

OUR APPROACH

The Court Employment Project (CEP)—created in 1967—provides a safe and structured alternative to jail or prison for young men and women facing felony charges in New York City. The six-month program utilizes a strengths-based approach to help participants build their skills, address mental health and substance abuse needs and prevent further criminal justice involvement.

Through evidence-based motivational interviewing techniques and a case management model framed by youth development principles, CEP staff help participants set short- and long-term goals, take advantage of the services we offer on-site and access a network of community-based providers best able to meet their needs as they transition back into their communities.

“CASES is our chance to move past our mistakes and continue on our path to success.”

– CEP graduate

ABOUT CASES

The mission of CASES is to increase the understanding and use of community sanctions that are fair, affordable and consistent with public safety. By addressing the factors that underlie criminal behavior, including lack of education, unemployment, homelessness, substance abuse and untreated mental health disorders, CASES’ innovative programs help court-involved youth and adults re-integrate into society, thereby making our communities safer and saving taxpayer dollars.



Court Employment Project
346 Broadway, 3 West
New York, NY 10013

www.cases.org

 [facebook.com/casesnyc](https://www.facebook.com/casesnyc)

To make a referral or for more information,
please contact:

cepref@cases.org

Bronx and Queens: (718) 537-8330

Brooklyn: (718) 222-1585 (ext. 1586 or 1587)

Manhattan: (212) 553-6313

COURT EMPLOYMENT PROJECT (CEP)

An Alternative to Incarceration for Youth

PROGRAM SERVICES

- Orientation classes on legal rights and responsibilities, health, education and substance use
- Individualized case management and service planning
- GED and pre-GED instruction and testing
- Assistance with public school enrollment and engagement, including school visits
- Next Steps college prep class, college visits and application assistance
- Substance abuse education and referrals
- Mental health screening and counseling
- Employment readiness training
- Subsidized internships and job placement assistance
- Recreational and fitness activities
- Art classes and art therapy groups

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

CEP serves jail- or prison-bound young men and women in New York City. For more information about program eligibility, please refer to the brochure insert or contact our staff.



Onsite classes at all academic levels help formerly disconnected youth reengage in classroom learning.

OUR RESULTS

- 60 percent of participants successfully complete CEP and remain in their communities.
- 90 percent of CEP graduates are connected to schools, job training, community-based counseling and other necessary supports at program exit.
- 85 percent of CEP graduates have no further criminal conviction within two years of graduation.

AWARDS

- Juvenile Court Centennial Initiative's National Juvenile Justice Award
- National Youth Employment Coalition's Promising and Effective Practices Network Award
- Lewis Hine Award for Service to Children and Youth awarded to Youth Programs Director, Joseph McLaughlin

HOW IT WORKS

Referral CEP court staff review court records, interview potential participants and discuss eligibility with attorneys. Once staff determine that a young person is suitable, they advocate for his or her diversion to the program.

Screening and Risk Assessment Upon enrollment, participants undergo several assessments to identify educational and clinical needs. Case coordinators then work with participants to develop personal goals and access the services they need to attain them.

Six Months of Services and Supervision CEP staff monitor participants' program attendance and compliance with their court mandate, providing periodic written reports to the judge with information on their progress. Participants who successfully complete CEP avoid jail/prison time. Those eligible for Youthful Offender (YO) status receive this designation within a short time after program completion, which effectively seals the felony conviction record.

Aftercare Participants are connected with schools and community-based agencies that will assist them in continuing to meet their goals after CEP graduation.