NYC Criminal Justice

SMALLER SAFER FAIRER

ACCOMPLISHED IN THE LAST MONTH:

1 SMALLER The number of **adolescents in custody has dropped nearly 50%** since 2014. This month, the City invested an additional $3 million in initiatives to further safely reduce the number of adolescents in custody.

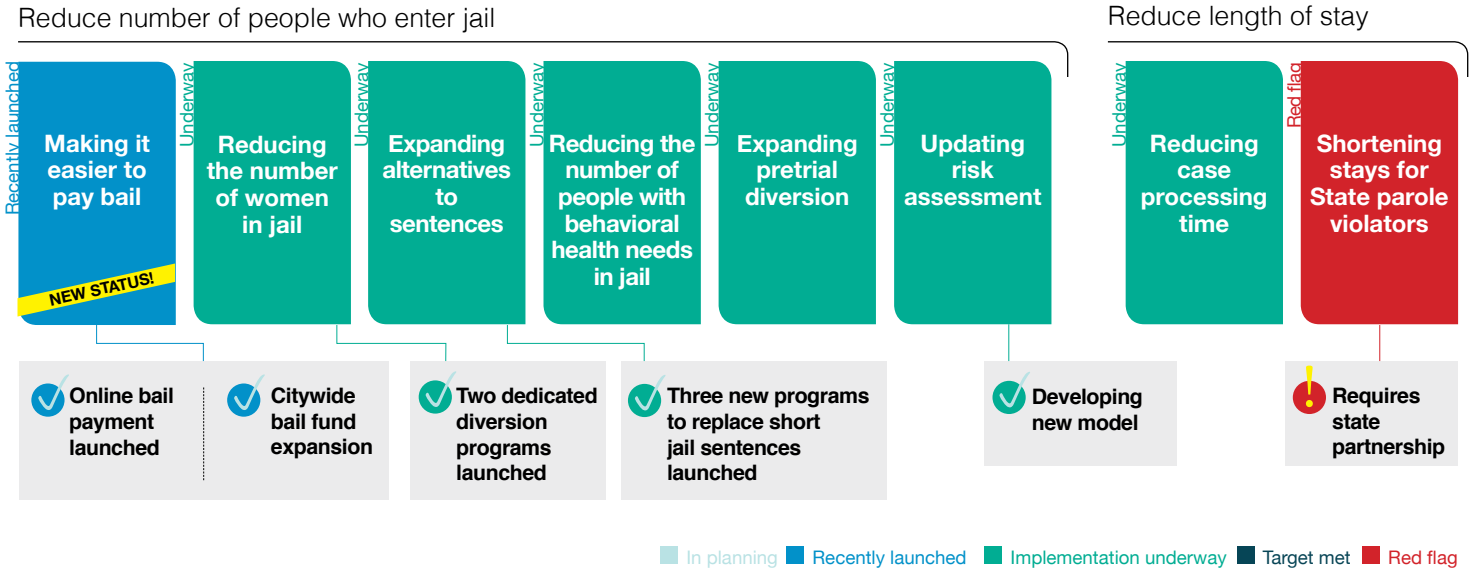
2 SAFER To make visiting Rikers Island easier for friends and loved ones, the City **launched a free, express bus service to Rikers Island**. Departing from locations in Harlem and downtown Brooklyn, these new visitor shuttles will significantly reduce travel times for family and friends, and better connect those in custody to their communities.

3 FAIRER This month, the Mayor announced that the Department of Correction will **house individuals consistent with their gender identity**. In doing so, New York City becomes one of the first major cities in the nation to make this commitment.

4 TASK FORCE This month, the Design and Culture Change Groups finalized the design principles that will guide the design of the new borough-based jail system. The Population Reduction Group continued to focus on strategies to reduce the city sentenced population.

