

New York City Administration for Children's Services
Division of Youth and Family Justice (DYFJ)

&

Department of Design and Construction

The Crossroads Auxiliary Housing Project

Community Board 16

September 2026

Introductions



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AGENDA

- Overview, Historical Context, and Community Investments
- Secure Detention Program Model
- Crossroads Auxiliary Housing Details
- Next Steps
- Questions

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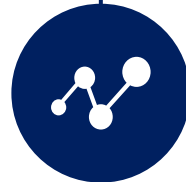
ACS Division of Youth and Family Justice: Overview and Community Investments

Juvenile detention in NYC

ACS currently operates **Horizon Juvenile Center** (Bronx) and **Crossroads Juvenile Center** (Brooklyn), which house young people, who are placed there by judges, pending their case resolution in court.

In addition to these two secure detention Centers, ACS contracts with community-based organizations to administer a **network of less-restrictive group homes**, which are called Non-Secure Detention, whose use is prioritized whenever possible and legally allowable.

Horizon and Crossroads offer supportive environments and close supervision that are critical elements of a continuum of services that ensure youth are safe, engaged, and receive quality **medical, mental health, dental, educational, vocational, enrichment, and crisis intervention services**.



The Crossroads Auxiliary Housing project is planned to **increase capacity to improve conditions for youth already in custody**. It is a targeted expansion under an emergency declaration. To control schedule and cost, the project scope is limited.

A historical perspective

ACS's Division of Youth and Family Justice (DYFJ) operates Crossroads and Horizon detention centers, which house young people pending court decisions. After the COVID-19 pandemic, during which many youth were disconnected from important community connections, the number of youth detained has increased but remains lower than historical levels.

300 

In January 2013, there were over 300 16-and 17-year-olds held on Rikers Island.

200 

In 2016, there were 200 16-and 17-year-olds held on Rikers Island.

51% 

DYFJ has about 186 16- and 17-year-olds in secure detention, making up approximately 51% of the census.

255 

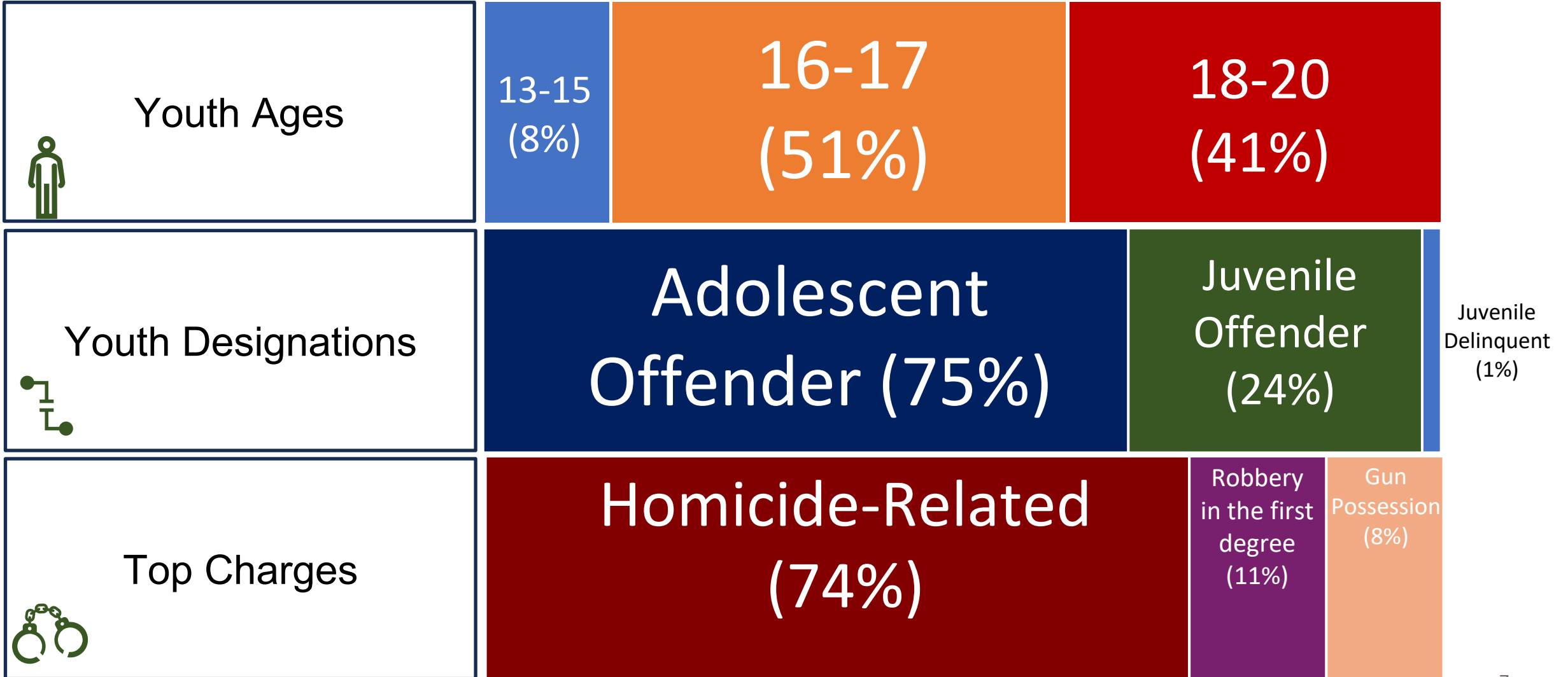
In 2013, when only youth under 16 at the time of offense were eligible to be held in juvenile facilities, the average daily population of juvenile detention, comprised almost entirely of youth prosecuted in Family Court (secure and non-secure) was 255 youth. In 2016, the population was 140.

