

2026 ANNUAL REPORT

Center for COMMUNITY ALTERNATIVES

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Dear CCA Community,

For 45 years, the Center for Community Alternatives (CCA) has been at the forefront of the movement to end mass incarceration, criminalization, and community disinvestment. This year demonstrated that prisons continue to be violent and dangerous places for those who reside in them, lending newfound urgency to the programs we innovate and the advocacy we undertake. Our programs keep people out of jail or prison wherever possible and mitigate the harms of the criminal legal system for those it touches. Our advocacy efforts seek major system change through eliminating mandatory minimums, allowing a "second look" at sentences, and expanding "earned time" in prison. We are grateful to you for joining us this year as we pioneered and expanded innovative approaches to building stronger, safer communities across New York.

To name just a few highlights:

Our new employment credentialing program opens the door to meaningful career opportunities for youth as they earn industry-recognized certifications in-house at our Seeds to Roots Youth Action Center. Credentialing accompanies existing career readiness support, strengthening our role as a community hub that guides young people to pursue personal and professional goals. (p. 10)

Our new Credible Westchester program expands alternative-to-incarceration and reentry programs by providing trauma-informed, personalized support to people returning to Westchester from incarceration. Mentors draw on lived experience with the criminal legal system to support participants with issues such as homelessness, substance use, and mental health challenges. The program aims to improve reentry services within Westchester County and model transformative possibilities for counties across New York State. (p. 8)

Our new Father RISE program in Syracuse enhances skills in parenting and relationships for currently and formerly incarcerated fathers. The evidence-based parenting curriculum supports fathers impacted by the criminal legal system to strengthen child engagement and develop techniques for healthy, responsible parenting. (p. 6)

Our new Healing Center in Downtown Brooklyn provides comprehensive trauma-informed services for people impacted by violence, incarceration, and systemic harm. Alongside the Healing Center, we continue to provide Wellness Center resources to support people in recovery through medications for opioid use disorder, substance use counseling, and peer support. The Healing & Wellness Center creates a safe, supportive space for people harmed by mass incarceration to heal, grow, and thrive. (p. 13)

Read on to learn about these and other exciting initiatives, including expansion of mitigation services to underserved areas of the state (p. 24), new partnerships to enhance peer recovery in Syracuse and Rochester (p. 26), and advances in the fight to reform New York's unjust sentencing laws (p. 17).

As we reflect on this year's accomplishments, we come back to the core tenet of our work: the solution to social challenges lies in community, not incarceration. We are so grateful to the CCA community, including our Board of Directors, staff, and supporters.

We thank you for partnering to advance civil and human rights for all New Yorkers.

Sincerely,
Dan Arshack, Esq. + David Condliffe, Esq.

Board President *Executive Director*

REINTEGRATION SERVICES PILOTS FATHERHOOD PROGRAM

This year CCA piloted our new Fathers RISE program to support currently and formerly incarcerated fathers. The program builds skills in healthy, responsible parenting and communication to increase father-child engagement and sustain healthy marriages and relationships. Participants also benefit from individual case management, skill development, and connections to job opportunities.



Participants in CCA's Fathers RISE pilot program with their graduation certificates

"I really appreciated the fatherhood class; It taught me how to be patient and understanding. I respect my peers and learned a lot from them, and I appreciated the instructors."

— Fathers RISE Graduate

Fathers RISE addresses a critical need to include support for fathers in reentry programming. According to the Sentencing Project:

- **47%** of people in state prisons are parents
- **57%** of people in federal prison are parents
- **90%** of incarcerated parents are fathers

The Curriculum:

Fathers RISE follows InsideOut Dad, an evidence-based curriculum proven to develop pro-fathering attitudes, knowledge, and skills. Cohort-based workshops grow parenting skills, deepen father-child connection, and enhance partner relationships. The program also builds skills in basic financial literacy including family budgeting, banking, and credit.

Looking Ahead

In the next five years, CCA plans to support over 350 fathers in-facility at Onondaga County Correctional Facility and in the community in our Downtown Syracuse offices. Upon completion of the program, participants are invited to take part in monthly alumni dinners for ongoing mentorship and skill-building in a supportive community dedicated to responsible fatherhood.

By the Numbers:

Our work disrupts barriers to reentry and supports participants as they achieve their goals.

In 2026 we piloted Fathers RISE with:

- **3** cohorts
- **22** incarcerated fathers
- **30** hours of workshops (over 5 weeks each)

100%

2026 program completion rate

Reintegration Services Programming

Reintegration Services supports people returning from incarceration as they secure meaningful employment in Central New York. Our work includes jail-based programs, cognitive behavioral interventions, job readiness classes, and occupational training. We also provide 1:1 case management, training incentives including stipends, and application support.

