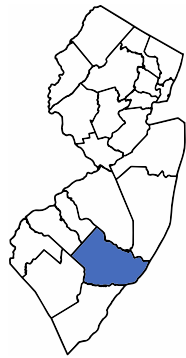


Alternative Prosecution for Positive Outcomes (APPO) Atlantic County, New Jersey

About the Program



Through a collaboration between Wellbeing & Equity Innovations (WEI) and the Atlantic City Prosecutor's Office (ACPO), we aim to disrupt the accelerating cycle of violence in Atlantic County by implementing an innovative alternative to prosecution program. The Alternative Prosecution for Positive Outcomes (APPO) Program is an evidence-driven, trauma-responsive approach designed to help those who find themselves with a pending indictable charge in Atlantic County. The program provides individuals with the tools to handle stressful situations and thrive using programmatic and other community-based supports. By working closely with long-standing community-based organizations, the local prosecutor's office, law enforcement, and residents of the county, APPO provides a path toward healing and growth, away from potential contributors to justice system involvement. The APPO program is designed for individuals who may fall into one or more of these categories: (a) have been a nonfatal shooting or stabbing victim, (b) may be contemplating retaliating for a recent crime that occurred against them, their associates, or loved ones, and (c) those who are motivated to receive individualized support and services to reduce the impact of and address potential drivers of justice involvement.

Our Responsive Approach

Recognizing that many communities are suffering from high rates of violence, APPO is a trauma-responsive program designed to promote healing while enhancing individual wellbeing. Using evidence-driven approaches that focus on healthy coping strategies, techniques to regulate emotions, and flexible thinking patterns to help individuals navigate life through non-violent means. This approach centers on human dignity, potential, and hope, helping individuals do more than just survive, but thrive.



How It Works

Participants in APPO will receive an individualized program plan based on their specific goals as identified through various assessments conducted by a WEI social worker. All participants will receive a comprehensive trauma-responsive cognitive behavioral intervention. Depending on individual circumstances, participants will receive referrals to additional community-based supports such as housing, employment, education, and intensive treatments for mental health or substance use disorders. When an individual successfully completes the program, their pending charge may be reduced or dismissed, as agreed upon during program enrollment.

To Enroll

Individuals must reside in Atlantic County, NJ, with an open indictable charge in Atlantic County Superior Court. Participants for APPO are identified through multiple sources, including the Prosecutor, Defense Attorney, or family/community member. Successful completion of the program will result in charges being downgraded or dismissed, based on the Prosecutor's discretion. For more information, please contact the Project Director, Sarah Tamburri (sarah@wellbeingandequity.org).