

QUEENS YOUTH IMPACT



WHO WE ARE

The Queens Community Justice Center is a project of the Center for Justice Innovation. The Justice Center provides case management, leadership training, and a range of adult and youth development programming for justice-involved people and their families in Queens, as well as people who have not had contact with the justice system. The goal is to provide people with off-ramps from the justice system and help them build more productive, successful, and law-abiding lives.

HOW IT WORKS

Youth Impact will be providing programming for youth who live in the borough of Queens. Participants will be between the ages of 13 and 18. Participants will fill out the application and then attend an orientation to learn more about the program. Participants will then complete a 20 hour training on Advocacy and Restorative Justice practices. Youth Impact programming happens twice a week on Mondays and Wednesdays. Programming will utilize a positive youth development approach, which builds on youths' strengths and provides opportunities to positively interact with their community and peers, and project-based learning strategies to provide a transformative experience.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Youth Impact engages youth across Queens to become transformative leaders in their communities and beyond. Youth Impact offers a Restorative approach to issues that young people face. Members work to prevent youth involvement with the criminal legal system through peer-led diversion, and develop & pilot projects to promote community change to create positive community impact and address the underlying issues causing these problems. Many members have been directly impacted by these issues, reflecting Youth Impact's guiding philosophy that those who have been impacted are most able to lead, develop meaningful solutions, and engage their peers.

Through this program, the Queens Community Justice Center will seek to:

- Promote and Improve self-confidence and perception of efficacy among young people.
- Provide participants with an opportunity to strengthen their job/college applications with an experience that appeals to colleges and employers.
- Provide participants with an opportunity to learn, develop and cultivate good leadership skills that will benefit them for a lifetime.
- Offer individual support, mentorship, and educational opportunities to support members as they move towards their individual goals.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP & COMMUNITY IMPACT

YOUTH ORGANIZING: Members learn and discuss topics around issues important to youth. Members develop community organizing and advocacy skills through hands-on development of campaigns about issues impacting our communities.

POLICY AND ADVOCACY: Members are given opportunities to create platforms for youth to lead and to have their voices be included in conversations that they are often left out of. Members engage in policy development and system change at multiple levels—from neighborhood to national.



YOUTH LED DIVERSIONS

YOUTH COURT: Members are given the opportunity to resolve cases diverted from the family and criminal court systems, New York City and Newark Police Departments, and from schools as an intervention for youth at risk of school suspension.

RESTORATIVE CIRCLES: The circle process allows referred youth to share their experience, build accountability through conversation with peers, and develop mutually agreed upon action steps to repair the harm caused and address underlying issues.



EARN WHILE YOU LEARN

Youth Impact members earn a weekly stipend for participation in the program.

Youth Impact members earn SCHOOL COMMUNITY SERVICE CREDIT for participation in the program.

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