‘CREDIBLE WESTCHESTER’ PROGRAM LAUNCHES

Over the past two years, CCA has been working to increase the availability and quality of alternative-to-incarceration (ATI) and reentry programs and services for people in reentry from prison or jail in Westchester County. For decades, ATI and reentry programs have been disproportionately concentrated in New York City. As a growing portion of formerly incarcerated people return to cities and counties outside of NYC, there is a growing need for programs in other parts of the state. Under the leadership of Dean Horace Anderson, CCA Board Member and Dean of the Elisabeth Haub School of Law at Pace University, CCA convened a Westchester County ATI/Reentry Planning Collaborative to assess the need for reentry services, identify gaps in services, and develop a strategic action plan to improve ATI/reentry programming in the county. Analysis drew from the input and expertise of key stakeholders, including county officials, reentry service providers, and people engaged in reentry programming.

Improving ATI & Reentry Services in Westchester County

This year, in light of findings from the Planning Collaborative, CCA launched a new initiative: **Credible Westchester.** Credible Westchester aims to promote success for people navigating the reentry process by increasing trust in and access to social services. Most importantly, participants receive services from ‘credible messengers,’ who draw on lived experience with the criminal legal system. Mentors support participants as they navigate challenges with criminal legal system involvement, homelessness, substance use, and mental health needs. Through trauma-informed care and individualized advocacy, the program drives participant success at meeting goals related to recovery, housing, family, education, and employment.

Looking Ahead: A Model for the State

We hope our work improving reentry services in Westchester County can provide a model for scaling reentry programming across the state. Building off our work in Westchester, we are preparing a toolkit to guide officials and service providers in other New York counties seeking to map and assess reentry needs within their communities.

We are excited for our work improving reentry services in Westchester County to serve as a model for scaling reentry programming across the state.

The toolkit models our community-driven approach to mapping reentry services. We highlight processes that drove success in Westchester, including:



Focus groups:
with key stakeholders to assess service gaps and effectiveness

Data-driven research:
to identify priority impact areas

Strategic action plan development:
to enact learnings from findings

CCA BUILDS CAREER PATHWAYS FOR NYC YOUTH

Each year, CCA provides holistic support to more than 1,300 youth in New York City who are impacted by the criminal legal system, helping them develop the tools and skills needed to succeed in their personal and professional lives.

CCA coordinates all afterschool and educational enrichment programming for youth detained in NYC's secure and non-secure detention facilities.

We provide programming for young people to prepare for careers in a variety of fields:

- **Customer service**
- **Audio engineering**
- **General maintenance**
- **Dog training**
- **Barbering**
- **Culinary arts**

Young people earn certificates for completing programs, offering tangible credentials and skills to potential employers.



New York Youth Services Participants and Leadership represented CCA on a panel "Leveraging Design to Rebuild: Supporting Justice-Impacted Communities" with The New York Coalition of Black Architects and The National Organization of Minority Architects.

CCA is committed to providing comprehensive support to young people navigating the transition from incarceration back to their communities.

Our NextGen Neighborhood Network serves as NYC's primary reentry initiative for youth returning from incarceration. CCA works with seven grassroots organizations across the city to connect participants to mentorships, workforce readiness trainings, college access programs, paid internships, jobs, and youth leadership opportunities. Highlights from 2026 NextGen Programming:

NextGen partner Avenues for Justice launched a Financial Literacy Series in collaboration with City National Bank (CNB). Over the course of five sessions, young people learned about banking, budgeting, and credit scores. CNB experts also conducted a virtual career panel, where they shared insights on financial decision-making and career planning.

NextGen partner Woosaa Wellness launched a new basketball program designed to train youth to provide 1:1 support to neurodivergent individuals. Woosaa Wellness hired four CCA youth to serve as facilitators, where they took on roles in mentorship and program delivery assistance.

Youth participants of our Community Carpenters program lead and develop community-building activities, workshops, and events. This year's Community Carpenters participants designed and facilitated a number of workshops and community events. Highlights included:

- Restorative Justice Campaign: to promote the use of restorative justice practices in Brownsville and provide tools for healthy conflict resolution
- Mental Health Summit: to address trauma and decision-making
- Career Fair: to highlight career opportunities and facilitate networking for over 300 participants and 35 employers, training providers, and community-based organizations
- Back-to-School Event: to equip students with essential school supplies and connect them to community organizations

Expanding Our Presence

CCA is expanding Community Carpenters to a new borough! The latest iteration of our program builds off our model of success in Brooklyn to facilitate positive relationships between Bronx-based young people and their communities and create more supportive spaces for young people in the city.

CCA's Seeds to Roots Youth Action Center, located in Brownsville, Brooklyn, provides a wide variety of supportive services for youth in the community, including arts, wellness, career readiness, restorative justice, and community leadership activities.

