

When the Erie County Youth Bureau and Youth Detention Facility merged into the Youth Services Center, under the leadership of the Department of Social Services, one of the primary goals was to add Youth Bureau positive development programming into the Youth Detention Center through Primetime and Year Round programming.

Programming has been provided by African-American Cultural Center, Child & Adolescent Treatment Services, Community Action Organization, Firsthand Learning, Heritage Centers, Willie Hutch Jones Sports & Education, and Young Audiences of WNY.

Youth in the Detention Center are generally aged 13 to 16 years old, and are at risk of academic failure, substance abuse, gang activity, and repeated juvenile delinquency. The three main goals for the program are reducing recidivism, providing a successful transition to home communities, and ensuring that the youth build a sense of leadership, responsibility, and self-confidence. A variety of programs are offered in order to prepare youth for life after Detention—education and career development programs, health and life skills programs, academic support, and character and leadership development programs.