NYC | YOUNG MEN'S INITIATIVE

Increase Voting and Civic Participation Among Individuals with Criminal Records

Quick Stats			
Agency	**Program/Policy Start Date**	**Number Served Annually**	**Annual Budget**
Office of the Mayor Department of Probation Department of Correction	Fall 2011	TBD	N/A

Problem Statement	In New York State, people in jail that are convicted of a misdemeanor or charged with a felony and awaiting trial or disposition have the right to vote. People on probation are eligible to vote. However, people in prison or on parole do not have the right to vote in New York State. Voting rights are restored upon completion of a maximum prison sentence or upon discharge from parole. According to the Brennan Center for Justice, 30 percent of people with felony convictions believe they have permanently lost their right to vote. Thirty percent of New Yorkers surveyed believed that arrests alone result in loss of voting rights.
Research and Evidence	Studies have shown that the benefits of voting are numerous. Individuals who vote generally help to make their communities safer and more vibrant by giving to charity, volunteering, attending school board meetings, serving on juries and participating more actively in their communities. Research has also shown that individuals who vote are less likely to be rearrested.[1]
Program Description	The Mayor's Office in partnership with the Department of Probation and Department of Correction will increase outreach and education efforts to their respective clients about voting rights. DOC and DOP will post information about voting on their websites 311 will answer questions about voting rights. Language about voting rights will be including in justice involved youth programming funded through YMI and CEO.
Implementation Timeline	Fall 2011 • 311 able to answer questions about voting rights • DOC and DOP posted frequently asked questions about voting on their websites
Target Population	Voting age individuals with criminal records not currently registered to vote
Expected Outcomes	Increase in registered voters with criminal records

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[1] http://www.aclu.org/voting-rights/voter-disfranchisement