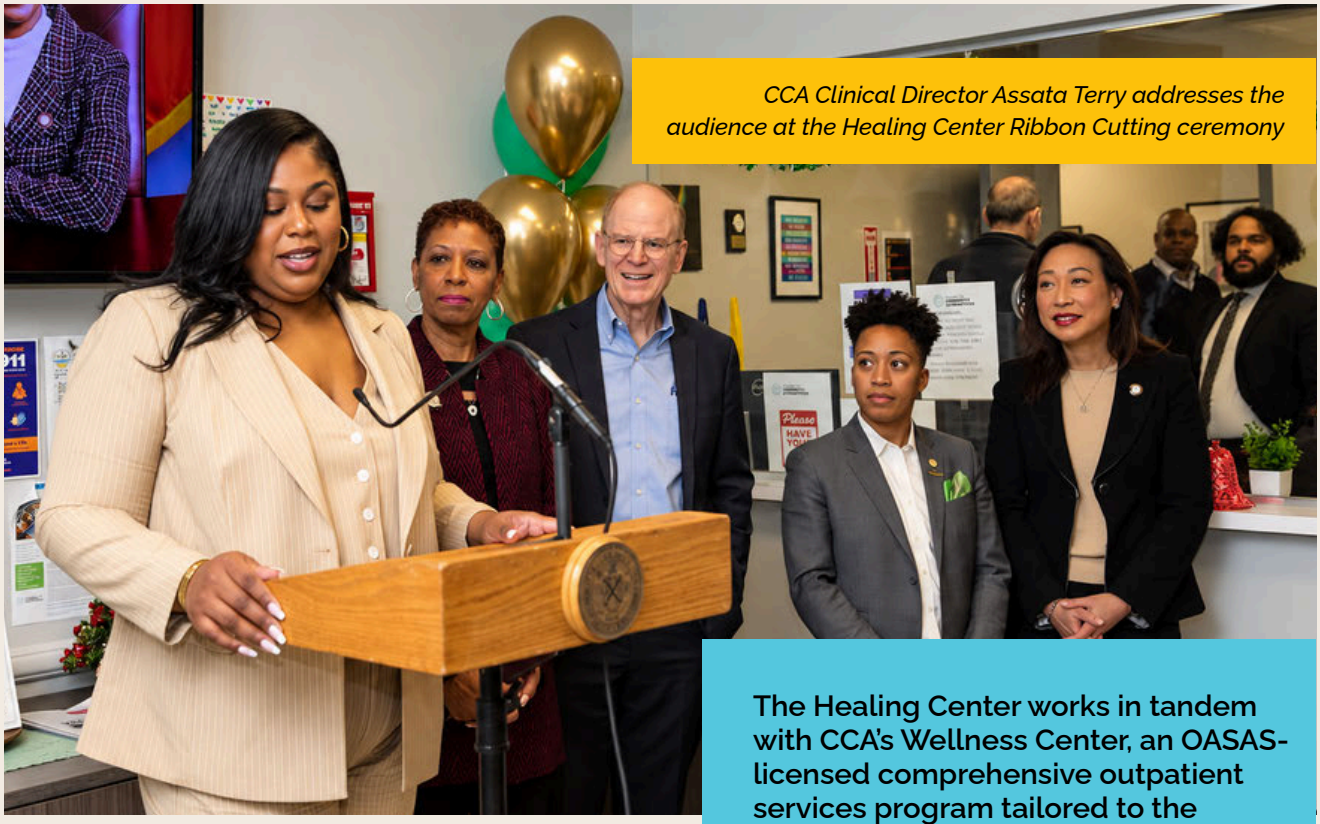
In 2026, we piloted a Security Guard credentialing program for youth to earn industry-recognized certifications in-house. The program bolsters participants' employment readiness and increases efficiency in program delivery. **This year we trained and certified 45 youth participants!**



Graduates of CCA's in-house Security Guard credentialing program present their certificates

HEALING AND WELLNESS CENTER OFFERS TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE AND RECOVERY SUPPORT

CCA's Healing Center in Downtown Brooklyn leverages a UCSF-developed Trauma Recovery Center (TRC) model to offer comprehensive trauma-informed services for people impacted by violence, incarceration, and systemic harm.



CCA Clinical Director Assata Terry addresses the audience at the Healing Center Ribbon Cutting ceremony

"I look forward to coming here. I get something good out of it every day—from my groups, from the counselors—the people here care about us."

— TW, Wellness Center Participant

The Healing Center works in tandem with CCA's Wellness Center, an OASAS-licensed comprehensive outpatient services program tailored to the unique experiences of individuals impacted by the criminal legal system.

