

AVENUES FOR JUSTICE FY'20 ANNUAL REPORT

Commit to Justice. Work for Change.

ABOUT AVENUES FOR JUSTICE

For more than 40 years, Avenues for Justice (AFJ) has supported youth in New York City, keeping them out of prison and providing them with court advocacy, tutoring and mentorship, mental health support and job training. Founded by Angel Rodriguez, who remains at the helm, AFJ focuses on keeping youths out of prison, saving the lives of hundreds of young people.

At a time when the U.S. incarceration rate is the highest of any nation in the world and a cycle of arrests and imprisonment has become the norm within many low-income communities, **AFJ has bucked the trend to become one of the most successful and cost-effective alternative-to-incarceration programs in America.**

We offer three forward-looking programs that focus on participants' individual needs, all with the aim of steering them on a path for future success:

PROGRAM #1 (ATI)

Court Advocacy/ Alternatives to Incarceration (ATI) for Court-Involved Participants.

PROGRAM #2 (ATI + AT-RISK)

Prevention Programs for Court-Involved Participants & Youth At-Risk of Arrest ("At-Risk")

PROGRAM #3 (REFERRALS)

At-Risk Youth Needing Short-term Help and Referrals.





OUR IMPACT

400+

Number of participants served each year

96%

Percentage of AFJ graduates who avoid reincarceration three years after leaving our program

“The impact that AFJ has had on my life cannot be expressed in words. This is why, after 25 years I continue to come back, give back, and share my story.”

LUIS
AFJ Alumnus

“AFJ has been a very good support system to my family and me. AFJ made sure we all had food and supplies especially when there was barely anything in the store. I really appreciate the help especially during this pandemic.”

MAYA
AFJ Participant

OUR IMPACT

50+

Number of job certificates earned in just one year of our career certification program

40+

Years of continuous Latinx and African-American leadership

29

Participants received Youthful Offender status or had a reduction in their case.

81

Participants have received a High School diploma or equivalency while with AFJ

“I rely on AFJ. If I have a kid under 20 who had no criminal involvement in the past, then has appeared with five cases in the last few months, I’ll talk to AFJ and have them talk to the kid and the family to develop a plan. I know AFJ will figure it out – and hold the kid accountable.”

NYC JUDGE



EVIDENCE-BASED APPROACH

EFFECTIVE ATI: Needed now more than ever.

The socio-economic conditions that drive young adults into criminal behavior continue to escalate. Effective, cost-efficient alternatives to incarceration and prevention programs are more needed than ever, even as policy in New York City and New York State moves to reduce detention and incarceration as a response to youth crime except where public safety truly requires it.

PROVEN SUSTAINABILITY: In operation for over 40 years.

AFJ is an established partner in NYC's justice and crime prevention networks. Our headquarters are in the Manhattan Criminal Courthouse; judges view AFJ as a reliable ATI program.

Embedded in Harlem and the Lower East Side, the open doors of our community centers keep us connected to our neighborhoods.

AFJ adapted to the pandemic as we have to many other crises, pivoting to on-line services and dramatically increasing tutoring support.

AFJ has showed steady budget growth over 40 years to \$1.9M, building our funder base, expanding and diversifying programming to meet needs.

STABLE LEADERSHIP OF COLOR

For over 40 years, AFJ's Executive Director and Co-Founder Angel Rodriguez has led the organization, set the policies, and selected the staff. The members of AFJ's management team are all African-American.



RETURN ON INVESTMENT

\$5,500

The annual cost of participation at AFJ per participant

VS.

\$450,000

The annual cost to incarcerate one person for a full year in NYC.

