

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
JOINTLY WITH THE  
COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

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March 10, 2014  
Start: 10:33 a.m.  
Recess: 2:07 p.m.

HELD AT: Committee Room  
City Hall

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MATHIEU EUGENE  
Chairpersons

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Margaret Chin  
Vanessa L. Gibson  
Alan Maisel  
Ydanis Rodriguez  
Carlos Menchaca  
Laurie Cumbo  
Helen Rosenthal  
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## A P P E A R A N C E S (CONTINUED)

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NYC Department of Youth and  
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2 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: You ready?

3 [gavel] Good morning, everyone and welcome. My  
4 name is Maria del Carmen Arroyo. I chair the  
5 Committee on Community Development here in the  
6 council and I'm happy with this new assignment and  
7 I look forward to all the good work we'll be able  
8 to do with this committee. I'm happy to co-chair  
9 today's hearing with my colleague, Council Member  
10 Mathieu Eugene, chair of the Youth Services  
11 Committee.

12 I want to welcome DYCD Commissioner  
13 Bill Chong. My congratulations to you, sir, on  
14 your new assignment, and my condolences at the same  
15 time. I know you have a strong history with the  
16 agency and we look forward to working with you and  
17 your staff in the months to come to make sure that  
18 we're doing something wonderful with this year's  
19 budget. We're eager to hear the agency's plans for  
20 programs and services in Fiscal Year 2015 and to  
21 get an update on the progress of the agency's many  
22 ongoing programs. I particularly would like to  
23 know the status of how the agency is helping to  
24 combat poverty in low-income communities throughout  
25 the city through its existing programs, and how we

2 can create new opportunities to strengthen those  
3 programs and develop new efforts along those lines.

4 We have a lot to talk about today, but  
5 first I want to acknowledge my committee staff for  
6 their work in preparing us for this hearing today,  
7 and for making sure that I'm clued in on all the  
8 details that are important to make sure that the  
9 work of this committee goes through seamlessly.  
10 Thomas Donaldson, my committee counsel to my left;  
11 Mitch Schwartz, somewhere in the background, policy  
12 analyst and Kenneth Grace, fiscal analyst and he  
13 serves in that capacity for both committees. Thank  
14 you all for your work. Commissioner, we look  
15 forward to your testimony, and now I turn it over  
16 to my co-chair.

17 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very  
18 much, Madam Chair. Good morning. It is with  
19 pleasure that I welcome you all that are here today  
20 for the Fiscal Year 2015 Preliminary Budget hearing  
21 for the Department of Youth and Community  
22 Development. My name is Mathieu Eugene and I am  
23 the chair of the Committee on Youth Services. I am  
24 glad to co-chair in today's hearing with my  
25

2 colleague, Maria del Carmen Arroyo, chair of the  
3 Community Development Committee.

4 First, I would like to welcome back the  
5 DYCD Commissioner, Bill Chong. Commissioner,  
6 welcome and I hope that you will be doing better  
7 with your eye. As someone who was previously at  
8 this agency, I am sure that you have a lot to tell  
9 us regarding your thoughts about DYCD mission and  
10 goals, now that you are the Commissioner and have  
11 had the opportunity to review the departmental  
12 operations. Over the years, the council and the  
13 administration, especially DYCD, have worked  
14 together to support New York City youth and their  
15 families, immigrants and job seekers by funding a  
16 wide range of high quality youth and community  
17 development programs. To that end, the Department  
18 of Youth and Community Development has for the  
19 first time in recent history, received significant  
20 additional funding, as an indication of the  
21 administration's commitment to expand services for  
22 after-school programs for middle school students,  
23 as well as expanded services for runaway homeless  
24 youth. This is in addition to the millions of  
25 dollars of council initiatives that were baselined

2 by the Bloomberg Administration in the November  
3 plan, but significantly \$51 million restored for  
4 Out-of-School Time programs, which provided over  
5 30,000 slots. We are eager to hear your agency  
6 plan for programs and services in the Fiscal Year  
7 2015 and get an update on the progress of the  
8 department's new initiatives. Furthermore, we will  
9 examine in detail the Fiscal Year Preliminary  
10 Budget of DYCD, including the department's Contract  
11 Budget, and we will also review the agency's  
12 performance as reported in the Preliminary Mayor's  
13 Management Report, PMMR.

14 I want to thank the committee staff for  
15 their hard work in preparing for today's hearing.  
16 I'd like to thank Ken Grace; finance analyst,  
17 Jennifer Wolcott, committee counsel and Michael  
18 Dejarnette [phonetic], policy analyst and I would  
19 like to take the opportunity also to thank my  
20 staff, who have been working very hard also to make  
21 sure that I am... you know, I do as much as I can  
22 and I do well in this hearing. I'd like to thank  
23 Hedda Hart [phonetic] and also David Schwartz. We  
24 have a lot of things to do; to talk about. Now let  
25



2 me turn it over also to my co-chair, Council Member  
3 Maria del Carmen Arroyo.

4 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Thank you, Council  
5 Member. First, I'd like to acknowledge some of the  
6 members that are with us this morning, and at this  
7 point I'm not sure which committees they sit on,  
8 but welcome...

9 [crosstalk]

10 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Commissioner...

11 [crosstalk]

12 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Anyway.

13 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: I'm sorry. You  
14 know, there is something I should do before that.  
15 I want to acknowledge also, we have been joined  
16 also by the members of the Youth Committee.

17 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: [interposing]  
18 Thank you.

19 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: We have Council  
20 Member Andy King and also we have Council Member  
21 Margaret Chin.

22 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: You can do the  
23 whole list, go ahead.

24 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: No, go ahead.  
25

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2 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Council Member  
3 Gibson from the Bronx is also joining us, and I  
4 think Council Member King is getting double credit  
5 today because he sits on both committees, correct?  
6 Okay.

7 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: What a privilege.

8 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Commissioner, when  
9 you're ready.

10 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Good morning,  
11 Chairs Eugene and Arroyo and members of the Youth  
12 Services and Community Development Committees. I  
13 am Bill Chong, Commissioner of the Department of  
14 Youth and Community Development. I thank you for  
15 the opportunity to discuss the Fiscal 2015  
16 Preliminary Budget.

17 As you know, in early January, Mayor  
18 Bill de Blasio appointed me as DYCD Commissioner.  
19 I was honored to be asked to help implement his  
20 ambitious and progressive agenda to create a  
21 thriving and more equitable New York City by  
22 expanding programming to tens of thousands of  
23 middle-schoolers and services to other needy New  
24 Yorkers. The council has a history of strong  
25 support of DYCD programs and I look forward to

2 working with you to make the Mayor's vision a  
3 reality for New Yorkers from all neighborhoods  
4 across the city.

5           The Mayor's Preliminary Budget reflects  
6 his values and priorities for the city. DYCD's  
7 proposed budget is \$524.7 million, the highest it  
8 has been and at long last ends the budget dance are  
9 young people, parents and community-based  
10 organizations and partners have long endured for  
11 too long. The bulk of the funding of \$428.7  
12 million or nearly 82 percent is city tax levy,  
13 \$64.6 million is federal and \$24.3 is intra-city  
14 and 6.1 million is state funding. This enables  
15 DYCD to expand services across an array of areas,  
16 including after school, runaway and homeless youth  
17 and immigrant services.

18           The middle school years are a pivotal  
19 point in a young person's life. It's a time when  
20 academic achievement can fall off, peer pressure  
21 mounts and some may make bad choices. As the Mayor  
22 often says, after-school programs can be a game  
23 changer for young people, regardless of family  
24 income or neighborhood. After-school programs play  
25 a vital role in building academic skills, self-

2 confidence, resiliency and social skills. Last  
3 week, the Mayor released his \$190 million plan to  
4 more than double the number of middle school youth  
5 served by after-school programs to 120,000 across  
6 512 schools starting this September.

7           Currently, only one-quarter of 224,279  
8 middle school youth at 239 schools have access to  
9 after-school services. The new enhanced program  
10 model builds on the best features of DYCD's current  
11 OST program and other exemplary middle school  
12 programs. The expansion also increases the price  
13 per program slot from \$2,100 to \$3,000 and expands  
14 the program hours to 540 per year. This higher  
15 cost will help increase program quality and help  
16 the smaller organizations meet program standards,  
17 bring more resources to after-school programs and  
18 help target struggling students. The Mayor's plan  
19 provides immediate funding and we thank the council  
20 for its support to secure the funding for after-  
21 school and the Universal Pre-K for every family who  
22 needs it.

23           In January, DYCD also opened 45  
24 additional Cornerstone Programs in public housing  
25 developments across the five boroughs. In total,

2 there are now 70 programs citywide serving over  
3 15,000 participants of all ages in an array of  
4 academic, recreational, cultural and community  
5 engagement activities. This was in response to the  
6 New York City Housing Authority's Plan to close the  
7 centers it operated due to its budget shortfalls.  
8 The programs are supported by an investment of  
9 \$28.2 million in Fiscal Year of 2015, which  
10 includes \$926,286 previously allocated by the  
11 council due to budget cuts.

12 We recognize the council's assistance  
13 and leadership in keeping seven Beacons open and  
14 adding funding for the remaining 73 programs. In  
15 total, the Fiscal 2015 Budget includes \$38.5  
16 million to serve over 80,000 participants. It is  
17 important to note, however, that the average city  
18 tax levy funded Beacon budget is approximately  
19 \$346,147.

20 The budget also reflects the Mayor's  
21 priority for runaway and homeless youth. The \$14.2  
22 million baselines the council's funding of \$7.17  
23 million while adding \$2.4 million more to support  
24 76 new crisis beds starting in April. In total, we  
25 anticipate having seven drop-in centers, three

2 outreach vehicles, 192 crisis and 137 transitional  
3 beds.

4           The budget also includes \$38.1 million  
5 to serve nearly 28,000 young people in the Summer  
6 Youth Employment Program. As you have heard during  
7 the February SYEP hearing, this is a decrease from  
8 the 36,000 last summer. While the city's  
9 commitment of \$20.6 million remains, part of the  
10 reason for the fewer slots is the increase in the  
11 minimum wage. Additionally, we do not anticipate  
12 the availability of some federal funding that was  
13 used in the past. We are hopeful that Albany will  
14 help mitigate this program slot reduction by  
15 increasing its statewide allocation to \$35 million.  
16 While we await the state budget to pass, and we are  
17 at the beginning of the city's budget process, in  
18 order to serve the same number of youth as last  
19 year, we need an additional \$13 million. As you  
20 know, we opened the SYEP application period a month  
21 earlier to provide young people and providers  
22 additional time to prepare for the program.

23           Thanks to the support of the council  
24 this fiscal year, we launched a new initiative to  
25 assist young people to pursue Deferred Action for

2 Childhood Arrivals, DACA, status. We are proud  
3 that New York City is a national leader in DACA,  
4 both in terms of our financial commitment and the  
5 innovative structure of our program, which was  
6 shaped by input from the council, DYCD staff,  
7 immigrant specialists and advocacy organizations.  
8 We are investing \$13.7 million over Fiscal Year  
9 2014 and 2015 to serve nearly 11,000 participants.  
10 The investments are being made in three areas:  
11 outreach, literacy and employment services and  
12 legal assistance. In addition to DACA, the budget  
13 also baselines the council's funding to the  
14 Immigrant Opportunity Initiative for \$4.3 million  
15 and includes \$3.3 million in federal funding to  
16 serve approximately 10,000 participants.

17 The Mayor's budget charts a new course.  
18 It is fiscally responsible, invests in the  
19 communities and begins his long-term strategy to  
20 fight against income inequality for all New  
21 Yorkers. I look forward to working with you to  
22 help implement his vision in making sure all 8.4  
23 million New Yorkers have the same opportunities to  
24 succeed.

2 I am joined by Deputy Commissioners  
3 Suzanne Lynn and John Cirolia and we are pleased to  
4 answer your questions at this point. Thank you.

5 [Pause]

6 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very  
7 much, Commissioner. Before we ask a few questions,  
8 let me acknowledge that we have been joined by  
9 Council Member Alan Maisel, a member of the Youth  
10 Committee and also Council Member Ydanis Rodriguez.

11 [Pause]

12 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: We know that you  
13 know, there is... the total budget \$190 million in  
14 new funding for the after-school middle school  
15 program and about 20,000 middle school students  
16 will have the opportunity to attend a free after-  
17 school program and what is the status of the  
18 implementation of this expansion and are how many  
19 middle schools students receive after-school  
20 service now?

21 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Well, as you know,  
22 the Mayor issued the White Paper last week, which  
23 outlined the key features of the plan. We're  
24 working to issue a request for proposal very soon  
25 because it's our goal to get these programs up and



2 running by the start of the school year. We're  
3 also awaiting action on Albany to pass the tax on  
4 wealthy on New Yorkers to fund this program, so  
5 we're ready to move. We have identified the  
6 schools that currently don't have any after-school  
7 programs, so they will be the priority in getting  
8 this funding and the goal, as the Mayor has said  
9 numerous times, is to provide universal access so  
10 that every middle school in the city will have an  
11 after-school program.

12 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: I think, you know,  
13 the council is appreciative of the attention to  
14 middle school after-school programs; however, what  
15 are the long-term plans for an expansion of the  
16 elementary and high school after-school programs?

17 COMMISSIONER CHONG: At this point,  
18 there's no immediate plan to do expansion of  
19 elementary and high school programs. As the  
20 council knows, that when the budget was announced a  
21 few weeks ago, the budget director outlined certain  
22 risks in the budget, the biggest being the cost of  
23 funding labor contracts 'cause 100 contracts have  
24 expired, so it's premature at this point to discuss  
25

2 additional funding for other programs until we get  
3 some clarity on how much that will cost.

4 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: So now, are you  
5 working with the Department of Education to achieve  
6 the proposed goal? Are you working, you know,  
7 concurrently? Do you have any common or joint  
8 plan?

9 COMMISSIONER CHONG: We've worked...

10 [crosstalk]

11 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: In order to  
12 achieve the goals?

13 COMMISSIONER CHONG: We've worked  
14 closely with the Department of Education for over a  
15 decade. I was... as you know, I was with DYCD when  
16 we designed the Out-of-School Time Program and so I  
17 think we've come to a clear understanding that  
18 these programs keep young people engaged in school,  
19 and something that I think the Chancellor said  
20 recently on a visit with the Mayor, which I quote  
21 her liberally, "after-school programs bring back  
22 the joy in learning," 'cause there are things you  
23 can do in the after-school environment; whether  
24 it's a science project, whether it's artistic  
25 activities; whether it's dance that you may be not

2 able to do during the traditional school day. So  
3 we work closely with DOE. They're part of the work  
4 group. They had a lot of input in designing the  
5 White Paper and they will have a big role in the  
6 design of the requested proposal.

7 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very  
8 much, Commissioner. Now let me turn it over to my  
9 co-chair, Council Member Arroyo.

10 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Thank you, Council  
11 Member. I have some specific questions around your  
12 testimony, and then I'll go to some more general  
13 questions. On page one, in the OSC expansion,  
14 currently only about a quarter of the middle school  
15 aged youth participate at 239 schools.

16 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Right.

17 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: So what's the...  
18 the total middle aged population is 224,000...

19 [crosstalk]

20 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Right.

21 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: 225 rounded I  
22 think.

23 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Right.

24 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: 239 schools.

25 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Right.

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2 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: How many schools  
3 total?

4 COMMISSIONER CHONG: 512, so if you add  
5 the two...

6 [crosstalk]

7 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: 512.

8 COMMISSIONER CHONG: If you add the 239  
9 that currently have programs and in the White Paper  
10 we identified 273 schools that don't... let me  
11 clarify that. 273 traditional schools, meaning not  
12 including charter schools, so 512 traditional  
13 schools don't have... of the universe, 239 have;  
14 273 don't. We're also allowing charter schools to  
15 apply and right now there are I believe 90 charter  
16 schools that serve...

17 [crosstalk]

18 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: This middle school  
19 program?

20 COMMISSIONER CHONG: With middle school  
21 programs, of which I believe five or six currently  
22 have OST programs and so the assumption is the  
23 remaining 84 or 85 would be eligible provided, and  
24 this is a big you know, point, provided that their  
25 dismissal date... dismissal time is at 3:00 p.m.

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2 because these programs are scheduled to run from  
3 3:00 to 6:00, so some charter schools run 'til  
4 5:00, so obviously you can't do an after-school  
5 program that starts at 5:00.

6 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Mm-hm.

7 COMMISSIONER CHONG: So the universe is  
8 512 plus the charter schools.

9 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: And what's the  
10 total cost if we were to have a program in every  
11 single school?

12 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Well, we've costed  
13 out the money and we believe we have enough and  
14 \$190 million is enough to provide an after-school  
15 program in every middle school because we know from  
16 experience, not every young person will  
17 participate.

18 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Mm-hm.

19 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Because at that  
20 age, they make choices.

21 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Yes.

22 COMMISSIONER CHONG: And so we think  
23 based on our experience of the 239 schools, we'll  
24 have enough money.  
25

2 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: So I know that the  
3 Mayor is working really hard and he's engaging us  
4 all in a conversation about how the funding would  
5 become available. What's the plan in the event  
6 that it does not come through?

7 COMMISSIONER CHONG: There is no Plan  
8 B. Our plan is... the only plan that provides  
9 dedicated funding for five years is the Mayor's  
10 plan. I mean I think we can... we've learned from  
11 direct experience that you can't run a program year  
12 to year. I mean the council for the last five  
13 years, through 12 rounds of cuts, has restored  
14 funding to many of these after-school programs and  
15 it's disruptive to young people. It's disruptive  
16 to working families. Programs come to me and say  
17 they can't hire qualified staff because... or they  
18 can't keep qualified staff because no one wants to  
19 work somewhere where they don't know if the funding  
20 is going to be there year after year. So the only  
21 plan that provides dedicated support year after  
22 year for five years is the Mayor's plan because we  
23 know from experience, the state funding varies. I  
24 mean and I'll talk about this later, but the Youth  
25 Development Action... [off mic] what's YDA stand

2 for, YDA? It used to be called the Youth  
3 Development Delinquency Prevention Money, but they  
4 changed the name since I've left, and when I  
5 started DYCD 10 years ago, it was \$11 million we  
6 got to run after-school programs. Today it's \$4  
7 million. So I think we've learned from experience  
8 that state funding is sometimes not reliable.  
9 Despite the best intentions of the Governor and the  
10 legislators, sometimes decisions get made and New  
11 York City suffers.

12 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: So given the tax  
13 levy dollars that we can rely on without this thing  
14 out there in the horizon, the tax increase, how  
15 many programs can we fund?

16 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Well, it'd be the  
17 current number of programs.

18 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Now without the  
19 tax increase.

20 COMMISSIONER CHONG: It's the current  
21 number of programs that we've funded, so...

22 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: [interposing] That  
23 239 schools.

24 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Right. Yes, I  
25 mean...

2 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: [interposing] With  
3 no cuts.

4 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Yeah, without  
5 cuts.

6 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Okay, on the  
7 Cornerstone Program expansion, DYCD opened 45  
8 additional Cornerstone Programs in public housing  
9 developments across the five boroughs additional?

10 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Yes, I mean...

11 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: [interposing]  
12 Uhm... so that brings...

13 [crosstalk]

14 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Originally...

15 [crosstalk]

16 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: The program to...  
17 so now you have 70 citywide?

18 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Right.

19 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: And what  
20 developments did they go into?

21 COMMISSIONER CHONG: I can provide you  
22 a list, but I know this happened under the previous  
23 administration and DYCD worked closely with NYCHA  
24 to identify sites that were large enough to run a  
25 Cornerstone Program and were in neighborhoods of



2 high need, so I believe there were 70 being looked  
3 at or 71 and 45 were selected. Contract amendments  
4 were done to nearby Cornerstone providers in  
5 anticipation of you know, continuing services and  
6 then an RFP will be done for those 45 sites  
7 sometime in the next year or so.

8 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: And given that it  
9 was done under the previous administration, the  
10 expansion is something that this current  
11 administration supports and would fund moving  
12 forward?

13 COMMISSIONER CHONG: The money is in  
14 the 2015 budget, so that's the intention, yes.

15 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: That's the  
16 intention, okay and the Beacon Programs. Keeping  
17 seven Beacons open. Were they slated to close?

18 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Because the  
19 previous administration and the November plan  
20 baselined the funding, those seven will be saved.  
21 They were selected in a request for proposal, so  
22 their contracts will go back to multi-year  
23 contracts and whatever cuts were done to the other  
24 city tax levy Beacons, those cuts have been  
25 baselined as well.

2 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Okay, so I would  
3 like to see the list of additional Cornerstone  
4 Programs and what developments they went into and  
5 the funding for those, the Beacon Programs; which  
6 ones were slated for closure and which ones were  
7 baselined and the additional adding funding to the  
8 Beacon Programs for the remaining 73...

9 COMMISSIONER CHONG: [interposing]  
10 Right.

11 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: So how much  
12 additional funding is going into those programs?

13 COMMISSIONER CHONG: [off mic] Do you  
14 know that?

15 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: And the 73 and the  
16 seven...

17 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Well, actually...

18 [crosstalk]

19 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: And so that brings  
20 us to 80. How much have they funded...

21 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Actually it's less  
22 than 73 because there are... I believe there are 14  
23 of the 80 Beacons that are federally funded.  
24 They're funded through what's called the Community  
25 Development Block Grant, so...

2 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: [interposing]

3 'Kay, number 73 is in your testimony, so that's  
4 where I'm getting that number from.

5 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Okay, well...

6 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: On page two.

7 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Okay.

8 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CIROLIA: [off mic]  
9 The 73 is the balance of the seven and seven.

10 COMMISSIONER CHONG: I know.

11 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CIROLIA: Yeah.

12 COMMISSIONER CHONG: So we'll get you  
13 that information.

14 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Okay, and on the  
15 Summer Youth Employment, we're short \$13 million.  
16 What are the possible sources of that funding?

17 COMMISSIONER CHONG: We're hoping that  
18 the state... I was in Albany in January with other  
19 advocates asking for an increase in state funding  
20 to help offset the loss of program slots because of  
21 the rise in minimum wage, so we hope that the state  
22 will step up to the plate. The State Legislature  
23 was very receptive. I met with both the State  
24 Senate and State Assembly and there seemed to be an  
25 openness there. There was hundreds of young people

2 from across the city up there as well, so we hope  
3 the state will be a big part of the solution.

4 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: So the additional  
5 13 only brings you back to FY '14 levels?

6 COMMISSIONER CHONG: It will address...

7 [crosstalk]

8 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: It doesn't  
9 increase then.

10 [crosstalk]

11 COMMISSIONER CHONG: It'll... yes,  
12 it'll address a loss of 4,000 less program slots.  
13 The reduction in slots is the result of three  
14 things. One is... the biggest was the increase in  
15 minimum wage. The second was we had federal money  
16 that... what's called this Community Service Block  
17 Grant money. It's money that can be spent on a  
18 variety of programs and we have what's called  
19 rollover money because the Federal Fiscal Year  
20 starts October 1st and the City Fiscal Year starts  
21 July 1st. Year to year, there's sometimes unspent  
22 money that we rollover into the City Fiscal Year so  
23 we can spend it before the Federal Fiscal Year  
24 ends. So those funds unfortunately this year are  
25 not going to be available to cover some SYEP slots.

And the third area where we've lost funding is private funding has gone down, so we've started a conversation with the Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City. As you know, there's new leadership at the Fund, so we're going to start those conversations this week in hopes that we can raise some private dollars to offset what we don't have now.

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: But the \$13 million only brings us back to...

COMMISSIONER CHONG: [interposing]  
Right.

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: This current fiscal year.

COMMISSIONER CHONG: And it...

[crosstalk]

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: It does not add any...

[crosstalk]

COMMISSIONER CHONG: No.

[crosstalk]

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Additional slots...

[crosstalk]

2 COMMISSIONER CHONG: No.

3 [crosstalk]

4 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: At all.

