



FISCAL YEAR 2016 PRELIMINARY BUDGET

TESTIMONY

**BEFORE THE NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL
COMMITTEES ON FINANCE, YOUTH SERVICES
AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

PRESENTED BY

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG

MARCH 27, 2015

Good afternoon Chairwoman Ferreras, Chairman Eugene, Chairwoman Arroyo and members of the Finance, Youth Services, and Community Development committees. I am Bill Chong, Commissioner of the Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD). I'm joined by Susan Haskell, Deputy Commissioner, Youth Services and Sandy Gutierrez, Deputy Commissioner, Community Development. Thank you for the opportunity to discuss DYCD's Fiscal Year 2016 Preliminary Budget.

DYCD's preliminary budget reflects the Mayor's priorities to provide positive opportunities for young people by further investing in enriching afterschool and skill building programs. The Mayor baselined \$17.6 million for summer programs for 20,000 elementary school aged youth. He also baselined \$3.4 million to cover the minimum wage increase on the slots funded by the city's baselined summer jobs funding. Our Fiscal Year 2016 proposed budget sets an all-time high at \$508.8 million. 49% of that is city-tax levy funding, 38% are intra-city funds, 11.5% is federal, and the rest is state funding.

Over the past year, our priority has been managing the exciting growth of our programs. Last summer, we doubled the number of program seats in Beacon, Cornerstone and COMPASS middle school summer programs from 17,000 to 34,000. In September 2014, 271 new School's Out NYC (SONYC) middle school afterschool programs started. Last spring and summer, we issued an RFP, selected providers, and made sure new programs were properly licensed. Since September, we've been focused on supporting new providers to ensure high quality. A special thanks to all of my staff and our non-profit contractors for successfully getting the SONYC expansion off the ground.

Our SONYC programs have been very successful. As of March 24, 50,794 youth were enrolled. This is 118.5% of the 42,856 program seats available. When we add enrollment from the rest of DYCD's middle school after school programs and those at the Department of Education, 100,792 youth are enrolled in middle school afterschool programs citywide, which is 128.9% of the 78,186 program seats available.

In SONYC's first year, we offered additional enrichment activities through innovative STEM content partners such as the New York Academy of Sciences Mobile Computing Program, Bigshot Digital Camera and Salvadori Center Skateparks. We've also released 2 more RFPs to further expand SONYC into additional school sites and non-public school sites – which includes community centers – and have an upcoming SONYC RFP to serve youth living in homeless shelters and students in District 79 schools.

Even as we've launched the new SONYC programs, we are committed to strengthening our existing school based and center based afterschool programs. Due to the baselining in Fiscal Year 2015 of \$51 million in the formerly Council funded COMPASS programs, we issued RFPs in January 2015 to continue services at these same school sites and community districts.

DYCD is working with the Department of Education on the Community Schools initiative. We issued an RFP in early January to select the community based organization (CBO) partner for 82 of the 94 community schools. Once the groups are selected, DOE will assume the management of the CBO contracts. Community schools are a key aspect of the Mayor's School Renewal Program. Community schools support student success by integrating academics, health and mental health services, social services, afterschool and summer enrichment activities, and family and community supports. These wrap-around services help remove barriers to learning by meeting the social, emotional, physical and academic needs of students.

The selected CBO partner will work with school leadership to integrate these services and supports for students and their families.

DYCD's growth has also created new services for NYCHA residents. Last January, we launched 45 new Cornerstone community centers, bringing the total number to 70. Not only did 45 NYCHA developments get new youth and community programming, but all 70 Cornerstones benefitted from extended hours last summer. The centers were open until 11pm daily. Those containing gyms operated until 12:30am on the weekends. This was the first time in a generation that NYCHA community centers were open past 6pm in the summer time.

The Cornerstones set record attendance levels last summer, and we are working towards having the extended hours again this year. The extended hours were vital to the Mayor's Action Plan for Neighborhood Safety, which also included funding that allowed 992 NYCHA youth from the 15 target developments to work through the Summer Youth Employment Program. We were also fortunate to have Friedrich donate 150 air conditioners for 38 Cornerstone centers most in need of improved air conditioning.

Last summer, over 47,000 youth and young adults worked in the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP). We greatly appreciated the City Council's addition of \$15.2 million, which added 10,700 jobs. 2014 was the largest program since 2009, when federal stimulus funding allowed us to serve over 52,000 youth.

We are committed to serving over 47,000 youth again this summer, but as you know, SYEP's annual budget is like a jigsaw puzzle. SYEP funding currently stands at \$51.6 million, which can serve over 35,000 participants. This assumes we will get at least the same level of state funding -- \$14.5 million -- as last year. In order to serve over 47,000 youth again this year, we will need \$72 million. Governor Cuomo proposed \$30 million for SYEP in his 2015-16 Executive Budget. The Assembly accepted his proposal, while the Senate's one-house budget bill included last year's level of \$27.5 million. Despite this, we are optimistic that the final state budget will include \$30 million. At that level, we estimate we will receive \$15.8 million in state SYEP funding.

Starting this year, DYCD plans to substantially increase the number of private sector SYEP jobs by 2017. Recent research has confirmed what we already know -- placing youth in more professional jobs improves their future outcomes. By finding more private sector jobs in diverse industries, SYEP can better expose teenagers to different career options. We want more for profit businesses -- small, medium, large or corporate -- or large non-profits such as museums, hospitals or universities to be SYEP employers. Over the past few months, we have reached out to 12 city agencies to help us connect to employers. For example, I met with Commissioner Lopez at the Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment to help identify summer jobs in the film and television industry. DYCD's Youth Board/Youth Council and the city's Workforce Investment Board are also reaching out to their employer networks. We would be happy to work with the City Council to reach out to small businesses or employers in your districts who can hire a young person this summer.

The Mayor and DYCD's commitment to addressing the needs of runaway and homeless youth (RHY) is stronger than ever. In Fiscal Year 2015, we funded 100 new crisis shelter beds, for a total of 216 beds. Combined with 137 transitional independent living beds, DYCD now funds 353 shelter beds. In January 2015, the first city funded 24/7 RHY drop-in center started. Located in West Harlem, the drop-in center can also offer specialized services to LGBTQ youth.

DYCD's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) initiative has been recognized as a national model by the Migration Policy Institute and the White House and been included in national studies by the Brookings Institution and Harvard University. By combining community outreach, literacy services, and legal services, we've developed a model that can identify interested DACA applicants in a non-stigmatizing way, while helping immigrants access these important services. To reach additional potential DACA applicants, we will partner with CUNY's Citizenship Now initiative and the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs to connect to New Yorkers who have obtained an IDNYC card. Our DACA program was funded as a two-year initiative for Fiscal Years 2014 and 2015.

It is an exciting time for DYCD. After years of proposed budget cuts under the last administration, Mayor De Blasio has put DYCD's budget on solid ground. The past year has demonstrated that solid investments in afterschool, youth employment and community center programs has made a difference in the lives of tens of thousands of young people and their families. I look forward to working with the City Council to continue the Mayor's vision of extending positive opportunities to all New Yorkers.

Thank you again for the Council's strong support of DYCD, and for the chance to testify today. We're happy to answer any questions.

Center for Court Innovation Testimony
New York City Council
Youth Services and Community Development Preliminary Budget Hearing
March 27, 2015

Good afternoon Chair Arroyo, Chair Eugene and esteemed Members of the Council. My name is Carol Fisler, and I am the Director of the Mental Health Court and Alternative to Detention Programs at the Center for Court Innovation. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak today.

I am here to urge the Committee on Youth Services and the Committee on Community Development, as they are considering the Mayor's proposed budget, to support funding for the Center for Court Innovation as we continue to develop new and innovative approaches to improve educational resources and opportunities for disconnected and justice-involved youth, as well as other populations in need of support.

There are close to 350,000 young people in the New York metro area who are neither enrolled in school nor working, and another 250,000 students who are chronically absent from school. Studies have shown that these young people face an increased likelihood of future delinquency, lower annual income, and poor health. The need for increased educational services and opportunities to engage young people has never been more evident, which is why we are pleased to see the Mayor's proposal of \$190 million to expand after-school programming for middle school students. It is our hope that the council will recognize this need and support the Mayor's Proposal, as well as support funding for after-school and alternative programming for justice-involved youth provided by the Center for Court Innovation.

At our Youth Justice Centers in Queens and Staten Island, their alternative-to-detention (ATD) programs, QUEST and READY, provide intense supervision along with after-school programming for youth with cases pending in family court. QUEST and READY emphasize

education, providing participants with support related to school placement, engagement, and discipline. The programs year-round afterschool design is organized around social and emotional learning principles, teaching participants to interact effectively with others, and how to properly navigate the world. Programming includes homework help, structured recreational activities, educational and vocational workshops, and cognitive-behavioral and skill-building group work.

In Harlem, through the Harlem Justice Corps, we provide intensive career development and service programs for justice-involved young people seeking employment, education services, and meaningful opportunities to serve their community. The Justice Corps works to improve the education and employment opportunities for young people who are in need of direction and reduce the likelihood of future delinquency. And at our Youth and Community Justice Centers in Staten Island, Brownsville, and Harlem, the Justice Community Plus program provides employment readiness and workforce development services for youth exposed to community violence. It is designed to emphasize soft skills while providing participants with resume help, interview preparation, and off-site internships.

Through the support of the City Council and the Department of Youth and Community Development, the Center for Court Innovation has also been able to fund programs to strengthen other populations in need. UPNEXT, a workforce development and fatherhood engagement initiative at the Midtown Community Court, serves formerly justice-involved unemployed non-custodial fathers, providing them with the tools and resources they need to successfully compete in today's job market and re-connect with their families. Additionally, our Housing Resource Center at the Harlem Community Justice Center, assists NYCHA residents with repairs, rent payment, and housing court cases. Housing Resource Center staff act as liaisons between NYCHA, tenants, and the Judge, particularly in cases where tenants request repairs. And a recent analysis revealed that, each year, more than 250 evictions are prevented through the efforts of the Housing Resource Center staff.

The City Council's support has been invaluable to the success of the Center for Court Innovation, helping us maintain core operations and launch new initiatives at our demonstration projects throughout New York City. We hope the City Council will continue to support the Center's core work as I have described, as well as support the expansion of critical new initiatives focused on youth diversion, police-youth-community relations, and enhanced access to equal and fair justice for the city's most vulnerable citizens.

- Earlier this month, we launched Project Reset together with the NYPD and the District Attorney's Offices in Manhattan and Brooklyn. Project Reset is an early diversion pilot in Brownsville and East Harlem that will divert 16- and 17-year-olds arrested for minor non-violent offenses to counseling or community service before they ever come before a judge – avoiding any chance of a criminal record or time in jail. This is a fundamental shift in the way that law enforcement approaches minor offending, and with the council's help, we hope to expand this critical initiative to many additional precincts and young people around the city.
- In Red Hook, our Peacemaking program seeks to empower an isolated, historically underserved community with high rates of justice system involvement to play an active role in solving its local problems by using traditional Native American techniques. Poverty Justice Solutions, a recently launched new program, will help low-income New Yorkers preserve their housing and prevent homelessness by recruiting law school graduates to serve two year fellowships working in housing courts throughout New York City, greatly increasing tenant access to legal counsel. With the Council's support, we hope to expand these new programs and initiatives that increase procedural fairness, increase access to representation, and engage communities in local problem-solving.
- Finally, at the Brownsville Community Justice Center, police-youth-community dialogues are regularly convened. These unscripted conversations among teens, cops, and residents have helped to not only build trust and understanding, but advance common goals. And in Staten Island, the Neighborhood Youth Justice Council, enables young people, together with other community members and justice stakeholders, to design and

implement projects and not just *talk* about police-community dynamics, but actually create positive change. With the Council's help, we hope to expand our police-youth dialogue work to all of our Youth and Community Justice Centers and create Neighborhood Youth Justice Councils in Jamaica Queens, East Harlem, and other communities.

The Center for Court Innovation looks forward to continuing to work with the New York City Council to improve educational resources and opportunities for disconnected and justice involved youth, and strengthen neighborhoods in need throughout New York City. We respectfully urge you to continue to support our work and thank again for the opportunity to speak. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.



Testimony of

Elizabeth Hoffman
Policy Associate
Housing and Homelessness

Before the
New York City Council
Finance and Youth Services Committees

Regarding the
New York City
Fiscal Year 2016 Preliminary Budget

March 27, 2015

Good afternoon. My name is Elizabeth Hoffman and I am the Policy Associate for Housing and Homelessness at Citizens' Committee for Children of New York, Inc. (CCC). CCC is a 71-year-old, privately supported, independent, multi-issue child advocacy organization dedicated to ensuring every New York child is healthy, housed, educated and safe. I would like to thank Chairs Ferreras and Eugene, as well as the members of the City Council Committees on Finance and Education for holding today's hearing regarding the City's Preliminary Budget for Fiscal Year 2016.

The Preliminary Budget takes important steps to address income inequality and improve child safety and well-being in New York City. Mayor de Blasio made clear at the budget briefing that the Preliminary Budget is just a first step towards developing the Fiscal Year 2016 budget and that there is a great deal more to look at and evaluate as we move towards the Executive Budget in April. This is good news because there are a number of areas that must be addressed in Fiscal Year 2016 in order to improve outcomes for New York's children and families.

Specifically, we look forward to an Executive Budget that makes the investments needed to: improve access to high quality early childhood education and after-school services; bring school breakfast to all classrooms and universal lunch programs to all schools; support primary preventive services that strengthen families and prevent abuse and neglect; and expand access to children's health and mental health services in schools and communities.

This testimony focuses on the new investments in the Preliminary Budget related to youth services in the Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD). The testimony highlights the Preliminary Budget proposals we support, the initiatives we hope to see restored and baselined, as well as the additional programs and investments we hope to see in the Executive Budget. We urge the City Council to focus on the areas identified in this testimony as you develop your priorities and that you also urge the Administration to use the Fiscal Year 2016 Budget to make NYC a better place to be a child.

CCC Supports the Preliminary Budget Proposals That Will Strengthen, Maintain and Expand Access to Youth Services

CCC appreciates all of the resources and attention the de Blasio Administration and DYCD have committed to strengthening and expanding youth services during the first year of the Administration. After many years of fighting with the City Council to save the same after-school slots from being cut, and losing ground year after year, it has been very gratifying to see youth services expand. The middle school after-school expansion (referred to as SONYC) has ensured thousands of NYC middle school students have had access to after-school programs, enabling them to be meaningfully engaged after school while their parents are able to work.

CCC is incredibly supportive of the Preliminary Budget proposal to add \$190 million for over 100,000 middle school students to have access to after-school programs in the second wave of expansion next year. We, like the City Council and Mayor's office, have been advocating to ensure this commitment of resources is maintained in the State Budget that is currently being negotiated.

CCC also supports the Preliminary Budget proposal to add \$17.6 million to maintain summer programming for 22,000 elementary school students. As the City Council is aware, the Bloomberg Administration planned to cut 30,000 after-school slots but the City Council was able to save their funding. The middle school seats that had been supported by the City Council are not part of the SONYC program. The elementary school seats restored by the City Council and then baselined, formerly referred to as OST but now called COMPASS, are part of the current COMPASS RFP (DYCD has not yet selected the awardees). This RFP, however, only had enough funding for the school year for the 22,000 elementary school students. CCC is very grateful that the Administration is proposing to add the funding for the summer portion of the slot. This is incredibly important for parents, providers and children and adding the funding now enables parents and providers to be able to plan for the summer.

Finally, CCC also supports the Preliminary Budget proposal to add \$3.4 million to the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) to maintain the same number of SYEP slots as last summer at the higher minimum wage that came into effect this past January. As discussed later in this testimony, CCC believes that we need to significantly increase the number of youth who get summer jobs through SYEP, so it was very important that the Preliminary Budget ensures that we are at least able to serve the same number of youth this summer.

CCC Urges the Administration to Restore and Baseline City Council Initiatives Related to Youth Services

CCC appreciates the City Council's long-standing commitment to investing critical resources into the Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) to both maintain and strengthen the programming available to the City's youth. We will be urging the Administration to restore and baseline the initiatives supported by the City Council in Fiscal Year 2015 and we hope the City Council will do so as well. Specifically, these are:

- \$7.1 million for Cultural After-School Adventure (CASA)
- \$400,000 for Big Brothers Big Sisters
- \$15.2 million for 10,640 Summer Youth Employment Program Slots (SYEP)
- \$800,000 for the New York Junior Tennis League
- \$750,000 for NYC Digital Inclusion and Literacy Initiative to address disparities in internet access
- \$1 million for Sports and Arts in School Foundation
- \$3 million for The After School Corporation (TASC)
- \$350,000 for the YMCA After-School Program
- \$2.1 million for NYC Youth Build

CCC Urges the Administration to Make Additional Investments to Strengthen Youth Services

1) After-School Programs

While CCC applauds the middle school after-school expansion, there is much more that the City must do to protect current capacity for elementary and high school students, expand capacity for elementary and high school students and strengthen the overall system.

Youth are at greatest risk for delinquency between the hours of 3-6pm¹ and every \$1 invested in youth services saves \$3 in savings for participants and taxpayers.² After-school programs enable parents to work while their children are both safe and receiving stimulating, nurturing and developmentally appropriate care. These programs have clearly demonstrated their benefits for children, families, and communities.

New York City's after-school programming includes a mix of academic supports, sports, youth development, and recreation. After-school programs keep elementary, middle and high school students engaged in a wide array of enriching and positive activities during after-school, holiday and summer hours. The largest City-funded after-school program was previously referred to as Out-of-School-Time (OST). This program has been renamed COMPASS (Comprehensive After-School System). The middle school component of COMPASS is referred to as SONYC (School's Out NYC). (Thus SONYC is a subset of COMPASS and all refer to the program previously called OST.) The investment in middle-school after-school (SONYC) led to the increase in COMPASS/OST from 44,000 last year to 78,000 this school year.

Unfortunately, while the administration is poised to implement the second wave of the middle-school after-school expansion and serve over 100,000 middle school students, we are about to lose capacity for elementary and middle school students. **To prevent the loss of capacity and to serve the same number of children currently served, the following IMMEDIATE NEEDS must be funded in the FY16 Executive Budget:**

- **\$7.7 million for the 2,300 elementary school after-school slots** that are lost by increasing the rate of the slots previously funded by the City Council to the OST/COMPASS rate. By using the regular COMPASS (previously known as OST) elementary school rate but the same amount of funding, the system is slated to lose 2,300 slots.
- **\$5.9 million for the 17 sites (serving 1,882 children)** currently funded by DOE but slated to be eliminated when the contracts end on 6/30/15. These 17 sites are:
 - 1) Westhab at Hyde Leadership Charter School in the Bronx (123 children) (CM Arroyo)

¹ Fight Crime Invest in Kids. *New York City's Out-of-School Time Choice: The Prime Time for Crime or Youth Enrichment and Achievement*, 2008. Available online: <http://www.fightcrime.org/reports/NYCAS2pager.pdf>

²Lattimore, C. B., Mihalic, S. F., Grotzinger, J. K., & Taggart, R. (1998); "The Quantum Opportunities Program"; In D.S. Elliot (Series Ed.), *Blueprints for violence prevention: Book four*; Boulder, CO: Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence.

- 2) Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation at East New York Elementary School of Excellence in Brooklyn (120 children) (CM Barron)
- 3) New York Junior Tennis League at The Fresh Creek School in Brooklyn (120 children) (CM Barron)
- 4) New York Junior Tennis League at PS 148 in Queens (120 children) (CM Dromm)
- 5) Sports and Arts in School Foundation at PS 376 in Brooklyn (120 children) (CM Espinal)
- 6) Child Development Center of the Mosholu Montefiore at PS 41 in the Bronx (120 children) (CM King)
- 7) Queens Community House at PS 117 in Queens (81 children) (CM Lancman)
- 8) NY Mission Society at PS 192 in Manhattan (116 children) (CM Levine)
- 9) Union Settlement at PS 112 in Manhattan (120 children) (Speaker Mark-Viverito)
- 10) Police Athletic League at PS 48 in Staten Island (93 children) (CM Matteo)
- 11) New York Junior Tennis League at PS 12 in Brooklyn (95 children) (CM Mealy)
- 12) Brooklyn Chinese American Association at PS69 in Brooklyn (84 children) (CM Menchaca)
- 13) SCO Family of Services at PS 94 in Brooklyn (120 children) (CM Menchaca)
- 14) YMCA of Greater New York/Bronx at PS 106 in the Bronx (96 children) (CM Palma)
- 15) The Child Center of New York at PS 273 in Queens (120 children) (CM Ulrich)
- 16) Sports and Arts in Schools Foundation at PS 121 in the Bronx (120 children) (CM Vacca)
- 17) The Child Center of New York at PS 96 in Queens (114 children) (CM Wills)

In addition, there are other critical steps that the Administration must make in the Executive Budget, which we urge the City Council to support:

- **Increase the rate for elementary after-school (COMPASS) programs.** As part of the middle school expansion, the City rightly increased the rate for middle school programming. Despite the fact that providing after-school programs to elementary school students is more expensive (due to student/teacher ratios and programming costs), the middle school rate is now higher than the elementary school rate.
- **Increase the rate for Beacons.** Beacon Centers are nationally recognized youth development programs that, through collaborations between schools and community-based organizations, provide a broad range of support services to youth and their families. Beacons operate in the afternoons/evenings, on weekends, during school holidays and vacation periods, and during the summer. These school-based community centers offer academic and recreation opportunities for youth and other supportive services to families. Each of the City's 80 Beacons (66 are City-funded) serves approximately 800-1200 children in after-school programs. While the Beacons are essentially the original community school model that is now being expanded, the Beacons are severely underfunded at \$320,000-\$350,000 per Beacon.

- **Ensure NYCHA Cornerstone Programs are Preserved:** The Preliminary Budget did not include funding to maintain the 45 new NYCHA Cornerstone programs added this past year. We understand this will be included in the Executive Budget and we look forward to seeing its inclusion.
- **Increase the capacity to serve more elementary and high school students.**

2) Runaway and Homeless Youth Services

Runaway and homeless youth (RHY) are some of the most vulnerable youth in New York City. Despite the de Blasio Administration's investment of \$3.4 million to create 100 new shelter beds this past fiscal year, the opening of a 24-hour drop-in center, and the efforts of DYCD to expand services for RHY, we believe more needs to be done for these young people in the Executive Budget. Specifically CCC urges the Administration to add funding for an additional 100 new beds, as well as the services to prevent youth homelessness and the services youth need when they enter the RHY system.

Homelessness in and of itself is traumatic for young people and research has shown that homeless youth experience high rates of violence, sexual assault, illness, and behavioral disorders.³ Homeless youth may also engage in survival sex and drug use as a way to cope with being homeless.⁴ Thus, there are many issues a homeless youth is facing in addition to needing a stable place to live.

In New York City, we have estimated that there are over 3,800 youth under 24 who are homeless and unsheltered and several thousand more in the City's various shelter systems. This estimate is based on a 2008 study conducted by the Empire State Coalition of Youth and Family Services with the assistance of Columbia University. More recently, as a supplement to the official HOPE Count, the Youth Count has been conducted since January 2013. CCC is very appreciative of DYCD's effort to count and document the number of runaway and homeless youth however, this count has not yet accurately captured the number of all homeless youth.

In 2008, according to the New York State Office of Children and Family Services, shelters documented 573 instances where young people were turned away for services because there were not enough beds. By 2012, the most recent year data was available, this number jumped to 5,041 instances.⁵ Without shelter beds, runaway and homeless youth must often sleep on the streets or in unsafe situations, which puts them at risk of poor mental and physical health, violence, sexual exploitation and/or human trafficking. For example, a study by Covenant House and Fordham University demonstrates the close relationship between sex trafficking and the need for housing, finding that among the runaway and homeless youth surveyed who reported engaging in commercial sex activity, 48% indicated that a lack of a safe place to sleep was a main reason for their initial entry into prostitution or other commercial sex.⁶

³ Urban Institute, Youth Count! Process Study, July 2013 at page 1. Available at: <http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/412872-youth-count-process-study-2.pdf>

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ State Senator Brad Hoylman, Letter to Governor Cuomo. January 16, 2015.

⁶ Homelessness, Survival Sex and Human Trafficking: As Experienced by the Youth of Covenant House New York, 2013, at page 6. Available at: <http://www.covenanthouse.org/sites/default/files/attachments/Covenant-House-trafficking-study.pdf>

In Fiscal Year 2014, there were 329 certified residential beds in New York City.⁷ This an increase from the previous year when funding was increased to expand capacity for runaway and homeless youth. CCC is appreciative of the increase included in last year's Executive Budget and we are seeking the same addition this year. Homeless youth are still being turned away every month due to a lack of shelter beds so it is clear more must be done. In addition to an increase in beds, we believe homeless youth need access to a variety of services including health, mental health, education and counseling and we would like to see additional resources added to the budget to provide services for homeless youth.

Runaway and homeless youth services not only provide a critical safety net, they enable vulnerable youth to be safely re-united with their families, divert hundreds of youth from costly placement through the courts, keep minors in school, and provide older homeless youth the opportunity to continue their education and achieve self-sufficiency.

We look forward to working with the Administration and the City Council to enhance services and capacity for runaway and homeless youth.

3) Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP)

SYEP is a win-win for youth, their families, communities and the NYC economy. SYEP is an invaluable program that provides youth ages 14-24 with a six-week summer work experience, training, income and lessons in financial literacy. The program provides a youth with up to six-weeks of paid employment, as well as an educational component. Wages earned help to supplement family income, youth learn about budgeting and saving, and much of the earned income is spent in the local economy. An important part of the SYEP program is the educational component, which is comprised of a formal orientation, weekly 5-hour workshops for younger youth, and the ability to learn how to manage money. SYEP offers youth training in work readiness, time management, and job search skills, as well as financial literacy.

Given these benefits it is not surprising that historically the SYEP program always receives many more applications than job opportunities available. This past summer 130,489 youth submitted applications and only 47,126 youth were able to participate. This trend is typical, with annual applications ranging from the 120,000-140,000 and participation ranging from 28,000-50,000.

The 47,000+ youth served was based on a total of \$66.2 million being allocated to the program. It is important to note that 10,640 of those youth were able to participate due to \$15.2 million invested by the City Council in FY15 and unfortunately that funding was not restored and/or baselined in the FY16 Preliminary Budget. In addition, with the increased minimum wage, the State Executive Budget only proposed to add \$3 million, which will not be sufficient to maintain last summer's number of youth served.

Not only must we be sure that the FY16 Executive Budget includes the funding to serve the same number of youth as last year (47,000), we need to expand this program so that we can enroll 50,000 youth this summer. Serving 50,000 youth at the new minimum wage will require adding

⁷ Mayor's Management Report, Department of Youth and Community Development. Available at: <http://www.nyc.gov/html/ops/downloads/pdf/pmmr2015/dycd.pdf>

\$21.5 million (including the Council restoration). CCC will be urging the administration to make this critical investment and we urge the City Council to as well.

Conclusion

In conclusion, we appreciate all of the efforts both the Administration and the City Council are making to maintain and strengthen the youth service system in New York City and we look forward to seeing additional investments in the FY16 Executive Budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

TESTIMONY

ON

WORKER COOPERATIVES AS AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TOOL TO LIFT
LOW-INCOME COMMUNITIES OUT OF POVERTY

PRESENTED BEFORE:

THE NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

CHAIR MARIA CARMEN DEL ARROYO

PRESENTED BY:

MELISSA RISSE

STAFF ATTORNEY
URBAN JUSTICE CENTER
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

March 26, 2015

URBAN
JUSTICE
CENTER



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Good afternoon Chair Arroyo, and Committee Members. Thank you for the opportunity to testify. My name is Melissa Risser, and I am a Staff Attorney at the Community Development Project (CDP) of the Urban Justice Center. I am here today to speak about worker-owned cooperatives, and their potential to serve as engines of economic growth and opportunity in our city's low-income communities.

The Community Development Project strengthens the impact of grassroots organizations in New York City's low-income and other excluded communities by winning legal cases, publishing community-driven research reports, assisting with the formation of new organizations and cooperatives, and providing technical and transactional assistance in support of their work towards social justice. For more than ten years, CDP has collaborated with community organizations to help low-income NYC residents form worker-owned cooperative businesses. Worker cooperatives are businesses that are owned and democratically governed by the workers. These ventures, many of which focus on sectors of the service industry, including child care, home improvement, housecleaning, and marketing, have created dozens of jobs for formerly low-wage, primarily immigrant workers. Worker cooperative jobs offer much higher pay, help develop business skills and allow worker-owners of all income levels asset-building opportunities. Increasingly, worker cooperatives are also offering work opportunities for youth, especially youth of color – a population facing particular underemployment challenges.

Worker cooperatives are best framed as economic development tools that create quality jobs that will stay in New York City and cultivate local entrepreneurship. Worker cooperatives offer pathways out of poverty for marginalized communities, where jobs and profits remain local and wealth-building occurs for both individuals and communities. There are examples of low-wage workers in New York City who have formed worker cooperatives and have seen their hourly wages increase from \$10 to \$25 per hour within just a few years. Worker cooperatives create meaningful, long-term, safe, stable jobs with increased job security and reduced workplace abuse. Furthermore, as institutions where real democracy is practiced, via the principle of "one worker, one vote," worker cooperatives encourage civic engagement, self-advocacy, and participation in broader movements for economic justice.

CDP first became involved in this work when it helped the Restaurant Opportunities Center of New York establish COLORS, NYC's first worker-owned and operated restaurant which opened its doors in early 2006. Since then, CDP has helped numerous grassroots organizations establish coops in a variety of industries. Notably, we have collaborated with the Center for Family Life in Sunset Park, Brooklyn, on an initiative funded by the City Council to train several community organizations to become "coop incubators". These incubators, located in neighborhoods from Red Hook, Brooklyn to Jackson Heights, Queens to Parkchester in the Bronx, help low-income workers in their communities establish coops as a means of increasing their income and developing entrepreneurial skills. CDP is also a founding member of the NYC Worker Cooperative Coalition. Through the generous funding we received as part of this fiscal year's Worker Cooperative Business Development Initiative, CDP has been able to increase our capacity to work with 12 new and existing cooperatives this year alone.

Three examples of our current work with worker-owned co-ops and their impact on NYC communities include:

Si Se Puede! Women's Cooperative, We Can Do It! Inc. – CDP has provided free legal services to the *Si Se Puede!* women's cleaning cooperative based in Sunset Park, Brooklyn, for more than five years. Since the initial group of 11 or 12 fundadoras, or founding members, *Si Se Puede!* has grown to over fifty members grossing more than \$1 million annually, and continues to expand, providing high quality job opportunities for low-income, primarily Spanish-speaking immigrant women. The coop has also developed a line of effective green cleaning products, which they plan on using internally and selling to the public in the near future. CDP will provide ongoing legal guidance to the cooperative as they continue to expand and create key jobs that pay well and provide their workers with an opportunity to have work with dignity and self-respect.

KALUK Cooperative – CDP has provided free legal services to the new youth cooperative *KALUK*, which provides guerilla marketing services. For those unfamiliar with the term, guerilla, or grassroots, marketing takes unconventional approaches to advertising, such as targeted promotions in public places and public relations stunts, like flash-mobs, intended to get results and create a memorable experience. *KALUK* is being incubated by Good Shepherd Services, a nonprofit based in Red Hook Brooklyn, with the support of the Center for Family Life, to address the needs of youth employment in Red Hook, create a safe and diverse workplace for the youth, and to bring needed services to small businesses in the community. The founding members of *KALUK*, most recent graduates of South Brooklyn Community High School, are currently completing their new member orientation, after which they will scale up their operations, in Spring/Summer 2015. CDP will provide legal guidance on entity formation, development of governance structures, contracts, and other start-up issues.

Worker's Justice Project – Since 2010, CDP has provided free legal services to the Worker's Justice Project (WJP), a nonprofit that addresses the racial and economic injustice that low-wage immigrant workers face by building collective power to win institutional change that advances economic, racial, and workplace justice. WJP empowers low-wage immigrant workers to gain a voice in the workplace and build strong and economically sustainable communities through education, organizing, leadership development, and the growth of grassroots economic alternatives. To that end, WJP has successfully helped a group of female day laborer launch Apple Eco-Cleaning, a women-run green house cleaning cooperative that provides sophisticated eco-friendly cleaning services, and plans to further expand their cooperative development work in the future.

These are just a few examples of successful coops that strengthen NYC communities and improve the lives and incomes of community members. In each case, critical legal services were necessary to assist members with worker coop support. CDP was there to provide those services. We need continued funding to do that.

The economic opportunities worker cooperatives offer are essential today given today's increasing levels of poverty, un-and under-employment, and wealth inequality. These types of jobs and businesses are vital to the success of our city, and our commitment to ensuring that our city remains a place of opportunity for all. CDP is committed to continuing this work of combating poverty and empowering workers in NYC's low-income communities. New York City should support the development of cooperatives because they embody the principles of social and economic justice and community development, by creating institutions that provide life-sustaining jobs that alter traditional power and wealth dynamics, through empowering workers to exercise democratic control over their workplaces, make living wages, and shape their communities. City support for these co-ops can help take this still-small sector and turn it into a wide-based strategy for economic growth and entrepreneurship in low-income communities. We respectfully request the Council's to enhance the Worker Cooperative Business Development Initiative to 2.34 million dollars, and particularly for our and the Worker Justice Project's request of a combined amount of \$170,000.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to testify.



TESTIMONY

Preliminary Budget Hearing

Presented to:

New York City Council
Committee on Community Development
Hon. Maria del Carmen Arroyo, Chair

Friday, March 27, 2015

Christopher Michael, Executive Director
New York City Network of Worker Cooperatives
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Good afternoon, Chairperson Arroyo, and distinguished members of the New York City Council Committee on Community Development and the Committee on Youth Services. My name is Christopher Michael. I am Executive Director of the New York City Network of Worker Cooperatives, a 501(c)(6) not-for-profit business association of worker-owned cooperatives in New York City. Our membership includes enterprises in financial services, accommodations, videography, construction, printing, cleaning, coffee roasting and distribution, personal fitness, and technology, as well as nonprofit support organizations.

We want to thank you on behalf of these businesses and nonprofits for your support of the Fiscal Year 2014-15 Worker Cooperative Business Development Initiative. The Council's discretionary funding has become a model to the nation—with communities as diverse as Chicago, Illinois, Jackson, Mississippi, San Francisco, California, and Madison, Wisconsin pursuing a course towards state-funded worker cooperative business development on the lead of New York City. It has also prompted Madison, Wisconsin's Mayor Paul Soglin to remark that Madison will not "be upstaged by New York City"—and Madison's appropriation of five million dollars for a five-year initiative.

