

# newSTART

Since 2012, CASES' newSTART program has been a key partner in the Manhattan Criminal Court. newSTART provides a rapid intervention beginning at arraignment, including immersive case management that starts onsite at the courthouse and continues into the community, to people who would have otherwise faced a short sentence at Rikers Island. **In summer 2020, plea and charge eligibility for newSTART expanded**, creating the opportunity for more New Yorkers who may be trapped in a cycle of frequent, low-level legal involvement to connect with **tailored resources and support**—and the chance to reduce recidivism.

## Expanded eligibility

Consistent with long-established practice, **newSTART continues to accept clients with misdemeanor pleas**. However, the program has expanded to now also serve individuals who are

- **Pre-plea**
- **Reduced plea**
- **No-plea (ACD)**
- **Post-plea**

The charges eligible for newSTART have also expanded—**in addition to misdemeanors, individuals charged with violations are now eligible for newSTART.**

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## What is newSTART?

newSTART offers a chance for people involved in Criminal Court to be diverted from jail to rapid case management with CASES' trained staff. The program maintains a small 10:1 staff-to-client ratio and provides 1-, 3-, or 5-day interventions that emphasize intensive, assessment-tailored services that identify and help clients begin to address the needs and challenges that might otherwise lead back to incarceration.

In the courthouse, CASES' staff meet face to face with clients (virtually and in person) to conduct an intake and 1) provide an immediate first program session and/or 2) connect the client to a first session in the CASES community office in Central Harlem, providing an immediate escort when appropriate. Throughout the client's mandate, a newSTART case manager works to engage them in the appropriate services, whether it be for mental health, employment, housing, or helping them find their next meal.

## Referrals

newSTART participants are encouraged to enroll in the wide array of services offered in the CASES community offices after their mandate ends, including:

### *For young adults*

- Career counseling • Employment readiness
- High school equivalency (HSE) prep & testing
- In-home family therapy • Internship & job placement • Mentoring

### *For all clients*

- Case management • Client-led community service projects • Health Home care management • Individual and group counseling • Intensive mobile treatment services • Primary health care • State-licensed mental health treatment • Substance use treatment