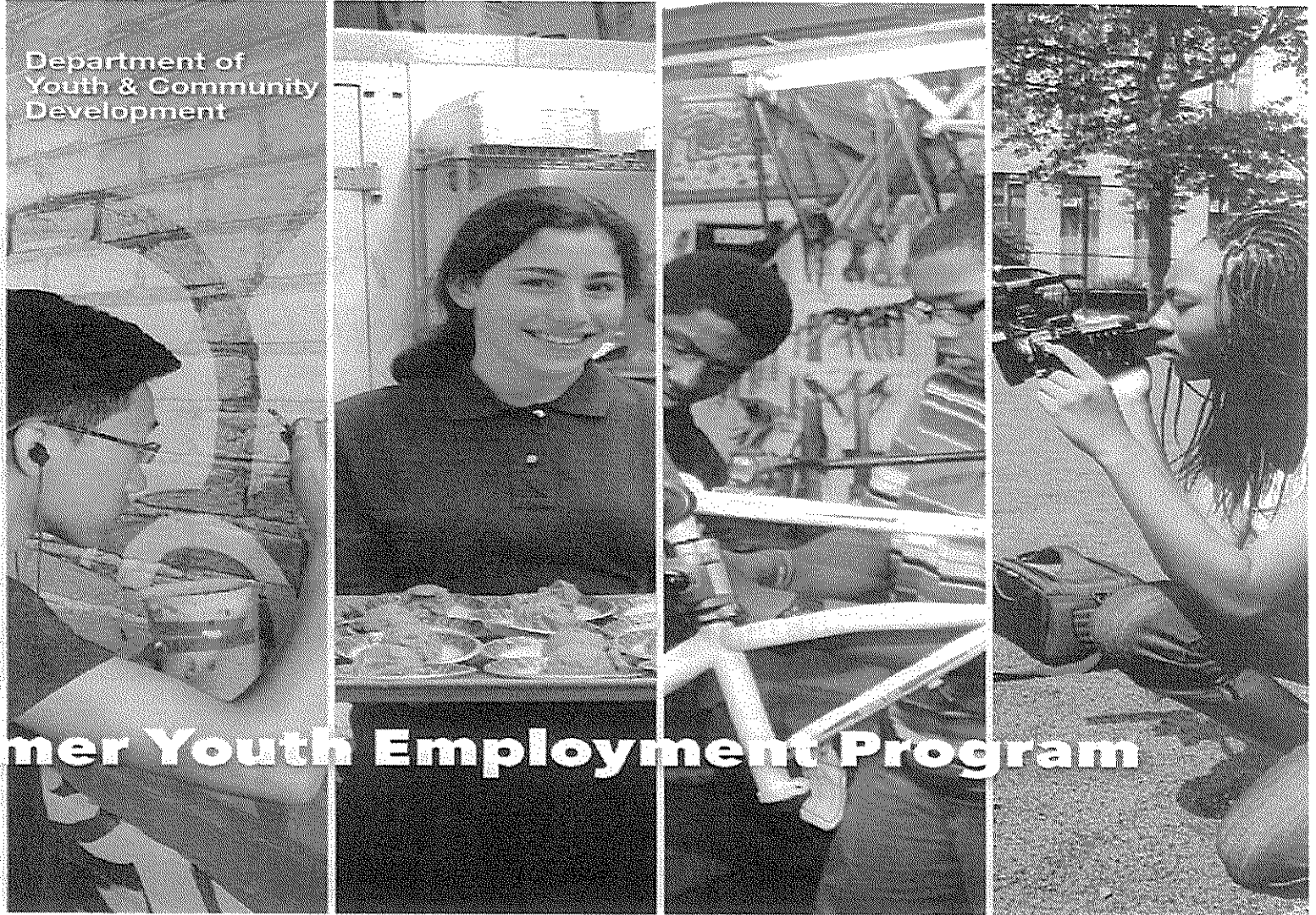


NYC

Department of
Youth & Community
Development

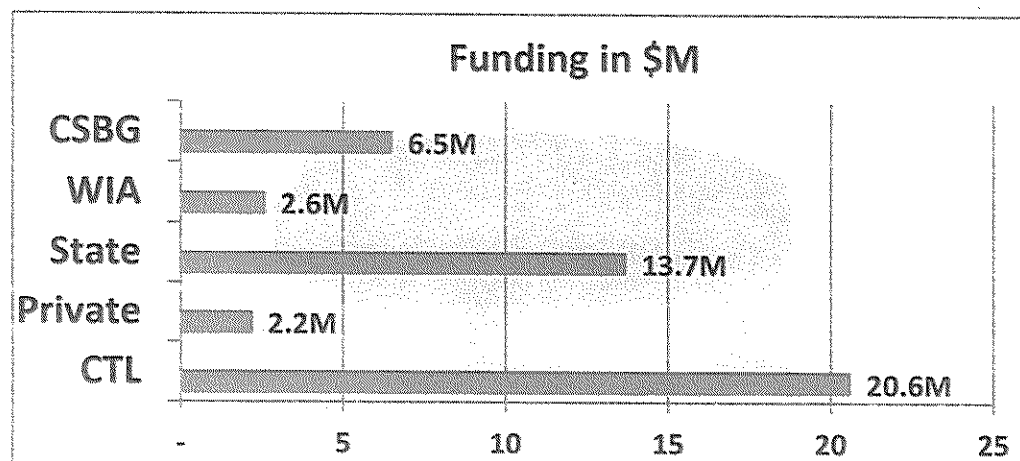
Summer Youth Employment Program



Facts and Figures

\$45.6M	Funding Committed to Program
135,388	Applications Submitted
125,619	Online Applications
35,957	Participants Enrolled
6,833	SYEP Worksites Developed
\$31.1M	Total Payroll

Funding Sources

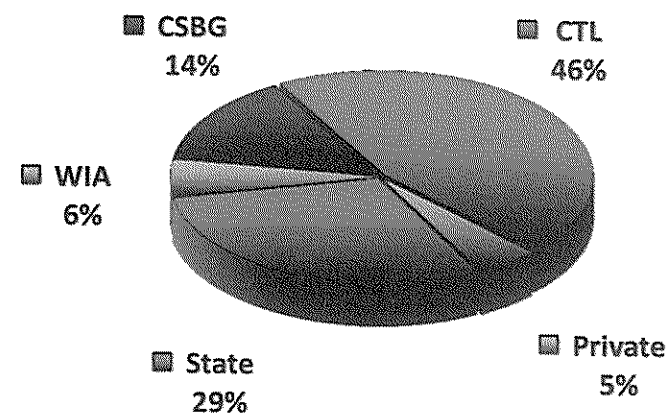


Abbreviations:

CTL	City Tax Levy
State	New York State
WIA	Workforce Investment Act
CSBG	Community Services Block Grant
Private	Donations through the Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City

