



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

March 29, 2023

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ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN’S SERVICES ANNOUNCES RECOMMENDED AWARDS FOR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMING & COACHES FOR JUSTICE-INVOLVED YOUTH

With These Awards, ‘Fair Futures’ Program Is Expanding to Youth In Juvenile Detention

NEW YORK - The New York City Administration for Children’s Services (ACS) today announced the two organizations recommended for awards to offer workforce development programming, the Children’s Village and Bard College. Services offered will include career exploration, work readiness, vocational education and training, college access, labor market readiness, employment, and life skills for justice-involved young people between the ages of 14 and 21. These new contracts will also include an expansion of the Fair Futures long-term coaching program, adapting the successful model used to serve young people in foster care to include justice-involved youth in juvenile detention. As part of this expansion, youth in detention will receive services and supports, through coaches, in preparing them from middle school to high school and long-term success including connections to tutoring, and comprehensive social-emotional, academic, career development, employment, housing, and independent living supports.

ACS looks forward to partnering with the Children’s Village and Bard College, to provide and strengthen comprehensive, year-round programming for justice-involved youth.

“I firmly believe that a bend in the road is not the end of the road, and it shouldn’t limit a young person’s opportunities,” said **New York City Mayor Eric Adams**. “I’m thrilled to announce that the Children’s Village and Bard College will offer workforce development programming for our city’s youth in the juvenile justice system. This administration is laser-focused on damming the rivers of despair and crime in New York City by preventing people from falling in in the first place. By expanding the Fair Futures program to include justice-involved youth, we are making true progress to becoming a better city.”

“When young people are given the tools and support they need to succeed, they succeed and that is why this workforce development programming is so important” said **Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services Anne Williams-Isom**. “New York City was the first jurisdiction in the country to launch an initiative for youth in foster care like Fair Futures and this expansion means that youth in detention will have access to this same opportunity, helping them to become

more capable, self-sufficient adults. Thank you to ACS for creating supports to help fit the needs of all young people.

“As our mayor often reminds us, when we invest in youth, including young people in the juvenile justice system, they can do anything, even lead the greatest city in the world,” **said ACS Commissioner Jess Dannhauser**. “By providing youth with access to work readiness programs, vocational education and training, and dedicated coaches, we are working to instill hope and belief in themselves and provide them the skills to become successful adults. ACS looks forward to working more closely with the Children’s Village and Bard College, as they provide this vital programming to justice-involved youth in New York City.”

Since 2019, the Fair Futures program has provided dedicated coaches, tutors, and education, employment, and housing specialists for to thousands of youth in foster care. Recently, the Adams administration announced that Fair Futures would be expanded to also include juvenile justice involved youth. In addition to offering workforce development programming to youth across the entire juvenile justice continuum, the awards being announced today will help expand the Fair Futures program to include youth in detention.

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