2020 FINANCIALS

FOUNDATIONS GRANTS, CONTRIBUTIONS, & OTHERS	56%	\$1,123,218
INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTIONS	14%	\$274,224
SPECIAL EVENTS (NET)	18%	\$350,150
GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS & GRANTS	10%	\$203,500
IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS: SERVICES, FACILITIES	1%	\$20,800
INVESTMENT INCOME	1%	\$27,819
TOTAL REVENUE & PUBLIC SUPPORT	100%	\$1,999,791



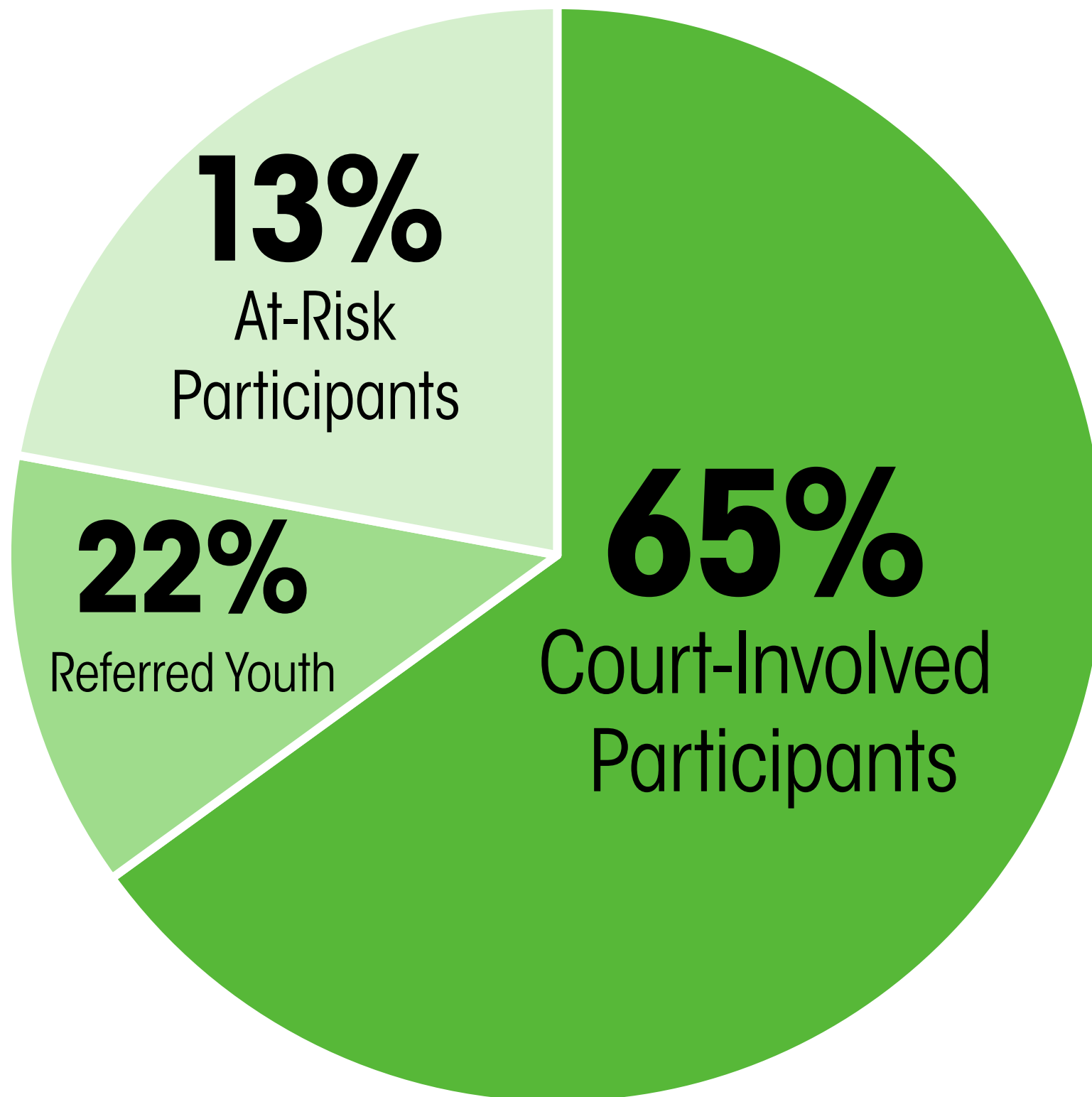
OUR PARTICIPANTS

In 2020, AFJ served **403 ATI court-involved and at-risk youth ages 13 - 24 from across the city.** These 403 youth participated in one of AFJ's three program areas:

262 (65%) of the 403 were offender participants enrolled in AFJ's intensive crime prevention and court advocacy program;

52 (13%) were at-risk youth who participated in AFJ's crime prevention programs at our community centers;

89 (22%) received referrals through our community centers or court advocacy program.