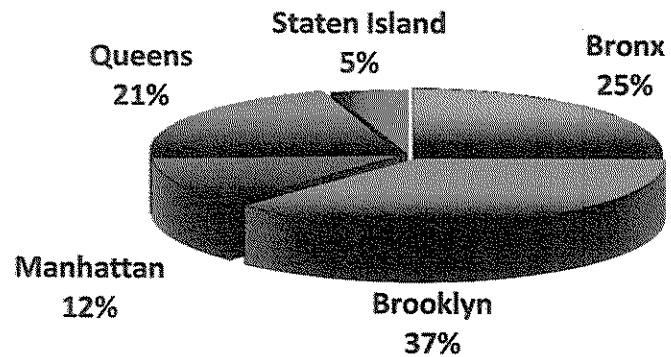
Total Funding for 2013

\$45.6M

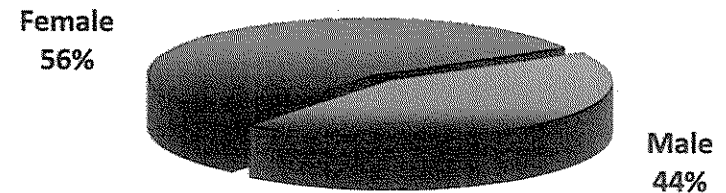


Enrollment Breakdown

By Borough

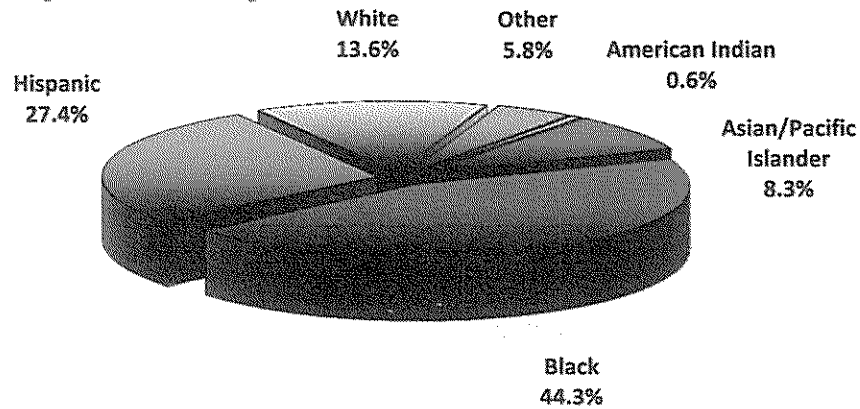


By Gender

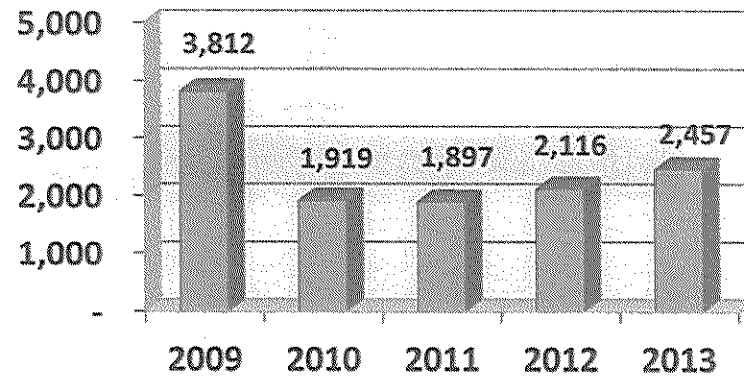


Enrollment Breakdown

By Ethnicity



Youth with Disabilities

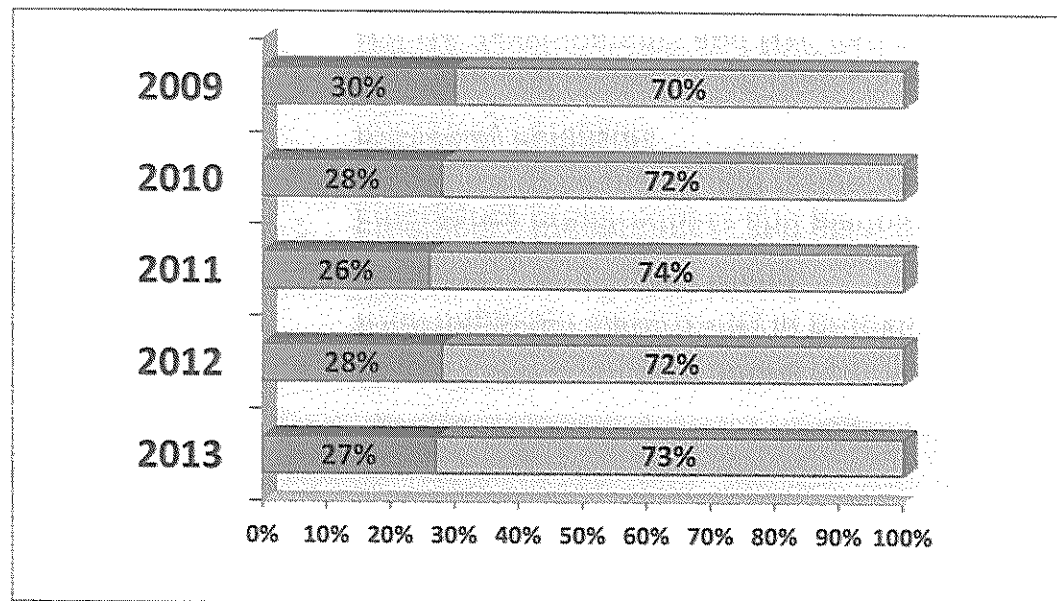


Types of Worksites

Industry/Sector	Number of Worksites	Percentage of Total (%)
Day Care/Day Camp	2,150	31.5%
Government Agency	817	12.0%
Community/Social Service	770	11.3%
Educational Services	765	11.2%
Healthcare/Medical	535	7.8%
Other	477	7.0%
Retail	475	7.0%
Arts and Recreation	381	5.6%
Real Estate/Property	95	1.4%
Community Service/Service Learning Project	92	1.3%
Financial Services	91	1.3%
Legal Services	58	0.8%
Marketing/Public Relation	37	0.5%
Hospitality/Tourism	34	0.5%
Media/Entertainment	29	0.4%
Transportation	17	0.2%
Manufacturing	10	0.1%
Total	6,833	100.0%

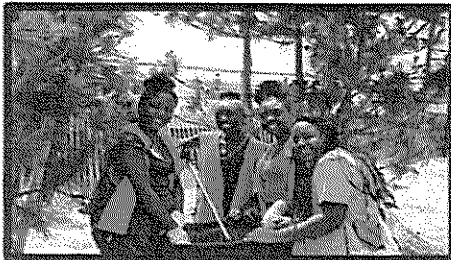
Private Sector Worksites

- RFP encouraged contractors to seek private sector placements
- 27% of worksites were in the private sector including placements at:
 - A&E Stores
 - Aloft Hotel
 - Barnes & Noble
 - Best Buy
 - CVS Pharmacies
 - Marshalls
 - Staples
 - Walgreens
 - Small businesses including doctors offices, law firms, architecture & engineering firms and privately-owned retail businesses