5 COMMISSIONER CHONG: It gets us the  
6 36,000 slots.

7 CHAIRPERSON CHONG: Right. Council  
8 Member Rodriguez?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Good  
10 morning...

11 [crosstalk]

12 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: I apologize.

13 [crosstalk]

14 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ:  
15 Commissioner...

16 [crosstalk]

17 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Before you proceed  
18 with your question, let me acknowledge that we have  
19 been joined by Council Member Alan Maisel; I think  
20 I did that already, but you got double credit and  
21 Council Member Vanessa Gibson and Council Member  
22 Carlos Menchaca and also Council Member Laurie  
23 Cumbo. Please proceed.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Thank you.  
25 Good morning...

1 COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT JOINTLY WITH THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES 31

2 [crosstalk]

3 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: And also Council  
4 Member...

5 COMMISSIONER CHONG: [interposing]  
6 Morning.

7 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: [interposing]  
8 Rosenthal.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Oh, as  
10 someone...

11 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: So you can  
12 proceed, please.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: As someone  
14 who has been with this administration from day one  
15 and committed to seeing this administration  
16 succeed, what will we do different, and not just  
17 giving the excuse that the state will not provide  
18 the funding, to change the process in which young  
19 people who want to work in the summer really are  
20 guaranteed. More than 150 young people applied to  
21 Summer Youth Program, right?

22 COMMISSIONER CHONG: I mean it was...

23 [crosstalk]

24 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: So...

25 [crosstalk]

2 COMMISSIONER CHONG: 100...

3 [crosstalk]

4 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: So...

5 COMMISSIONER CHONG: 140,000 last year.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: 100...

7 COMMISSIONER CHONG: 140,000.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Okay,

9 140,000 young people applied for a Summer Youth

10 Program and what is the number; like 27 got a job?

11 [background voices]

12 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: What was the  
13 number again?

14 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LYNN: Suzanne  
15 Lynn, Deputy Commissioner.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Okay.

17 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LYNN: Last year,  
18 we were able to employ approximately 36,000 youth.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: 140,000 more  
20 applied.

21 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LYNN: From about  
22 140,000 applications.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: But imagine  
24 this year, as a former teacher that I was, how  
25 young people started like getting crazy; getting



2 all the paperwork; getting the doctor's  
3 appointment; going through the whole process  
4 because we are promising them that they can have a  
5 job during the summer and you know, we are not  
6 talking about the wealthy New Yorker's kid who now  
7 they want to get a job to get some experience.  
8 We're talking about working class kids that getting  
9 that additional couple of thousand dollars  
10 translating to covering their expense for the  
11 senior years, helping their families to cover these  
12 costs, so I believe that it doesn't take much to  
13 guarantee that every single young person who wants  
14 to be busy; who wants to work during the summer  
15 should have guarantee a position in the Summer  
16 Youth Program. So what I hope is that with this  
17 great, friendly administration that we have, as  
18 we've been going to Albany and fighting for the UPK  
19 and other things, I don't want us to leave it up to  
20 Albany in guaranteeing the 140,000 young people  
21 that I believe is right; like \$70 million, right,  
22 most likely take?

23 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LYNN: Well, the  
24 rule of thumb is that every million dollars in  
25

2 additional funding will buy you about 700  
3 additional slots.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Okay, so  
5 what my call and my invitation is some of you that  
6 have been in the DYCD before, how can you explore;  
7 how can you go back to the Mayor and say we, at the  
8 council, at least from my end, I want to guarantee  
9 that every young person who wants to work  
10 **(INAUDIBLE 31:57)** we should guarantee that whatever  
11 it takes, which is less than \$100 million, so that  
12 they can get a job during the Summer Youth Program.  
13 So is that something that we think that we can work  
14 together?

15 COMMISSIONER CHONG: I mean we'll pass  
16 on your request to the Mayor and OMB, but as you  
17 know, as I said in response to an earlier question,  
18 the Preliminary Budget when it was announced,  
19 outlined certain risks that exist in the budget and  
20 the biggest risk is the cost of unsettled labor  
21 contracts, which nobody knows how much that will  
22 cost, so before the city can start committing to  
23 expanding other programs, we need to have some  
24 clarify on how much that will cost the city. I  
25 think the Budget Director also talked about the

2 uncertainty of state funding in a number of areas.  
3 I mean a few years ago... I don't... I'm sure some  
4 of the council member will remember that the  
5 general revenue money that the state used to give  
6 the city was cut out of the budget at the last  
7 minute, so it would be inappropriate to start  
8 talking about spending a lot more money expanding  
9 programs, even though they're needed; I agree with  
10 you. Ideally, every young person who wants to work  
11 should work, but it would be fiscally irresponsible  
12 to start committing to expanding programs when we  
13 don't know what the state funding will be like and  
14 more importantly, what the cost of the settlement  
15 of labor contracts will be. I mean the lottery has  
16 been in place forever, and to give to an example,  
17 when I was in the Summer Youth Employment Program  
18 in 1974 there was a lottery, so in modern history I  
19 don't think we've ever had a situation where there  
20 was no lottery. Unfortunately, the money hasn't  
21 been allocated, but I hear you and we'll pass on  
22 your request to the Mayor.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: But I think  
24 and I believe it's fair to share the projection to  
25 the young people to letting them know we're doing

this lottery and the projection right now is that the number that most likely will get a job is going to be this percentage because I don't think that it's fair to create false expectations when we know that from the 140,000, most likely this coming summer, only 27,000 will get a job. My other question is about the after-school middle school. Did you say that you have identified the schools where...

[crosstalk]

COMMISSIONER CHONG: There was no after-school program.

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Yeah, so do you have a breakdown for council members so that we know which schools they are?

[crosstalk]

COMMISSIONER CHONG: Yeah, we can share that with you.

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: 'Kay, what... the last question is about the Adult Literacy Program.

COMMISSIONER CHONG: The what?

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Adult.

COMMISSIONER CHONG: Okay.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: And are you  
3 looking to expand? Are there any plans to expand  
4 the Adult Literacy Services in the future?

5 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LYNN: Well, as you  
6 probably know, Council Member, we recently issued a  
7 literacy RFP for approximately \$11.5 million. The  
8 majority of that funding was actually due to DACA,  
9 the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals  
10 initiative. We have funding guaranteed for DACA  
11 through the end of FY '15, so if you take DACA out  
12 from the literacy RFP, you have approximately \$5  
13 million in literacy programming and that will cover  
14 adult literacy, young adult literacy, adolescent  
15 literacy.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Yeah well, I  
17 see that you have \$5.5 million...

18 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LYNN:  
19 [interposing] Yes.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Compared to  
21 the Fiscal 2014, but this can be attributed to the  
22 additional funding that was baselined in the  
23 November plan, so but my question is even with  
24 that, are you having conversation and looking to  
25 expand the Adult Literacy Service?

2 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LYNN: [off mic] I  
3 think you want to answer that.

4 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Well, again, I  
5 don't want to sound like a broken record, but we  
6 plan on expanding the middle school for \$190  
7 million; you know, another \$2 million in runaway  
8 homeless youth. Until the city, as a whole, gets  
9 clarity on these budget risks that I've outlined,  
10 we can't talk about expanding other programs,  
11 whether it be literacy, Beacons, Cornerstone. It  
12 would be fiscally irresponsible until we know  
13 exactly how much the labor contracts will cost the  
14 city. So is there a need to expand them? No  
15 question. I met with the coalition... [off mic]  
16 What's the coalition we met?

17 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LYNN: [off mic]  
18 For Adult Literacy.

19 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Coalition for  
20 Adult Literacy, and in a city which is 40 percent  
21 immigrant, there clearly is a need for this. I  
22 mean I know from my own experience. My mother came  
23 to this country in the 1940s and she was not  
24 literate in English and she couldn't read... she  
25 could speak Chinese, but she couldn't read Chinese,

2 so she often had to count the subway stops to come  
3 into Chinatown. So there's a clear need for these  
4 programs. The question is how much can we spend  
5 and when is the right time to do it, and we won't  
6 know the answers to those questions until there's  
7 more clarity on the city's budget situation.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Great.

9 Thank you.

10 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you, Council  
11 Member Ydanis. Commissioner, let me go back a  
12 little bit to the Summer Youth Program. The Summer  
13 Youth Program is so important for the young people.  
14 I don't have to elaborate too much on that because  
15 this is an opportunity for our young people to have  
16 skills and you know, a good experience that they  
17 need to succeed in life and that keeps them also  
18 out of problems and according to the statistics,  
19 they perform better in school. You know, this is a  
20 great program and we all should work together to  
21 make sure we preserve the program and that we  
22 improve it. We know also that part of the funding  
23 for adult programs come also from the private  
24 sector. I know that DYCD has been receiving funds  
25 also from private sectors. This is a quick, quick

2 you know, approach, but do you have a plan to  
3 continue to do so or even improve increasing  
4 numbers of private institutions who have been so  
5 generous to DYCD?

6 COMMISSIONER CHONG: I agree with  
7 everything you said about the Summer Youth  
8 Employment Program. I think it's a proven success;  
9 the research shows it. As I said earlier, there's  
10 been a change in leadership at the Mayor's Fund to  
11 Advance New York City, which is the arm that raises  
12 private dollars. The Mayor's wife is the chair of  
13 the board and I believe the new Executive Director  
14 just started last week, so we've reached out to her  
15 and started the conversation about how to raise  
16 private money for the program. Whether we have  
17 enough time is the question because a lot of  
18 foundations and corporations make decisions. They  
19 have boards they have to meet and so we need this  
20 money by July 1st, so we're definitely going to  
21 make an effort to raise private dollars. How  
22 successful we'll be we'll know soon enough.

23 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you,  
24 Commissioner. I'm going to call... let me  
25 recognize Council Member Andy King for some



2 questions, but I just want to remind my colleagues  
3 that, you know, a lot of people are going to  
4 testify, and also all the council members want to  
5 say something. Please be brief and probably you  
6 will have to come back you know, if you have many  
7 questions. Thank you very much. Council Member  
8 King?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: I will be brief,  
10 brief.

11 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: But I don't want  
12 to single you out, so [laughter] it's for all the  
13 council members. Thank you very much and thank you  
14 for understanding that. Thank you.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Thank you, Mr.  
16 Chair, Madam Chair, and Commissioner,  
17 congratulations again and I will stay within two  
18 minutes. I'm going to jump on... I have three  
19 questions, but the first one goes back into Summer  
20 Youth Employment, which is so critical to helping  
21 young people develop and financially get themselves  
22 on the right track of understanding how to be  
23 responsible. We know that there is a dedicated  
24 funding stream that will allow us to expand after-  
25 school programs and making sure that we'll be able

2 to have our young people have more work. You've  
3 already talked about the numbers; over 140,000 have  
4 applied from 2013 and then they only were able to  
5 take a small percentage of that to put them to  
6 work. If you are unable; and I've asked this  
7 question last year to the last commissioner; if you  
8 are unable to get any other increase in funding  
9 that will allow you to add additional slots because  
10 what increase you did get the cost of the minimum  
11 wage increase that you pretty much are trying to  
12 get back to last year's standards, are there any  
13 additional plans to fulfill the needs of the  
14 children who may not be able to be employed and is  
15 the DOE going to be... can be a part of? And I  
16 will say why after you answer that question.

17 COMMISSIONER CHONG: [of mic] Do you  
18 want to talk about the other additional programs?  
19 Let me answer the D... Let me answer the DOE  
20 question. I mean you know, that's a question you  
21 really should ask the Department of Education. I'm  
22 reluctant to comment on other agency's budget, but  
23 Suzanne can talk about some of the other programs  
24 we have.

2 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LYNN: Well,  
3 obviously there's a much more... a greater demand  
4 for jobs than our current ability to actually fund  
5 them. So we do our best to research all of the  
6 available other opportunities that may be out there  
7 and we do our best to publicize them via our social  
8 media. We also run a smaller program that is a  
9 complement to SYEP. It's called Lattice for  
10 Leaders and that's a program that is competitive...  
11 the entrance to the program is competitive, but if  
12 you do get in, then you are eligible to be placed  
13 in an unsubsidized job for the summer and that is  
14 one way... we've found that that's very popular  
15 with the private sector because they get to select  
16 the youth who work for them and they pay their  
17 salaries and they treat them like regular  
18 employees. We are trying to grow that program over  
19 time. It's a challenging program to run, but we  
20 think it's worthwhile.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Okay, just want  
22 to go back to the DOE quickly, as I just want to  
23 give a proposal. Maybe this'll work, but just a  
24 suggestion if we have a problem. Maybe it's an  
25 opportunity to work with the DOE by offering

2 whatever volunteer hours, and usually it has a job  
3 for students and allowing them to get some type of  
4 additional credit that financially we cannot  
5 provide for them, but at least academically they'll  
6 get credits after they do... whether they're  
7 working at the school you know, or they work  
8 someplace, but allow them... and that will be  
9 funding that will be a payment to them that will be  
10 long gone after they buy those Jordans; they'll  
11 always have that experience in them and they will  
12 get some type of high school credit. Just a  
13 thought or suggestion to try to figure how we plug  
14 in the gaps so students who are not working still  
15 have an activity over the course of the summer.

16 COMMISSIONER CHONG: And you know, many  
17 of our programs, particularly the Beacons and  
18 Cornerstone, operate longer hours in the summer  
19 because we know not every young person will have a  
20 job, but if we can keep them engaged in positive  
21 activities, all the better.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Okay.

23 COMMISSIONER CHONG: So I agree.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Thank you, thank  
25 you and another thing I want to just talk about

some of the baseline initiatives that have occurred and in the meanwhile, I'm just going to just paraphrase quickly. Now, because of some of these baseline initiatives, the process is going to change for those who are just trying to get the one-time funding, how has it changed from this year and is the process going to be a little bit more simplified because when small organizations try to get discretionary money, the process is so complicated for them sometimes and the amount of time for them to receive the funding; sometimes doors close and programs shut down. Is there going to be a change in that?

COMMISSIONER CHONG: Well, I know that there's money that was baselined for programs that were council only funded last year, so we're committed to ensuring there's no disruption in services. We've raised this to OMB and OMB is fully aware of that because I agree that some of the smaller groups have unique challenges that we need to be mindful of. So we're aware of it, it's on the radar for OMB and hopefully this will be resolved shortly.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Thank you, and my  
3 final question goes back to the Young Men's  
4 Initiative, which was lost in 2011. I know that  
5 there was some funding. The city invested \$127  
6 million over three years period in city and private  
7 funds to support new programs and policies designed  
8 to address disparities between young Black and  
9 Latino men and their peers that caused numerous  
10 outcomes related to education, health, employment  
11 and the criminal justice system. I'd just like to  
12 know what other programs that the YMI and your  
13 agency plan to continue and oversee and have you  
14 measured the programs and the success over the  
15 years?

16 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LYNN: Right now,  
17 we have three programs that are funded with CEO and  
18 YMI funds: the Young Adult Literacy Program, the  
19 Young Adult Internship Program and Teen ACTION. We  
20 intend to continue operating Young Adult Internship  
21 Program and Young Adult Literacy. I think that  
22 Teen ACTION, a lot of that programming will be  
23 integrated into Beacon and Cornerstone programming.  
24 We are right now... both the Young Adult Literacy  
25 Program and the Young Adult Internship Program

2 serve disconnected youth between the ages of 16 and  
3 24, and the bulk of the funds is from CEO, but YMI  
4 does represent an important part of the funding as  
5 well and we would like to see both programs  
6 continue. Both are under evaluation now. YAIP is  
7 under... is part of a national evaluation being  
8 conducted by MDRC on subsidized job programs and  
9 we're hoping that as early as next year we'll have  
10 a report out that will show that it is successful.  
11 Our experience is that it seems to be very  
12 impactful for the young people it serves, and we're  
13 hoping that the evaluation will bear that out.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Well, I thank you  
15 for answering my questions. I look forward to  
16 working with you all. We all look forward to  
17 working with you to improve our young people in our  
18 communities. Thank you.

19 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Okay, thank you,  
20 Council Member. I want to follow up on Council  
21 Member King's baseline question, but first extend  
22 an apology to our colleague, Council Member  
23 Rosenthal. I believe we referred to her as Linda,  
24 and we all know she is absolutely Helen.  
25 [laughter] So the council initiatives that are

2 baselined, the total \$70.7 million, how were they  
3 selected and there are many others that we find are  
4 very...

5 COMMISSIONER CHONG: [interposing]  
6 Well, the council...

7 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: [interposing]  
8 Successful. How do you decide which ones you  
9 baseline and which ones you don't?

10 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Well, the council  
11 funded programs obviously were selected by the  
12 council last year, so the intention is to ensure  
13 there's no disruption of services to those  
14 providers. OMB knows this and we're waiting for  
15 guidance from OMB on how to proceed, but we're very  
16 aware of that. So if a group got funding last  
17 year, we expect that the group will get funding  
18 next year, but OMB is still I guess working this  
19 through.

20 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: But that's not my  
21 question. My question is: how do you come to  
22 these particular initiatives being baselined and  
23 there's a whole...

24 [crosstalk]

25 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Oh.



2 [crosstalk]

3 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Host of others  
4 that were not...

5 COMMISSIONER CHONG: [interposing] Oh,  
6 that...

7 [crosstalk]

8 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: How do you decide  
9 which ones...

10 [crosstalk]

11 COMMISSIONER CHONG: That... that...

12 [crosstalk]

13 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: To baseline and  
14 which ones to...

15 [crosstalk]

16 COMMISSIONER CHONG: That was a  
17 decision made by the previous Mayor, so I really  
18 can't speak to that. That was made in the  
19 November...

20 [crosstalk]

21 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Got it.

22 [crosstalk]

23 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Plan.

24 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Okay, and the  
25 amounts are at the FY '14 levels.

2 COMMISSIONER CHONG: I think...

3 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: No increases?

4 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Yeah, I believe  
5 so, yeah.

6 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Okay, thank you.  
7 Council Member Gibson?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Good morning.  
9 Thank you, Madam Chairwoman and Madam Chairman, and  
10 good morning, Commissioner. Congratulations and  
11 thank you, Deputy Commissioners for your presence  
12 here today. So many of my colleagues have  
13 expressed many of my concerns already, but just on  
14 the SYEP, I know there have been many of us that  
15 have offered support for the \$35 million. This  
16 year in the proposed State Budget there's \$27.5,  
17 which is an increase, but as I understand it's only  
18 to accommodate the minimum wage increase. You  
19 mentioned before that there's a possibility of  
20 obtaining some private funds.

21 COMMISSIONER CHONG: It's a very remote  
22 possibility. I just want to say because...

23 [crosstalk]

24 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Yes.

25 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Because...

2 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: [interposing]  
3 Anything in Albany is a possibility.

4 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Well, private  
5 funding, as those of us who've worked in non-  
6 profits, they operate with boards of directors that  
7 meet on a quarterly basis, so in order to get  
8 funding for something that's starts in July  
9 sometimes you need to ask for the money...

10 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: [interposing]  
11 Right.

12 COMMISSIONER CHONG: In the wintertime,  
13 so the fact that there's a new leadership at the  
14 Mayor's Fund that only started last week, I just  
15 want to manage people's expectations that we're  
16 going to start the process; whether the money  
17 materializes for this summer I'm not sure.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Okay, now I  
19 know a couple of years ago, the program expanded to  
20 accommodate up to 24-year olds, so we're now  
21 serving 14 to 24. In each age category the  
22 application process, as you mentioned, is a lottery  
23 system. Is there an equal number of slots per age  
24 group because I guess the concern that has always  
25 been for many parents of 14, 15, 16 year olds is

2 that their children are competing for slots with  
3 young adults who are in their twenties, so is there  
4 an equal distribution across each age group or is  
5 there more preference given to teenagers versus  
6 young adults?

7 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LYNN: As you may  
8 know, last year when we issued the SYEP RFP for the  
9 first time we divided it into separate components  
10 for younger youth and...

11 [crosstalk]

12 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Right.

13 [crosstalk]

14 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LYNN: Older youth  
15 largely for some of the reasons you've just  
16 articulated, so we knew that 14 and 15 year olds  
17 just aren't really going to get the same kinds of  
18 summer jobs that 16 and over can. So we have a  
19 younger youth component that's for 14 and 15 year  
20 olds...

21 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: [interposing]

22 Okay.

23 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LYNN: And an older  
24 youth component that's from 16 to 24. The money is  
25 not exactly equal. I don't have the amounts on the

2 tip of my tongue, but they are roughly proportional  
3 to what our experience has been in terms of the  
4 proportionate participation in the program in  
5 previous years among various age groups.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Okay and my  
7 last question is in reference to the Cornerstone  
8 and the Beacon OST programs that focuses on  
9 cultural enrichment, community engagement,  
10 recreational. Who determines the curriculum for  
11 these programs and how often is that curriculum  
12 changed? Are there stakeholders involved;  
13 community residents...

14 [crosstalk]

15 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Oh.

16 [crosstalk]

17 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Et cetera?

18 COMMISSIONER CHONG: I think we give a  
19 lot of flexibility to each program to design their  
20 own model. There are certain participation  
21 requirements; how often young people are supposed  
22 to show up. We always bring guest speakers in to  
23 the provider meetings of Beacons. A few years ago,  
24 we started a partnership with the New York Academy  
25 of Sciences where we had partnered graduate

2 students in the sciences with youth workers at OST  
3 programs and Beacon Programs and the Cornerstone  
4 Programs to teach science, and you know, having a  
5 graduate student who's close enough in age to a  
6 young person in a Beacon, I think it's been  
7 wonderful 'cause they know that they have the  
8 content, but they're also young enough to be...  
9 they can relate to them as a mentor, so and I know  
10 that the New York Academy of Sciences has a wealth  
11 of curriculum that they've made available on all  
12 kinds of subject matters that interest young  
13 people. So we provide guidance, but we give them  
14 flexibility.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: So within the  
16 flexibility though your agency determines the  
17 actual framework, right? So while you allow each  
18 program to determine...

19 [crosstalk]

20 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Right.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Curriculum  
22 based on their needs, there has to be a model in  
23 which you're working with, right?

24 COMMISSIONER CHONG: We expect young  
25 people... I think it's 216 hours of service for

2 middle school youth in Beacons. [off mic] Is that  
3 correct? Okay, I can't believe I remember that  
4 number. And they're expected to participate in a  
5 certain number of hours a year because we know that  
6 you can have the greatest program, but if the young  
7 person doesn't show up there's no benefit to the  
8 program, so that's the parameters we give them.  
9 How they get young people engaged; we know every  
10 community is different. Every center will be  
11 different. The interests of young people will be  
12 different. So we try to give them an array of  
13 curriculum they can tap into, but allow them to  
14 choose what makes sense in that community.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Okay, thank you  
16 very much.

17 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very  
18 much, Council Member. Council Member Chin, please?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Thank you, Chair.  
20 Congratulations, Commissioner.

21 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Thank you.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: I'm officially on  
23 this committee now.

24 COMMISSIONER CHONG: I know.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: I want to...

2 [crosstalk]

3 COMMISSIONER CHONG: You won't ask  
4 about budget cuts anymore, right?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Of course I am  
6 still going to ask about that. [laughter] Okay,  
7 according to your testimony, I just wanted... on  
8 the new, enhanced program; the OST expansion. You  
9 talked about increasing the price per slot from  
10 \$2,100 to \$3,000 and also expanding the program  
11 hours. Now, is that going to be for all the  
12 schools?

13 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Yes, so of the  
14 current Out-of-School Time programs that are  
15 getting \$2,100, they will brought up to \$3,000 and  
16 the hours of service 'cause we didn't want to have  
17 a two-tiered system where programs that were  
18 awarded two years ago had less money and less  
19 hours, so all the middle school programs and Out-  
20 of-School Time will have the same cost per  
21 participant of \$3,000 and the same 540 hours.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Have the service  
23 provider already got this news?

24 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Oh, yeah, this is  
25 in the White Paper and...



