

About Pretrial Services

CASES' Pretrial Services Program provides an alternative to detention for eligible defendants awaiting trial, helping them attend court dates and avoid rearrest while remaining in the community. CASES has provided pretrial services since 2016, using evidence-informed practices to address clients' needs while allowing them to stay in their jobs, be with their families, and access services during the pendency of their case. **More than 91% of all CASES Pretrial Services clients from 2016-2019 attended all court appearances, and more than 90% had no new felony arrest while in the program.**

Recent statewide bail reform has expanded the charges eligible for Pretrial Services. With this expansion, an estimated 4,000 people annually who may have been previously unable to afford bail may receive CASES' Pretrial Services in lieu of detention—up from 1,200 in 2019. Services include:

- ✓ Screening and assessment
- ✓ Court-date reminders
- ✓ Face-to-face meetings at clients' homes and in the community
- ✓ Group-based cognitive behavioral services
- ✓ Access to CASES' mental health, education, and employment services
- ✓ Referrals to providers to address individual participants' needs and goals
- ✓ Mobile services delivered directly in the community

Who We Serve

CASES serves all eligible defendants age 16 and older facing trial in New York County (Manhattan), regardless of where they live. **New York's bail reform law has expanded eligibility to include all but the the most serious offenses. Pretrial Services participants have a wide range of needs, including as related to mental health, substance use, employment, and housing.**

Consistent with disparities in the criminal justice system, most Pretrial Services participants identify as Black, Latinx, or Multiracial. **Most participants cannot afford even a few hundred dollars in bail and thus would previously have been detained in jail while awaiting trial—in contrast to more affluent individuals facing similar charges who would have been allowed to remain in the community based primarily on their economic status.**

Pretrial Services

2020 by the numbers

Participants Served

3,500-4,000
projected in 2020
173% increase
from 2019

Ethnicity & Race

38%
identify as
Latinx

84%
identify as
Black or
Multiracial

Housing Needs

1/3
of clients are
experiencing
homelessness

Length of Stay

5 months
Average time engaged in
program services

How Pretrial Services Works

During arraignment, judges are given discretion to assign defendants to one of two tiers of supervision based on their likelihood of appearing for later court dates, among other factors. **All clients receive an immediate intervention.** Depending on their assigned tier and assessed needs, clients are connected with CASES' continuum of services, including a range of case management, clinical treatment, and—for young adults—education, employment, and family services. As needed, CASES staff also provide referrals to partner provider organizations in the community and accompany participants to initial appointments.

Supervision Tiers

Tier One: Supervised Release

First week: Staff conduct evidence-based assessments to determine whether the client has a higher level of need and, as appropriate, connect clients to services.

Ongoing: Participants are expected to meet with staff by phone and/or in person at minimum once and at maximum three times per month during the pendency of their case.

Tier Two: Enhanced Supervised Release

First week: Depending on needs identified immediately after arraignment, participants are strongly encouraged to attend specific evidence-based groups and/or interventions, including substance use and/or cognitive behavioral health programming.

Ongoing: Participants are scheduled for least five check-ins during the first month and at minimum two phone calls and two in-person meetings in subsequent months during the pendency of their case.

About CASES

The Center for Alternative Sentencing and Employment Services (CASES) provides services for people who are at varying stages of criminal justice system involvement, including youth and adults with serious mental illness. CASES' services include award-winning alternatives to detention and incarceration, an outpatient mental clinic specializing in serving justice-involved individuals, and programming in offices across the city that aims to prevent initial or further contact with the justice system.

CASES Offices

Central Harlem

2090 Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. Blvd,
8th Floor
New York, NY 10027
(212) 553-6606

Downtown Brooklyn

151 Lawrence St.
3rd Floor
Brooklyn, NY 11201
(212) 553-6300

The Nathaniel Clinic

Harlem Location
4th Floor
(212) 553-6708

Borough-Based Offices

Bronx

424 E. 147th Street,
5th Floor
Bronx, NY 1045

Queens

163-18 Jamaica Avenue
Suite 504
Jamaica, NY 11432
(212) 553-6300

**For more information,
please visit
www.cases.org**