Hurricane Sandy Recovery

- SYEP participants were proud to play a role in continued Hurricane Sandy recovery
- Private support provided over 1,100 youth from impacted communities with the opportunity to participate in SYEP



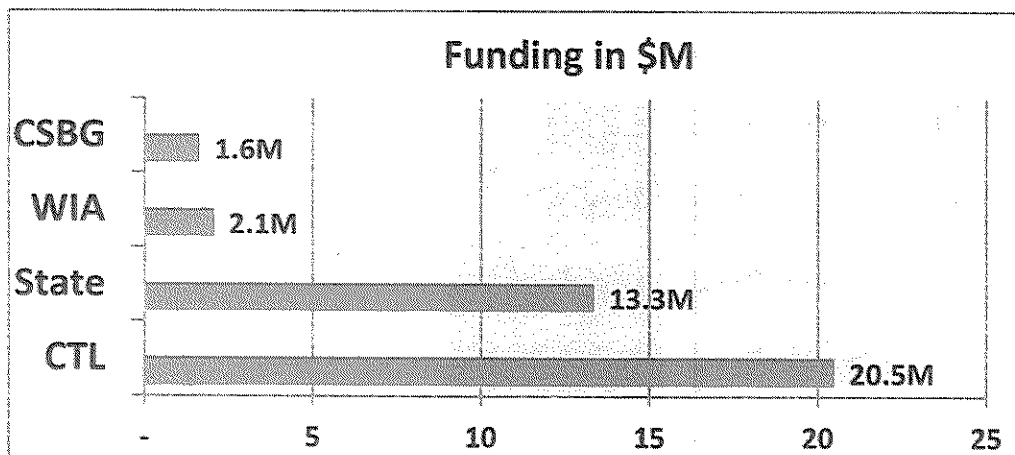
Hurricane Recovery Projects

- Over 13,000 pounds of debris removed from impacted waterfronts in Brooklyn, the Rockaways, and Staten Island
- Emergency preparedness and planning assistance to nearly 10,000 residents of the Rockaway Peninsula
- Clean-up and revitalization projects in NYCHA developments and NYC Parks & Recreation sites
- Healthy meal distribution
- Restoration projects of impacted worksites

Payroll Stats

Gross	Payroll Date
9.67M	July 26 th
10.38M	August 9 th
10.49M	August 23 rd
.52M	September Adjustment
.05M	October Adjustment
\$31.1M	Total Paid

2014 Budget Outlook



Abbreviations:

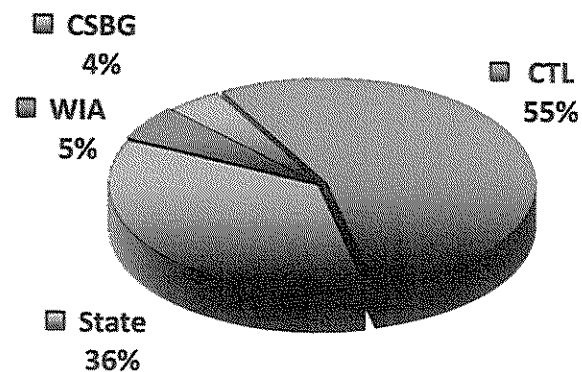
CTL	City Tax Levy
State	New York State
WIA	Workforce Investment Act
CSBG	Community Services Block Grant
Private	Donations through the Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City

Total Funding for 2014

\$37.5M

Projected Participants

28K



**TESTIMONY BEFORE
THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

OVERSIGHT: THE SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM (SYEP)

**PRESENTED BY
ALAN CHENG, ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER
ANDRE WHITE, SYEP DIRECTOR**

**NEW YORK CITY
DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2014

Good afternoon, Chairman Eugene and members of the Youth Services Committee. I am Alan Cheng, Assistant Commissioner for Youth Workforce Development at the New York City Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD). Joining me is Andre White, Director of the Summer Youth Employment Program. On behalf of Commissioner Bill Chong, I thank you for focusing on the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) as the first topic of the Committee for this new legislative session.

Background

For the benefit of new Committee members, we would like to provide some background on SYEP. DYCD has administered the program since 2003, when the Council and the previous administration moved responsibility for youth employment services and programs to DYCD. Since then, DYCD has made significant improvements to SYEP in order to expand the ways in which youth could benefit from their work experience. The most significant innovations include:

- **Educational components.** SYEP now includes mandatory educational components that complement the work experience and help young people prepare for the workplace. SYEP participants take part in educational activities that cover topics such as workplace readiness, financial literacy, health education, higher education and career exploration.
- **Vulnerable youth.** DYCD recognizes the needs of vulnerable youth through separate contracts with providers who specialize in services for runaway/homeless, justice-involved, foster care, and youth in families receiving preventative services from ACS.
- **Private sector jobs.** DYCD encourages providers to place youth in private sector jobs in order to expose SYEP participants to a diversity of real labor experiences.
- **Debit cards.** Participants are paid electronically via debit cards to help them become more accustomed to managing their own finances and provide a safe and convenient way to access money. The cards can also be used at any store that accepts debit cards, allowing money to be spent directly in their community.
- **Relationships with local banks.** Partnerships with local banks allow participants to access money at branch locations without incurring an ATM fee and provide the ability to open free checking accounts and initiate direct deposit of their summer earnings.
- **Improved use of technology.** DYCD actively implements technology initiatives that maximize participant services, prevents fraud, and streamline agency operations. This includes online participant and worksite applications, a centralized payroll system that are more efficient than the labor-intensive, paper driven predecessors. SYEP has also adapted wireless monitoring, allowing us to improve our quality assurance systems.

New Service Options

I will now turn it over to Andre White, who will highlight last summer's successes and explain the four new SYEP service options.

- ***Service Option 1: Younger Youth (Ages 14-15)***

SYEP is critical for younger youth because it is likely to be their first experience in the working world. Younger youth need help attaining the skills to succeed in the workplace such as oral and written communication, critical thinking, and professionalism. The weekly program includes 15 hours of work experience and five hours of educational workshops paid at minimum wage. Work assignments include participation in service learning, community service, and other age-appropriate placements.

- ***Service Option 2: Older Youth (Ages 16-24)***

Older youth may already have prior work experience through SYEP or other employment. Orientation and training takes place before the start of employment and older youth are more readily matched to job placements that reflect their experiences and interests.

- ***Service Option 3: Vulnerable Youth (Ages 14-24)***

DYCD identifies vulnerable youth employment barriers as runaway/homeless, justice-involved, youth in or aging out of foster care and in families receiving preventive services through ACS. Youth receive 25 hours of paid weekly work experience along with mentoring, counseling, and referrals to other support services.

- ***Service Option 4: Unsubsidized Jobs for Older Teens, NYC Ladders for Leaders (Ages 16-24)***

In this option, which was launched in October 2007, participants receive intensive pre-employment training before starting an employer sponsored internship. Services help qualified youth with prior work experience compete for unsubsidized jobs they are not yet positioned to secure on their own. The program helps youth transition into the world of work by giving them the opportunity to actively test their career mapping, job-seeking, and networking skills.