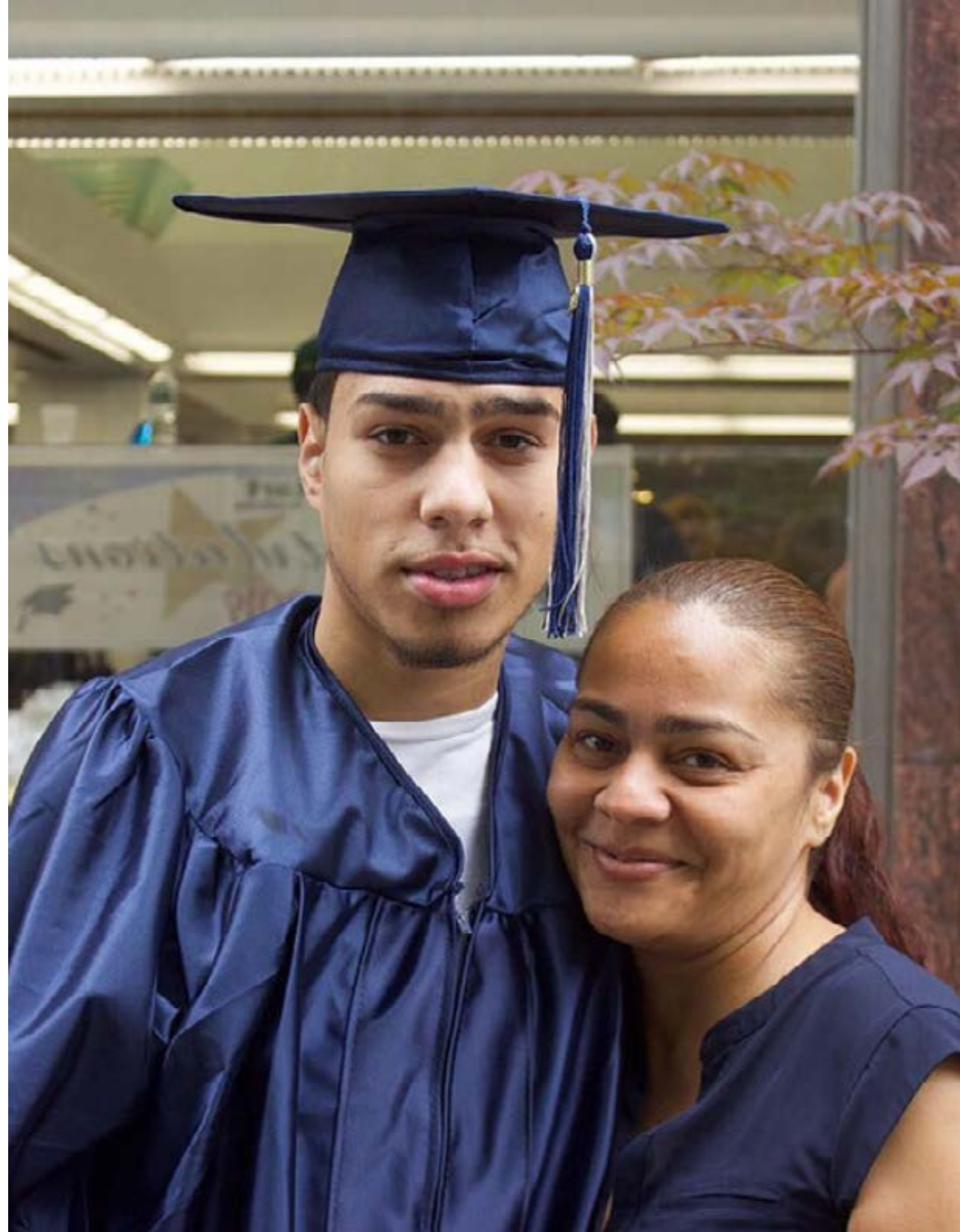
EDUCATION

RECONNECTED WITH SCHOOL: Some youth stop attending school prior to graduation so Avenues for Justice re-connects them, and meets frequently with their teachers and school staff to identify needs. Under COVID quarantine, AFJ partnered participants with volunteers to tutor and mentor them for online study with the Department of Education, providing laptops when needed.

