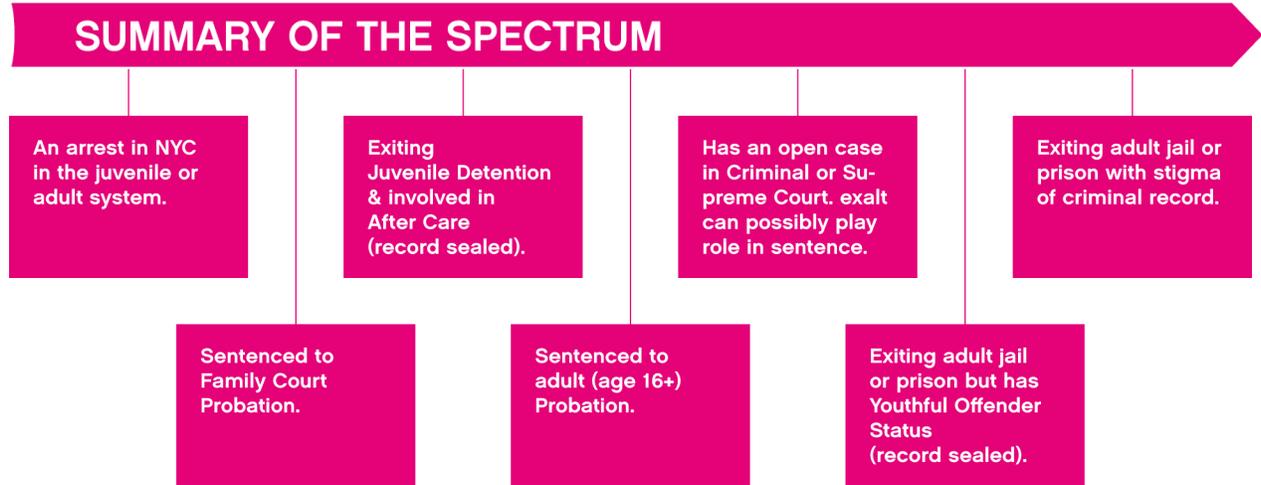


YOUTH REFERRAL CRITERIA

exalt serves court-involved youth, ages 15-19, “along the spectrum of criminal justice involvement”.



The spectrum illustrated above includes examples of junctures throughout the criminal justice system where **exalt** can intervene. We are one of the few organizations dedicated to serving exclusively court-involved with an intensive youth development program linking education and employment. While we are designed to serve a wide range of youth along the “spectrum,” because we are a scarce resource providing a very specific type of intervention, we want to ensure that we serve youth who need us most. Having to exclude any young person who we know could benefit from our program is difficult. We know that you, our valued partners and colleagues in this work, understand this difficult line that organizations must draw in order to optimally serve those they are designed for. We thank you for working with us to serve one of New York’s most vulnerable and under-served groups.

OUR ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA INCLUDE

We serve youth ages 15-19 from all five boroughs. However, youth must be willing to travel. Internships could be in Manhattan or another borough, and all other program components, including the intensive 6 week classes, take place in our downtown Brooklyn space.

exalt ONLY serves court-involved youth. In our definition, the beginning of the “spectrum” of criminal justice involvement is an arrest (in Family, Criminal or Supreme Court) that was processed. Anything beyond that level is included in our criminal justice criteria. Note that we do not serve youth who have sex offenses, arson or homicide charges. Court involvement can be recent (within one year) or current.

Youth must be enrolled in school or an educational program or be willing to enroll in order to participate (in which case **exalt** will assist with this process.) **exalt** prioritizes youth who do not yet have high school diplomas or GEDs. Our primary goals are to keep them out of further criminal justice system involvement and to increase their investment/achievement in education – in particular by helping them attain these important educational credentials. While **exalt** will continue serving some youth who have GED’s or IEP diplomas, we do not serve youth who already have high school diplomas or college experience.



elevating expectations for youth

exalt does not serve youth who have received or are receiving any employment/job readiness preparation/programs (this includes programs such as STRIVE, the Door's Career Pathway program, the Department of Education's Learning to Work program, Job Corps, etc.) Please make sure to explore this history with youth you would like to refer.

exalt does not serve youth who have more than 6 months of previous on-the-books work experience. (Off the books work experience does not qualify and **is** permissible.)

exalt youth must have stable housing situations. We cannot serve youth currently residing in a shelter or who have been in group homes for less than 1 year.

exalt cannot serve undocumented youth. Youth must have Social Security numbers (and be able to produce their Social Security card in order to be paid.)

exalt cannot serve youth with significant mental health issues. We are not a mental health program, nor do we have clinical services embedded in our model. ***We know that most court-involved youth have been diagnosed with some form of "disorder" through some system they have interfaced with. We can serve youth who are in Special Education, and/or youth who have been diagnosed with ADD, "Conduct Disorder" or other diagnoses that don't require psychiatric medication or which would preclude them from functioning in our intensive daily program.***

exalt youth must read at a minimum of 4th grade level. We will implement a short STAR assessment during the candidate interview stage. Referral partners are not required to pre-test or know a youth's reading level. Please note that **exalt** is extremely aware of and sensitive to the role that "testing" and "assessment" play in our youths' lives. Our staff are committed and trained to establish a positive rapport with all youth who come for interviews and fully contextualize the STAR assessment with them prior to asking them to participate.

exalt is a **VOLUNTARY** program. Even if it becomes a condition of sentencing or a part of a sentence, we will only accept youth who want to participate. We determine this through our assessment process and from additional feedback/information we can get from our referral partner.