2 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: [interposing]

3 Okay.

4 COMMISSIONER CHONG: When we designed  
5 the White Paper we had many, many meetings with  
6 some of the citywide providers...

7 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: [interposing]

8 Yeah.

9 COMMISSIONER CHONG: And the \$3,000 was  
10 a number that they also had major input into 'cause  
11 they surveyed their programs and they found that  
12 the bigger agencies have the capacity to raise  
13 private money and they were able to take the \$2,100  
14 that we gave them and bring it up to \$3,000. And  
15 what we wanted to do was to have a level playing  
16 field so that small neighborhood groups that only  
17 got the \$2,100 that we gave them had the same  
18 chance to have a quality program, so that's why we  
19 thought let's bring up the current programs to  
20 \$3,000, as well as the new programs that launched  
21 in September.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: That is really  
23 great news. Yeah, I know that several providers in  
24 my district are already praising this program. You  
25 could check it out on the Broad Sheet today, so the

2 other question I have is the other OST that the  
3 previous administration baselined, that's \$51  
4 million.

5 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Right.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: So are there any  
7 plan... now some of those agencies that have the  
8 OST program, they didn't make it to the RFP because  
9 of the previous administration and the way they  
10 moved zip codes and things like that, so now for  
11 all the agencies that are listed in this category  
12 of OST, 'cause you were saying that before that to  
13 prevent disruption of programs they were going to  
14 be funded again this year, but going forward, do  
15 they have to go through another RFP...

16 [crosstalk]

17 COMMISSIONER CHONG: No.

18 [crosstalk]

19 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: System?

20 COMMISSIONER CHONG: The ones that were  
21 council awarded but baselined, as I said earlier,  
22 like the other initiatives, the commitment is to  
23 ensure there's no disruption of services, so we  
24 don't expect any problems. They will get the same  
25 funding, if not more, we hope. We know there were

2 some issues regarding a lower cost for participants  
3 in some of the council funded programs. That's on  
4 the radar for OMB and they'll find a resolution of  
5 that, but OMB is fully aware that some of the  
6 council awarded program, which use the RFP list,  
7 were getting a lower cost per participant, so  
8 that's... but they should not expect any disruption  
9 of services this next year.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: For next year,  
11 but going forward they might have to go through  
12 another RFP system?

13 COMMISSIONER CHONG: They were treated  
14 the same as other providers that were selected in  
15 the RFP.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: So they might be  
17 able to have... so the RFP is for three years.  
18 They might be able to carry on for three years  
19 until the next new RFP?

20 COMMISSIONER CHONG: I mean those  
21 details haven't been worked out, but there's a way  
22 to do it so that all the contracts will end at the  
23 same time.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Okay, that...  
3 well, can you just make sure you provide us with  
4 updates as it's going...

5 COMMISSIONER CHONG: [interposing] Yes,  
6 uh-huh.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: So that we can  
8 inform our providers? The other... in your  
9 testimony, you also talked about the Runaway Youth  
10 and Homeless Youth Program. I think for one of our  
11 previous colleagues, Council Member Fidler, I mean  
12 this was you know, his program that he really  
13 thanked the administration for baselining, but this  
14 Mayor, I think Mayor de Blasio also increased  
15 funding.

16 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Right.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Because of his  
18 priorities, so I think that we're looking at you  
19 know, other programs, whether it's Beacon,  
20 Cornerstone. I mean all these programs really need  
21 to have increased funding.

22 COMMISSIONER CHONG: I mean...

23 [crosstalk]

24 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: I think those  
25 are...

2 COMMISSIONER CHONG: [interposing] I  
3 can't disagree with you, but as I said, unless we  
4 have more clarity on the budget situation,  
5 particularly the contracts you know, it's not... it  
6 would be inappropriate to talk about expanding  
7 other programs beyond the two that we've talked  
8 about today.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Well, I... okay,  
10 you can use that excuse, but I think what I'm  
11 trying to get at is that... I'll be careful now. I  
12 mean in the previous administration, every time the  
13 DYCD Commissioner... I mean you were at those  
14 hearings before... City Council funds a lot of  
15 youth programs or community development programs.  
16 DYCD Commissioner should not be a City Council  
17 Commissioner.

18 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Right.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: So I think it's  
20 really important that I get a commitment from you  
21 that you will advocate as strong as you can...

22 [crosstalk]

23 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Right.

24 [crosstalk]

2 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: With the  
3 administration to really increase funding to our  
4 youth programs and community programs.

5 COMMISSIONER CHONG: I mean we've  
6 talked to OMB, but at this point it's too soon to  
7 talk about expanding other programs when... I mean  
8 my main focus has been spending \$190 million in  
9 five months. I mean and that is an enormous  
10 amount. To give you some context, when Out-of-  
11 School Time was launched 10 years ago, it took us  
12 18 months from the planning meeting in October of  
13 2003 to the actual start of contracts and that was  
14 only \$60 million. So understandably, most of...  
15 and I've been on the job for seven weeks. This is  
16 my eighth week, but who's counting, right? And so  
17 we want to do it right. It's \$190 million, we want  
18 to get it out the door and there's plenty of time  
19 later in the future to talk about expansion, but a  
20 lot depends on the city's overall budget situation.  
21 DYCD is not an agency unto itself. It's part of  
22 the larger city budget, and so it would be  
23 irresponsible for me to talk about expanding  
24 programs when we're not sure about what the larger  
25 city needs are.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Okay, how...

3 [crosstalk]

4 COMMISSIONER CHONG: But I believe  
5 these programs need to be expanded. The Beacon  
6 Program has been a program that has weathered many  
7 storms over the two previous Mayors, so and it's  
8 been the model for the Cornerstone Program and when  
9 we designed the Cornerstone Program we looked at  
10 the Beacon and we just funded it at a higher level.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Well, it's good  
12 to see that it's... I mean this baseline,  
13 especially the one...

14 [crosstalk]

15 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Right.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: From the public  
17 housing, so that's a good start. I mean we do  
18 expect more from you because even though you say  
19 you're only seven weeks, you've been there. So we  
20 look forward to working with you. This is only the  
21 Preliminary, so we still have a little time, but  
22 thank you, Chair.

23 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you, Council  
24 Member Chin and before I... I still have a few  
25 questions. I just wanted to acknowledge that we

2 have been joined by Council Member David  
3 Greenfield, but I think he left also because he has  
4 other you know, hearings to attend to. And  
5 Commissioner, let's talk about the Beacon Program,  
6 just you know, we have approximately new community  
7 centers approximately. If I am wrong, please  
8 correct me, and we know that the Beacon Program,  
9 they are providing wonderful services to our young  
10 people and could you tell us how the centers have  
11 been selected and how long is the contract or...

12 [crosstalk]

13 COMMISSIONER CHONG: It...

14 [crosstalk]

15 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: How long are the  
16 contracts with them?

17 COMMISSIONER CHONG: The locations have  
18 been in place for pretty much the life of the  
19 program. They were started... I think the first 25  
20 or so were selected through a request for proposal  
21 under the Dinkins Administration back in the early  
22 90s.

23 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Mm-hm.

24 COMMISSIONER CHONG: They were expanded  
25 to the present 80 during the Giuliani



2 Administration and the locations pretty much have  
3 stayed the same because they've become neighborhood  
4 institutions, so if we were to grow the program  
5 we'd probably add more sites, not try to change  
6 sites because once you have a program that's been  
7 in place for 20 years, the community becomes  
8 accustomed to it. They... as I said, they were the  
9 first community centers started by the late Richard  
10 Murphy and the Dinkins Administration and it's been  
11 a model that we've replicated in the Cornerstone  
12 Program because what's unique about Beacons and  
13 Cornerstones is that they serve not just one age  
14 group of young people, but they serve elementary,  
15 middle high school, adults. And oftentimes the  
16 best run Beacons and Cornerstones are able to  
17 leverage that kind of arrangement where a family  
18 could drop off their child for childcare and then  
19 get other types of services while they're at the  
20 Beacon. So it's definitely a program that's  
21 worked. It's been replicated around the country.  
22 It just... over the last 20 years, it has  
23 languished. Funding has no question languished for  
24 Beacons and so it's something that we're aware of  
25 and you know, we hope to address in the future.

2 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Yeah, but you say  
3 that you... you're saying that you don't want to  
4 change the site, but we know that the services  
5 provided by the Beacon Programs are so important;  
6 critical.

7 COMMISSIONER CHONG: So I...

8 [crosstalk]

9 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: So...

10 [crosstalk]

11 COMMISSIONER CHONG: The way I would  
12 address it is add more Beacons as opposed to  
13 moving. I don't want to pit one community against  
14 another. I mean I think an argument could be made  
15 that the Beacon is a valuable institution in every  
16 neighborhood that it's at, so rather than say this  
17 neighborhood deserves it more than others, I'd  
18 rather add more Beacons than to try to choose which  
19 neighborhood deserves it over another.

20 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: I do agree with  
21 you. You know, I don't mean changing the sites,  
22 but I'm thinking about you know, making more  
23 effort; initiative to increase the number of  
24 Beacons.

2 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Yeah, I don't  
3 know...

4 [crosstalk]

5 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: And what have  
6 you... what has DYCD been doing to increase...

7 [crosstalk]

8 COMMISSIONER CHONG: At this point...

9 [crosstalk]

10 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: The number?

11 [crosstalk]

12 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Absent new  
13 funding, as you know, for the last five years we've  
14 been fighting just to keep the baseline number at  
15 346,000, so you know, as I said, increasing funding  
16 at this point is not an immediate plan, but it  
17 doesn't mean it won't happen at some point in the  
18 future.

19 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Alright, thank you  
20 very much. Now let me recognize Council Member  
21 Menchaca for come some questions.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Thank you,  
23 Chairs and thank you so much for coming and  
24 testifying today. I want to also thank you for  
25 something you said earlier really focusing on some

2 of the things that we're really passionate about  
3 here at the City Council, and one of them is the  
4 immigrant population, and as chair of the  
5 Immigration Committee, I'm going to be really...  
6 I'm looking into the new baseline numbers and so  
7 thank you again for that baseline for both DACA and  
8 for IOI. I'm interested in really learning more on  
9 the broad level the IOI funding that has gone into  
10 our communities and if you can really comment on  
11 the effectiveness of the current structure and the  
12 current RFP process, and whether or not we need to  
13 make and consider any changes and how we do what we  
14 do. That's my first question.

15 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LYNN: Well, as you  
16 know, DYCD has been administering IOI funding  
17 stream for however many years. About a quarter of  
18 that money goes to ESOL services; the bulk of it  
19 goes to legal services. I would say that over the  
20 years, we have come to a working partnership with  
21 the council so that they would listen; the council  
22 would listen to our feedback about how each program  
23 did every year so that there would be some... you  
24 know, there would be consequences for a program not  
25 actually performing. That took some time to get to

2 that mutual understanding. I would say that as a  
3 contracting agency, we always take the view that  
4 the ideal is to make sure that these contracts are  
5 competitively awarded because that's the way you  
6 can exercise the most quality control, but we've  
7 managed over the years to work within the framework  
8 of a discretionary funding stream and try to  
9 develop some kind of accountability. Is it the  
10 same level of accountability that we have with our  
11 competitively awarded contracts? I can't really  
12 say that that's the case, but DYCD staff is working  
13 very hard to bring accountability into the  
14 discretionary framework.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: And as far as  
16 any specific recommendations for this next round  
17 and for the future, are there any specific  
18 recommendations too? It sounds like you want to  
19 continue that relationship with the City Council  
20 and can offer feedback, but is there anything else  
21 that's...

22 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LYNN:  
23 [interposing] Well, we've been...

24 [crosstalk]  
25

2 CONCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: That's not yet  
3 been spoken to?

4 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LYNN: Well,  
5 ultimately, as I said, our ideal situation is to  
6 have all of our contracts competitively awarded.  
7 That would be our preference.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: And so on the  
9 DACA side with the baselining, what can we assume  
10 is the future funding stream for DACA specifically  
11 looking at how many people it's serving as well...

12 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LYNN: Right.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Past '15?

14 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LYNN: Right.  
15 Well, as you know, the DACA... the dedicated  
16 funding we have now ends at the end of FY '15. We  
17 had \$13.7 million. We've spent... we've worked  
18 very hard to spend approximately half of that this  
19 year and we will be spending the balance of it  
20 under the new contracts that we're awarded under  
21 this past literacy RFP. Going forward after that,  
22 I honestly don't know. I think we should keep  
23 something in mind with DACA. DACA was always meant  
24 as an intermediate step on the way towards  
25 comprehensive immigration reform. I think one of

2 the reasons, and we don't know for sure, but one of  
3 the reasons why there's been a relatively low  
4 uptake on DACA is that a lot of folks in the  
5 immigrant communities see it as an intermediate  
6 step and that they're hoping for something better  
7 with the comprehensive immigration reform. I mean  
8 we could speculate why there's been a relatively  
9 low uptake for DACA. The whole purpose of this  
10 DACA initiative that we're engaged in now is to  
11 really reach down into immigrant communities and  
12 identify young people who are not necessarily the  
13 ones who have been... who fit the profile of the  
14 immigrant young people who've applied for DACA so  
15 far who have tended to be relatively well-educated,  
16 employed and all that. We're really specifically  
17 looking to find immigrant youth who maybe dropped  
18 out of school or don't have a high school diploma  
19 or are not working. Those are the ones that we're  
20 after, but it's a challenge and we don't know...  
21 it's a pilot that we're doing now and we don't know  
22 how well we will really do at this point. It  
23 really is a pilot.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Well and so  
25 on that note, I'll give the floor back to the

2 chairs, but the... really the main point here in  
3 this kind of new spirit of the City Council is  
4 we're not going to wait for the federal government,  
5 and so until that happens we're should move with  
6 the assumption that we're nowhere near where we  
7 need to be and still put that pressure on the  
8 federal government, but we can be more strategic  
9 about how we do what we do and if we're hearing  
10 that we haven't reached the communities that we  
11 need to reach, we can work with members in the  
12 Immigration Committee and the rest of our members  
13 on the City Council to help you bring that to  
14 communities that are not only in high need, but  
15 hard to reach and I'd like to commit time and  
16 energy in thinking about that with you.

17 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LYNN: We, of  
18 course, would welcome any help in terms of reaching  
19 deeper into the immigrant communities, but I would  
20 be remiss if I didn't point out some of the funding  
21 for DACA we're using specifically for outreach and  
22 to communities; not only a citywide outreach  
23 program that is being designed by the New York  
24 Immigration Coalition, but we're also funding a  
25 number of smaller grassroots organizations that



2 don't necessarily have existing contracts with the  
3 city; groups that may really have very little  
4 experience dealing with the city and we've given  
5 them smaller amounts of money to do really targeted  
6 outreach at the really grassroots level. So we are  
7 really making an effort to reach those youth, but  
8 of course, any additional help is always welcome.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Thank you.

10 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Okay, so any  
11 collaboration with CUNY's immigration services  
12 program?

13 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LYNN: We have met  
14 several times with the CUNY folks, who also got a  
15 smaller amount of money under the DACA initiative.  
16 They, of course, are... their specialty is really  
17 education programs and as you probably know, if you  
18 don't have... if you're a young immigrant and...  
19 undocumented immigrant and you don't have a high  
20 school diploma, in order to qualify for DACA you  
21 have to show that you're currently enrolled in an  
22 education program and so that's where CUNY can  
23 really be helpful. They can provide the kind of  
24 education that will be... that will qualify folks  
25 for DACA status.

2 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: I'm referring to  
3 the CUNY Citizenship Now programs and the services  
4 that are provided by CUNY through a host of our  
5 offices. I have an attorney in my office twice a  
6 week designated through CUNY to help individuals  
7 who are on the path to citizenship, so it doesn't  
8 sound to me like you're having the kind of  
9 conversation with CUNY that can link into the  
10 efforts that you are engaged in.

11 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Well, actually...

12 [crosstalk]

13 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Around DACA.

14 COMMISSIONER CHONG: I saw Jay  
15 Hershenson at the State of the City, so he wants to  
16 sit down and discuss at a much higher level how  
17 DYCD and the CUNY system can coordinate, so I think  
18 it's certainly something we'll discuss with him.

19 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Okay, hopefully  
20 when you come back in May, you'll have some more  
21 information.

22 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Right.

23 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Okay.

24 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very  
25 much, Council Member. Commissioner, with respect

2 to IOI, we know that there are many not-for profit  
3 grassroots organizations in the past that have been  
4 providing immigration services to their  
5 constituency, but there's a decision, a decision  
6 taken by DYCD requiring them to hire an attorney  
7 and then I believe that they don't have the  
8 resources to hire attorneys. Many of the small  
9 grassroots organizations they had to lay off people  
10 and also terminate the services that they used to  
11 provide to the people in the community. Why has  
12 this decision been taken?

13 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LYNN: Well, as you  
14 probably know, in addition to the DACA initiative,  
15 DYCD for many years has run the Immigrant Services  
16 Initiative. That is funded entirely by the Federal  
17 Community Services Block Grant. That is something  
18 that DYCD chose to do over 10 years ago and it is a  
19 dedicated fund for Immigrant Services. Part... we  
20 have five different program areas under the  
21 Immigrant Services Initiative, one of which is the  
22 Immigrant Legal Services. We are dedicated to  
23 quality control in our programs and we are  
24 monitored very carefully by the federal government  
25 to make sure that we are providing quality

2 services. So we have made it clear, and we have  
3 done that in consultation with the State Department  
4 of State, which is our oversight agency for CSBG,  
5 that programs that provide legal services to  
6 immigrants have to be BIA accredited and we make no  
7 apologies for that. That is a very important  
8 aspect of quality control, as I'm sure I don't have  
9 to tell you, Council Member. The existence of fly-  
10 by-night or maybe not so reputable legal services  
11 providers in immigrant communities are a problem,  
12 and so we want to make that our programs provide  
13 top quality legal services. So we realize that  
14 that might be burdensome for some, but we feel that  
15 it is necessary in order to ensure that we are  
16 funding appropriate services.

17 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: You know, we all  
18 want to see good quality services for our immigrant  
19 people and we know that immigrants have been abused  
20 by certain people and also we want to make sure  
21 that there is transparency. We want to make sure  
22 that there are organizations that are providing  
23 immigration services that are qualified. We all  
24 want that, but we do know also, among these small  
25 grassroots organizations in the communities, many

2 of those people have been providing services; they  
3 know what they have been doing. They have been  
4 doing a good job too. If there is a problem; if  
5 they need to be qualified, how can we work  
6 together; the City Council, DYCD, the federal  
7 government; how can we work together to oversight  
8 them to see what they are doing and also to have  
9 them qualify to provide the best services that they  
10 have to provide? What about training or about  
11 classes? Is there any way we can help them because  
12 the reason I'm saying that many of those  
13 organizations you know, came to my office and the  
14 executive director; the staff. They've had to lay  
15 off people. They had to stop providing the  
16 immigration services to this population of people  
17 who are in need of those services, so maybe there  
18 is a way we can work together to train them and to  
19 make sure that they're qualified to continue to  
20 provide some needed services to the people in the  
21 community.

22 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Well, I think  
23 small groups can play an important role. Maybe if  
24 they don't have the capacity to provide legal  
25 services, maybe they can work with groups that do

have the capacity to do outreach and other types of services. I think concern of quality and immigration fraud is a real issue. We've read many news stories about that, even the one recently in *The New York Times* about asylum fraud in Chinatown, so I think it's in the city's best interest and it's in the providers' best interest to ensure that organizations that provide legal services are qualified, but that doesn't mean that there's not a role for smaller groups to do other important services helping people who are in this situation. So but I think the importance of having a lawyer who is certified is something that I think is in everyone's best interest. It's for the clients' best interest. The last thing we want them to do is come to a program that doesn't have a certified attorney to provide legitimate advice on immigration status. So we can certainly sit down with your office and figure out these small groups can interact with some of the more established groups and play an important role to help everyone.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: But you know, if we have to... if we ask them to have attorneys; you know, qualified attorneys to help them provide

2 their services, is there any way we can increase  
3 our funding that we are giving them to enable them  
4 to do that?

5 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LYNN: Well, the  
6 funding that we have available under our legal  
7 services contracts already anticipates the cost of  
8 the kind of staffing that we're looking for, so I  
9 would say that among our existing legal services  
10 providers we have not had any complaints about  
11 inadequate funding in terms of supporting that kind  
12 of structure; that kind of staffing structure. I  
13 will say, Council Member, that we do hold periodic  
14 workshops and trainings on these kinds of issues,  
15 as well as other kinds of issues that are available  
16 to smaller grassroots organizations and we will  
17 continue to do that. And as I mentioned earlier,  
18 under DACA, we actually made as part of our program  
19 design in DACA an outreach function that was  
20 precisely aimed at giving some resources to the  
21 smaller grassroots groups.

22 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Another question,  
23 and this is the last one in this... related to  
24 small groups or small grassroots organizations  
25 before I call the next City Council member. Many

2 small grassroots organizations also they are facing  
3 challenges in terms of receiving their funding on  
4 time. Many of them you know, every year the same  
5 thing. You know, the executive directors, the  
6 staff or the chairperson, they come in my office  
7 every year to see... they are waiting for the  
8 funding. We, on the City Council, we did our part  
9 and then somewhere... you know, the funding is  
10 somewhere and it never gets you know, to them on  
11 time, and we know that they don't have a lot of  
12 funding. They don't have a lot of resources and  
13 they need the funding to provide services to their  
14 constituents. So is there anything... do you...  
15 are you aware of that?

16 COMMISSIONER CHONG: No, I mean...

17 [crosstalk]

18 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Is there anything  
19 that you know, the City Council, DYCD, the Mayor's  
20 Office can get together to ensure that they receive  
21 their funding on time?

22 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Well, I think we  
23 share your frustration. As you may recall several  
24 years ago, the city along with the City Council  
25 introduced a new set of requirements for



2 discretionary funded programs, essentially to  
3 prequalify people where they had to provide  
4 documentation that they were registered with the  
5 State Attorney General's Office; they were  
6 registered with the IRS, and what this has done is  
7 it's lengthened the process. It's made it much  
8 longer, but it was done to ensure there was  
9 transparency in how groups were selected; that  
10 groups that were awarded contracts were actually  
11 legitimate 501(c)3s, so it's made the process much  
12 longer; I agree with you 100 percent. We try to  
13 move it along as quickly as possible, but you know,  
14 that new requirement has made it much more  
15 difficult, particularly for smaller groups. And  
16 when I worked many years ago at the Citizens  
17 Committee for New York City, I dealt with a lot of  
18 these groups. You know, sometimes it's Little  
19 League, sometimes they're like Block Associations  
20 and they do important work in the community and  
21 they're not set up to deal with a city contract,  
22 but unfortunately, the rules that were in place by  
23 the council and the previous administration were  
24 done to ensure that money was well spent and groups  
25 that received the money were legitimate non-profits

2 and it's added unintentional consequences that it's  
3 added to the processing.

4 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you...

5 [crosstalk]

6 COMMISSIONER CHONG: I hear you.

7 [crosstalk]

8 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Commissioner, and  
9 I think these are very important issues. I'm  
10 willing to work together with you and I believe  
11 that my colleagues are willing to do the same  
12 thing.

13 COMMISSIONER CHONG: But it's not a  
14 decision by DYCD. It's a decision to be made with  
15 the Law Department and the Mayor's Office of  
16 Contract Services because they were intimately  
17 involved in the design of the preclearance process  
18 and as you know, there was a federal investigation  
19 of some of these awards, so this was done with a  
20 great deal of foresight to ensure that every agency  
21 that was awarded a council funded contract was  
22 prequalified and met all the requirements required  
23 of a non-profit. So I am not at liberty to change  
24 that process, but certainly if you want to raise it  
25 with the Law Department and the Mayor's Office of

2 Contract Services, I'm sure they'll be open to  
3 hearing your concerns.

4 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: As I mentioned  
5 previously, we are all for transparency; we are all  
6 for good quality of services for our constituents,  
7 but also we have to encourage those small  
8 organizations with people well-intended whose  
9 people have been doing so much sacrifices to help  
10 you know, those in need, so we can find a common  
11 ground. We can work together to try to see how we  
12 can help them, even we should still be very  
13 demanding in terms of quality services and in terms  
14 of transparency.

