals Repair relationships between formerly incarcerated young adults and their communities
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ⁱ "Increasing Opportunity and Reducing Poverty in New York City." (2006) New York, N.Y.: Commission for Economic Opportunity, 33-34.

ⁱⁱ Travis, J. (2005) "But They All Come Back: Facing the Challenges of Prisoner Reentry." Washington D.C.: The Urban Institute Press, 181-182.

ⁱⁱⁱ Bazemore, G., and Karp, D. (2004) "A Civic Justice Corps: Community Service as a Means of Reintegration." *Justice Policy Journal* 1, no.3, 1.

^{iv} Doob, A.N., and D.P MacFarlane, D.P. "The Community Service Order for Youthful Offenders: Perceptions and Effects." Toronto, ON: Centre for Criminology, University of Toronto. In Bazemore and Karp, "A Civic Justice Corps: Community Service as a Means of Reintegration."

^v Bazemore and Karp (2004), 11.

^{vi} Ibid.