



Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice

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Concept Paper for Criminal Justice Transition Network (CJTN) RFP

I. OVERVIEW

The New York City Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice (MOCJ) seeks to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) to provide transition services in every borough within NYC (Queens, Manhattan, Brooklyn, Bronx, and Staten Island). Last year approximately 14,000 people left New York City's jails and returned to their communities.¹ Although many are successful in making the transition home, each year approximately 37% return to the city's custody within one year of release.² Reincarceration is a driver of the City's jail population. Connections to person-centered appropriate reentry services are key to stabilization in community, ultimately reducing reincarceration. Despite reincarceration rates, New York City has one of the lowest incarceration rates of all large cities in the United States, per capita, with an average daily jail population of approximately 7,000 as of October 2025. Provider practice, research, and people with lived experience all indicate that people leaving jail require additional support in community to improve post-release outcomes, particularly within the first 90 days of release.

The MOCJ-funded "Community Justice Re-entry Network" (CJRN), comprised of non-profit agencies across the 5 boroughs, has provided paid transitional employment, workforce development, education, and a variety of supportive social services to thousands of system-impacted New Yorkers to help them stabilize in the community after involvement with the criminal legal system. From January 2021 to June 2025, the CJRN completed more than 17,000 intakes, had more than 3,000 permanent employment placements, and more than 2,500 placements into short-term transitional employment. CJRN also held training sessions for more than 14,000 individuals across a wide range of categories including but not limited to: cognitive behavioral skills, construction, technology, leadership, and peer work.

¹ <https://comptroller.nyc.gov/services/for-the-public/department-of-correction-doc/dashboard/>

² <https://www.nyc.gov/assets/probation/pdf/legal/local-law-90-cy24.pdf>

In an effort to build on the success of the CJRN, refine service delivery, and reduce reincarceration, MOCJ seeks to create a coordinated system of transitional services called the “**Community Justice Transition Network**” (CJTN) to provide discharge planning services and connect individuals leaving city jail, youth detention, and state prison to supportive services. Prioritizing a person-centered approach and continuity of care, services include but are not limited to (i.) transitional case management, (ii.) mental health services, (iii.) substance use treatment, (iv.) physical healthcare, (v.) vital documents, (vi.) financial literacy, (vii.) mentoring, (viii.) education, and (ix.) employment in the community to promote community stability and reduce the likelihood of further criminal legal system involvement. MOCJ seeks to serve anyone who needs transition services as early as their initial contact with the system. Although transitioning back into community is a continuous experience, for people leaving NYC jails. NYS Department of Correction and Community Supervision (NYS DOCCS), and NYC youth detention, MOCJ will place emphasis on serving and engaging individuals who are recently released from custody, with an additional particular focus on connecting with people with concurrent needs within 90 days post-release. People with concurrent needs are defined as individuals with concurrent health conditions and/or lack of housing, multiple DOC stays within a year, and/or concurrent charges returning to community from NYC Jails.

II. BACKGROUND

The Community Justice Reentry Network (CJRN) was launched in 2017, as Jails to Jobs. Jails to Jobs began with a \$10 million investment into a citywide, universal reentry system, and expanded in 2021 to the CJRN.

The CJRN provides individuals returning to NYC from NYC jails, state prisons, or other criminal legal system involvement with access to reentry services and resources, supporting their adjustment back into the community and reducing their likelihood of reincarceration. CJRN services include discharge planning prior to release from jail or prison, transportation from jail and prison to nonprofit service providers in NYC, and a range of supportive community-based services. These include paid transitional employment and connections to permanent employment, job training, financial literacy, career certifications, mental health and substance use treatment, individual and group counseling, benefits assistance, mentoring, family reunification, and housing assistance. CJRN serves approximately 5,000 individuals each year.