Over the last year, our initiative partners have performed beyond expectations—and this, in most cases, in the absence of any cash disbursements from the city to-date. For its part, the New York City Network of Worker Cooperatives or NYC NOWC (*knick-knock*) has provided business and legal support to sixteen worker cooperative businesses and startups, assisted with the conversion of seven existing entities into worker cooperative businesses, and successfully transferred two of these businesses to democratic employee ownership. NYC NOWC also worked with one of the initiative partners to launch a worker cooperative moving company—in collaboration with the Teamsters—that aims to take on a share of the city's 39 million dollars of annual spending on moving services. In Q4, NYC NOWC will provide marketing and financial services to another fifteen businesses—and will host the second annual NYC Worker Cooperative Conference on May 2nd (to which you are all invited). Finally, we are engaging in a comprehensive outreach program to hundreds of existing business owners—promoting democratic employee ownership as a viable option for those owners who are looking to sell or retire.

In line with international recommendations, we believe that some of the strongest growth in the worker ownership field will be achieved through business transfers. New York loses hundreds of businesses and thousands of jobs each year due to a lack of adequate succession planning from local firms and a lack of information about viable alternatives to closing and liquidation. Many small business owners also face the absence of any effective market for the sale of their businesses. With the assistance of professional consultants—and the support of a New York State law that requires local development corporations to finance 40% of worker cooperative conversions—we believe that a continued investment in promoting business transfers to democratic employee ownership will produce significant results in the coming years.

In line with this perspective, we also ask City Council to consider whether the city's procurement process can be leveraged to encourage business owners who are currently doing business with the city—and are interested in selling or retiring—to offer their businesses for sale to their employees. Of course, professional consultants would assist with the business analysis, legal transaction and financing, as well as the training of worker-members.

Due to the substantial achievements of the initiative partners, and the benefits conferred upon the residents of the City of New York, the New York City Network of Worker Cooperatives asks City Council to expand the Worker Cooperative Business Development Initiative to 2.34 million dollars for Fiscal Year 2015-16.

I would like to conclude—as last year—with a quote from Yale professor Robert Dahl, the grandfather of American political science. He posed a challenge to the American people—he asked whether we have the “firmness of purpose and the clarity of vision to assert the priority of democracy” over “undemocratic authority within corporate enterprises.” New York City Council has already demonstrated their commitment to this vision—and we humbly ask for your continued support.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher Michael, Executive Director
New York City Network of Worker Cooperatives

TESTIMONY

Preliminary Budget Hearing

Presented to:

New York City Council
Committee on Community Development
Hon. Maria del Carmen Arroyo, Chair

Friday, February 27th, 2015

Professor Fred Freundlich
MIK – Mondragon Innovation & Knowledge
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Good afternoon, Chairperson Arroyo and distinguished members of the New York City Council Committee on Community Development and the Committee on Youth Services. My name is Fred Freundlich and I am here today from a place called Mondragon to suggest to you that ... *it can even reduce heart attacks*. Yes, *heart attacks*. There is a great deal of research that documents the negative effects on health of socioeconomic inequality. Even if we look at populations that are not poor, populations with decent incomes or higher and access to decent health care, the greater the inequality in the population, the worse its health. Worker cooperatives address this issue head on. These companies, where the people who work in the business are “members” and not “employed human resources,” significantly reduce social and economic inequality and this is good for your health.

But worker cooperatives are clearly much more than “an apple a day keeps the doctor away” and Mondragon demonstrates this. What is this word “Mondragon”? It is the name of a small town in the Basque region of northern Spain, home to many companies that form the Mondragon Corporation, an integrated network of worker cooperatives that collaborate extensively among themselves. What started there in 1955 with a couple dozen people in one small manufacturing shop is now a diversified group of over 120 worker-owned organizations and their affiliates and subsidiaries with a work force of 75,000 people. These firms, while clearly not without their problems and challenges, compete quite successfully with their conventionally-owned counterparts, both local and multinational. Their combined sales in 2013 exceeded \$16 billion. It is no accident that, in Mondragon, unemployment, poverty and inequality are relatively low and that social cohesion and standards of living are relatively high.

I became an American transplant to this region in 1995 and began working at the Faculty of Business of Mondragon University and its research center, MIK – Mondragon Innovation and Knowledge. I am also the coordinator of a Masters degree there on management of cooperative enterprise, a degree we hope to replicate in the near future for English speakers in collaboration with the City University of New York. Funded by the Foundation for Enterprise Development and the Democracy at Work Institute in California, I have had the opportunity to spend this year in the United States and to join forces with the American worker cooperative sector, in particular in New York, to see what insights Mondragon’s experience might offer to cooperative firms here.

Over the years, many dozens of scientific studies have been carried out on the effects of broadly-shared ownership. Most of them show that broad worker ownership is more than the “apple-a-day” I mentioned a moment ago. Most show that it is positively related to competitiveness, to worker wealth and income, and to workers’ perceptions of their work, their co-workers and their organization. People feel and act like owners, which is good for them, their companies and their communities.

This “feeling like an owner” is essential and we can see it not only in scientific studies, but in the workaday experience of people in cooperative companies. I had the great good fortune on Wednesday to spend the day with worker-members of a New York City worker co-op, a design-and-construction company called *Build with Prospect*. The members’ sense of shared ownership was palpable and inspiring. And one can feel that same sense of ownership in many companies in Mondragon, which, despite the brutal slings and arrows of the global economy, stands as an example of what can be achieved by worker cooperatives, collaborating with each other, over a generation or more of continued commitment. I would invite Council Members to visit New York’s worker cooperatives and Mondragon to see and hear this for themselves, and I enthusiastically encourage them to support

expansion of the Worker Cooperative Development Initiative requested by my New York cooperative colleagues.

I much appreciate the opportunity to speak with you today.

Respectfully submitted,

Fred Freundlich

Professor/Researcher, MIK / Faculty of Business, Mondragon University



FOR THE RECORD

NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL

**COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES JOINTLY WITH THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT**

**NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL FISCAL YEAR 2016 PRELIMINARY BUDGET, MAYOR'S FY15
PRELIMINARY MANAGEMENT REPORT AND AGENCY OVERSIGHT**

MARCH 27, 2015

Thank you Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito, Council Members Julissa Ferreras, Mathieu Eugene, Maria del Carmen Arroyo, Jimmy Van Bramer and Costa Constantinides, as well as the entire City Council for your strong support of New York City libraries. We appreciate the opportunity to submit written testimony on the impact of the City Council's City's First Readers Initiative. Together with our partners in this initiative, The New York Public Library (NYPL) would like to share the impact this funding has had on our early literacy programs and the power of this investment in helping develop critical reading skills in our youngest New Yorkers.

The New York Public Library has been the leader in literacy programs for children and families in the Bronx, Manhattan and Staten Island for over 100 years. Since the 1980s our dedicated children's librarians have been developing special programs for the very young, from newborns to three year olds and their caregivers. As our understanding of infant brain development has grown, we have integrated pre-reading activities that support literacy skills and build the foundation that will lead to success in school. In the Bronx, less than 35% of third graders achieved a passing score on their ELA test in 2012, and 72% of children citywide are not reading at grade level by 3rd grade, with children living in poverty and African-American and



Hispanic/Latino children disproportionately affected. Connecting families with early literacy skills from the birth of their children means we are closing the learning gap in high need neighborhoods across our 88 branch libraries. There is no other institution better positioned to support early literacy development than libraries.

With the City's First Readers funding we trained more than 80 staff members in early childhood literacy. Our librarians in all three boroughs are now ready to help parents build their children's phonological awareness, print awareness, vocabulary and background knowledge. Parents are children's first and best teachers and in partnership with Literacy Inc. we have developed monthly family literacy workshops at ten sites that frame these skills in a lighthearted way, encouraging parents to Sing, Talk, Read, Write and Play. To support outreach at these ten libraries, The New York Public Library, also with City Council funding, created a new bilingual board book full of rhymes as part of 15,000 family literacy outreach kits that will be distributed to families to build pre-reading skills at home.

In FY14, our programs for children aged 0-5 had a total attendance of over 192,000. In FY15 with the City's First Readers funding, we expect to top 211,000 in attendance, an increase of 20,000. At the Webster Library, parents and caregivers line up outside the branch for over an hour before opening time to secure a place in one of the three consecutive toddler storytimes. At the Francis Martin Library in the South Bronx, bilingual librarian Ruth Rodriguez has found that most of her youngest patrons are in day care centers during library storytime hours. She has



designed early literacy programs for these groups that she brings to the centers, and she incorporates rhymes and songs from Latin America. Ruth has already seen 678 children aged 0-5 in the first six months of FY15, over a fivefold increase from the previous year.

With additional funding for FY16 for the City's First Readers, The New York Public Library will be able to hire a full-time Manager of Early Childhood Literacy and fund the equivalent of seven full-time staff focused on Early Literacy programming. We will be able to continue our training that includes the latest research on children's development. We will add Family Literacy Workshops in an additional ten branches and we will strengthen our partnership with the other grantees to ensure that all our children are reaching school ready to learn. All of this work will help build a pipeline to the City's Pre-K programming and schools, but we need more support to make this happen.

Over the past decade, City-wide expense funding for public libraries has declined by nearly 20 percent; with staff cuts across the three systems totaling over 1,000 workers. Yet, demand for our educational programs, especially early childhood literacy programs, has never been greater. Not only do we continue to provide books, information, and space for millions of New Yorkers, we are on the front lines in the fight against inequality: providing free classes and resources for new immigrants, educational programs and support for low income and working families, and an access point for the millions in the digital dark. Libraries are an essential, but consistently overlooked, part of the City's human and physical infrastructure.



Much of the work we are doing around early childhood literacy is made possible through the support of and in partnership with the City and we hope that we have demonstrated the power of this investment on countless New Yorkers every day. Unfortunately, the Mayor's FY2016 Preliminary Budget further decreases library funding by removing the additional investment in expense funding that was made in FY15. The proposed budget would not allow libraries to continue expanding access to these critical programs and services. In fact, it would likely force us to scale back these efforts. However, with the right investment, including an increase in funding for the City's First Readers Initiative, there is a tremendous future for libraries in this City as well as for the millions who use them.



FOR THE RECORD

**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

**NYC Council Youth Services & Community Development Committees
Preliminary Budget Joint Hearing**

March 27, 2015

First and foremost, the YMCA of Greater New York would like to thank the Finance Committee Chair Julissa Ferreras, Youth Services Committee Chair Mathieu Eugene, Community Development Committee Chair Maria del Carmen Arroyo and the members of both committees for hosting today's hearing focused on the FY 2016 Preliminary Budget. It is our sincere hope that working together, we can expand services to thousands more New Yorkers.

The YMCA of Greater New York is a community service organization which promotes positive values through programs that build spirit, mind and body, welcoming all people, with a focus on youth. The Y gives young people a place to come after school for safe enrichment activities that encourage and support academic performance, help to build their self-esteem and develop healthy decision making and routines. The Y also gives New Americans opportunities to learn English, take part in civic engagement and create a path to citizenship. Among the hundreds of programs offered by the YMCA of Greater New York are a variety of youth programs, including child care, day care and after-school care programs, health and wellness programs, mentoring, leadership training and development, civic engagement, computer training, college/career preparation and summer camps. We also offer free programs and services for New Americans and young adults including English as a second language, civics education, adult basic education, job skills development and more. These programs as well as others allowed us to serve over 500,000 New Yorkers last year, 210,000 of them youth.

As one of the largest non-profit organizations in the City, we believe it is our duty to submit testimony today. The YMCA is a member of the NYC Coalition for Adult Literacy, the NYC Youth Alliance and a steering committee member of the Campaign for Children (C4C), and echoes their sentiments regarding the maintaining as well as the expansion and coordination of services to some of our City's neediest residents. I have attached the one page preliminary budget advocacy document created by C4C for your reference.

We would be remiss if we did not also take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation for the recent expansion of Middle School after-school programming and other programs that support the youth and families of our great City. We know that the City's commitment to young people and New Americans is strong and we hope it remains that way for years to come.

That said, we would like to highlight three critical issues referenced in the C4C document and well as two critical issues referenced by NYCCAL:

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1. The need for \$5.9 million to prevent the loss of 1,882 slots at 17 NYC Department of Education-funded COMPASS Sites
2. The need for \$7.7 million to prevent the loss of 2,300 slots due to the increases in individual COMPASS rates
3. The need for an increase in capacity via a new open COMPASS competition for elementary school sites
4. Renewal and expansion of DYCD's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) initiative with \$20M reserved for literacy services
5. Renewal and expansion of the City Council's Adult Literacy Initiative from \$750,000 to \$5M.

In early 2015, the NYC Department of Youth and Community Development released a request for proposals for the COMPASS program. Although advocates and providers applauded the release, there were two issues that became clear very quickly: the number of slots provided by the funds available had decreased by 2,300 and the list of "eligible sites" did not include 17 sites (1,882 slots) currently funded by the NYC Department of Education but considered a part of the COMPASS system. We would like to respectfully request that the City Council urge the Mayor to restore funding for the 2,300 slots as well as the 1,882 slots so as to maintain the current level of service provided by the COMPASS program.

As stated earlier, we again applaud the City's commitment to after school but would like to make one additional request related to the City's very successful COMPASS program. We respectfully request that the NYC Department of Youth and Community Development receive funding so as to release a request for proposals for after-school programs in schools that are not renewal schools and are not previously funded sites but are still schools with great need for after-school programs. We have heard from various partner organizations that due to the scarcity and decrease in State and private funding, sites that were once thriving have been defunded and are not able to apply for City funds. The Campaign for Children has included the language "increase capacity" for after-school programs and this RFP would accomplish that goal.

In June of 2012, President Obama announced a groundbreaking program—Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, also known as DACA—which provided temporary protection from deportation for certain young people, as well as federal work authorization. Recognizing that nearly 16,000 young adults in New York City simply needed access to an adult literacy program in order to qualify for DACA, the Council and Administration rose to the occasion, creating the first and only comprehensive system in the nation that included a notable investment in education, designed to help young adults qualify and apply for DACA. The \$18M, 2-year initiative provided funds for outreach and education to immigrant communities, literacy classes and legal services. Since the creation of the initiative over 10,000 City residents have had access to adult education and legal services.

Despite the success of this program in connecting immigrant youth to key literacy and legal supports the Mayor's FY16 preliminary budget does not include this funding. In order to ensure continued services to thousands of New Yorkers—currently slated to expire June 30th—and to prepare more individuals for success, we recommend the literacy portion of the original DACA program (\$14.3M over two years), be expanded to \$20M over the next two years.

In the fall of 2014, the City of New York announced the adoption of a new workforce development strategy known as Career Pathways. Under this model a greater emphasis will be placed on helping individuals develop the skills and credentials they need to land "good" jobs with opportunities for

advancement. The need for such programming has only increased and it is our sincere hope that the ability to provide said programs can increase as well. In order to support New Yorkers with limited English proficiency, and those lacking a high school diploma who are seeking to obtain or advance their employment, we recommend the City Council's Adult Literacy Initiative be expanded from \$750,000 to \$5M.

As you know, every day the YMCA works to make sure that thousands of New York City youth and families are cultivating the values, skills and relationships that lead to positive behaviors, better health and educational and lifetime achievement. With your support, we can continue to make a difference in the lives of New Yorkers and help ensure a brighter future for New York City.

In conclusion, we want to once again thank the Council for your ongoing support for the youth and families of New York City. We also hope to work with you to expand funding for services that have been so successful in providing programming in the past. If you have any questions regarding the above, please contact Sharon Levy, Vice President for Public Affairs, at 212-630-9640.

FOR THE RECORD

TASC

THE AFTER-SCHOOL CORPORATION

**TESTIMONY
BEFORE**

**THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK
YOUTH SERVICES COMMITTEE**

FY 16 PRELIMINARY BUDGET HEARING

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY SUBMITTED BY
Lucy N. Friedman, President
THE AFTER-SCHOOL CORPORATION**

March 27, 2015

I am Lucy N. Friedman President of The After-School Corporation, also known as TASC. I want to thank the New York City Council for the opportunity to submit written testimony about the FY 16 Preliminary Budget and its impact on youth services.

Since its inception more than 15 years ago, TASC has helped more than 700,000 kids by supporting after-school programs in New York City and beyond. TASC-supported after-school and expanded learning programs are operated by community-based organizations (CBOs) with roots in the neighborhoods and schools they serve. Our partnerships with CBOs ensure that programs provide a balanced range of services for children and youth that includes academics, art, and sports.

TASC works to enhance the quality, availability and sustainability of comprehensive, daily after-school programs. TASC also funds, monitors, evaluates and supports after-school programs in New York City public schools and currently serves nearly 17,000 students and their families directly. This broad experience informs our suggestions regarding the City's FY 2016 budget.

My testimony speaks to the importance of the Council's youth initiatives and your investment in TASC. The City Council is a critical TASC partner and supports after-school programs through two citywide initiatives.

It is important to note that the recent expansion of the City's after-school system is largely based on the joint work that TASC and the Council did in building a citywide system of

after-school. We ask for your continued support of these programs as the need for after-school continues in low-income and working family neighborhoods.

The first of these initiatives, the Council's After-Three program, provides TASC with \$3.0 million to help fund 42 after-school programs in all five boroughs. Without Council funding after-school programs may be forced to close, 860 employees may be laid off or reassigned and thousands of working parents would lose a dependable source of childcare. Nearly 6,800 children have a safe place to go once the school day ends because of the City Council's investment in TASC through the After Three Initiative. TASC is requesting \$3.8 million in FY 16 to grow this program.

In addition to helping TASC lay the foundations for the City's after-school system, the Council is also helping TASC innovate and shape the future of after-school. By funding TASC through the Middle School Expanded Learning Time initiative, the Council and TASC are also jointly envisioning the future of the 3pm to 6pm hours and its close connection to the school day. The Council currently provides \$1.55 million to support TASC's Middle School Expanded Learning Time program. This program gives middle school students the support they need to keep them engaged in school at a critical period in their lives. We urge that these funds are restored.

TASC is a trusted Council partner. TASC provides stringent oversight of these funds and maximizes their impact. TASC program officers monitor each of these sites and constantly check for program quality and provide stringent fiscal oversight.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony today. We're grateful for the Council's continued support of TASC and I have faith that you will take the necessary action to ensure that thousands of children in New York City continue to have access to Council-supported TASC after-school programs.



Brooklyn Law School
ESTABLISHED 1901

Edward W. De Barbieri
*Assistant Professor of Clinical Law
Counsel, Center for Urban Business
Entrepreneurship*

Preliminary Budget Hearing Testimony

New York City Council, Committee on Community Development
Chair Maria del Carmen Arroyo

March 27, 2015
1 p.m.

Good afternoon Chair del Carmen Arroyo, and Committee Members. Thank you for the opportunity to testify before the Committee. My name is Ted De Barbieri, and I am an Assistant Professor of Clinical Law and Counsel to the Center for Urban Business Entrepreneurship (CUBE) at Brooklyn Law School.

The fundamental mission of **Brooklyn Law School** is to provide its students with the knowledge, skills, and ethical values needed for a career in the law. A well-rounded legal education exposes students to theory and legal doctrine, and gives them the practical skills necessary to be excellent lawyers. In order to achieve its mission, the law school has created, and is continuing to create, a community of outstanding legal scholars and teachers and students who are among the best and the brightest. Brooklyn Law School is dedicated to contributing to the advancement of our understanding of law, legal institutions, and society at large. The law school has over a century of experience in training students to engage in the practice of law.

The Center for Urban Business Entrepreneurship (CUBE), launched in November 2013, is a hub for exploring legal issues surrounding entrepreneurship, and for providing effective legal representation and support for new commercial and not-for-profit businesses — while also training the next generation of business lawyers to advise and participate in these sectors. CUBE, through in-house clinical courses, offers opportunities for law students to learn how to represent start-up and operating nonprofit and for-profit businesses, including **worker-owned cooperatives formed by low-income, immigrant owners around the city**.

I am here today to thank the Committee, and the entire Council, for the current fiscal year funding for the Worker Cooperative Business Development Initiative, and for the recent passage of Intro 423-2014. I'm also here to ask the Committee to fund the FY16 Worker Cooperative Business Development Initiative at \$2.34 million.

In FY15 law students under my supervision have provided **full legal representation to eight start-up and existing worker cooperatives** based primarily in Brooklyn and Northern Manhattan, but which provide services city-wide. We have performed these legal services through partnerships with organizations funded through the Worker Cooperative Business Development Initiative, including Center for Family Life, Democracy at Work Institute (DAWI), The Working World, and Urban Justice Center.

Through the support of the Worker Cooperative Business Development Initiative, just last month CUBE and DAWI organized the first continuing legal education program in the City where we **trained over 30 lawyers in representing worker cooperatives** and “sharing economy” businesses.

We partnered with Center for Family Life and Urban Justice Center in **training staff at a dozen community-based organizations (CBOs) in legal issues related to organizing worker cooperatives** in neighborhoods where they operate. We will provide ongoing legal support to start-up worker cooperatives formed by these CBOs. This program, the CBO Worker Cooperative Training Initiative was made possible through continued support from the Council Speaker. For FY16, the CBO Worker Cooperative Initiative request has been combined with the Worker Cooperative Business Development Initiative request, which is part of the reason why the Worker Cooperative Business Development Initiative request has increased.

CUBE is committed to continuing to support organizations funded by the Worker Cooperative Business Development Initiative, especially those working in very-low income, immigrant neighborhoods in the City. **We support the enhancement of the Initiative to \$2.34 million for FY16.** It’s important for the Council to continue the work begun during FY15, and in previous years. Specifically, the additional funds in this Initiative will support the CBO Worker Cooperative Initiative, which over the past three fiscal years was funded by the Speaker.

I thank you for your time, and for considering the FY16 Worker Cooperative Business Development Initiative request.

**Committees on Youth Services and Community Development
Submitted by Children of Bellevue, Inc.
and the Video Interaction Project
March 27th, 2015**

Good Afternoon. My name is Alan Mendelsohn and I am here today representing Children of Bellevue and the Video Interaction Project, or VIP.

I would like to thank New York City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito, Council Members Stephen Levin and Antonio Reynoso, and the New York City Council for their vision and support in starting the New York City Council Early Literacy Initiative, City's First Readers.

VIP seeks to leverage pediatric health care to enhance early development and school readiness in children at risk because of family poverty.

At well-baby pediatric visits, families meet with a VIP interventionist who provides a developmentally-appropriate book or toy and videotapes the parent and child as they read or play together. The interventionist then watches the video together with the parent to point out strengths that every parent has. Parents learn to become active observers of their child's behavior, and to engage in interactions that promote children's learning and development. In this way, this program not only promotes early literacy, but it also empowers parents to be their child's first teacher.

VIP is highly innovative in its taking place during pediatric health care check-ups beginning in infancy. All parents have to bring their children to the doctor for screening and immunizations, and as a result, pediatric check-ups represent a unique and underused point of contact for universal promotion of literacy-rich activities such as reading aloud and play. This allows programs such as Reach Out and Read and the Video Interaction Project to achieve high impacts at low cost.

To date, we have conducted rigorous scientific study of VIP sponsored by the National Institutes of Health or NIH – through 2 randomized controlled trials –which show that children in families receiving VIP have improvements in early skills that they will need to be successful in school – such as language development, problem solving and behavior.

The New York City Council's City's First Readers Initiative is so incredibly important because it will uniquely impact families during the critical period of early brain development from birth to 5 years before children start school. This may be the first time that so many innovative, effective programs seeking to promote early literacy will work together in

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(over)

homes, preschools, libraries and pediatric clinics to give all children an equal chance of succeeding in school and in life.

Through City's First Readers, we are providing VIP at two sites – Bellevue in Manhattan and Woodhull in Brooklyn – and laying the groundwork for expanding the program across all 5 boroughs. We are especially excited to build bridges with home visiting, preschool and library programs, leading to impacts for families and young children that will be even greater than that of each of these exceptional programs on their own.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today.

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THE COALITION FOR ASIAN AMERICAN CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

**New York City Council
Committee on Youth Services
FY2016 Preliminary Budget
March 27, 2015**

**Testimony of Mo Farrell
Policy Associate, Coalition for Asian American Children and Families**

Good afternoon. My name is Mo Farrell and I am a Policy Associate for the Coalition for Asian American Children and Families. We would like to thank Finance Committee Chair Ferreras, Youth Services Committee Chair Eugene, Community Development Chair Arroyo and members of the Youth Services and Community Development Committees for holding this important oversight hearing on the city fiscal year (FY) 2016 Preliminary Budget.

Since 1986, CACF is the nation's only pan-Asian children's advocacy organization, and works to improve the health and well-being of Asian Pacific American (APA) children and families in New York City in three key policy areas: education, health and child welfare. CACF challenges the stereotype of Asian Pacific Americans as a "model minority" and advocates on behalf of underserved families in our community, especially immigrants struggling with poverty and limited English skills. We work with our membership of over 40 community based organizations to promote better policies, funding, and services for East Asian, South Asian, and Southeast Asian children, youth, and families.

CACF also co-leads the 15% & Growing Coalition, a group of over 45 Asian led and serving organizations that work together to ensure that New York City's budget protects the most vulnerable Asian Pacific American New Yorkers. Coalition members employ thousands of New Yorkers and serve hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers. Currently, the Asian Pacific American community is by percentage the fastest growing group in New York City¹, nearly doubling every decade since 1970, and is nearly 15% of the population². Unfortunately, current levels of public funding for the Asian Pacific American community remain disproportionate to our community's needs.

- 1 out of 2 APA children is born into poverty³.
- 29% of APAs live in poverty, the highest of all racial groups in NYC⁴.
- APAs have the highest rate (42%) of linguistic isolation meaning that no one over the age of 14 in a household speaks English well⁵.
- 75% of the APA senior population is linguistically isolated⁶.
- 1 out of 5 APAs in NYC is uninsured.⁷

¹ Asian American Federation, *Asian Americans in New York City: A Decade of Dynamic Change 2000-2010* (New York, NY: 2012), 5.

² U.S. Census Bureau, 2013 American Community Survey.

³ NYC Vital Statistics, Department of Health and Mental Health, 2010.

⁴ New York City Office of the Mayor, *The CEO Poverty Measure, 2005-2012: An Annual Report from the Office of the Mayor* (New York, NY: 2014), 9.

⁵ U.S. Census Bureau, 2007-2011 American Community Survey.

⁶ U.S. Census Bureau, 2007-2011 American Community Survey.

⁷ NYC DOHMH Community Health Survey, 2013

CHALLENGES

Consider that APA led and serving organizations receive less than 1% in public social service contract dollars and City foundation grant dollars. And yet, while many CACF members have long relied on City Council discretionary dollars to bridge the gap and continue to provide vital services in APA ethnic enclaves in Council districts city-wide, our analysis of publicly available budget documents from the FY2015 Adopted Budget revealed that **APA led and serving organizations received only 2.9% of City Council discretionary dollars.**

Youth services are especially important for immigrant youth who struggle with English language proficiency, the acculturation process, and inadequate academic preparation. Immigrant youth come from families that face high rates of poverty, live in linguistic isolation, and lack the knowledge of available systems and resources. As the fastest growing population, APAs comprise of 14% of the student population in NYC public schools.⁸ In 2012, 25% of English Language Learner students spoke an Asian language at home, the second largest language group after Spanish. As 72.9% of the Asian population in NYC is foreign-born,⁹ a high percentage of APA students are first generation, in the process of learning English, and hailing from families that are unfamiliar with the US school systems. In fact, according to the New York State Department of Education, only 50% of Asian Pacific American (APA) students¹⁰ are considered prepared for college and career.¹¹ For APA students in high need urban-suburban areas, the rate drops to 35.2%.¹²

While we are happy to see that the administration and Council have restored many vital youth services in the Preliminary Budget, there is still large unmet need throughout the five boroughs. **Below are recommendations for new and existing initiatives and programs that we urge the City Council to support.**

KEY PROGRAMS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Without youth services, many immigrant youth can find themselves isolated and marginalized, and without the support to navigate systems and access critical services that would put them on the path to become competent and responsible adults. We ask the City Council to work with the Mayor to restore the following programs:

After School Programming

- ❖ We applaud the Administration for their commitment to providing \$190 million for after-school programming for over 100,000 middle school students. However, we are concerned about the needs of families with elementary school students. **We urge the Administration to provide \$7.7 million for the 2,300 elementary after-school slots that are lost by bringing currently funded slots to the same rate as all other elementary COMPASS slots.** This would also include summer programming for these 2,300 children.
- ❖ We are grateful to the Administration for including \$17.6 million to maintain summer programming for 22,000 elementary school students. However, 17 sites (1,882 slots) that are currently funded by the DOE are due to expire in June 2015. **We urge the Administration to commit \$5.9 million (\$2 million summer and \$3.9 million school year) to fund these sites.** Summer programs and after-school programs are critical to keeping young people engaged and safe while school is not in session and while parents work.

⁸ NYC Meeting with Office of English Language Learners, 7/30/14, NYC.

⁹ "The Newest New Yorkers 2013: Characteristics of the City's Foreign-Born."

¹⁰ "Most New York Students Are Not College Ready," New York Times, Feb. 7, 2011. Available online at: http://www.nytimes.com/2011/02/08/nyregion/08regents.html?_r=1&hp.

¹¹ Ibid. According to the New York State Department of Education College and Career Ready is defined as achieving a grade of 80 on the Math Regents, and a 75 on the English Regents. It is important to note that by their calculations, these grades merely predict a C grade for college level courses in these same subject areas.

¹² Ibid.

Summer Youth Employment Program

- ❖ We applaud continued funding of \$3.4 million to maintain the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) slots for New York City youth at the new minimum wage. We believe it is crucial to invest in the future of our youth.
- ❖ **We are requesting an additional \$21.1 million that would cover the minimum wage increase for slots funded by WIA, City Council and CSBG as well as add 2,784 slots to get us to a total of 50,000.**

Adult Literacy

- ❖ **We urge the City Council to invest in Adult Education.** For low-income adults in New York City, investing in Adult Education is a critical first step as education is the key to securing employment, building a foothold in the job market, helping their children succeed in school, or acquiring the language skills needed to navigate their way through day to day life.
- ❖ In the FY 2016 Preliminary budget, there were no additional investments in adult education. **We urge the City Council to Renew and expand the City Council's Adult Literacy Initiative from \$750,000 to \$5 million** to support and supplement the City's workforce development reforms, and assist those individuals with language barriers to employment. In the Fall of 2014, the City of New York announced the adoption of a new workforce development strategy known as Career Pathways. The central premise of this plan was that the current strategy of "rapid attachment"—quickly cycling people through the system into low-wage, low-skilled jobs, was an inefficient use of resources. In for Career Pathways to be successful, there is a need for a robust investment in education is underscored by the community of 1.7 million New Yorkers lacking English proficiency and/or a high school diploma

Immigrant Specific Programs

- ❖ **Renew the DACA initiative and expand the adult literacy (ESOL and HSE) portion to \$20 million over two years.** In FY 2016 budget, the City Council allocation of \$18 million over 2 years for DACA eligible youth will expire. The implementation of DACA has resulted in an increase of youth and young adults enrolling in a variety of adult education classes, as one of the requirements of DACA is that a young person has a high school degree or be working towards one. In NYC, there are nearly 16,000 individuals who would be eligible to apply for the DACA program if they were able to enroll in an HSE preparation class. **This reflects a 50% increase from the original \$14.3 million for adult literacy programs** allocated in FY14 and FY15. We also support expanded investment in community outreach and legal services for immigrants and keeping these services connected in a citywide delivery system.
- ❖ **We urge the City Council and Mayor to continue to invest in DACA and DAPA eligible individuals, as they are part of the growing immigrant populations of New York City.**

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- ❖ **Invest \$5 million in the City Council Communities of Color Nonprofit Stabilization Fund (NSF) to support capacity building that targets communities of color.** This request has the support of the premier federated community of color organizations in New York City, including partner organizations; Coalition for Asian American Children and Families, the Hispanic Federation and New York Urban League along with the Asian American Federation and Black Agency Executives.

In FY 2015, the \$2.5 million City Council investment, the first of its kind, offered capacity building grants to over 80 qualifying organizations from all five boroughs to support capacity building, strengthening, and rescuing of nonprofit human service providers that serve communities of color. They offer a varying array of services to New Yorkers, and are being funded to address a comprehensive menu of infrastructural needs including leadership development, financial

management, and outcomes system development, among others. The Nonprofit Stabilization Fund is helping secure the long-term viability of community-based human service organizations with majority minority leadership that serve clients in diverse and low-income New York City communities, by providing these nonprofits with resources to bolster back-office capacity and ensure sound infrastructure. The ultimate aim is to ensure long-term viability in service delivery and community development.

- ❖ **We urge the City Council to fully restore Council Youth discretionary programs.** These funds are important to meeting the on the ground needs of APA community members, as they help to fund vital services in local districts and citywide. The services are implemented by trusted community based organizations that understand the unique cultural and linguistic, social and economic needs of the diverse Asian Pacific American community. They are often the first to become aware of and respond to the community's needs in a culturally competent and linguistically appropriate manner wherever pockets of the APA communities exist.
- ❖ **The City should invest in small CBOs that serve emerging immigrant communities.** These organizations are rooted in and have the trust of their communities. However, the funding for the services that these small CBOs provide are often not baselined and are the first to be eliminated. Moreover, the CBOs often don't have access to larger contracts. A decrease in funding for these grassroots organizations translates into a diminished capacity to address the community's needs.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony. We look forward to working with the City Council to ensure that all New Yorkers have access to the services and support they need to thrive. Please feel free to contact me at policy@cacf.org with any additional questions.



New York City Council
Committee on Youth Services
FY2016 Preliminary Budget
March 27, 2015

Testimony of Sheelah Feinberg
Executive Director, Coalition for Asian American Children and Families

My name is Sheelah Feinberg and I am the Executive Director for the Coalition for Asian American Children and Families. We would like to thank Finance Committee Chair Ferreras, Youth Services Committee Chair Eugene, Community Development Chair Arroyo and members of the Youth Services and Community Development Committees for holding this important oversight hearing on the city fiscal year (FY) 2016 Preliminary Budget.

Since 1986, CACF is the nation's only pan-Asian children's advocacy organization, and works to improve the health and well-being of Asian Pacific American (APA) children and families in New York City in three key policy areas: education, health and child welfare. CACF challenges the stereotype of Asian Pacific Americans as a "model minority" and advocates on behalf of underserved families in our community, especially immigrants struggling with poverty and limited English skills. We work with our membership of over 40 community based organizations to promote better policies, funding, and services for East Asian, South Asian, and Southeast Asian children, youth, and families.

Today, I am testifying on behalf of the unique collaboration of community of color organizations in New York City: Coalition for Asian American Children and Families, the Hispanic Federation and New York Urban League along with the Asian American Federation and Black Agency Executives. Together, these organizations represent over 160 representative member nonprofits in all five New York City boroughs who serve millions of low and moderate income children, youth and families.

We were thrilled to see the Nonprofit Stabilization Fund included in the FY 2015 Budget and are asking the New York City Council to **restore and increase the initiative to \$5 million in the Fiscal Year 2016 Budget**. The Communities of Color Nonprofit Stabilization Fund (CCNSF) has received greater than expected interest from the community and an increase in funding will help secure the long-term viability of community-based human service organizations led by communities of color that serve clients in diverse and low-income New York City communities, by providing these nonprofits with comprehensive capacity building assistance .

