



# The Choice is Yours



Innovative Diversion Program for First-Time  
Nonviolent Felony Offenders

I thought the streets were always what I was meant to do. Being here, coming here **changed my whole mindset**. I don't want to be anywhere else. I want to be here, I want to be learning.

— Miguel, TCY client



“

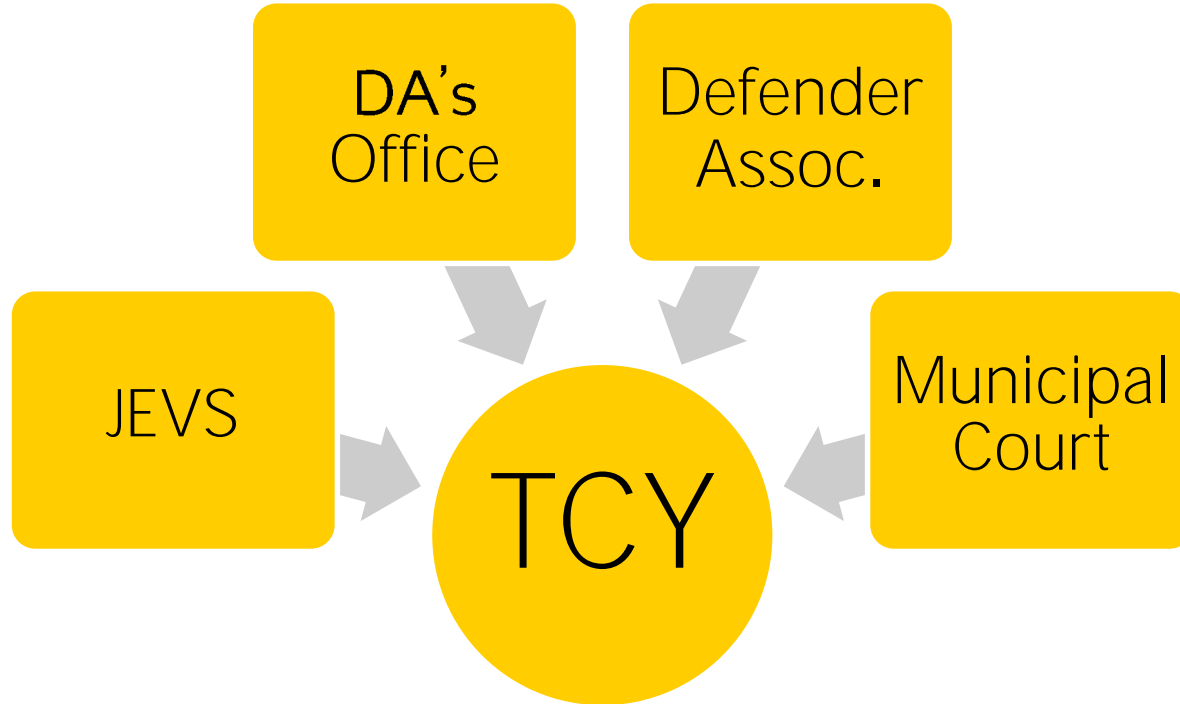


## What is **TCY**?

- In 2011, Philadelphia was facing the fourth-highest per capita inmate population in the country and three year recidivism rates were approaching 50%
- TCY was created as an-alternative-to-incarceration for first-time nonviolent offenders arrested and charged with Possession with the Intent to Distribute. (PWID)



## Who is **TCY**?



# 200

Individuals per year

# 18-24

Typical age range

# 89%

Overall Graduation rate since inception





## Why TCY?

- Second chance: education, employment & empowerment
- Strong outcomes
- Savings to government and community
- Replication potential



## What happening at TCY?

Job Readiness  
Life Skills and  
Cognitive  
Behavior Training

Paid Work  
Experience  
and/or College  
Access (SNHU)