8% 

Today, only 29 youth in secure detention are under 16, the majority of whom are facing charges in the adult court system.

Secure detention youth demographics

Snapshot of demographics of secure detention. Today, the youth in ACS's care tend to be older, facing more serious charges, and experiencing longer lengths of stay due to the duration of their court cases.



Supporting youth – The Youth Safety and Success Initiative

Last fiscal year, DYFJ implemented a \$12 million investment for the new Youth Safety and Success initiative. The Youth Safety and Success Initiative (YSSI) is the City's investment to help connect more youth with counseling, careers, college opportunities, and meaningful community connections.



Fair Futures

This first-of-its-kind program already serves more than 4,000 young people by connecting youth in foster care and the juvenile justice system to coaching and support. This investment will serve an **additional 675 youth**. ACS received an **additional \$4.3M** to support the expansion for justice involved youth at full scale starting FY27. Funding will be added to support youth in DYFJ's Community Based Alternatives and Close to Home portfolios.



JustUs Program

A highly successful gender-responsive juvenile justice diversion program that currently operates in Brooklyn will now be expanded to Queens and the Bronx, (**24 additional girls** will be served in the Bronx via this expansion). ACS received **\$1.6M** to expand this program.



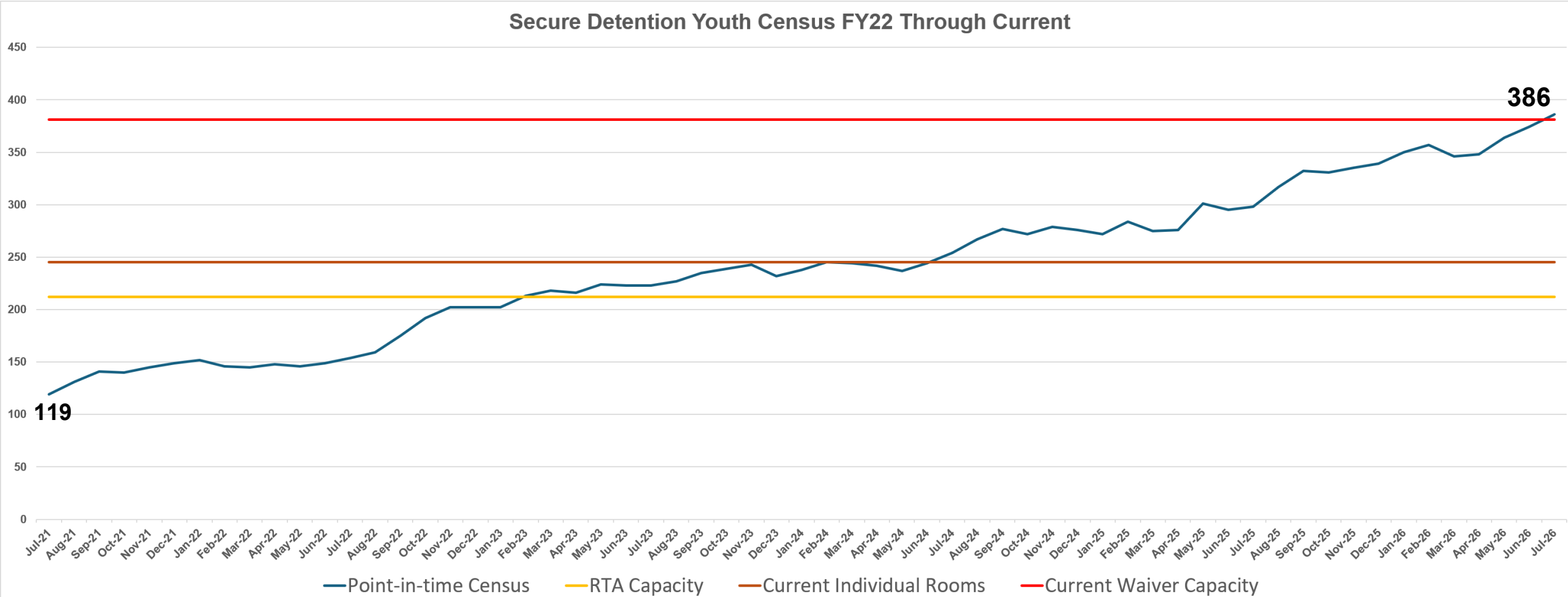
Assertive Community Engagement and Success (ACES)

A program that provides evidence-based services to high-risk youth who have been involved with the justice system. The program provides social pathways away from gang and gun violence to young people between the ages of 16-24. This program beginning in FY 27, will now be expanded city wide and will allow over **440 more young people** to take part each year. ACS received **\$7.0M** starting in FY27.

The Youth Safety and Success Initiative includes \$33M in additional funds to support youth in foster care.

Youth census in secure detention