These organizations are a precious resource, which must not only be preserved, but also fortified. In addition to providing vital services to millions of New Yorkers of all races and ethnicities, these agencies have developed "organically" within neighborhood settings, and thus have increasingly become the social glue that brings – and keeps – communities together. They are economic drivers, employing tens of thousands of local community residents, and with rent and procurement expenditures totaling hundreds of millions of dollars, provide communities of color with much needed economic stimuli. What's more, these nonprofits are frequently the crucible for developing the next generation of leaders, especially within Black, Latino and Asian communities.

RECOMMENDATION

- ❖ **Invest \$5 million in the City Council Communities of Color Nonprofit Stabilization Fund (NSF) to support capacity building that target communities of color.**

In FY 2015, the \$2.5 million City Council investment, the first of its kind, offered capacity building grants to over **80 qualifying organizations from all five boroughs to support capacity building, strengthening, and rescuing of nonprofit human service providers that serve communities of color.** They offer a varying array of services to New Yorkers, and are being funded to address a comprehensive menu of infrastructural needs including leadership development, financial management, and outcomes system development, among others. The Nonprofit Stabilization Fund is helping secure the long-term viability of community-based human service organizations with majority minority leadership that serve clients in diverse and low-income New York City communities, by providing these nonprofits with resources to bolster back-office capacity and ensure sound infrastructure. The ultimate aim is to ensure long-term viability in service delivery and community development.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony. We look forward to working with the City Council to ensure that all New Yorkers have access to the services and support they need to thrive. Please feel free to contact me at sfeinberg@cacf.org with any additional questions.



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**Testimony of United Neighborhood Houses
Before the New York City Council
Committee on Youth, Honorable Mathieu Eugene, Chair
Committee on Community Development, Honorable Maria del Carmen Arroyo,
Chair
Committee on Finance, Honorable Julissa Ferreras, Chair
Presented by Gregory Brender, Co-Director of Policy & Advocacy**

March 27, 2015

Good Afternoon. Thank you Chair Eugene, Chair Arroyo and Chair Ferreras for the opportunity to testify. My name is Gregory Brender and I am here on behalf of United Neighborhood Houses. United Neighborhood Houses (UNH) is New York City's federation of settlement houses and community centers. UNH member agencies provide a broad range of services in a neighborhood based multi-generational setting ranging from early childhood education, after-school, summer jobs for teenagers, after-school, adult literacy, homelessness prevention and shelter and services for older adults. UNH member agencies have a deep commitment to services for youth and adult learners.

This commitment includes:

- After-school and camp to nearly 50,000 school age children and youth and have opened 50 SONYC programs as part of the expansion.
- Summer jobs to nearly 5,500 young people.
- 26 different contracts at 12 UNH member agencies for DYCD funded Comprehensive Literacy Programs through the Young Immigrant Literacy Program, and many more through Council Initiatives like IOI.
- Participating in the NYCHA public safety initiative.

UNH is part of the Campaign for Children, Campaign for Summer Jobs, New York City Coalition for Adult Literacy and Campaign for Tomorrow's Workforce.

After-School

UNH is a strong proponent of after-school and knows the value of after-school as both a youth development program and a key work support for families when parents need a positive, safe space for children and youth after the school bell rings. Along with our colleague in Campaign for Children, UNH is calling for the City to ensure that every child in New York City has access to high-quality, affordable and stable early childhood education and after-school programs.

After-School programs provide the recreational activities and homework help that strengthen young people's education. And after-school is an absolute necessity for many working families. A 2012 Campaign for Children survey reveals that 36% of parents whose kids were in after-school programs would have to quit their jobs if their children's program closed.¹

UNH member agencies are thrilled to be a part of the recent expansions of after-school programs both for middle school students through SONYC and for older youth in the summer as part of the community service component of Mayor de Blasio's public safety initiative for New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) Developments. We are also glad to see increasing stability in the after-school systems in recent years.

However, there are still many young people whose after-school programs are stuck in the old budget dance. We urge Mayor de Blasio to use his Executive Budget to restore and baseline funding for programs that are currently at risk in this year's budget process. The after-school system should be growing and expanding not contracting.

At risk in this year's budget process are:

- **17 After-School programs.** These programs were part of an expansion that former Schools Chancellor Dennis Walcott invested DOE Title I funds to support after-school programs in low income neighborhoods. There is no programmatic or qualitative difference between these programs and those that have been baselined. An investment of \$5.9 million can restore these programs.
- **2,300 After-school slots.** These slots are due to be lost by increasing the rate of the slots previously funded by the City Council. By using the regular COMPASS elementary school rate but the same amount of funding, the system is slated to lose 2,300 slots.

¹ Campaign for Children. "Parent Voices: What Will You Do if the City Closes your Child's Child Care or After-School Program" 2012 <http://www.campaignforchildrennyc.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/NYC-Parent-Voices.pdf>

Summer Youth Employment Program

For decades, SYEP has served as a stepping stone into the workforce for many youth in New York City. SYEP provides an opportunity for young people to earn income over the summer while developing professional skills. SYEP provides youth with valuable opportunities to learn and strengthen soft skills. These include the importance of punctuality, responsibility, effective communication, time management and budgeting. Youth in the program learn critical work skills that can lead to future employment opportunities. By creating these positive work experiences and providing participants with insight into the professional world, SYEP plays an important and meaningful role in shaping the future of youth in New York City.

Invest \$21.5 million for SYEP in FY16

UNH strongly recommends that the City continue to invest in SYEP. While we appreciate last year's investment which brought the total number of summer jobs to over 47,000, we are asking for an additional \$21.5 million for SYEP be included in this year's budget. This will cover:

- Recent increase in minimum wage that has gone up from \$8.00 to \$8.75
- Restore the 10,700 jobs that were created last year
- Create 2,874 more jobs for our youth in the City.

Increase the number of SYEP jobs to 50,000

Currently, more than 130,000 young people apply to SYEP, and approximately 80,000 are turned away. Last year CSJ announced a goal of increasing the number of SYEP jobs to 100,000 within 5 years. Increasing the number of jobs to 50,000 this year would put us halfway to the 100,000 mark.

Adult Literacy

In order for the City of New York to live up to promise of opportunity afforded to generations of immigrants and native New Yorkers, we call on the Administration and City Council to work together to make investments in key adult literacy services. We believe there are two initiatives that warrant special attention and make the following recommendations:

- Renew and expand DYCD's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) initiative with **\$20m** reserved for literacy services.

- Renew and expand the City Council's Adult Literacy Initiative from \$750,000 to **\$5m** to support and supplement the City's workforce development reforms, and assist those individuals with language barriers to employment

DYCD DACA Initiative

The DYCD DACA Initiative was successful in engaging over 10,000 New Yorkers in literacy and legal services. However, it was not included in the Preliminary Budget and services will be terminated in June if action is not taken. The current funding available for DACA literacy services is \$14.3m and our recommendation is to expand that by 50% to meet anticipated increased demand due to federal administrative relief programs. The renewal and expansion of the DYCD DACA initiative will help New Yorkers acquire the literacy skills needed to qualify for DACA, or prepare them for success in the expanded DACA initiative or Deferred Action for Parents of Americans (DAPA) program.

City Council Adult Literacy Initiative

New York City's recently adopted Career Pathways model is intended to help people attain education and credentials needed for careers. One of the key mechanisms for individuals to do that is to enroll in bridge programs which help bridge the gap between an individual's skills and the skills required to succeed in job training and credentialing programs. However, most of these bridge programs typically require a literacy level of at least 9th grade.

New York City needs a "bridge to the bridge" program for those with the lowest literacy levels; otherwise they will be locked out of the Career Pathways model. Renewal and expansion of the City Council Adult Literacy initiative will help build this "bridge to the bridge" and help people who need better English skills to find jobs or advance in their current one.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. We look forward to continuing to work with you on behalf of New York City's youth and adult learners. I am happy to answer any questions.



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March 27, 2015

Dear Council Member,

I write to ask for your support of **\$5 million** to be allocated to the New York City Council initiative, **Communities of Color Nonprofit Stabilization Fund** in the FY 2016 budget.

This request has the support of the major community of color umbrella organizations in New York City including the Coalition for Asian American Children & Families, the Hispanic Federation, the New York Urban League and partnering organizations, the Asian American Federation, and the Black Agency Executives. Together, these organizations represent over 160 respective member nonprofits in all five NYC boroughs and who serve millions of mostly low and moderate income children, youth and families.

In FY 2015, the NSF helped fund 80 organizations in all five boroughs that serve clients in diverse and low-income New York City communities. Each project focused on one capacity building topic:

- ✓ Financial Management & Planning- assessment, planning and development of financial systems, staff skill building to improve reporting systems.(9 orgs)
- ✓ Leadership Development - leadership succession planning; volunteer management/recruitment plan; management/leadership training for staff; board development. (8 orgs)
- ✓ New program planning & Development - needs assessment of community, planning of new programs, staff development in support of the new initiatives. (7 orgs)
- ✓ Management information Systems & Design - securing and/or designing software, building skills necessary for managing work more effectively.(17 orgs)
- ✓ Evaluation & Outcomes –implement systems to keep information related to client needs, referral sources, and services provided; implement systems to measure and/or service recipient satisfaction and/or service recipient outcomes; develop programmatic success measures; and develop evaluation capacity. (9 orgs)
- ✓ Strategy and organizational development- staff performance review process; strategic or operational/annual plan, communications or marketing plan; fundraising plan. (30 orgs)



As an indigenous, women of color run, multi-cultural youth organization, it is imperative that we stand in support for those who stand in support of us. All too often we see big conglomerate agencies come in and secure funding for our urban communities, without any deep connection to these communities.

Small community based non-profit agencies such as ours, look at the bigger picture. How we can support, restructure, and build economic stabilities in the very communities we serve. Providing agencies such as the Communities of Color Nonprofit Stabilization Fund with the means to help us better serve vulnerable youth of color, helps us realize our dreams of providing our communities with everything they need to grow.

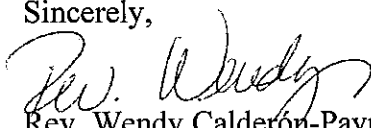
Our agency is a proud recipient of the nonprofit stabilization fund for FY2015. We were able to obtain a consultant to help us in brand marketing our stellar juvenile justice program BronxConnect. This includes creating a BronxConnect website, app, letterhead and business cards. What does this mean for our organization? We will better be able to share our success with those who want to support excellent agencies serving youth escaping the grip of incarceration.

Indigenous organizations are a precious resource, which must not only be preserved, but also fortified. In addition to providing vital services to millions of New Yorkers of all races and ethnicities, these agencies have developed “organically” within neighborhood settings, and thus are frequently the social glue that brings – and keeps – communities together. They are economic drivers, employing tens of thousands of local community residents, and with rent and procurement expenditures totaling hundreds of millions of dollars, provide communities of color with much needed economic stimuli. Finally, these nonprofits are frequently the crucible for developing the next generation of leaders, especially within African-American, Latino and Asian Pacific American communities.

Investing \$5 million in the Nonprofit Stabilization Fund will ensure that nonprofits embedded in communities of color will be able to provide the critical services that properly address the diverse and growing needs of New York City’s African-American, Latino and Asian Pacific American communities. Moreover, this capacity building initiative will level the playing field by assisting these organizations in qualifying for more city-funded human service contracts.

Thank you for your consideration of this important request.

Sincerely,


Rev. Wendy Calderon-Payne
Executive Director



Testimony presented to the New York City Council Committees on Youth and Community
Development
FY2016 Preliminary Budget Hearing
March 27, 2015

Sierra Stoneman-Bell
Director of Adult Education and Career Pathways
Make the Road New York

I am Sierra Stoneman-Bell, Director of Adult Education and Career Pathways at Make the Road New York. Make the Road is a non-profit organization that builds strength and opportunities in working class immigrant communities. We operate 5 community centers in Brooklyn, Queens, Staten Island, and Long Island and serve over 10,000 people every year through community organizing, policy innovation, education, and high quality survival services. MRNY is an active member of the New York City Coalition for Adult Literacy (NYCCAL), and today my testimony will focus on the importance of supporting adult literacy services in the city budget.

Adult education is a core part of our work to give community members the tools they need to live and succeed in this city. Over 1,600 adult students, most of them immigrants from Latin America, take our classes each year to learn English, earn a High School Equivalency Diploma, and prepare for the U.S. Citizenship exam. We often have as many as 500 students on the waiting list for new classes. You will get to hear directly from a few of our students today.

Our students study for many reasons – to improve their language skills and gain confidence, to access better jobs and wages, to go to college, to be able to communicate with their children's teachers and doctors, and to learn about U.S. culture and how to navigate a new complex city. Our teachers apply a popular education approach where the curriculum is centered on the experience of the students and themes directly relevant to their daily lives. And students find a community of peers who are overcoming similar challenges and, together, they build community resilience and perseverance.

MRNY is one of many community-based adult literacy programs that generate enormous benefits for individuals and the city as a whole. The economic and social benefits have been well-documented, and at a cost of less than \$1200 per student, these classes are an incredibly efficient investment.

Several current trends in education, immigration, and workforce policy make it a crucial and

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opportune moment to invest in the city's adult education capacity:

- Last year's transition from the GED® exam to the new TASC® High School Equivalency exam requires HSE students to meet more rigorous standards, requiring more intensive instruction.
- The immigration policy landscape is changing rapidly, with transformative new policies in New York City and further opportunities under President Obama's Executive Action to expand DACA and create DAPA. New York City took bold action in 2013 by launching a 2-year \$18 million DACA Initiative to ensure that immigrant New Yorkers had the opportunity to access and benefit from the federal DACA policy. Adult education has been a key part of the approach, paired with nonprofit legal services and community outreach. We are very concerned that this funding is not included in the FY 2016 Preliminary Budget. This funding is set to expire in June and, without swift action, these programs are at risk of closure, resulting in thousands of immigrant New Yorkers losing their seats in adult education classes before achieving their goals. Unless this funding is continued, MRNY will be forced to close the doors to over 130 ABE/HSE students in our program in Queens. With new administrative relief on the way, this is not the time to lose community capacity. That is why we are calling on you to restore and increase funding for the NYC DACA initiative, and build on what we have started.
- The City has recently launched a new workforce development strategy known as Career Pathways. Under this model, a greater emphasis will be placed on helping individuals develop the skills and credentials they need to access good jobs with opportunities for advancement. Adult education must be an essential element of this workforce strategy. To create a thriving economy, we must support and develop an educated, skilled workforce. We are pleased to see a new interest in creating and funding "bridge" programs to prepare people for career track training programs. However, many of the 1.7 million New Yorkers without English proficiency or a high school diploma will not be able to even enter these programs without intensive literacy development. We need a strong adult education system as the foundation of a successful workforce development approach. Otherwise, low literacy New Yorkers will be left out yet again.

We call on the Mayor and the City Council to work together to invest in a strong system of adult literacy services. We have two key budget recommendations:

- **Renew and expand DYCD's DACA Initiative with \$20 million over two years for Adult Literacy** programs. We also support expanding outreach and legal services in a coordinated way.
- **Expand the City Council's Adult Literacy Initiative to \$5 million** to promote workforce success and assist low-income and immigrant New Yorkers to develop the literacy and language skills they need to participate in the City's new Career Pathways strategy.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. We look forward to working with you to ensure that all New Yorkers have the opportunity to continue their education and participate fully in the life of this great city.



Communities for Healthy Food NYC

NEW SETTLEMENT APARTMENTS

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New Settlement Apartments Submitted Testimony on Youth Services and Community Development Budgets for Fiscal Year 2016

Hearing of the New York City Council Committees on Youth Services and Community Development

Submitted March 27, 2015

Thank you Chairs del Carmen Arroyo and Eugene, and Youth Services and Community Development Committee Members, for considering this testimony supporting Communities for Healthy Food's request for City Council Citywide Discretionary Funding in the amount of \$760,000. My name is Taisy Conk, Community Healthy Food Advocate for New Settlement Apartments. I am submitting this written testimony on behalf of Communities for Healthy Food and New Settlement Apartments.

Communities for Healthy Food (CfHF) NYC is a new, innovative approach to expand access to affordable, healthy food in four of New York City's economically challenged communities. This place-based initiative integrates access to healthy and affordable food into every aspect of our comprehensive community development work – through resident outreach, nutrition education and cooking classes, creating new or improved healthy food outlets and generating food-sector jobs. A comprehensive evaluation of CfHF is underway with the NYC Food Policy Center at Hunter College.

This new initiative, seeded by \$1.6 million from the Laurie M. Tisch Illumination Fund, addresses the interrelated issues of diet-related diseases, poverty, and unemployment to help residents live longer and healthier. CfHF taps LISC's value as an effective community development intermediary with strong neighborhood organization relationships, the ability to leverage capital and programmatic funds, and its track record as a facilitator, convener and technical assistance provider. CfHF builds on the existing work of LISC and its partners revitalizing struggling communities and improving overall quality of life.

Program Partners

- Cypress Hills LDC in Cypress Hills/East New York, Brooklyn.
- New Settlement Apartments in Mount Eden, Bronx.
- Northeast Brooklyn Housing Development Corporation in Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn.
- West Harlem Group Assistance in West Harlem.

These programs also reach some Queens neighborhoods.

These program partners are embedding healthy food strategies into community development work to:

- 1) Increase the availability of high quality, affordable, and nutritious foods;
- 2) Create new or improved healthy food outlets and venues;
- 3) Educate residents, housing staff, and community service providers about nutrition, healthy food preparation, and gardening;
- 4) Enable economic development opportunities through creating or expanding food-related jobs, improving existing or creating new healthy food venues and fostering urban markets and food related enterprises; and
- 5) Implement a comprehensive neighborhood outreach and awareness campaign.

New Settlement Apartment's Accomplishments with an Impact on Youth and Community Development:

Here are examples of how New Settlement's work with Communities for Healthy Food has affected youth and community development more generally in Mount Eden in the Bronx, the neighborhood where we build community:

- We provide interactive culinary education for over 100 students in elementary, middle, and high school aged afterschool programming at New Settlement. They've learned to make some very healthy and pretty sophisticated meals like ginger chicken and broccoli, Caribbean salsa and steamed snapper, risotto with herbs and peas, and French salad with vegetables and tuna. Two recent high school graduates were hired and trained to facilitate the middle and high school courses.
- New Settlement Teens hold cooking demonstrations which reach over 1,000 community members annually. The cooking demonstrations are an example of how the different strands of New Settlement's work are woven together and how CDCs are such a good platform for the healthy food work. New Settlement already reaches thousands of community members through its youth and young adult programming and services, housing and educational justice organizing projects, the New Settlement Community Campus which houses public schools and a Community Center, and our affordable housing. We are well positioned to insert the healthy food work into this structure. For example, the teens we work with provide cooking demonstrations within parent workshops at the afterschool programs, at family events at neighborhood schools, and at health fairs in the community. We even include healthy cooking demonstrations at New Settlement's annual Halloween Party. The teens demonstrate how to make seasonal and appealing recipes including corn and peach salsa, quesadillas, apple slaw, and kale salad.
- New Settlement Teens are leading a healthy retail initiative by recruiting 2 bodegas to sell healthier snack and deli items and promoting these options to customers. Cooking demonstrations are taking place on the sidewalk outside of these bodegas. As part of the healthy retail initiative, one day the teens were preparing spiced nuts and a new participant said she did not eat nuts because she doesn't like them. Jocelyn, a high school senior who is a natural leader shared the project's message – we all try each dish once. Another youth, Robert, known as the pickiest eater because he only eats white foods: white bread, rice and fries, is now getting other kids on board to eat a broader and healthier range of foods. We hear enough about bad peer pressure – in contrast: this is a great example of the positive social norms that can be fostered through youth and families cooking together!

- For an example of how an entire family's health and well-being is positively affected by this work: Lillian is a mom with two daughters who lives in one of the affordable housing buildings New Settlement owns and manages. She takes her children to our new Community Center for swim lessons; the girls also participate in two of our afterschool programs where they are participating in the cooking classes. Lillian has since joined the Corbin Hill Farm Share and picks up farm fresh New York State vegetables and fruit each week. While her mom was visiting from Honduras, Lillian and her family joined our field trip to an urban farm in the South Bronx which reminded them of back home. They were surprised to find out this oasis exists in the Bronx!
- We are also partnering with two local school campuses to implement School Food's Alternative Menu, which is fresher and less processed. The schools support these changes with nutrition education and cooking workshops for students and families. This work impacts 6 schools that serve a total of 1,500 students, two to three times per day. New Settlement's role here has been to broker relationships with the principals and the many city programs and private non-profits that offer resources and services to schools. I shepherd the relationships, set up and plan meetings and help with follow-up. I sit on two of the schools' School Wellness Councils providing information about resources and guidance for the healthy living programs in these schools.

2014 Accomplishments for Communities for Healthy Food – 4 CDCs Combined:

- Provided more than 250,000 pounds of emergency food for close to 17,000 pantry clients.
- Started two new neighborhood farmers' markets and two farm share programs and created four new community produce gardens.
- Trained and employed 44 residents to become farm stand operators, farmers, and community chefs.
- Held CfHF program activities for close to 3,000 neighborhood residents. This includes: farm shares, youth programming, farmers market, gardening workshops and grocery store tours and cooking demonstrations.
- Hosted a variety of nutrition education and cooking classes for close to 500 neighborhood residents to increase: cooking skills to make healthy food on a limited budget; knowledge about what foods are healthier alternatives; and literacy skills to read nutrition labels.
- Equipped 500 neighborhood residents, CDC staff, and partner organizations with information about neighborhood healthy food resources and services and the importance of healthy eating, nutrition and gardening skills.
- Enrolled 600 families in public nutrition assistance programs, like the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formally known as food stamps.
- Connected directly with close to 6,500 residents through neighborhood outreach campaigns to raise awareness of the importance of healthy eating, the availability of local healthy food resources, and help strengthen community networks.
- Converted four corner stores to healthy corner stores.

Impact of New City Council Funding

We respectfully request \$760,000 in City Council funding which would allow CfHF to expand and reach more low-income families and give individuals the tools they need to create healthier lives and build demand for healthy food, so that nonprofits, community-based organizations, city departments, and funders can partner with NYC businesses and investors to provide a better infrastructure for healthy food in underserved neighborhoods.

Impacts across the Four Boroughs

- Provide 275,000 pounds of emergency food for 19,600 pantry clients.
- Sell over 40,000 pounds of local produce to in need residents at farmer's markets and farm shares that CfHF started in collaboration with local nonprofits. Residents can use food stamps and NYC Health Bucks for purchases.
- Enable economic development opportunities by:
 - Employing 34 local, neighborhood residents as farm stand operators, urban farmers, community gardeners, and community chefs; and
 - Equipping 15 residents to incubate food businesses.
- Host a variety of nutrition education, cooking classes, and cooking demonstrations for 750 neighborhood residents to increase: cooking skills to make healthy food on a limited budget; knowledge about what foods are healthier alternatives; and literacy skills to read nutrition labels.
- Equip over 300 neighborhood residents, CDC or partner organization staff with information about neighborhood healthy food resources and services, knowledge on the importance of healthy eating and nutrition, and gardening skills.
- Reach 2,500 community residents through a neighborhood outreach campaign designed to raise awareness of the importance of healthy eating, the availability of local healthy food resources, and help strengthen community networks.
- Support the conversion of 5 healthy food corner stores and their owners.
- Improve the nutrition and wellness environment at early childcare and school facilities for 625 children.
- Enroll at least 450 families in public nutrition assistance programs, like the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program like (SNAP), formally known as food stamps.

About the Partners:

New Settlement Apartments (NSA) - *Mount Eden, the Bronx*

New Settlement Apartments is a community development organization based in the Mt. Eden community of the Southwest Bronx, with a 25-year demonstrated commitment to increasing preparedness and access to high-quality public and post-secondary education, safe and affordable housing, fair and sustainable employment, and expanding opportunities for healthy and active living for youth, seniors, adults, and families. New Settlement has provided 1,022 affordable homes in 17 multi-family buildings and collaborates with community residents and develops partnerships to create services and opportunities that celebrate the inherent dignity and potential of individuals and families. NSA owns and manages affordable housing and other commercial and community spaces; delivers an array of social and economic development programs and services; and has close ties to the neighborhood residents allowing them to effectively implement healthy food access programs and activities into their comprehensive community development work. New Settlement Apartments and LISC NYC are partnering to reshape the neighborhood food landscape, with a focus on youth and families, by concurrently improving access to affordable healthy food and embedding interactive food education and nutrition promotion within New Settlement's programing and assets.

West Harlem Group Assistance (WHGA) - *West Harlem*

West Harlem Group Assistance, Inc. (WHGA), a community-based development corporation was established in 1971 to revitalize the under-invested West and Central Harlem communities riddled with dilapidated and abandoned buildings. Since 1971, WHGA has developed 1,037 units of affordable housing and owns 43,676 square feet of commercial space in West Harlem. WHGA owns and manages affordable housing and other commercial and community spaces; delivers an array of social and economic development programs and services; and has close ties to the neighborhood residents, allowing the organization to effectively infuse healthy food access programs and activities into their comprehensive community development work. In 2014, with the support of LISC NYC, WHGA redeveloped one of their vacant storefronts on Lenox Avenue now called the West Harlem Community Healthy Food Hub, serving as a portal to improve access to healthy food and advance educational prospects related to health and nutrition for seniors, youth, families, and adults.

Northeast Brooklyn Housing Development Corporation (NEBHDCo) - *Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn*

A leading affordable housing developer since 1985, NEBHDCo has developed and self-manages 929 residential units and 17 commercial units in 92 buildings in Central Brooklyn, and also provides tenant and community services. As one for four CDCs in LISC NYC's Communities for Healthy Food initiative, NEBHDCo owns and manages affordable housing and other commercial and community spaces; delivers an array of social and economic development programs and services; and has close ties to the neighborhood residents served, including seniors, youth, families, and adults. NEBHDCo also works with many local partners on a multi-faceted community healthy food access program, allowing them to effectively implement healthy food interventions into locally-owned assets through their comprehensive community development work.

Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation (CHLDC) - *Cypress Hills, Brooklyn*

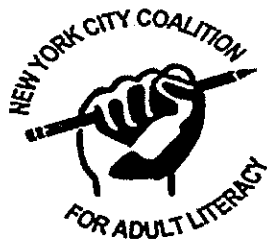
With community residents leading the way, the mission of Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation is to build a strong, sustainable Cypress Hills and East New York, where residents achieve educational and economic success, secure healthy and affordable housing and develop leadership skills to transform their lives and community. We serve over 9,000 local residents each year, many of whom are

immigrants, through affordable housing development, sustainability planning, housing counseling, community organizing, college access and persistence programs, career and education programs, and youth and family services. CHLDC is working with LISC NYC to increase access to healthy food for seniors, youth, families, and adults through comprehensive community development work. CHLDC owns and manages affordable housing and other commercial and community spaces; delivers an array of social and economic development programs and services; and has close ties to the neighborhood residents. CHLDC's strategic interventions, integrated into existing programming and locally-owned assets, are designed to strengthen the local food system and reconnect community members with all aspects of it – from garden to table, including hands-on workshops about growing food at community gardens; nutrition, health, and effective food budgeting educational sessions; expansion of Cypress Hills' youth market with onsite cooking workshops; and health screenings at a senior center, affordable housing buildings, and local schools. CHLDC is working with the Cypress Hills Child Care Corporation, serving approximately 500 children and their families, to increase healthy food options served at their early childhood facilities and engage parents in meal improvements. Lastly, Cypress Hills is working with local bodegas and restaurants to increase healthy offerings, and help increase community demand.

Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) – New York City

LISC NYC's mission is to help resident-focused, community-based development organizations transform distressed communities and neighborhoods into healthy places to live, do business, work, and raise families. Over the last 34 years, LISC New York has invested approximately \$2.3 billion in more than 75 New York City community development corporations and other local, nonprofit organizations. With our support, these organizations have developed over 34,600 affordable homes and more than 2.3 million sq. ft. of community and commercial space. For CfHF, LISC NYC is providing technical assistance and program management support; leveraging government and private funding; organizing trainings; creating cross-sector partnerships; completing a comprehensive program evaluation with the NYC Food Policy Center; and documenting the program model through neighborhood stories and media outlets.





**Testimony of the New York City Coalition for Adult Literacy
Before the NYC Council
Committees on Youth Services
Committee on Community Development**

**Honorable Julissa Ferreras, Chair, Committee on Finance
Honorable Mathieu Eugene, Chair, Committee on Youth Services
Honorable Maria del Carmen Arroyo, Chair, Committee on
Community Development**

**Preliminary Budget Hearing
March 27, 2015**

Agudath Israel of America
Arab-American Family Support Center
Bronx Works
Catholic Charities
Chinatown Manpower Project
Coalition for Asian American Children and Families
Community Service Society
Cypress Hills Local Dev Corp
The Doe Fund
Edith & Carl Marks Jewish Community House of
Bensonhurst
FEGS Health & Human Services
Fifth Avenue Committee
Fortune Society
HANAC
Highbridge Community Life Center
International Center of CCCS
Jacob A. Riis Neighborhood Settlement House
Jewish Community Council of Greater Coney Island
Jewish Community Center of Staten Island
LaGuardia Community College Center for
Immigrant Education and Training
Lehman College Adult Learning Center
Literacy Assistance Center
Literacy Partners
Lutheran Family Health Centers Adult and Family
Education
Make the Road New York
Maura Clarke-Ita Ford (MCIF) Center
Neighborhood Family Services Coalition
New York Immigration Coalition
Northern Manhattan Improvement Corporation
NYC College of Technology Adult Learning Center
Opportunities for a Better Tomorrow
Phipps Community Development Corporation
Project Reach Youth
Queens Community House
Riverside Language Program
Shorefront YM-YWHA
Turning Point
UAW Region 9A Education Fund
Union Settlement Association
UJA-Federation of New York
United Neighborhood Houses of New York
University Settlement Adult Literacy Program
YMCA of Greater New York

The New York City Coalition for Adult Literacy (NYCCAL) is comprised of teachers, managers, students, and allies from community-based organizations, advocacy groups, public libraries, and colleges in the City University of New York. NYCCAL advocates for an adult literacy system that provides quality, comprehensive, and accessible educational services to current students and other adults who require it. NYCCAL believes that being able to read and write, learn English, obtain a High School Equivalency diploma, and enter training and post secondary education are the rights of every New Yorker and the cornerstone to an equitable and just society.

www.nyccalliteracy.org

On behalf of the New York City Coalition for Adult Literacy (NYCCAL), good afternoon and thank you for the opportunity to testify today on the important topic of City investments in the Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD). NYCCAL is comprised of teachers, managers, students, and allies from community-based organizations, advocacy groups, public libraries, union training organizations and colleges in the City University of New York.

Together we advocate for an adult literacy system that provides quality, comprehensive, and accessible educational services to current students and other adults who require it. NYCCAL believes that being able to read and write, learn English, obtain a High School Equivalency diploma, and enter training and post-secondary education are the rights of every New Yorker and the cornerstone to an equitable and just society.

In order for the City of New York to live up to promise of opportunity afforded to generations of immigrants and native New Yorkers, we call on the Administration and City Council to work together to make investments in key adult literacy services. We believe there are two initiatives that warrant special attention and make the following recommendations:

- Renew and expand DYCD's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) initiative with **\$20m** reserved for literacy services
- Renew and expand the City Council's Adult Literacy Initiative from \$750,000 to **\$5m** to support and supplement the City's workforce development reforms, and assist those individuals with language barriers to employment

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals-- \$20m for baselined literacy services over two years

In June of 2012, President Obama announced a groundbreaking program—Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, also known as DACA—which provided temporary protection from deportation for certain young people, as well as federal work authorization. This sweeping initiative, which promised to bring hundreds of thousands of individuals out of the shadows, was predicated on applicants meeting several criteria, including the possession of a high school diploma, its equivalent, or enrollment in a program leading towards either.

Recognizing that nearly 16,000 young adults in New York City simply needed access to an adult literacy program in order to qualify for DACA, the Council and Administration rose to the occasion, creating the first and only comprehensive system in the nation that included a notable investment in education, designed to help young adults qualify and apply for DACA. The \$18m, 2-year initiative provided funds for outreach and education to immigrant communities; literacy classes and legal services. Since the creation of the initiative over 10,000 City residents have had access to adult education and legal services. These services have been delivered by nearly 100 immigrant-serving organizations, including CUNY and 30 community based literacy providers. Since the launch of this initiative, New York's DACA applicant rate increased by 15 percentage points.

Despite the success of this program in connecting immigrant youth to key literacy and legal supports the Mayor's FY16 preliminary budget does not include this funding. It would be a tremendous missed opportunity for DYCD's programming to this population to be discontinuing, and particularly worrisome, given future federal administrative relief actions on the horizon.

In November of 2014 President Obama announced a much anticipated expansion of DACA eligibility parameters, as well as the creation of a new initiative known as Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents (DAPA). Together, these programs were anticipated to benefit an additional 4 million+ residents. While the roll-out of these initiatives are temporarily on hold as a result of court actions, it is widely expected that eventually the programs will stand. Given that the movement of New Yorkers from the informal economy to the formal economy via work authorizations likely means better paying jobs, with higher tax contributions into City coffers, it makes sense for the City to not only renew its DACA initiative, but expand it to allow as many New Yorkers as possible fully take advantage of DAPA/expanded DACA.

While the same educational criteria does not apply to DAPA as the original DACA, the primary benefit of work authorization under DAPA will not be realized if these individuals do not have sufficient literacy skills to leverage a work authorization into better-paying, mainstream employment. Preparing these adults with literacy skills would yield significant benefit to the City even absent work authorization, but if and when DAPA is realized, the benefit to New York will be greatly multiplied.

In order ensure continued services to thousands of New Yorkers—currently slated to expire June 30th—and to prepare more individuals for success, NYCCAL recommends the literacy portion of the original DACA program (\$14.3m over two years), be expanded to \$20m over the next two years. NYCCAL also supports expansion to the legal and outreach aspects of the City's DACA program.

City Council Adult Literacy Initiative-- \$5m investment to promote workforce success

In the Fall of 2014, the City of New York announced the adoption of a new workforce development strategy known as Career Pathways. The central premise of this plan was that the current strategy of “rapid attachment”—quickly cycling people through the system into low-wage, low-skilled jobs, was an inefficient use of resources. Turnover in these jobs was high, and few were set on a trajectory that led to family-sustaining careers. Under this model a greater emphasis will be placed on helping individuals develop the skills and credentials they need to land “good” jobs with opportunities for advancement.

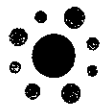
NYCCAL applauds this report’s emphasis on the importance of education. For low-income adults in New York, education is the key to securing employment, building a foothold in the job market, helping their children succeed in school, or acquiring the language skills needed to navigate their way through day-to-day life. Supporting an educated, skilled workforce is critical to creating and sustaining a thriving economy – one that can attract new and diverse employers and generate the revenues needed to support a high quality of life for New York’s residents and visitors.

