



Department of Probation Announces Awards for Community Education Pathways to Success (CEPS) Programs

The New York City Department of Probation (DOP) is today announcing the seven organizations that will receive Community Education Pathways to Success (CEPS) awards. CEPS, part of Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg's Young Men's Initiative, focuses on raising the literacy level of young black and Latino men. The seven awardees are Brooklyn Public Library, East Side House, Federation Employment and Guidance Services (F-E-G-S), The Fortune Society, Queens Library, Settlement Housing Fund - DREAMS/YouthBuild, and Union Settlement Association.

"The Community Education Pathways to Success (CEPS) initiative is targeted to one of the root issues that is preventing many of our clients from fulfilling their potential: trouble with basic reading, writing and math," said Department of Probation Commissioner Vincent N. Schiraldi. "With help from these organizations, we will provide targeted, evidence-based programs that will help our clients move out of the criminal justice system for good."

The programs will serve young adults between the ages of 17.5 and 24 who are on probation, reading between the 4th and 8th grade level, and living in five targeted [Neighborhood Opportunity Network \(NeON\)](#) communities: Brownsville, East New York, Harlem, Jamaica and the South Bronx. The NeON is a network of community organizations, government agencies, local businesses, and community residents focused on connecting probation clients who live in the target neighborhood to opportunities, resources and services.

Of the approximately 8,800 16-24 year-olds on probation, more than 70% do not have either a high school diploma or a GED. There are many reasons why these young adults do not complete high school, but a significant percentage of them have trouble with reading, writing and mathematics.

CEPS services will be provided by community-based organizations (CBOs) under contract with the Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City. The contracts will be for three years, from February 1, 2012 through January 31, 2015, with an option to renew for two additional one-year periods

Working in the five NeON neighborhoods, the CBOs will provide structured programs that combine high-quality instruction, personal support, and career development within a youth development framework. The awards announced today expand the CEPS initiative to specifically integrate people on probation with low reading levels into existing CEPS programs.

CEPS will enable young adults to get back on track to receive a GED and pursue higher education and a career. The Youth Development Institute will provide capacity building and technical assistance to the CBOs. The NYC Center for Economic Opportunity, which has launched several successful young adult literacy programs, is charged with the monitoring and evaluation of CEPS and the majority of the Young Men's Initiative programs.

The Young Men's Initiative

The Young Men's Initiative, the nation's most comprehensive effort to tackle the broad disparities slowing the advancement of black and Latino young men, was announced in August 2011. Through broad policy changes and agency reforms, a public-private partnership will invest in programs that will connect young men to educational, employment, and mentoring opportunities across more than a dozen city agencies. The Center for Economic Opportunity (CEO), established in 2006 by Mayor Bloomberg to implement innovative way to reduce poverty in New York City, is responsible for overseeing the implementation and evaluating many of the programs within the Young Men's Initiative. Support for the initiative is being provided by the Open Society Foundations and Bloomberg Philanthropies through grants to the Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City and The Fund for Public Schools. The following organizations will offer the CEPS program to probation clients:

Organization	Neighborhood Served	Site Address
Settlement Housing Fund - DREAMS/YouthBuild	Brownsville	1615 St. John's Place, Brooklyn, NY 11233 & 1604 St. John's Place, Brooklyn, NY 11233
Brooklyn Public Library	East New York	665 New Lots Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11207
Union Settlement Association, Inc.	Harlem	1775 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10029
The Fortune Society	Harlem	625 West 140th Street, New York, NY 10040
Queens Library	Jamaica	91-14 Merrick Boulevard, Jamaica, NY 11432 & 108-41 Guy Brewer Boulevard, Jamaica, NY 11433
Federation Employment and Guidance Services, Inc (F-E-G-S)	South Bronx	412-424 East 147th St, 4th Fl, Bronx, NY 10455
East Side House, Inc.	South Bronx	201 St. Ann's Avenue, Bronx, NY 10454 & 337 Alexander Avenue, Bronx, NY 10454

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