The secure detention population has grown 243% since 2021. During that period, ACS added 33 more certified bedrooms through conversions of interior offices, increasing bedroom capacity from 212 to 245 and begun construction of a major project at Horizon, which will add 56 bedrooms to the capacity and will come online in late 2027. In the interim, each additional youth sleeping outside of a bedroom is sleeping in a bed with linens in a shared space, such as a classroom or common area. The proposed Crossroads Auxiliary Housing project will add another 28 bedrooms and be complete in mid- to late- 2027.



Investment to improve City's juvenile justice system

In addition to correcting capacity needs, the Administration is implementing several measures focused on reducing the number of young people in secure detention by both increasing community-based supports for young people and implementing system change.

COMMUNITY-BASED SUPPORTS

Keeping young people connected to home, school and services

AGES

14–20

Services available across all five boroughs

01

Alternatives to detention and incarceration

Expand funding for skill-building and intensive stabilization, including school reengagement, workforce development, housing coordination and crisis intervention.

02

Family-based treatment

Additional funding will reduce waitlists for Home-Based Functional Family Therapy, which addresses substance use, negative peer involvement, family conflict and school truancy.

03

Intensive community monitoring

DOP's new program pairs close supervision with guidance and support so eligible young people can remain at home during their court cases.

04

ICM Connect

Combines intensive probation supervision with clinical assessment, family engagement, education and employment support, weekend programming and individualized services.

SYSTEM CHANGES

Less restrictive placement and faster resolution

05

Expanding nonsecure detention

Judges may place eligible young people who demonstrate good behavior in a less restrictive setting.

06

Reducing case delays

New court-stakeholder meetings will target delays. The Administration will also coordinate with New York State on transfers to State facilities.