UPDATES ON THE STRATEGIES IN THE CITY'S ROADMAP TO CLOSING RIKERS ISLAND:

1 SMALLER — SAFELY REDUCING THE SIZE OF THE JAIL POPULATION



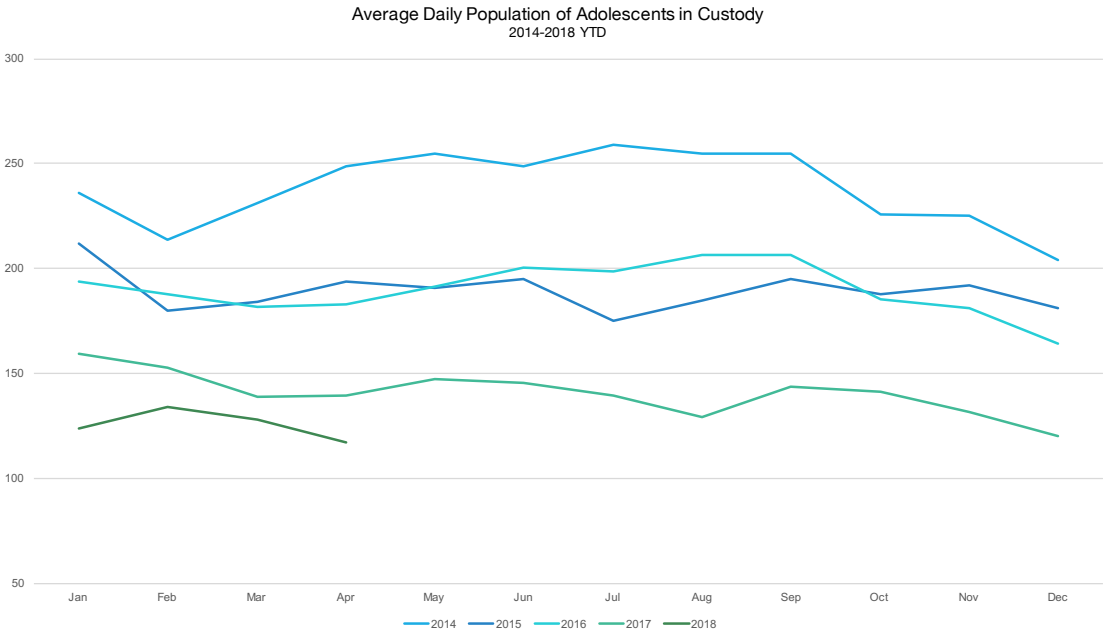
1 SMALLER

SAFELY REDUCING THE SIZE OF THE JAIL POPULATION

$3 MILLION INVESTMENT IN ADOLESCENT POPULATION REDUCTION

Since the Mayor took office, the City has achieved marked declines in justice system involvement for adolescents: the number of adolescents in custody has fallen 50% from 2014. To further these reductions, this month the City invested an additional $3 million in initiatives to divert 16- and 17- year olds from detention and shorten their length of stay. These initiatives include a treatment and therapy program for young people and their families, and an evidence-driven diversion program that provides intensive mentorship, supportive services and employment to youth. The City projects that the combined investment could reduce the number of adolescents in city custody by an additional 20% over the next five years.

ADOLESCENTS IN CUSTODY: KEY TRENDS (JANUARY 2014-DECEMBER 2018)



-50%
adolescents in DOC custody
(16 and 17 year olds)

-60%
juveniles in ACS secure detention
(under 15 years old)

Jan. 2014-Dec. 2017

NEW $3M INVESTMENT PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

1. **Family therapy:** The program will use a unique, evidence-driven model that provides support and therapy not just for the young person, but also for his or her entire family.