15 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Mr. Chair, I'm  
16 sorry, but in working out the reforms that were  
17 implemented, one of the goals of that reform  
18 process was to help expedite funding getting to  
19 groups. So whether or not the interpretation is  
20 that because the oversight and the prequalification  
21 process we now hear has added time to the  
22 organizations being able to receive the funding  
23 that's been allocated, that's certainly news to me  
24 and I show up and I pay attention. So if that is  
25 an issue, then we should reexamine how the process

2 has been laid out and where are the steps where  
3 that can become cumbersome and time consuming for  
4 both the agency and I appreciate that DYCD handles  
5 the bulk of...

6 COMMISSIONER CHONG: [interposing] Mm-  
7 hm.

8 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Allocations that  
9 are made through the City Council and we need to  
10 also look at that and whether that is a problem for  
11 the agency and where we can make some changes to  
12 help the agency be more efficient, for lack of a  
13 better term in the process of contracts getting out  
14 to organizations because as far as I understand,  
15 the vetting process that was put in place was done  
16 so to ensure that legitimate, real organizations  
17 are providing services and that the vetting process  
18 was supposed to be done at the front end of the  
19 process in order for the back end to be shortened  
20 and organizations received their contracts more  
21 timely. Apparently that's not the case and there  
22 are some issues here that I am hearing the first  
23 time are a problem. I think there has to be other  
24 levels of conversations to see how that can be  
25 worked and tweaked so that it can become more

2 efficient because one of the goals was to help  
3 expedite the process. Mr. Chair?

4 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very  
5 much, Council Member. Council Member Cumbo?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Good afternoon.  
7 I want to thank our Chairs Arroyo and Mathieu  
8 Eugene. I thank you very much for organizing this  
9 today and also congratulations to you as well. I  
10 want to just echo the sentiments. I am a former  
11 not-for-profit leader and have worked with DYCD  
12 over the last 10 years and I hate to compare  
13 agencies in that way, but at one time there was a  
14 shift where many of the cultural institutions that  
15 were going through DYCD were then pushed into the  
16 Department of Cultural Affairs and during that  
17 time, the Department of Cultural Affairs process,  
18 DCA, was a much faster and expedited process, so I  
19 don't know if there's something that's happening  
20 that some agencies are required to have more...

21 COMMISSIONER CHONG: I've actually got  
22 an answer to this.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Okay.  
24  
25

2 COMMISSIONER CHONG: I think it's the  
3 State Constitution allows cultural institutions to  
4 get grants as opposed to contracts.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: I see.

6 COMMISSIONER CHONG: So there's an  
7 exception in the State Constitution, yeah, which we  
8 discovered when many, many years ago we did the  
9 Cultural After-School Adventure...

10 [crosstalk]

11 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: That's...

12 [crosstalk]

13 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Program...

14 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: The CASA Program  
15 was pushed into it.

16 [crosstalk]

17 COMMISSIONER CHONG: And we were able  
18 to use that constitutional exception for cultural  
19 institutions to do a grant application for CASA,  
20 which we loved, and we were hoping that the Law  
21 Department would give us that authority for smaller  
22 groups, but they said no, the State Constitution  
23 allows this for cultural institutions, but anything  
24 that's a non-cultural institution, which is 90  
25 percent of the group that get these small

2 contracts, we couldn't apply that same... I would  
3 love to do a grant application 'cause when I was at  
4 the Citizens Committee for New York City we...

5 [crosstalk]

6 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Mm-hm.

7 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Did small grant  
8 applications, but the Law Department said no, we  
9 can't do that.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: I think that  
11 it's very important because what happens for many  
12 not-for-profit organizations is that while they're  
13 waiting for this money to come in, they have to  
14 start to spending money...

15 [crosstalk]

16 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Right.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: That was  
18 allocated by another source, which is not  
19 permissible and it puts all organizations at any  
20 given time in a very precarious situation, to put  
21 it mildly, so I just wanted to stress that. two, I  
22 wanted to ask... I've been meeting with many of the  
23 specialized high schools in New York City in terms  
24 of understanding the decrease in African American  
25 and Latino enrollment in many of our specialized

2 high schools. One of the things that they talk  
3 about is a lack of test prep for these programs  
4 that happen after school, that happen on the  
5 weekends and all of those sorts of things. Has  
6 there been some type of mandate to make sure that  
7 in communities, particularly of communities of  
8 color, that with the increase in after-school  
9 programming as it relates to middle school could be  
10 utilized in some way to prepare young people for  
11 these academic tests?

12 COMMISSIONER CHONG: One of the things  
13 we talked about in the White Paper last week was  
14 that we want programs to target... to work with the  
15 principals to target young people who are  
16 struggling academically.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Mm-hm.

18 COMMISSIONER CHONG: And what we have  
19 found when you have programs that are voluntary,  
20 that oftentimes it's a self-selection and the  
21 young people who sign up are the ones who probably  
22 need it the least.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Mm-hm.

24 COMMISSIONER CHONG: So in the White  
25 Paper we specifically ask that the non-profits who



2 propose for funding work with the principals so  
3 that the principals can reach out to the parents of  
4 young people who might be struggling. Ideally,  
5 what we hope to do with money that we had set aside  
6 for evaluation is to track the matriculation rates  
7 of incoming sixth graders and to see over the  
8 course of three years whether they matriculate at  
9 the same rate and to high school because we know  
10 there was a reason why the Mayor invested in middle  
11 school; that that is a pivotal time in a young  
12 person's...

13 [crosstalk]

14 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Mm-hm.

15 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Life. They make  
16 bad choices; they make good choices. There is peer  
17 pressure that kicks in. This when parents start  
18 feeling their children disengaging from their lives  
19 and we want to make sure they're reengaged and so  
20 with the investment of more money we hope to run  
21 more robust programs. One of the things we're  
22 talking about doing, and I've had a conversation  
23 with the Actors Fund, is creating an Artist-in-  
24 Residence Program in middle schools. For \$3,000  
25 per young person you can do that. You can hire an

2 artist to run a program for three weeks because  
3 this is the age where young people want to explore  
4 different things. The arts has been a big popular  
5 thing; the sciences, so if we keep them engaged in  
6 learning...

7 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: [interposing]

8 Mm-hm.

9 COMMISSIONER CHONG: I'm confident  
10 they'll make the right choices and they'll do  
11 better in high school. It's more than test prep  
12 because I think test prep was sort of the previous  
13 administration's answer to everything.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: I agree with

15 you.

16 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Council Member  
17 Cumbo? I'm sorry, I just wanted you to actually  
18 allow me to acknowledge that we have been joined by  
19 Council Member Darlene Mealy, in case she has to  
20 leave. Sorry about that. You can...

21 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: [interposing] No

22 problem.

23 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Continue.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Thank you.

25 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: I hear you 100  
3 percent and I agree with that, but it's one of  
4 those things where I try and look at the way things  
5 are currently versus the way they should be in the  
6 present moment. And I agree with you completely,  
7 but it looks like there is going to be no  
8 alteration from this testing cycle that happens at  
9 our standardized schools any time in the future, so  
10 I feel that while these enrollments are going down,  
11 and believe me, I love the arts more than anybody  
12 in the world, but I also think that in addition to  
13 that, preparation should be put in place so that  
14 young people can have that type of preparation that  
15 so many other schools and so many other communities  
16 are gearing their children up in fifth grade to be  
17 able to be prepared for these particular entrance  
18 exams. I also wanted to add as well that the...  
19 when we talked about the... and I think everybody  
20 has talked about the Summer Youth Employment  
21 Program, and I've gotten your answer on that in  
22 terms of not being able to talk or to advocate  
23 necessarily for an expansion of the program, but  
24 for us, it will be very important because we, as a  
25 council, are going to put the pressure on in a very

2 meaningful way and we'll also need your pressure in  
3 the same way in terms of being the strongest  
4 advocate for this and seeing that that's where the  
5 most amount of pressure is going to be placed, but  
6 I know from the last hearing that Council Member  
7 Eugene organized that. There's no real  
8 understanding; and I know that costs money; of the  
9 evaluation of the impact on Summer Youth in the  
10 summertime, so having an understanding of how much  
11 does it cost for us not to have Summer Youth  
12 programming in the summer is critical. How do...  
13 between the ages of the young people that will be  
14 served, what are the crime rates? What are the  
15 shooting rates? What are the robbery rates? What  
16 are all of these different things that young people  
17 find themselves in during the summertime and how  
18 has that been offset by an increase in the amount  
19 of young people served or not? And then for the  
20 100,000 or so that don't get served by this  
21 program... I think it's very critical that we make  
22 sure that every young person that applies has some  
23 kind of something that happens, and what I would  
24 like to see would be something where over the  
25 summer they're given a work job course,

2 interpersonal skills, job training, all of these  
3 different types of things that young people so  
4 desperately need and then that way that would give  
5 them a higher chance potentially through some sort  
6 of incentive to make sure that they are eligible  
7 next year and that they are going to have a higher  
8 preference because they participated in this summer  
9 internship; workforce development; training  
10 programs; something, but my conscience just doesn't  
11 allow me to feel comfortable that these young  
12 people went through the process and came away with  
13 nothing potentially.

14 COMMISSIONER CHONG: I mean I agree  
15 that we should give young people who don't get  
16 selected alternatives and I think we're trying to  
17 do that, whether it's through the other subsidized  
18 internship programs we have or whether it's the  
19 work of the Beacons or Cornerstone Programs, but  
20 the lottery has served the city well because it's  
21 the only way to ensure equity.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Mm-hm.

23 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Somebody I know  
24 just recently said, "Well, why don't we just do a  
25 merit-based system?" And I said, "If we had a

2 merit-based system, then the only ones who would  
3 get summer jobs would be the sons and daughters of  
4 middle-class families," and I think the way to  
5 ensure equity in every single neighborhood in the  
6 city is to have a lottery. I wish we had more  
7 money.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Mm-hm.

9 COMMISSIONER CHONG: And I don't  
10 dispute the need for more money because the demand  
11 is clear. It's just that at this juncture in the  
12 city's budget process it's premature to talk about  
13 it because we just don't know other risk that's at  
14 play, but to give a preference to somebody who goes  
15 through a program I think would underline the  
16 benefits of a lottery system.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: And then I just  
18 have two other questions, but the final one for the  
19 Cornerstone Program. So we know that there are  
20 community centers throughout NYCHA that were not  
21 picked up by this Cornerstone Program and my  
22 concern is that in June if there is not a funding  
23 source dedicated to the community centers, such as  
24 in my district in Lafayette Gardens, and I had an  
25 opportunity to go on a tour there the other day,

but those centers in June are going to close and this to me is one of the greatest emergencies that are happening in our communities because over the summertime if young people don't have any type of opportunities... you know and I think that one of the things that was described to me is that the architectural constraints of some of these centers are why some of them are Cornerstones and why some of them are not...

COMMISSIONER CHONG: I believe some of them were too small because we know that there is an economy of scale. You have to have a certain... these programs are regulated by the school age child... by the Office of Children and Family Services, which has school age childcare regulations that regulate the size of the space. You need so much square foot; so many bathrooms; so many stalls per so many young people that you serve, and in order to have a critical mass of program slots to run a robust program... 'cause you need a full-time director. You need certain basic things. You need to be a certain size to run a robust program, so it's my understanding; and this was done in the previous administration; they

2 looked at all the NYCHA centers and there were 25  
3 to 26 that were too small to run a robust program  
4 that met the guidelines that the state requires.  
5 The Housing Authority is aware of this I know...

6 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: [interposing]  
7 Mm-hm.

8 COMMISSIONER CHONG: I had a  
9 conversation with Anthony Wells, the head...

10 [crosstalk]

11 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Mm-hm.

12 [crosstalk]

13 COMMISSIONER CUMBO: Of Local 371,  
14 whose members staff the remaining 25 to 26, so I  
15 think everyone's aware of this and I think the  
16 decision, again, was made by the previous  
17 administration to keep these programs going and to  
18 keep those centers open through June 30th. I  
19 assume NYCHA is in the process of figuring out how  
20 to keep these things open. I'm not privy to those  
21 discussions, but there was a rationale for why they  
22 weren't picked up in the Cornerstone.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: I want to add  
24 that I guess the ironic part of it...

25 [crosstalk]



2 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Uhm...

3 [crosstalk]

4 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: For... yes?

5 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Can you wrap up?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Yep.

7 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Okay.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: I guess the  
9 ironic part of it is that they are going to see  
10 that their center is so small that they're looking  
11 at it like why can't we just have this little piece  
12 in our community? It's the only thing that we  
13 have.

14 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Mm-hm.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: And that the  
16 idea of it being closed is a great challenge to  
17 those communities, and I... I'll hold off until the  
18 next round of questioning, but I do have some more,  
19 but thank you.

20 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very  
21 much, Council Member. Now I want to call Council  
22 Member Rosenthal.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Thank you.  
24 Thanks so much...

25 [crosstalk]

2 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: You're welcome.

3 [crosstalk]

4 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Chairs, for  
5 holding this committee hearing and  
6 congratulations...

7 [crosstalk]

8 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Thank you.

9 [crosstalk]

10 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL:  
11 Commissioner. I very much enjoyed working with you  
12 on some very detailed work with senior centers last  
13 year.

14 COMMISSIONER CHONG: We worked together  
15 when I was Deputy Commissioner of the Department  
16 for the Aging actually by phone and email.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: By phone,  
18 yep and it was in order to get some extra funding  
19 to senior centers in the wake of Hurricane Sandy,  
20 so I really appreciate it; nice to meet you in  
21 person. Three very quick questions again, within  
22 the spirit of how we can work together to help the  
23 kids, as Council Member Cumbo was just saying,  
24 which is all of our goals. First, in terms of the  
25 Summer Youth Employment Program, I'm looking at

2 some numbers that the council finance staff was  
3 able to pull together in terms of the drops in  
4 funding by the federal government and the state  
5 government, and I do see how the city funds have  
6 maintained. It looks like there was a hiccup  
7 from... the real drop looks like it's in state  
8 funding and that for some reason there's a federal  
9 one-shot for this fiscal year that drops off next  
10 fiscal year. I'm sure it's some program and you've  
11 managed to cobble it together all very beautifully,  
12 but unfortunately, it really hits next year. I  
13 wanted to understand within that amount of money of  
14 that drop off, how much... very simply, what is the  
15 cost of increasing the payment to minimum wage?

16 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LYNN: Well, the  
17 way we think about it is that the rise in the  
18 minimum wage this year...

19 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL:  
20 [interposing] Mm-hm.

21 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LYNN: Will result  
22 in the loss of 4,003 slots.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL:  
24 [interposing] Right.  
25

2 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LYNN: So that's  
3 how...

4 [crosstalk]

5 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: And  
6 what's...

7 [crosstalk]

8 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LYNN: We think of  
9 it.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: But what's  
11 that dollar amount? If the City Council wanted to  
12 step in and...

13 [crosstalk]

14 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LYNN: Okay, hold  
15 on.

16 [crosstalk]

17 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Find the  
18 cost.

19 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LYNN: We have \$6  
20 million.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: \$6 million?

22 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LYNN: Yes.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Oh, I had  
24 done some internal numbers that looked like 1.2,  
25 so...

2 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LYNN:

3 [interposing] Oh, no.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: \$6 million.

5 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LYNN: Oh, no.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: I'm cool  
7 with that. Can you send this over the routes to  
8 all those numbers?

9 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LYNN: Sure.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: I'd love  
11 to...

12 [crosstalk]

13 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LYNN: We...

14 [crosstalk]

15 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: See that.

16 [crosstalk]

17 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LYNN: Absolutely  
18 can.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Great.

20 Secondly and in response to Council Member Arroyo's  
21 questions about the slow down in getting the  
22 contracts through the process, I'm going to put my  
23 hat on as chair of the Contracts Committee for one  
24 second and we are starting to look at this and try  
25 and figure how we can help all of these not-for-

2 profits, so one thing that's gone into place that  
3 the previous council made happen, so thanks to you  
4 guys, was the HHS Accelerator and I'm wondering if  
5 that will facilitate moving forward 'cause I know  
6 that's just being put into a place now.

7 COMMISSIONER CHONG: I mean that won't  
8 help council awarded contracts. I think what that  
9 does, and I think when we issue the request for  
10 proposal for the middle school expansion we're  
11 going to be using the Accelerator system.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Right.

13 COMMISSIONER CHONG: It will streamline  
14 the process. It hopefully will be a shorter RFP.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Yep.

16 COMMISSIONER CHONG: I mean those...  
17 and so we are looking to make changes in the  
18 competitive selection process, which is pre-award  
19 as opposed to what I discussed, which was post-  
20 award.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Yep.

22 COMMISSIONER CHONG: When... and the  
23 post-award in this situation with a council awarded  
24 contract is there's some pre-qualifications that  
25 were introduced several years ago and then the

normal vetting that occurs in order to getting a contract registered. I mean someone once calculated at DYCD and it cost like \$3,500 in staff time to do one contract, so if you have a contract for \$5,000, you're spending as much time in staff time as is in the value of the contract.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Absolutely.

[crosstalk]

COMMISSIONER CHONG: So you would be...

[crosstalk]

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: And I was once that staff member...

[crosstalk]

COMMISSIONER CHONG: Right.

[crosstalk]

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Doing that work.

COMMISSIONER CHONG: So even if the...

[crosstalk]

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: I get it.

[crosstalk]

COMMISSIONER CHONG: Contracts were bigger, it would make more sense...

[crosstalk]

2 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Right.

3 [crosstalk]

4 COMMISSIONER CHONG: But when you're  
5 dealing with small, small contracts, which are  
6 important to small groups, but the Accelerator  
7 system is designed for the competitive process.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Yep.

9 COMMISSIONER CHONG: And so I know DYCD  
10 has a long history of doing these dissertation  
11 length request proposals. We hope to streamline it  
12 more...

13 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL:

14 [interposing] Great.

15 COMMISSIONER CHONG: So that a smaller  
16 group feels like it has the opportunity to compete.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Yes.

18 COMMISSIONER CHONG: That it doesn't  
19 need to hire a proposal writer 'cause oftentimes  
20 the local neighborhood groups, the executive  
21 director is someone who writes the proposals...

22 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL:

23 [interposing] Definitely.

24 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Who runs the  
25 programs...



2 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL:

3 [interposing] Yes.

4 COMMISSIONER CHONG: And so to the  
5 extent we can level the playing field we will.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Great and so  
7 similarly, could that apply to the IOI programs,  
8 the HHS Accelerator or no because...

9 COMMISSIONER CHONG: IOI was selected  
10 by the council.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: So no.

12 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Yeah.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Huh. Okay,  
14 maybe we could work on that? Well, we'll see.

15 COMMISSIONER CHONG: If IOI was  
16 baselined and DYCD did a request for proposal, it  
17 could be part of Accelerator, but...

18 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL:

19 [interposing] Right.

20 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Right... for the  
21 time being, IOI was awarded for five or six years  
22 by the council, something like...

23 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LYNN: [off mic]  
24 Oh, for about six years.  
25

2 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Yeah, six years.  
3 The council did this six years ago and awarded  
4 individual contracts.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Okay, so  
6 Council Member Menchaca, I'd like to follow up with  
7 you on that. Do you when you're... one of things  
8 that came out at my first hearing was so these  
9 agencies have to get loans from commercial banks in  
10 order to function before they get their funds and  
11 many of them did not know about or have access to  
12 the Fund for the City of New York Returnable Grant  
13 Fund. Is that something that you're agency  
14 promotes or talks about...

15 [crosstalk]

16 COMMISSINER CHONG: I think...

17 [crosstalk]

18 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Compared  
19 to...

20 [crosstalk]

21 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Every group is  
22 aware that they can get an advance through the  
23 Mayor's Fund and it's up to... I think up to two  
24 months of the contracted value.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: That's  
3 right, before you know the...

4 [crosstalk]

5 COMMISSIONER CHONG: I think every...

6 [crosstalk]

7 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Second it  
8 gets...

9 COMMISSIONER CHONG: [interposing]  
10 Yeah, I think...

11 [crosstalk]

12 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL:  
13 Registered...

14 [crosstalk]

15 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Every...

16 [crosstalk]

17 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: By the  
18 Comptroller.

19 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Right, so every  
20 group is aware of that option; in fact, a number of  
21 groups I know have contacted me about it and then  
22 you know, as soon as something goes to the  
23 Comptroller, they can apply...

24 [crosstalk]

25 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Yes.

2 [crosstalk]

3 COMMISSIONER CHONG: For the loan.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Yep, so then  
5 if you could get the word out, the Fund for the  
6 City of New York has \$8 million...

7 [crosstalk]

8 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Right.

9 [crosstalk]

10 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: That they're  
11 waiting to loan out that's just sitting there, so  
12 and when we looked through the lists, there are a  
13 lot of groups that are not on there that could have  
14 access, so and it's...

15 [crosstalk]

16 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Council Member...

17 [crosstalk]

18 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL:

19 [crosstalk]

20 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: If you would allow  
21 me, I want to piggyback on your line of questioning  
22 for a moment. Commissioner, you distinguish City  
23 Council funding from baselined city tax levy  
24 dollars. I thought we were all working with the  
25 same pot of money. Why would the City Council...

and I think this is one of the questions that we need to get through this process on how we can streamline the contracting process is why is City Council funding handled or perceived differently by the agency or the Law Department or...

COMMISSIONER CHONG: [interposing] No, I mean...

[crosstalk]

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Anywhere else?

COMMISSIONER CHONG: Every city contract, whether it's awarded by the council or through a competitive process has to be pre-qualified. The same...

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Right.

COMMISSIONER CHONG: The only difference is in a competitively selected contract... and she asked the question about Accelerator, which is designed...

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: [interposing] No, but Commissioner, I'm sorry and I don't want to bog us down here...

COMMISSIONER CHONG: [interposing] Right.

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2 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: With this  
3 conversation because this is conversation for the  
4 Chair of the Contacts Committee.

5 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Right.

6 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: To take up and  
7 include in the conversation we pre-qualify. The...  
8 we... there is... let's not...

9 [crosstalk]

10 COMMISSIONER CHONG: I'm going to ask  
11 the...

12 [crosstalk]

13 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: No, no, no,  
14 Commissioner...

15 [crosstalk]

16 COMMISSIONER CHONG: I'm just going to  
17 ask the...

18 [crosstalk]

19 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Let's...

20 [crosstalk]

21 COMMISSIONER CHONG: General counsel to  
22 explain it.

23 [crosstalk]

24 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Let's do...  
25 Council Member Rosenthal...

1 COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT JOINTLY WITH THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES 111

2 COMMISSIONER CHONG: 'Kay, but I can  
3 explain it...

4 [crosstalk]

5 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Will follow up on  
6 the...

7 [crosstalk]

8 COMMISSIONER CHONG: If you want...

9 [crosstalk]

10 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Conversation. I  
11 don't want to hold us up...

12 [crosstalk]

13 COMMISSIONER CHONG: 'Kay.

14 [crosstalk]

15 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Here.

16 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Okay.

17 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: But my point here  
18 is that I don't see the difference and we need to  
19 understand that...

20 [crosstalk]

21 COMMISSIONER CHONG: 'Kay.

22 [crosstalk]

23 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: And want...

24 [crosstalk]

25

1 COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT JOINTLY WITH THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES 112

2 COMMISSIONER CHONG: We can have that  
3 conver... [crosstalk]

4 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: To be a little bit  
5 more comfortable with...

6 [crosstalk]

7 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Yeah.

8 [crosstalk]

9 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: The fact that  
10 organizations are waiting until May of this year to  
11 receive...

12 [crosstalk]

13 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Right.

14 [crosstalk]

15 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: A contract for FY  
16 '14 funding and that's just...

17 [crosstalk]

18 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Correct.