Summer 2013 Overview

In 2013, 135,388 youth applied to SYEP and DYCD was able to provide 35,957 jobs.

Our total budget was \$45.6 million. This included \$20.6 million in city tax levy, \$13.7 million in state funds, \$9.1 million in federal funds, and \$2.2 million in private donations through the Mayor's Fund.

Of the young people served, 56% were female and 44% were male. 37% were from Brooklyn, 25% from the Bronx, 21% from Queens, 12% from Manhattan and 5% from Staten Island.

Demographically, 44.3% identified as African American, 27.4% as Latino, 13.6% as white, and 8.3% as Asian. This included 2,457 youth who identified themselves as having a disability.

6,833 worksites were developed in partnership with our 50 SYEP providers. 31.5% were day camps, 12% were in government, 11.3% were in social services, and 7.8% were in healthcare.

27% of worksites were in the private sector, representing an array of employers such as A&E Stores, Barnes & Nobles, CVS, and Walgreens, just to name a few. In our experience, employers use SYEP as a training ground to recruit new candidates for potential full time and part time jobs.

SYEP participants also helped with recovery projects after Superstorm Sandy, including the removal of 13,000 pounds of debris from the shorelines of Brooklyn, the Rockaways and Staten Island.

SYEP participants also earned \$31.1 million in wages, providing a direct economic stimulus to distressed communities across the city.

Summer 2014 Outlook

On Tuesday, January 28, Commissioner Chong and I joined more than 300 youth from community-based organizations in Albany as part of the Youth Action Day. We met with legislators and rallied for an additional \$7.5 million in state support for SYEP, which would preserve 3,700 slots that are at risk because of the recent increase in the minimum wage. We spoke with more than 20 key legislators, including Speaker Sheldon Silver; Assembly Member Donna A. Lupardo, the Chair of the Committee on Children and Families; and staff members from the Assembly Ways and Means and the Senate Finance committees. We appreciate the Council's support of our efforts.

We estimate that nearly 28,000 youth can be served with our current budget of \$37.5 million.

Conclusion

Thank you once again for the opportunity to discuss SYEP. We appreciate your commitment to SYEP and your advocacy on behalf of New York City's youth. We are now happy to answer your questions.



The Children's Aid Society

www.childrensaidsociety.org

Sandino Sanchez, The Children's Aid Society
Prepared for the Hearing on Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP)
Committee on Youth Services, New York City Council
February 25, 2014

Good Afternoon. My name is Sandino Sanchez and I am the Employment and Contracts Director at The Children's Aid Society. I would like to thank Chair Mathieu Eugene and the members of the Youth Services Committee for the opportunity to testify today about the Summer Youth Employment Program.

The Children's Aid Society is an anti-poverty and multi-service organization that provides comprehensive programs and supports from cradle through college to children and their families in targeted high needs New York City neighborhoods. Today, we are organized into service hubs concentrated in the South Bronx, Harlem, Washington Heights and Northern Staten Island neighborhoods operated by almost 2,000 full time and part time employees. Citywide we offer more than 100 programs in 45 sites, where we provide education and youth development services, foster care and preventive services, after-school, weekend and summer enrichment, early childhood programs, teen pregnancy prevention, comprehensive health services (including medical, mental health, vision and dental), legal services, and programs for disconnected youth, including programs for young people who have been incarcerated or are at high risk of incarceration.

Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP)

Children's Aid's youth development programs guide young people in their journey toward independence. We offer programs that provide a graduated series of experiences that help young adults cultivate their unique interests and talents, obtain leadership skills, build resiliency and self-confidence, all skills required to succeed in adulthood. The Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) is a core part of the employment and work readiness programs that The Children's Aid Society provides to young adults in New York City.

For the past 5 years, Children's Aid has had contracts from the Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) for SYEP slots. In 2013, Children's Aid received approximately 7,000 applications for 1,000 SYEP slots. Of the total cohort, 60% of the young people were between the ages of 16 to 24, 40% were 14 to 15 year olds, 55% were male, 45% female and 90% of the students enrolled resided in the Bronx and Manhattan. There is definitely a large demand for this program which for many of our youth provides supplemental income for their families or supports a young person's ability to pay for higher education expenses.

Although all SYEP participants are selected through a lottery process led by the City, Children's Aid does not do blind work placements. We have a comprehensive process that includes a career fair with prospective employers and SYEP applicants. Each of the applicants is interviewed by the

prospective employer which ensures that a proper match is made between the employer and the youth participant but is also an opportunity to introduce youth to real world experiences. All participants also meet with a Career Counselor to develop an individual career and work readiness plan.

To further support the education and workforce development of youth, each participant goes through a series of modules that introduces professional work life skills based on the city's standard curriculum. Children's Aid augments this curriculum through our senior and mid-level staff who bring additional expertise and provide workshops on higher education and career readiness, reproductive health and healthy relationships, healthy and nutritious eating. Peer Educators with Children's Aid Society's Hope Leadership Program deliver financial literacy workshops.

Recommendations for the Summer Youth Employment Program

Helping youth and young adults understand the value of education and employment, imparting the necessary skills, and offering a realistic vision of what is needed in order to have a productive future, is critical to our work. It would be a tragedy for the City if we did not continue to create healthy pathways to the labor market for the future leaders of this City. That being said, there are a couple of recommendations that we would like the City Council and the Administration to consider:

1. Younger youth (ages 14 to 15) in the SYEP program are harder to place than older youth because of the legal limitations that this age group has for the types of jobs that they can legally perform. **We ask that the City provide incentives to businesses and other potential partners to collaborate with CBOs to provide mentoring and meaningful work opportunities for younger teens participating in the SYEP program.**
2. Currently, the DYCD contracts are on an 80/20 schedule which means that organizations like Children's Aid receive 20% of the contract funds between April and June for startup costs and 80% of the funds for the remainder of the contract. This contract split does not provide enough funding for startup costs. **We urge the City to move to a 70/30 contract schedule which will provide community-based organizations 30% of administrative costs upfront (or 10% for each month from April to June) as opposed to the current 20%.**
3. With the minimum wage adjustment from \$7.25 to \$8 an hour, \$35M is needed to maintain the number of youth served from 2013. Right now there is \$27.5M which includes an additional \$2.5M from Governor Cuomo's Executive Budget. However, nearly 3,000 slots will be lost without an additional \$7.5M. **We urge the City to add the \$7.5M to maintain the same level of funding and youth served from 2013.**

The Children's Aid Society looks forward to continuing working with the Council and the Administration to improve labor opportunities for young people in the City of New York and to continue the city's commitment to the next generation of leaders. Please consider us a resource and a partner.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify and I welcome your questions.