The CJRN serves individuals 18 years old and above who have had any involvement with the criminal legal system (e.g., jail and/or prison incarceration, arrest, desk appearance ticket (DAT), open court case, etc.). Priority for providing CJRN services is given to individuals who have left jail and/or prison incarceration recently, (See Exhibit A.), and especially people with concurrent needs leaving NYC jails within 90 days post-release. Providers are not required to turn away any individual who has had criminal legal system involvement. All individuals served reside in and/or have a connection with the five boroughs of New York City.

Exhibit A

BOROUGH	In-community intakes \leq 1 year after release	In-community intakes >1 year and \leq 2 years after release
Staten Island	155	177
Queens	1055	1262
Outside of New York State	74	95
Bronx	1178	1508
Brooklyn	1197	1394
Manhattan	1150	1380

Note: Data is from January 2021-April 2026. Table shows selected-year numbers by borough.
Totals sum across rows, not down columns.

Admission to the program is on a rolling basis. There is no formalized cohort model or application. Individuals are not excluded from participating in the program based on criminal charge or conviction. All services are entirely voluntary.

III. PURPOSE OF THE PROPOSED RFP

MOCJ proposes to issue an RFP to procure qualified vendors to provide transitional services for system-impacted individuals returning home from prison, jail and/or youth detention in the five (5) boroughs. Applicants will be able to submit up to 3 proposals across the RFP competition pools. An applicant may be granted an award for up to 3 proposals across the RFP categories. Funding will cover enrollment for approximately 9,000 participants throughout the city annually. Providers will be expected to implement curricula and provide ancillary services to participants as outlined below.

Program Goals

The goals and objectives for programs selected through the RFP are to reduce the likelihood of repeat criminal legal system involvement by:

1. Engaging clients in services through building trusting relationships, including employing Peer Mentors, individuals with lived experience in the criminal legal system, to conduct

strategic outreach (including persistent engagement where indicated) and service delivery, tailoring opportunities and services to individuals' specific recent history of incarceration and/or detention and factors contributing to reincarceration (including social determinants of health), needs, and interests- inherently valuing individual choice, and autonomy and the development of comprehensive supports.

2. Offering comprehensive education and employment, therapeutic, and supportive social services to individuals returning to the community from New York City jails and/or New York State prisons or youth detention facilities.
 - a. Core focus:
 - i. Individuals incarcerated in NYC jails
 - ii. Individuals recently released from NYC jails, with a particular focus on individuals leaving NYC jails within 90 days post-release and,
 - iii. Individuals incarcerated in New York State prison with release dates, and returning to New York City
 - iv. Youth in ACS detention, returning to community
3. Connections to meaningful education and employment opportunities, and placements in permanent employment.
4. Providing services in neighborhoods with the greatest numbers of individuals released from jail (information to be furnished by MOCJ) by partnering with local faith-based or cultural institutions, small businesses, and other neighborhood organizations.
5. It is recommended that service providers adapt an operational schedule that is aligned with discharge protocols. This may come in the form of extended hours of operation and administering services outside of the traditional 9am-5pm Monday through Friday business schedule.

A. Services Provided

Community Justice Transition Network (CJTN)

The CJTN will function as the in custody and in community case management and wrap around service provider. CJTN will focus on providing participants the following services:

1. **Hybrid In-Custody/In-Community Transition Services**

Hybrid in-custody/in-community services are envisioned to connect incarcerated individuals with connection to discharge planning, persistent engagement where

appropriate, and peer mentorship throughout the continuum of custody and community. Providers must have the capacity to work in proposed facilities- NYC jails (including Rikers Island), youth detention facilities, and NYS DOCCS facilities, The goal of these hybrid services is to increase stabilization in community, and reduce the likelihood of further involvement with the criminal legal system, with a particular focus on connecting with people within 90 days post-release from NYC jails, youth detention facilities and NYS DOCCS facilities. The in-custody/in-community hybrid is designed to provide a continuum of care and stabilization as people return home from custody.