TUTORING TO STAY IN SCHOOL: AFJ recruits volunteers to help youth with their homework and school subjects. During the quarantine we opened online tutoring and increased volunteer tutors from 5 to 60.

GOLDMAN SACHS STEM BOOTCAMP: Goldman Sachs is leading a one week back-to-school STEM bootcamp, coaching participants in science, technology, engineering and math.

ADVANCING TO COLLEGE: When youth successfully obtain a diploma, Avenues for Justice works with them to enter college full or part-time. Assistance includes college visits, SAT-prep and help with applications and financial aid, as well as tutoring.



HIRE UP: TRAINING PROGRAMS

DIGITAL LITERACY: AFJ provides both self-paced and group instruction for digital literacy, with certification available for 70 levels of aptitude. In less than a year, 42 students have earned 57 certifications.

OSHA-30 CONSTRUCTION SAFETY: OSHA certification is required for all NYC construction workers. AFJ offers self-paced online curriculum approved by the US Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), and currently has 25 students.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP: AFJ is partnering with Slickdeals to teach participants to launch and market an online tee-shirt business.

JOB READINESS BY CORPORATE PARTNERS: 300+ have participated in these weekly workshops led by corporate partners, segmented for pre-employment ages and for ages 16 and up. Professionals also discuss their careers to broaden participants' scopes.

LEGAL RIGHTS, LIFE SKILLS, & MENTAL HEALTH: Each week, AFJ offers workshops to teach legal rights, to express views through creative writing, or learn coping skills in our mental health workshops.



