

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

JCCS staff participates in neighborhood/block association meetings, stakeholder meetings, and advisory committees across the city and county to gather ongoing feedback about quality of life issues affecting citizens of Jersey City. The input from these meetings allow JCCS staff to continually adjust the program to address the needs of the community and participants.

“JCCS showed me how the community can come together with team work, and improve the lives of others with past experiences.”

- JCCS Alum

CONTACT US

For more information about
Jersey City Community Solutions
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JERSEY CITY COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS



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ABOUT COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS

In 2016, the City of Jersey City was awarded a US Department of Justice grant to develop a community court concept under the guidance of the Center for Court Innovation, and in collaboration with federal, state, and local officials. Launched in 2017, Jersey City Community Solutions (JCCS) became one of two community court programs in the state, and many nationwide, using evidence based practices to promote restorative justice. JCCS is now a city-funded program managed by and operated within the Jersey City Municipal Court.

ELIGIBLE OFFENSES

Potential participants will be made aware of their eligibility during their first court appearance and given the opportunity to opt-in to the Community Solutions program. Only charges pending in the Jersey City Municipal Court will be eligible.

Eligible offenses, which are exclusively low-level and non-violent, may include: Drug Possession, Disorderly Conduct, Shoplifting, and Trespassing, among others. Individuals with certain prior charges and convictions may be ineligible for the program.

SOCIAL SERVICES

Judges have the option to mandate JCCS participants to attend rehabilitative social services. Based on a screening from Community Solutions staff, this may include required participation in drug treatment, mental health services, or job readiness programs.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

JCCS give judges the opportunity to use community service as a primary sentencing option. The length of the community service opportunity is determined by the judge based upon the nature of the offense, with additional mandates for noncompliance. Participants meet with Community Solutions staff to determine their placements. JCCS participants work in a variety of sites and roles at organizations throughout the city.

COURT OVERVIEW

Jersey City Community Solutions (JCCS) is a court-based problem-solving program for low-level, non-violent offenders. Using a rehabilitation focused approach, Jersey City Municipal Court judges have the option to sentence offenders to social services and community service rather than fines and incarceration. Enrollment in the program operates on a voluntary basis for eligible individuals. Defendants who choose to participate complete a customized screening with community court staff that will guide mandates for effective alternatives to incarceration. The goal of the program is to administer justice in a manner that steers individuals away from further criminal activity and ultimately promotes safety, trust, and growth within the community it serves.