New York City Council
Committee on Youth Services
Public Hearing on
Oversight of the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP)
Tuesday, February 25, 2014
250 Broadway, 16th Floor Hearing Room
New York, NY

Testimony Prepared by:

Sean Reyes
Director of Youth Employment Services
Queens Community House
108-25 62nd Drive
Forest Hills, NY 11375
718-592-5757 Ext. 234
sreyes@queenscommunityhouse.org

Good afternoon. My name is Sean Reyes and I am the Director of Youth Employment Services at the Queens Community House. I'd like to thank the Chairman and Youth Services Committee for the opportunity to testify regarding the 2013 Summer Youth Employment Program. For the past ten years, I have served as the Director of the Youth Employment Services at the Queens Community House and starting in 2009 we have served as a Summer Youth Employment Contractor with the Department for Youth and Community Development.

The Queens Community House is a multi-service settlement house that serves nearly 30,000 children, youth, adults and older adults at over 21 different sites in 10 neighborhoods in Queens. QCH brings together people diverse in race, ethnicity, age, faith practice, sexual orientation, and economic status for learning, socialization, skill-building, counseling, recreation, and to promote community building. We have a vision of improving individuals' lives in the short-term and advancing the long-term welfare of families and the entire community. One way in which we work towards this goal is by helping participants between the ages of 14-24 years old to find employment experiences at local establishments through internships and job referrals. Employment and internship programs such as the Summer Youth Employment Program encourage youth and young adults to become more responsible, earn an income, and explore career paths. Many young adults in New York City obtain their first experiences in the workplace and exposures to careers by participating in the Summer Youth Employment Program. We have personally seen young adults transition from participants in SYEP into adults in healthcare, childcare, education, social work and law careers as a result of their early SYEP experiences and involvement with our programs.

Last year the Queens Community House served over 600 youth and received almost 4000 applications for last year's program. In other words, we have seen that for every one youth we serve through Summer Youth Employment there are six other youth participants who will not be able to participate in the program. This ratio of one position for every seven applicants illustrates the point that many youth will not experience the benefits during the summer and lose out on valuable opportunities for crucial development, vital earnings and career exposure. As minimum wage continues to increase, each participant served will cost more and lead to the reduction of slots further over the next two years if city/ state funding does not increase. This will send a message to the youth and families of New York City that we are not interested in further investing in their futures and providing meaningful experiences.

This past summer the Queens Community House as a Summer Youth Employment Provider experienced major changes in the program as part of the program restructuring which have impacted on our program:

- DYCD shortened the program to six weeks last year effectively limiting the amount of earnings youth can earn for their families and themselves. Along with this, participants were required to attend 8 hours of unpaid training before the program started as a prerequisite for participation. These were program changes that were not clear to many families until they had contact with providers such as QCH and these changes were very unpopular due to what families and participants felt was little notice or concern towards NYC youth.

- DYCD also instituted the separation of youth participants into the Option 1 (14-15 years olds) and Option 2 (16-24 year olds) categories. Option 1 youth were further informed they were limited in the number of hours as opposed to their older counterparts and their experiences in the prior summer of 2012. This separation also created a challenge for the development of worksites for younger youth as worksites were given an option to opt out of working with younger youth by applying only to be an Option 2 worksite.
- DYCD changes to program structure such as the requirement of participants to attend unpaid program training during the May-June period have exponentially increased the amount of work SYEP providers such as QCH, have to perform in advance of the actual program during July-August.
- The aforementioned increase in program workload also illustrates the need for more funds to be available to providers to allow for the appropriate hiring of staff and program costs that are required. On average, approximately 15% of program funding is made available for this initial intensive period of the programming. For example, 15% of the administrative cost per participant would be \$48.75. This \$48.75 is intended to cover the following services for youth participants and worksites: worksite development, participant enrollment, work experience placement, and mandatory participant orientation. This would mean on average the conservative estimate of 10 hours of programming we provide per participant is funded at about \$4.88 per hour during this initial period of April-June. These actual numbers point to the necessity of considering how DYCD can assist providers further in providing services by allowing a larger percentage of funding such as 25% to be available or raising their estimate of the administrative cost of participants to a more reasonable amount such as \$425.

Although we have faced challenges from changes to the Summer Youth Employment Program structure, the Queens Community House has been able to implement creative solutions to address the issues we are speaking about today. We would also like to acknowledge the DYCD's Summer Youth Employment Program staff and Director Andre White have attempted to assist providers in the ways that were available to them. The encouragement of SYEP staff to bring new processes and strategies to the table has assisted in easing the burden that we have faced this past summer. Through the assistance of DYCD staff and improvement in our implementation, the Queens Community House has continued to grow and strengthen our Summer Youth Employment Program despite the obvious concerns we have shared today. The earlier allocation of more funding and resources for the Summer Youth Employment Program would allow all of New York City's SYEP Contractors/ Providers to provide stronger and more successful programs to the youth of New York City. We believe the implementation of the Summer Youth Employment Program will continually improve as more of the invested stakeholders such as the State and City entities ensure their continued unwavering support and consideration for the program's funding.

Testimony of Kevin Coffey
Senior Vice-President, Education and Youth Development
CAMBA, Inc.

Testimony before the New York City Council Youth Services Committee
February 25, 2014

**RE: The FY 2015 Preliminary Budget and Its Impact on
the Summer Youth Employment Program in New York City**

Good afternoon. My name is Kevin Coffey. I am the Senior Vice-President for Education and Youth Development at CAMBA and I am here today to testify on behalf of our agency with regard to funding for the Summer Youth Employment Program, also known as SYEP. CAMBA recommends that the City invest an additional \$13 million this year in SYEP in order to employ 39,600 youth – just over a 10% increase from last year.

CAMBA was founded in 1977 and is now one of Brooklyn's largest, most impactful community-based organizations. We serve 45,000 individuals and families each year, including nearly 9,000 youth, in six program areas – Economic Development, Education and Youth Development, Family Support, Health, Housing and Legal Services. The agency operates with a diverse and dedicated staff numbering more than 1,300 and located at nearly 70 sites citywide.

Our comprehensive array of Education and Youth Development programs run the gamut from after-school programs for elementary and middle school students to school-based Learning-To-Work programs for overage, under-credited students who are seeking a second opportunity to earn a High School Diploma. SYEP is an integral part of our efforts to provide young people with a meaningful, enriching childhood and real prospects for success as adults.

In the summer of 2013, CAMBA placed 450 young people into SYEP job opportunities. SYEP placements included both for-profit and non-profit job sites. Among them were day care centers, summer camps, libraries, and hospitals. For many of these young people, their experience in SYEP was their first exposure to the world of work. The SYEP experience is often transformative for young people, helping them to see in a concrete manner the vital link between staying in school and pursuing higher education and, ultimately, becoming successful, self-sufficient, contributing adults.

SYEP often has a lasting impact on its participants. This past year, four of six youth who worked at the Eyes on the Prize summer camp were offered after-school jobs as counselors and tutors during the regular school year. The Director of Eyes on the Prize felt that these young people were outstanding workers during the summer and wanted to keep them on permanently.