The need for a robust investment in education is underscored by the community of 1.7 million New Yorkers lacking English proficiency and/or a high school diploma. A significant part of the City’s strategy to help set people on the path to greater career opportunities is the use of “bridge programs”—programs that help people to transition from low skill levels to marketable credentials and links to the workforce. However, most bridge programs require at least a 9th grade reading level, and many individuals need extra time, support, and investment to even get to that literacy level—essentially a “bridge to the bridge”. Without investments in this area, the bulk of the lowest-literacy New Yorkers and those without a high school credential will be shut out of the promise of the Career Pathways model, relegated to low-wage employment.

In order to support New Yorkers with limited English proficiency, and those lacking a high school diploma who are seeking to obtain or advance their employment, NYCCAL recommends the City Council’s Adult Literacy Initiative be expanded from \$750,000 to \$5m.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and we welcome any questions.

www.nyccaliteracy.org



Testimony of Jose Davila, Hispanic Federation Vice President for Policy & Government Relations, Before the New York City Council Finance, Youth Services and Community Development Committees Regarding the Fiscal Year 2016 Preliminary Budget

March 27, 2015

Good Afternoon. My name is Jose Davila and I am Vice President for Policy & Government Relations at the Hispanic Federation. Thank you Chairs Ferreras, Arroyo and Eugene, and members of the Finance, Youth Services and Community Development Committees for the opportunity to testify today on the Communities of Color Nonprofit Stabilization Fund.

As you may know, Hispanic Federation is the premier Latino membership organization in the nation founded to address the many inequities confronting Latinos and the nonprofits which serve them. For 25 years, Hispanic Federation has provided grants, administered human services and coordinated advocacy for our broad network of agencies that serve more than 2 million Latinos in areas of health, immigration, economic empowerment, civic engagement and education.

Hispanic Federation is a coordinating organization for the Communities of Color Nonprofit Stabilization Fund along with the Coalition for Asian American Children and Families, the New York Urban League, the Asian American Federation and Black Agency Executives. Together, we represent over 160 member nonprofits in all five New York City boroughs who serve millions of low and moderate income children, youth and families.

Thanks to the City Council's vision and leadership, the Fiscal Year 2015 Budget appropriated \$2.5 million to establish this first-ever fund. In partnership with the Department of Youth and Community Development, we are pleased to inform you that these funds have been awarded to 80 qualified nonprofits serving the city's Latino, Black and Asian communities. I have included the full list of awardees with my testimony. In addition to our Committee Chairs here today, we also thank Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito, the Black, Latino and Asian Caucus, the Bronx and Manhattan Delegations, and Council Members Margaret Chin and Andy King for all of your support throughout this process.

In the aftermath of the "Great Recession," too many city nonprofits have yet to recover from our lingering economic crisis. Many, facing major retrenchment of funds from public and private sources, are struggling to keep their doors open. And all are facing ever growing demands from impoverished individuals within divested communities – individuals who need jobs, education, training, child care, health services and other programs in order to flourish and grow as human beings.

These organizations are a precious resource, which must not only be preserved, but also fortified. In addition to providing vital services to millions of New Yorkers of all races and ethnicities, these agencies have developed "organically" within neighborhood settings, and thus have increasingly become the social glue that brings – and keeps – communities together. They are economic drivers, employing tens of thousands of local community residents, and with rent and procurement expenditures totaling hundreds of millions of dollars, provide communities of color

with much needed economic stimuli. What's more, these nonprofits are frequently the crucible for developing the next generation of leaders, especially within Black, Latino and Asian communities.

As the initiative has received greater than expected interest and will yield tremendous success for dozens of nonprofit organizations across the city, we respectfully request the New York City Council allocate \$5 million in the Fiscal Year 2016 Budget to double the amount of institutions that could benefit from the Communities of Color Nonprofit Stabilization Fund. Investing \$5 million in the Communities of Color Nonprofit Stabilization Fund will ensure nonprofits led by and serving communities of color can continue to provide the critical services that properly address the diverse and growing needs of New York City's Black, Latino and Asian communities. Moreover, this capacity building initiative will level the playing field by assisting these organizations in qualifying for more city-funded human service contracts.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony. We look forward to working with the City Council to ensure that all New Yorkers have access to the services and support they need to thrive. Please feel free to contact me at jdavila@hispanicfederation.org with any additional questions.

New York Urban LeagueCommunities of Color Nonprofit Stabilization FundUpdated 3/4/2015

Organization	Borough(s)	Capacity Building Project
651 Arts - Kings Maestic Corporation	Brooklyn	New Program Planning & Development
Adhikaar for Human Rights and Social Justice	Queens	Strategy & Organizational Development
Arab American Association of New York	Brooklyn	Strategy & Organizational Development
Asian American Arts Alliance, Inc	Brooklyn	Evaluation & Outcomes System Development
ASPIRA of New York, Inc.	Citywide	Strategy & Organizational Development
Breakthrough New York	Manhattan	Evaluation & Outcomes System Development
Bronx Council on the Arts Incorporated	Bronx	Financial Management & Planning
BronxConnect	Bronx	Management Information Systems & Design
Brooklyn Jubilee	Brooklyn	New Program Planning & Development
Brooklyn/Queens/Long Island Area Health Education Center	Brooklyn	Leadership Development
Calpulli Mexican Dance Company, Inc.	Manhattan, Queens, Staten Island	Strategy & Organizational Development
Casita Maria Center for Arts & Education	Bronx	Management Information Systems & Design
Centro Cultural Latinoamericano de Queens	Queens	Financial Management & Planning
Chhava Community Development Corp	Queens	Leadership Development
Child Welfare Organizing Project, Inc.	Citywide	Leadership Development
Chinatown Manpower Project, Inc.	Manhattan	Evaluation & Outcomes System Development
Clemente Soto Velez Cultural & Educational Center	Manhattan	Financial Management & Planning
Coalition for Hispanic Family Services	Brooklyn, Queens	Management Information Systems & Design
College & Community Fellowship	Citywide	Financial Management & Planning
Committee Against Anti-Asian Violence	Manhattan	Management Information Systems & Design
Community Voices Heard, Inc.	Manhattan	Leadership Development
Cool Culture, Inc.	Citywide	New Program Planning & Development
Council of People Organization, Inc.	Brooklyn	Management Information Systems & Design
Dominican Women's Development Center	Manhattan	Financial Management & Planning
DRUM - Desis Rising Up & Moving	Queens	Strategy & Organizational Development
Eagle Academy Foundation	Citywide	Evaluation & Outcomes System Development
El Museo del Barrio	Citywide	Financial Management & Planning
El Puente	Brooklyn	Strategy & Organizational Development
Families on the Move of New York City, Inc.	Staten Island	Management Information Systems & Design
Families United for Racial Economic Equality, Inc.	Brooklyn	Strategy & Organizational Development
Global Language Project	Manhattan	Management Information Systems & Design
Good Old Lower East Side, Inc. (GOLES)	Manhattan	Strategy & Organizational Development
GRIOT Circle, Inc.	Brooklyn	Strategy & Organizational Development
Harlem Business Alliance	Manhattan	Management Information Systems & Design
I Challenge Myself, Inc.	Bronx	Management Information Systems & Design
Iris House: A Center for Women with HIV, Inc.	Manhattan	Strategy & Organizational Development
Just Us Inc.	Bronx, Manhattan, Queens	Strategy & Organizational Development
Korean American Family Service Center	Queens	Management Information Systems & Design
Latino Pastoral Action Center, Inc. (LPAC)	Bronx	New Program Planning & Development
Loisaida Inc.	Manhattan	Financial Management & Planning
Los Pleneros de la 21, Inc.	Citywide	Management Information Systems & Design
Make the Road New York	Brooklyn, Queens, Staten Island	Strategy & Organizational Development
Mano a Mano: Mexican Culture Without Borders	Manhattan	Strategy & Organizational Development
Masa-MexEd, Inc.	Citywide	Evaluation & Outcomes System Development
Mind Builders Creative Arts Center	Bronx	Financial Management & Planning
Minkwon Center for Community Action	Queens	Strategy & Organizational Development
Mixteca Organization, Inc.	Brooklyn	Strategy & Organizational Development
Museum of Contemporary African Diasporan Arts	Brooklyn	Management Information Systems & Design
Neighborhood Housing Services New York City	Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens	Strategy & Organizational Development
Neighborhood Self Help by Older Persons Project (SHOPP), Inc.	Bronx	Leadership Development
New Immigrant Community Empowerment	Queens	Strategy & Organizational Development
New York Asian Women's Center, Inc.	Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens	Evaluation & Outcomes System Development
New York Council on Adoptable Children	Citywide	Strategy & Organizational Development
Noel Pointer Foundation, Inc.	Brooklyn	Evaluation & Outcomes System Development
Northern Manhattan Arts Alliance	Manhattan	Strategy & Organizational Development
Northern Manhattan Coalition for Immigrant Rights	Manhattan	Strategy & Organizational Development
Ocean Bay Community Development Corporation, Inc.	Queens	Leadership Development
Operation Exodus	Manhattan	New Program Planning & Development
Pregones Touring Puerto Rican Theatre Collection, Inc	Bronx	Strategy & Organizational Development
Repertorio Español	Citywide	Management Information Systems & Design
SAPNA NYC	Bronx	Strategy & Organizational Development
South Asian Council for Social Services	Queens	Management Information Systems & Design
Southside United HDFC/Los Sures	Brooklyn	Strategy & Organizational Development
Spanish Speaking Elderly Council - RAICES	Brooklyn	Leadership Development
Sports Foundation, Inc.	Bronx	Leadership Development
St. Ann's Corner of Harm Reduction	Bronx	Strategy & Organizational Development
SURE WE CAN Inc.	Brooklyn	New Program Planning & Development
Teatro Circulo, Ltd	Manhattan	Strategy & Organizational Development
The Brotherhood/Sister Sol	Manhattan	Management Information Systems & Design
The Central Family Life Center, Inc.	Staten Island	Strategy & Organizational Development
The Dome Project, Inc.	Manhattan	Evaluation & Outcomes System Development
The HopeLine, La Linea de la Esperanza	Bronx	Strategy & Organizational Development
The Society for the Preservation of Weeksville & Bedford Stuyvesant History	Brooklyn	New Program Planning & Development
United Chinese Association of Brooklyn, Inc.	Brooklyn	Management Information Systems & Design
United Puerto Rican Organization of Sunset Park (UPROSE)	Brooklyn	Strategy & Organizational Development
Violence Intervention Program, Inc	Citywide	Management Information Systems & Design
Voces Latinas Corp.	Queens	Evaluation & Outcomes System Development
West Harlem Environmental Action, Inc.	Manhattan	Financial Management & Planning
Workshop in Business Opportunity, Inc.	Citywide	Strategy & Organizational Development
Young Women's Christian Association of Queens	Queens	Strategy & Organizational Development



TESTIMONY TO THE NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL

March 27, 2015

Good morning and thank you to the distinguished members of the City Council's Youth Services and Community Development Committees for conducting this hearing today.

My name is Kimberley Wint and I am a Special Educator and Coordinator of After School and Summer Programs at Northside Center for Child Development. Northside is a 68 year old community based agency providing an array of services to over 3,000 children and their families across New York City. Specific services provided by Northside include Home Based Crisis Intervention, ACS preventive services, a Therapeutic Early Childhood Program, Early Intervention, Head Start, Intensive Educational Remediation and our After School and Summer COMPASS program. Our flagship site, which is where our After School and Summer Program is located, is in East Harlem.

We currently have a licensed School Age Child Care program that is designed to provide services to children with special needs. Our DYCD funded COMPASS program cultivates academic achievement, increases self-esteem, and provides behavioral support to many youngsters who do not thrive in standard school or after school environments, either because their remedial education needs are so great or their behavioral issues present significant challenges. **What makes Northside stand out from other youth development organizations is our integrated, holistic approach: we address our children's educational needs while providing behavioral health and therapeutic support. We strive to give our children every chance to succeed.**

We applaud DYCD's consideration of a special needs rate with the recent COMPASS RFP, however, **the scope of need for many of our Northside children is great and requires even more support.** For example, children who have one-to-one paras during the regular school day, and those who have been recently hospitalized need more attention and closer supervision. Those with significant learning issues also need more individualized educational support if they are to make academic gains.

We are currently seeking continued City Council support for salaries of special educators and other staff critical to after school programming who are not covered by our COMPASS program. Additional funding is also being sought to obtain a social worker specifically dedicated to the COMPASS Elementary After school program to coordinate care, generate service referrals, as well as provide some direct group services and crisis intervention.

Without question, quality after school can improve the outcomes for children, and research throughout the years indicates that high-risk youth show the greatest benefit from such programs. In high poverty communities, quality after school can reduce the risk of school failure and reduce drop out rates.

Reducing the risk of juvenile justice involvement is also a critical area where after school programming, counseling services, and adult shepherding can have very powerful impact. In that regard, Northside is also very concerned about available services for our middle and high school youth at-risk of juvenile justice involvement or already involved in the system. We most enthusiastically support juvenile justice reform including the City's currently crafted plans to provide behavioral counseling as an alternative to incarceration. We also strongly support efforts to ensure that behavioral counseling is provided to formerly incarcerated persons when needed.

As we note the high correlation between untreated behavioral health issues and criminal activity, we strongly recommend that the City consider funding programs for high risk teens to prevent incarceration. Such programs will identify and then treat at risk youth whose behavioral issues can become so costly for these youth, their families and the City.

Northside itself has also requested City Council funding to provide targeted, preventive Group, Substance use, and Health related services to identified teens at risk of juvenile justice involvement and their families. The program would include a social worker, as well as CASAC and nurse support. We propose to treat their behavioral problems and possible substance abuse issues before these otherwise untreated behavioral patterns leave them without adequate positive self-direction, self-regulation and success in school and, therefore, vulnerable to juvenile justice involvement. We strongly seek the City Council's support for Northside and other similar programs reaching out to redirect and positively empower youth at risk for juvenile justice to prevent dire consequences in their young and adult lives.

All of our Northside children are "at risk" and mental health clinics and special needs after school programs are underfunded. For children and families with complex needs, multidisciplinary after school programs that can address both learning issues and social-emotional concerns can play a critical role in reducing poverty by improving academic performance, and fostering healthy outcomes for the children in our city's most beleaguered communities.

Thank you.

#

**Testimony before the Committee on Youth Services****Mayor's Fiscal Year 2016 Preliminary Budget****March 27, 2015****by Diana Ramsamooj, Site Director, Queens Community House at PS 117****718-592-5757 ext. 231 347-356-9461 718-526-4780 ext. 471****Email: DBacchus@qchnyc.org or HKu@qchnyc.org**

Hello honorable members of the Youth Services Committee, my name is Diana Ramsamooj and I am here on behalf of the Queens Community House (QCH). Thank you for this opportunity to testify. Queens Community House is a multi-site, multi-service settlement house that serves the diverse populations of Queens. We have a broad network of programs operating out of 24 sites in 11 diverse neighborhoods. Queens Community House's comprehensive youth programs serve 5000 youth ages 5 to 24 annually at 18 school and community centers providing comprehensive youth development programs and services to our diverse communities of Queens. Across QCH youth programs, 80% of participants are immigrants or children of immigrants.

I direct the Queens Community House Afterschool Program at PS 117, a title I school in the Queens, Jamaica area, for children ages 6 through 12. **Our program is in danger of closing because there are no funds for it in the Mayor's preliminary 2016 budget. The program is funded through the NYC Department of Youth and Community Development with funds that are passed through from the NYC Department of Education. At this time, neither agency is designating funds in their budget for the continuation of our program and 16 others across the city.** We are contracted to serve 86 participants ages 6 - 12. We also have a waiting list that almost equals that of our program of 70 plus participants. Altogether, 1882 children across 17 sites will be without an afterschool and summer camp beginning this summer.

PS 117 is in a high needs community and has a student population of over 1037 students. The student population is 38% Asian, 31% Hispanic, 10% Black and 17% White. 11% of the students are English Language Learners. The majority of these families are recent immigrants and/or working poor families that experience life challenges related to adjustment to a new life in this country, struggles with the lack of employment, and the means to earn a living to provide for their families, all of which increases their vulnerability and produces a negative impact on children's psychological wellbeing and overall development. We are the only free youth development provider in the school.

Although, we are thrilled to see the expansion of pre-K and middle school after-school programming, it is also imperative to fund current programs and that the elementary after school system not shrink. Our parents depend on high quality after-school services to provide their children while they are working. There are altogether 17 programs that are slated to be eliminated as of 6/30/15.

I urge the NYC Council members to push for restoration and base lining of funds for after-school programs like ours in the Executive Budget. In order to maintain our existing elementary after-school capacity, the Budget must invest \$5.9 Million to ensure 1882 children continue to be served next fiscal year which should include summer program slots that would be in alignment with the current DYCD COMPASS RFP.

Beyond maintaining existing elementary school capacity, additional investments are needed to strengthen the continuum of after-school programming; specifically, QCH also asks for the administration to:

- Fund \$7.7 million for 2300 elementary after-school slots that were previously funded by the city council.
- Increase the capacity to serve both Elementary School and high school students in year round services offered by CBOs.
- Increase the rate for elementary and middle school slots at Beacon programs of which our agency has one at JHS 190

Thank you again for this opportunity to testify and hear about the importance of the continued investment in our young people.



**Preliminary Budget Hearing
Committees on Youth Services and Community Development
Submitted by Queens Library
March 27 2015**

Queens Library serves 2.3 million people from 62 locations plus seven Adult Learning Centers, two Family Literacy Centers and a Teen Library.

Queens Library is a national leader in the delivery of innovative early learning programs. Last year we served more than 88,000 participants. We are the first public library in the country to operate a library-based Department of Education accredited pre-k program. Our programs include: Mother Goose Time, a lap-sit program for infants; Toddler Time, a story time for 2- and 3-year-olds; Timeless Tales a story time for 3- and 4-year-olds; and Picture Book Story Time for 5- and 6-year-olds. Our Toddler Learning Center, a five-session-workshop for toddlers and their parents/caregivers is offered at 30 locations where caregivers can consult with child-development specialists while their children play with educational games and puzzles.

These programs are critical because early childhood (birth to age 5) is the single most important developmental period in a child's life. Fully 80% of brain development occurs at this time. A child learns about half of everything they'll learn in a lifetime by age 5. Children who do not have early literacy experiences before they start going to school start behind and tend to stay behind.

Because the City Council understands the importance of this critical period it created the City's First Readers initiative that supports three innovative early learning programs:

- 1. Preschool STEM Programs & Outreach.** As you know science, technology, engineering and math are critical areas of learning for the new global economy. At Queens Library we are providing a foundation for STEM at the pre-school level. Two part-time Early Learning Educators work with the Science Educator at the Children's Library Discovery Center. Using the preschool curriculum from the Franklin Science Museum, the Early Learning Educators are conducting pilot STEM activities at a Head Start program. In its first month, educators conducted 22 hands-on STEM lessons to 347 children. Additionally, 95 children and their parents/caregivers have participated in STEM programs at our award-winning Children's Library Discovery Center.
- 2. Kickoff to Kindergarten:** This structured eight week school-readiness program for children ages 3 and 4 will be offered at eight Queens Library locations this spring. Each workshop is curriculum-based and will serve 128 families. Our goal is to include parents and caregivers as the "first teachers" of our youngest patrons.
- 3. Family Place:** Queens Library is the first library in New York City to offer this research-based, curriculum-driven early learning experience in five community libraries in Queens. Families with young children who visit these libraries are able to access a wide array of developmentally



appropriate children's books, parenting books and hands on toys in a welcoming area designed exclusively for them. The two libraries following the Family Place model are attracting more than 100 participants to their programs each month.

With more funds, Queens Library could expand its innovative preschool STEM outreach efforts to reach more pre-k children. Additional outreach educators could bring science, technology, engineering and math programming to more Head Start programs and preschools in Queens. Our kick off to Kindergarten and model family place libraries could also be expanded to reach more families.

TESTIMONY

Budget Hearing:

New York City Council, Committee on Community Development

New York City's Worker Cooperative
Business Development Initiative

Presented to

New York City Council, Committee on Community Development

Hon. Maria del Carmen Arroyo, Chair

Friday, March 27, 2015

Testimony for:

The Working World

Prepared by Annie McShiras, Director of Development

New York City Worker Cooperative Coalition

% Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies

281 Park Avenue South

New York, New York 10010

Phone: (212) 777-4800 / Fax: (212) 414-1328

The Working World (TWW) creates community-based economic development through innovative financing and support to worker-owned businesses that build income and assets in under-resourced communities across NYC.

We put finance back into the hands of working people using an award-winning innovation called “inclusive financing” that doesn’t require the prohibitive barrier of collateral. Using “inclusive ownership”, we focus finance on businesses with a large base of stakeholder ownership, such as cooperatives owned by workers or a community.

The financial and technical support we offer is pragmatic, innovative, and patient. We take no personal guarantees, and the returns to our fund only come when a project begins to create profit. The result is finance that creates lasting, place-based economic development.

In the spring of 2014, we joined the NYC-wide effort for the Worker Cooperative Business Development Initiative, led by the Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies and ten other innovative organizations supporting the creation of a cooperative economy in NYC.

Since that time--over the past year--our work has expanded for the successful creation of many new worker-owned cooperatives and support of existing worker owned cooperatives. We are currently helping launch six new start up cooperatives with a total of 18 new owners by June 2015 and an estimated 62 owners by June 2016. We currently support eight existing cooperative businesses with a combined 30 worker owners employed.

Additionally, funding from the NYC city council has allowed us to expand out our worker cooperative academy model by launching a new initiative in the neighborhood of Bedford-Stuyvesant. Through our 10-week course, residents are learning the basics of starting a worker-cooperative. The Bed Stuy Cooperative Project is the second local incubation course The Working World has begun to offer since opening in New York three years ago. Just like our WORCs cooperative incubator in the Rockaways, establishing a local community of cooperative businesses is creating ownership for residents within the rapidly changing Bed-Stuy and Far Rockaways communities.

Our success over this past year, from launching new businesses to expanding our cooperative academies, would not have been possible without the support of the NYC Council, and in particular, Chairperson Arroyo and Council Member Rosenthal. Thank you for your support of this important work.

In order to continue to offer even more new entrepreneurs the opportunity to own their own businesses, we respectfully request the City Council enhance the Worker Cooperative Business Development Initiative to \$2.34 million dollars in FY 16. Expanded support from the NYC City Council will allow The Working World and the NYC Worker Cooperative Coalition to continue supporting worker-owned businesses and strengthen our cooperative business incubation programs to build new businesses and support working class residents in under-resourced communities throughout NYC.

Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation

03/27/15

Testimony at the City Council Youth Services Budget Hearing

The after school program provided by Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation at the East New York Elementary School of Excellence is one of the 17 DOE funded programs in danger of losing funding. We serve 120 youth everyday in one of the most impoverished areas of Brooklyn.

The DOE identified 17 schools with in communities service gaps in school aged child care programming. If funds are not restored there are simply no other programs to replace them. We fully support the Mayors decision to increase the number of programs available to children of this city and cutting these desperately needed DOE funded after school programs would go against the very principle of increasing access for all children.

As Judy Touzin, Principal of *East New York Elementary School of Excellence* eloquently states:

"Our partnership with Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation has allowed us to offer our scholars and families with additional support they need and deserve. Our families receive much needed after care while our scholars receive homework help and participate in enrichment activities. The Cypress Hills after school program is an asset to our community".

We are asking that the **\$5.9 million for the 17 sites (serving 1,882 children)** currently funded by DOE be restored when the contracts end on 6/30/15.

Thank you for your time,

FOR THE RECORD

TESTIMONY

Budget Hearing:

New York City Council, Committee on Community Development

New York City's Worker Cooperative
Business Development Initiative

Presented to

New York City Council, Committee on Community Development

Hon. Maria del Carmen Arroyo, Chair

Friday, March 27, 2015

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Budget Hearing:

New York City Council, Committee on Community Development

New York City's Worker Cooperative
Business Development Initiative

Presented to

New York City Council, Committee on Community Development

Hon. Maria del Carmen Arroyo, Chair

Friday, March 27, 2015

Testimony for:

Roca Mia Construction Cooperative
2304 Cornaga Avenue, Far Rockaway, NY 11691

Thank you for taking the time to read my story.

My name is Manuel, and four years ago, I immigrated here to NYC from El Salvador with the hope of a better life. I've always been ambitious. In El Salvador, I got a job in a paper factory, and I steadily worked up to be an administrator with a solid life. But a new boss came in, and one day we had tough words, and from one moment to the next, I was fired.

But I didn't give up, and my wife and I decided to come to the US. Things weren't always easy. All I could get was menial work with no chance of growth. I worked hard in a granite company for years and never had an opportunity to advance no matter what I did. My time and my life were being used up.

I saved up for a truck and became an independent contractor. But I couldn't get jobs, and I was still dependent on work from people who own construction companies. Owning my own business, much as I wanted to, was financially impossible.

Then Hurricane Sandy hit my neighborhood of Far Rockaway. Once again, everything I had worked for was taken away. The house we bought for our new daughter was flooded, and we lost electricity and heat right as winter was setting in. Things that had been hard suddenly seemed impossible.

But then something different happened. In the church I was sheltered in, I met organizers from Occupy Sandy and The Working World who were teaching classes about cooperative businesses. I liked the idea of working with others to build something of our own. So a group of us decided to form the Roca Mia Construction Cooperative.

Despite being a new business, we already earn most of our income from Roca Mia, and when we work, we make a lot more. As a real company, now we get our own clients, and we're growing so much--our hope is that we can add more worker-owners soon--there are five of us right now.

Without the support of organizations like The Working World, and the larger efforts to promote worker cooperative development at the city level, through initiatives like New York City's Worker Cooperative Business Development Initiative and supported by the City Council, none of this would have been possible.

I'd like to thank the Council for their continued support of efforts to open up even more opportunities to workers like the one I had. I ask that you make every effort to provide these opportunities to as many new entrepreneurs like me as possible--by enhancing the worker cooperative business development initiative and supporting us in 2016.

The Cooperative Roca Mia is ours. No one can take it away. It has been very beautiful. This is what I always hoped for. And this is just the beginning of what we can do together. Thank you.



PARENT-CHILD HOME PROGRAM

A PROVEN BEGINNING FOR SCHOOL SUCCESS SINCE 1965

Committees on Youth Services and Community Development
Submitted by The Parent-Child Home Program (PCHP) in Partnership with City's First Readers.
March 27th, 2015

Good afternoon: My name is Andre Eaton and I am the New York State Regional Coordinator for The Parent-Child Home Program (PCHP).

The Parent-Child Home Program's particular focus is on providing parents with children ages 2-4 with the skills, knowledge, and materials they need to support school readiness skill development in the home and to provide care environments that build their children's cognitive and social-emotional skills. In doing this work, we are also helping parents learn what to look for in a child care setting and how to identify and support their children's next educational steps. Focusing on school readiness and early literacy support for families challenged by poverty, limited education, and language and literacy barriers, PCHP has provided 46,000 home visits and distributed over 23,000 books & educational toys in New York State last year. Our partners in this work in New York City and elsewhere in the state include school districts, public libraries and community-based organizations. In this city we know that children are being minded by parents, grandparents, other family, friends and neighbor caregivers, licensed and unlicensed family child care providers, and child care centers. Low-income children in particular are likely to be cared for the majority of the time by family members or in informal settings. For these reasons it is particularly important that in addressing this issue we focus on supporting, strengthening, and connecting all of these care environments and ensuring that they all have the knowledge, skills, and materials to support school readiness.

We are grateful to the City Council for the funding that we have currently received. With the current funding we are now providing 75 additional families with the parent engagement tools and school readiness materials for children ages 2--4 in three communities that include Astoria, Washington Heights and South Jamaica. The tools that we provide for families are books and educational toys to build literacy enrich environments in the home. Families are visited twice a week in their homes by a community literacy specialist or home visitor that introduces the materials to the family. We also gather data on the parents and child's interaction with the materials that they receive. When necessary we provide additional social service support through our program partners and assist in guiding parents with registering their children for a pre-k, head start or kindergarten program within their communities.

All of program partners in these areas are providing additional resources by working our network of partners through the library system of Manhattan and Queens, engaging in parent workshops, events and school registration for their children.



PARENT-CHILD HOME PROGRAM

A PROVEN BEGINNING FOR SCHOOL SUCCESS SINCE 1965

With these three new program partners we are reaching families where PCHP has not been before in Astoria, Washington Heights and South Jamaica. Many of these communities have had limited early childhood school readiness services and parents are becoming more aware of the fact of the necessity to start early with their children before they actually enter school that will lead to higher high school graduation rates and entry into college or the workforce.

With additional funding PCHP can provide new start up programs and expand current programs in new parts of the city that include Far Rockaway, Cypress Hills in Brooklyn and other parts of the city where early childhood programs are limited. The additional number of families that we could serve would be additional 75-80 families bringing the total number of families served to almost 200 in the city. Thank you so much for allowing me this time to present my program and it is my hope that you will continue to support this early literacy initiative.

Preliminary Budget Hearing
Testimony to the Committees on Youth Services and Community Development
Submitted by Brooklyn Public Library
March 27, 2015

Thank you to Speaker Mark-Viverito, Finance Chair Ferraras, Committee Chairs Eugene and Arroyo, and members of the Youth Services and Community Development Committees for the opportunity to testify today. Brooklyn Public Library is truly grateful for the City Council's generous support of City's First Readers.

We are delighted to have the resources to collaborate with these remarkable early literacy organizations and our fellow library systems in our joint mission of making sure all young children grow and flourish in literacy-rich communities. Brooklyn Public Library offered early literacy programs throughout the borough with an attendance of 217,000 in fiscal year 2014. With the \$1.5 million awarded to City's First Readers and \$175,000 for Brooklyn Public Library in fiscal year 2015, we believe that our attendance will grow significantly in Brooklyn. For fiscal year 2016, City's First Readers is requesting \$5 million to sustain this growth and to expand the variety of services for young children and their families.

As part of City's First Readers, Brooklyn Public Library is developing and expanding our own early literacy services. As part of this initiative with the funds we currently have, we are:

- Nearly doubling the number of libraries offering **Ready, Set, Kindergarten!** programs, school readiness storytimes, from 18 to 30 locations.
- Developing our **Ready, Set, Kindergarten!** texting campaign and our goal is to reach 300 parents with simple school-readiness and early literacy tips sent right to their phones.
- Expanding **baby and toddler early literacy programs** at 15 branches.
- Producing **30,000 outreach kits** to reach families with young children who are not yet library users.
- Conducting **early literacy parent workshops** in at least 5 communities.
- Creating **interactive play-spaces** in 10 branches. These spaces will allow parents to engage in literacy-rich play activities even whenever the library is open.
- Purchasing of over **1,500 circulating books and materials** so parents can engage in early literacy activities at home.

The City's First Readers initiative has allowed us to collaborate with the program's partners in unique ways:

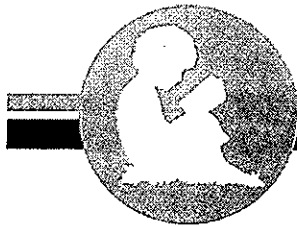
- **Jumpstart, Parent Child Home** and **Video Interaction Project** have helped boost program attendance in Brooklyn libraries. Our baby program at DeKalb only had one family the week it launched. After we reached out to VIP, the next week there seven families in attendance.
- **Reach Out and Read** is providing professional development to librarians this spring to help us launch our outreach initiative with the early literacy kits.
- **Literacy Inc.** is helping increase much needed programming in Cypress Hills and East New York.

- **Brooklyn Public Library** has created an online map of the sites of the program partners. This allows our staff to collaborate with the initiative's wonderful organizations. To view the map, visit: bit.ly/CFRmap

With \$5 million in support of City's First Readers, this vitally important work will only grow in Brooklyn with these activities:

- Hire and train outreach staff to support **early literacy outreach** in underserved communities.
- Continue to offer **Ready, Set, Kindergarten!** programs at 45 locations and **baby and toddler early literacy programs** at all locations of Brooklyn.
- Print additional **outreach kits to reach families** with young children who are not library users.
- Create **interactive play-spaces** in at least 20 additional libraries.
- Produce **Ready, Set, Kindergarten** math and science kits to allow branch staff to incorporate STEM activities into their regular storytimes and other programs.
- Expand our **circulating collection of books and materials** for young children and their families.

The City Council has answered call to support the development of young children by funding this innovative collaboration of libraries and non-profit organizations. We are truly grateful for these much needed resources to support our efforts for Brooklyn's first readers and we appreciate the opportunity to testify today.



LiteracyINC

When a child reads, a community succeeds!

**Preliminary Budget Hearing
Committees on Youth Services & Community Development
Submitted by Literacy Inc. (LINC)
March 26, 2015**

Good Afternoon: My name is Safiya Raheem, speaking on behalf of Shari Levine, Executive Director of Literacy Inc. I am here today to share the successes of the Early Childhood Literacy Initiative (which has since been renamed City's First Readers).

We commend Mayor de Blasio and the City Council for continuing to stress the importance of early childhood education, evidenced in the successful implementation of universal Pre-K. Literacy Inc. is proud to support that success through City's First Readers – the initiative providing parents and childcare providers with the resources needed to develop literacy skills in children birth-5 years, and preparing them to enter school ready to learn.

Studies show that children living in poverty begin school significantly behind their more affluent peers. A child in an average low-income family experiences 25 hours of one-on-one reading with an adult. The child of an average higher income family experiences 1,700 hours of one-on-one reading. This gap formed in the first years of life has left New York City in a literacy crisis where over 70% of public school children are NOT reading on grade level.

Literacy Inc. addresses the literacy crisis by cultivating a community's existing resources to provide reading and educational experiences for children and families. With the help of City's First Readers funding we have been able to partner with all of the initiative participants to host reading events and conduct parent workshops in over 20 new sites, reaching an additional 1,000 children and their families.

On behalf of the eight organizations that comprise the City's First Reader's Initiative, we are seeking an increase in funding in the amount of \$5M to serve hundreds of thousands more children and create an expanded marketing campaign to connect more families to our services.

Only through working together, can we ensure that every child has an opportunity to experience academic success. We thank you all for your ongoing support.

Preliminary Budget Hearing
Committees on Youth Services and Community Development
Submitted by Brooklyn Public Library, New York Public Library, and Queens Library
March 27, 2015

Good Afternoon: My name is Daniel Nkansah, Coordinator of Children's Services for Queens Library. I am here today representing the three library systems of New York City. We are truly grateful for the City Council's generous support of City's First Readers.

Each year, New York Public Library, Brooklyn Public Library, and Queens Library offer neighborhood early literacy programs with an attendance approaching half a million last year. With the additional resources from City's First Readers, we are confident that our attendance will grow by 31,000 city-wide.