Secure Detention Programs

Secure detention programs – ACS model of care

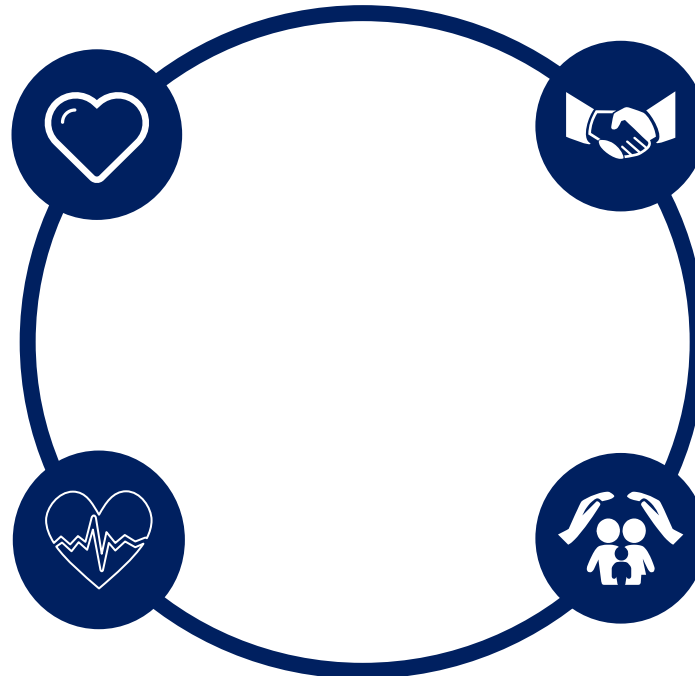
The ACS model of care is grounded in best practices to promote a safe and secure environment for youth and staff.

Trauma Affect Regulation: Guide for Education and Treatment (TARGET)

Tools and strategies that increase staff's understanding of trauma and its impact on youth; helps manage stress, tension, and keep youth and staff safe and calm.

Physical and Emotional Wellbeing

Daily large muscle activity and programming, and frequent virtual/in-person visitation.



Safe Crisis Management

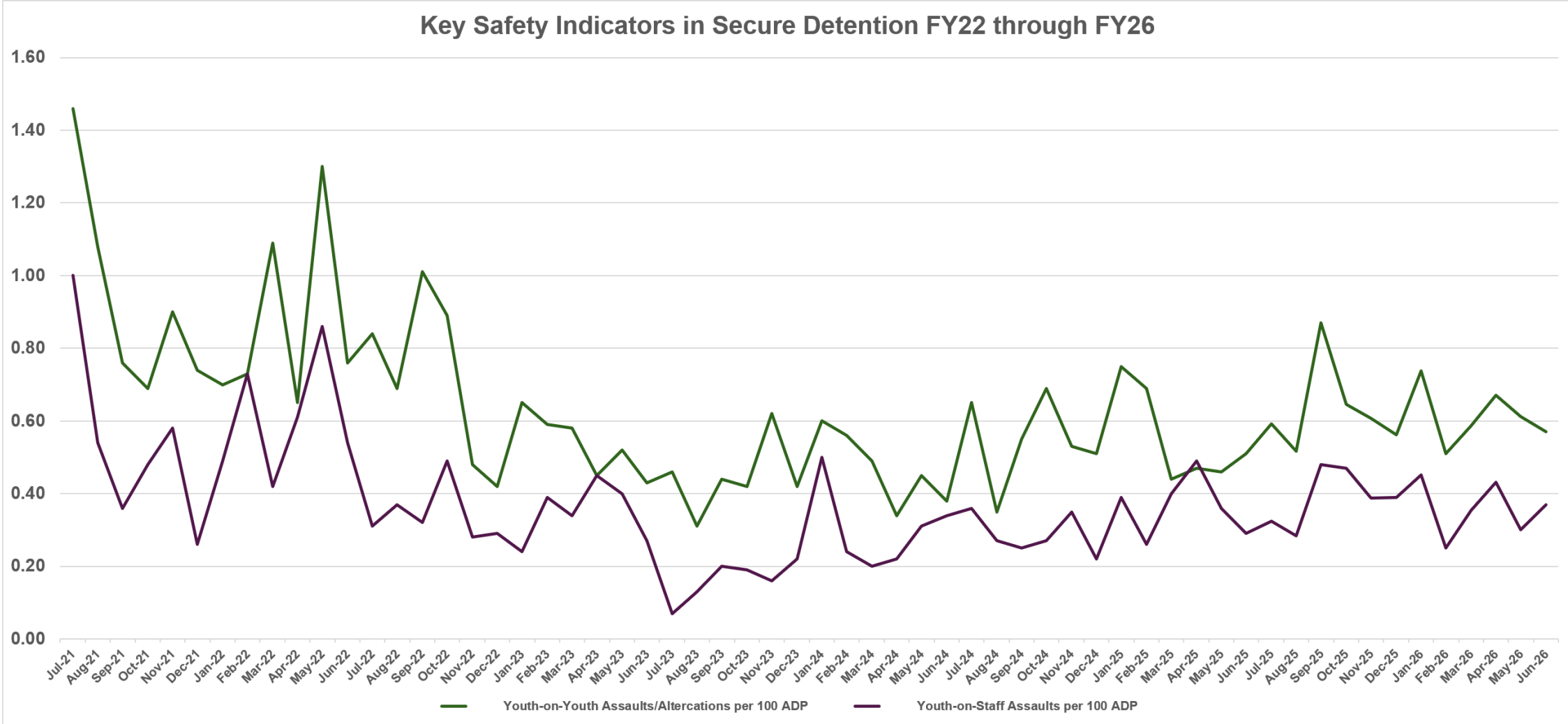
A continuum of interventions that emphasize prevention, de-escalation, and emergency intervention approach using primarily verbal and non-physical prompts, with regular ongoing refresher trainings for staff.