19 [crosstalk]

20 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Wholly impractical  
21 and unfair for us to expect small and sometimes  
22 large non-profits.

23 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Right.

24 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: And they can maybe  
25 float some programs, but the small ones can't.



2 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Well...

3 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: [interposing] and  
4 I...

5 COMMISSIONER CHONG: [interposing] We  
6 can have that conversation...

7 [crosstalk]

8 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: So...

9 [crosstalk]

10 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Offline...

11 [crosstalk]

12 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Through a  
13 different conversation, Councilwoman...

14 [crosstalk]

15 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Yeah.

16 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: I think the  
17 question is why is City Council funding handled  
18 differently and...

19 COMMISSIONER CHONG: [interposing]  
20 'Kay, can I just say for the record...

21 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: [interposing]  
22 Generally.

23 COMMISSIONER CHONG: For the record, we  
24 can have the conversation offline, but the  
25 council's vetting is preliminary and I think

2 there's a much more robust requirement for all  
3 contracts for the city that's pre-qualified.

4 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Then we should all  
5 be doing the same thing so that it doesn't...

6 [crosstalk]

7 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Right.

8 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Get us bogged down  
9 and if there is a...

10 [crosstalk]

11 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Right.

12 [crosstalk]

13 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Difference and I  
14 think that's where the...

15 [crosstalk]

16 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Oh, so we...

17 [crosstalk]

18 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: The Contracts  
19 Committee...

20 [crosstalk]

21 COMMISSIONER CHONG: We'll...

22 [crosstalk]

23 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Should be...

24 [crosstalk]

1 COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT JOINTLY WITH THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES 115

2 COMMISSIONER CHONG: We'll speak to the  
3 Councilwoman about that because I think there's  
4 some confusion here, but...

5 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Yeah, I... I...  
6 I...

7 [crosstalk]

8 COMMISSIONER CHONG: But...

9 [crosstalk]

10 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: And clarity is  
11 important because...

12 [crosstalk]

13 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Right.

14 [crosstalk]

15 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: We can remain  
16 friends...

17 [crosstalk]

18 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Right.

19 [crosstalk]

20 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: At the end of the  
21 day, right? Okay.

22 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Okay...

23 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Thank you.

24 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very  
25 much, Council Member and thank you, co-Chair. I

2 think you know, we should be on the same page. I  
3 agree with the council member about it, because if  
4 we are doing the same thing and the pre-  
5 qualification of the City Council should be the  
6 same at all levels and I think that will expedite  
7 the process.

8 COMMISSIONER CHONG: I think what we'll  
9 do is we'll send you an explanation in writing of  
10 what is required in the pre-qualification and you  
11 know, what adds to the timeline.

12 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Well, I don't  
13 believe that really makes sense.

14 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Well, that's...

15 [crosstalk]

16 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: That you have...

17 [crosstalk]

18 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Then you can  
19 see...

20 [crosstalk]

21 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Different types of  
22 process and that will you know, extend the waiting  
23 time...

24 COMMISSIONER CHONG: [interposing]  
25 Right.

2 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: For those small  
3 very important organizations to receive the funding  
4 in order for them to provide a very, very  
5 important...

6 [crosstalk]

7 COMMISSIONER CHONG: No, I...

8 [crosstalk]

9 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Needed services...

10 [crosstalk]

11 COMMISSIONER CHONG: If we can  
12 streamline...

13 [crosstalk]

14 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: For the community.

15 [crosstalk]

16 COMMISSIONER CHONG: The process I  
17 agree, and so for clarity we'll send you a summary  
18 of what is required now that was agreed to several  
19 years ago with the previous City Council and if you  
20 want to tweak your process before it gets to us,  
21 that'd be great.

22 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Alright, thank you  
23 very much, Commissioner, and let me now call  
24 Council Member Alan Maisel for some questions.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Thank you, Mr.  
3 Chairman. Just one question and hello,  
4 Commissioner. I wanted to follow through on a  
5 question that Council Member Gibson asked. I  
6 appreciate the idea that each group has a unique  
7 issue in their own communities about what kind of  
8 programs they run, but who evaluates these  
9 programs? How do we know these programs are doing  
10 what they're supposed to be doing?

11 COMMISSIONER CHONG: We often... we  
12 have scheduled and unscheduled site visits and we  
13 have a monitoring tool that looks at a number of  
14 factors to determine a quality program, and it  
15 ranges from engagement of young people to you know,  
16 the content of the programming that's done and we  
17 look at whether there's an appropriate staff ratio  
18 between... 'cause middle school programs you have  
19 to have I believe one staff person for every 10  
20 young people and for elementary programs it's one  
21 out of 15. We look at the qualifications of the  
22 staff to see whether they fulfill the requirements  
23 of the contract and as I said earlier, that when  
24 you can invest more per young person you can  
25 hire... instead of the college student, you can

hire the graduate student. Instead of hiring a consultant, you can bring on an Artist-in-Residence Program, so I think you know, quality costs money and what we're excited about in the middle school expansion is that we're investing a lot more per young person, from \$2,100 to \$3,000 per young person. That's a substantial increase.

COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: So when you send someone into a program, could you just tell us what is that you're looking for besides that ratio of... I mean that...

[crosstalk]

COMMISSIONER CHONG: Well, if we had...

[crosstalk]

COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: If you had... you could run... you could run a program just for kids that love basketball.

COMMISSIONER CHONG: Nope, we have...

[crosstalk]

COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: But what are the things... what are the things that you also do?

[crosstalk]

COMMISSIONER CHONG: So one of the things... one of the things, for example, in the

2 middle school after-school programs is alignment  
3 with the school day, so we instituted an  
4 educational specialist in every program, which is  
5 often a teacher. So that the job of the  
6 educational specialist is to coordinate what  
7 happens in the school day with what happens in the  
8 after-school.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Are you doing  
10 any homework helping?

11 COMMISSIONER CHONG: That's one of the  
12 activities, but you know, I think to go back to  
13 what the Chancellor said you know, we don't want it  
14 just to be the same as the five hours during the  
15 school day. We want to bring back what the  
16 Chancellor said, the joy in learning, and sometimes  
17 a young person who doesn't do well in one subject,  
18 but is very good at science and they get to do a  
19 science experiment.

20 [crosstalk]

21 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Yeah, but what  
22 about in Cornerstone? I mean Cornerstone is not  
23 directly connected with the schools. It's...

24 COMMISSIONER CHONG: No, Cornerstone  
25 is...



2 [crosstalk]

3 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Is different,  
4 so...

5 COMMISSIONER CHONG: [interposing]  
6 Right.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: So at the  
8 Cornerstone Program when you go into a program...

9 COMMISSIONER CHONG: [interposing]  
10 Right.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: What is that  
12 you're looking for?

13 COMMISSIONER CHONG: We're looking at  
14 engagement of young people; whether they're... how  
15 often they show up. One of the things we measure  
16 in all programs is attendance because you can have  
17 the best program in the world, but if a young  
18 person doesn't show up, then there's no impact on  
19 the program. We... you know, the evaluations we've  
20 done we do pre and post surveys of young people to  
21 see whether they're learning anything. We do focus  
22 groups often with participants as well as with  
23 parents, so and I think you know, having regular  
24 visits and Cornerstone Programs, since there are  
25 many... fewer than... there are only...

2 [crosstalk]

3 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: You ever to  
4 evaluate a program that not acceptable and...

5 COMMISSIONER CHONG: We have been known  
6 in the past if a program's not performing,  
7 terminating their contract.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Okay, alright,  
9 thank you.

10 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Commissioner, let  
11 me ask you a question about the Out-of-School Time.  
12 We know that the budget for 2016 totals \$127  
13 million approximately, but that's still a  
14 difference of \$19 million. There's a decrease of  
15 \$19 million; less the \$19 million in 2014.

16 COMMISSIONER CHONG: So... so...

17 [crosstalk]

18 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Could you please  
19 tell us...

20 COMMISSIONER CHONG: The \$19 million  
21 is...

22 [crosstalk]

23 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Could you tell us  
24 exactly...

2 COMMISSIONER CHONG: [interposing]  
3 Right.

4 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: What part of the  
5 programs were most affected by the decrease...

6 [crosstalk]

7 COMMISSIONER CHONG: The...

8 [crosstalk]

9 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Of \$19 million,  
10 and I want to combine my question because we want  
11 to go faster, and we know that some additional  
12 funds probably will be identified, probably, but in  
13 case there's no additional funds, do you have in  
14 place an alternative or some plan to secure the  
15 current program services that we are providing  
16 through this program?

17 COMMISSIONER CHONG: The \$19 million  
18 represents the cost of operating of summer programs  
19 and Out-of-School Time. When the previous  
20 administration in November baselined funding, it  
21 didn't baseline this \$19 million. We've raised it  
22 with the Office of Management and Budget, they're  
23 aware of it and we hope it will be resolved before  
24 the Executive Budget.

2 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very  
3 much. Let's talk about runaway and homeless youth.  
4 The council is thrilled you know, that the funding  
5 you know, that we fought so hard for has been  
6 baselined, but how will the additional funds be  
7 disseminated? What will be the contracting process  
8 moving forward?

9 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Those funds are  
10 earmarked for residential services, crisis shelters  
11 and transition to independent living, so every  
12 provider was contacted to see if they had beds that  
13 had been certified by the state that could be  
14 put... operational with just additional money. As  
15 you may know, the Office of Children and Family  
16 Services takes a long time to certify whether a bed  
17 meets their criteria. It could take anywhere from  
18 18 months to certify a bed to be either crisis  
19 shelter or a transition to independent living, so  
20 every provider who provides residential services  
21 was contacted and if they had a certified bed with  
22 no money, they got money.

23 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very  
24 much, Commissioner. I'm going to recognize Council  
25

2 Member Meanchaca and Council Member Laurie for each  
3 one of them for one question.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Okay, well...

5 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: So one question.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Does a  
7 follow-up count as a full question because on the  
8 RH... runaway and homeless youth, how are we  
9 ensuring that each of these beds that are certified  
10 are safe spaces for the LGBT community?

11 COMMISSIONER CHONG: I mean that's a  
12 requirement in all the contracts. We've done a lot  
13 of training. We meet on a monthly basis with the  
14 providers, so every space has to be welcoming to a  
15 gay youth and you know, our major provider is Ali  
16 Forney, but they have a finite capacity. Carl does  
17 a great job, but you know, we don't have enough  
18 beds, so we want to make sure every bed, no matter  
19 where it's housed, is in an environment that a gay  
20 young person feels comfortable in.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: And so those  
22 are mechanisms that we can follow up and make sure  
23 that... that those contracts...

24 [crosstalk]  
25

2 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Well, no, we get  
3 complaints and we investigate them.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Good.

5 COMMISSIONER CHONG: So we're...

6 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: [interposing]  
7 Okay.

8 COMMISSIONER CHONG: We're very  
9 proactive about this.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: And on the  
11 adult literacy, I don't think it was mentioned in  
12 your testimony, but I really want to ask about the  
13 millions who do not have a GED right now. The GED  
14 Program has changed...

15 COMMISSIONER CHONG: [interposing]  
16 Right.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: With the new  
18 name, but also with the common core as the building  
19 block. I'm not even sure what the new name of it  
20 is yet, but how are we going ensure that we're  
21 going to be reaching everybody that we need to  
22 reach, including our immigrant communities?

23 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LYNN: Yes, we have  
24 been very concerned, like everybody in the literacy  
25 community, about the change from the GED to the new

test, which is called TASC. Don't ask me what it stands for. It's a very awkward name, [laughter] but we call it TASC. It has just... it's been on the street only very recently, so we don't really have any information about how people are doing, but we are concerned because New York City already has a very low GED pass rate and the TASC is supposed to be more difficult.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Okay.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LYNN: It's supposed to align eventually to the Common Core Standards. There's supposed to be more emphasis on technology, so these are all challenges for the adult literacy community. We, at DYCD, we have been doing our best. We don't have that much money in the literacy portfolio. We do...

[crosstalk]

COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: 3.5, right?  
Oh, for your... for your portfolio or...

[crosstalk]

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LYNN: It really depends on what group of number you're looking at, but you know, at this point we have... if you strip out DACA we have about four to five million dollars

in literacy programming every year and that includes things like adolescent literacy and young adult literacy, which are not really part of what we're talking about. So anyway, so what we're doing is for the first time in our last literacy RFP, which we released in the fall and we just announced awards under, we had a competition for a technical assistant for adult literacy, precisely to help our CBOs respond to the challenges with the advent of the new TASC. In addition, we got a little bit of extra money in our WIA Workforce Investment Act funding last year and instead of plowing that into additional slots, we took that money and we gave it to a technical assistance provider to help our workforce development providers, which are also responsible for GED instruction...

COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: [interposing]

Mm-hm.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LYNN: To respond to the new TASC, so within the limits of our constrained resources we're trying to be proactive, but we're also working with City Hall, which is also working on a citywide response to the TASC as



2 well, and we expect to be part of that citywide  
3 alliance as well.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Great, and  
5 maybe we can return to the previously funded levels  
6 to make sure that we get this job done. Thank you.

7 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very  
8 much, Council Member Menchaca. You were allowed to  
9 ask only one question. You asked four...

10 [crosstalk]

11 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Well, one  
12 single question.

13 [crosstalk]

14 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: You are allowed to  
15 do that because those were very important and  
16 critical questions, very, very good questions.  
17 Thank you very much. Now Council Member Cumbo and  
18 I hope you will stay close to one.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: I have Menchaca  
20 style questioning time.

21 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Okay, go ahead,  
22 please.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Yeah, I really  
24 only have one. From doing after-school programs  
25 for a number of years, one of the challenges that I

2 faced, even as receiving CASA funding to do those  
3 programs, is honestly having the young people show  
4 up for these programs. So it's one of those things  
5 where middle school hurrah, hooray, we think we've  
6 solved the problem, but that is that unusual age  
7 where they kind of have some control and power and  
8 they can determine what they do want to come to and  
9 what they don't want to show up for. Have there  
10 been any discussions about how to create  
11 educational or academic incentives to make sure  
12 that the young people come and show up for these  
13 programs on a consistent and regular basis because  
14 if not, my fear is that there are going to be  
15 programs that you know, young people may not show  
16 up, and I want every child to have...

17 COMMISSIONER CHONG: [interposing]

18 Right.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Somewhat of a...  
20 not a... I would prefer a mandate, but don't know  
21 if a mandate is possible.

22 COMMISSIONER CHONG: I mean the  
23 Chancellor is going to sort of encourage principals  
24 to participate, but the mandate's a bigger, legal  
25 issue of require... it's essentially extending the

2 school day, which requires state I think approval.  
3 Aside from the content of the programs, which I  
4 think is really where we want people to spend the  
5 \$3,000 in designing programs that are engaging to  
6 young people, so and it varies from school to  
7 school. There's a great OST middle school program  
8 in Brooklyn run by Sports and Arts that's an award  
9 winning Chess Club and so it's understanding where  
10 young people are at. I think that's important for  
11 the principal and for the non-profit to really  
12 understand where young people are at 'cause it will  
13 vary from school to school. It will vary from  
14 grade to grade, and so the content of the programs  
15 is important. The way we design these programs,  
16 and it's laid out in greater detail in the White  
17 Paper, is that while the programs are expected to  
18 operate five days a week up to 15 hours a week, we  
19 know that young people won't show up that often,  
20 and so there's only nine hours of structure  
21 activities and six hours of what we call drop-in  
22 activities, so young person can come in and get  
23 individual tutoring or counseling on a social  
24 problem or something that the principal... the  
25 Chancellor has talked about, which is self-directed

2 reading, where they would just... the libraries in  
3 schools are often underutilized and the Chancellor  
4 really wanted to make better use of them. We also  
5 know that attendance will vary from the season. We  
6 know that from November through the end of the year  
7 when daylight savings times kick in when the days  
8 get shorter many parents in many neighborhoods  
9 don't want their children out beyond 4:30.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Mm-hm.

11 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Because it gets  
12 dark really soon, and we know that attendance picks  
13 up in the spring after we get the extra hour back  
14 and then the days are longer, so we give maximum  
15 flexibility to the agencies that are getting the  
16 money to design the program to meet not only their  
17 school's needs, but the seasonal attendance trend  
18 of young people and giving them the money to design  
19 programs that really engage young people, 'cause  
20 you're right, they vote with their feet and if the  
21 program isn't meeting their needs, isn't engaging  
22 and just to use the Chancellor's words doesn't  
23 bring the joy in learning, then they're not going  
24 to work.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Okay, thank you.

2 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Finished? That  
3 was good, outstanding. Thank you very much,  
4 Council Member Cumbo. I know you have a lot of  
5 good, quick questions, but next time. This is not  
6 the last time. So Commissioner, I know that you  
7 have been in DYCD for a while, even before being  
8 Commissioner, and my family has always said that,  
9 "My son, there is no such thing as perfection. You  
10 can do a good job, but there is always room for  
11 improvement," and knowing that you have been in  
12 DYCD for a long time and now as the Commissioner,  
13 you have reviewed you know, the process of DYCD.  
14 What is your overall assessment of the management  
15 and operations at DYCD and what is your plan to  
16 improve you know, the way DYCD is providing  
17 services, is managing the contracts and everything?

18 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Well, let me say  
19 that as you know, I've been there for eight years.  
20 I started as an Assistant Commissioner and then  
21 became Deputy Commissioner for six and a half and  
22 then left, so I'm very familiar with the senior  
23 management team at the agency and I think they're  
24 very strong. They've been tested. They've been  
25 tested in both expansion and in contraction. When

2 we did the Out-of-School Time expansion 10 years  
3 ago, we did it without any major problems. When we  
4 did Cornerstone expansion late last year it was  
5 done without any major problems, and through 12  
6 rounds of budget cuts over the last five years, the  
7 team there has done an incredible job of trying to  
8 maintain continuity of services in very difficult  
9 times, so I've made very few changes in the staff.  
10 I'll be bringing on a new Deputy Commissioner for  
11 Youth Services, which was my old job. That was...  
12 had been vacant since I left in October 2011 and  
13 it's someone who will start shortly who has  
14 experience in after-school working with runaway and  
15 homeless youth and with community centers, which is  
16 the areas that that position oversees. I've talked  
17 a little bit about how we're going to be using the  
18 Accelerator system for our requests for proposals,  
19 so for the last two months we've been making a big  
20 push working with the Mayor's Office to get small  
21 groups to sign up for that system because it alerts  
22 them by email when an RFP is out. It'll be a  
23 streamlined process. There will be no paper  
24 involved. People can complete the application  
25 online. It makes life a lot easier for them; for

2 us; less paper. When we release the request for  
3 proposal very shortly for the Out-of-School Time  
4 expansion, I think people will see we go from this  
5 volume of paper to probably a lot less because I'm  
6 mindful of how intimidating it can be to have a  
7 solicitation that is 300 pages and especially if  
8 you don't have a proposal writer, so we're going to  
9 streamline the process and the competitive side to  
10 make sure that every group feels it has an  
11 opportunity to compete. I'm encouraging some of  
12 our larger groups to subcontract with smaller  
13 groups. You know, I can't force that, but I think  
14 small groups bring a dynamic and a flavor to a  
15 community that maybe the big group doesn't, so  
16 that's certainly a big part of my agenda is I think  
17 putting a space for smaller groups, whether it'd  
18 direct funding or whether it's to be a  
19 subcontractor, it's important to happen.

20 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very  
21 much, Commissioner and let me take the opportunity  
22 to thank you for your testimony.

23 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Thank you.

24 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: And I want to also  
25 before I turn it over to my co-chair, also to thank

2 Miss Suzanne Lynn, Deputy Commissioner and also  
3 Cirolia, John, Deputy Commissioner, thank you for  
4 your input also.

5 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Thank you.

6 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: And we know that  
7 DYCD is a wonderful, outstanding institution  
8 providing good services to our youth, adults,  
9 immigrants, but as I said that you know, I believe  
10 that you know, the best formula for more success is  
11 teamwork, and we, from the City Council, we are  
12 willing to partner with you to work together with  
13 you, not only coming over here for public hearings,  
14 but to meet together and to strategize and see how  
15 we can make our DYCD a better organization, the  
16 most powerful and successful organization, and how  
17 we can work together to provide the best services  
18 to our constituents we are all serving. And now  
19 let me turn it over to my co-chair, Council Member  
20 Arroyo.

21 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Thank you, Council  
22 Member. Commissioner, again, congratulations and  
23 my condolences and by that I... yeah, I got a  
24 chuckle out of it. I know that there is a lot on  
25 your plate and a lot that needs to be dealt with.



2 You've indicated several times that some of the  
3 things that you're responding to is as a result of  
4 a previous administration's decision to make  
5 certain budget actions happen that you now have to  
6 react to, and that'll get you through this hearing.  
7 In May, when we come back to discuss the final  
8 budget, I hope that you would have an opportunity  
9 to drill down on some of the things that we've  
10 asked regarding today and hope that you'll be able  
11 to render a decision around the City Council  
12 initiatives that have been funded over the last...  
13 I've been here nine years; some of them have been  
14 funded for longer than that and provide for us in  
15 the interim between now and May an opinion on the  
16 quality of these programs and whether the energy  
17 that we're putting in to defending them and funding  
18 them year after year ought to continue and whether  
19 or not we can fine tune some of this so that we can  
20 make better sense of the limited tax levy dollars  
21 that are available to us in order to make an impact  
22 on the community. And the focus of my committee,  
23 the Community Development Committee, is how do we  
24 address poverty and low-income communities? Many  
25 of the programs that the City Council funds strive

2 to accomplish an impact on poverty. How do we  
3 improve the programs we have? How do we create new  
4 opportunities to influence what our families are  
5 experiencing every single day and how we can walk  
6 them through a process; workforce readiness, adult  
7 literacy, just to name two. There are many that we  
8 believe are good programs, but need your opinion on  
9 whether or not we should be investing as much  
10 energy as we do on these programs because we've  
11 gone through a process of evaluating and assessing  
12 that they are indeed having the impact that we  
13 intend or expect to see happen in our communities.  
14 So I hope that we'll be able to between now and May  
15 engage in some more specific conversations and one  
16 of those ought to be this contracting issue that we  
17 see affects so many organizations in this city.

18 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Well, thank you  
19 and I expect more clarity as we get closer to the  
20 Executive Budget, but...

21 [crosstalk]

22 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: But know that your  
23 honeymoon is over come May.

24 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Oh, no, I'm...

25 [crosstalk]

2 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Right?

3 [crosstalk]

4 COMMISSIONER CHONG: I'm... that was  
5 over after one week, so... thank you.

6 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Again, thank you  
7 for your testimony.

8 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: And again, thank  
9 you very much to all of you. See you next time.

10 [background voices]

11 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: No pun intended.

12 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Now we will call  
13 the next panel. I believe they're all from Youth  
14 Alliance. Marissa Martin from Coalition of Asian  
15 American Children and Families; Gigi Li from NFSC;  
16 Michelle Yanche, Good Shepherd Services and Rachel  
17 Sabella from TASC and also Kelly Daniels from  
18 Campaign for Summer Jobs.

19 [Pause]

20 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Sergeant, as much  
21 as we hate to do this, we're going to put you guys  
22 on a clock that I hope you will be able to see  
23 somewhere, maybe to my right over there, right? To  
24 the left. You guys have done this before.  
25 Summarize your statements and I know that if you

have written testimony we'll enter it into the record fully, but in the interest of time and making sure that we have you know, time for everyone to testify, please summarize your comments.

RACHEL SABELLA: Thank you very much.  
Good afternoon.

[crosstalk]

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Will you please hold one second because I want to get your testimony. Thank you. Thank you. Very good, okay. Alright, thank you very much. You may start, but please state your name for the record, please.

RACHEL SABELLA: My name is Rachel Sabella and I am the Director of Government Relations at the After-School Corporation TASC. We're here today doing a joint testimony on behalf of the New York City Youth Alliance, which is a group of organizations; of umbrella organizations that represent various non-profits and youth serving organizations in New York City. I want to thank both chairs for the opportunity to testify and those members of the council here. We're

2 really glad that we can talk to you. We will be as  
3 brief as possible and you will be seeing a lot of  
4 our faces throughout this year.