While CAMBA and others achieved remarkable success with SYEP last year, the program was not without its challenges. An overall reduction in weeks and hours of work was highly unpopular with both the participants and their families, and rightfully so. Hard-working youth

earned less money and their parents had less time when they knew that their children were somewhere safe and supervised. This change was also disruptive to summer camps, as many of these programs rely upon SYEP workers to operate effectively.

In the FY 2015 Preliminary Budget, the City proposes to baseline SYEP at last year's funding level. While this may seem like a victory, it is actually an effective cut in services because of the increase in the minimum wage. In other words, level funding amounts to a cut in the number of placements that we can make. Last year, CAMBA unfortunately had to turn away over 4,000 applicants who were looking to earn some money for themselves and their families and to prepare for a future career.

I urge the Council to bear in mind that the current price per participant is too low for the amount of staff infrastructure and work required to implement the program; this is especially true for newer or smaller providers. On behalf of CAMBA and other providers, I urge the Council to invest an additional \$13 million in SYEP in order to take into account the increase in the minimum wage and enable us to place 39,600 youth into meaningful summer jobs.

Looking to the future, CAMBA and others believe that the City should embrace a five-year plan that runs parallel to the proposed expansion of universal pre-K and afterschool programs, ramping up to serve 100,000 youth each summer. This is well within our grasp and will help to provide an adequate supply of youth workers needed to staff summer camps as the system expands.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I look forward to working with the City Council to maintain adequate funding for a robust SYEP in the coming year.

Testimony before the New York City Council Youth Services Committee

Chairman Mathieu Eugene

Oversight Hearing—The Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP)

Testimony Submitted by Shirley Li, Center for Family Life/SCO Family of Services

I was 14 when I started working for Center for Family Life through the SYEP program. I'm 15 now and I can definitely say that I am not the same person I was when I started working for SYEP. Overtime I had become a more responsible, mature, and outspoken person with more experiences to help prepare me for the future. You see I was only allowed to work 15 hours a week but I still went to work every single day. Why? Because I loved it.

At first I didn't know what I wanted to be when I grow up; I mean come on I was 14, who did? Working at CFL helped me realized that working with children is one of the things I enjoy doing and what I want to do in the future. Without SYEP, I wouldn't be able to realize that and I would have been sitting at home trying to waste time. At least that was probably what the 100,000 young people who didn't get selected into SYEP were doing.

I really want to share this experience with others and it's not going to happen if the budget doesn't increase. The smaller the budget, the smaller the number of participants, the smaller the chances people would have.

Testimony before the New York City Council Youth Services Committee

Chairman Mathieu Eugene

Oversight Hearing—The Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP)

**Testimony Submitted by Stephanie Ruiz
Center for Family Life/SCO Family of Services**

I applied to the SYEP program last summer at the same time as my sister. I got accepted to the program which was a big opportunity for me. Unfortunately, my sister did not get accepted which was really hard for our family.

I worked for a summer camp at Center For Family in P.S 169 as an office counselor. This working experience I got during the summer was one of a kind. I learn how to work with other people.

After the summer, I got hired for the school year after school program, working in the office. During the school year more opportunity doors opened for me. I started working as an Assistant Group Leader. It changed the person I was for better. I learned how to communicate, how to work with and help kids, and how to really challenge myself. One of the most important skills I learn was leadership. I had never thought I would be a leader to anyone, and now I believe I am. I learn that I was capable of speaking out and to use my voice.

To me SYEP was my beginning to amazing opportunities. SYEP needs to be funded because it may open opportunities for other teenager like me. SYEP is helping the youth become independent and responsible. It's disappointing that more teenagers are not going to get into the program because of funding.

Testimony before the New York City Council Youth Services Committee

Chairman Mathieu Eugene

Oversight Hearing—The Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP)

**Testimony Submitted by Christian Lantigua
Center for Family Life/SCO Family of Services**

Thank you Council members for taking the time out to listen to a young man's opinion about a very important issue, not only on my part but also to those who have accompanied me on this day and along with those who have gathered here to reiterate how I feel. My name is Christian Lantigua. I am a twenty year old who lives in Brooklyn. I am a Group Leader in an after school and summer camp program at Center for Family Life, located in Sunset Park.

As you may or may not know, last year roughly about 36,000 members of our youth were selected for the Summer Youth Employment Program where over 100,000 who applied were not. A few years back, I myself applied for SYEP and was not chosen. Luckily, I didn't give up on my dream to work with children and was employed at Center for Family Life (CFL) a few years later without the need of SYEP. Unfortunately not everyone gets to experience the same luxury as I. I've been working at CFL for little over a year now and I can honestly say there isn't anything I would rather be doing. My only regret is not having been employed earlier. I often hear stories that my coworkers share from their earlier years and I envy their experiences. Now this may sound selfish but, that could've been different had I been chosen for the employment program upon my initial application. While the budget doesn't affect my employment, I do not want to see other youth from my community deprived of such experiences and memories like I once was.

The SYEP budget also has an effect on my worksite. You see, with the raise in minimum wage paired with the same budget for the Summer Youth Employment Program, even fewer members of our youth will be selected for employment this summer. Our summer program at CFL depend on these summer youth employees because without these fabulous individuals, the likes of those who have attended this hearing with me, I along with my coworkers would not be able to take the children of our program on any trips that they enjoy taking during the summer. So I ask you council members, go back to the mayor, look over the budget and find the money to increase the cap on the Summer Youth Employment Program. It is not only beneficial to the youth being employed, but also to the participants of the program. Surely, SYEP will grant amazing experiences that both our children and youth can benefit from immensely. Thank you again council members and I hope you enjoy the rest of your day.

CAMPAIGN FOR SUMMER JOBS

**c/o United Neighborhood Houses (UNH), 70 W. 36th Street, 5th Floor, NY, NY 10018
Neighborhood Family Services Coalition (NFSC), 120 Broadway #230, NY, NY 10271
Tel. (212) 967-0322, x345 (UNH) or 212-619-1661 (NFSC) ♦ fax 212-619-1625**

Testimony before the Youth Services Committee
Oversight Hearing -- The Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP)

Chairman Mathieu Eugene

Testimony Submitted by: Heather Ramirez, Public Service Scholar, United Neighborhood
Houses
Kelly Daniels, National Urban Fellow, Neighborhood Family Services Coalition
February 25, 2014

Recommendation: Increase Investment in Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) by \$13 million and implementing a five year expansion plan

Good Afternoon, Chairman Eugene and members of the Youth Services Committee. My name is Heather Ramirez and I am a Public Service Scholar from Hunter College with United Neighborhood Houses (UNH). I am here today with Kelly Daniels, National Urban Fellow with Neighborhood Family Services Coalition (NFSC). UNH and NFSC co-founded the Campaign for Summer Jobs (CSJ), a coalition of nearly 100 community-based and citywide organizations in New York City that advocate for State and City investment and effective programmatic models for the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP). SYEP is an opportunity for 14-24 year olds to work six weeks in the summer months, 20-25 hours per week at the state's minimum wage. The Campaign was initiated in 1999 following a change in legislation that eliminated the federal Jobs Training Partnership Act that provided funding for summer jobs. Since then, CSJ has worked tirelessly to advocate for State and City funds to ensure the availability of summer jobs for youth. For the past 15 years, the Campaign has organized an annual Youth Action Day that brings nearly 300 young people to Albany to meet with legislative and senate members about the importance of State funding for the SYEP. Today we will discuss the value and impact of the Department of Youth & Community Development's (DYCD) SYEP, the additional \$13m City investment in FY2015, and our vision of SYEP expansion in the next five years.