Services include:

- Mental health counseling
- Court advocacy
- Health education
- Employment support
- Substance use counseling
- Peer support
- Medications for opioid use disorders

CCA staff and participants celebrated the launch of the Center in December 2025, alongside NYC Council Members Adrienne Adams and Linda Lee and CCA Board Member Carole Eady-Porcher. CCA's Healing Center is the first Trauma Recovery Center in the nation designed to center participants impacted by the criminal legal system.

The Healing Center provides free, confidential services in counseling, evidence-based therapy, and psychiatric care alongside support for practical needs including legal advocacy and referrals to housing, food, and healthcare. Participants partner with a clinical case manager to co-create a care plan. The case manager works closely with the participant throughout their time in the program to set and achieve attainable goals. Our work at the TRC recognizes the harms of mass incarceration and forms of structural violence. By addressing trauma CCA works to break cycles of harm and promote healing, accountability, and safety.

Sharing Our Expertise

CCA is an active member of the National Alliance of Trauma Recovery Centers (NATRC). In January 2026, TRC Clinical Director Assata Terry, LMHC-D and Program Director Lucy Chrysiliou, LMSW presented at NATRC's Multistate Community Meeting about the unique capability of TRCs to meet participant needs in challenging times. CCA staff also joined an NATRC panel in September 2026 to highlight the impact of integrated approaches to mental health and substance use care.

Participant Voices

CCA's Wellness Center offerings are guided by the insights and ideas of participants, including members of our Participant Ambassador Committee. The committee meets monthly to contribute ideas, build relationships, develop leadership skills, and create meaningful experiences for their peers.

Participant feedback has shaped several new initiatives including a Relapse Prevention Group for Spanish speakers and a weekly Wellness Workshop.

Participants also called for opportunities to strengthen communication skills and celebrate diversity: Behavioral Health Services Assistant Director Marianna Chrysiliou facilitated a workshop in Greek dancing and language, and Outreach Peer Advocate Eliot Lopez facilitated a workshop in American Sign Language.

Ambassador Committee members also use meetings to connect with experts and explore local resources. This year we hosted representatives from NADAP, Vocal NY, Project Renewal, and the Legal Action Center. Ambassadors also connected with members of CCA's Board of Directors, who shared valuable resources, expertise, and knowledge with staff and participants. Participants engage in community outreach efforts to spread the word about Wellness Center services. Their experience and efforts are invaluable as we work to build a community grounded in mutual support.



Members of the Participant Ambassador Committee enjoy a group outing to Splish Splash Water Park

CCA BUILDS ALTERNATIVES FOR PEOPLE IMPACTED BY THE CRIMINAL LEGAL SYSTEM

CCA's NYC Community Solutions program continues to provide Alternatives-to-Incarceration for young people and adults. Since the launch of the Community Solutions program, we have noted high retention and completion rates and positive legal outcomes. We work with Community Solutions participants to design Individualized Plans that take a strengths-based approach to meeting court mandates and addressing participants' needs.

Since 2020:

- **85%** of participants have successfully completed Community Solutions and received a more favorable legal outcome
- **60%** of successful program completions resulted in a reduced charge or dismissal

CCA also continues to serve as a coordinating partner in the Partnership for Early Diversion in Youth (PEDY), a coalition organized by the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. PEDY provides diversion services to youth and young adults living in Central Brooklyn. This year CCA deepened support for PEDY by developing relationships with community partners, including Coalition for Hispanic Family Services and Exalt Youth.

We also established a presence in three high schools, where we conducted workshops with students on a range of topics including harm reduction, self-esteem, critical thinking, negative thoughts, bullying, and gang-involvement. We also conduct ongoing community outreach to share critical resources with young people, and spread awareness for CCA's wide array of supportive programs. This February we joined The Door for their Harm Reduction Resource Fair. In April, ATI staff also participated in a Mental Health Awareness Event hosted by our own Seeds to Roots Youth Action Center.

COMMUNITIES NOT CAGES BILLS ADVANCE IN THE SENATE

CCA's Advocacy and Organizing team continues to build support for Communities Not Cages, a campaign to overhaul New York's unjust sentencing laws through the passage of three bills:

- The Marvin Mayfield Act: to eliminate mandatory minimum sentences, and allow judges to consider individual factors and mitigating circumstances

- The Second Look Act: to allow judges to review and reconsider excessive sentences

- The Earned Time Act: to strengthen and expand "good time" and "merit time" laws to encourage personal transformation in prison and reunite families



CCA members at the Communities Not Cages Advocacy Day in May 2026

These bills draw from decades of research and address injustices in New York's sentencing laws stemming from the 1970s Rockefeller Drug Law era through the 1990s "Tough on Crime" era. Since 2021, we have built a coalition of over 250 organizations across the state committed to enacting our Communities Not Cages bills. This February, CCA organized over 500 people to advocate for Communities Not Cages in Albany. Courageous community members shared personal stories about incarceration alongside legislators committed to seeing these bills enacted into law.