Behavior Management System

A system that rewards youth for pro-social and positive behaviors and encourages youth to limit inappropriate behavior (through incentives such as privileges and special programs).

Safety indicators in secure detention

Despite a rising census and ever more challenging conditions in secure detention, our staff and leadership have overseen an improvement of safety indicators and reduced violence in the facilities, factors recognized by the *Nunez* monitor in 2025 when recommending the SDNY court deem ACS in compliance with the voluntary agreement entered in 2021.



Secure detention programs – types of programming

ACS is committed to ensuring that youth in Detention receive meaningful educational, recreational, and vocational programming throughout the year. ACS provides a wide variety of programming that address the unique needs and interests of youth in their care.

Workforce development

ACS partners with contracted agencies to connect youth to certification programs, professional skill building, and pathways to employment. Vocational programs include coursework/certifications on electrical, spackling/painting, podcasting, ServSafe, etc.

Family engagement

ACS values strong family partnerships and encourages family participation, including in-person visits, with the support of contracted parent advocates and the Case Management unit.



Skill-building/therapeutic

ACS seeks to encourage youth through lessons in behavioral regulation, positive expression of emotions, and modeling of positive staff behavior.

Creative/recreation

ACS and our partners facilitate music and arts programs, gardening, physical activity, and other pro-social experiences.