5           So what I first wanted to talk to you  
6 about is council youth initiatives. We're urging  
7 the council to do a full restoration of all  
8 discretionary and citywide programs. As you're  
9 aware, discretionary items; members' items are the  
10 life thread for many non-profit organizations.  
11 These funds often serve programs that may not have  
12 other dedicated funding streams. These funds also  
13 often go to smaller culturally-based organizations  
14 that really know communities. Council members know  
15 these organizations. You clearly know the  
16 families, the communities that you serve, so you're  
17 able to really see where there's a gap in services  
18 and how these CBOs can continue, so we really hope  
19 to see those funds all fully restored for  
20 discretionary items. I also want to make a plug  
21 for citywide discretionary awards. These programs  
22 that the council has traditionally funded are  
23 serving programs in all five boroughs. These range  
24 from Y After School to the YMCA Teens Take the City  
25 Program, the Cultural After School Adventure CASA

2 Program, the Dropout Prevention initiative, and  
3 there's also a \$3.8 million request for the After-  
4 School Corporation for the council's After 3  
5 initiative. These programs again are filling holes  
6 in communities and serving thousands of families,  
7 so we thank you for your support.

8 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very  
9 much. Next speaker?

10 MICHELLE YANCHE: I am Michelle Yanche,  
11 again, joining the panel for the New York City  
12 Youth Alliance. I am the Assistant Executive  
13 Director for Government and External Relations at  
14 Good Shepherd Services, which is, among many other  
15 things, a provider of both after-school programs  
16 and also runaway and homeless youth Transitional  
17 Independent Living shelter space.

18 I wanted to just touch on a few of the  
19 key points that were addressed very well in the  
20 earlier part of the hearing affecting the  
21 previously council funded baselined programs.  
22 There is funding, as you know, in Out-of-School  
23 Time, Beacons and Cornerstone that was included in  
24 the baselining from the November mod of last year.  
25 We're thrilled that these funds have been

baselined, but want to make sure that there's full awareness that while the funding has been baselined, the programs are still operating with contracts that expire on June 30th, and so it's absolutely critical that providers like Good Shepherd and all of the other providers in these portfolios get information as quickly as possible about what will happen, [chime] in particular related to... I think we're all on the same clock... in particular related to the summer programs. We should really start enrolling now and DOE and DYCD need to work together to make siting decisions because often the programs are relocated in the summer because of construction, et cetera. This is all very critical information and also we need to see in the Executive Budget an allocation made for the summer portion of the City Council funded OST programs. We believe that's on the radar screen at OMB and DYCD, but we're going to be looking and we need to make sure that that happens. On runaway and homeless youth, just want to say we're thrilled that this funding was also baselined; that the Preliminary Budget also included \$1.2 million this year, doubling in the

out years to add 76 crisis beds. As a Traditional Independent Living residence provider, we have the Chelsea Foyer, 40 beds in Chelsea serving young people who have been homeless, aged out of foster care, come from shelters. The need for these services so dramatically outpaces the supply and I'd like to just summon Council Member Fidler, who was our previous Youth Chair, who taught us all to speak fast and summarize, to say that we want to continue his message that we need to serve all of these young people. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: So if you see me grab the mic, right, that's a hint.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Okay, next speaker.

GIGI LI: Good afternoon. My name is Gigi Li. I'm Director of Neighborhood Family Services Coalition, a citywide coalition of neighborhood-based providers. I'm going to speak briefly on two issues, Beacon Community Centers and then SYEP.

We're grateful that the 66 Beacon Center money was baselined, but as was mentioned before, Beacons have gone through many rounds of



2 PEGS and in fact, since its inception in 1991, we  
3 have only decreased funding for Beacons, so we echo  
4 and support the City Council in any role that you  
5 guys can play in increasing the money for Beacons,  
6 and also the seven Beacons that have been slated  
7 for closure for the past several years, similar to  
8 the OST situation that Michelle just outlined,  
9 while the city Council dollars have been baselined,  
10 their contracts are still slated to expire on June  
11 30th, and Council Member Arroyo, the Beacon in the  
12 Bronx that was on this list was Lefferts Beacon in  
13 Council Member Vacca's district and you had asked  
14 before about the Beacon.

15           So the other issue I will touch on  
16 briefly is the Summer Youth Employment Program.  
17 The Campaign for Summer Jobs will be much more  
18 specific on this, but our math indicates that \$10  
19 million is needed additionally from the state to  
20 cover all of the monies for the increase in minimum  
21 wage. So far we have 2.5. We're optimistic that  
22 we might get a little bit more from the state, but  
23 if not, it will then come down to the City Council,  
24 but we... the Youth Alliance also supports the  
25 Campaign for Summer Job five-year Plan, which is to

2 reach 100,000 jobs for young people in five years.

3 Thank you.

4 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: And the next one,  
5 please.

6 MARISSA MARTIN: Hi, my name is Marissa  
7 Martin and I'm the Director of...

8 [crosstalk]

9 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Oh, hold on.

10 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Sergeant, give me  
11 the remote if we're not going to pay attention.

12 [background voices]

13 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Okay, please  
14 continue, please.

15 MARISSA MARTIN: Okay, I'm Marissa  
16 Martin and I'm the Director of Government Affairs  
17 at the Coalition for Asian American Children and  
18 Families. We're a pan-Asian advocacy organization  
19 with 50 Asian led and serving organizations.

20 The New York City Youth Alliance  
21 applauds the Mayor for including the baseline  
22 funding for adult literacy programs in the Fiscal  
23 Year 2015 Preliminary Budget. This includes the  
24 \$1.5 million Adult Literacy initiatives, the \$1  
25 million portion in IOI and the \$1 million DYCD RFP

2 PEG restoration. These allocations fund adult  
3 basic education, English as a second language, high  
4 school equivalency and basic education in a native  
5 language. The New York City Youth Alliance  
6 recommends a return to Fiscal Year 2010 funding  
7 levels of \$10.1 million to support over 8,000 seats  
8 for an array of quality programs.

9           For low-income adults, immigrants and  
10 disconnected youth education is the key to securing  
11 employment, helping with children served in school  
12 or acquiring the language skills needed to navigate  
13 daily life. Median wages are 25 percent higher for  
14 employed individuals who have completed a high  
15 school equivalency and a high school equivalency  
16 generates over \$34,000 in benefits for the city.  
17 Additionally, the state's replacement of the DOE's  
18 new Test Assessing Secondary Completion requires  
19 students and educators to adopt Common Core  
20 Standards, improve computer literacy and prepare  
21 for a more challenging exam, which requires  
22 additional resources to be successful.

23           In the Fiscal Year 2014 Budget, City  
24 Council allocated \$18 million over two years for  
25 DACA eligible use that resulted in the increase of

youth and young adults enrolling in a variety of adult education classes. In New York City, there are nearly 16,000 individuals who are DACA eligible and with the uncertainty of Comprehensive Immigration Reform, we urge the City Council to continue to invest in our immigrant youth, as well as all the programs that are serving the New York City youth. And again, I am testifying with the New York City Alliance, so thank you so much.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much. Anyone else?

KELLY DANIELS: Hi, good afternoon, Chair del Carmen Arroyo and Chair Eugene as well. My name is Kelly Daniels. I'm a fellow with Neighborhood Family Services Coalition. Neighborhood Family Service Coalition and United Neighborhood Houses are co-founders of a campaign called Campaign for Summer Jobs and we're going to shed light once again on the Summer Youth Employment Program. Campaign for Summer Jobs is a coalition of nearly 100 community-based and citywide organizations throughout the city and every... or this is our 15th year. We actually went up to Albany with nearly 300 youth to push for

more state investment at SYEP and even though the additional state investment in the program is important, we would like to discuss how New York City can productively support SYEP as well.

I will just briefly go over the benefits of SYEP. We all know and are in favor of SYEP, which is great and Kevin, the co-founder, is going to go more into the expansion plan that we have for Campaign for Summer... or excuse me, for Summer Youth Employment Program. So as we know, SYEP is great for kids or excuse me, for youth for their soft skills, time management, money management, being prompt to work... excuse me, responsibility, punctuality and also is good for the community as well. And in DYCD's analysis of SYEP last year, the youth spending habits revealed that the youth spent a large portion of their earnings in the community.

And to give you an idea of how the funds have dropped in the past few years, in 2007, there was a 60 percent rate of youth that served in SYEP and it has dropped lower than 50 percent, below 30 percent just in 2012 or 2014... excuse me, 2013. And in that same time period, we had 103,000

2 applicants and it went up to 130,000 applicants,  
3 and Kevin will continue with the numbers. Thank  
4 you.

5 KEVIN DOUGLAS: Sure, so again, my name  
6 is Kevin Douglas with United Neighborhood Houses  
7 here on behalf of the Campaign for Summer Jobs. I  
8 just want to offer a little bit of clarity around  
9 the numbers for SYEP. We've heard various numbers  
10 from DYCD, council members and I just wanted to  
11 offer our understanding 'cause there's many ways  
12 you can look at the math around this.

13 First, in terms of the minimum wage,  
14 our understanding is that without additional  
15 funding from the city or the state, we'll see 2,700  
16 fewer jobs in New York City this year. That number  
17 would've been higher; closer to the 4,000  
18 previously mentioned had not the Governor included  
19 the additional \$2.5 million that is in his  
20 Preliminary Budget. At this point, we're not  
21 certain whether we'll get the remaining \$7.5  
22 million that we need at the state level. If we do  
23 not, then what we'll see in New York City is that  
24 2,700 slot reduction. If the council wanted to  
25 maintain those jobs here in the city, that would be

2 just over \$4 million. However, we know today that  
3 maintaining jobs is not enough. There's over  
4 100,000 youth that are denied opportunities every  
5 summer, and so we'll be looking at a five-year plan  
6 to expand jobs to serve 100,000 youth each summer.  
7 The first step of that would be a \$13 million  
8 increase investment this year, and that would do  
9 two things. The first is if we do not get the  
10 money we require from the state, it will cover  
11 those slots that would have otherwise been lost as  
12 a result of the minimum wage. Again, that would be  
13 roughly \$4 million of the \$13 million. The  
14 balance, the other \$9 million, would go to  
15 expanding the program and put in the first year on  
16 track to expanding the programs to 100,000. If we  
17 do get the money we require from the state, the  
18 \$7.5 million statewide, that would then fill those  
19 slots that would have otherwise been lost and allow  
20 the entire city investment to go towards expanding  
21 the program and with that we would see roughly  
22 40,000 jobs this year and again, that would be step  
23 one towards expanding 2,000. So we're grateful  
24 that the city investment is \$20 million.

2 And I just want to make one more  
3 clarification. There was a discussion that the  
4 primary drop in funding had been at the state  
5 level. That is partially true. There was a time  
6 when the city was funding this program at over \$32  
7 million per year. When the Federal Stimulus came  
8 in, the city pulled back on that commitment and it  
9 has not since been restored, so we do need the  
10 state to play a role in this and we need the city  
11 to play a role to maintain jobs and to grow them  
12 moving forward. Thank you.

13 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: So you're  
14 disagreeing with the administration that \$13  
15 million only brings us to FY '14 level.

16 KEVIN DOUGLAS: So like I mentioned,  
17 yes, there are many ways to look at this. Part of  
18 the potential difference in number here is that  
19 there is an assumption on our part that there will  
20 not be private funding, there's an assumption on  
21 our part that federal dollars will remain level and  
22 there's an assumption on our part that we will not  
23 get additional money from the state. You could  
24 change any one of those assumptions and you'd come  
25



2 up with a slightly different take on what the  
3 actual impact would be this year.

4 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: So is that a yes  
5 or a no?

6 KEVIN DOUGLAS: We support the \$13  
7 million. I think we are different in terms of how  
8 many slots we think it would produce.

9 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: So you think it  
10 pays for more than what is funded in FY '14.

11 KEVIN DOUGLAS: If we receive the level  
12 of federal funding of last year, it would provide  
13 more than we had last year.

14 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Thank you.

15 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very  
16 much. Let me just thank you and commend you for  
17 the wonderful job that you are doing, and I know  
18 that you have been doing a wonderful job serving  
19 our young people. And as we usually say that it  
20 takes a village to raise a child, and I think it  
21 will take all of us to provide to our young people  
22 the best opportunities that they need to become  
23 proactive and productive citizens; to become the  
24 future of this city and I commend you for that, but  
25 I've got a question for you. We know that you

2 know, the Summer Youth Employment Program  
3 application were made available to young people in  
4 April, there's a change. You know, the deadline is  
5 earlier than before, so has this affected your  
6 organization?

7 KEVIN DOUGLAS: I think having an  
8 earlier application period for the organizations is  
9 better. One of the main challenges that providers  
10 face in administering this program is the fact that  
11 the majority of the leadwork to implement this  
12 takes place before the program actually starts in  
13 terms of doing open enrollment, getting the  
14 paperwork, getting youth to come in, reaching out  
15 to employers and getting them on board, so the more  
16 time they have in advance to gather those youth  
17 applications to begin sorting through them, it is  
18 going to make it easier for them. The flip side to  
19 that though is because that work happens before the  
20 actual program year starts, July 1, that's  
21 additional resources that they have to expend  
22 before their contract actually begins, so one of  
23 the long-standing recommendations of the campaign  
24 is that there's a greater proportion of that  
25

2 contract advanced to providers so that they can do  
3 that work to make sure it's ready to start by July.

4 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: In terms of  
5 funding, could you tell me about your sources of  
6 funding and then what is or what are the efforts  
7 that you have been making to make sure that you can  
8 you know, increase your funding or secure  
9 additional funding other than government funding in  
10 order for you to secure the services that you are  
11 providing to the young people?

12 KEVIN DOUGLAS: Sure, so there are  
13 several key funding streams that support this  
14 program. Primary among them is city tax levy,  
15 which was just under \$20 million for the last  
16 several years. You heard mentioned earlier that  
17 the Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City has  
18 generated some revenue for this program. We are  
19 not sure whether that commitment will continue  
20 moving forward. In its first year, three years  
21 ago, it contributed a little over \$6 million. That  
22 dropped to just under \$3 million two years ago.  
23 Last year it was just over \$2 million, so there has  
24 been an overall decrease in that private funding.  
25 We're not certain whether it will remain, but our

2 focus has always been on really looking to the city  
3 and the state to make sure they're making  
4 investments necessary regardless of whether the  
5 private sector is able to generate additional  
6 resources to support the program.

7 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: But you know, you,  
8 as an organization, what have you done to make sure  
9 that in addition to the government funding what  
10 have you done to secure funding for the  
11 organization in case the government; the city; the  
12 state and federal government cannot cover with  
13 additional funding? What would happen to the  
14 services that you are providing to the young  
15 people? Would you be able to continue to save some  
16 of them; to continue to provide them or will you  
17 close them?

18 KEVIN DOUGLAS: So that is not  
19 currently a function of our coalition. We are a  
20 coalition of 100 community-based organizations that  
21 provide these services. Some of those  
22 organizations do independently raise private  
23 dollars to support their programs, including Summer  
24 Youth Employment. Our primary focus has really  
25

2 been on the city's responsibility and their ability  
3 to support the program as well as the state level.

4 MICHELLE YANCHE: I'm assuming that  
5 you're asking about more than Summer Youth  
6 Employment. I can speak from Good Shepherd  
7 Services' perspective as a provider of after-school  
8 programs.

9 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: 'Kay.

10 MICHELLE YANCHE: We do raise an  
11 enormous amount of private resources.

12 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Okay.

13 MICHELLE YANCHE: But that is almost  
14 entirely always to supplement government funding.  
15 There are very few sources of private dollars in  
16 particular foundations which represent the primary  
17 private funder of contracted services with the city  
18 youth programs after school and funders in general  
19 don't support a program in its entirety. They want  
20 to see that you have a base of public funding  
21 first, and they will provide additional resources  
22 to make up the gap. Ideally, that represents  
23 innovation or adding some kind of enrichment to the  
24 program model; however, increasingly in recent  
25 years, it has actually meant bridging the gap

2 between the basic service model and the amount of  
3 funding that the city or state or federal contract  
4 was able to provide. Actually, one very positive  
5 things I'd like to say about the Mayor's and DYCD's  
6 after-school middle school expansion model is that  
7 it does recognize this, and takes into account the  
8 fact that providers have had to supplement the  
9 government contacts for after-school programs and  
10 that those private dollars really are not there to  
11 be expanded any further; I can tell you that for a  
12 fact. Good Shepherd Services raises approximately  
13 \$16 million in private money each year and we could  
14 not raise any additional dollars to stretch our  
15 private fundraising further for any kind of after-  
16 school funding program expansion. Private dollars  
17 for after-school are definitely tapped out.

18 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very  
19 much. In terms of services provided to the young  
20 people, I'm not going to ask you... I'm not going  
21 to ask you to mention all of them, but can you tell  
22 me your target population; where are you based; so  
23 and also specifically in terms of services to  
24 immigrant people we know that you know, there are  
25 so many immigrant people in New York City and most

of them they are not proficient in English and they speak several languages. What do you have in place to make sure that the services that you are providing are available also you know, to those who don't speak English properly? What is your outreach system that you have?

GIGI LI: Sure, so just to give you an example, the 80 Beacons located throughout New York City are located in many communities with high immigrant populations and one of the great assets about the Beacon model is that every Beacon will look different and have different sets of services in addition to what's required in the RFP based on the needs of each community. So for example, the Chinatown YMCA Beacon located in Chinatown has a new immigrant Welcome Center, which has a whole wraparound services for new immigrants, including English classes, immigration classes and a variety of other cultural immersion programs when these immigrants first arrive, so that's just one example of the variety of different types of services. In addition, there is a huge focus also placed on linguistically accessible and culturally accessible programming and staff.

2                   MARISSA MARTIN: And as I said, I'm  
3 from the Coalition for Asian American children and  
4 families, so many of our or all of our members are  
5 either Asian led and serving and serving  
6 communities all throughout the city in all five  
7 boroughs and really reaching out to the different  
8 ethnicities you know, all over Manhattan, out in  
9 Queens and then there's a growing immigrant  
10 population of Southeast Asian and South Asian in  
11 the Bronx, so many of our organizations are  
12 providing after-school programs and providing  
13 literacy services and other programs to the  
14 immigrant populations.

15                  RACHEL SABELLA: And if I could just  
16 say one thing quickly, I echo everything that my  
17 colleagues said, but what I also think is important  
18 about having a CBO staff is that staff members;  
19 it's an organization that knows the community, so  
20 oftentimes those staff members can then go with  
21 parents to parent-teacher conferences or help them  
22 at events; whether it's translating; whether it's  
23 explaining how the system works, really being that  
24 extra support to help parents understand those kind  
25 of issues in their communities.



2 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very  
3 much.

4 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: [interposing]  
5 Okay.

6 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: And...

7 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: [interposing] And  
8 I want to echo my colleague's appreciation for the  
9 work that you do in the city and in our  
10 communities. We all know and appreciate that  
11 government would not make a dent without the work  
12 of our non-profit organizations...

13 [crosstalk]

14 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Absolutely.

15 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: In our city, so  
16 thank you for all of the work that you do. And now  
17 we're calling up the next panel: Gregory Brender,  
18 and if I butcher your name you're going to correct  
19 it for the record, and my apologies. Brendor...  
20 Brender; Martha... I think it's Agosto, Agosto,  
21 Martha, Martha, okay. Hmm... this is new. I  
22 have... I think it's New York Tennis League, but no  
23 name, so we need a corrected form from New York  
24 Junior Tennis League. Your name is missing, so the  
25 Sergeant'll give you one; you'll fix it and Kermit

2 Patterson. And you'll state your name for the  
3 record and the organizations you're representing.  
4 Thank you, and you flip a coin; draw straws; ladies  
5 first, whatever. [background voice]

6 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Into the mic.  
7 I... yeah.

8 MARTHA AGOSTO: Good afternoon. My  
9 name is Martha Agosto and I'm here representing  
10 Sports and Arts in Schools Foundation with my  
11 colleague, Mr. Kermit Patterson. I will just read  
12 off of... I know we have three minutes. I want to  
13 thank you again for your past support of the Sports  
14 and Arts in Schools Foundation.

15 SASF is truly a council initiative,  
16 having been created 22 years ago at the suggestion  
17 of Speaker Peter Vallone, who at the time wanted a  
18 CBO to create and operate free Summer Camps  
19 throughout the city. From our humble beginnings,  
20 we have grown with the council's support to become  
21 one of the largest direct providers of after-  
22 school-based programs in the arts, sports and  
23 academics in New York City. For the past 22 years,  
24 we, at Sports and Arts have been successfully  
25 running programs which engage both the students

2 physically and mentally through the youth to stem  
3 the tide of childhood. None of this would be  
4 possible, however, without the funding support of  
5 you and the colleagues of the council. We applaud  
6 Mr. de Blasio for baselining of OST funding and we  
7 enthusiastically support the middle school  
8 expansion. We urge the council to continue to  
9 support Sports and Arts in Schools Foundation's  
10 critical youth service activities throughout the  
11 city.

12 GREGORY BRENDER: Good afternoon. My  
13 name is Gregory Brender. I'm here on behalf of  
14 United Neighborhood Houses. We are New York City's  
15 federation of settlement houses and community  
16 centers. We have 38 member agencies throughout the  
17 city who are providing a wide range of services and  
18 have a deep commitment to services for youth;  
19 services for immigrants; services for adult  
20 learners. Thank you for the opportunity to testify  
21 and congratulations on being on this incredibly  
22 important committee.

23 Because settlement houses do so much,  
24 we have a broad agenda, so I'm just going to  
25 highlight a few of the key areas. I'm going to

start with after-school. We are, of course, thrilled to see the attention and the momentum and the passion there is for expanding after-school in New York City. We recognize the city's plan for expanding middle school after-school as an important component of a larger continuum of services that starts with Early Childhood Education and goes through Grade 12, and we're really excited to hear questions from council members and others about expanding after-school for elementary school students and high school students as well, where there really is a need.

One thing I really want to highlight in it is something we've talked about, which is the \$19 million needed for summer programs and the extra funding needed to bring the OST programs that have previously been council funded up to the rates of the baseline budget. That needs to be something... we may have to come to you for that, but that really needs to be something that the Mayor puts in the Executive Budget. Budgets are made by organizations based on what they believe they're going to paid, and if we don't have knowledge of that funding, we don't know when we're

2 able to hire staff and it creates the same kind of  
3 discontinuity and destabilization that we've seen  
4 over the years with the budget dance. We're so  
5 happy that for so many programs the budget dance  
6 has ended and we have baselined funding. Let's  
7 make sure that this extra part of baselined funding  
8 that we do need to keep programs gets it in the  
9 Executive Budget and we don't have a last minute  
10 race for budget on July 1st and get those programs  
11 going so that we have time to plan.

12 I also want to talk just briefly on  
13 adult literacy. Between FY '10 and FY 2014, DYCD's  
14 funding for a number of adult literacy streams  
15 dealt with basic education, basic education and  
16 native languages, ESOL, pre-high school  
17 equivalency, high school equivalency has been  
18 reduced by 66 percent from \$10.1 million to just  
19 \$3.5 million. We appreciate that the Mayor's  
20 baselined \$3.5 million in this budget; however, we  
21 urge an additional \$6.6 million investment in  
22 community-based literacy services in this year.

23 Lastly, I just want to speak briefly on  
24 opportunity youth. There are many young adults  
25 between the ages of 16 to 24 who are neither in

2 school nor in the workforce. For a long time we've  
3 been calling these young people disconnected youth,  
4 really denying their possibilities. We now want to  
5 talk about as opportunity youth and make sure we  
6 give them the opportunities really to grow and to  
7 succeed. We're asking for an initial investment  
8 [chime] of \$10 million from DYCD and \$10 million  
9 from the City Council, and thanks for your time.