We saw exciting movement for the Earned Time Act and Second Look Act this year: We successfully advanced the Earned Time Act through the New York Senate Corrections Committee and the Second Look Act through the Codes Committee. This year's progress indicates real pathways for passage, and we are excited to build on the momentum in the year to come.

Raise the Age & Clean Slate

CCA's Advocacy and Organizing team has also been working to preserve hard-won criminal legal system reforms. Nine years ago, the New York legislature passed the Raise the Age Act to increase the age of criminal responsibility from 16 to 18 and prevent children from being tried as adults. Since going into effect, CCA has worked alongside the Coalition to Protect Raise the Age, successfully staving off multiple attempts to roll back the law through advocacy, public education, youth development, communications, and community organizing work.

CCA staff also continue to raise awareness for the Clean Slate Act. CCA won passage of Clean Slate in 2023, and it will be fully in enacted in 2027. The law automatically seals old conviction records, reducing barriers to employment, housing, and education for millions of New Yorkers. This year CCA advocates and local leaders held Clean Slate Clinics in community spaces, providing opportunities for directly-impacted people and loved ones to learn about the law and its potential to support their efforts to build brighter futures.



Senator Julia Salazar and Assemblymember Latrice Walker speak at The Second Look Symposium at Brooklyn Law School

Extending the Conversation: Second Look Town Halls

This year we hosted several “Second Look Town Hall” conversations to bring together advocates, leaders, and officials and cultivate deeper understanding for the Bill. In our first conversation at CUNY Law, CCA Director of Restorative Justice Patrick Stephens stood alongside Chief Judge Rowan Wilson, Chief Administrative Judge Joseph Zayas, Senator Julia Salazar, Queens Borough President Donovan Richards, Assemblymember Latrice Walker, Professor Steven Zeidman, and CCA members Charisse Peace and Percy West to call for passage of the Second Look Act.

CCA STRENGTHENS THE SUPPORT NETWORK FOR YOUTH IN UPSTATE NEW YORK

Our Transition Advocacy team supports numerous students each year as they face disciplinary hearings or return to school from detention or long-term suspension. Transition Advocates help students and families navigate the disciplinary process. They serve as liaisons between students, families, and school officials, and ensure students and guardians know their rights. Transition Advocates also support young people in maintaining their education throughout the process, including access to the legal and community resources they need to succeed.

CCA engages over 130 Syracuse youth annually in our Violence Prevention Peer Leadership Program. The program uses the evidence-based “Too Good for Violence” curriculum to help young people gain the skills and confidence needed to recognize and disengage from potentially violent situations, and disrupt the school-to-prison pipeline. We provide Violence Prevention programming to youth in the community and in detention at Hillbrook Juvenile Detention Center.



CCA youth participant receives guidance during the After School Alternatives photography class

CCA builds opportunities for youth in Syracuse and Rochester through a wide array of programming designed to disrupt the school-to-prison pipeline.

Our After School Alternatives (ASA) program at PSLA@Fowler High School provides extracurricular enrichment activities to Syracuse youth. ASA offers academic support, career exploration, and workshops in art, poetry, music, health, and wellness. ASA allows students to explore their interests and cultivate the skills and behaviors they need to thrive in adulthood.

Our Rochester Youth Advisory Board (YAB) centers youth participants' expertise and leadership. This year, YAB members planned and coordinated a six-week, youth-led "Candid Conversations" series to address topics they identified, including self-love, self-respect, post-secondary planning, mental health, discipline, youth employment, and financial literacy. "Candid Conversations" helped youth develop leadership and project management skills, and inspired them to plan for the future.

This spring CCA took Rochester youth participants on a week-long tour of Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Youth explored college campuses, met students and faculty, and learned about academic offerings, campus life, and career pathways. The trip was transformative for many participants; it broadened perspectives on post-secondary opportunities and helped young people set goals for their futures.

Expanding Our Reach

CCA continues to expand the reach of our youth programming throughout upstate New York. As a lead organization with the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services' Project RISE initiative we mentor two grassroots organizations in youth development and restorative justice services, supporting Project RISE in their efforts to address violence in the community. In Rochester, CCA partners with the Monroe County Library System's Wired for Opportunity initiative to deliver a free training series for youth to develop digital literacy skills. We also continue to collaborate with RochesterWorks and the City of Rochester to offer internships for youth via the ROC Your Job After School Employment Program. By developing our programming and building collaborative relationships with organizations in Monroe and Onondaga Counties, we strengthen the support network for youth across Upstate New York.

REENTRY ADVOCACY HELPS NEW YORKERS ACCESS EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

People with conviction histories face enormous barriers to employment, education, and housing many years after they have completed their sentence. CCA's Reentry Advocacy program works to reduce that perpetual punishment by providing 1:1 legal advocacy for people with criminal records.



