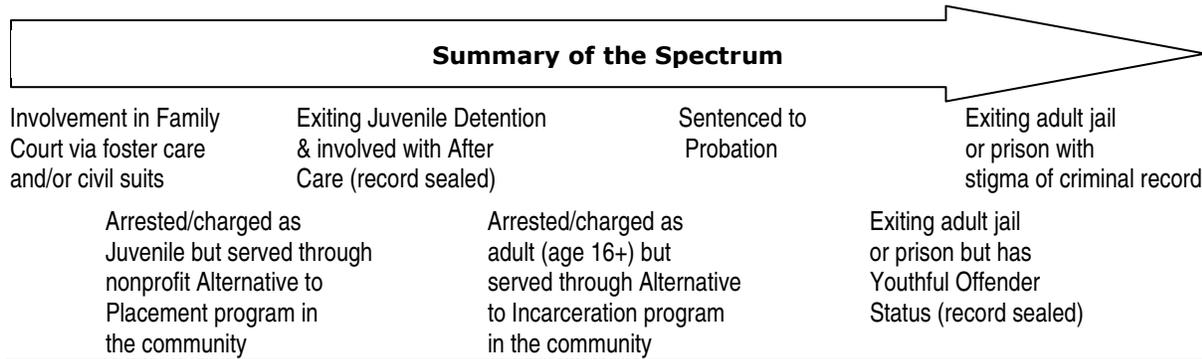


If you have a question about a potential referral, please ask! Contact Program Director, Lynnee Bonner at (718) 923-1400 ext 245 or [lynneebonner@exaltyouth.org](mailto:lynneebonner@exaltyouth.org) for questions or to make a referral.

## exalt Youth Referral Criteria

**exalt** serves youth “along the spectrum of criminal justice involvement”.



The spectrum illustrated above includes examples of junctures throughout the criminal justice system where **exalt** can intervene. While we aim to serve youth that have already gotten entangled in the justice system already, we do serve some youth who have no involvement but confront a host of risk factors.

### **Risk Factors Include:**

- History of truancy and/or school failure
- Residing in neighborhoods with high rates of arrest/poverty
- Over-aged, under-credited
- High school drop-out / expelled from school (this can include being at any juncture along the GED path)
- Involvement in foster care
- No work experience/network
- Attending under-resourced school
- Family member(s) incarcerated

### **Additional Eligibility Criteria Include:**

- Youth must be enrolled in school or an educational program or be willing to enroll in order to participate. This can mean enrollment in high school, a GED program, pre-GED or college. We WILL accept youth who have their GED but may not be enrolled in further education. We aim to inspire/encourage them to pursue higher education.
- Youth must be between the ages of 15 and 20. We prefer candidates who are 16+. We accept a small percentage of 15 year olds who demonstrate exceptional maturity.
- **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.
- Building on the above, the most important criteria for youth to participate in **exalt** is expressed and demonstrated motivation as well as the interest in and commitment to trying new things. We determine this through our interview process and from feedback/information we can get from our referral partners.

### **What Else?**

- We serve youth from all five boroughs. However, youth must be willing to travel. While most of our training takes place in Manhattan, youth will be asked to come to our downtown Brooklyn office for certain program components.
- While we require that youth have some minimal literacy proficiency (there is significant reading and writing during the class) we do NOT have a minimum academic level required for participation.
- While **exalt** serves youth who confront a host of the abovementioned risk factors, we discourage referrals for youth who are homeless or who have significant housing instability.