“Freedom is not just physical but also mental. We can trap ourselves in one way of thinking which ultimately stunts our growth”. - Cortez Charles

CHOOSE Freedom

About: CHOOSE Freedom is a program that supports youth impacted by incarceration. Our community navigators build relationships with youth while they are incarcerated and continue to support them upon release.

Mission: CHOOSE Freedom focuses on helping young people to see their potential and to understand their power without violence.

We will partner strategically with systems leaders to identify youth impacted by gun violence. Building on the successes of our juvenile justice diversion and school discipline alternatives programming, CHOOSE Freedom will provide:

- Gun violence prevention assistance to youth ages 12-24
- 1-on-1 programming with incarcerated young people who are less than six months away from their release date. We will use our Compass diversion curriculum to help them successfully re-engage with community, mitigating their risk of reoffending and committing firearm violence
- 1-on-1 sessions will also be offered to non-incarcerated youth at risk of gun violence
- 3-6 months of intensive Aftercare support after successful program completion
- One year of engagement in weekly restorative group sessions

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