

Quick Stats

Agency	Start Date	Number Served Annually	Annual Budget
Department of Probation	Spring 2012	70	\$300,000 (CBO Component)

Problem Statement	<p>For highly disengaged youth who are currently involved in harmful/risky behaviors, interventions far more intensive than traditional youth programs are needed to achieve significant results. These young people are often involved in high-risk activities within their communities and/or the juvenile justice system, tend to be distrustful of adults, and do not engage in traditional youth programming easily. In addition to community safety concerns, they are among the most expensive population to serve in policing, incarceration, hospitalization and social services. Enabling them to right their life trajectory will have collateral and positive effects on their communities, families and peers, in addition to saving taxpayer dollars.</p> <p>In order to develop long-lasting employment competencies, disengaged youth need intensive coaching and program completion standards that reward effort and/or persistence. In addition, these young people need to develop better conflict management skills.</p>
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Research and Evidence	<p>Being literate, holding a legitimate job, and maintaining stable and positive personal relationships have been identified as critical in making successful transitions to adulthood and law abidance.ⁱ</p> <p>There are research-informed approaches that can serve a population of youth who were previously placement-bound but who could be rehabilitated in community through rigorous programming. The Coalition for Juvenile Justice recently released a comprehensive review of the research surrounding Positive Youth Development (PYD) and its application in the Juvenile Justice System.ⁱⁱ As the report outlines, rigorous research has established strong evidence in support of the efficacy of youth development programs.</p> <p>The program design is informed by such evidence in the field of life coaching and work-readiness for disconnected and disaffected youth. In order to develop long-lasting competencies that will make them marketable, participants in such interventions need intensive coaching and program completion standards that reward persistence and emphasize the ability to manage conflict. Accordingly, DOP staff, in partnership with a community-based organization (CBO) will use evidence-based practices to build community and foster motivation for success, as well as to overcome resistance to program engagement and teach conflict management skills</p> <p>The evidence-based methods utilized in ECHOES include Motivational Interviewing, the Stages of Change model, and Restorative Practices.</p>
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Program Description	<p>ECHOES is an alternative-to-placement program that will serve youth on Family Court probation citywide, but will only be available to those youth who are considered to be placement bound, as identified by DOP's validated risk /</p>
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Expected Outcomes	<p>needs assessment tool and who require a high level of intervention. ECHOES represents the highest level of Juvenile Probation supervision and has three main goals: to create a transformational relationship with an adult in a life coaching model, to increase social and emotional competencies and to increase the employability of every participant.</p> <p>Each participant will have a Probation Officer, who will use these practices to first develop a transformational relationship with each of the youth in his/her cohort. As the relationship with the youth becomes stronger, the Probation Officer will monitor and assess the stage of change in which the youth is in relative to the key life domains that affect successful community integration: education, employment and social/emotional competencies (a.k.a. healthy life choices). Probation officers will have face to face contact with participants four times per week through individual life coaching meetings, group work and community outreach.</p> <p>Through YMI, the Robin Hood Foundation will fund the first year of the life skills, work development, and service learning program for ECHOES that will be delivered by a local CBO. The CBO will conduct this program that is closely tied to the life coaching approach and uses the same evidence-based practices. Department of Probation and CBO staff will jointly work on this aspect of the program by co-managing weekend and summer-time work teams.</p> <p>There will be a continuum of services available through community-based partners to provide services from the very basic levels of job readiness, life skills training, and group service projects to the highest level of paid internship experience, with all phases providing the support necessary to ensure the youths' success.</p>
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Implementation Timeline	<p>Program launched in Harlem in the May of 2012. A concept paper for the program will be released in fall 2012 followed by an RFP in the winter.</p>
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Target Population	<p>ECHOES will target 70 youth in Family Court who are 14 years of age and older and are at risk of placement.</p>
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Expected Outcomes	<p>Juvenile Justice/Criminal Justice Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No more than 30% of young people in the program will recidivate, measured by re-arrest for one year after enrollment in the ECHOES program, and no more than 20% of youth in the program will be arrested for a violent felony offense for one year after enrollment. <p>Youth Development Outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved conflict management • Ability to set and meet discreet goals • Increased ability to stay out of harm's way • Attainment of marketable work skills.
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ⁱ Altschuler, D.M. and Brash, R. (2004), "Adolescent and Teenage Offenders: Confronting the Challenges and Opportunities of Reentry," *Youth Violence and Juvenile Justice* 2004 2: 72-87.

ⁱⁱ The Coalition for Juvenile Justice (2010). *Positive Youth Justice: Framing Justice Interventions Using the Concepts of Positive Youth Development*. Washington D.C.: Butts, Jeffrey A., Gordon Bazemore, & Aundra Saa Meroe