

# CASES



## Choices Alternative to Detention

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CASES' Choices Alternative to Detention (ATD) serves youth facing charges in the Bronx and Manhattan Family Courts. 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 New York's most at-risk young people. Choices helps young people and their families build positive relationships and access resources in their communities.



## PROGRAM SERVICES

**Mental health services** All Choices ATD participants and their families have access to CASES' **Nathaniel Clinic** in Harlem. Services include counseling/therapy, integrated treatment for substance use, complex care management, crisis intervention, and primary care. 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. CASES also provides external treatment referrals as needed. Families who need long-term, in-home support can access CASES' **Adolescent Portable Therapy**.

**School liaison services** In order to help students and families connect to in-school resources, Choices ATD staff conduct regular school visits and accompany caretakers to parent-teacher conferences. 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) and accessing appropriate services.

**Case Management** Choices ATD staff provide case planning and support for all enrolled participants. Individual assessments provide tailored service plans that address the needs of each young person and their family. In-home case management is conducted as needed to ensure busy families are informed of their child's progress in the program.

**After-school programming** Participants are provided with a range of after-school programming designed to meet their educational, employment, and recreational needs. The program uses evidence-based curricula to help participants cultivate crucial life skills, including workshops that promote resiliency and healthy coping mechanisms.

Other after-school offerings include, but are not limited to, homework support, life and basic job skills workshops, healthy cooking classes, art lessons, basketball, dance, film-making, boxing lessons, and poetry classes. Participants are encouraged to take part in facilitated discussions on various topics such as reducing community violence, personal accountability, and healthy relationships. CASES' staff also plan cultural and recreational excursions including museum visits, sporting events, community projects, and camping trips. Participants are offered opportunities to volunteer in their communities through partnerships with neighborhood groups, including **God's Helping Hands**, **NYC New Beginning Animal Rescue**, and **Rescuing Leftover Cuisine**.

**Legal Assistance** Choices ATD partners with **Youth Represent** and **Advocates for Children** to provide participants with a number of legal services, including representation in superintendent suspension hearings, IEP evaluation meetings, and housing court.

## FAMILY SERVICES

**Parent support workshops** Held every month at Choices ATD offices, parent support workshops help participants and their families develop interpersonal skills and foster healthy relationships at home. Workshop topics are determined monthly based on the unique needs of active group members and include crisis de-escalation, navigating the education and juvenile justice systems, and family communication.

**Family nights** To help strengthen ties between young people and their guardians, Choices ATD staff will periodically hold recreational “family nights” for participants. Attendees are served dinner and given opportunities to participate in a number of recreational activities, including games, raffles, and holiday-themed celebrations.

## ADDITIONAL SERVICES

Choices ATD participants can also address their needs and develop their skills through CASES’ “wraparound” services and linkages.

**High school equivalency (HSE) classes** CASES offers youth participants and graduates access to its onsite HSE classes, TASC-readiness exams, and TASC exams.

**Jobs for America’s Graduates New York (JAG NY)** JAG NY is an 18-month workforce development program for out-of-school young people offering HSE classes, job-readiness training, and job placement services.

**Summer Youth Employment** CASES is an annual participant in NYC’s Summer Youth Employment Program. All Choices ATD participants are eligible to apply for a six-week paid summer employment placement.

## OUR PARTNERS

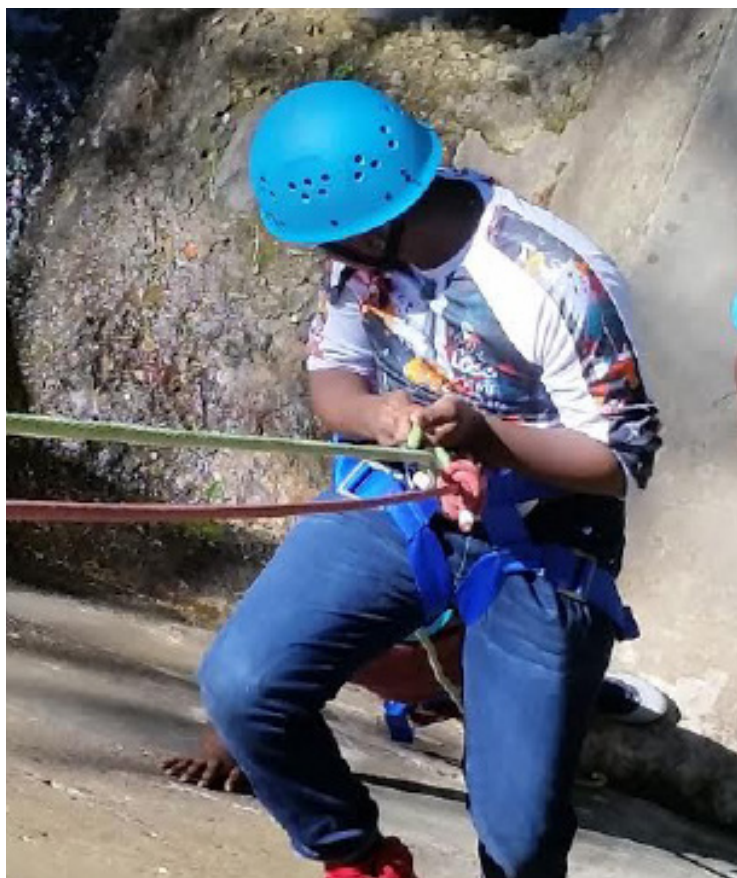
The Choices ATD program model is designed to meet the needs of young people assessed as medium or high risk and may not be appropriate for all youth involved in the Family Court. Additionally, some young people may have needs that are not adequately addressed by Choices ATD programming alone. For these 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
- Northside Center for Child Development
- Odyssey House
- The Police Athletic League
- Realization Center
- Rising Ground
- ROSES
- SCAN New York
- Union Settlement
- YMCA

## REFERRAL INFORMATION

CASES accepts referrals for the Choices ATD program from Bronx and Manhattan Family Court judges on a continuous basis. For more information please contact the Choices ATD Program Director Sally Sanchez:

(646) 565-8267 or [ssanchez@cases.org](mailto:ssanchez@cases.org)



*Every year, Choices ATD offers participants an opportunity to attend a two-day experiential learning camp at the Princeton-Blairstown Center. Activities include canoeing, hiking, rope course, and reflection sessions.*