



DESCRIPTION AND GOALS

Inspired by the recommendations made by Mayor Michael Bloomberg's Commission on Economic Opportunity in 2006, the **NYC Justice Corps** brings young adults (18-24 year olds) with recent involvement with the criminal justice system together with their communities to identify and address unmet community needs. Through meaningful and reparative service to their communities, internships, and job and educational opportunities, the NYC Justice Corps provides members with practical skills, social support and leadership training. By actively partnering with the NYC Justice Corps, communities own the success and reintegration of their young people as contributing members of society.

The NYC Justice Corps consists of a **three-phased sequence of services** incorporating principles of youth development, community development, and workforce development into a prisoner reentry program model. Beginning at enrollment, Justice Corps members receive basic skills training and exposure to service learning for approximately four weeks, before transitioning into service on community benefit projects for 10 to 14 weeks. Then, in an effort to simulate the world of work and build professional networks, Justice Corps members are placed in internships for six to eight weeks. Justice Corps members who complete the three phases and graduate from the program are placed in permanent unsubsidized employment and/or post-secondary education opportunities to further their career goals. Justice Corps members are paid a stipend of \$7.40 an hour for 35 hours per week during the six months of the program.

The program's long-term goals are to: (1) help young adults **stay out of the criminal justice system**; (2) **increase their ability to find and keep jobs and/or enroll in school**; and (3) **support community development** in the targeted New York City neighborhoods. During the first program year, the NYC Justice Corps served 275 young adults in Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn and the South Bronx, placing 61% of its graduates into unsubsidized jobs or post-secondary education programs.

NATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

The NYC Justice Corps is part of a larger national network of civic justice corps programs that use community service as a tool to reintegrate people returning home from prison and jail. The NYC Justice Corps is unique because it includes an internship phase which allows Justice Corps members to further develop their work readiness skills, engage in career exploration, and build networks to assist in long-term job placement. Moreover, the NYC Justice Corps is the first civic justice corps program model to be rigorously evaluated through an experimental design longitudinal evaluation. Through a random assignment process, eligible young adults are assigned to the NYC Justice Corps and control group, and both groups are tracked for approximately two years to study the program's long-term effects. Findings from this study will have implications for the role civic engagement can play in connecting criminal justice-involved youth to paths of self-sufficiency.

A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH THROUGH A PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

The NYC Justice Corps is a collaborative project led by local government in close partnership with private community service providers. The NYC Justice Corps is funded by the **NYC Center for Economic Opportunity** at approximately \$3.8 million annually. The City University of New York – through **John Jay College of Criminal Justice** – oversees all contracts. In partnership with the **NYC Department of Correction**, John Jay College provides policy direction and program development support. The **Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation** and the **Phipps Community Development Corporation** provide direct services to Corps members in Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn and the South Bronx, respectively. The **Center for Employment Opportunities**, one of NYC's premiere transitional employment providers to individuals involved in the criminal justice system, provides



technical assistance and capacity building to these two community-based organizations. **Westat, Inc.** is conducting the implementation evaluation and outcome evaluation of the NYC Justice Corps.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For general questions about the program model or an update on the status of the program implementation, please contact the Prisoner Reentry Institute at John Jay College of Criminal Justice using the information below:

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