2. Comprehensive Services in the Community

- a. Intake and Assessment- The provider will have a process to conduct intakes with all participants referred to the program to identify suitability and understand individual's unique needs. Where indicated and appropriate, providers will implement persistent engagement methods to connect with people with concurrent needs who are leaving NYC jail, youth detention, or NYS DOCCS custody. MOCJ will work with providers to identify and implement appropriate methods that effectively assess a client's needs, history, and effective interventions.
- b. Therapeutic Services and Behavioral Health- The provider will address clients' therapeutic needs, including mental illness, wellness, and/or substance use, either in-house directly by the provider or through referral to an external health care organization. This may include activities such as weekly structured group sessions, regular individual counseling and functional family therapy where appropriate to support individuals and help facilitate growth.
- c. Supportive Social Services- Prioritizing continuity of care and appropriate flexibility, the provider will deliver supportive social services through the prime contracted organization and/or through a network of subcontracts, linkage agreements, and/or local partnerships with external provider organizations and/or neighborhood-based institutions.
- d. Outreach and Engagement- The provider will focus on building relationships, addressing individual needs, and fostering a sense of ownership and empowerment. Where appropriate, the provider will implement persistent engagement methods to connect with individuals in community.

- e. Employment Opportunities and Services- The provider will offer work force readiness assessments, internships opportunities with internal or external organizations, workforce training, assistance with employment placements, and other related services.
- f. Employment Placement & Retention- The provider will work with clients to ascertain employment in the relevant field. It is important that system impacted community members can tap into supportive resources to minimize turnover and support long-term employment.
- g. Education Opportunities and Services- The provider will offer clients educational services to help individuals navigate educational paths and achieve academic and career goals.

B. Referral Sources

Referrals to the CJTN will come from Department of Corrections (DOC), NYS Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS), Administration for Children’s Services (ACS), NYC Department of Probation, other city agencies, community-based organizations (CBOs), and community members. The CJTN will also serve as a self-referral entry hub for all system impacted individuals residing in NYC who are transitioning home from a jail, youth detention, and/or prison sentence.

C. Data Reporting and Security

Reentry programs will be expected to provide individual-level, aggregate, and narrative data reports to MOCJ concerning program operations, client enrollment, and implementation. The Program Provider must have an operating system with the ability to collect and manage accurate and up-to-date individual case and program performance data, quality assurance information, and control systems. The Program Provider will ensure data security measures are implemented consistent with NYC Office of Technology and Innovation (NYC OTI) standards and all relevant laws for all identifying information defined in Section 23-1205 of the Administrative Code of the City of New York ([Identifying-Information-Rider.pdf](#)).

D. Liability and Indemnification

The Program Provider must be well versed in working with system impacted participants, demonstrate cultural competence, and understand the dynamics and impacts of criminal legal system involvement. The Provider is free to subcontract to fulfill the terms necessary to deliver reentry services, in accordance with all local, state, and federal procurement requirements. The Program Provider must indemnify, defend and hold the City harmless in all claims or actions that arise in connection with this program. The Program Provider acknowledges that they are liable for any negligence that occurs by the acts of its employees or employees of their Subcontractor (if applicable). The Provider must ensure onsite security as outlined above and must have experience

(directly or through Subcontractor) in providing data security and remain responsible for any data breaches. Program Provider must indemnify the City of any harm, damages or any other liabilities that result from a data breach.

E. Vendor Performance Reporting Requirements & Data Tracking

The Program Provider will be expected to engage in regularly scheduled meetings with MOCJ that will require in-person attendance and submit regular reports, with frequency to be determined by MOCJ in coordination with the program providers for the duration of the contract. MOCJ will track outcomes including but not limited to: intakes (including intakes of people leaving NYC jails, youth detention facilities, and NYS DOCCS facilities within 90 days post-release), outreach, connections to appropriate services, trainings, training type, participant demographics (age, race, gender and borough), and job placements. The Program Provider will be expected to have a plan in place to track and use performance metrics – regarding engagement rates, retention rates, and fidelity to the curricula.