10 KERMIT PATTERSON: Good afternoon,  
11 Kermit Patterson, representing Sports and Arts in  
12 Schools Foundation. SASF firmly believes that  
13 every student in the city should have a high  
14 quality after-school program, which includes  
15 sports, arts and academic enrichment. As the  
16 council negotiates their 2015 Budget, I would like  
17 to share some quick facts regarding Sports and  
18 Arts.

19 Through our City Council camp and  
20 after-schools programs we serve every council  
21 district. Through all the programs, SASF annually  
22 serves over 2,000 kids throughout the five  
23 boroughs, as well as Westchester, an overwhelming  
24 majority of Black and Hispanic youth from highly  
25 poverty neighborhoods that we serve. Our programs

are primarily housed in Title I schools. I just want to say the funding that we receive really, really impacts many students throughout our city; our families, which without these fundings they would not have a safe haven to sent their child throughout the summer and the after-school program. Thank you so much for your time.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much and thank you for the great services you are rendering to our young people, and please continue to do the wonderful job that you are doing. Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Thank you, Chair.

RON NANO: Excuse me, Chair Eugene...

[crosstalk]

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: And the fact that we're not asking questions doesn't mean that we're not interested, but after a while.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: And you have...

RON NANO: I hate to interrupt, but I'm sorry I didn't leave my name earlier on, but my name is Ron Nano and I work for New York Junior Tennis and Learning and I have some testimony as well, so if I may.

2 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Sure. Oh, I  
3 didn't realize you didn't...

4 [crosstalk]

5 RON NANO: Sorry, and we're actually  
6 not together.

7 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very  
8 much.

9 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Alright, alright.

10 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you, and  
11 again...

12 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: [interposing] No,  
13 he hasn't testified.

14 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: I'm sorry.

15 RON NANO: Yes, thank you, so...

16 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: [interposing] So  
17 but you will fill out the form with the...

18 [crosstalk]

19 RON NANO: I will. I apologize.

20 [crosstalk]

21 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: That's what I...

22 [crosstalk]

23 RON NANO: Because I wasn't sure...

24 [crosstalk]

25 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Okay.



2 [crosstalk]

3 RON NANO: It was me going to...

4 [crosstalk]

5 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Go ahead.

6 [crosstalk]

7 RON NANO: Testify.

8 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Go ahead.

9 RON NANO: Thank you. again, Chair  
10 Eugene. Thank you, Chair Arroyo and Council Member  
11 King for the opportunity. I want to thank the  
12 entire City Council for the long-standing support  
13 of New York Junior Tennis and Learning. We are the  
14 largest and most successful tennis program in the  
15 country and we are serving 45,000 youngsters  
16 through our tennis and educational programs. When  
17 Arthur Ashe founded this organization more than 40  
18 years ago, he knew that tennis could open the doors  
19 for our youngsters by putting tennis courts in  
20 schoolyards, as well as in public parks,  
21 specifically in Crotona Park, in Chair Arroyo's  
22 district.

23 With the sustained financial support of  
24 the City Council, NYJTL has continued the mission  
25 of Arthur Ashe and we serve a majority of Black,

2 Latino, Asian and new immigrant populations, and  
3 NYJTL gives these opportunities to them to learn  
4 the sport of tennis and more importantly, for them  
5 to be physically fit and to open up the doors for  
6 the educational pathway. As a City Council  
7 initiative, we are in 51 council districts and we  
8 service all of your constituents. All of our  
9 programs are free and you have to be age five  
10 through 18 years old. In FY '14, NYJTL received  
11 \$800,000 and this year we're asking for \$1 million  
12 to increase and enable us to continue to serve 51  
13 council districts and also to pay for the  
14 significant higher DOE security and permit fees.  
15 And increased funding will also help us to support  
16 tennis and educational programming in the Cary  
17 Leeds Center in the Bronx, which we know really can  
18 use the support. Children and teens will receive  
19 academic enrichment activities and more than 6,500  
20 hours of free tennis lessons a year on 22 tennis  
21 courts and it'll be bubbled in the winter, so it'll  
22 be a year-long program offering, so. And again, I  
23 thank you for all of your continued support.

24 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very  
25 much, all of you. As my colleague said, even if we

2 don't ask questions, but we were listening with you  
3 know, attention; with focus, and I cannot express  
4 you know, enough you know, the importance of the  
5 wonderful job that you are doing because we know  
6 that education is not about, as I have said several  
7 times, about mathematics, science and chemistry.  
8 It is about other opportunities that we are giving  
9 to our young people to become the best person that  
10 they can be. Sports, very important because I know  
11 you know, firsthand what I'm talking about and what  
12 you are talking about; about providing sports and  
13 all the extracurricular activities to the young  
14 people. Thank you very much and I'll see you next  
15 time.

16 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: And I think the  
17 New York Tennis Junior Tennis League now has more  
18 programs than the 17. You had a great presence in  
19 what was the 15th District that is now part of the  
20 17, so I welcome that part as well. Council Member  
21 King has a question, okay.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: I don't have a  
23 question, but I do fund junior tennis and you know,  
24 and I get out there and twist my knees with the  
25 little kids also, but I just want to say to each

2 and every of you [whispering] thank you and thank  
3 you.

4 RON NANO: Thank you very much.

5 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very  
6 much, Council Member King.

7 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Okay, thank you  
8 all. The next panel again, my apologizes for  
9 butchering your name: Lee... Leah Hebert,  
10 Opportunities for a Better Tomorrow; Sandy Myers;  
11 UJA-Federation; Kathy Fitzgibbons, Federation  
12 Protestant Welfare Agencies. Don't look so  
13 excited. You guys know how to do this.

14 SANDY MYERS: Yep.

15 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Come on.

16 SANDY MYERS: Okay, do you want us to  
17 get started? Great. Hi, my name is Sandy Myers.  
18 I am from UJA-Federation of New York and here  
19 testifying on behalf of the New York City Coalition  
20 for Adult Literacy or NYCCAL. NYCCAL is a  
21 coalition of teachers, program managers, students  
22 and allies from community-based organizations,  
23 advocacy groups, public libraries, union training  
24 entities and CUNY that provide quality  
25 comprehensive and accessible adult education

2 services citywide. We'd like to thank both of the  
3 chairs for the opportunity to testify, as well as  
4 the members who are still hanging around. We  
5 appreciate it.

6 We know you've heard from a few of our  
7 colleagues about the budget cuts over the last few  
8 years and we just want to emphasize that from FY  
9 '10 to FY '14 we've seen a cut of 7,000 seats,  
10 which has led to a significant increase in the wait  
11 list numbers, as well as programs having to turn  
12 people away when their programs were full. We  
13 appreciate that Mayor de Blasio has baselined...  
14 kept the baseline \$3.5 million in the budget for  
15 these programs, and we're also grateful to  
16 Commissioner Chong letting us know that he wants to  
17 make sure that this money gets allocated in a swift  
18 and efficient manner so there's no lapse in  
19 services and we encourage the council to continue  
20 to keep an eye on that and make sure that that is  
21 completed.

22 I also want to make one point that as  
23 the city continues to work on the expansion of  
24 after-school programs, as well as Universal Pre-K,  
25 that we understand the nexus between supporting

2 adult education programs, as well as the expansion  
3 of these other programs for kids, and that we want  
4 to make sure that the kids of parents who might  
5 have limited English skills are able to participate  
6 in the program, so we want to make sure that the  
7 parents have the English skills to know that  
8 they're eligible for these programs, to understand  
9 the oftentimes cumbersome application process and  
10 can reap the most benefit from these program and  
11 from having their families be involved. So as we  
12 continue these conversations and we know the focus  
13 on the city right now is on these programs, we  
14 don't want to get lost and we want to be able to  
15 prop up these programs as well, so we make sure  
16 that they are able to fit into the larger context  
17 of what the city is trying to achieve.

18           So in that vein, we have three budget  
19 asks for this year, so we want to restore  
20 community-based adult literacy programming to \$10.1  
21 million in FY '15. This brings us back to the  
22 height of the FY '10 levels, which is the recent  
23 peak that we've seen for our field, and my  
24 colleague, Leah, will get into a little bit more of  
25 kind of why this is the year to invest in that.

2 Beyond that, we want to expand investment each year  
3 and in the subsequent four years by 50 percent to  
4 close the gap between needs and programs' needs and  
5 program availability, so within four years by  
6 making this investment it would create over 28,000  
7 classroom seats citywide. And lastly, we want to  
8 reimburse providers for services at a rate of  
9 \$1,200 per student. Typically now, the programs  
10 range between \$800 and \$1,000 per student, and  
11 again, as you'll hear from my colleague, this year  
12 with the transition to the new TASC test, as well  
13 as the implementation of the Common Core. We want  
14 to make sure that our teachers are best prepared to  
15 be able to implement those changes and teach to a  
16 higher quality.

17 And lastly we... you know, as NYCCAL,  
18 we represent a lot of the CBO community and know  
19 that CBOs are really the best equipped to make  
20 referrals for other types of services, so  
21 oftentimes someone will come in seeking help to  
22 achieve their high school equivalency degree or to  
23 learn English, and we find that their child also  
24 needs Pre-K services or that they might need mental  
25 health services, and a CBO is really best equipped

2 to handle those individuals on an individual basis  
3 or handle those individuals on a case-by-case basis  
4 and really meet their needs. And with that, I  
5 thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

6 LEAH HEBERT: Hi, my name is Leah  
7 Hebert. I'm here from Opportunities for a Better  
8 Tomorrow and I want to thank you for the  
9 opportunity to speak on behalf of the providers  
10 from NYCCAL.

11 As the Commissioner mentioned, there is  
12 a great demand and need for adult literacy services  
13 that currently outweighs capacity throughout New  
14 York City. This is, in part, for several reasons.  
15 One is the elimination of the GED and  
16 implementation of the new TASC test or the Test  
17 Assessment for Secondary Completion. This new  
18 test, as you know, will align to the Common Core  
19 over the next three years. The test is already  
20 significantly more rigorous than the previous exam.  
21 I would encourage all of you to go to McGraw-Hill's  
22 website and look at the sample questions so that  
23 you can also understand what we're having to  
24 prepare our students for for this new exam. We saw  
25 a demand for our prep program seats increase in



2013. We expect that during this transition, the demand will also continue to increase. As the Deputy Commissioner mentioned, this new exam will be administered increasingly by computer, which means that our test takers will have to increase their computer literacy skills. Increasing computer literacy skills isn't just unique to the new TASC test. We're also seeing trends with employers that are now requiring that applicants fill out online job applications for entry level positions.

We're also seeing employers now requiring that for entry level positions in fast food industry, in low-end retail and other corporations that someone have a high school equivalency diploma in order to even be eligible to apply for those positions. We are also seeing increased demand with the DACA application requirements. DACA requires that an individual have either a high school diploma or equivalency or be enrolled in a preparation program working towards that goal.

We appreciate the City Council's DACA initiative of \$18 million and that has

significantly helped with the needs of this community, but we'd also like to note that that particular funding stream doesn't address the older immigrant population, non-immigrants and the thousands of young adults who are either disenrolling from the high school or pushed out of the K through 12 system.

My third reason for the increased demand or cost to the city is just that there's just a sheer volume of people who need these services, and its lost economic opportunity for the city. Currently, in New York City there is 1.3 million people who lack a high school diploma or its equivalency or lack English proficiency or both. We also have three million people within the city who are foreign born residents. This is 37 percent of our city's population. While most certainly not all immigrants are in the need of adult literacy services, they do make up a large portion of our need. We need to invest in diverse adult literacy services so that we can help these populations be able to provide [chime] a... okay, I'll... to be able to provide them sustainable futures for their families.

2 KATHY FITZGIBBONS: Hi, I'm Kathy  
3 Fitzgibbons. I'm the Senior Policy Analyst for  
4 Elderly Welfare and Youth Services from the  
5 Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies. FPWA is  
6 an anti-poverty policy and advocacy organization  
7 and we have a membership network of nearly 200  
8 human services organizations in churches that  
9 operate over 1,200 programs throughout the New York  
10 City metro area. I'd like to thank the City  
11 Council for the opportunity to testify on policies  
12 and investments that will strengthen the youth  
13 services delivery system and I look forward to  
14 working with Council Member Eugene, Council Member  
15 Arroyo, as well as the members of the Youth  
16 Services and Community Development Committee to  
17 continue to build services for our disenfranchised  
18 young people. FPWA is a member of the Youth  
19 Alliance and we support the recommendations,  
20 especially surrounding the contract issues that was  
21 mentioned earlier surrounding after-school  
22 programs, and I also just wanted to highlight a few  
23 other items from our testimony.

24 FPWA strongly supports raising the age  
25 of criminal responsibility in New York. New York

2 is one of only two states that prosecutes all  
3 children and youth as adults when they turn 16  
4 years old. Every year, nearly 50,000 16 and 17-  
5 year olds are arrested and face the possibility of  
6 being prosecuted in adult courts, placed in adult  
7 jails and prisons and having the outcomes on their  
8 permanent records despite the fact that a lot of  
9 these violations were for non-violent crimes. We  
10 recommend that New York ensure that youth involved  
11 in the criminal justice system are provided with  
12 the adequate court processes, services and  
13 placement options that are appropriate for  
14 individuals within their age range.

15 FPWA also embraces Mayor de Blasio's  
16 plan for the \$190 million to provide quality after-  
17 school programs for our middle school youth. This  
18 is of really great significance to our organization  
19 because we currently have 24 member agencies that  
20 provide after-school services and we believe  
21 it's... you know, the middle school students need  
22 to be given access to these supports so that they  
23 can make positive gains at a really critical time  
24 in their lives.

2 We also recommend the expansion of  
3 Beacon Program funding. We were happy that funds  
4 were baselined for the programs and we feel that's  
5 a step in the right direction, but time and again  
6 I'm told from my member agencies that you know, the  
7 expenses just continue to grow for the program  
8 while funds have been eroded through the years. So  
9 we support the expansion of those programs, as well  
10 as the Cornerstone Programs and we'd also like to  
11 see a reopening of some of those closed Cornerstone  
12 Programs; actually all of the closed programs we'd  
13 like to see reopened. [chime] So thank you for the  
14 opportunity.

15 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very  
16 much and also thank you for what you are doing for  
17 the young people and for the immigrants and I said  
18 before, it will take all of us, all of us to work  
19 together to provide the best opportunities to our  
20 young people. Thank you very much.

21 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: 'Kay, thank you,  
22 ladies. Our next panel Vanessa Morocho I think. I  
23 can't make out the writing, but I hope that's  
24 right. Vanessa, yes? Robert Ortiz, Moira Flavin,  
25

2 right? And I think it's Cidra Sebastien, yes?

3 Cidra, okay. Welcome.

4 [Pause]

5 SHIRA SAMEROFF: [Off mic] Hi, my name  
6 is Shira Sameroff with the...

7 [crosstalk]

8 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Turn on the mic.

9 SHIRA SAMEROFF: Right. My name is  
10 Shira Sameroff with Center for Family Life. Thank  
11 you, council and nice to see you again, Chairman  
12 Eugene. I just wanted to introduce Robert and  
13 Vanessa, who are two staff in our currently OST  
14 funded program, who can speak from experience about  
15 the value and importance of these programs, having  
16 had them and not had them. Robert, who grew up in  
17 a Beacon and OST funded program and Vanessa, who  
18 joined us last year as a volunteer and came on  
19 staff this year, so.

20 ROBERT ORTIZ: Like Shira was saying,  
21 my name is Robert Ortiz. I work for Center for  
22 Family Life. I've been there since I was six years  
23 old and working there currently. As someone who  
24 was growing up in Sunset Park in Brooklyn, my  
25 mother, who was a single mother going from Point A

2 to Point B trying to find a good daycare; trying to  
3 find good childcare, which during the time was kind  
4 of difficult; jumping around from daycare to  
5 daycare; finding lack of professionalism; finding  
6 staff who weren't all there for the children until  
7 finally she had some good luck and I was in a good  
8 place to be, which is why I think the proposal for  
9 a Universal Pre-Kindergarten is necessary just for  
10 the stress of single parents or parents who their  
11 jobs don't give them the opportunity or care for  
12 their responsibilities of taking care of their  
13 child and having to hunt down for a babysitter or  
14 hunt down for a center; having the opportunity just  
15 to have that open door I agree with.

16 Also, for the middle school after-  
17 school programs, something that I think would work  
18 really well is if the middle school after-school  
19 programs were in elementary schools. As somebody  
20 who grew up going from first grade all the way  
21 until eighth grade until I was able to volunteer,  
22 Commissioner Bill Chong said something about middle  
23 school is where children make bad decisions and  
24 that's where it starts, and sometimes that's true;  
25 other times it isn't. For me, that is kind of

2 where things kind of got a little rocky. That's  
3 where I started cutting school. I'd rather have  
4 played handball with the older kids and the adults  
5 on the courts, but once 3:00 or around 2:00 came, I  
6 left that area and I went to the after-school  
7 program because I had my friends; I had family;  
8 Shira here, who is next to us. I have known her  
9 since I was nine years old and I'm 21 now. So  
10 these after-school programs work, so thank you.

11 VANESSA MOROCHO: So my name is Vanessa  
12 and I started working like in the summer for Center  
13 for Family Life and I'm 17 and my experience...

14 [crosstalk]

15 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Vanessa, state  
16 your full name.

17 VANESSA MOROCHO: Oh, Vanessa Morocho.  
18 I'm sorry. And from my experience, I grew up and I  
19 didn't go to after-school. I never had the  
20 opportunity to go to after-school until I became a  
21 CIT, Counselor-in-Training in the program and my...  
22 like what Robert said, his mother, a single mother  
23 growing up and trying to find that school, my  
24 situation I lost my father when I was five in 9/11,  
25 so my mom never trusted anybody to keep me safe;



like in a school to keep me safe, so I think that's one of the reasons like I never really... she never gave me the opportunity to stay in after-school and I don't think she saw the greatness the opportunity... the greatness that after-school actually provides for kids and like it helped me just at 16, being a CIT helped me grow as an individual and also how to work as a team, something that I rarely did when I was little and like I didn't get to experience in sixth grade, seventh grade, eighth grade or in elementary. And I think it's really important for middle-schoolers to get that opportunity because I know, like Robert said, that that's the age when you get more freedom; it's different than elementary. In elementary, you spend five years with some of the same teachers; some of the same friends; same building and once you go to a middle school, it's a new school and new people and new teachers and you sense that freedom that; that little freedom because you don't have to go class to class in two straight lines. You could walk around and hang out with your friends in the hallway; be late to school and I think kids like to hang out outside and I

2 think it's a great way to let them hang out with  
3 friends in the after-school, but also being  
4 productive in a way. And also, like in our  
5 program, we have dance, we provide them gym and all  
6 these other activities where these kids love to go  
7 to and I think that's the main key for after-  
8 school. And I think having kids to be excited to  
9 come to after-school and also to have homework help  
10 and I think it helps that transition from  
11 elementary to middle school, and then also going to  
12 high school, which is a whole completely new  
13 experience and it's a whole lot of change again and  
14 it's a feeling for them not to be alone. It's like  
15 they have support from other people, and that's why  
16 I'm glad I started volunteering and also now got  
17 hired as staff and I'm very happy about that.  
18 Thank you for that. And I just think it's great  
19 for their future in the long run. They grow and  
20 they grow in a way where like I never imagined  
21 sitting here talking to you guys and I'm so  
22 nervous, but I thought it was very important for me  
23 to speak up and for you guys to hear my voice and  
24 voice for those people who are not here and who  
25 haven't experienced after-school or for those who

2 have experienced after-school and I think it makes  
3 a whole difference that you guys see that. Yeah,  
4 we're just speaking here and maybe we're being  
5 repetitive here a lot, [chime] but... it's worth it  
6 though. Thank you for your time. [laughter]

7 MOIRA FLAVIN: Good afternoon. My name  
8 is Moira Flavin and I am the Policy Associate for  
9 Early Childhood Education, Education and Youth  
10 Services at Citizens' Committee for Children of New  
11 York. CCC is a 70 year old independent child  
12 advocacy organization dedicated to ensuring that  
13 every New York City child is healthy, housed,  
14 educated and safe. Thank you to the Chairs for  
15 holding the hearing.

16 CCC is very pleased that after years of  
17 coming and asking for the same restorations year  
18 after year, that we are finally at a point that we  
19 can talk about strengthening and expanding the  
20 youth services system in New York City. CCC is  
21 supporting the city's plan to expand UPK and after-  
22 school to all middle school children through a  
23 minimal tax increase. We are very pleased with the  
24 details of the plan, most notably serving almost  
25 63,000 more middle school children and increasing

the rate such that programs can hire a certified teacher will be a tremendous benefit to children, families and communities.

We share the concerns of our colleagues that though millions of dollars have been baselined, and we're incredibly grateful, there's a number of contracts slated to end on June 30th, 2014 and we urge you and the administration to work together to find a way to ensure that there's no disruption in services to children and families.

We also urge you to work with the administration to protect and baseline funding previously in the budget for one year. There is OST funding and Cornerstone funding in the budget for one year. Baseline funding for other youth initiatives, council youth initiatives ensure funding for summer programming; that's already been mentioned by my colleagues, and identify new funding sources to expand after-school programming for elementary and high school students and increase the funding for Beacon Programs.

We also, to echo our colleagues, think Summer Youth Employment is a critical program for our youth, and we support the \$13 million ask to

2 fully account for the minimum wage increase and  
3 expand the program by 10 percent. And I don't know  
4 if it was mentioned, but we would also ask that the  
5 program be restored from six weeks back to seven  
6 weeks. Last summer, the duration of the program  
7 was cut down to six weeks and we think that that  
8 was a really unfortunate cut for youth.

9           In terms of runaway and homeless youth,  
10 we were incredibly happy that that money was also  
11 baselined and we have the same concern about the  
12 contracting slated to end June 30th. We were also  
13 incredibly pleased to see that the Preliminary  
14 Budget has additional funds for runaway and  
15 homeless youth. We would urge you to continue  
16 expanding and strengthening the city's RHY system,  
17 given the need for these critical services by  
18 continuing to increase the number of shelter beds  
19 available, as well as the services runaway and  
20 homeless youth need.

21           And lastly, opportunity youth: as a  
22 city we must invest in the approximately 186,000  
23 young people who are not in school and not working  
24 and help them reconnect with educational and  
25 employment opportunities, and as a supporter

2 [chime] of the New York opportunity youth agenda,  
3 we have the same asks as our colleagues. Thank you  
4 so much.

5 CIDRA SEBASTIEN: Good afternoon. My  
6 name is Cidra Sebastien. I'm the Executive  
7 Associate Director at the Brotherhood/Sister Sol.  
8 Thank you so much for your time to the Chairs of  
9 the Committee and also for your attention this  
10 afternoon. I want to tell you a little bit about  
11 the Brotherhood/Sister Sol. The Brotherhood/Sister  
12 Sol was founded in 1997 and we provide holistic  
13 programming for young people ranging in age from  
14 eight to 22, so we're hitting our middle school,  
15 our high school and also our young adults. We have  
16 wraparound services that are evidence-based,  
17 including a Rites of Passage Program that's four to  
18 six years long, international study, job training,  
19 summer camps, home counseling and also college  
20 preparation. We're locally based, but we also have  
21 a national reach. We have published our curricula  
22 and have trained over 1,200 adults who are teachers  
23 and also from community-based organizations and  
24 over 200 CBOs and schools across the nation. We  
25 received recognition from Oprah Winfrey, the Ford

2 Foundation, New York Women's Foundation and others,  
3 and just as far as our evidenced-based programming,  
4 unfortunately for young people in Harlem who are  
5 teenaged, the teenage pregnancy rate is 15 and for  
6 our young people it's less than two percent. 30  
7 percent of Harlem youth ages 18 to 25 working or in  
8 college and for our graduates of our program that's  
9 at 95 percent who are in college, who are working  
10 or doing both. And then also, of our young people  
11 over the course of these 19 years, none of our  
12 members or alumni are currently incarcerated and  
13 less than one percent are on probation, so that  
14 says a lot about work and our track record over the  
15 past 19 years.