Job Development  
and Placement

Academic  
Improvement &  
Credentialing

Case  
Management

Community  
Service /  
Restorative  
Justice

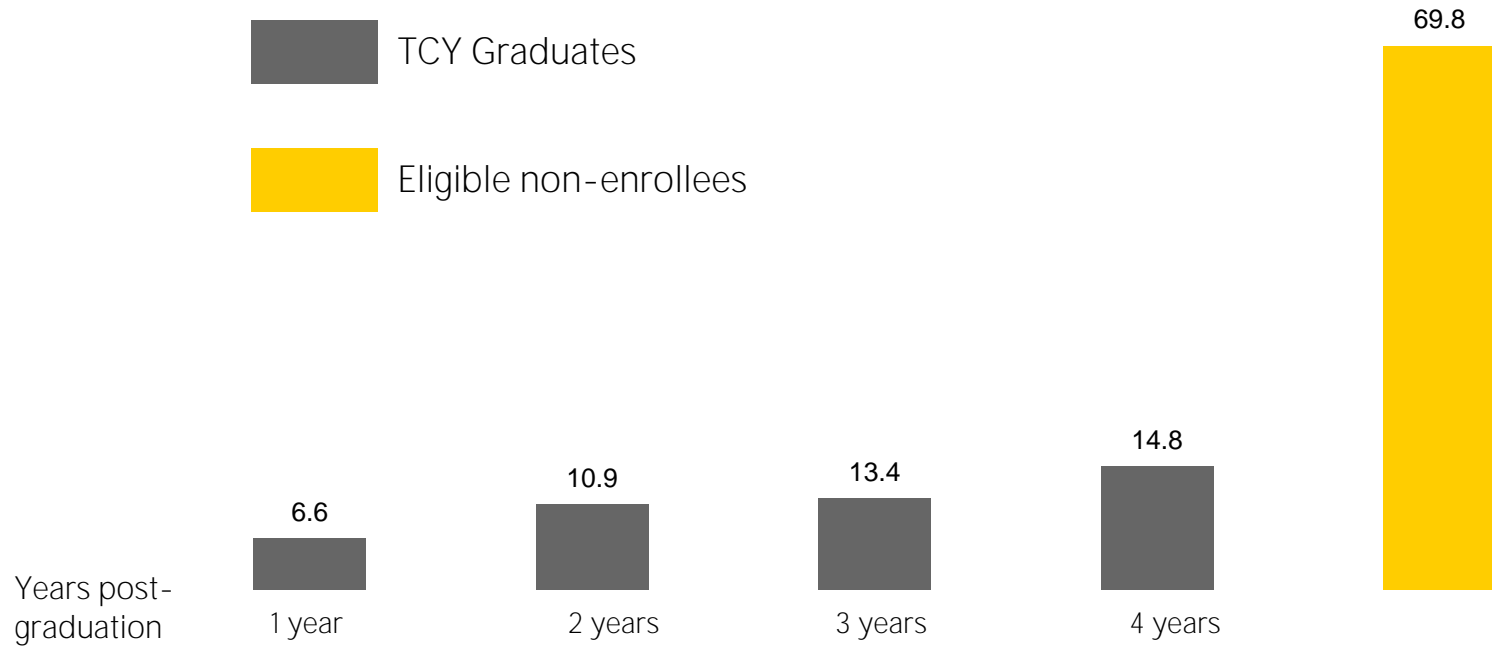


## Current TCY Outcomes

---

- ◉ Completion Rate 85%
- ◉ Secondary or post-secondary credential 80%
- ◉ Recidivism Rate 7.4%
- ◉ Job Placement / Retention Rate 74%
- ◉ Record expungement one-year post-completion, assuming no re-offense 57%





***Felony Conviction Rate: TCY Graduates vs. Eligible Non-Enrollees***



|   | Days Served in<br>Local Custody | Cost to<br>Taxpayers |
|---|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| 96 TCY Graduates  | 298                             | \$28,800             |
| 25 Defendants who<br>chose not to<br>participate in TCY | 7,534                           | <b>\$753,400</b>     |



There's a cost benefit [to TCY]...It's one of those programs that gives people the opportunity to address a wrong in a really productive manner, where they're learning and taking away skills that are useful throughout life. It's really rewarding to see [TCY graduates]...working legitimate 9-to-5 jobs, making really decent money...They're paying taxes. They're contributing to the community.

— Derek Riker, former chief of the Diversion Courts Unit at the Philadelphia District Attorney's office



“

## Closing Remarks / Q&A

Thanks for attending the Workshop!!  
Nigel D. Bowe

The Choice is Yours  
112 N. Broad St. 3<sup>rd</sup> floor  
Philadelphia Pa, 19102