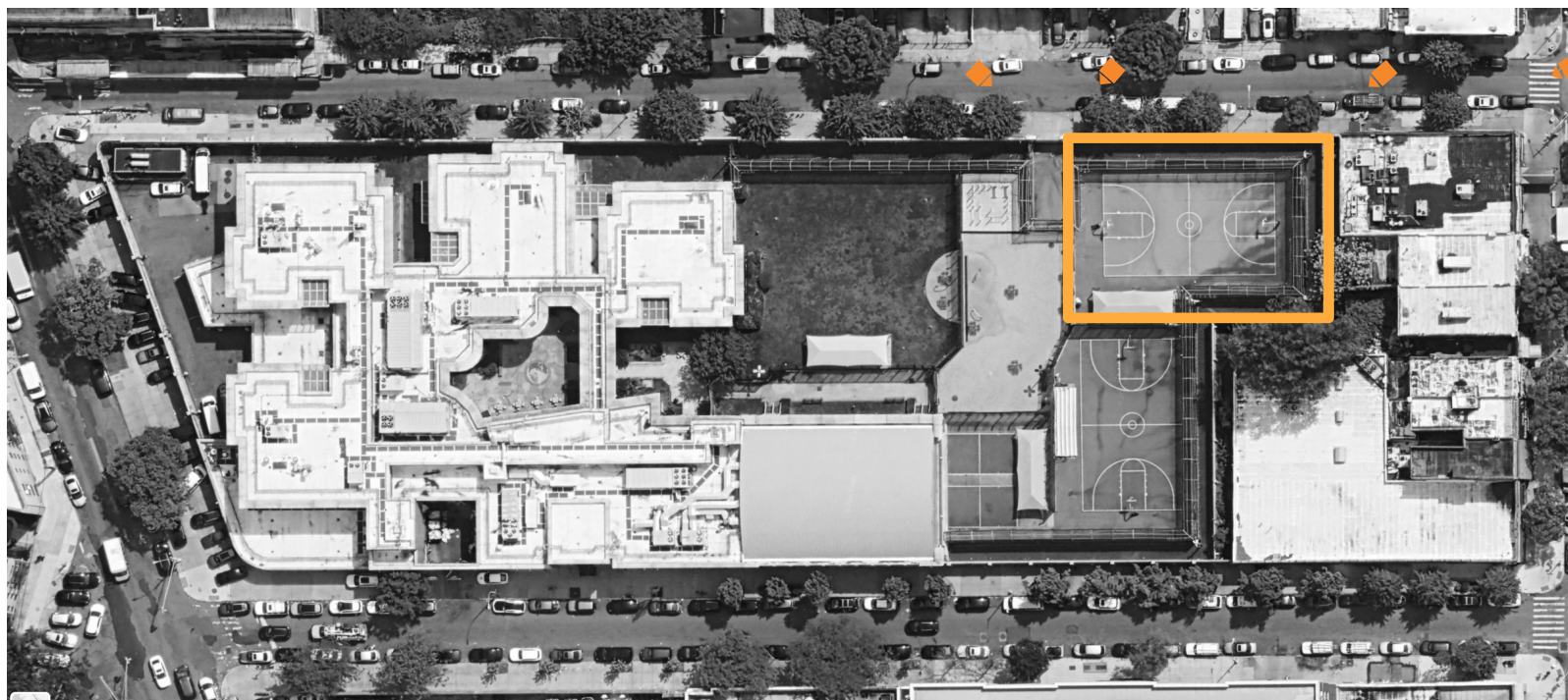
Education

ACS partners with NYCPS to ensure that youth have access to NYCPS-certified educational programs and are earning credits towards graduation. In the last two years, 90 youth have graduated (MS/HS) or earned their GEDs in secure detention. Tutoring services are also available, and for youth who have graduated, college courses are offered in partnership with CUNY.



Crossroads Auxiliary Housing

Crossroads Auxiliary Housing (and educational space)



Aerial view, present day (source GoogleEarth)

Project Schedule Breakdown	
Expected Milestone Completion	Date
Design Completion	December 2026
Construction Early Works	Fall/Winter 2026
Construction Completion	Q4 2027

Crossroads Auxiliary Housing (and educational space)

In the interim, we have an urgent need to reduce conditions of overcrowding. We will partner with DDC to rapidly construct a safe and secure, single-story space for two distinct housing units, adding a total of 28 bedrooms and 2 classrooms, on our existing 123-bed campus in Brooklyn. The plan will leverage our existing footprint to ensure public safety while creating durable and safe spaces for young people in custody and limiting impact on the surrounding community. We are in design with early works construction expected to begin later this year and the project to finish in late 2027. Youth housed in the Auxiliary units will frequently move to the main building for services like dining, court preparation, medical treatment, mental health services, gym and specialty programs, etc. The additional space will reduce overcrowding, be as secure as the other parts of the facility and provide a living experience that better supports older youth.





PROPOSED PRELIMINARY - RENDER - LOUNGE

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BKSK



PROPOSED VIEW NORTH



PROPOSED VIEW SOUTH

ALTERNATE FACADE OPTION: PRELIMINARY - PERSPECTIVE FROM CHESTER STREET

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Next steps

1

ACS and DDC request a Letter of Support from CB16 for the project.

2

ACS and DDC will provide a more detailed design update to CB16 towards the end of the year.

3

DDC's community engagement team will provide the board with timely notifications about the project's impact to surrounding areas throughout its duration.

Thank you!

Questions?

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