As part of City's First Readers, each library system is developing and expanding its own early literacy services. Here are some highlights:

- In Queens, we are expanding our **preschool STEM programs** at our **Children's Library Discovery Center** and developing an outreach initiative for STEM at Head Start programs.
- Brooklyn Public Library offered **Ready, Set, Kindergarten**, a school readiness storytime, at 30 locations.
- New York Public Library will distribute **15,000 outreach kits** to encourage families to read at home.

Here are a few examples of how this initiative has allowed us to collaborate with the program partners in unique ways:

- **Jumpstart** has provided us with specially trained volunteers for programs at Queens Library.
- **Literacy Inc.** has worked with NYPL to provide monthly parent workshops at 10 branches.
- **Parent Child Home and Video Interaction Project** has helped boost program attendance in Brooklyn libraries.
- **Reach Out and Read** is providing professional development to librarians across the city.

With \$5 million in support of City's First Readers, this vitally important work will only grow in NYC's libraries. We could expand STEM programs, grow school-readiness activities, distribute more early literacy outreach kits, and provide more parent workshops in locations across the city.

In the spirit of the three systems working together in support of this important initiative, we need every library in every neighborhood open at least six days a week. The three library systems of New York City have asked for a restoration of \$65 million to expand hours and services so working families can take advantage of everything we have to offer.

Additional details about the libraries' work with City's First Readers are contained in our written testimony. Thank you for the opportunity to speak today.

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**Joint Preliminary Budget Hearing
Committees on Youth Services and Community Development
Submitted by Jumpstart for Young Children, Inc.
March 27, 2015**

Good afternoon. My name is Kerri Osborne. I am here representing Jumpstart for Young Children, known as Jumpstart, and our work with the City's First Readers Initiative.

Jumpstart is an early childhood education organization with the mission of providing language, literacy, and social-emotional programming for preschool children from under-resourced communities and promoting quality early learning for all. We are fueled by a core belief: providing equal educational opportunities to young children contributes to breaking the cycle of poverty. Our program model places highly trained and qualified college students in under-resourced preschool classrooms to provide a curriculum targeted at improving literacy, language, and social-emotional development outcomes; all while working toward our vision of every child in America entering kindergarten prepared to succeed.

For the 2014-2015 school year, Jumpstart currently serves over 1,400 children and engage 575 college students, collectively known as Corps members, in 83 preschool classrooms and centers throughout Manhattan, Queens, the Bronx, and Brooklyn. During a Jumpstart session, a team of 6-8 Corps members work with preschool children twice a week for two hours at a time, actively engaging the children in reading, activities, and lessons that contribute to the development of skills critical to being prepared to succeed later in school. In addition to our core programming, Jumpstart regularly coordinates and hosts family and community outreach events, which introduce families to Jumpstart programming and provide them literacy-building activities they can do in their own homes. This year, Jumpstart has hosted 6 events in the Bronx and 11 events in South Jamaica, with another 7 events planned in Queens through June. Jumpstart reached an additional 372 children through family engagement events held throughout the program year.

Jumpstart has seen continued success and measurable impact across the city. For example, 95 percent of the children who participated in the Jumpstart program in the 2013-2014 school year made gains in language and literacy skills. This translates into these children being that much more prepared to succeed in kindergarten, thus laying the groundwork to be successful in school and beyond.

We are delighted to be involved with the City's First Readers Initiative, as we feel strongly that a continuum of services, from cradle to career, such as the one modeled by the Initiative, is what is needed to truly have an impact on breaking the cycle of poverty. Over the course of this past year, we have collaborated with Initiative partners to coordinate and deliver cross-events at libraries and community centers, as well as refer families to services offered by partnering organizations.



Children first.™

Additional funding will allow Jumpstart to continue offering our impactful programming throughout the city, as well as our community events. Jumpstart has also planned and implemented a Summer Program in the South Bronx to help combat 'summer slide', and we are excited to grow the program this summer. We have recently completed a strategic plan that calls for us to enrich the learning experiences in under-resourced preschool classrooms and serve more children, cultivate a highly-trained early childhood education workforce, and inspire public support and investment in high-quality early learning.

Thank you for your support of Jumpstart and early childhood literacy, and for the opportunity to speak to you today.

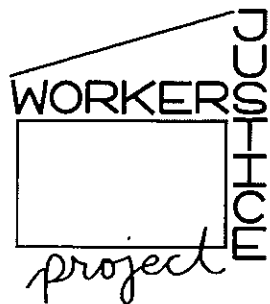
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Jumpstart for Young Children Program Detail

Founded in 1994, Jumpstart is a national early education organization that recruits and trains college students and community Corps members to serve preschool children in under-resourced neighborhoods. Our proven curriculum helps children develop the language, literacy, and social-emotional skills they need to be ready for kindergarten, setting them on a path to break the cycle of poverty and close the achievement gap before it is too late.

Our core programming involves engaging Jumpstart Corps members in under-resourced preschool classrooms. Jumpstart Corps members bring a vital energy and passion to the classroom and they reduce the student to adult ratio to three to one, allowing children to benefit from a more intensive learning experience provided with this multi-generational approach. Our curriculum is based on current research and intentionally designed to enable Corps members to maximize the time they spend with children. Jumpstart also coordinates family and community events to further engage families in the literacy development of their children.





**Testimony to the New York City Council Committee on Community
Development regarding the New York City Worker Cooperative Initiative**
March 27, 2015

Good afternoon Chairperson Arroyo and members of the New York City Council Committee on Community Development. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today. My name is Angel Sanchez and I am the program coordinator of the Worker's Justice Project (WJP), a worker's rights organization that is fighting to promote justice and opportunities for day laborers, immigrant construction workers and domestic workers through education, organizing, leadership development, and creation of democratic workplaces in low-income communities.

Day Laborers, immigrant construction workers and domestic workers operate in an underground economy where they face high levels of abuse and exclusion from protections that should be granted to all workers. Every day, many of our members gather on day laborers' corners seeking a means to feed their families. Unfortunately, the majority find themselves returning home each day without finding work. Instead of decent jobs with fair pay, they are faced with unsafe work conditions and rampant wage theft.

As a direct response to the economic disparity that day laborers face and as alternative to fight labor exploitation, Worker's Justice Project has developed an Economic Justice Initiative that combines workers rights organizing with worker cooperative development to build a new grassroots local economy based on democracy, sustainability and cooperation. Since 2010, the Worker's Justice Project has been partnering with Urban Justice Center to support and promote worker-owned cooperatives among our members. We provide education, training and technical support to help workers build the skills they need. Since then, Worker's Justice Project and Urban Justice Center have successfully helped a group of female day laborers launched Apple Eco-Cleaning, a green cleaning cooperative that provides sophisticated eco-friendly cleaning services in the tri-state area.

On behalf of my organization and Apple Eco-Cleaning members, I want express our gratitude to you for your leadership and support to the New York City Worker Cooperative Initiative. As a new member to this funding initiative, we feel very excited to be able to continue strengthening this work by creating two additional worker owned cooperatives and support the growth of Apple Eco-Cleaning in the upcoming year. We look forward to working with all Council Members to continue building a new city economy that embraces equality, workplace justice, and worker-ownership. Thank you for your time.

New York City Council
FY 2016 Preliminary Budget Hearing
Youth Services Committee
March 27, 2015

Submitted on behalf of:
Dr. Deborah MacFarlane Antoine
President and CEO
New York Junior Tennis & Learning (NYJTL)
58-12 Queens Blvd
Queens, NY 11377
347 417-8103

Thank you for the New York City Council's longstanding support of *New York Junior Tennis & Learning* (NYJTL) legally incorporated as the New York Junior Tennis League. We are the largest and most successful scholastic tennis program in the country, annually serving more than 75,000 children through our tennis and educational programs.

When Arthur Ashe founded this organization over 44 years ago, he knew that tennis could open doors for the youth of our city, showing them another road to travel. He knew that that by putting a racquet into a child's hand and by turning schoolyards and parks into tennis courts, you could transform a child's life.

With the sustained financial support of the City Council, NYJTL has continued the mission of Arthur Ashe and has offered the youth of our city much more than the chance to learn tennis. The overwhelming majority of the youth we serve are Black, Latino, Asian, new immigrant populations and come from low income families. NYJTL gives these children the opportunity to learn the sport of tennis—and just as importantly-- the opportunity to be physically fit; the opportunity to reach new educational heights; and the opportunity to expand their horizons beyond their immediate world, building self esteem and learning the affirmative values of perseverance, cooperation, fairness and respect.

NYJTL brings the sport of tennis to thousands of children of all social, cultural and economic backgrounds. **Funded as Council Citywide Initiative, NYJTL provides quality tennis and educational programming in EVERY Council District.**

Council Citywide Initiative funding is used to support NYJTL's schoolyard (in-school) tennis programs, its year-round community tennis (after-school) programs, its Winter Early Morning Program and its Advanced Training Program as well as educational programs throughout the five boroughs.

- **School Yard Tennis Program** - The Schoolyard Tennis Program supplies free tennis equipment, teacher training, and ongoing support to approximately 319 throughout the city that include tennis as a regular part of their physical educational curriculum.

- **Community Tennis Program** - The Community Tennis Program reaches children throughout the five boroughs by supplying trained coaches, tennis instruction, match play, educational services, and special events to youth ages 5-18, during the Spring, Summer and Fall. Community Tennis Programs develop the tennis skills of young children and stress character development and positive life experiences.
- **Winter Early Morning Program** - This program enables players to continue their progress during the indoor season and includes a number of NYJTL-sponsored events: Hartman Cup Championships, Holiday Tournament, and Presidents' Week Tournament.
- **Advanced Training Program** - The Advanced Training Program provides approximately 80-120 experienced players ages 7-18 with year-round training by USTA High Performance-certified coaches, travel to top local and national competitions, tournament entry fees, and special events.
- **Arthur Ashe Educational Guidance Program** - From starting elementary school to acceptance into college, individuals and families receive counseling, tutoring, visit colleges and are assisted with financial aid leading to scholarship offers.

All of our programs are FREE. In the past year, more than thousands of New York City children, ranging in ages from 6-18 years old, have benefitted from our programs. Most of these youngsters will never play in the US Open and that's ok. They will, however, learn life lessons about integrity, discipline, sportsmanship and honesty, which will help shape the adults they will become.

In FY 15, NYJTL received \$800,000 as a Council Citywide Funding Initiative. This year, we have submitted a request for \$1,000,000. We are asking for this increase to enable us to continue to serve EVERY Council District and defray the cost of significantly higher DOE security and permit fees. Increased funding will also help to support tennis and educational programming at NYJTL's new Cary Leeds Center for Tennis & Learning at Crotona Park in the Bronx scheduled to open this June, 2015. This Center, which was funded in part by the Council, will serve as an incredible

resource for young people from throughout the Bronx and the surrounding boroughs. Children and teens will receive free academic enrichment activities and more than 6000 hours of free tennis lessons each year. Programs will operate year round on 22 tennis courts (one of which will be bubbled for winter play) and in the two-story 12,000 square foot Club House.

Continued Council funding of NYJTL's after-school and summer programming is critical to our mission. With your support, we can continue to make a tremendous difference in the lives of thousands of New York City youth and their families.

We could not do what we do without the strong funding support of the City Council. On behalf of the thousands of youngsters annually served by NYJTL, I thank you for the Council's longstanding commitment to the youth of our city and for its sustained support of youth programs.

Your support of NYJTL and our Citywide Funding Initiative request of \$1,000,000 in the FY 2016 Budget is respectfully requested.



Sports & Arts in Schools Foundation
Engaging Students' Minds and Bodies

**FY 16 Preliminary Budget Hearing
NYC Council Youth Services Committee
Hon. Mathieu Eugene, Chair**

Friday, March 27, 2015

**Presented by
James R. O'Neill, CEO
SASF**

**Kermit Patterson, Director
City Council Summer Sports
& Arts Camps
SASF**

Thank you again for your past support of the Sports & Arts in Schools Foundation (SASF). SASF is truly a Council Initiative, having been created 23 years ago at the suggestion of Speaker Peter F. Vallone who, at that time, wanted a CBO to create and operate free summer camps throughout the city. From our humble beginnings, we have grown, with the Council's support, to become one of the largest direct provider of school based after-school arts, sports and academic programming in New York City and one of the largest providers in the country.

Mission & History

The mission of SASF is to help bridge the academic performance gap among under-achieving students by extending the school day and year with wholesome, skill-building activities designed to improve New York City children's self-esteem, character and values, attitude toward school, attendance, academic performance, health and wellness, and lifelong employment opportunities.

For the past 23 years, we at SASF have been successfully running programs which engage, both physically and mentally, our city's youth to stem the tide of childhood obesity. None of this would be possible, however, without the funding support of you and your colleagues in the Council.

In FY 2015 SASF received \$1 million from the Council as a Citywide Initiative (down from \$1.2 million in FY 2011 and \$2.1 million in FY 2008). This year, we are seeking \$1.5 million for FY 2016 funds in order to sustain our free Council Camps and our After-School Sports and Fitness Programs throughout the five boroughs. Your support is critical!

We applaud Mayor de Blasio for the base lining of SONYC and COMPASS funding and we enthusiastically support the Middle School Expansion. We urge the Council to continue to support SASF's critical youth services activities throughout the city.

SASF firmly believes every student should have a quality after-school program including sports, arts, and academic enrichment.

As the Council begins to negotiate the FY 2016 budget, I would like to share with you some quick facts about SASF:

- **Through our Council Camps and After-School Sports & Arts Programs, we serve every Council District.**
- Though all of our programs, SASF annually serves 20,000 students throughout the five boroughs.
- **The overwhelming majority of youth served are Black and Hispanic youth from the highest poverty neighborhoods in the city.**
- Our programs are primarily housed in Title 1 schools.

These programs are vital to low-income families in NYC. Many of the children participating in these programs are living in families whose incomes put them below the poverty line. NYC is being battered by historic cuts in federal and state grants that unfairly fall on the shoulders of the most vulnerable families of our great city.

The summer is the most stressful time for low-income families, when school is out. I have been frequently told by mothers **“that if your program was not in my child’s school, I couldn’t work.”** I urge you, on behalf of thousands of children who depend on our free summer program and after-school sports program to restore the City Council Sports and Arts Summer Camps and our After-School Sports Programs. These programs will not open this July without Council funding!

New York City Council Sports and Arts Summer Camps

Council Summer Sports and Arts Camp programs for elementary students (grades 1-6) chiefly wrap around summer classes for mandated students to increase students’ positive connection to schools, to encourage classroom attendance, and to provide free sports activities in school in the afternoon after the morning academic work. The summer camps also serve students who are not required to go to summer school but who wish to

participate in the Camps' free, fun and structured activities. The students lack access to a varied menu of sports and arts activities available to their peers from more affluent neighborhoods. Free summer programs are declining in New York City and SASF remains one of the few sources of free programs for city young people and their families.

These programs are amazingly inexpensive to run as school-based programs that chiefly operate in empty school buildings, most of which are opening only for free breakfast and lunch programs. The cost is less than \$48 per week, per child- [This figure could dramatically change if the DOE implements its new fee policy requiring community-based organizations to pay space usage and security fees.]

Middle School Academics and Sports Camp programs help bridge the academic performance gap for city students in public middle schools (grades 6-8) and prepare them for a successful transition into 9th grade and high school completion 4 years later. These programs address the low-high school completion rates in New York City by helping to provide middle school students with the skills necessary to go on to and complete high school.

Summertime can be a crisis time for many bright, ambitious city youngsters in grades 9-12 or college. During the year, these young people benefit from the structure and relationships with caring adults provided by school and after-school programs. During the summer months, these support systems vanish, and are often replaced by destructive elements of "street culture." Summertime employment of **NYC high school and college-aged young people** will fill this service gap. Instead of experiencing the slide in reading and academics common among urban youth, the summer becomes a time for educational and career opportunities, as well as personal growth and character development.

The Council camps are essential help to families in the long hot summer weeks, when school is out and where few sports and arts opportunities are available to low-income children. **The Hayden Foundation has agreed to provide a match of \$325,000 if the Council restores funding for SASF Summer Programming.**

Need for NY City Council Sports and Arts Summer Camps

The Summer Camps address 3 issues.

1. The need for free, safe, structured, skilled-based activities for over 5,000 city children from low-income families during the summer working day when families, especially working mothers, need safe and structured activities for their children.
2. Creation of approximately 800 summer jobs for city teenagers and young adults.
3. The childhood obesity epidemic.

The SASF After-School Sports Leagues

SASF After-School Sports Leagues provide students with:

SASF Sports Leagues:

- Organized, weekly competition among 60+ participating schools in basketball, flag football and soccer over 12-week seasons.

SASF Culminating Tournaments and Events:

- Competitive day-long and multi-day organization-wide events in flag rugby, soccer, flag football and SASF's Presidents' Week 3 v. 3 Middle School Basketball Tournament, the largest tournament of its kind in the nation.

SASF Track & Field Program:

- Conducted in cooperation with New York Road Runners Foundation, two regional track meets taking place at the premier facilities at Icahn Stadium, Randall's Island, NYC.

It is now well documented that school-based sports and fitness activities have a positive impact on student's attitude towards school, health and academic performance.

Finally, these programs have enormous support: 94% of voters believe that there is a need for children to be engaged (during the after-school period and summer) in sports, arts and academic enrichment activities. Also important is the cost-effective benefits of

funding experienced well managed non-profits to deliver these critical programs especially in very difficult economic times.

On behalf of 20,000 participating NYC youngsters, SASF strongly urges your support for the full restoration and long-term expansion of these programs.

Thank you.

Jim O'Neill, CEO
SASF

Kermit Patterson, Director
City Council Summer Sports
& Arts Camps
SASF



Testimony presented to the New York City Council Committees on Youth and Community
Development
FY2016 Preliminary Budget Hearing
March 27, 2015

Joselyn Mendoza
HSE and ESOL Student
Make the Road New York

My name is Joselyn Mendoza. I have lived in New York for 16 years. I am from Mexico and I am a transgender woman. I am studying at Make the Road New York to obtain my High School Equivalency Diploma for 1 year now. I am also studying English at the same time.

For me this class is very important because I want to find a better job. In the past, I worked as a dishwasher and I want something better now because as a trans woman, I suffer from discrimination at the work place and I want to go to college to have more opportunities.

In our class and in classes around New York, people have many reasons to obtain the high school equivalency:

- People want to get better jobs.
- People want to go to college or to training programs.
- People want to be able to help their families.
- People want to get better wages.

Make the Road gives resources and opportunities to the immigrant community. For me, it has been like my second home.

Thank you for supporting free classes because I couldn't afford to pay to study. I hope the City will continue supporting funding for free classes like ours. Thank you.

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Testimony presented to the New York City Council Committees on Youth and Community
Development
FY2016 Preliminary Budget Hearing
March 27, 2015

Claudia Tiro
ESOL Student
Make the Road New York

My name is Claudia Tiro, and I have lived in New York for 12 years. A year ago, I started to learn English in classes at Make the Road New York.

My experience in Make the Road is wonderful -- the teachers and volunteers are very friendly. The most important reason for me to learn English is for my children, because I think when the parents have a better education, they can have a better future for themselves and their children.

All the people at Make the Road come for certain reasons, but I think the most important reason is to have a better community and communication because in New York, there are a many people from different countries.

Learning English has helped me develop myself and manage life better. Thank you for supporting the program and helping the community. I really appreciate it and hope the city will invest in us. Thank you.

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Testimony presented to the New York City Council Committees on Youth and Community
Development
FY2016 Preliminary Budget Hearing
March 27, 2015

Jose Peña
Son of ESOL Student
Make the Road New York

My name is Jose Peña. I am in 6th grade and I live in Queens with my family. I would like to talk about my experience with my mom and dad learning English. My mom takes English classes at Make the Road New York. This experience is very pleasant for me because sometimes there are moments where my mom needs to make an appointment and most of these times she has a hard time understanding how to make the appointment. So when she speaks English it makes me happy that she is not confused.

My other reason is parent teacher conferences. You have this 90% chance that the teachers speak only English instead of Spanish, and this makes me feel bad for my parents because they try so hard to get me the best education and here we are with my parents not understanding what the teachers are saying.

Another reason is that sometimes you can't read something in another language. This has happened in history. For example, George Washington had this problem when he got a French contract that France and Britain were making peace but they didn't and France tricked George Washington.

I strongly recommend that the city put more money in these programs where immigrant parents can learn and make more of these programs for immigrant parents to learn what they haven't. Thank you.

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Testimony presented to the New York City Council Committees on Youth and Community
Development
FY2016 Preliminary Budget Hearing
March 27, 2015

Luis Gabriel Rodriguez
ESOL Student
Make the Road New York

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen. My name is Luis Gabriel Rodriguez Suarez. I am from Colombia. I am a student of intermediate English at Make the Road New York. I want to start my testimony with two phrases:

First, American Dream, and second, Make the Road New York.

I give thanks to Make the Road because here I found the meaning of these two sentences. Now I have a new phrase: The road of your dreams.

For me, Make the Road New York is more than English classes. I found a vision and focus for what I want to accomplish in my new life. It allowed me to learn and understand the American way of life. In Make the Road, you don't only learn English, you learn to be part of American culture. I am here in the United States alone, but here at Make the Road I am part of a family and a society.

You always find a smile and positive attitude of the staff and members, giving you support in every moment. I have received other support, including creating a resume, getting financial counseling to do my taxes. I have participated in cultural activities and received legal support.

At Make the Road, it doesn't matter your race, your gender, your age, your religion or nationality, if you need support, it will be there.

We need your support to continue learning and building community. We invite you to be part of our Make the Road family.

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New York City Council Committee on Youth Services
Preliminary Budget Hearing
March 27, 2015

Good morning Chair Eugene and Committee members. I am Keri Faulhaber, Project and Operations Director at JobsFirstNYC, a nonprofit intermediary focused on connecting young adults to the economic life of New York City. Thank you for the opportunity to address you today. I am going to talk about what the City needs to do to increase employment of young adults.

More than 300,000 young adults are not in school and are not working, or are stuck in low wage jobs – **35 percent** of the City's 18 to 24-year olds. As you can see from the tables attached to my testimony, many of them live in your districts.

The Executive Budget is expected to include new workforce development programs. I hope you will scrutinize it closely to ensure that it includes substantive programs to help our young adults qualify for these burgeoning middle-wage jobs.

JobsFirstNYC has released recommendations aimed at putting the 35 Percent on a path to the middle class. The centerpiece is a network of youth opportunity centers in the communities in which most out-of-school, out-of-work young adults live. Because so many will not seek assistance outside their communities, help must come to them. Youth Opportunity Centers — operated by trusted community based organizations — would reconnect young adults to education, help them to develop career plans, and link them to training, internships, apprenticeship programs, and jobs. We know this works, because it already has in cities like Los Angeles and Boston.

Industry Partnerships and Middle-Wage Jobs

To increase income mobility, New York City must move more of us, particularly young adults, into middle-wage jobs. The Independent Budget Office projects enormous job growth in sectors that the City is not planning to address, such as the public sector. With average annual wages of \$59,000, such jobs have long been a road to the middle class for African American and immigrant workers. An *industry partnership* could help young adults move into those vacancies, as well as openings in human services, education and other sectors that the City does not propose to address.

Industry partnerships need to be coupled with targeted skills training, to enable young adults to qualify for openings.

Web Portal

Young adults trying to connect the dots between jobs, and what they need to achieve them, face an enormous challenge. A virtual one-stop with comprehensive information concerning potential careers, and sources of education and training could help young adults become gainfully employed. This is not a new idea, except in New York. States like Wisconsin, Minnesota and Virginia already have models we can emulate. And we can build it out using a resource that no other City has – our 311 system.

Several hundred thousand middle-wage job openings are projected over the next few years. New York City cannot afford to lose income and tax revenue from leaving good jobs “on the table.” We also cannot afford the enormous costs for healthcare and social services that come from a large underutilized work force. But, as of now, the Administration has no plan to help the 35 Percent get a shot at middle class jobs that will be available. This has to change.

At JobsFirstNYC, we are focused on advancing economic opportunity for all young New Yorkers. I hope you will join me in supporting measures that enable young adults to be fully integrated into a growing healthy economy.

Thank you.

Unleashing the Economic Power of the 35 Percent

A Policy Paper Prepared by JobsFirstNYC • July 2014



About JobsFirstNYC and This Report

In 2006, a set of New York City philanthropic institutions recognized that new interventions were necessary to address the needs of young adults cast adrift in a rapidly changing economy. JobsFirstNYC was established to identify and create mechanisms to connect young adults to New York City's economic life and to mobilize community, corporate, private, and public resources to support those mechanisms. Since its founding, JobsFirstNYC has convened diverse partners to re-envision the existing system, increase funding, and advocate for policies and practices that help young adults reach their full economic potential.

In 2012, JobsFirstNYC released a strategic plan aimed at significantly reducing the number of young adults who are out of school and out of work. The plan lays out three broad strategies to increase the long-term employment opportunities of these young adults:

- **Engage employers** in a structured, systemic way
- **Advance and build on best practices** in the young adult workforce development field
- **Raise public consciousness** about the out-of-school/out-of-work challenge

This report makes concrete recommendations to advance these three strategies.

Unleashing the Economic Power of the 35 Percent is informed by a 2013 report commissioned by JobsFirstNYC entitled *Barriers to Entry: The Increasing Challenges Faced by Young Adults in the New York City Labor Market*. Authored by James Parrott of the Fiscal Policy Institute and Lazar Treschan of the Community Service Society of New York, *Barriers to Entry* provides an essential baseline of demographic data on young adults who are out of school and out of work, as well as an analysis of jobs currently held by young adults. It quantifies the impact of seismic shifts in New York's changing economy on the fortunes of New York City's young adults. These two reports represent the first step in a much-needed inquiry into how best to positively shape the employment futures of about one-third of New York City's 18- to 24-year-olds.

Together, *Barriers to Entry* and *Unleashing the Economic Power of the 35 Percent* represent a call to action to build a workforce development system that gives every young adult an opportunity to earn a wage and participate in New York City's economy. The recommendations outlined in this report aim to reduce some of the main obstacles that young adults face in obtaining the skills and education necessary for stable employment at self-sufficiency wages.

JobsFirstNYC is uniquely qualified to propose this plan. A key component of JobsFirstNYC's strategy to advance workforce development is to create and support inter-organizational workforce partnerships that mutually benefit employers and young jobseekers. JobsFirstNYC serves as a neutral intermediary, fundraiser, and facilitator, assisting community-based organizations in the design and implementation of these partnerships. Partnerships initiated by JobsFirstNYC include the Young Adult Sectoral Employment Project and the Lower East Side Employment Network (described in this report). Both demonstrate how strategies that rely on inter-organizational partnerships are the most effective in promoting youth employment.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

An estimated 172,000 young adults in New York City are neither working nor enrolled in school. Another 133,000 young adults work in low-wage jobs with limited opportunities for advancement. Together, they comprise 35 percent of the city's 18- to 24-year-old population.

Ill-served by public education and cut off from opportunities to explore their career interests and define their identities as workers, these young New Yorkers—referred to in this report as the “35 Percent”—have reached adulthood facing the grim prospect of life on the economic margins. Without focused attention and support from policymakers and other stakeholders, many of them may never achieve economic self-sufficiency, contribute to their communities, or be able to support themselves and their families.

The challenge for New York City is to help all its young people get on a path to career-track work and financial independence.

To address this challenge, JobsFirstNYC urges city leaders in government, industry, and philanthropy to make young adult employment a priority by embracing a strategy that engages the 35 Percent through programs tailored to their developmental and academic needs and based in the communities where they reside. Such a strategy would enable them to build the skills necessary for securing successively more demanding and better-paying jobs. To ensure that these young adults are prepared for labor market success, businesses, organized labor leaders, and training/education providers must be full partners in designing and implementing programs to support them.

This comprehensive, community-based, and employer-focused young adult employment initiative should contain the following elements:

I. SECTORAL YOUNG ADULT EMPLOYMENT PARTNERSHIPS

Employers and training providers should form Sectoral Young Adult Employment Partnerships that identify labor market gaps, occupations, and job openings within targeted sectors of the New York City economy that young adults could fill.

II. SECTOR-BASED TRAINING AND APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS THAT SUPPORT YOUNG ADULTS SEEKING CAREER-TRACK WORK, WHILE MEETING EMPLOYER DEMANDS

Industries such as healthcare, property maintenance, construction, and transportation—which require on-the-job training or an industry-recognized certificate or license—offer tens of thousands of job openings in the city each year. Programs that combine training with academic remediation can help young adults with basic skill deficits qualify for middle-wage jobs in these and other industries. New and expanded apprenticeship programs sponsored by industry partnerships can prepare young adult workers for well-paid jobs in the public and private sectors.

III. A NETWORK OF COMMUNITY-BASED YOUNG ADULT OPPORTUNITY CENTERS AND EMPLOYMENT PARTNERSHIPS

A network of Opportunity Centers in the 18 communities with the greatest numbers of out-of-school and out-of-work (OSOW) young adults would connect these individuals to jobs and to the educational, training, and support services necessary to get on a path toward self-sufficiency wage work and career success. Neighborhood-Based Young Adult Employment Partnerships would streamline hiring and strengthen local businesses by connecting them to job-ready workers. Through close collaboration with the Sectoral and Neighborhood-Based Young Adult Employment Partnerships, Opportunity Centers will gain a deeper understanding of employer needs that enables them to develop career pathways for the young adults they serve.

IV. A ONE-STOP WEB PORTAL PROVIDING CAREER INFORMATION AND ACCESS TO EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND EMPLOYMENT RESOURCES

A comprehensive web portal would provide access to career-related and educational information that many young New Yorkers cannot currently find. It would offer information about job openings, occupations and their required qualifications, training and education programs, and available resources to offset the costs of these programs.

Together, these initiatives would create a seamless employer-centered and community-based system to help provide the human capital required for a robust economy.

To be sure, this plan is nearly unprecedented in its ambition and scope. Previous efforts to integrate the 35 Percent into the city's economy have failed to sufficiently engage employers and have addressed fewer than 10 percent of the young adults shut out of the labor market. Most City-run programs have tended to focus on short-term job placements rather than long-term progress toward career-track employment. At the same time, changes in the labor market have shrunk the pool of middle-wage jobs available to young adults without a four-year college degree, while increasing the number of lower-paid food service and retail jobs and jobs requiring advanced training. These changes in the New York City economy—and the absence of a coordinated, systemic policy and programmatic response—have contributed to the significant decline in young adults' labor market preparation and participation and in their earnings over the past ten years.

The employer-centered and community-based system proposed by JobsFirstNYC would address some of the biggest obstacles and help reopen the path to self-sufficiency wage jobs—benefitting not only young adults, but every New Yorker.

Situating Opportunity Centers in High-Need Communities

Opportunity Centers would occupy visible and accessible locations in the 18 communities with the highest number of OSOW young adults (see table), which account for over half of the city's OSOW young adults. The strategic location of the centers will make them easily accessible by the young adults they serve and will protect them from having to venture into neighborhoods where they might not be safe. Effective siting also will help centers build

close relationships with neighborhood institutions—such as healthcare facilities, day care centers, and businesses—that could serve as sources for job shadowing, internships, and employment.

Building on existing resources would help minimize the brick-and-mortar costs, preserving resources for programming. YMCAs, settlement houses, public library branches, and other training providers that already provide young adults with adult literacy, computer literacy, HSE preparation, and resume-writing and job-interviewing

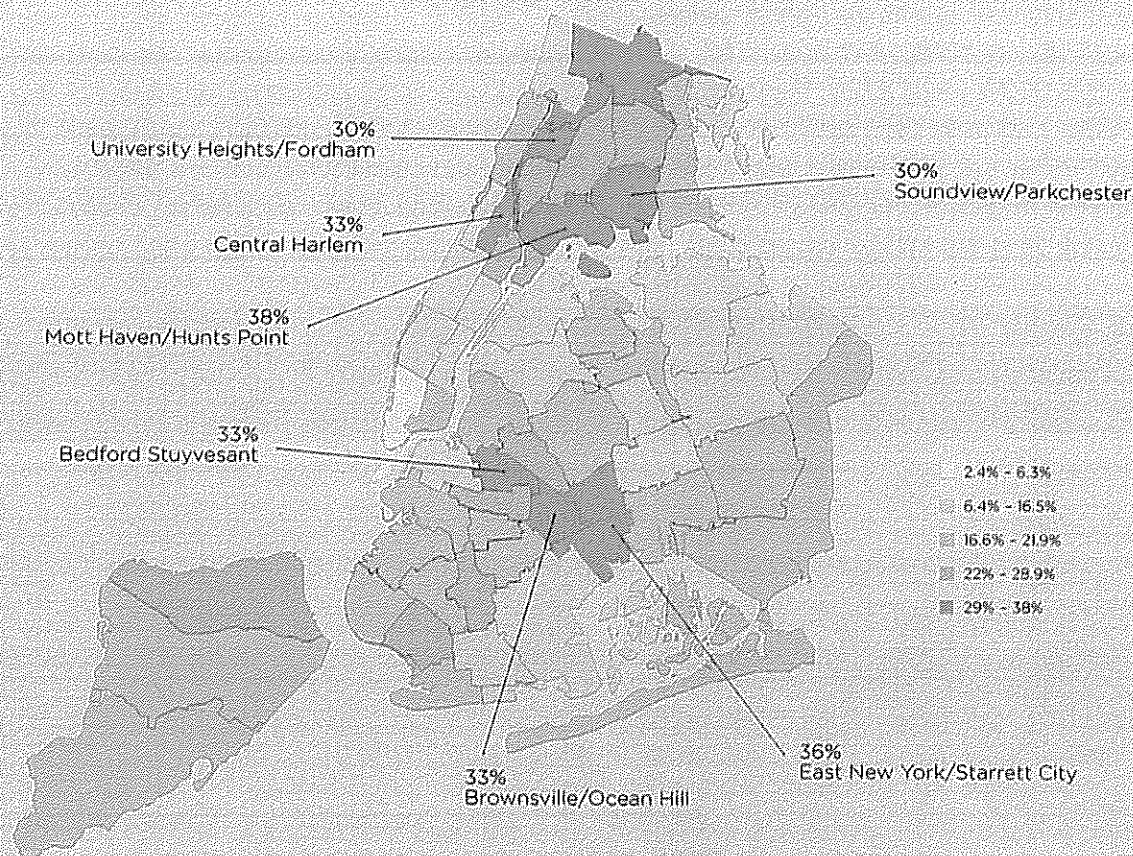
18 NYC Communities with the Highest Number of Out-of-School, Out-of-Work 18- to 24-Year-Olds

Neighborhood	% OSOW	Number of OSOW	% of city's OSOW
Mott Haven/Hunts Point (BX)	38%	8,387	4.7%
East New York/Starrett City (BK)	36%	6,927	3.9%
Morrisania/East Tremont (BX)	28%	6,701	3.7%
Soundview/Parkchester (BX)	30%	5,988	3.3%
Bushwick (BK)	26%	5,218	2.9%
University Heights/Fordham (BX)	30%	5,019	2.8%
Bedford Stuyvesant (BK)	33%	4,982	2.8%
Washington Heights/Inwood (M)	19%	4,789	2.7%
Central Harlem (M)	33%	4,753	2.6%
Jamaica (Q)	20%	4,600	2.6%
Brownsville/Ocean Hill (BK)	33%	4,576	2.5%
Williamsbridge/Baychester (BX)	29%	4,572	2.5%
Flatbush (BK)	27%	4,551	2.5%
North Shore (SI)	23%	4,483	2.5%
Highbridge/South Concourse (BX)	28%	4,411	2.5%
East Harlem (M)	27%	4,250	2.4%
Bellerose/Rosedale (Q)	19%	4,052	2.4%
Kingsbridge Heights/Mosholu (BX)	28%	3,987	2.2%
Top 18 neighborhoods	28%	92,246	51.4%
Remaining New York City neighborhoods	16.5%	87,229	48.6%
NYC total	21%	179,475	100%

Key:
BK – Brooklyn
BX – Bronx
M – Manhattan
Q – Queens
SI – Staten Island

Source: Community Service Society analysis of the 2010-2012 U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey data

Map of NYC Community Districts by OSOW Rate



- Assistance in setting and achieving educational goals
- Career counseling and work coaching
- Building physical and mental health
- Computer and financial literacy
- Referrals for housing, healthcare, and child care services

Opportunity Centers would operate according to a uniform set of guidelines under which all staff would be trained. According to Robert Sainz, assistant general manager of the Los Angeles Economic and Workforce Development Department, uniformity of implementation

has been essential to the success of that city's 16 YouthSource Centers.