At the Reentry Connections Conference, CCA Community Organizer Thomas Gant moderated "Who Controls Opportunity? Employment, Licensing & Access," joined by CCA Senior Reentry Advocate Dan Karlin, Shawn "GEE" Goburn, and Keith Brown.

CCA Reentry Advocates work with participants to obtain, review, and correct criminal conviction records; secure Certificates of Rehabilitation or seal records; advocate for work clearances; and understand legal rights and obligations in hiring processes.

CCA also works to expand and improve civic restoration services across New York State. Reentry Advocacy is in our second year of partnership with the Reentry Association of Western New York to expand civic restoration services in Monroe County. Reentry Advocacy collaborates with the Judicial Process Commission and Legal Assistance of Western New York and Legal Services of Central New York to bolster services in Rochester and Syracuse. Thanks to a recent award from the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services we are significantly expanding our Reentry Advocacy work with employment-ready individuals. This opportunity increases access for a critical population of community members who have had very limited options for support until now.

Impact in Action: 'Sam's' Story

'Sam' was in nursing school when she came to CCA for help . A few months out from graduation, Sam realized her past conviction might create barriers to licensure. CCA supported Sam in applying for a Certificate of Relief from Disabilities (CRD) and overcoming potential barriers. The court granted the CRD just two weeks later; Sam would be able to acquire her nursing license. Sam shared the following thoughts on the impact of CCA's services:

"Because of your help, I now have the opportunity to move forward and continue using my LPN license, which is a huge part of my life and my future, especially as I provide for my children. You gave me a second chance, and I fully intend to make the most of it."

—'Sam,' Reentry Advocacy Participant

CCA SUPPORTS COURT-INVOLVED NEW YORKERS ACROSS THE STATE

For 45 years, CCA has been supporting New Yorkers facing criminal charges by providing court advocacy and sentencing mitigation reports. These reports help judges and attorneys understand each person's particular circumstances: their life history, their strengths, and their vulnerabilities. CCA mitigation reports provide critical context for defense counsel, who use the reports to argue for alternatives to incarceration or reduced sentences for their clients.

CCA's Mitigation Services program is part of a national movement calling for community-based restorative justice practices, including alternatives to incarceration, mental and behavioral health supports, and substance use treatment options. Research shows that incarceration is costly in tax dollars and in harm to individuals, communities, and public safety. By painting a fuller picture of people that come into contact with the criminal legal system, CCA reduces the negative impact of mass incarceration on New Yorkers and their communities.

CCA's services are in high demand, and we continue to expand the reach of our Mitigation Services programming. With funding from the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services we have expanded mitigation services to underserved areas across the state including Hudson Valley, Western New York, and the Southern Tier.

We have successfully onboarded additional mitigation specialists to support this expansion and developed collaborative relationships with public defenders and assigned counsel, allowing us to provide services in communities that did not have access to mitigation services before.

‘Luke’s’ Story

‘Luke’ was referred to CCA Mitigation Services after he was arrested for the first time and charged with felony possession of a controlled substance. A 21-year-old father with no previous legal system contact, Luke was facing a mandatory minimum sentence of eight years in prison.

CCA submitted a pre-plea memorandum that outlined Luke's resilience through a challenging upbringing, concluding that his actions stemmed from youthful naivete and external pressure rather than criminal intent. The memo also highlighted Luke's voluntary participation in CCA's Community Solutions program, persistent employment throughout treatment, his demonstrated growth and maturity, and his strong family and community ties.

CCA Mitigation Specialists recommended that the prosecutor consider a community-based resolution instead of a carceral or felony disposition, which would disrupt his steady progress, destabilize his family, and undermine the rehabilitative progress he had already made through CCA's Community Solutions program. CCA’s report proved instrumental in successfully persuading the prosecutor to dismiss charges against Luke.



CUSE AND CORE CENTERS PROVIDE HOLISTIC SUPPORT FOR THOSE IN RECOVERY

CCA's CUSE and CORE Centers offer holistic, peer-led recovery support for youth and adults in Syracuse and Rochester. Grounded in community and mutual support, these services allow participants to support one another as they navigate their recovery journeys. CCA provides an array of skill-building and wellness activities, including cooking and nutrition classes, family engagement programming, mindfulness workshops, and financial education. This year we integrated problem gambling awareness and support groups into our programming, in recognition of the growing issue of gambling disorder. We also provide Naloxone training to members and staff alike to promote overdose awareness and prevention. This comprehensive range of services strengthens social connections, promotes emotional well-being, and helps participants develop the skills they need to live independently.



CORE participants enjoy a group outing to Seabreeze Amusement Park in Rochester

CCA is committed to delivering community-driven services. Both the CUSE and CORE Center convene Advisory Boards of participants who contribute to service planning, program development, and strategic allocation of Opioid Settlement Fund resources. Current priorities include:

- **Expanding recovery programming**
- **Addressing barriers to housing and transportation**
- **Planning community engagement activities**

By bringing their personal experiences to the table, CUSE and CORE peers ensure that CCA's services remain responsive to the needs and priorities of the community.