For example, the Program Provider will be expected to use pre-/post-surveys to measure client progress (if feasible and safe) or identify and implement alternate measures. The Program Provider will maintain a database for the purpose of monitoring participant progress and program performance internally, and generating and submitting de-identified reports monthly to MOCJ. The Program Provider will ensure they retain sufficient and necessary data and staff to perform the aforementioned activities. The Provider will also allow for and coordinate site visits and observations of the program by MOCJ and stakeholders.

IV. PROPOSED CONTRACT AND PAYMENT STRUCTURE

It is anticipated that there will be between 8-10 contracts awarded across all five boroughs. Additionally, the Provider is permitted to enter into subcontracts with other service providers to deliver some portion of the services outlined above. The contract will include a hybrid performance based and line-item payment structure that will be subject to annual deliverables and milestones as agreed upon with MOCJ and subject to all local laws regarding advances and reimbursement, generally.

V. FUNDING

Total annual funding amount shall not exceed \$30,111,449.00 across all five boroughs per year, for a total agreement amount not to exceed \$90,334,347.00 for three years.

VI. CONTRACT PERIOD

It is anticipated that the first contract term will be for a period of three years starting on January, 2027, with an option for up to 2 three-year renewals.

VII. BASIS FOR AWARD

Award selections will be based on the highest technically rated proposal(s). The applicant selected for the award will have demonstrated successful experience providing similar services to similar populations as those targeted by the RFP. Proposals will be evaluated according to criteria that will include successful relevant experience, organizational capacity, and proposed approach to the program model.

VIII. PROCUREMENT TIMELINE

It is anticipated the RFP will be released in August 2026, with contracts starting January 2027. MOCJ will be holding listening sessions for this concept paper and RFP through June 2026. Please email MOCJProcurements@mocj.nyc.gov with the subject line 'Listening Session' to ensure that you are included in the distribution list for the listening sessions. MOCJ will be seeking input specifically regarding how to ensure:

- People leaving NYC jails are provided the necessary reentry resources and services to address their unique needs within 90 days post-release
- Appropriate referrals are made to CJTN providers, and CJTN providers make appropriate referrals to other providers for services not offered in-house
- Effective communication and coordination of services among CJTN providers and other service providers
- Eligible population has recent criminal legal system involvement (i.e. people 90 days or less post- release)
- Choice and autonomy in CJTN provider selection by potential clients
- Cultural competency and deep relationships with community organizations and institutions
- Addressing trauma is a central component of models and services

IX. USE OF PASSPORT

PASSPort is a web-based system maintained by the city of New York to manage procurement. To submit comments to the upcoming RFP, all vendors must create an account within the PASSPort system. Please visit www.nyc.gov/passport to create an account or to log into the system to view this Concept Paper and the future RFP.

X. REQUIRED SERVICE PRE-QUALIFICATIONS

The Community Justice Transition Network (CJTN) RFP will be released exclusively through the PASSPort system. To become eligible to apply for this and other HHS RFPs, visit <http://www.nyc.gov/passport>.

XI. COMMENTS

Please email written questions to MOCJProcurements@mocj.nyc.gov no later than **July 15, 2026**. Place “CJTN Concept Paper” in the subject line. Questions regarding this RFP must be transmitted in writing to the Agency Contact. Please email comments to MOCJProcurements@mocj.nyc.gov.

Feedback to the concept paper may be submitted via the City’s digital procurement system, PASSPort (<https://www.nyc.gov/site/mocs/passport/about-passport.page>). If you do not already have a PASSPort account, select the tab “Register NYC.ID” on that page.

For assistance with technical issues relating to the PASSPort system, please contact the Mayor’s Office of Contract Services (MOCS) via MOCS Service Desk MOCS Service Desk (<https://mocssupport.atlassian.net/servicedesk/customer/portal/8>)

Please note, all responses to the concept paper must be received no later than **July 31, 2026**.