Opportunity Center staff would begin by assessing participants' academic proficiency; this assessment would include a review of their academic records by DOE staff reassigned to Opportunity Centers from DOE Referral Centers for High School Alternatives.³⁵ With this assessment in hand, advisors would then help participants develop an educational plan that ultimately leads to a living wage job. Participants deemed ready for employment would receive placement services and ongoing career advisement, and would be expected to continue pursuing education or training while they work.



Greater New York

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Reach Out and Read of Greater New York

Testimony Before the Committees on Youth Services and Community Development
March 27, 2015

Good Afternoon, My name is Monique Hardin-Cordero, and I am representing Reach Out and Read of Greater New York—also known as ROR GNY—where I serve as the Program Director.

I want to first take this opportunity to thank the Speaker, Melissa Mark-Viverito, and City Council for their support in believing that every child in New York City is entitled to start school with the skills, knowledge, and understanding that will enable him or her to succeed.

This ongoing city support has been invaluable, but there is still much work to be done. Over 70% of third graders in New York City are still reading below grade level. The majority of these children come from economically disadvantaged families, where resources are severely lacking.

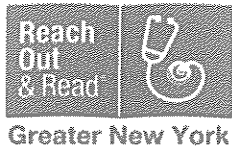
Consider that by age three, children from high-income families are exposed to 30 million more words than children from low income communities. This disparity is reflective of unacceptable inequalities—inequalities of access to resources that have profound implications for our children in school and beyond.

For the past 15 years ROR GNY has been working to ensure that children all across New York, irrespective of socioeconomic background, have the resources to develop a strong foundation for lifelong success. ROR GNY trains medical providers to advise parents on the importance of reading aloud to their children regularly and provides them with the materials to do so: at each well-child visit, physicians distribute a free age-appropriate book. This book is the springboard to action; a seed of literature that will germinate as parents, encouraged and informed by our physicians, make reading a part of everyday life.

Each year, ROR GNY serves **over a quarter of a million children** across New York. For many of these impoverished children, especially those of color, a home library simply does not exist. I know, because I was one of these children. But ROR GNY can make the difference, as a proven intervention supported by 15 independent published research studies. Additionally, we have the American Academy of Pediatrics behind us, as evinced by the recently issued policy statement reinforcing our mission. We need the city to help us carry this momentum forward.

Funding from City Council has helped us provide early literacy services in 43 of 51 City Council Districts. Despite impactful efforts made possible by the City's First Readers Initiative, much remains to be done. Our hospitals and health clinics are only receiving funds for 30% of their book needs. With your backing, Reach Out and Read of Greater New York aims to reach 100% support. Only then will we have the tools to narrow, and eventually erase, the 30 million-word gap. Only then will we be truly investing in our future, turning all of our children into healthy readers and, ultimately, strong leaders.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify today. I am happy to answer any questions that you may have.



OUR MISSION

Reach Out and Read prepares America's youngest children to succeed in school by partnering with doctors to prescribe books and encourage families to read together. In the Greater New York region we provide books and training to over 200 Reach Out and Read programs in New York City, Long Island, and the Hudson Valley.

WHO WE ARE

- Reach Out and Read is a nonprofit organization that trains and supports medical providers who give books to children and advice to parents about the importance of reading aloud at well-child exams.
- Our organization builds on the unique relationship between parents and medical providers to develop essential early literacy skills in young children via the existing healthcare infrastructure. Each year, Reach Out and Read of Greater New York serves a quarter of a million children in New York City, Long Island, and the Hudson Valley, focusing on those in low-income families.

WHAT WE DO

- During regular pediatric checkups, Reach Out and Read pediatricians, family physicians, and nurse practitioners give new, developmentally-appropriate books to children ages 6 months through 5 years, and advise parents about the importance of reading aloud.
- As a result of this evidence-based intervention, parents learn new ways to stimulate their children's literacy development, have more books in their home, and read to their children more. Parents are supported as their children's first and most important teachers, and children grow up to become readers.

OUR IMPACT

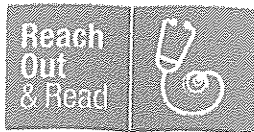
- The first five years of life offer a critical window for learning, with rapid brain development that does not occur at any other time. Many children, especially from low-income families, are not read to from birth. Children who grow up without sufficient exposure to language arrive at school without basic literacy skills, and often struggle with reading in early grades.
- Reach Out and Read delivers results. Our program is a proven intervention, supported by 15 independent, published research studies. During the preschool years, children served by Reach Out and Read score three to six months ahead of their non-Reach Out and Read peers on vocabulary tests, preparing them to start school on target.
- Reach Out and Read medical providers work with families to prepare all children to enter kindergarten ready to read, learn, and succeed. Research shows that children who start school on track are more likely to reach their full educational, social, and life potential.

THE ANNUAL IMPACT:

OVER 250,000 CHILDREN SERVED
AT OVER 200 PROGRAM LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT NEW YORK
CITY, LONG ISLAND, AND THE HUDSON VALLEY.

For more information, visit www.reachoutandreadnyc.org

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REACH OUT AND READ: THE EVIDENCE

Research shows that when pediatricians promote literacy readiness according to the Reach Out and Read model, there is a significant effect on parental behavior and attitudes toward reading aloud, as well as improvements in the language scores of young children who participate. These effects have been found in ethnically and economically diverse families nationwide.

The body of published research supporting the efficacy of the Reach Out and Read model is more extensive than for any other psychosocial intervention in general pediatrics. Additional studies about Reach Out and Read that address language outcomes in children are in progress. To read the complete articles, visit reachoutandread.org/why-we-work/research-findings/.

The following studies by independent academic researchers have been published in peer-reviewed medical journals:

REACH OUT AND READ: CHANGING CHILD OUTCOMES

Mendelsohn et al., *Pediatrics* High-risk urban families participating in Reach Out and Read read more frequently to their children. Children exposed to Reach Out and Read had higher receptive language scores (words the child understands) and expressive language scores (words the child says). Increased exposure to Reach Out and Read led to larger increases in both receptive and expressive language scores.

Mendelsohn A.L., Mogiler L.N., Dreyer B.P., Forman J.A., Weinstein S.C., Broderick M., Cheng K.J., Magloire T., Moore T., Napier C. "The impact of a clinic-based literacy intervention on language development in inner-city preschool children." *Pediatrics* 2001; 107(1), p. 130-134.

High et al., *Pediatrics* Families participating in the Reach Out and Read model read to their children more often (4.3 vs. 3.8 days/week), and their toddlers' receptive and expressive vocabulary scores were higher. This effect held in parents of different levels of education and English proficiency.

High P.C., LaGasse L., Becker S., Ahlgren I., Gardner A. "Literacy promotion in primary care pediatrics: can we make a difference?" *Pediatrics* 2000; 104, p. 927-934.

Theriot et al., *Clinical Pediatrics* Among children ages 33 months to 39 months attending a well-child clinic in Louisville, KY, expressive and receptive language scores were significantly and positively associated with both the number of Reach Out and Read-enhanced well-child visits they had attended, and with the number of books purchased for them by their parents. This finding supports a "dose effect" for the Reach Out and Read intervention: the more visits, the higher the score.

Theriot J.A., Franco S.M., Sisson B.A., Metcalf S.C., Kennedy M.A., Bada H.S. "The impact of early literacy guidance on language skills of 3-year-olds." *Clinical Pediatrics* 2003; 42, p. 165-172.

Sharif et al., *Journal of the National Medical Association* Children participating in Reach Out and Read had higher receptive vocabulary scores. They also had higher scores on the Home Literacy Orientation (measured by how much the child was read to and how many books were in the home) than children not participating in Reach Out and Read.

Sharif I., Rieber S., Ozuah P.O. "Exposure to Reach Out and Read and vocabulary outcomes in inner city preschoolers." *Journal of the National Medical Association* 2002; 94, p. 171-177.

Diener et al., *Journal of Community Medicine and Health Education* This study showed that a small sample of Latino children who participated in Reach Out and Read from six months of age had average or above average literacy skills by the end of kindergarten, as well as high-quality home literacy environments with frequent book sharing and high book ownership.

Diener M.L., Hobson-Rohrer W., Byington, C.L. "Kindergarten readiness and performance of Latino children participating in Reach Out and Read." *Journal of Community Medicine and Health Education* 2012; 2:133.

**BOOKS BUILD
BETTER BRAINS**

WHEN
PEDIATRICIANS
PROMOTE
READING
READINESS,
LANGUAGE
SCORES
IMPROVE.

REACH OUT AND READ: CHANGING PARENTAL ATTITUDES AND PRACTICES

High et al., *Archives of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine* Parents whose children (< 3 years) had received books and educational materials during well-child visits were more likely than parents in a control group to report that they shared books with their children, and to cite sharing books as a favorite activity or a child's favorite activity.

High P., Hopmann M., LaGasse L., Linn H. "Evaluation of a clinic-based program to promote book sharing and bedtime routines among low-income urban families with young children." *Archives of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine* 1998; 15, p. 459-465.

continued on back

Needlman, et al., *American Journal of Diseases of Children* Parents who had received a book as part of Reach Out and Read were more likely to report reading books with their children, or to say that reading was a favorite activity. The benefits of Reach Out and Read were larger for families receiving Aid to Families with Dependent Children.

Needlman R., Fried L.E., Morley D.S., Taylor S., Zuckerman B. "Clinic-based intervention to promote literacy. A pilot study." *American Journal of Diseases of Children* 1991; 145, p. 881-884.

Weitzman et al., *Pediatrics* In a study using direct observation of children's homes, parents were more likely to read aloud to their children and enjoy reading together when their families had more encounters with the Reach Out and Read program.

Weitzman C.C., Roy L., Walls T., Tomlin R. "More evidence for Reach Out and Read: A home-based study." *Pediatrics* 2004; 113, p. 1248-1253.

Needlman et al., *Ambulatory Pediatrics* In a multicenter study, families exposed to Reach Out and Read were more likely to report reading aloud at bedtime, read aloud 3 or more days per week, mention reading aloud as a favorite activity, and own 10 or more children's books.

Needlman R., Tokar K.H., Dreyer D.P., Klass P., Mendelsohn A.L. "Effectiveness of a primary care intervention to support reading aloud: a multicenter evaluation." *Ambulatory Pediatrics* 2005; 5, p. 209-215.

Silverstein et al., *Pediatrics* English and non-English speaking families who participated in the Reach Out and Read model increased their weekly bedtime reading, and more parents reported reading as their own or their child's favorite activity. For non-English speaking families the number of children's books in the home also increased as a result of the Reach Out and Read model.

Silverstein M., Iverson L., Lozano P. "An English-language clinic-based literacy program is effective for a multilingual population." *Pediatrics* 2002; 109, p. e76.

Sanders et al., *Archives of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine* Hispanic parents participating in Reach Out and Read were more likely to report reading to their children compared to Hispanic parents not participating in Reach Out and Read. When parents read more frequently to their children, they were also more likely to read frequently themselves.

Sanders L., Gershon T.D., Huffman L.C., Mendoza F.S. "Prescribing books for immigrant children." *Archives of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine* 2000; 154, p. 771-777.

Golova et al., *Pediatrics* Hispanic parents whose children had received bilingual books, educational materials, and anticipatory guidance about literacy were more likely to report reading books with their child at least 3 days/week (66% vs. 24%) and report that reading books was one of their three favorite things to do with their child (43% vs. 13%) than parents in a control group. Parents participating in the Reach Out and Read intervention also tended to have more books in the home (for children and adults).

Golova N., Alario A.J., Vivier P.M., Rodriguez M., High P.C. "Literacy promotion for Hispanic families in a primary care setting: A randomized controlled trial." *Pediatrics* 1998; 103, p. 993-997.

REACH OUT AND READ: TOWARD BETTER PRIMARY CARE

Jones et al., *Clinical Pediatrics* Parents participating in Reach Out and Read were more likely to rate their child's pediatrician as helpful than those not participating. Pediatricians in the Reach Out and Read group were more likely to rate parents as receptive than those in the non-Reach Out and Read group. Mothers in the Reach Out and Read group were two times more likely to report enjoyment in reading together with their child than those in the non-Reach Out and Read group.

Jones V.F., Franco S.M., Metcalf S.C., Popp R., Staggs S., Thomas A.E. "The value of book distribution in a clinic-based literacy intervention program." *Clinical Pediatrics* 2000; 39, p. 535-541.

King et al., *Academic Pediatrics* Successful implementation of the Reach Out and Read program was related to the culture of the clinic. Staff at clinics that struggled to implement Reach Out and Read found their jobs burdensome and reported lacks in communication. Staff at successful Reach Out and Read program sites worked as a team and expressed strong commitments to their communities.

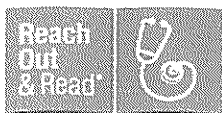
King T.M., Muzaffar S., George M. "The role of clinic culture in implementation of primary care interventions: The case of Reach Out and Read." *Academic Pediatrics* 2009; 9 (1), p. 40-46.

Byington et al., *Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved* This qualitative study examined the thank-you notes sent to staff at a Reach Out and Read clinic by Hispanic families. Families expressed thanks for the books received, as well as the literacy advice given by doctors and nurses. Many families believed that the books and advice promoted the habit of reading and demonstrated respect the staff felt for the families and their children.

Ortiz K.A., Buchi K.F. "The good habit of reading (el buen habito de la lectura): Parental reactions to an enhanced Reach Out and Read program in a clinic for the underserved." *Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved* 2008; 19, p. 363-368.

For more information, visit www.reachoutandread.org

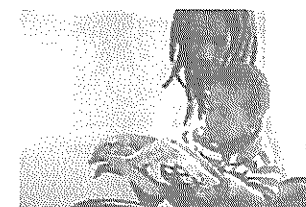
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MILESTONES OF EARLY LITERACY DEVELOPMENT

Babies learn best from caring adults. From birth, it's important for parents to notice and *respond* to what interests their child. Reading aloud and talking together *every day* creates secure relationships and a strong foundation for learning. Books should be part of *every* family's naptime, playtime, and bedtime routines.



	6 TO 12 MONTHS	12 TO 24 MONTHS	2 TO 3 YEARS	3 TO 4 YEARS	4 TO 5 YEARS
MOTOR DEVELOPMENT <i>What your child is doing</i>	holds head steady sits in lap without support grasps book, puts in mouth drops, throws book	holds and walks with book no longer puts book in mouth right away turns board book pages	learns to turn paper pages, 2 to 3 pages at a time starts to scribble	turns pages one at a time, and from left to right sits still for longer stories scribbles and draws	starts to copy letters and numbers sits still for even longer stories
COMMUNICATION AND COGNITION <i>What your child is saying and learning</i>	smiles, babbles, coos likes and wants your voice likes pictures of baby faces begins to say "ma", "ba", "da" responds to own name pats picture to show interest	says single words, then 2- to 4-word phrases gives book to adult to read points at pictures turns book right-side up names pictures, follows simple stories	adds 2-4 new words per day names familiar objects likes the same book again and again completes sentences and rhymes in familiar stories	recites whole phrases from books moves toward letter recognition begins to detect rhyme pretends to read to dolls and stuffed animals	can listen longer recognizes numbers, letters can retell familiar stories can make rhymes learning letter names and sounds
ANTICIPATORY GUIDANCE <i>What parents can do</i> Ask questions and wait for your child to answer Read and speak in your first language	talk back and forth with your baby; make eye contact cuddle, sing, talk, play, read point at and name things: nose, ball, baby, dog... follow baby's cues for "more" or "stop" play games such as "peek-a-boo" or "pat-a-cake"	smile and answer when your child speaks or points let your child help turn the pages; keep naming things use books in family routines: naptime, playtime, bedtime; on the potty; in the car, bus use books to calm or distract your child while waiting	ask "Where's the dog?" or "What is that?" be willing to read the same book again and again as you read, talk about the pictures keep using books in daily routines	ask "What happens next?" in familiar stories point out letters, numbers point out words and pictures that begin with the same sound together, make up stories about the pictures	relate the story to your child's own experiences let your child see you read ask your child to tell the story encourage writing, drawing point out the letters in your child's name
WHAT TO READ	board and cloth books; books with baby faces; nursery rhymes	board books; rhyming books; picture books; books that name things	rhyming books; picture books that tell stories; search and find books	picture books that tell longer stories; counting and alphabet books	fairy tales and legends; books with longer stories, fewer pictures

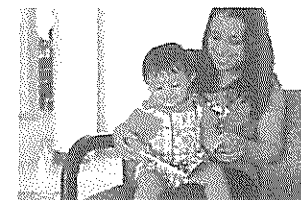
LET YOUR CHILD CHOOSE WHICH BOOK TO READ. FIND STORIES ABOUT THINGS YOUR CHILD LIKES.



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INDICADORES DEL DESARROLLO INICIAL DE LA LECTOESCRITURA

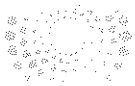
Los bebés aprenden más de los adultos que los cuidan. Desde el nacimiento, es importante que los padres observen y respondan a los intereses del niño. Leer en voz alta y hablar *todos los días* crea cariño y una base sólida para el aprendizaje. Los libros deben formar parte de las rutinas familiares de la siesta, la hora del juego y de ir a la cama.



	6 A 12 MESES	12 A 24 MESES	2 A 3 AÑOS	3 A 4 AÑOS	4 A 5 AÑOS
DESARROLLO MOTRIZ <i>Qué hace su hijo</i>	sostiene bien la cabeza se sienta en el regazo sin ayuda sujeta el libro, se lo lleva a la boca deja caer o arroja los libros	sostiene el libro y camina con él no se lleva el libro a la boca enseguida voltea las páginas de libros de cartón	aprende a voltear las páginas de papel, 2 a 3 páginas a la vez empieza a hacer garabatos	voltea las páginas una a la vez y de izquierda a derecha se queda sentado sin moverse con cuentos más largos garabatea y dibuja	empieza a copiar letras y números se queda sentado sin moverse con cuentos más largos aun
COMUNICACIÓN Y CONOCIMIENTO <i>Qué dice y aprende su hijo</i>	sonríe, balbucea, gorjea le gusta su voz y desea escucharla le gustan las imágenes de las caras de bebés empieza a decir "ma", "ba", "da" responde a su propio nombre palmea las imágenes en el libro para mostrar interés	dice palabras sueltas, luego frases de 2 a 4 palabras le da el libro al adulto para que lo lea señala las imágenes voltea el lado correcto del libro hacia arriba nombra imágenes, sigue historias sencillas	aprende 2 a 4 palabras nuevas por día nombra objetos familiares le gusta el mismo libro una y otra vez completa oraciones y rimas en historias conocidas	recita frases enteras de libros empieza a reconocer las letras empieza a detectar la rima juega a leerles a muñecos y peluches	puede escuchar durante más tiempo reconoce números y letras puede repetir cuentos conocidos puede hacer rimas aprende los nombres y los sonidos de las letras
ORIENTACIÓN ANTICIPATORIA <i>Qué pueden hacer los padres</i>	hable y responda a su bebé; haga contacto visual abrásele, cante, hable, juegue, lea señale y nombre las cosas: nariz, pelota, bebé, perro... siga las indicaciones del bebé para "más" o "basta" juegue con el niño a "cu-cú" o "a las palmas"	sonría y responda cuando su hijo hable o señale deje que el niño ayude a voltear las páginas; siga nombrando cosas use libros en las rutinas familiares: para la hora de la siesta, del juego o de dormir; cuando va al baño; en el automóvil o autobús use libros para calmar o distraer a su hijo mientras esperan	pregunte "¿Dónde está el perro?" o "¿Qué es eso?" esté dispuesto a leer el mismo libro una y otra vez mientras lee, hable sobre las imágenes siga usando libros en las rutinas diarias	pregunte "¿Qué sucede ahora?" en los cuentos conocidos señale letras y números señale palabras e imágenes que empiezan con el mismo sonido juntos, inventen historias sobre las imágenes	relacione la historia con las experiencias propias de su hijo asegúrese de que su hijo lo vea leer pídale a su hijo que cuente la historia motívelo a escribir y dibujar señale las letras del nombre de su hijo
QUÉ PUEDEN LEER	libros de cartón y de tela; libros con caras de bebés; canciones de cuna	libros de cartón, libros de rimas, libros de imágenes, libros que nombran cosas	libros de rimas, libros de imágenes que cuentan historias; libros de buscar y encontrar	libros de imágenes que cuentan historias más largas; libros con el alfabeto y los números	cuentos de hadas y leyendas; libros con historias más largas y menos imágenes

DEJE A SU HIJO ELEGIR QUÉ LIBRO DESEA LEER. BUSQUE HISTORIAS SOBRE COSAS QUE LE GUSTAN A SU HIJO.





REUTERS

Thu Jun 26, 2014 7:26pm EDT

* Reuters is not responsible for the content in this press release.

City Council Funds Early Childhood Literacy Initiative

New York City Council Members and children's literacy advocates celebrated a unique victory for New York City families today: a \$1.5 million dollar investment to help parents raise their youngest children to be strong and proficient readers.

The funding was part of the newly adopted city budget and will support the Early Childhood Literacy Initiative, which targets children 0-5 years old. This initiative is a collaboration of eight organizations already working to turn young children into accomplished readers. Through coordinated services, each organization can serve more children and families to develop literacy skills in young children.

Organizations receiving funding to implement the Early Childhood Literacy Initiative include:

- o Brooklyn Public Library
- o Jumpstart for Young Children
- o Literacy Inc. (LINC)
- o New York Public Library
- o Parent-Child Home Program
- o Queens Library
- o Reach Out and Read of Greater New York
- o Video Interaction Project

Council Member Stephen Levin (33rd District) and Council Member Antonio Reynoso (34th District), with the support of Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito championed the inclusion of the Early Childhood Literacy Initiative in the City budget. The Council's leadership and vision in tackling a systemic problem enhance the Mayor and Chancellor's expansion of universal Pre-K.

"If we want to help our children succeed throughout their lives then we have to put resources into their development starting at an early age," said **Council Member Levin**. "The Early Childhood Literacy Initiative addresses distressing childhood literacy rates in New York City and invests in the future of our children. I am proud to have fought for these important resources for our children and want to thank Speaker Mark-Viverito, Council Member Reynoso, and the many advocates for children who worked tirelessly on this initiative."

Council Member Reynoso remarked, "This initiative takes a proactive step toward addressing the disparity in literacy rates across the city, with a specific focus on helping the youngest children in our low-income communities and their families take early steps toward success that can make a major difference

child interaction, foster early literacy, and ensure grade-level reading," said **Sarah Walzer, CEO of Parent-Child Home Program**. "We are honored to be a part of this initiative and gratefully applaud City Council Speaker Melissa Mark Viverito, Council Member Levin and Council Member Reynoso for their commitment to ensuring that every family has the opportunity to discover the joy of reading together."

"The scope of this initiative is truly breathtaking," noted **Alan Mendelsohn MD**, Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Population Health, and **Carolyn Cates PhD**, Assistant Professor and Director of the **Video Interaction Project** at New York University School of Medicine and Bellevue Hospital Center. "The programs to be supported uniquely impact families during the critical period of early brain development from birth to 5 years before children start school. This may be the first time that so many innovative, effective groups seeking to promote early literacy will work together to give all children an equal chance of succeeding in school and in life." Children of Bellevue, Inc. and the Bellevue Project for Early Language Literacy and Education Success (BELLE) thank Council Members Stephen Levin and Antonio Reynoso and the entire New York City Council for their leadership in this incredibly important initiative.

"The Library is very thankful to City Council Speaker Mark-Viverito, Councilmembers Levin and Reynoso, and the City Council for this important funding, which will enhance the Library's early childhood literacy initiative, and open new doors of opportunity for the children that we serve," said **NYPL President Tony Marx**. "The programs we provide help children learn to read, which significantly improves their futures and our city."

"This tremendous investment from the City Council will help ensure that Brooklyn's youngest readers start school ready to learn," said **Linda E. Johnson, President and CEO of Brooklyn Public Library**. As a partner in the Early Childhood Literacy Initiative, this funding will allow us to launch interactive early literacy spaces across the borough, expand workshops that help parents engage young children in reading activities, increase baby and toddler programs at high-demand and high-need libraries, and purchase thousands of new children's books. We are grateful to Council Member Levin, Council Member Reynoso, and Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito for their leadership on this exciting initiative."

"As conveners of the NYC Early Learning Network, Queens Library is committed to helping our youngest New Yorkers blossom into intellectually active and successful adults. We look forward to working with other community-based and educational organizations to create robust readers. We thank Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito, Council Members Stephen Levin and Antonio Reynoso, and the entire City Council for their leadership." **Bridget Quinn-Carey, Executive VP and COO, Queens Library**.

Literacy Inc.

Lenore Feder, 212-846-7120



THE OFFICIAL NEWSMAGAZINE OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS

AAP News

Breaking News

June 24, 2014

www.aapnews.org

Parents who read to their children nurture more than literary skills

by Lori O'Keefe • Correspondent

Reading proficiency by third grade is the most significant predictor of high school graduation and career success, yet two-thirds of U.S. third-graders lack competent reading skills. A new AAP policy statement recommends that pediatric providers advise parents of young children that reading aloud and talking about pictures and words in age-appropriate books can strengthen language skills, literacy development and parent-child relationships.

Literacy promotion during preventive visits has some of the strongest evidence-based support that it can make a difference in the lives of young children and families, said Pamela C. High, M.D., M.S., FAAP, lead author of *Literacy Promotion: An Essential Component of Primary Care Pediatric Practice*, <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/cgi/doi/10.1542/peds.2014-1384>. The policy, released June 24, will be published in the August *Pediatrics*.

Promoting early literacy development in the pediatric primary care setting was a resolution at the 2008 AAP Annual Leadership Forum, leading to development of the policy statement. Dr. High is past chair of what now is the AAP Council on Early Childhood, which authored the policy.

Multiple benefits

Children who are read to during infancy and preschool years have better language skills when they start school and are more interested in reading, according to research highlighted in the statement. In addition, parents who spend time reading to their children create nurturing relationships, which is important for a child's cognitive, language and social-emotional development.

"When I started with Reach Out and Read years ago, efforts were focused on early literacy and school readiness," said Perri Klass, M.D., FAAP, national medical director of Reach Out and Read and contributing author to the policy statement. "Although those are still tremendously important, the bigger picture now is to help parents build interactions with their children into their everyday lives because this can create nurturing relationships, which promote early brain development, early literacy, language development and school readiness."

Make it fun

An important job for pediatric providers is to help parents understand what is developmentally appropriate for their child and how to make reading fun, Dr. Klass said. "A parent shouldn't read a long story to an infant or young child and expect them to listen attentively."

Dr. Klass recommends parents point to and name pictures in books for infants and ask young children questions or have them complete rhymes from a short book.

Parents need to understand that 2-year-olds have a short attention span, and infants may put books in their mouths because that is how they explore their world, she said.

"We don't want a parent to feel that their child is failing at reading if the child loses interest," Dr. Klass added.

Powerful tool for all

Books also can be a useful tool during well-child visits.

Making books part of preventive visits allows pediatric providers to observe fine motor skills, language, literacy and parent-child interaction. Incorporating books into a visit also enables health care professionals to model book interaction with patients, according to the policy statement.

According to the 2011-'12 National Survey of Children's Health, only 60% of children from families with incomes 400% above the poverty level and 34% of children from families below 100% of the poverty level are read to daily. Every family, regardless of income, should be counseled about the importance of reading together, said Dr. High.

The policy statement recommends providing books to patients who are at financial and social risk and exploring options to obtain books if they are cost-prohibitive.

The statement also recommends:

- hanging posters that promote reading;
- distributing information to parents about reading and local libraries;
- partnering with child advocates to influence national messages and policies about literacy;
- promoting the "5 R's" of early education: reading, rhyming, routines, rewards and relationships;
- incorporating literacy promotion and training into pediatric resident education;
- supporting state and federal funding to distribute books to high-risk children at pediatric visits; and
- researching the effects and best practices of literacy promotion.

"Books are a useful tool," Dr. High said, "but we also want parents to understand that reading to their children is so powerful because children think their parents are the most important people in their world."

RESOURCES

- Literacy promotion in pediatric practice, <http://bit.ly/1uBySnv>
- Reach Out and Read, www.reachoutandread.org; summer reading list, <http://bit.ly/1ULVtmN>
- New collaborate effort to promote early literacy (launched June 24), <http://bit.ly/1qurfiN>

Parents who read to their children nurture more than literary skills

Lori O'Keefe

AAP News originally published online June 24, 2014;

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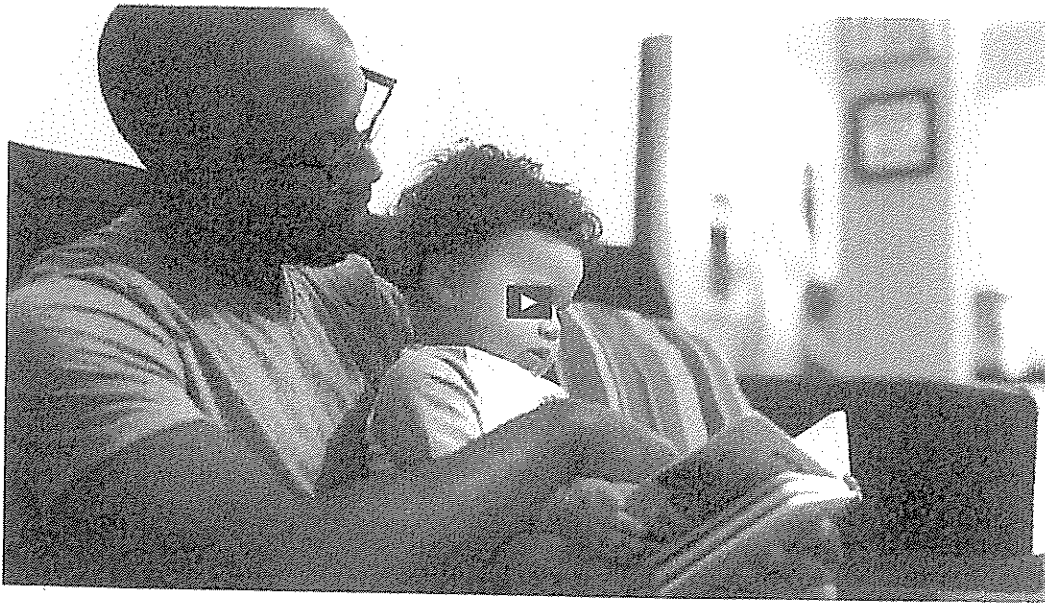
American Academy of Pediatrics

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I is for infant: Reading aloud to young children benefits brain development

June 24, 2014 — PBS NewsHour reports on the American Academy of Pediatrics recommendations to promote reading aloud to young children for healthy brain development. The work of Reach Out and Read is featured in the segment.



From PBS:

A new study by the American Academy of Pediatrics shows that reading daily to young children, starting in infancy, can help with language acquisition and literacy skills. But, the report says, many children are missing out. Jeffrey Brown takes a closer look at the consequences and opportunities to improve with lead author of the study, Dr. Pamela High of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

<http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/infant-reading-aloud-young-children-benefits-brain-development/>

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National

The New York Times

Pediatrics Group to Recommend Reading Aloud to Children From Birth

By MOTOKO RICH

In between dispensing advice on breast-feeding and immunizations, doctors will tell parents to read aloud to their infants from birth, under a new policy that the American Academy of Pediatrics will announce on Tuesday.

With the increased recognition that an important part of brain development occurs within the first three years of a child's life, and that reading to children enhances vocabulary and other important communication skills, the group, which represents 62,000 pediatricians across the country, is asking its members to become powerful advocates for reading aloud, every time a baby visits the doctor.

"It should be there each time we touch bases with children," said Dr. Pamela High, who wrote the new policy. It recommends that doctors tell parents they should be "reading together as a daily fun family activity" from infancy.

This is the first time the academy — which has issued recommendations on how long mothers should nurse their babies and advises parents to keep children away from screens until they are at least 2 — has officially weighed in on early literacy education.

While highly educated, ambitious parents who are already reading poetry and playing Mozart to their children in utero may not need this advice, research shows that many parents do not read to their children as often as re-

searchers and educators think is crucial to the development of pre-literacy skills that help children succeed once they get to school.

Reading, as well as talking and singing, is viewed as important in increasing the number of words that children hear in the earliest years of their lives. Nearly two decades ago, an oft-cited study found that by age 3, the children of wealthier professionals have heard words millions more times than have those of less educated, low-income parents, giving the children who have heard more words a distinct advantage in school. New research shows that these gaps emerge as early as 18 months.

According to a federal government survey of children's health, 60 percent of American children from families with incomes at least 400 percent of the federal poverty threshold — \$95,400 for a family of four — are read to daily from birth to 5 years of age, compared with around a third of children from families living below the poverty line, \$23,850 for a family of four.

With parents of all income levels increasingly handing smartphones and tablets to babies, who learn how to swipe before they can turn a page, reading aloud may be fading into the background.

"The reality of today's world is that we're competing with portable digital media," said Dr. Alanna Levine, a pediatrician in Orangeburg, N.Y. "So you



Dr. Leora Mogilner, a pediatrician at Mount Sinai Hospital, gave a book to Kaylee Smith, 9 months, and guidance to her mother, Tameka Griffiths, 33.

really want to arm parents with tools and rationale behind it about why it's important to stick to the basics of things like books."