Benefits of Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP)

SYEP is a highly beneficial program for both youth participants and the community. Inherently, SYEP provides a work environment to learn and develop “soft skills” such as the importance of punctuality, responsibility, effective communication, time management and budgeting. Youth that are employed during their high school years are more likely to hold employment after graduation, will learn critical habits of outstanding work ethic and discipline, and have the opportunity to start building a professional network to assist in later entry into the workforce.

The personal value for youth participants are the benefits of independence, responsibility, and the ability to purchase the things they need along with helping their families. In addition, SYEP is a safe and productive summer activity for youth to engage in. In terms of academics, a 2012 study conducted by the NYU Steinhart School of Culture, Education, and Human Development showed that youth who were at educational risk -indicated by high rates of school absence- that participated in SYEP had higher rates of attendance in the following school year, as well as an increase of likelihood of taking and passing the Math and English Regents exams. Additionally, in recent years SYEP has also guaranteed nearly 2,000 work opportunities per summer for youth with disabilities- many whom may have otherwise faced significant employment barriers.

We also know that SYEP benefits local community’s economies. In DYCD’s analysis of SYEP youth spending habits, it was revealed that youth spend a large portion of their earnings in their community. Additionally, about 32% of SYEP youth work as counselors in day camps, daycare centers, and community centers, which allows agencies to accept a higher number of enrollees during the summer months due to mandated staff to child ratios. I, myself, participated as a Senior Counselor for a summer camp in the South Bronx and without SYEP staff members the program would not be able to provide the much needed sliding scale summer camp for children living in Hunts Point. The benefits provided by SYEP are a true asset in developing a stronger workforce and a stronger community for our future leaders.

Programmatic Concerns

CSJ would like to bring light to the following programmatic concerns in regards to the Summer Youth Employment Program. As you may know, last year SYEP program was revamped and a

new programmatic model was set in place. In 2013, there was a reduction in the number of weeks and the amount of hours in SYEP. This reduction was disruptive to many summer camps that rely on SYEP workers to help staff their camps. Many of the programs were short staffed and were forced to try to find an alternative to meet the adequate Adult: Children ratio that is required by the Department of Health. To alleviate this problem we recommend DYCD restore SYEP to the original length of seven weeks versus the current six weeks. Beyond the impact on summer camps, the program reduction was also disheartening for youth familiar with the traditional seven week program, as well as their parents, whom had to find alternative supervision options for their children for that lost week.

An additional concern is the FY13 introduction of segregating youth into options based on age, which made it difficult for providers to secure worksites for option #1 youth (14-15), since job sites often agreed to take youth this young only as part of a larger cohort of older youth (option #2, 16-24 year olds). This also impacted the ability of the youth participants of different ages to interact and learn from each other.

Another longstanding programmatic issue that has been encountered is the funding mechanism for the overall program. The current funding disbursement up front is inadequate and is not enough to successfully plan and implement the front end of the program: recruiting placement sites, and conducting enrollment and placement. This work is far more labor intensive relative to the rest of the summer. In order to ensure contractors have the resources required up front to engage in these activities, we recommend the minimum contract advance be 25% advance with the ability to negotiate up to 50%, based on particular contract needs. In addition, the current price per participant: \$325 for Options #1 & #2, and \$400 for Option #3 is too low for the amount of work and staff infrastructure required to implement the program; this is especially true for newer or smaller providers. CSJ recommends \$450 per participant in Options #1 and #2, and \$600 per participant in Option #3.

We also would like to briefly call attention to a possible issue this coming summer regarding the Department of Education's (DOE's) proposed fingerprinting for all staff working in DOE facilities. Given the thousands of youth that will be placed in DOE sites over the summer, and the short nature of SYEP, getting fingerprints for all youth would be significant logistical

challenge. We understand the Administration is currently considering alternatives for SYEP and other youth workers but hope the Council will also monitor the issue as needed.

Finally, based on longstanding feedback from providers, CSJ strongly recommends the new DYCD leadership work to improve relationships with contracted providers. Rather than be treated as common partners in the City's mission to provide comprehensive youth programming, providers note that the relationship with DYCD often feels punitive, communication is lacking, late or unreturned. There is a wealth of experience in the provider community and CSJ recommends the new Administration proactively seeks to utilize that knowledge in developing and administering its programming.

Limited SYEP Resources

The benefits of SYEP have been made abundantly clear over the years through research and anecdote. Unfortunately in addition to diminished resources, the weeks and hours of the program were reduced in 2013. Even though Governor Cuomo's Executive Budget is proposing \$27.5m for SYEP -\$2.5m over last year- we are aware that without additional investment and the lack of City investment, we still see 2,750 fewer jobs than 2013 as a result of the minimum wage increase.

City, State, Federal, and Private Funding to help restore original SYEP programming

Last year fewer than 36,000 slots were funded for SYEP. However, over 100,000 applicants were turned away and denied the opportunity to work. When DYCD introduced SYEP in FY2007 almost 60% of the applicants were served, that number has since dropped to just 28%.

SYEP is funded primarily through City, State, Federal, and Private. For several years the private funds had been provided by the New York Fund to Advance NYC. At this point in time it is unclear whether any contributions to this fund will continue to be earmarked to SYEP, putting at risk over \$2 million in support. Furthermore, the final Federal investment will remain unknown for some time. Due to the increased need because of the increase in minimum wage to maintain slots, NYC must scale up its investment. We urge the City to invest \$13m in SYEP, divided to preserve the same number of job slots at about \$4m, and about \$9m to aid in the expansion of SYEP to 39,600 slots in FY 2015.

In previous years NY City Tax Levy (CTL) was able to invest \$30.9m, it has now dropped considerably to only \$20.6m this FY2014. Even as we encourage the City to take a leadership role in safeguarding and expanding employment opportunities for youth, the Campaign continues to work with state officials to fully resource the program. We organized our 15th annual Youth Action Day this January bringing over 250 young people to Albany to meet with over 150 legislators. In these meetings, the youth were given the opportunity to personally share what impact SYEP has on their lives and communities, and heard several senate and assembly leaders, including Speaker Silver declare that they believe in SYEP. We wish to recognize and thank DYCD Commissioner Bill Chong for addressing the youth as well as for his work at the State level to secure additional funding for the programming.