Expanding Our Reach

CUSE and CORE Center staff continue to expand our reach across Onondaga and Monroe Counties. This year, CUSE staff conducted outreach and presentations at dozens of organizations, including Syracuse University, the Onondaga County Drug Task Force, and the Citizen Review Board. In March, CUSE Project Director Shevy Clark took the stage at the New York Council on Problem Gambling Conference in Albany to deliver a presentation on culturally attuned treatment for gambling disorder, sharing her expertise with recovery leaders from across the state. CORE Center staff have also been expanding networks in Rochester, conducting outreach at organizations such as the Reentry Association of Western New York, Willow Domestic Violence Center, and Rochester Works.



CORE Center staff and members meet with staff from the Office of Addiction Services and Supports

FREEDOM COMMONS PROVIDES STABILITY AND SUPPORT FOR NEW YORKERS RETURNING HOME

For people returning home from incarceration, safe and stable housing can be the difference between having the opportunity to move forward and facing yet another barrier. Since 2019, CCA's Freedom Commons has provided housing and community-based support in Syracuse for people impacted by the criminal legal system—helping ensure that a lack of housing does not stand in the way of rebuilding connections, pursuing goals, and determining what comes next.

Freedom Commons provides a continuum of housing designed to meet people where they are. Our permanent supportive housing offers long-term, affordable homes for people who have experienced homelessness, disability, and criminal legal system involvement. The Freedom Commons Academy provides emergency housing for people returning to the community after incarceration, while our rapid re-housing program helps people move from emergency shelter into permanent homes.



With support from HUD's Continuum of Care, eligible Academy residents can remain for up to two years, providing time and stability as they work toward their own goals.

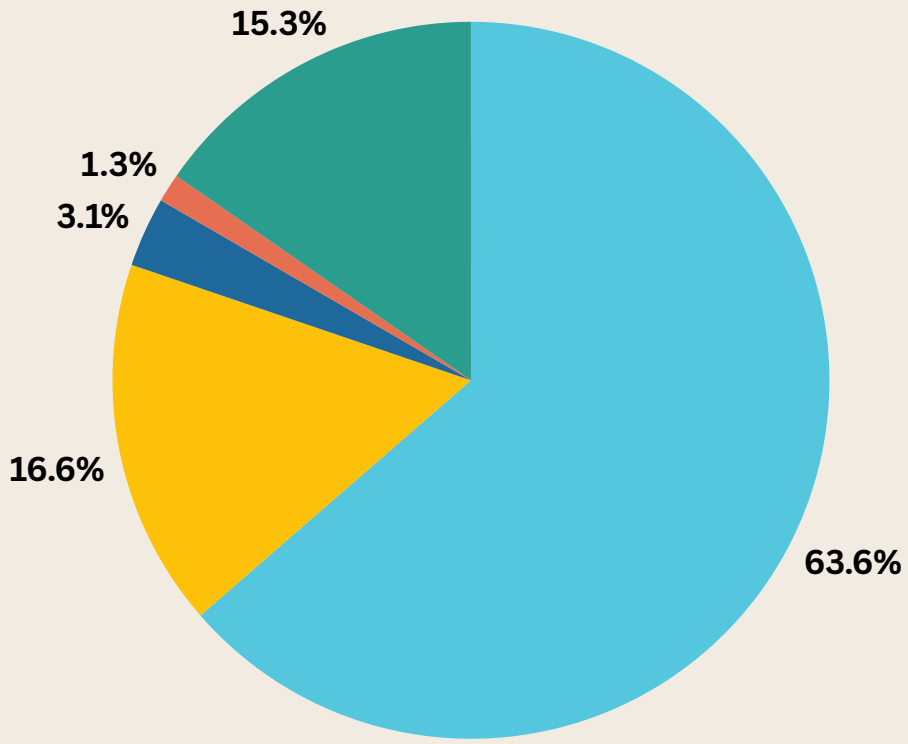
Safe, reliable housing serves as the foundation upon which Freedom Commons residents are able to build their independence and well-being. Freedom Commons provides a holistic array of services to residents, including case management, employment readiness, mental health and substance use support, and reentry planning. These structured supports help residents build positive routines, strengthen family and community connections, and develop self-sufficiency.

The strength of the program lies in the relationship-building and engagement activities that create a sense of community among Freedom Commons residents. Weekly community meetings give residents a chance to share their experiences, challenges, and successes and support one another as they transform their lives. Community partners provide workshops on topics such as financial literacy and nutrition, enhancing residents' life skills and long-term well-being.