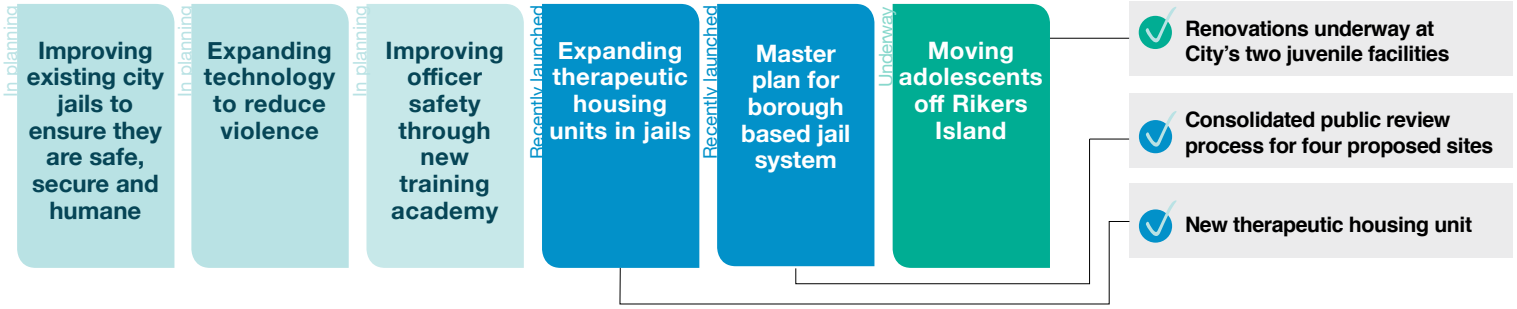
2. **Intensive mentoring:** This program will offer young people multiple years of intensive mentorship and social work support, along with opportunities for job readiness training, paid internships, and career development.

3. **In-court case expediting:** The City is investing in in-court staff to ensure young people's cases move fairly and efficiently through the court system.

Source: The Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice analysis of New York City Department of Correction data, April 2018.

2 SAFER

CREATING SAFE AND HUMANE ENVIRONMENTS



NEW EXPRESS VISITOR SHUTTLE BUS

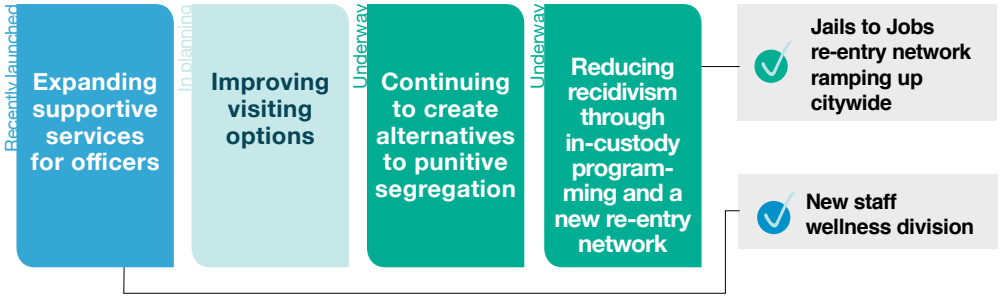
Research shows that regular visits reduce recidivism and improve community connections, but limited transportation options to Rikers Island can make visits time-consuming and difficult. This month, the City launched express shuttle bus services that will take visitors straight to Rikers Island from two convenient stops in Harlem and downtown Brooklyn, which should reduce travel time by more than 30 minutes. At full capacity, the bus is estimated to serve up to 900 visitors a day.

"No New Yorker, whether they are justice-involved or not, can flourish without strong bonds with family and loved ones. This initiative to ease transportation for visitors not only addresses physical isolation, it also maintains relationships that help individuals remain whole socially and emotionally. I applaud the administration's commitment to justice reform and I look forward to continued progress upholding our values of justice and fairness."

Council Member Stephen Levin

3 FAIRER

CHANGING THE CULTURE AND PURPOSE OF JAILS



NEW TRANSGENDER HOUSING POLICY

In April, the City announced two new policies to protect the rights and safety of transgender and gender non-conforming people in custody. First, the Mayor announced that the City will now house incarcerated individuals according to their gender identity. To provide an additional safe housing option, the Commission on Human Rights will also work with the Department of Correction to maintain the Transgender Housing Unit. Through offering these gender-affirming housing options, the City continues its leadership in the fight for LGBTQ equality.

PERSPECTIVES FROM OUR PARTNERS

"We applaud the [NYC Human Rights] Commission's leadership in protecting the rights of the transgender community. People of transgender and gender non-conforming experience are among the most vulnerable in our jails and prisons. It is imperative that cities across the U.S. follow the New York City's lead, by housing people according to their gender identity, and by providing them with safe housing alternatives, such as the Transgender Housing Unit, so that they many live safely and with dignity."

Tina Luongo, Attorney-In-Charge, Criminal Practice, The Legal Aid Society