



**Young Adult Reentry & Diversion (YARD)  
Program Evaluation Fact Sheet (Cohorts 11 & 12)  
July – December 2025**

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**What is YARD?**

The Young Adult Reentry & Diversion (YARD) program, operated by New Leash on Life USA, is a community-based alternative to traditional prosecution for young adults ages 18–24 who are at high risk of continued involvement in the criminal legal system, often related to gun possession charges.

YARD takes a holistic, relationship-centered approach that combines case management, employment and career readiness support, therapeutic services, and connections to community resources.

**What did the evaluation find?**

- ✓ 100% of participants reported being happy with the program and would recommend it to others.
- ✓ Nearly all participants reported their lives were better after completing YARD, with 70% reporting their lives were “much better.”
- ✓ Participants reported reduced barriers related to employment, finances, housing, and safety.
- ✓ Shifts in thinking showed greater responsibility, reflection, and future orientation.
- ✓ Legal relief, especially expungement, was universally viewed as highly valuable.

**Why does it matter?**

These findings demonstrate the value of community-based diversion models that address legal, economic, and emotional needs together. Results suggest YARD provides a strong foundation for stability, desistance, and long-term success for young adults navigating significant structural barriers.