

CONNECTING YOUTH INITIATIVE

Re-engagement | Resources | Resilience

What is the Connecting Youth Initiative

The Connecting Youth Initiative (CYI) is a community and school-based effort providing assistance to those ages of 16-24, out of school and out of work residing in the Harlem community. CYI is managed by The Office of Government and Community Affairs, Columbia University, with the main objective of supporting participants with reengaging in educational activities and employment training programs. Through strategic, targeted outreach activities, CYI staff connect with underserved young people and match them with appropriate services and service providers.

How to Receive Assistance?

- Self Referral: Contact the Connecting Youth Program Coordinator, Henry Danner: (212)-854-4143 or via email hd2401@columbia.edu
- Community and School Referral-Community-based organizations and partner-schools can complete a CYI Referral Form and email it to hd2401@columbia.edu
- Staff-Initiated-Referrals made through activities by CYI staff members

Re-engagement Educational Support

-Getting back on track for high-school completion in a NYC public school or through TASC (formerly known as GED) preparation and attainment



-College or post-secondary education preparation

Obtaining employment opportunities:

- Direct referral to workforce/employment skill development programs
- Referral for job openings at Columbia University

Supportive Services

Case Management

Service coordination for CYI participants. Participants meet monthly or bi-weekly with a CYI staff member to review service plans, assess need for referrals to other supportive services and create short-term goal plans

Workshops

Group learning session that cover a variety of topics including, but are not limited to: financial literacy, job readiness, and life skills. Workshops are also offered in collaboration with partner organizations

Mentoring

CYI mentors meet with participants to offer individual guidance and support through guidance sessions focused on goal development and attainment. Mentors and mentees meet bi-weekly or monthly. This service is optional for CYI participants