“All youth have potential and, with solid guidance and never-ending support, their possibilities for greatness are endless.”
What Is the U-TURN Initiative

Ultimate Transitions Ultimate Responsibility Now (UTURN), is a six to twelve month highly intensive and comprehensive community-based probation service(s) and supervision program designed for high-risk youth who would otherwise be committed to the District of Columbia following disposition by a Judge.

The initiative is specifically designed to ensure eligible youth meet criteria in terms of the most serious charge against them, as well as other pending offenses, and social factors that must be addressed in order to reduce the likelihood of recidivism. Using a strength-based approach to working with high-risk youth and their families, U-TURN provides youth an opportunity to be rehabilitated in the community and receive an array of comprehensive services and facilitate family involvement.

In short, U-TURN provides an alternative to commitment and to the extent that public safety is not compromised, an alternative to detention during adjudication.

U-TURN’s Purpose

The purpose of U-TURN is to collaborate with public and private youth-serving agencies and organizations in order to leverage strong launching paths so that troubled youth can spring forward, determine their destinies and secure their futures. It is a therapeutically sound construct rooted in the reality that all youth have potential and, with solid guidance and never-ending support, their possibilities for greatness are endless.

New Referrals Eligibility Criteria

Youth must be pending petitioning for one or more serious felonies; or

Youth must be pending petitioning for two or more violent felonies; or

Youth must be pending petitioning for three or more felonies

Intra-Divisional Referral Criteria

Post-adjudicated youth must be pending petitioning for three or more felonies

Ineligible Criteria

Youth pending petitioning for misdemeanors or technical violations, pre or post adjudication

Additional Eligibility Criteria

Youth must sign a contract agreeing to participate and services/supervision conditions, subject to adjustment by probation officer

Youth must be between the ages of 13-18 and reside in the District of Columbia

Youth must have no pending charges in another jurisdiction

Youth must be free of pending residential treatment program placement

Program Components & Services

1. Orientation of Youth and Family
2. Seamless Case Management
3. Family Group Conferencing (FGC)
4. School Visits and Supervision Sessions
5. Home visits and supervision sessions
6. Individual Service/Supervision Plans (ISP)
7. Face to Face Curfew Monitoring and Third-Party Monitoring
8. Weekly Office Visits
9. Victim Offender Mediation facilitated by the Office of the Attorney General (OAG)

Pro-Social Services:

Mentoring, tutoring, conflict resolution, life-skills, health, education, parent skills, peer-to-peer mediation, cultural enrichment field trips, and outdoor activities, educational and employment