

# CASES



## Choices Alternative to Detention

Manhattan Choices Alternative to Detention (ATD) serves youth age 15 and younger facing charges in the Manhattan Family Court. Manhattan Choices ATD enables youth to avoid detention and remain at home with their families and in their schools and communities during the pendency of the Family Court matter.

Since opening its doors in 2008, Choices ATD has established itself as a vibrant hub of learning and youth development for some of the borough's most at-risk young people.

### OUR SERVICES

**In-home services** Choices staff conduct home visits to ensure busy families are informed of their child's progress in the program and receive needed supports. For Choices participants who are subsequently assigned to Probation supervision, families who need longer-term support can access **Adolescent Portable Therapy**, an evidence-based family service created by the Vera Institute of Justice and now provided by CASES.

**School liaison services** Choices staff provide regular school visits to help students and families connect to in-school resources. The program's case coordinators have been trained by Include NYC to offer guidance to parents navigating educational challenges such as acquiring updated Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) or accessing appropriate services.

**After-school programming** Choices ATD provides its participants with a range of after-school programming designed to meet their educational, employment, and recreational needs. Activities include homework support, life skills workshops, job-readiness training, yoga sessions, boxing lessons, and poetry classes. CASES staff also take participants on cultural and recreation excursions including museum visits, sporting events, and camping trips.

**Legal assistance** Choices ATD has partnered with **Youth Represent** to provide its participants with a number of legal services, including representation in superintendent suspension hearings, IEP hearings, and housing court.

**Mental health services** All Choices ATD participants and their families have access to CASES' on-site **Nathaniel Clinic**. Services include counseling/therapy, integrated treatment for substance use, complex care management, and crisis intervention. The Nathaniel Clinic is licensed by the New York State Office of Mental Health and overseen by the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.



### OUR PARTNERS

The Choices ATD program model is designed to meet the needs of young people assessed as medium- or high-risk and may not be appropriate for every youth involved in the Family Court. For low-risk youth, CASES may provide referrals to one of its other services or link them to an appropriate community partner, including:

- Big Brothers Big Sisters
- The Boys and Girls Club
- The Door
- Education Alliance
- Exalt
- Harlem's Children Zone
- The Police Athletic League (PAL)
- Realization Center
- Union Settlement

### REFERRAL INFORMATION

CASES accepts referrals for the Manhattan Choices ATD program from Manhattan Family Court judges on a continuous basis. For more information please contact the Choices ATD Program Director, Ana Dopazo:

(212) 553-6390 or [adopazo@cases.org](mailto:adopazo@cases.org)