City of Houston Credible Messengers Pilot Program

June 2025

CA4HY

Discussion Items

- Introductions
- Program Overview
- Learnings, Successes, and Challenges
- Q&A

Meet the Team

Tiffany Echevarria

Michael Galloway

Will Harris

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Collective Action for Youth

Credible Messenger Pilot Program Timeline

November 2023
Letter with Intent to Proceed

September 2024
Onboarding, training and launching the pilot program

February 2025
Expand Pilot Program; max case load 216

March 2025
Community violence interruption strategy launches with Urban Bridge Consulting

Spring 2022
CA4Y received CM3 training and adopted CM philosophy

October 2024
CM and mentee matches start; max case load 45 total

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CLIENT JOURNEY

Referral

We accept referrals from community (.i.e. teachers, parents, community leaders).

Assess Eligibility

Must be between ages 10 - 35, reside in the selected zips & be vulnerable to become justice involved or justice involved.

Demographics & Medical History

Completed 1:1 with our licensed clinician.

Self- Sufficiency Matrix

Completed 1:1 with assigned CM

CM Match Begins

CM and mentee start a CM relationship for up to 12 months.

Match with Community Partner

Once the mentee is ready, they are matched with a community partner.

Client Notes Each Week

CM write notes after every attempt to connect with their mentee.

Weekly Review of Client Notes

The full team sits and reviews CM notes.

Monthly Healing Circles

Our licenses clinician hosts two healing circles every month, one for mentees and practitioners.

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Credible Messengers Team

Jernard Brown

Jonathan Rodriquez

Will F. Harris

Jada Autman

Edgar Sazo

Kiya Slater

Devante Pope

Jarrod Foster

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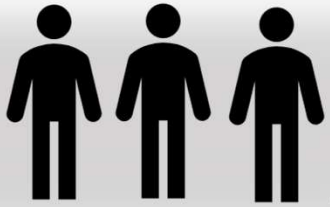
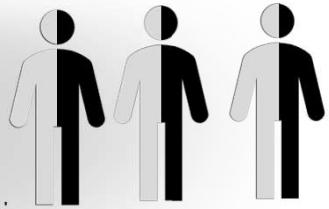


- Young People in Action
- Excel Beyond
- US Dream Academy



- Pure Justice
- Sons of Sophistication
- Acres Home Barber College

Acres Home Barber College

Since its establishment in 1992, the college has been providing quality education and training to aspiring barber.

Excel Beyond Circumstances

"Change your life simply by changing your mind." Excel Beyond specializes in life coaching, mentoring, counseling, and alternative life choices

U.S. Dream Academy

US Dream Academy's vision is to lead the next generation of global-minded, character driven youth toward actualizing their full potential.

TXRX

TXRX Labs is a nonprofit makerspace in Houston dedicated to fostering innovation, education, and workforce development through hands-on training in manufacturing, engineering, and technology.

Women Healing & Empowering Women

WHEW is on a mission using the arts as a healing tool to address interconnected challenges women face such as former incarceration, homelessness, and domestic violence, starting local going global.

Operation Prison Prevention

OPP offers mind changing skillsets and a 9-week curriculum that transforms the thinking patterns of the mind of those who are at-risk.

Young People in Action

YPIA is designed to uncover and develop their academic, creative, and leadership potential.

Sons of Sophistication

Sons of Sophistication is dedicated to advancing the lives of young minority men. The goal is to foster an inspiring environment, where young men can push themselves as well as each other to defy stereotypes and break boundaries.

Pure Justice

Pure Justice seeks to empower, inspire, and activate its members and community supporters

CDM Boxing

CDM, a staple in the Greenspoint Community has proven to be a resource and an asset for our young people. Through courage, determination, and motivation CDM strives to provide a product that young people can be proud of.

Aknew Approach

Aknew Approach empowers and equips Black and Brown youth and their families with the tools to successfully grow and overcome the residual impacts of the Criminal Justice System.

Destined for Empowerment

Destined for Empowerment CDC equips, empowers and enhances the community by caring for its development socially, economically, and emotionally.

Parent and Family Navigator

- Bi-monthly events for all families
- Support group
- Warm meal
- Resource sharing
- Workforce development

- People's Legal Clinic

Tier 1

- Hire and employ a full time CM
- Maintain a caseload of 15 mentees
- Data entry
- Attend weekly planning meetings

- Young People in Action
- Excel Beyond
- US Dream Academy

Tier 2

- Hire and employ a part-time CM
- Maintain a caseload of 7 mentees
- Data entry
- Attend weekly planning meetings

- Pure Justice
- Sons of Sophistication
- Acres Home Barber College

Tier 3

- Maintain slots for mentees, as detailed in MOU
- Attend bi-weekly planning meetings

- Operation Prison Prevention
- Destined for Empowerment
- Women Healing Empower Women
- TXRX
- CDM Boxing

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Learnings, Successes and Challenges

- Obtaining food security, employment and education rank as the highest priority
- We receive the highest number of referrals from 77028, 77016, and 77060
- Average mentee age is 21 years old
- Caseload is comprised of 81% Males and 19% Females
- 0 Juvenile Probation clients have reoffended since entering the program

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HOUSTON HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Credible Messenger Mentoring

#foryouth
#secondchances
#mentorship

Who We Are

If you've ever wished for a big brother or sister, a mentor, or simply someone dependable, Credible Messengers are here for you. We are full-time, experienced individuals deeply concerned about your well-being.

What We Do

With a heart full of love and unwavering support, Credible Messengers help youth and families break the cycle and the long-term impact of justice system involvement.

What We Offer

- Mentorship
- Peer Support
- Coaching
- Employment Opportunities

Scan to get connected!

Questions, comments or ideas?

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