16 Our Executive Director, Khary Lazarre-  
17 White, was appointed by former Mayor Bloomberg as  
18 an advisor for YMI hat we've talked about already  
19 this morning and also serves on several boards,  
20 including Susan Taylor's National Mentoring Program  
21 and the Heinz Fellows Program, which was looking at  
22 a unique way to bring mentorship to support Black  
23 youth, specifically Black young men, in Pittsburgh  
24 and two of our alumni were the hired staff to be a  
25 part of that initial program. And we're also a

2 part of the City Council's Task Force to combat gun  
3 violence for the city focusing on different areas  
4 that we support, and we're also part of the  
5 Expanded Success Initiative. And as I mentioned,  
6 we've trained staff on our model of youth  
7 development across New York City and also across  
8 the country. We've also done that work  
9 internationally working with the State Department  
10 to do this work in Brazil and Argentina, and we're  
11 also working with a group through the Resilient  
12 Consulate this year to have an exchange between  
13 young people who are interested in journalism, both  
14 in New York City and also in Rio. We've taken our  
15 young people to Haiti, to the Dominican Republic,  
16 to Puerto Rico, South Africa and Guyana, which we  
17 are returning to this summer through our  
18 programming. [chime] That can't be right.  
19 [laughter] That was three minutes? Well, thank you  
20 very much for your time. You have the information  
21 there. I don't believe that clock, but I also just  
22 want to say that Commissioner Chong echoed some of  
23 what I wanted to share around the RFP system; so  
24 glad to hear that there will be some changes to  
25 allow for small, innovative programs to do their



2 work and also we're very excited about the plethora  
3 of programs that we have for this summer for our  
4 young people. Thank you.

5 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very  
6 much and again, to all of you thank you for your  
7 testimonies, and we know that you have so much to  
8 talk about because you have been providing so much  
9 services, but we have to give to everyone the  
10 opportunity to be heard. And again, thank you very  
11 much and keep on doing the wonderful job...

12 SHIRA SAMEROFF: [interposing] May I...

13 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: That you are  
14 doing. That makes a big difference in the life of  
15 our young people. I think you... did you present  
16 already, no?

17 SHIRA SAMEROFF: Mm-hm.

18 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Alright.

19 SHIRA SAMEROFF: But may I add just  
20 one...

21 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Yes.

22 SHIRA SAMEOFF: Quick... I just wanted  
23 to say seconding what Robert was saying about I  
24 think we all are clear that after-school programs  
25 for middle school youth is critical. It's such a

2 critical time, but I do hope that the programming  
3 is seen in conjunction in this part of multi-age  
4 programming, which is what's been so successful at  
5 Center for Family Life and I think what made you  
6 know, young people like Robert attend middle school  
7 programming is 'cause he had built relationships  
8 from a young age. We know one of our sites where  
9 we're at now is an OST funded program that only  
10 serves through fifth grade and it's heartbreaking  
11 at the end of fifth grade for the kids and for us  
12 'cause they don't get to continue with us, so.

13 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Yes and you know,  
14 one of the challenges that we've had to deal with  
15 in the council is balancing why OST is funded only  
16 for one age group. You either get a middle school  
17 contract or an elementary school contract. Very  
18 few programs get funded for both and it puts  
19 families at risk of having one child taken care of  
20 and not another and that's just totally  
21 unacceptable, so we got it. We're working on it.

22 SHIRA SAMEROFF: Thank you, thank you  
23 so much.

24 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Let me ask one  
25 comment with respect to the after-school program.

2 You know, we know the importance of the after-  
3 school programs and also, before I was elected I  
4 spent a lot of time of my life you know, working in  
5 the non-profit organization that I created to  
6 provide after-school programs to the young people.  
7 I know you know, what that means when the young  
8 person you know, has a place to go after school  
9 while the parents are working. It is important for  
10 the youth; it is important for the children; it is  
11 important also for the parents because they can go  
12 to work in order for them to provide for their  
13 family, but guess what? It is important also for  
14 the government because when the parents have the  
15 opportunity to put their children in a safe place,  
16 they can go to work in order to provide for their  
17 families, but to pay taxes also, so that means we  
18 all benefit. And let me commend you, the last you  
19 know, speaker. I'm sorry if I forgot your name.  
20 Can you state your name, please?

21 CIDRA SEBASTIEN: Cidra Sebastien.

22 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Sebastien. There  
23 is a very important component that you mentioned.  
24 The fact that you take the young people to  
25 different places; to different countries to meet

2 other people this is very important because we know  
3 that New York City is a place that's home to so  
4 many people coming from all over the world. We  
5 will make New York City a better place if we can  
6 interact with each other; you know, with other  
7 cultures and backgrounds; your track record and I  
8 commend you for that. This is what we mean because  
9 when we know each other we will see how similar we  
10 are. We look... and you know, we got so much in  
11 common, more in common than our differences. This  
12 is... you know, I commend you for that and I think  
13 that we, all of us, should support activities and  
14 interaction and you know, all of us. And again, to  
15 all of you, thank you very much. Keep on doing a  
16 wonderful job. Thank you.

17 PANELISTS: Thank you.

18 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Let me call our  
19 next... and I hope and I think that this is the  
20 case, the last panel, and please, if I misspell  
21 your name... pronounce your name, please feel free  
22 to correct me. Michael Godino. Is that correct?  
23 And Safiya Raheem, thank you very much. Michael  
24 Polenberg, Christopher Watler. [background voice]  
25 I'm sorry? Oh, okay. Oh wow, I got it right.

2 Thank you. And also Shira Sameroff; Shira or  
3 Sheila. Alright, thank you very much. You may  
4 start at any time. Please state your names for the  
5 record.

6 MICHAEL GODINO: I guess I'll go  
7 first. My name is Mike Godino. I'm with the Youth  
8 and Vision Loss Coalition. I'm not here today to  
9 talk about New York City money. I do have one  
10 money issue, but I want to introduce to our  
11 coalition. We just came together in November and  
12 we have come together about 30 agencies around New  
13 York City and probably over 80 individual  
14 representatives to address the issues that young  
15 people with vision loss may be experiencing. Some  
16 of the issues that we've come together on are the  
17 facts that young people with vision loss are going  
18 through our systems; our school systems and there  
19 seems to be a divergence between are called  
20 rehabilitative services and educational services.  
21 We're hoping within the coalition we can get that  
22 together and get these kids educated in one of the  
23 most least integrated settings that are now being  
24 called for throughout the country and all over the  
25 place.

2           So what happens is that the IDEA, IDEA,  
3 mandates that children all have a classification of  
4 disability and unfortunately on the IEP, the  
5 Individual Education Plan, you're only allowed to  
6 list one disability of the 13 that could be listed.  
7 One of them happens to be multiple or other health  
8 impairments; those are the two that get listed  
9 under. Children with developmental disabilities  
10 usually have cortical visual impairments that  
11 aren't being addressed by the education system or  
12 the rehabilitation system or even the medical  
13 system. That's an issue that keeps coming up over  
14 and over, and we feel that if we can get this  
15 addressed through the Department of Education we  
16 can get the children better educated to know their  
17 needs are in and around visual impairments and get  
18 the parents to understand visual impairment so that  
19 the children can get the necessary support and  
20 services that they need to go further.

21           Recently, at a Town Meeting, it was  
22 brought up that some of the officials in schools  
23 don't even realize that they're supposed to accept  
24 children who are blind. Principals are stating  
25 that their school does not accept blind children.

2 That was addressed through advocacy and  
3 intervention, so we managed to mitigate that  
4 problem; however, we know that this is an issue and  
5 the District 75 representatives that were there  
6 were more apt to state... the educators were more  
7 interested in the safety of the children rather  
8 than stating no, it must be this way and they must  
9 allow the blind children to come into the school.

10 The last issue is a money issue. It  
11 has a little bit to do with federal... state  
12 dollars. There is an appropriation that's \$526  
13 million short for early intervention and those are  
14 the babies; those are the littlest of the little,  
15 and if that allocation [chime] that's being  
16 addressed, \$526 million short, comes through and  
17 we're going to have to make that up here on the  
18 county level or on the city level. So thank you  
19 for this hearing. I appreciate the opportunity to  
20 testify.

21 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very  
22 much.

23 SAFIYA RAHEEM: Hi, good afternoon. My  
24 name is Safiya Raheem and I'm here today  
25 representing Literacy Inc, known by its acronym

2 LINC. On behalf of its Executive Director, Shari  
3 Levine.

4 We commend Mayor de Blasio and the City  
5 Council for addressing head on the importance of  
6 early education and the need for Universal Pre-K  
7 and after-school programs, some of which are  
8 included in this DYCD Preliminary Budget. We  
9 believe that there is a larger conversation to be  
10 had regarding childhood literacy and we would like  
11 to begin that conversation now, when Early  
12 Childhood Education is at the forefront of both the  
13 administration's and the City Council's agenda.

14 New York City is currently facing a  
15 literacy crisis that disproportionately affects  
16 children living in poverty and children of color.  
17 As council members, many of you observe this in  
18 your own constituencies. 74 percent of children  
19 living in poverty do not read on grade level by  
20 Grade Three. Citywide only 16 percent of Black  
21 children and 17 percent of Latino children are  
22 proficient readers by Grade Three. Once these  
23 children fall behind, they are more likely to drop  
24 out of high school, face increased social and  
25 economic challenges and continue the cycle of



poverty. LINC sees the implementation of Universal Pre-K and expansion of after-school programs for middle school children as necessities in closing the achievement gap.

As part of LINC's Reading Partner Program, we facilitate after-school programs that help foster leadership skills for middle school students. LINC matches middle school students to read with first and second grade children once a week for an hour. This partnership not only promotes literacy development for the younger student, but forges a sense of purpose and responsibility for the older children that permeates other aspects of their lives. LINC has observed that middle school students who participate in after-school Reading Partner Programs are more likely to show increased school attendance and demonstrate leadership skills in their school communities.

In 2012 to 2013, LINC reached approximately 8,000 low-income children; 1,500 parents in New York City. Through our neighborhood approach, we've worked directly with 27 New York City public schools, eight branch libraries, 45

2 community partners and distributed over 4,500 books  
3 to low-income children. Our success is in our  
4 numbers. 88 percent of LINC participants  
5 demonstrate improved vocabulary, increased time  
6 spent reading and improved reading aloud skills,  
7 all of which translate into success in school and  
8 in life.

9 Additional details about LINC's history  
10 and our programs are contained in our written  
11 testimony. Thank you for the opportunity to speak  
12 with you today.

13 Thank you, Chairman Eugene, Chairwoman  
14 Arroyo and members of the committee for the  
15 opportunity to testify. I am Michael Polenberg,  
16 Vice President of Government Affairs for Safe  
17 Horizon, the nation's leading victim assistance  
18 organization and New York City's largest provider  
19 of services to victims of crime and abuse, their  
20 families and communities. So after many years of  
21 advocacy before this very committee, we are of  
22 course delighted when funding for Runaway and  
23 Homeless Youth Services were baselined last  
24 December and we're doubly pleased when the Mayor's  
25 Budget for this year includes funding for

2 additional shelter beds. We hope that's a trend  
3 that will continue in future years. And while we  
4 wait to see how DYCD will allocate the baselined  
5 funding, we wanted to just give you a brief idea of  
6 how the City Council funding has helped sustain our  
7 Streetworks Program, which works with homeless  
8 youth.

9           This program has three components: an  
10 overnight outreach program, two drop-in centers and  
11 a 24 bed overnight shelter. You may know that 60  
12 percent of homeless youth report being homeless  
13 because they escaped domestic violence and child  
14 abuse in their home. We also know that commercial  
15 sexual exploitation can affect any young person,  
16 regardless of age, location, gender, gender  
17 identity or sexual orientation. We safely estimate  
18 that between 87 and 95 percent of our Streetworks  
19 Project clients have engaged in survival sex at  
20 least once and that this is primarily due to a lack  
21 of other options for survival.

22           I'll tell you very briefly about the  
23 programs that the City Council directly funds. Our  
24 24 bed overnight shelter up in Harlem over the past  
25 year helped 241 young people between the ages of 16

2 and 21 stay safe, receive a hot meal and overnight  
3 shelter. The kids who come with us; I can't  
4 emphasize this enough; they're safe from violence,  
5 they're safe from sexual exploitation and they're  
6 safe from disease. For many, our overnight shelter  
7 is the first safe place they've slept in many  
8 months or even years. Abused as children, unable  
9 to succeed in foster care or group homes and preyed  
10 on by adults and forced into survival sex to obtain  
11 basic necessities, the clients we see are scared,  
12 hungry and distrustful.

13           The council has also helped support our  
14 Harlem Drop-In Center, where we help about 1,400  
15 homeless at-risk young people each year. During  
16 the day, our center is filled with young people  
17 engaged with our staff, learning about resources  
18 and getting information. In short, our center is a  
19 respite for young people whose lives are chaotic  
20 and the funding we receive from the City Council  
21 supports a critical part of this program.

22           And finally, our Overnight Street  
23 Outreach Program; it's all five boroughs; it's  
24 every single night that we go out and engage young  
25 people on the streets. Using a non-judgmental

2 client centered approach, we connect them with a  
3 network of drop-in centers and shelters of ours, as  
4 well as those operated by our colleagues. In every  
5 corner of every borough our outreach team moves  
6 young people from the danger of the streets to the  
7 safety of shelter and housing. So we are  
8 enormously grateful to the City Council for all its  
9 past support for these programs and we'll be  
10 working with our colleagues at DYCD to help ensure  
11 [chime] this funding will continue to sustain the  
12 programs. Thank you.

13 CHRISTOPHER WATLER: Hi, good morning.  
14 My name is Chris Watler. I work at the Center for  
15 Court Innovation. I want to thank the council for  
16 what has been an informative and well run hearing,  
17 even though I'm the last speaker. I know in the  
18 future not to arrive at 9:30. But I do want to say  
19 that you know, we are very grateful at the Center  
20 for Court Innovation for the City Council's support  
21 that has allowed us to serve about 60,000 New  
22 Yorkers a year through our problem solving courts  
23 and other projects in the community.

24 The center is a public-private  
25 partnership devoted to reducing crime, improving

2 confidence in the justice system, assisting  
3 victims, and I think importantly really helping  
4 people who come in contact with the justice system  
5 to not only be held accountable, but also to get  
6 them the help that they need in a moment of crisis.  
7 Through our projects we have served about 2,300  
8 young people in the justice system a year.

9 I want to give you one example that I  
10 think many council members may be aware of. We run  
11 what are called Youth Courts in Red Hook, Harlem,  
12 Staten Island, Brownsville and Queens, and these  
13 are programs where young people serve as peer  
14 leaders for cases that are being diverted from the  
15 justice system. So these are young people in  
16 neighborhood who are being trained to run a Youth  
17 Court Program where they hear situations where a  
18 young person has been involved in the justice  
19 system or may be facing school suspension with the  
20 idea of providing an alternative restorative  
21 sanction that keeps that young person in school;  
22 keeps them out of the justice system. We think  
23 that these kinds of programs and investments are  
24 going to be very important as we move away from  
25 incarcerating young people in the system and move

2 towards really in communities finding better ways  
3 to respond to the needs of young people.

4           Some of our other programs include the  
5 Staten Island Youth Justice Center, which houses an  
6 Alternative to Detention Program and the city's  
7 first respite program. We like to call the  
8 approach that we have community justice because  
9 we're not... this is about bringing the justice  
10 system and local communities together; local  
11 stakeholders together. I can tell you even in my  
12 project, which is a court I say, I actually have  
13 members of my staff who are formally incarcerated  
14 who have been involved in the juvenile justice  
15 system. So these projects employ people locally,  
16 but more importantly, they create opportunities for  
17 us to do things differently on the ground, and to  
18 learn from those things and then to try to take  
19 those experiences and do more in our city.

20           With the council's support we are  
21 developing a Justice Center in Brownsville  
22 Brooklyn. You may also be aware of our programs to  
23 end gun violence, including the Save Our Streets  
24 [chime] Program in the South Bronx. So we thank  
25

2 the council for your support and I certainly thank  
3 you for the opportunity to testify today.

4 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: So Chris, it seems  
5 like every... that you have a different model  
6 program in different boroughs and at some point I'd  
7 like to understand why...

8 CHRISTOPHER WATLER: Mm-hm.

9 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: And how was the  
10 decision made what model program you will implement  
11 in the different communities.

12 CHRISTOPHER WATLER: Sure, and I will  
13 be happy to talk to you more if it's not here, but  
14 that..

15 [crosstalk]

16 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: This... you know,  
17 for the Bronx perspective...

18 CHRISTOPHER WATLER: [interposing] Mm-  
19 hm.

20 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: I think the model  
21 in Brooklyn, the court adjudicated kind of program  
22 that we see happening very successfully and I think  
23 we need to spend some energy replicating that  
24 program in other boroughs.

25 CHRISTOPHER WATLER: Sure.



2 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: So it's important.  
3 I understand funding is one of the elements that  
4 made this you know, trigger, but at a minimum we  
5 need to have the same programs across the...

6 [crosstalk]

7 CHRISTOPHER WATLER: Sure.

8 [crosstalk]

9 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Board so that we  
10 can all benefit from the good work that the Center  
11 for Court Innovation is doing.

12 CHRISTOPHER WATLER: And I'll say,  
13 Council Member, thank you for that. One of things  
14 that's very important I want to highlight is that  
15 we spend a lot of time listening to the communities  
16 about the priorities that they have. So for  
17 example, my project in Harlem was framed around  
18 housing and men and women coming home from prison  
19 because that's what we heard initially from  
20 stakeholders on the ground, but you know I think  
21 you're absolutely right, that it's important that  
22 that listening not just happen up front, but  
23 continuously throughout that we're consulting the  
24 community and we're certainly open to talking with  
25 you more...

2 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: [interposing]

3 Okay.

4 CHRISTOPHER WATLER: About that.

5 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Thank you.

6 Council Member Eugene?

7 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very  
8 much, Madam Chair. It seems that we have another  
9 speaker and Jessica Orozco. She just arrived and  
10 she is from the Hispanic Federation.

11 JESSICA OROZCO: Hello.

12 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Jessica, when you  
13 start, please state your name for the record.

14 JESSICA OROZCO: Sure. I'm Jessica  
15 Orozco. Good afternoon. My name is Jessica Orozco  
16 and I am the Director of Immigration and Civic  
17 Engagement at the Hispanic Federation. Chairs  
18 Arroyo and Eugene and members of their respective  
19 committees, thank you for the opportunity to  
20 testify on behalf of New York's Latino community  
21 partners.

22 Hispanic Federation is the premier  
23 Latino membership organization in the nation,  
24 founded to address the many inequities confronting  
25 Latinos and the non-profits that serve them. For

2 more than 20 years, Hispanic Federation has  
3 provided grants, administered human services and  
4 coordinated advocacy for our broad network of  
5 agencies that serve more than two million Latinos in  
6 areas of health, education, economic empowerment,  
7 immigration and civic engagement.

8 Overall, HF is pleased to see that  
9 several vital programs that sustain the Latino and  
10 community-based organizations were recently  
11 baselined by the Mayor's Office. The City Council  
12 now has the opportunity to further support the  
13 city's 2.3 million Latinos by ensuring these  
14 initiatives receive a long needed increase. In  
15 partnership with the Asian American Federation,  
16 Black Agency Executives and Coalition for Asian  
17 American Children and Families, Hispanic Federation  
18 has created a series of reforms and recommendations  
19 to strengthen people of color led community-based  
20 organizations or CBOs.

21 Under the previous administration, too  
22 many Latino led CBOs, along with those in Asian and  
23 Black communities, were boxed out of city funding  
24 opportunities for human services and the arts. For  
25 too long the city has failed to value or support

the culturally competent and linguistically appropriate services offered by our agencies. Instead of partnering and investing these vital institutions with long-proven track records, we have witnessed increasingly biased city agency RFP processes that have led to severe cutbacks and even closures for many of our color led CBOs.

The City Council has a unique opportunity this year to turn this sad trend around. Hispanic Federation and its 60 member agencies in New York City, along with our partners at the Asian American Federation, Black Agency Executives and Coalition for Asian American Children and Families call on the council to establish a \$10 million non-profit stabilization fund for people of color led CBOs. Such a groundbreaking non-profit stabilization fund will provide grants to help secure the long-term viability of people of color led CBOs by providing them with comprehensive capacity building assistance to fortify financial, board, staff, management, IT and outcomes evaluations systems. Without these basic infrastructure investments, the city's human service sector will not be fully up to

2 the task of providing the vast array of  
3 immigration, education, senior, youth, health and  
4 other services we all rely upon.

5           New York City's Immigrant Opportunity  
6 Initiative provides access to crucial services to  
7 NYC's immigrant community, providing funding for  
8 English for Speakers of Other Languages,  
9 citizenship and permanent residency application  
10 assistance and support with employment  
11 authorization and issues. The entire community  
12 benefits from these immigration programs. As  
13 immigrants learn English, their chances of  
14 obtaining better paying jobs increases, leading to  
15 bigger tax contributions to the city and empowering  
16 immigrants to civically contribute to their  
17 communities.

18           Despite the city's continued growth of  
19 foreign born families, funding for IOI has steadily  
20 decreased since its height of \$11.25 million in  
21 2008 [chime] to \$4.6 million in 2013. Currently,  
22 approximately 37 percent of NYC's population is  
23 foreign born. Over the past five years, state and  
24 federal funding for immigrant services has  
25 drastically decreased, putting a burdensome strain

2 on immigrant services providers. In order to meet  
3 the need for immigrant services in this great city,  
4 HF is recommending that the city work to increase  
5 IOI to \$25 million. For starters, the council can  
6 at least match...

7 [crosstalk]

8 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Jessica?

9 JESSICA OROZCO: Yes?

10 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Had you been here  
11 when this hearing started, you would've known that  
12 when I grab the mic that means your time is up.

13 JESSICA OROZCO: Okay, forgive me.

14 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Okay.

15 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very  
16 much, Co-Chair Arroyo and thank you very much to  
17 each one of you for the wonderful job that you are  
18 doing and the services that you are providing make  
19 our city safer; make our city a better place for  
20 all of us to live; where we, all of us, we can live  
21 and raise our children and I love the idea; the  
22 fact that many of you are providing services to our  
23 most vulnerable people, especially youth with  
24 vision loss and also with disabilities and also  
25 those young people who are facing many dangers; you

2 know, facing difficulties like those who are facing  
3 you know, abuse, sexual abuse and many other  
4 challenges and again, on behalf of all of them and  
5 on behalf of the city of New York I thank you. And  
6 I want to let you that myself and Chair Arroyo and  
7 all the members of the Youth Committee and  
8 Community Development Committee, we are willing to  
9 work together with you and we will look forward to  
10 continuing to partner with you and to work with you  
11 to make you know, our city better and to get ways  
12 to improve the resources and also the opportunity  
13 that we have available for our young people. Thank  
14 you very much.

15 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Thank you, Mr.  
16 Chair and I'd like to point out for everyone in the  
17 room that although the Commissioner is not here...

18 CHAIRPERSON EUBGENE: [interposing]  
19 Excuse me?

20 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: That...

21 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Sir, could you  
22 please... I'm sorry.

23 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: That we do have a  
24 representative from the city agency in the room,  
25 who is taking notes and paying attention to

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2 everything the public has said, right? Yes, okay.

3 And thank you for staying throughout the hearing.

4 Mr. Chairman?

5 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: I think we got to  
6 the end. Thank you very much...

7 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: This...

8 [crosstalk]

9 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Madam Chair.

10 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Hearing is  
11 adjourned. [gavel]

12 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very  
13 much.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

World Wide Dictation certifies that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. I further certify that I am not related to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that I am in no way interested in the outcome of this matter.



Date:

\_\_\_\_ 04/13/2014 \_\_\_\_\_