Minimum Wage Impact

Considering the \$10m drop in CTL funds and the increase in minimum wage, the City is sacrificing opportunities for youth involvement. To preserve job slots with the minimum wage increase, we need to invest an additional \$5.4m in SYEP. We are expecting to get approximately \$1.35m of that in Cuomo's increase, meaning we still need \$4.05m to help avert job losses resulting from a change in the minimum wage. Looking to this summer and beyond there is significant cause for concern about the program's ability to meet community demand. While we strongly support the long overdue minimum wage increase, the summer youth employment job slots will decrease by 2,750 if there is not a commensurate increase in investment in the program.

NYC SYEP 5-year Expansion Plan

SYEP has been a gateway to future employment for hundreds of thousands of New York youth in the past, but so many have been denied this critical "first job" which can set up a solid foundation for future success. DYCD's concept paper highlights the 2011 national summer teen employment rate of 25.4% to be the lowest since records began in the late 1940s. The overall New York State's rate of 25.2% placed it in the bottom 10 states nation-wide. Additionally, in 2011 youth aged 16-21 had the highest unemployment rate of all age groups in NYC. This high unemployment rate has been evidenced by the growing numbers of youth applying to SYEP; between 2008 and 2012 alone, applications soared 28% from 103,000 to 132,000. Given the high rates of youth unemployment, especially among minority, low-income youth, NYC has an

obligation to help end this “tale of two cities”—those youth that are able to gain access to the world of work through their parents professional connections, and those whose parents cannot offer that access.

The vision of CSJ is to implement a five year plan that runs parallel to the expansion of UPK and afterschool programs, ramping up to serve 100,000 youth per summer. The plan accounts for our recommendations to increase the fee per participant, restore SYEP’s program model (7 weeks, 25 hours per week, minimum wage earnings summer job plus training), and the current minimum wage increase. This planning is necessary to address the NYC youth unemployment crisis and limited SYEP capacity.

We look forward to working closely with the City Council and DYCD to find the best way to preserve and expand employment opportunities for youth in New York City. (Mention programmatic fixes)

Thank you for the opportunity to testify, we are happy to field any questions.

Campaign for Summer Jobs SYEP Summary (Feb, 2014)

	(funding in millions)								Projected
	FY2007	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY 2013	FY2014	FY 2015
<i>Summer</i>	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
<u>City</u>									
CTL	26.9	32.4	30.9	13.8	23.9	20.6	20.6	20.6	20.6
Mayor's Fund					2	6.1	2.8	2.2	0
City Subtotal	26.9	32.4	30.9	13.8	25.9	26.7	23.4	22.8	22.6
<u>State</u>									
TANF/ General Fund	30	35	35	35	15.5	15.5	25	25.0	27.5
NYC Portion	21.1	20.2	19.7	19.5	8.5	8.5	13.5	13.7	14.85
State Subtotal	21.1	20.2	19.7	19.5	8.5	8.5	13.5	13.7	14.85
<u>Federal</u>									
CSBG				3	1.6	1.6	1.6	6.5	
WIA (ISY/OSY summer)	5.4	3.8	3.4	3	3.4	2.4	4.5	2.6	
ARRA				28.2	12.1				
WIA (Summer Jobs Express)						1.7			
WIA (ISY/OSY Waiver)						2.6			
Federal Subtotal	5.4	3.8	3.4	34.2	17.1	8.3	6.1	9.1	9.1
Total Funding	53.4	56.4	54	67.5	51.5	43.5	43	45.6	46.6
% change		5.62%	-4.26%	25.00%	-23.70%	-35.56%	-1.15%	6.05%	2.19%
Total Youth Served	41,650	41,804	43,113	52,255	35,725	30,628	29,416	35,957	31,670
Total Applicants	71,670	93,750	103,189	139,597	143,169	131,119	132,593	135,338	135,555
% served	58.11%	44.59%	41.78%	37.43%	24.95%	23.36%	22.19%	26.57%	23.36%

SYEP Growth Scenario*

<u>Scaled Program Growth</u>			
<i>Year</i>	<i>Slot</i>	<i>NYC Slots</i>	<i>Cost</i>
FY 2014	36,000		\$20.6m
FY 2015	39,600	23,758	\$33.6m
FY 2016	45,540	29,698	\$45.7m
FY 2017	54,600	38,758	\$61.4m
FY 2018	71,000	55,158	\$87.4m
FY 2019	100,000	84,158	\$133.4m

*assumes min-wage adjusted state investment / no change in value of federal dollars (generous)

*assumes \$8.75 & \$9.00 min wage increases

*does not assume private investment

assumed nyc state slots per year: 10,373

Starting slots/year (generous): 15,842

assumed nyc federal slots per year:

5,469

state: fy15 \$27.5m intended to stay level w/fy14. fy15 as baseline= \$14.85m nyc

\$14.85m/ \$1431.60=

10,373

federal: avg of last three years= \$7.83m

\$7.83m/ \$1431.60= 5,469

Campaign for
Summer Jobs
(4 of 3)

THE COUNCIL THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Kevin Douglas

Address: _____

I represent: United Neighborhood Houses / Campaign Summer Jobs

Address: 70 W. 36th

Campaign
for
Summer Jobs
(2 of 3)

THE COUNCIL THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 02/25/13

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Heather Ramirez

Address: 241 Taaffe Place #707 BK, NY

I represent: Campaign for Summer Jobs

Address: 70 W 36th

Campaign
for
Summer Jobs
(3 of 3)

THE COUNCIL THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Kelly Daniels

Address: _____

I represent: NFSC / Campaign for summer jobs

Address: 120 Broadway

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

CFL 1 of 3

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 2/25/14

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Stephanie Ruiz

Address: 272 56 St Brooklyn NY 11220

I represent: Center For Family Life

Address: _____

CFL 2 of 3

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 2-25-14

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Christian Lantigua

Address: 429 37th Street 11232 Bklyn, NY

I represent: Center For Family Life (CFL)

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

CFL 3 of 3

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 2/25/14

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Shirley Li

Address: 823 44th St Brooklyn NY 11220

I represent: Center For Family Life

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: KEVIN Coffey

Address: _____

I represent: CAMBA

Address: 1720 Church Ave. Brooklyn NY 11238

CFL

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☒ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 2/25/14

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Shira Sameroff

Address: 345 43rd St Brooklyn NY 11232

I represent: Center for Family Life

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 02/25/14

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Sean Reyes

Address: 108-25 62nd Drive Forest Hills NY 11375

I represent: Queens Community House

Address: 108-25 62nd Drive Forest Hills NY 11375

◆ Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms ◆

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)
Name: RABBI Yechiel Pitof

Address: 102 Ave. K.

I represent: CITY OF FLA-BUSK

Address: 1513 Ave. K.

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 8/25/14

(PLEASE PRINT)
Name: Sandino Sanchez, The Children's Aid Society

Address: 105 East 22nd Street, NYC

I represent: The Children's Aid Society

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: KAVAN CHERRY, Assistant Commissioner

Address: DYCD

I represent: CAMBA

Address: 1720 Church Ave Brooklyn NY 11238

◆ Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms ◆

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Andre White

Address: DYCD

I represent: _____

Address: _____

◆ Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms ◆