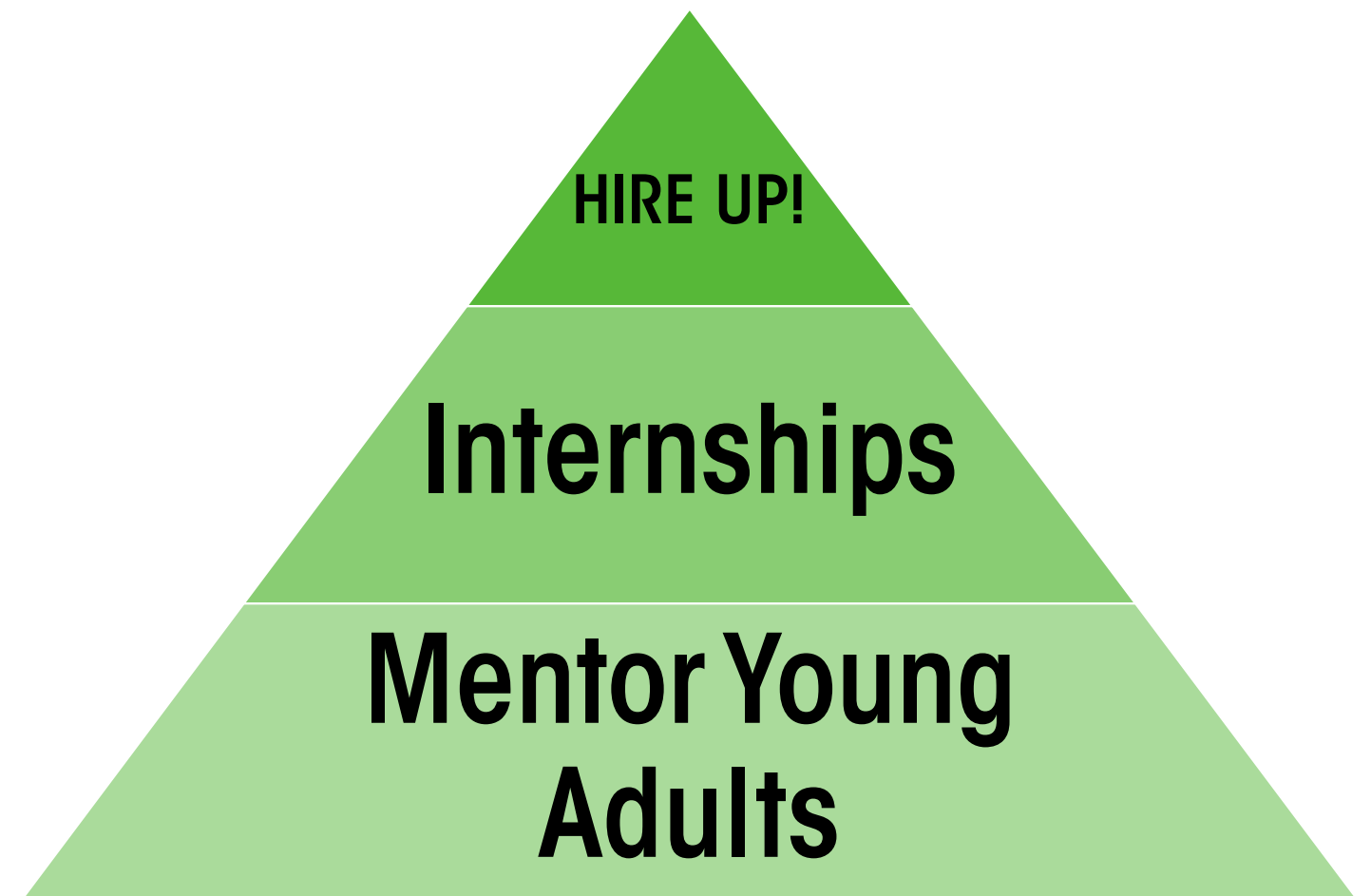
HIRE UP: CORPORATE PARTNERSHIPS

STEP 1 - MENTOR YOUNG ADULTS: Your staff can mentor to describe their positions, their work life, answer questions, and help prepare our participants for a world of employment that's been out of reach, via resume writing, mock interviews and skill development.

STEP 2 - INTERSHIPS: AFJ will work with your company to create an internship agreement for the hours your organization needs, including work stipends.

STEP 3 - HIRE UP! We hope that by getting to know our participants and assisting them in building awareness and skills that they could be hired for a full, or part-time job while receiving program support from AFJ and your company mentors.

SIGN UP FOR HIRE UP: If you have a potential opportunity for one of our participants, or would like to learn more about our employment placement needs, please email our Manager of Court Advocacy, Gamal Willis at gwillis@avenuesforjustice.org.



2020 OUTCOMES DASHBOARD



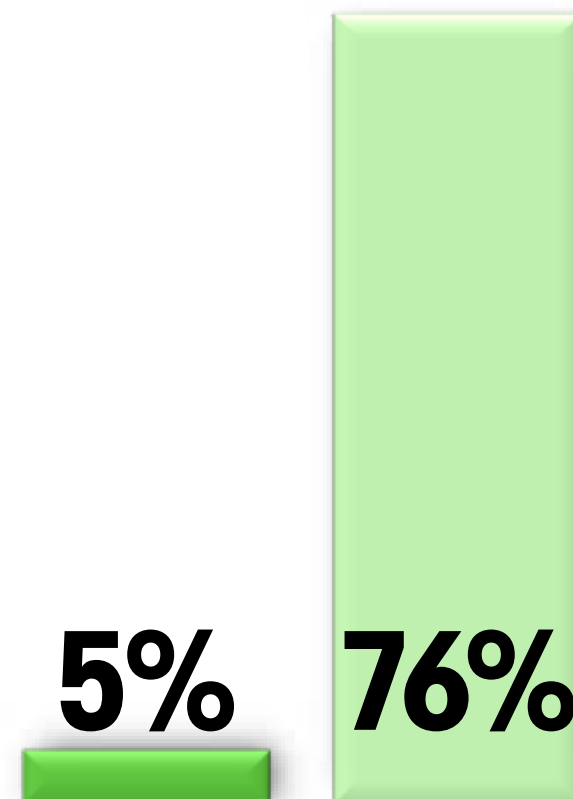
5%

OF AFJ PARTICIPANTS WERE RECONVICTED OF A CRIME THREE YEARS AFTER ENROLLMENT AT AFJ

VS.