One resident, 'John,' came to the Freedom Commons Academy after returning home from incarceration. Several months later, he moved into permanent supportive housing at Freedom Commons, where he continued working with CCA staff and pursuing the goals he had set for himself. After three years, John was ready for another step: an apartment of his own. CCA helped cover his security deposit and first month's rent, removing a financial barrier that might otherwise have stood between him and permanent housing.

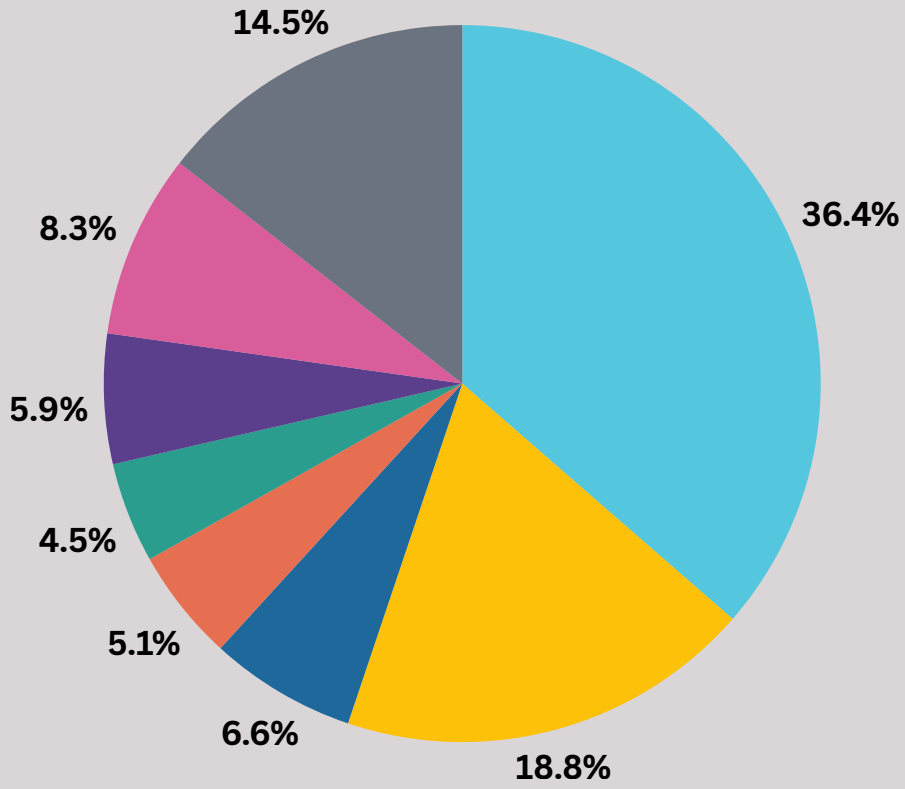
John's experience reflects what Freedom Commons is designed to make possible. People returning home from incarceration should not have to overcome homelessness and housing instability on top of the barriers they already face. By pairing housing with relationships, resources, and community, Freedom Commons helps create the conditions for people to exercise greater control over their futures—and to build the lives they want for themselves.

Expenses



- Salaries and Wages
- Consultants and Subcontractors
- Occupancy
- Supplies
- Other

Functional Expenses



- Youth/Young Adult Services
- Recovery and Treatment Services
- Reintegration Services
- Mitigation Services
- Advocacy and Organizing
- Housing Services
- ATI/ATD
- Management and General

Support and Revenue	2025	2024
Government Grants and Contracts	$16,656,640	$15,977,694
Contributions and Other Revenue	$3,745,983	$2,645,492
TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE	$20,402,623	$18,623,186

Expenses by Cost Category	2025	2024
Salaries and Wages	$12,963,110	$12,291,032
Consultants and Subcontractors	$3,385,583	$2,757,482
Occupancy	$641,916	$594,609
Supplies	$261,480	$299,846
Other	$3,127,680	$3,036,500
TOTAL	$20,379,769	$18,979,469

Expenses by Program Area	2025	2024
Youth/Young Adult Services	$7,417,883	$6,676,908
Recovery and Treatment Services	$3,824,354	$3,737,907
Reintegration Services	$1,348,574	$1,864,518
Mitigation Services	$1,033,876	$995,112
Advocacy and Organizing	$922,802	$869,251
Housing Services	$1,194,673	$854,447
ATI/ATD	$1,692,620	$1,170,215
Management and General	$2,944,987	$2,811,111
TOTAL	$20,379,769	$18,979,469

Center for Community Alternatives (CCA) supports and builds power with people across New York State who have been affected by mass incarceration, criminalization and community disinvestment.

Through a statewide network of direct services, advocacy and organizing, and by supporting the leadership of directly-impacted people, we advance civil and human rights for all New Yorkers.

CCA works to build a world where everyone has what they need to thrive.



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