Reading aloud is also a way to pass the time for parents who find endless baby talk tiresome. "It's an easy way of talking that doesn't involve talking about the plants outside," said Erin Autry Montgomery, a mother of a

6-month-old boy in Austin, Tex.

Low-income children are often exposed little to reading before entering formal child care settings. "We have had families who do not read to their children and where there are no books in the home," said Elisabeth Bruzon, coordinator for the Fairfax, Va., chapter of Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters, a nonprofit program

that sends visitors to the homes of low- to moderate-income families with children ages 3 to 5.

The pediatricians' group hopes that by encouraging parents to read often and early, they may help reduce academic disparities between wealthier and low-income children as well as between racial groups. "If we can get that first 1,000 days of life right," said Dr. Dipesh Navsaria, an assistant professor of pediatrics at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health, "we're really going to save a lot of trouble later on and have to do far less remediation."

Dr. Navsaria is the medical director of the Wisconsin chapter of Reach Out and Read, a nonprofit literacy group that enlists about 20,000 pediatricians nationwide to give out books to low-income families. The group is working with Too Small to Fail, a joint effort between the nonprofit Next Generation and the Bill, Hillary and Chelsea Clinton Foundation that is aimed at closing the word gap.

At the annual Clinton Global Initiative America meeting in Denver on Tuesday, Hillary Rodham Clinton will announce that Scholastic, the children's book publisher, will donate 500,000 books to Reach Out and Read. Too Small to Fail is also developing materials to distribute to members of the American Academy of Pediatrics to help them emphasize the read-aloud message to parents.

Reading for a Lifetime of Wellness

Philanthropist Katinka Domotorffy believes that books can be a kind of preventative care for a child's future.

To do that, parents need to understand that reading during the earliest years, before a child gets to school, is part of overall wellness, like vaccinations and regular visits to the doctor.

Pediatricians are ideal representatives for pre-literacy programs, says Ms. Domotorffy. She supports Reach Out and Read of Greater New York, a charity that partners with doctors and others in the healthcare community to provide free books to low-income families.

"Instilling a love of reading in a loving family setting from the earliest age, I think, has the greatest likelihood of significantly influencing and impacting long-term educational outcomes," said Ms. Domotorffy, 38 years old.

She joined the board of the



Katinka Domotorffy

organization in 2006 and presently serves as vice chair. With her husband, Mark Beeler, Ms. Domotorffy has contributed more than \$400,000 to the organization.

She became connected to Reach Out and Read during her time at Goldman Sachs, where she formerly worked as

head of the quantitative-investment-strategies group. Ms. Domotorffy retired in 2011 and now works as an independent investment management professional. As the mother of three young children, reading is a central part of her family life and something that Ms. Domotorffy loves.

"If you have a love of reading and a love of learning that is something that will always stay with you," she said. "It's a permanent part of your well-being."

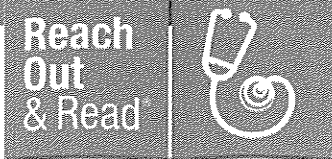
Her most recent gift of \$250,000 is through Goldman Sachs Gives, a donor-advised fund for current and former employees. The gift is directed to a new \$4 million campaign for Reach Out and Read of Greater New York to create an endowment to purchase books.

Most books to Reach Out and Read are donated, but doctors and medical professionals often host independent fundraisers to raise money to

purchase more books. The organization serves 250,000 children ages six months to 5 years in more than 190 program sites throughout the region. The organization reports that parents who receive a book from Reach Out and Read are up to four times more likely to read to their children.

The program works because pediatricians are often considered "trusted advisors" for parents, explained Ms. Domotorffy. During a visit, a doctor that is part of Reach Out and Read will talk with a parent about the importance of reading, give an age-appropriate book and observe how a small patient interacts with the book. Nibbling on a book is common for babies and older kids like to point at images.

The value of the exchange between doctors and parents is to have a "dialogue around the importance of reading," said Ms. Domotorffy.



Greater New York

CASE STATEMENT

REACH OUT AND READ OF GREATER NEW YORK IN A CHILD'S FIRST FIVE YEARS

THE PROGRAM

Reach Out and Read of Greater New York prepares New York's youngest children to succeed in school by partnering with doctors to prescribe books and encourage families to read together. Our program builds on the unique relationship between parents and medical providers to develop early reading skills in children. Doctors, nurse practitioners, and other medical professionals incorporate Reach Out and Read's evidence-based model into regular well-child checkups by advising parents about the importance of reading aloud and giving developmentally-appropriate books to children to take home and keep. The program begins at the 6-month checkup and continues through age 5, with a special emphasis on children growing up in low-income families, where children are most at risk for reading failure. Every child in the program enters kindergarten with a home library of at least 10 books and parents who understand the importance of reading aloud. Reach Out and Read of Greater New York was founded in 1997 by a group of pediatricians and educators who recognized that what happens in infancy and toddlerhood truly sets the stage for achievement later in life.



71.9% of NYC public school 3rd graders do not read at grade level.

IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE THIS WAY

In New York City, we served 217,218 children last year at 160 hospitals and pediatric clinics. We have trained over 5,500 doctors to promote early literacy practices to parents. We distributed over 322,955 books, written in 12 languages, to pre-school children and their families in the last year.

THE PROBLEM

MANY CHILDREN ENTER SCHOOL UNPREPARED TO LEARN

Many children, especially those from low-income communities, are not read to from birth. 90% of brain development occurs between birth and age 5. The first five years of life offer a critical window for learning, with rapid brain development that does not occur at any other time. If children miss the opportunity to acquire foundational language skills, they are set up for immediate struggles with literacy as soon as they arrive at school.

Books at home, parents reading aloud, and early language skills have long demonstrated to be vital precursors to later success in learning to read. Children living in low-income families are exposed to a much less language rich environment than their more affluent peers. By the time children from low-income families enter kindergarten, they are typically 12-14 months below national norms in language and pre-reading skills. Children who start kindergarten behind rarely catch up, and disparities in early childhood tend to persist throughout school and life.

Reading difficulty can contribute to school failure and prevent a child from reaching his or her full educational, social, and economic potential.

RETURN ON INVESTMENT IN EARLY EDUCATION

"INVESTMENT IN EARLY EDUCATION FOR DISADVANTAGED CHILDREN FROM BIRTH TO AGE 5 HELPS REDUCE THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP, REDUCE THE NEED FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION, INCREASE THE LIKELIHOOD OF HEALTHIER LIFESTYLES, LOWER THE CRIME RATE, AND REDUCE OVERALL SOCIAL COSTS. IN FACT, EVERY DOLLAR INVESTED IN HIGH-QUALITY EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PRODUCES A 7 TO 10 PERCENT PER ANNUM RETURN ON INVESTMENT."

Pickman, James J., "The Economics of Inequality: The Value of Early Childhood Education," *American Educator*, Spring 2011, pp. 41-45, 42.

15 INDEPENDENT PEER-REVIEWED STUDIES SHOW THAT REACH OUT AND READ IS EFFECTIVE IN CHANGING CHILD OUTCOMES.

KEY FINDINGS

- 1) High-risk urban families participating in Reach Out and Read had higher receptive language scores and expressive language scores.

Mendelsohn A.L., Mogiler L.N., Dreyer B.P., Forman J.A., Weinstein S.C., Broderick M., Cheng K.J., Magloire T., Moore T., Napier C., "The impact of a clinic-based literacy intervention on language development in inner-city preschool children," *Pediatrics*, 2001; 107(1), p. 130–134.

- 2) Families participating in the Reach Out and Read model read to their children more often (4.3 vs. 3.8 days/week).

High P.C., LaGasse L., Becker S., Ahlgren I., Gardner A., "Literacy promotion in primary care pediatrics: can we make a difference?" *Pediatrics*, 2000; 104, p. 927–934.

- 3) Among children ages 33 months to 39 months attending a well-child clinic in Louisville, KY, expressive and receptive language scores were significantly and positively associated with both the number of Reach Out and Read-enhanced well-child visits they had attended, and with the number of books purchased for them by their parents.

Theriot J.A., Franco S.M., Sisson B.A., Metcalf S.C., Kennedy M.A., Bada H.S., "The impact of early literacy guidance on language skills of 3-year-olds," *Clinical Pediatrics*, 2003; 42, p. 165–172.

- 4) Hispanic parents whose children had received bilingual books, educational materials, and anticipatory guidance about literacy were more likely to report reading books with their child at least 3 days/week (66% vs. 24%) and report that reading books was one of their three favorite things to do with their child (43% vs. 13%) than parents in a control group.

Golova N., Alario A.J., Vivier P.M., Rodriguez M., High P.C. "Literacy promotion for Hispanic families in a primary care setting: A randomized controlled trial," *Pediatrics*, 1998; 103, p. 993–997.

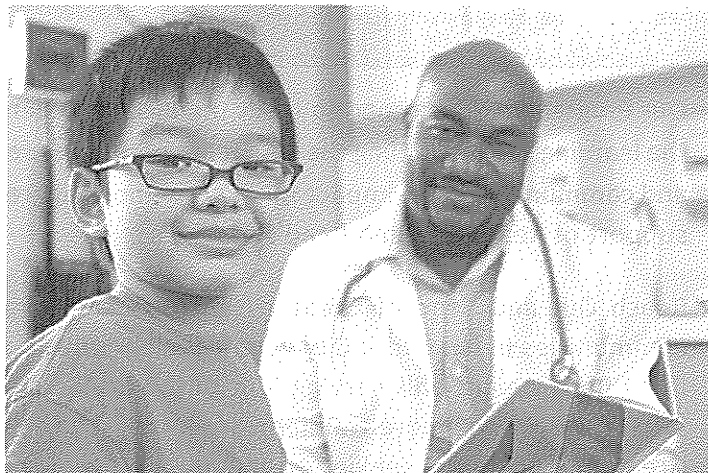
"Reach Out and Read is a simple intervention but has far-reaching effects."

—Nicholas Kristof

The New York Times 12/3/13

"One of the most important things we can do to prepare children for success in school is to read to them at an early age. I am thrilled to see the success of this early literacy program at Sound Shore Medical Center."

—Congresswoman Nita Lowey (D-New York)



WHY WE WORK

REACH OUT AND READ LEVERAGES TWO EXTRAORDINARY FORCES TO IMPROVE EARLY LITERACY AND EDUCATION OUTCOMES: THE POWER OF PARENTS AND THE INFLUENCE OF CHILDREN'S DOCTORS.

Reach Out and Read is uniquely positioned to help our youngest children arrive at school ready to read, learn, and succeed. As the only early literacy nonprofit that works through pediatricians, we have unparalleled access to young children—many of whom are not enrolled in high-quality early education programs—and their parents. Nearly 92 percent of all young children in New York State see a child health provider at least annually for a checkup, while only 69 percent of 3-5 year olds are in a preschool, nursery school or kindergarten, the next most common contact with a formal service system.

Since all Reach Out and Read doctors and nurses volunteer the time they spend promoting early literacy, children's books are the primary cost for the Reach Out and Read program. Publisher discounts and an innovative bulk-purchasing system enable Reach Out and Read to buy more than twice as many books as it could at standard retail pricing. The result is a low cost program that makes a profound impact on the lives of children.

Fifteen independent peer-reviewed studies, published in medical journals, show that Reach Out and Read is effective in changing both child outcomes, and parental attitudes and practices. During the preschool years, children served by Reach Out and Read score three to six months ahead of their non-Reach Out and Read peers on vocabulary tests. These early foundational language skills help start children on a path of success when they enter school.

OUR IMPACT

Our Programs are designed to meet the increased demand for this positive intervention, better close the learning gap by leveling the field for low-income pre-school children and, ultimately, change families and communities. Our impact must grow more aggressively as more low-income families need the support of Reach Out and Read's programs.

Reach Out and Read of Greater New York sites are expanding to serve more children in those communities in New York City where the benefit of our pediatrician-intervention is sorely needed. Right now, we are only serving 30% of the at-risk children and their families at each program site. With more books, more training, and more outreach, we can reach 100%. Reach Out and Read of Greater New York is seeking to double its impact by increasing the number of children we offer free counseling and books to in areas where doctors influence parents of low-income pre-school children to read aloud to their children and encourage a love of books, while increasing vocabulary, comprehension and school readiness.

The absence of these early reading and learning tools has demonstrated conclusively that those children who enter kindergarten without the advantage of exposure to books and reading on a regular basis are at a permanent disadvantage, bereft of sufficient vocabulary and learning skills and unlikely to ever catch up to peers who have had these advantages. Reach Out and Read of Greater New York is working to change this.

THE NEXT STEP...

GIVING BOOKS SHOULD BE AS ROUTINE AS GIVING IMMUNIZATIONS

With your help, we can support all children across New York City at risk for poor educational outcomes by engaging parents as their child's first and most important teachers.

AWARDS AND ENDORSEMENTS

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™



District II (New York State)



ny.give.org

"And so the question is whether all of us—as citizens, and as parents—are willing to do what's necessary to give every child a chance to succeed. That responsibility begins not in our classrooms, but in our homes and communities. It's family that first instills the love of learning in a child."

—President Barack Obama,
State of the Union Address, January 25, 2011

Reach Out and Read of Greater New York • 30 East 33rd Street, New York, NY 10016 • (646) 237-0103

www.reachoutandreadnyc.org

Created 2/2014



City's First Readers

An initiative of the New York City Council



City's First Readers Initiative FY'16 Request \$5,000,000

City's First Readers, an initiative of the New York City Council, is a collaboration of nonprofit organizations fostering the literacy development of NYC children, ages 0-5. The initiative provides parents, early childcare providers, and teachers with the resources and services needed to ensure children enter school ready to read and achieve educational success.

New York City is Currently Facing a Literacy Crisis

Many of New York City's children do not enter school with the tools they need to succeed.

Child of Average Low Income Family	Child of Average Higher Income Family
1 book in the home	54 books in the home
25 hours of 1-on-1 reading	1,000-1,700 hours of 1-on-1 reading
13 million words heard by kindergarten	45 million words heard by kindergarten
Recognizes 2 letters of the alphabet by kindergarten	Recognizes all 26 letters of the alphabet by kindergarten

According to 2013-2014 English Language Arts standardized test scores, 70% of New York City's third grade students are reading below grade level. Once children fall behind, it becomes increasingly difficult for them to catch up.

The City's First Readers initiative works to correct the disparities found between families with access to resources, and those who have limited access.

In FY'15 eight partner organizations were allocated a total of **\$1.5M** to the City's First Reader Initiative by the City Council to provide:

- **Parent Engagement Workshops** to assist families in creating a daily reading routine, and provide parents with fun and easy literacy-building activities that can be done at home;
- **Reading Opportunities** to provide reading opportunities in the home, libraries, doctor offices, parks, and local businesses;
- **Access to Resources** to give parents, childcare providers, and teachers the resources needed to help children succeed; and
- **Book Distribution** to provide free access to age-appropriate books for children.

In year one, the City's First Reader's initiative was able to reach 137 new sites and deliver services to over 200,000 families.

An enhancement to \$5M would allow City's First readers to:

- Expand program outcomes to reach 500,000 families through programs and services
- Build a citywide marketing campaign to connect families and caregivers directly to programs and services

Reach Out and Read of Greater New York Citywide Program Sites

Bronx

Acacia Network / Claremont Family Health Center

262 East 174th Street, Bronx, NY 10457-7152

BronxCare at Third Avenue

2737 Third Avenue, Bronx, NY 10451-5801

Bronx-Lebanon Hospital Center / ACN Pediatric Clinic

1650 Grand Concourse, 3rd Floor, Bronx, NY 10457-7606

Bronx-Lebanon Center / Center for Comprehensive Care

1650 Grand Concourse, 9th Floor Milstein, Bronx, NY 10457-7606

Bronx-Lebanon Hospital Center / Bronxcare Tiffany Clinic

853 Tiffany Street, Bronx, NY 10459

Children of Zion Pediatrics

225 East 149th St, Bronx, NY 10451-5524

Children's Hospital at Montefiore / NY Children's Health Project: Community Pediatrics

853 Longwood Ave, Suite 201, Bronx, NY 10459-4000

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Health Center

1265 Franklin Avenue, Bronx, NY 10456-3501

Institute for Family Health / Mt. Hope Family Practice

130 W Tremont Ave, Bronx, NY 10453-5436

Institute for Family Health / Stevenson Family Health

731 White Plains Road, Bronx, NY 10473

Institute for Family Health / Urban Horizons Family Health Center

50 E 168th St., Bronx, NY 10452-7929

Institute for Family Health / Walton Family Health Center

1894 Walton Ave, Bronx, NY 10453-6018

Turnover

Jacobi Medical Center / Department of Pediatrics

1340 Pelham Parkway South, Building 8, 1st Fl, Room 1B166, Bronx, NY 10461-1104

Jewish Child Care Association

555 Bergen Avenue, 4th floor, Bronx, NY 10455-1368

Lincoln Medical and Mental Health Center / Department of Dentistry

234 E 149th St, Clinic 2A8, Bronx, NY 10451-5504

Lincoln Medical and Mental Health Center / Department of Pediatrics

234 E 149th St., 4B-100 Department of Pediatrics, Bronx, NY 10451-5504

Montefiore Medical Center / Center for Child Health and Resiliency

890 Prospect Avenue, Bronx, NY 10459-3914

Montefiore Medical Center / Pediatric Primary Care at FCC

3444 Kossuth Avenue, FCC PPB 1st Floor, Bronx, NY 10467-2410

Montefiore Medical Group / Astor Ave Pediatrics

1500 Astor Ave, # 2, Bronx, NY 11217

Montefiore Medical Group / Comprehensive Health Care Center

305 East 161st Street, Bronx, NY 10451-3535

Montefiore Medical Group / Family Health Center

360 East 193rd Street, Bronx, NY 10458-4710

Montefiore Medical Group / Grand Concourse

2532 Grand Concourse, Bronx, NY 10458-4902

Montefiore Medical Group / Medical Park - Comprehensive Family Care Center

1621 Eastchester Road, Bronx, NY 10461-2604

Montefiore Medical Group / University Avenue Family Practice

105 W. 188th Street, Father Zeiser Place, Bronx, NY 10468

Montefiore Medical Group / Via Verde

730 Brook Ave, Bronx, NY 10455

Montefiore Medical Group / Wakefield Ambulatory Care Center

4234 Bronx Blvd, Bronx, NY 10466-2611

Montefiore Medical Group / West Farms Family Practice

1055 East Tremont Ave, Bronx, NY 10460

Turnover

Montefiore Medical Group / Williamsbridge Family Practice Clinic
3448 Boston Rd, Bronx, NY 10469-2512

Montefiore School Health Program / PS 64
1425 Walton Avenue, First floor, Bronx, NY 10452-6901

Morris Heights Health Center
85 West Burnside Avenue, Bronx, NY 10453-4015

Morris Heights Health Center / Walton Avenue
25 East 183rd Street, Bronx, NY 10453-1242

Morris Heights Health Center, St. Ann's
625 East 137th Street, Bronx, NY 10454-3142

Morrisania Diagnostic & Treatment Center / Department of Pediatrics
1225 Gerard Avenue, Bronx, NY 10452-8001

Neighborhood & Family Health Center
324-326 E. 149th Street, Bronx, NY 10451-5602

North Bronx HealthCare Network / The Health Center at Gunhill
1012 East Gunhill Road, Bronx, NY 10469-3720

North Bronx HealthCare Network / The Health Center at Tremont
1826 Arthur Avenue, 2nd Floor, Bronx, NY 10457-6601

North Central Bronx Hospital
3424 Kossuth Ave, Department of Pediatrics, 4th Floor, Bronx, NY 10467-2410

Obilo Pediatric Associates
4119 Barnes Avenue, Bronx, NY 10466

Ola Pediatrics
645 Allerton Ave, Bronx, NY 10467

Ola Pediatrics, Corlear Ave
3032 Corlear Ave, Bronx, NY 10463-5312

Poe Medical Center
2432 Grand Concourse, Bronx, NY 10458-5204

St. Barnabas Hospital
4487 Third Avenue, Second Floor, Bronx, NY 10457-1526

Turnover

St. Barnabas Hospital / Arthur Avenue Comprehensive Health

2385 Arthur Avenue, Suite 206, Bronx, NY 10458-8184

St. Barnabas Hospital / Bronx Park Pediatrics

2016 Bronxdale Ave, Ste 203, Bronx, NY 10462-3388

St. Barnabas Hospital / Southern Medical Group

326 East 149th Street, Bronx, NY 10451-5602

The Children's Aid Society

910 E. 172nd St, Bronx, NY 10460-5980

The Floating Hospital / Help Morris

285 East 171 Street, Bronx, NY 10457-8939

Union Community Health Center / 2021 Grand Concourse

2021 Grand Concourse, Bronx, NY 10453-4304

Union Community Health Center / Fordham Plaza

470 E. Fordham Rd, Bronx, NY 10458-5108

Union Community Health Center / Pediatric Ambulatory Care

260 E. 188th Street, 5th Floor, Bronx, NY 10458-5302

Urban Health Plan, Inc. / Bella Vista Health Center

890 Hunts Point Avenue, Bronx, NY 10474-5402

Urban Health Plan, Inc., Bella Vista Community Health Center

882-886 Hunts Point Avenue, Bronx, NY 10474-5402

Urban Health Plan, Inc. / El Nuevo San Juan Health Center

1065 Southern Boulevard, Pediatric Department, Bronx, NY 10459-2417

Webster Child Health Clinic

401 East 168th St., Bronx, NY 10456-3707

Brooklyn

Bedford Stuyvesant Family Health Center

1456 Fulton Street, Brooklyn, NY 11216-2505

Brownsville Child Health Clinic

259 Bristol Street, Brooklyn, NY 11212

Turnover

Brownsville Multi-Service Family Health Center

592 Rockaway Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11212-5539

Brownsville Multi-Service Family Health Center, Ashford

650 Ashford St, Brooklyn, NY 11207

Brownsville Multi-Service Family Health Center, Genesis

360 Snediker, Brooklyn, NY 11207-4512

Bushwick Communicare Center

335 Central Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11221-4501

Caribbean House Health Center

1167 Nostrand Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11225

Coney Island Hospital

2601 Ocean Parkway, Brooklyn, NY 11235-7745

Crown Heights Child Health Clinic

1218 Prospect Place, Brooklyn, NY 11213-2211

Cumberland Diagnostic & Treatment Center / Department of Pediatrics

100 North Portland Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11205-2005

Dove Pediatric Service

900 Lenox Road, Brooklyn, NY 11203

Dr. Betty Shabazz Health Center

999 Blake Ave, New York, NY 11208-3535

East New York D & TC

2094 Pitkin Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11207-3509

Eleanor Roosevelt Houses Child Health Clinic

388 Pulaski Street, Brooklyn, NY 11206-7208

Fort Greene Health Clinic

295 Flatbush Extension, Brooklyn, NY 11217-2866

Greenpoint Community Health Clinic

875 Manhattan Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11222-2227

Heartshare St. Vincent's Services Clinic

66 Boerum Place, Brooklyn, NY 11201-3626

Homecrest Pediatric & Adolescent Health Center

1601 Avenue S, Room 118, Brooklyn, NY 11229-2920

Turnover

Interfaith Medical Center / Bishop Orris G. Walker, Jr. Health Care Center
528 Prospect Place, Brooklyn, NY 11238

Jonathan Williams Houses Child Health Clinic
333 Roebling Street, Brooklyn, NY 11211-6204

Kings County Hospital Center
541 Clarkson Avenue, Pediatric Clinic, EBldg. 5 Fl., Brooklyn, NY 11203

Lafayette Houses Child Health Clinic
434 DeKalb Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11205-4406

Long Island College Hospital / Pediatric Ambulatory Clinic
97 Amity Street, 1st Floor, Brooklyn, NY 11201

Lutheran Family Health Centers / Caribbean American Family Health Center
3414 Church Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11203-2714

Lutheran Family Health Centers / Family Physician Health Center
5616 6th Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11220-3419

Lutheran Family Health Centers / Sunset Park Family Health Center
5610 2nd Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11220-4004

Lutheran Family Health Centers, Brooklyn Chinese
5008 7th Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11220

Lutheran Family Health Centers, Park Ridge Family Health Center
6317 4th Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11220-4922

Lutheran Family Health Centers, Park Slope Family Health Center
220 13th St, Brooklyn, NY 11215-4802

Maimonides Medical Center / Pediatric Primary Care Center
1301 57th Street, 2nd Floor, Brooklyn, NY 11219-4636

Maimonides Medical Center / Primary Health Services
6323 7th Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11220-4742

New York Methodist Hospital
263 Seventh Avenue, Medical Pavilion, 3rd Floor, Brooklyn, NY 11215-3689

Newkirk Family Health Center
1401 Newkirk Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11226-6521

Turnover

Sumner Avenue Houses Child Health Clinic

47 Marcus Garvey Boulevard, Brooklyn, NY 11206-5804

SUNY Downstate Medical Center

450 Clarkson Avenue, Box 49, Brooklyn, NY 11203-2056

Sutter Clinic

1091 Sutter Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11208-3605

The Brookdale Family Care Center

465 New Lots Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11207-6414

The Brooklyn Hospital Center

121 Dekalb Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11201-5425

The Floating Hospital / Help One

515 Blake Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11207-4502

Williamsburg Child Health Clinic

151 Maujer St., Brooklyn, NY 11206-1220

Williamsburg Community Health Center

279 Graham Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11211-4901

Woodhull Medical Center

760 Broadway, Brooklyn, NY 11206-5317

Wyckoff Heights Medical Center

14-11 Myrtle Av, Brooklyn, NY 11237-4006

Manhattan

Bellevue Hospital Center / Children of Bellevue's Reach Out and Read

462 First Avenue, Admin Building A302, New York, NY 10016-9196

Bellevue Hospital Center, Pediatric Dentistry

462 First Avenue, Admin Building A302, New York, NY 10016-9196

Beth Israel Pediatric Associates

10 Union Square East, 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10003-3314

Broadway Practice

4781 Broadway, New York, NY 10034

Center for Comprehensive Health Practice

1900 Second Ave, 9th Floor, New York, NY 10029

Turnover

Charles B. Wang Community Health Center, Manhattan

125 Walker Street, 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10013-4135

Downtown Health Center

150 Essex St., New York, NY 10002-2301

East Harlem Council for Human Services, Inc. / Boriken Neighborhood Health Center

2265 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10035-2200

Gouverneur Diagnostic and Treatment Center

227 Madison Street, Department of Pediatrics, 3rd Floor, New York, NY 10002-7537

Harlem Hospital Center / Department of Pediatrics

506 Lenox Avenue, NNR-406, New York, NY 10037-1802

Hassenfeld Children's Center for Cancer & Blood Disorders

160 East 32nd Street, Medical Level, New York, NY 10016

Helen B. Atkinson Center

81 West 115th Street, New York, NY 10026

Heritage Health Center, Harlem Village Academy

74 West 124th Street 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10027

Heritage Healthcare Center

1727 Amsterdam Ave, 4th Floor, New York, NY 10031-4611

Institute for Family Health / Amsterdam Center

690 Amsterdam Avenue, New York, NY 10025

Institute for Family Health / Family Health Center of Harlem

1824 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10035

Institute for Family Health / Phillips Family Practice

16 E. 16th Street, 5th Floor, New York, NY 10003-3105

Institute for Family Health / PS57 School-Based Health Center

176 East 115th Street, New York, NY 10029

Metropolitan Hospital / Department of Pediatrics

1901 First Avenue, Room 523, New York, NY 10029-7404

Metropolitan Hospital Center / La Clinica Del Barrio

413 E 120th Street, New York, NY 10035-3602

Mount Sinai Adolescent Health Center / Teen Parenting Program

312 East 94th Street, New York, NY 10128-5604

Turnover

Mount Sinai Medical Center / Department of Ambulatory Pediatrics
1 Gustave Levy Place, Box 1202A, New York, NY 10029-6500

Mount Sinai Pediatric School-Based Health Centers
1 Gustave L. Levy Place, Box 1202A, New York, NY 10029-6500

New Alternatives for Children, Inc.
37 West 26th Street, 6th floor, New York, NY 10010

NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital / Columbia University Medical Center
622 West 168th Street, VC4-412, New York, NY 10032

**NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical College / Heads Up! Program
- Division of Child Development**
525 E 68th St, Box 139, New York, NY 10065-4870

NewYork-Presbyterian, Audubon Primary Care Practice
21 Audubon Ave, New York, NY 10032-4220

NewYork-Presbyterian, Charles B. Rangel Community Health Center
534 W 135th St, New York, NY 10031-8601

NewYork-Presbyterian, Farrell Family Practice
610 West 158th street, New York, NY 10032-7104

NewYork-Presbyterian, Washington Heights Family Health Center
579 West 181 Street, New York, NY 10033-5002

NYU Hospital for Joint Diseases / Center for Children
301 East 17th Street, New York, NY 10003-3804

Roberto Clemente Center
540 E 13th St, New York, NY 10009-3519

Ryan/Chelsea-Clinton Community Health Center
645 Tenth Avenue, New York, NY 10036-2904

Ryan-NENA Community Health Center
279 East Third St., New York, NY 10009-7813

Settlement Health
212 East 106th Street, New York, NY 10029

Smith Family Health Center
60 Madison St, New York, NY 10038-1219

Turnover

The Children's Aid Society, Lord Memorial Health Center
150 E. 45th St, New York, NY 10017-3115

The Children's Aid Society, Milbank Health Center
14-32 W. 118th St, New York, NY 10026-1904

Uptown Pediatrics
1245 Park Ave, New York, NY 10128-1735

William F. Ryan Community Health Center
801 Amsterdam Avenue, New York, NY 10025-5704

Queens

Charles B. Wang Community Health Center, Flushing
136-26 37th Avenue, Flushing, NY 11354-6533

Elmhurst Hospital Center
79-01 Broadway, Room A7-34, Elmhurst, NY 11373-1329

Elmhurst Hospital Center / Corona Medical Center
104-04 Corona Ave, Corona, NY 11368-2924

Forestdale Inc.
67-35 112th Street, Forest Hills, NY 11375

Long Island City Health Center
36-11 21st Street, Long Island City, NY 11106-4705

Mount Sinai Hospital of Queens / Family Health Associates
31-60 21 Street, Astoria, NY 11106-4520

New York Hospital Queens / Theresa Lang Children's Center
56-45 Main St, Flushing, NY 11355-5045

Pediatric Plaza
4053 75th Street, Elmhurst, NY 11373

Queens Hospital Center / Ambulatory Pediatrics
82-68 164th Street, Jamaica, NY 11432-1121

Queens Hospital Center / Parsons Medical Center
90-37 Parsons Boulevard, Jamaica, NY 11432-6032

Queens Hospital Center / South Queens Community Health Center
114-02 Guy Brewer Blvd., Jamaica, NY 11434

Turnover

Queens Hospital Center / Springfield Gardens Medical Center
134-64 Springfield Blvd, Springfield Gardens, NY 11413-1459

St. John's Episcopal Hospital Pediatrics Clinic
327 Beach 19 St, Far Rockaway, NY 11691-4423

The Floating Hospital / LIC
4140 27 Street, Long Island City, NY 11101-3825

The Floating Hospital / LIC Community Health Center
41-43 Crescent Street, Long Island City, NY 11101

The Floating Hospital / Queens Bridge
10-29 41st Avenue, Long Island City, NY 11101

Urban Health Plan, Inc. / Plaza Del Sol Family Health Center
37-16 108th Street, Corona, NY 11368-2025

Staten Island

Beacon Christian Community Health Center
2079 Forest Avenue, Staten Island, 10303-1735

Community Health Center of Richmond
235 Port Richmond Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10302-1701

Coney Island Hospital, Mariner's Harbor Pediatric & Adolescent Health Care Center
2040 Forest Avenue, Staten Island, NY, 10303-1737

Coney Island Hospital, Stapleton Pediatric & Adolescent Health Center
111 Canal Street, Staten Island, NY, 10304-2723

Richmond University Medical Center
355 Bard Avenue, Staten Island, NY, 10310-1664

Staten Island University Hospital
475 Seaview Avenue, Staten Island, NY, 10305-3436



FEDERATION OF PROTESTANT WELFARE AGENCIES

TESTIMONY

**Budget Hearing:
Youth Services and Community Development**

Presented to

New York City Council, Committees on
Youth Services and Community Development

Friday March 27, 2015

Prepared By:
Mallory Nugent
Policy Analyst for Human Services and Poverty Reduction

Submitted By:

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Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies, Inc.
281 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10010
Phone: (212) 777-4800 / Fax: (212) 414-1328

My name is Mallory Nugent and I am the Policy Analyst for Human Services and Poverty Reduction at the Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies (FPWA). I would like to thank Chairperson Eugene and Chairperson Arroyo, along with members of the Youth Services Committee and the Committee on Community Development for the opportunity to testify before you today and for your leadership on issues that deeply affect New Yorkers.

The Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies (FPWA) is an anti-poverty, policy and advocacy nonprofit with a membership network of nearly 200 human service and faith-based organizations. FPWA has been a prominent force in New York City's social services system for more than 92 years, advocating for fair public policies, collaborating with partner agencies and community based membership network, and mobilizing faith based providers to meet the needs of New Yorkers. Each year, through its network of member agencies, FPWA reaches 1.5 million New Yorkers of all ages, ethnicities, and denominations. FPWA strives to build a city of equal opportunity that reduces poverty, promotes upward mobility, and creates shared prosperity for all New Yorkers.

Summer Youth Employment Program

FPWA strongly supports investing \$21.5 million in the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) in order to increase available slots to 50,000. We were very pleased by the Council's additional \$10 million investment in FY2015, creating 10,700 new jobs. This was a significant step towards the Campaign for Summer Jobs' five year goal of 100,000 jobs in New York City. Last summer approximately 47,000 youth were involved in SYEP. The increase in the minimum wage, along with the high demand, call for further investment to maintain the positive trajectory towards 100,000 jobs.

Each summer more than 130,000 youth apply for SYEP, with a majority turned away due to lack of slots. With 186,000 17 to 24 year olds in NYC neither working nor in school, programs like SYEP are crucial. A New York City Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) report found that over 75% of youth participating in SYEP would not have had a summer job without the program. SYEP provides young people with job skills, experience and summer income. In an economy struggling to recover, it is vital that we provide youth with the supports they need to be successful adults.

Worker Cooperative Business

FPWA is grateful for the support of Chairperson Arroyo, Council Member Rosenthal and the City Council for their strong support for investing \$1.2 million in the Worker Cooperative Business Development Initiative (the Initiative) in FY2015. Since July 2014, the Initiative has supported the startup of 44 worker cooperatives, which are projected to have 194 worker owners by June 2015. As a result of capacity building and technical assistance provided through this Initiative, the 22 existing worker cooperative businesses are also experiencing growth.