76%

OF JUVENILE OFFENDERS WHO WERE RECONVICTED AFTER THREE YEARS OF RELEASE.



■ AFJ Participants ■ Juvenile Offenders Post-Release

[VIEW 2020 OUTCOMES DASHBOARD](#)



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PARTICIPANT TESTIMONIAL

ANA, Adjudicated Youthful Offender in 2021: The positive energy. Whether you had a bad day at work, school, home, you come here and it's a whole different vibe. Someway, somehow, you're going to forget why you were even mad. Coming here, there's joy, love and positivity.

PARENT TESTIMONIAL

DOLORES: I'm so thankful for having you AFJ since day one and I'm very thankful for everybody that has extended their hands for me and My family in the times of need. I'm trying to educate myself and my kids to help my family and help others as well. You guys are going to get tired of me saying thank you!!!!

ALUMNUS TESTIMONIAL

JULES FEBRE, GRADUATED 1997; Yoga Instructor, Berlin: The intervention that AFJ provides may be one of the best ways to find a resolution, to bring a life back into a a clear perspective, to navigate to calmer waters. The the clear and decisive action taken by AFJ along with my family is what allowed me to really see the scale to which my life choices were impacting me in a negative and potentially enduring way. I am grateful for the work I was able to do at AFJ and credit them impacting my ability to be in the place I am today happy and healthy even in stormy waters.

VOLUNTEER TESTIMONIAL

NINA: The Lower East Side Community Center really means so much to me. It felt as much like a home to me, as much as it does for the kids. There is nothing like face to face time at the center. I am so incredibly impressed and proud to have seen AFJ deal with the last year head on and continue to create a space and community for these kids.

DONOR TESTIMONIAL

JUDITH M LUKIN, Long-time Supporter: I knew Bob Siegel just after he founded the (AFJ). For a while I worked for Angel Rodriguez, and helped raise funds for this organization. The two most important factors that make this valiant effort a success are (1) the staff are available to the young people `round the clock (24/7) and (2) judges in the courts are willing to take the huge risk of placing a criminally charged young person with (AFJ), rather than to incarcerate, because they trust (AFJ).

If we had more programs this attentive and immediately responsive to the needs of our young people and their families, there would be significantly less need for jails and prisons, less need to incarcerate and stigmatize, and finally, we would understand what it takes to move public attitudes from punishment to providing care.

OUR SUPPORTERS

AVENUES FOR JUSTICE, INC. SUPPORTERS: JANUARY 2019 TO JANUARY 2021

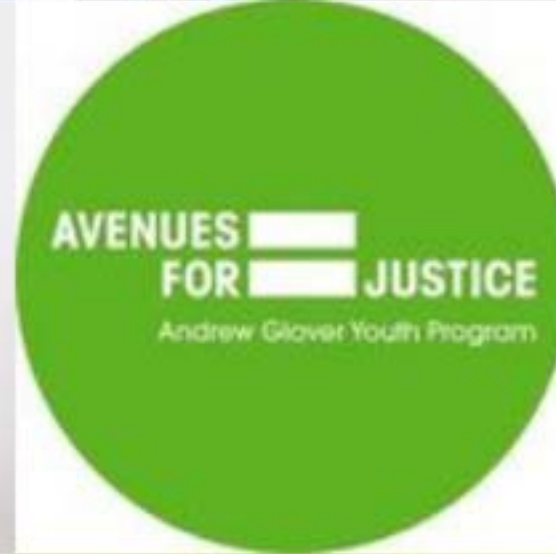


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Contribute to Avenues For Justice and support one of the nation's most cost effective, successful crime-fighting programs.

Help hundreds of young people get their second chance each year in Harlem, Lower EastSide, and throughout Manhattan.

Donate online:

www.avenuesforjustice.org

Donate by mail:

Avenues For Justice
100 Centre St, Room 1541
New York, NY 10013

Please make your contribution payable to Avenues For Justice.

Contact us at:

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Photos by Marty Umans

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