Worker cooperatives are values-driven businesses whose core purpose is to benefit workers and their community. In contrast to traditional companies, employees at worker cooperatives participate in making and apportioning the profits, overseeing, and governing the organization using democratic practices. Workers own the majority of the equity in the business, and control the voting shares. This model has proven to be an effective tool for creating and maintaining sustainable, dignified jobs; generating wealth; improving the quality of life of workers; and promoting community and local economic development, particularly for people who lack access to business ownership or sustainable work options.

For example in 2014, four high school students from the Bronx attended the Initiative's Coop Academy. Upon completion of this program, they later formed Syllable, a student-owned cooperative that creates uniforms, sweat shirts, hoodies, and t-shirts. Their goal is to have easily accessed fashion for the public. The students' goal is to use their earnings to save and prepare for their college education.

Engaged workers make for more productive workers and a more profitable business. When managers encourage employee input in work processes, the business benefits through increased productivity. Many studies show that, privately held companies that convert into employee-owned businesses are more productive, gain value faster, and pay better wages when they become employee-owned. As they are locally-owned, these benefits for workers and businesses are reinvested in the communities in which they are rooted.

FPWA strongly supports the New York City Worker Cooperative Coalition's (the Coalition) request to the City Council to increase its investment in the Initiative from \$1.12 million in FY 2015 to \$2.34 million in FY 2016. With additional resources, the Coalition aims to increase the impact of this Initiative on cooperative creation by 30%, and on assistance provided and jobs created by 50%. An increase in funding will also allow the Coalition to double the number of entrepreneurs reached.

After-School Program

We are grateful to Mayor de Blasio and the City Council for the support they have shown for after-school programming, in particular, the investment in middle school after-school. These funds will have a positive impact on afterschool providers and the children they serve. As a representative of many of those providers, FPWA is pleased by this strong show of support. We recommend the Mayor and the City Council to continue addressing additional and pressing needs of the already-strained youth programs in the final FY 2016 budget.

FPWA supports the addition of \$7.7 million toward elementary after-school slots. FPWA and the providers we represent were pleased to see an increase in the COMPASS rate, assisting programs in ensuring quality afterschool programs for elementary students. With this increase must come an increase in overall funding. **With an additional fund in the amount of \$7.7 million, 2,300 elementary after-**

school slots will be saved. This investment will prevent a great loss to our city's elementary after-school programs by keeping children enrolled.

We recommend \$5.9 million toward DOE-funded after-school sites that are due to be eliminated when their contracts end on June 30, 2015. Without the additional funding, 1,882 children currently receiving services from these 17 sites will lose their services by the end of this school year. We urge you to include \$5.9 million to prevent these closures. These programs are vital to the families and communities they serve across the boroughs.

In addition to the current investment in middle school after-school, **FPWA recommends the City to fund summer programming for all SONYC after-school sites.** Children of low-income families lose two months of reading and mathematics learning during the summer months compared to children in middle and higher-income families, who often benefit from fee-based camp and summer programs. For the rest of our city's middle school students, guaranteed after-school programming in the summertime can eliminate this learning gap. It also provides developmental opportunities that students may shy away from in an otherwise traditional, remedial, summer school setting. The after school learning model would appeal to students since it draws on other skills and combines recreational activities to supplement academics.

FPWA also recommends the City to expand their investment in after-school to include high school students. High school students are equally as in need of supportive and educational after-school opportunities. During this crucial time of adolescence brain development, it is especially important that this age group is provided with the right kind of conditioning and stimulating after-school programming in order to best set them up for success. According to a U.S. Department of Education's study in 2000, high school students who participated in after-school activities demonstrated an increased interest in graduating high school and attending college, and a decreased risk of substance and alcohol use.

Runaway and Homeless Youth Program

FPWA thanks the Mayor and the Council for investing \$7.2 million in Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) programs last year. **We ask that the City continues its commitment to this vulnerable population by increasing the number of beds by 100 in FY 2016, as well as investing in much needed support services.**

Estimates indicate that nearly 20,000 individuals under the age of 24 are homeless in New York City. This issue was exacerbated by the Great Recession, just as funding was cut by over 60%. To promote safety and to help youth establish stability it is imperative they have a safe place to sleep. Support services to assist them in securing employment and housing, along with overcoming trauma are also vital. Homeless youth require specialized services to support them in overcoming obstacles to stability: 46% of homeless youth left an abusive home and approximately 40% have been assaulted

with a weapon while homeless. LGBTQ youth are vastly overrepresented in the homeless community (40%) and require compassionate, accepting programs.

Adult Literacy Program

In New York City, there are an estimated 1.5 million adults who are in need of literacy services. Unfortunately, government funded English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) and adult literacy programs can serve less than 5% of that number at any given time.

FPWA joins New York City Coalition for Adult Literacy (NYCCAL) in asking the City to invest in services to assist adults in need of language and literacy services. By providing a strong foundation in literacy, the City is assisting individuals in securing meaningful employment. Investing in this type of education is a cost effective means of promoting independence and economic mobility. To achieve this goal, **FPWA asks the City to invest \$20 million in New York City Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Initiative literacy programs. We also ask the Council to enhance the Adult Literacy Initiative by \$4.25 million to total \$5 million.**

We thank the City Council for the opportunity to testify. We hope that you will consider our budget priorities and recommendations.

THE CAMPAIGN FOR SUMMER JOBS

C/o United Neighborhood Houses (UNH), 70 W. 36th Street, 5th Floor, NY, NY 10018
Neighborhood Family Services Coalition (NFSC), 120 Broadway #230, NY, NY 10271
Tel. (917) 484-9337 (UNH) or 212-619-1661 (NFSC) fax 212-619-1625

**Testimony of the Campaign for Summer Jobs
Before the Joint Preliminary Budget Hearing
On the FY 2015- FY 2016 Executive Budget
Committee on Youth Services
Committee on Community Development and Committee on Finance**

On the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP)

**Honorable Mathieu Eugene, Chair, Committee on Youth Services
Honorable Maria del Carmen Arroyo, Chair, Committee on Community Development
Honorable Julissa Ferreras, Chair, Committee on Finance**

**Submitted by
Ashley Lecaro, Public Service Scholar, United Neighborhood Houses
Ginger Hubbell, Neighborhood Family Services Coalition**

March 27th, 2015

Thank you Chair Eugene, Chair Arroyo, and Chair Ferreras for this opportunity to testify today. My name is Ashley Lecaro and I am a Public Service Scholar from Hunter College with United Neighborhood Houses (UNH). I am joined by Ginger Hubbell from Neighborhood Family Services Coalition (NFSC). The Campaign for Summer Jobs (CSJ) is a coalition of nearly 100 community-based and citywide organizations in New York City that advocate for State and City investment in the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP). Since its inception in 1999, Campaign for Summer Jobs has worked to advocate for State and City investment in SYEP. This February we organized our 17th Youth Action Day where young people travel to Albany and meet with State policymakers to discuss the importance of summer jobs. We are submitting with our testimony a report on a survey conducted by CSJ in 2014 of current and former SYEP participants from worksites around New York State. The data shows that SYEP has a positive impact on participants and communities. Last year, CSJ began a five year campaign to increase the number of summer jobs for New York City's youth to 100,000 by 2019. Thanks to the strong leadership of the City Council and Chair Eugene, we made meaningful progress towards that goal with new investments that brought the total number of summer jobs in New York City to over 47,000- the highest since 2009 when the Federal government temporarily increased its investment in the youth workforce through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

Benefits of SYEP

For decades, SYEP has served as a stepping stone into the workforce for many youth in New York City. SYEP provides an opportunity for young people to earn income over the summer while developing professional skills. SYEP provides youth with valuable opportunities to learn and strengthen soft skills. These include the importance of punctuality, responsibility, effective communication, time management and budgeting. Youth in the program learn critical work skills that can lead to future employment opportunities. By creating these positive work experiences and providing participants with insight into the professional world, SYEP plays an important and meaningful role in shaping the future of youth in New York City.

Research

In the survey conducted by CSJ during the summer of 2014 the data collected illustrated that SYEP has a positive impact on its participants and the surrounding communities. Of the 1,436 former and current participants of SYEP that responded to the question of why they applied to SYEP:

- 75% of respondents said that they applied in order to earn money for themselves or to save money for the future.
- 63% said that they applied in order to build skills for a future career or to prepare themselves for the workforce.
- 49% said they applied in order to have something to do this summer.

In addition, youth become more involved in their communities since many SYEP employers are community based organizations. According to the survey conducted last summer, 40% of SYEP participants worked at summer camps and 12% worked at child care centers. SYEP staff support the work of programs and help to increase the capacity of summer camps which have mandated staff to child ratios. Furthermore, wages earned through SYEP are primarily spent locally, in the neighborhood where the young person either lives or works, supporting the local economy.

A report released in 2014 from the National Bureau of Economic Research, the University of Pennsylvania Wharton School of Business and the University of California Berkeley Goldman School of Public Policy on the effects of youth employment from New York City SYEP lotteries found that youth who participate in SYEP have decreased probabilities of incarceration as well as decreased probabilities of mortality. Their data estimates around 86 lives were saved during four years of the SYEP program from 2005-2008

We offer the following recommendations

Invest \$21.5 million for SYEP in FY16

CSJ strongly recommends that the City continue to invest in SYEP. While we appreciate last year's investment which brought the total number of summer jobs to over 47,000, we are asking for an additional \$21.5 million for SYEP to be included in this year's budget. This will cover:

- Recent increase in minimum wage that has gone up from \$8.00 to \$8.75
- Restore the 10,700 jobs that were created last year
- Create 2,874 more jobs for our youth in the City.

Increase the number of SYEP jobs to 50,000

Currently, more than 130,000 young people apply to SYEP, and approximately 80,000 are turned away. Last year CSJ announced a goal of increasing the number of SYEP jobs to 100,000 within 5 years. Increasing the number of jobs to 50,000 this year would put us halfway to the 100,000 mark.

On behalf of the Campaign for Summer Jobs, we thank you for the opportunity to testify.

2014

CSJ Survey Shows Demand for Expanding Summer Work Opportunities



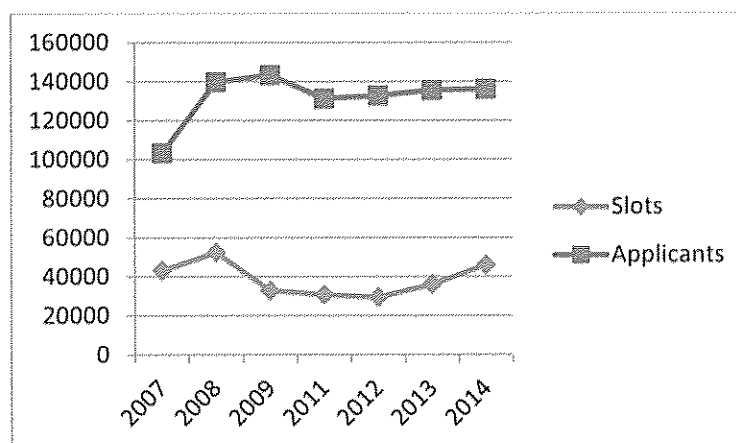
Campaign for Summer Jobs

www.campaignforsummerjobs.com

New York State's Role in Summer Youth Employment Program

New York State has the opportunity to develop its workforce and support youth development by creating meaningful summer employment opportunities for young people through the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP). Current research has demonstrated that SYEP jobs represent opportunities for young people to learn important job skills, understand new career fields, gain motivation to pursue higher education, maintain an important source of income and become more confident in their abilities and futures. By investing further in the Summer Youth Employment Program, we can ensure that more young people across the state of New York will have the opportunity to reap the benefits of summer employment opportunities.

Budget constraints in SYEP have limited the number of these positive experiences. Currently, more than 135,000 young people apply to SYEP, and approximately 100,000 are turned away. Despite increased funding, SYEP still serves less than 35% of its applicants.



Number of slots v. Number of applicants to SYEP

Source: Summer Youth Employment Program Annual Summer 2007-2013
NYC Department of Youth and Community Development

In the still-recovering economy, it is hard for youth to find entry level jobs when competing with experienced workers and, for many, SYEP represents the only opportunity to work during the summer. A survey conducted by the New York City Department of Youth and Community Development found that over 75% of young people participating in SYEP in New York City in 2012 would not have found a summer job without the program, up from 70% in 2009.¹

In FY '14, New York State increased its investment in the Summer Youth Employment Program by \$2.5 million, bringing the total investment to \$27.5 million. The increased investment covered the gap created by the increase in the minimum wage for New York State funded slots. Now, New York State should seize the opportunity to expand summer work opportunities for young people across the state by increasing funding during the next budget cycle.

¹ Summer Youth Employment Program Annual Summary 2012. NYC Department of Youth and Community Development

Survey Data

The Campaign for Summer Jobs (CSJ), a coalition of nearly 100 community-based and citywide organizations in New York City advocating for increased investment in SYEP, conducted a survey of current and former SYEP participants from worksites around New York State. The survey collected information on young people's experiences with SYEP, including why they chose to apply to SYEP and the program's impact on their goals for the future. The survey data illustrates the positive effects of SYEP on its participants and highlights SYEP as a constructive force in our State's communities.

Campaign for Summer Jobs conducted this survey over the summer of 2014 by sending to SYEP providers including community based organizations and Youth Bureaus throughout New York State. Surveys were distributed by providers and returned to United Neighborhood Houses which conducted analysis of the surveys. 1,447 responses were received from current and past SYEP participants.

Demographics

The 1,447 participants represented a wide range of job fields, ages, and educational backgrounds from across New York State. 64% of the survey participants were under 18 years old and 66% had not completed high school or received a GED.

Demand

The survey data indicates a strong demand for SYEP. Many young people apply for SYEP two or three years in a row. The survey found that 53% of applicants have applied to SYEP more than once. Of those participants who had applied more than once, 41% had applied twice and 23% had applied three times or more. These results reinforce the notion that, at its current funding level, SYEP is unable to serve many motivated youths who desire summer employment experiences.

Motivation

The survey also found that young people apply to SYEP for a variety of reasons. 75% of survey respondents said that they applied in order to earn money for themselves or to save money for the future. 63% said that they applied to SYEP in order to build skills for a future career or to prepare themselves for the workforce. 49% said they applied in order to have something to do this summer.

One respondent reported that he wanted to "learn the value of money and to start being independent." Another respondent, who worked at a child care center, stated that she applied to SYEP "to earn extra money to help [her] mother take care of [her] son." She said her goal for the future was "to become a team worker to help young mothers," and to help girls "not make the mistake of having a baby young." She also expressed that her SYEP job gave her experience working with kids other than her son.

Impact

The survey data suggests that SYEP is a transformative experience in the lives and communities of its participants. CSJ found that some important areas of impact were:

- **Job Skills**

Some surveyed participants highlighted the valuable job skills they acquired through SYEP. 103 participants said that the experience taught them responsibility, time management, patience and other soft skills necessary for the workforce. "Working has challenged me to set goals, meet deadlines, and just learn how to work with others," one individual said. Another said that SYEP "helped me reach my goals because now I'm no longer a procrastinator. I do everything on time and get in all my documents or any other materials in on time. I also get to work on time and I'm no longer late to places I need to be." 96 respondents mentioned that their SYEP experience taught them better communication skills. Many said that the experience taught them how to work with a diverse group of people and that it gave them a chance to learn how work with supervisors, teammates and clients. One participant said that "by working with a wide variety of children...SYEP has helped me gain control of situations that were far out of my control before, like being able to supervise children on a field trip."

- **Career Exploration**

The survey also demonstrated that SYEP provided an opportunity for career exploration. More than 85 young people surveyed said that the program led them to consider different career paths and provided support and resources for them to explore different career opportunities. One young man said that "SYEP has given me the opportunity to grow, learn and be more aware of the work force – its challenges and the vast opportunities available for a young black man just starting out." Another said over the summer "Every Wednesday, during work, we had a meeting and we'd talk about what I needed to do to attend college and graduate. Now I know what to do to reach my goals." Another said that the program "helped motivate me to continue pursuing a college degree."

- **Goal Development**

The survey found that the majority of SYEP participants have clear goals for the future and that SYEP has helped them develop valuable skills that will be applied later on. Of the 1,105 participants who told us about their future plans, 47% said that they wanted to pursue or were pursuing a very specific career path and 34% said that their future plans included graduating from college or pursuing some kind of higher education after high school. One respondent said that he would like "to finish college with a master's in veterinarian science" while another told us that she wanted to be "a successful pediatrician, who was financially stable and independent". Another 20% also indicated that they wanted to be independent. Many of those young people also said that they

wanted a stable job that would allow them to take care of parents or children. 20% of respondents told us about how SYEP directly impacted their career goals and aspirations. 42% said that SYEP gave them job and life experience. Many spoke about having had the chance to work with children for the first time. One participant said that the experience gave her “the ability to work with children of different ages and races and to learn new things from both the children and the environment.”

- **Financial Support**

SYEP salaries represent important sources of income for SYEP participants and their families and SYEP participants contribute to their local economies by spending their earnings in businesses where they live and work. Many use their earnings to purchase school supplies, clothing and food. 12% of respondents also said that SYEP helped them save money for college or to contribute to household expenses. One participant said that SYEP “has helped me assist my mother in paying for other expenses and bills.” Another said that the experience “taught me how to handle my money and save it for more important things that will come later in life, such as college and family.”

Stories from SYEP

CSJ interviewed current and former SYEP participants to gain individual perspectives on the impact of the program. These stories represent the lived-experience of SYEP.

Taylor

This year is 21-year-old Taylor's third summer working with SYEP. She currently works in CAMBA's Beyond Hunger Emergency Food Pantry in Flatbush, Brooklyn. A part of CAMBA's Out of School Youth program, Taylor says that she hasn't been able to find meaningful work because she lacked any kind of work experience. "SYEP is important because young people don't have experience," she says. "They're out there looking for a job but can't find one because they don't have work experience. This program gives young people what they really need."

Taylor hopes to work as a health inspector and says that her work with CAMBA is giving her a chance to gain real experience for her career. At the food bank, she is responsible for keeping the facility clean and working with the bank's hydroponic farm, where they grow fresh produce to distribute. She also conducts food demos by creating recipes with the fresh vegetables available for distribution at the food bank, to give people suggestions about how to use the food they receive. Thanks to her SYEP job with CAMBA, Taylor was offered a job at a nearby gym to work in their food preparation area.

Stephanie

18 year old Stephanie participated in SYEP in summer 2013 through the Center for Family Life in Sunset Park in Brooklyn. As a participant, she worked in the center's main office, doing administrative work. The experience was Stephanie's first job and gave her a chance to do something productive with her summer. At the end of SYEP, Stephanie was offered a job and continued to work with CFL during the school year.

When she first started, Stephanie was terrified of working with young children. To tackle this, her SYEP supervisor encouraged her to participate in camp activities and she started to become more comfortable teaching and helping with summer camp participants. This summer, Stephanie was hired by CFL as a group leader for a co-ed group of 5th graders at a summer camp at IS 136. She hopes to continue working at CFL's after school program while studying nursing in college.

Dan

Like Stephanie, Dan Morales said that SYEP opened up new doors for him and introduced him to his mentor. Currently a vice president at Drexel Hamilton, Dan now hires SYEP participants through the Ladders for Leaders, an SYEP program that provides high school and college students the opportunity to participate in summer internships with some of the most dynamic corporations and businesses in New York City. Dan started working to help support his family when he was 10 years old and first applied to SYEP when he was 14. Through SYEP, he worked at

Henry Street Settlement's summer camp as a junior counselor. "The reality is not only did it [SYEP] provide me with an income stream, which I did not have, it helped keep me off the streets. My friends who did not have an interest in joining the SYEP program, that's where they were," said Dan.

At the end of that summer, Dan was offered a position through the year as an office assistant and he stayed involved with SYEP. Once he graduated high school, Dan started working as the coordinator for Henry Street Settlement's SYEP program. Dan also served in the Marine Corps for eight years and served in Iraq before joining Drexel Hamilton. He credits SYEP with introducing him to a mentor that helped him throughout his teen and early adult years, helping him connect with the resources he needed to accomplish his goals, including going to college. ²

"The Ask"

CSJ's survey demonstrates that the Summer Youth Employment Program is an important force in the lives of young people across our state. Summer jobs, which many young people can only get through SYEP, provide important developmental experiences, a fact that often leads to the conclusion these are "more than just jobs." The job skills, career exploration, and goal development that summer jobs afford young people will benefit participants in their careers and generate future economic benefits for our state. In the face of these benefits, SYEP remains underfunded and the demand for SYEP jobs vastly outweighs the supply. Based on the data gathered, Campaign for Summer Jobs urges New York State to increase its investment in SYEP to \$49.31 million. This investment will both address the loss of jobs due to the increase in the minimum wage as well as add 10,000 Summer Youth Employment Program jobs statewide.

² For more about Dan, Stephanie and Taylor, and to read other stories from present and past SYEP participants, visit our website at www.campaignforsummerjobs.com.

Appendix A

Copy of SYEP survey

Campaign for Summer Jobs SYEP Participant Survey

1) Are you a current SYEP participant?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

2) What kind of SYEP job do you have or did you have in the past? (If you have had multiple SYEP jobs, please choose all that apply.)

- ☐ Day care
- ☐ Summer camp
- ☐ Administrative role in an office
- ☐ Local business
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

3) Why did you decide to apply to SYEP? (Please choose all that apply.)

- ☐ To earn money for myself
- ☐ To earn money for my family/household
- ☐ To have something to do this summer
- ☐ To build skills for a future career

Other (please specify): _____

4) Have you applied to an SYEP job more than once?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

5) If you have applied to an SYEP job more than once, how many times have you applied?

- ☐ Twice
- ☐ Three times
- ☐ More than three times
- ☐ Not Applicable

6) What are your goals for the future?

7) How has SYEP helped you reach your goals?

8) Your age?

- ☐ 14-15
- ☐ 16-17
- ☐ 18-19
- ☐ 20-21
- ☐ 22-24
- ☐ 25+

9) What is the highest grade level you have completed?

- ☐ 9th
- ☐ 10th
- ☐ 11th
- ☐ High school diploma/GED/HSE
- ☐ Some college
- ☐ College degree or higher

10) Your email Address? The Campaign for Summer Jobs will not disclose your email address to any third party or for solicitations or use your email address for any other purpose besides collecting data for future studies.

Appendix B

Raw Survey Data

Total Participation: 1,447

Question 1: Are you a current SYEP participant?

- Yes: 1,361 (94.58%)
- No: 78 (5.4%)

Question 2: What kind of SYEP job do you have or did you have in the past?

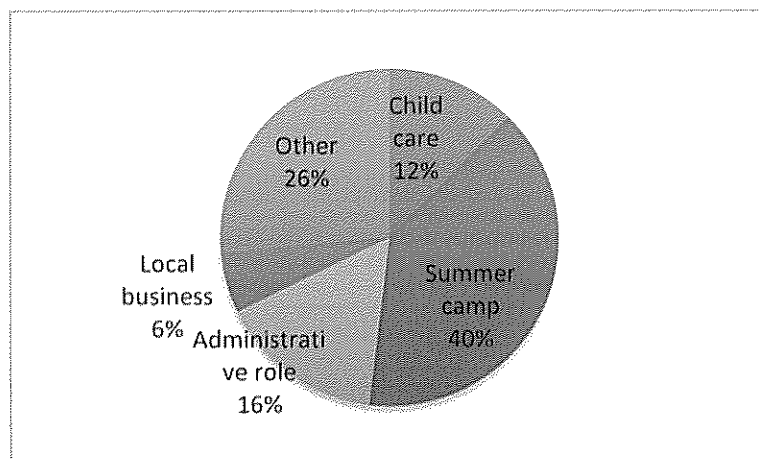
Responses 1,439

- Child Care: 201
- Summer Camp: 641
- Administrative Role: 257
- Local Business: 93
- Other: 429

The total number of responses is greater than the number of survey participants as those who had participated in SYEP several times were asked to choose all which apply.

Participants who worked at summer camps generally served as counselors. Their responsibilities included leading group activities, chaperoning field trips and supervising children during free time.

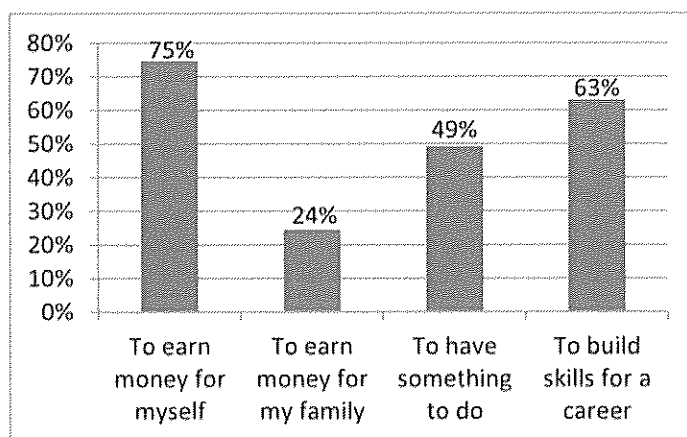
“Other” kinds of summer jobs included work with parks and recreational facilities, State Assembly offices, hospitals in churches, New York City Housing Authority facilities, and libraries. Many participants outside of New York City also worked in maintenance or industry.



Question 3: Why did you decide to apply for SYEP?

Responses: 1,436

- To earn money for myself: 1,070
- To earn money for my family/household: 350
- To have something to do this summer: 705
- To build skills for a future career: 904



42 participants also wrote in responses. Many of these responses mentioned gaining work experience or building a resume.

Question 4: Have you applied to an SYEP job more than once?

Responses: 1,440

- Yes: 768 (53.33%)
- No: 672 (46.67%)

Question 5: If you have applied to SYEP more than once, how many times have you applied?

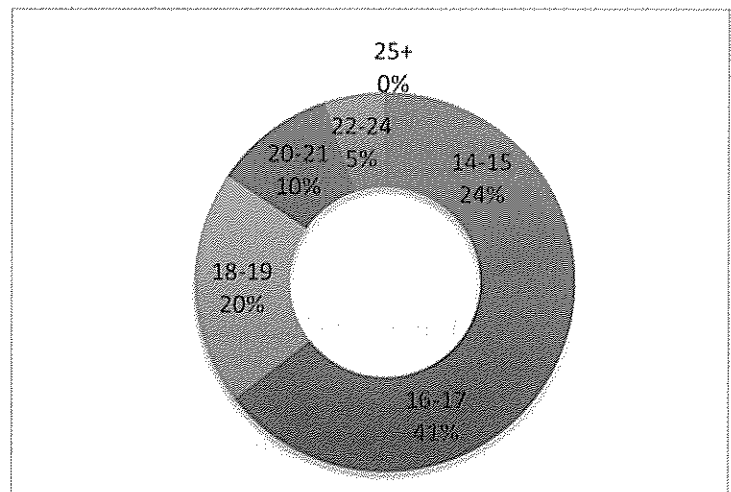
Responses: 1,198

- Twice: 496 (41.40%)
- Three times: 166 (13.86%)
- More than three times: 108 (9.02%)
- Not applicable: 428 (35.73%)

Question 8: Your age?

Responses: 1,355

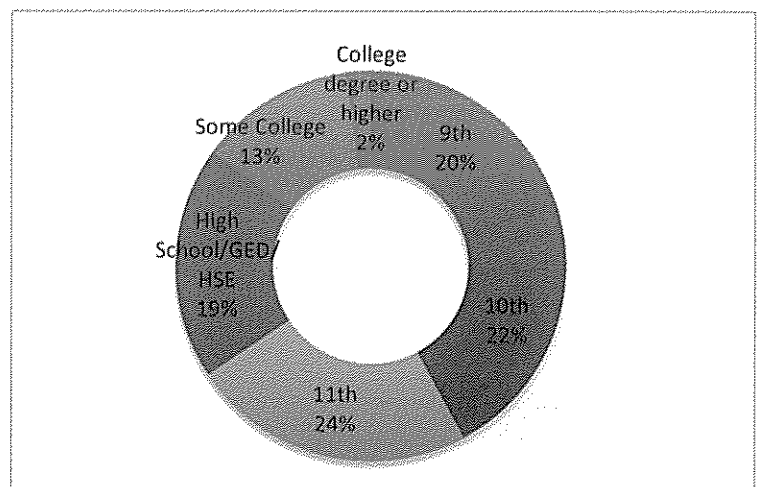
- 14-15: 321
- 16-17: 552
- 18-19: 271
- 20-21: 140
- 22-24: 70
- 25+: 1



Question 9: What is the highest grade level you have completed?

Responses: 1,355

- 9th: 267
- 10th: 303
- 11th: 319
- High School Diploma/GED/HSE: 261
- Some College: 176
- College Degree or higher: 29



Campaign for Summer Jobs would like to
Thank the many staff and interns who contributed to this Report
Including its Lead Author Anagha Sundararajan and
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Ashley LeCaro, Gigi Li, Jackie McKinney,
Sandy Myers, Birdie Park, and Emmanuel Pulgarin

Campaign for Summer Jobs is co-chaired by
United Neighborhood House and Neighborhood Family Services Coalition
For any questions, please contact:
Gregory Brender, United Neighborhood Houses (gbrender@unhny.org) or
Gigi Li, Neighborhood Family Services Coalition, (gigi@nfsc-nyc.org)

www.campaignforsummerjobs.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CampaignForSummerJobs>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/SYEP4NewYork>



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THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 03/27/15

Name: Annie Miguez (PLEASE PRINT) (w/ Gregory Bender) DNHC4C

Address: _____

I represent: Good Shepherd Services / Campaign 4 children

Address: _____

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

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/26/15

Name: MELISSA KISSER (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: 123 WILLIAM ST. 16TH FL, NY, NY 10038

I represent: URBAN JUSTICE Ctr

Address: _____

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THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

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Date: 03/27/15

Name: Rev. Wendy Calderon (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: Bronx Convent

I represent: 432 E 149th St Bx NY 10455

Address: _____

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Date: 3/27/15

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Jore Davila

Address: 2833 Deratur Ave Bx 10418

I represent: Hispanic Federation

Address: 55 Exchange Pl NY, NY 10005

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Date: 3/27/15

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Taisy Conk

Address: 1512 Townsend Ave, Bronx, NY 10452

I represent: New Settlement Apartments - Communities for Healthy Food

Address: _____

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Appearance Card

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Date: 3/27/2015

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Monique Hardin-Cordero

Address: out and

I represent: Reach ~~about~~ Read

Address: _____

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Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Rosalba Messina, Executive Director

Address: _____

I represent: Reach out and Read

Address: _____

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Appearance Card

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☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 2/27/15

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Omar Freilich

Address: 409 Morris Park Ave, Bx, NY 10460
1231 Lafayette Ave, Bx, NY 10460

I represent: Green Worker Cooperatives

Address: 1231 Lafayette Ave. Bx, NY 10460

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THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

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☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Scott Day

Address: NY JTL

I represent: NY JTL

Address: 58-12 QUEENS BLVD

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THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

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☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Hermit Patterson

Address: 58-12 Queens Blvd

I represent: Sports & Arts In Schools Foundation

Address: _____

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THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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

☒ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/27/15 Worker (oop) Develop. in Indiat

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Alexis Rose

Address: Federation of Protestant Welfare Agency

I represent: FPWA

Address: 281 Park Avenue South

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THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/27/15

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Keri Faulhaber

Address: 11 Park Place, Suite 1602, NY, NY

I represent: JobsFirst NYC

Address: 11 Park Place, Suite 1602, NY 10007

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Date: _____

Name: Junito Allende (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: _____

I represent: Turning Point

Address: _____

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☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

Name: Freddy Acevedo (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: _____

I represent: Turning Point

Address: _____

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THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

Name: Miguel Cruz (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: _____

I represent: Turning Point

Address: _____

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☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Commissioner Bill Chong

Address: _____

I represent: DYCD

Address: _____

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Appearance Card

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☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Deputy Commissioner Susan Heskell

Address: See

I represent: DYCD

Address: _____

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Appearance Card

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

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Deputy Commissioner Sandy Gutierrez

Address: _____

I represent: DYCD

Address: _____

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☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Julie Gilgor

Address: _____

I represent: Turning Point

Address: _____

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☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/27/15

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Mallory Nugent

Address: 281 Park Ave South

I represent: Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies

Address: _____

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THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 03/27/15

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Anne McShiraz

Address: _____

I represent: The Working World

Address: 394 Broadway, New York, NY

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THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/27/15

Name: Carol Fidler (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: 520 Eighth Ave, NY NY

I represent: Center for Court Innovation

Address: _____

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Appearance Card

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☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

Name: Gregory Brander (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: _____

I represent: United Neighborhood Houses

Address: _____

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

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

Name: Margi Eustate (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: _____

I represent: Make the Road NY

Address: _____

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3 of 4

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THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Luis Gabriel Rodriguez

Address: _____

I represent: Make the Road NY

Address: _____

2 of 4

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Joselyn Mendoza

Address: _____

I represent: Make the Road NY

Address: _____

1 of 4

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Siera Skeremun - Brill

Address: _____

I represent: Make the Road NY

Address: _____

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THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Kevin Douglas

Address: _____

I represent: New York City Coalition for Adult Literacy

Address: _____

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THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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

☐ in favor ☒ in opposition

Date: 3/27/15

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Diana Ramsamooj

Address: 85-15 143rd Street, Bayside N.Y. 11420

I represent: Queens Community House

Address: 106-25 62nd Drive N.Y.

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Appearance Card

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

☐ in favor ☒ in opposition

Date: 3.27.15

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Yaleni Cruz

Address: 625 Jamaica Avenue

I represent: Cypress Hills Local Dev Corp.

Address:

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Appearance Card

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☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Liz Hoffman

Address: _____

I represent: CCC

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/27/15

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: TED DE BARBIERI

Address: ONS BOERUM PL BROOKLYN NY

I represent: BROOKLYN LAW SCHOOL

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: March 27, 2015

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Kimberley Wint

Address: 1301 Fifth Avenue New York 10029

I represent: Northside Center for Child Development

Address: _____

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

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/27/15

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Andie D Eator

Address: _____

I represent: The Parent-Child Home Program

Address: 1485 Kellum Place, Ste 101, Garden City, 11530

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Angel Sanchez, Melissa Risser

Address: P.O. Box 72209 Jackson Heights, NY 11372

I represent: Worker's Justice Project, FAWA

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: March 27th

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Ginger Hubbell

Address: _____

I represent: Campaign for Summer Jobs

Address: _____

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

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: March 27th

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Ashley Lecaro

Address: _____

I represent: Campaign for Summer Jobs

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/27/15

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Saliya Rehman

Address: 5030 Broadway

I represent: Literacy Inc.

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/27/15

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Monique Hardin-Cordero

Address: _____

I represent: Reach Out and Read of Greater NY

Address: _____

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

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/27/15

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Alan Mendelsohn

Address: _____

I represent: Children of Bellevue - Video Interaction Project

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/27/15

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Daniel Nkansah

Address: _____

I represent: Queens Library

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/27/15

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Kerri Osborne

Address: _____

I represent: Jumpstart

Address: _____

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

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3-27-15

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Ma Farrell

Address: 50 Broad St, 18th Fl, NY NY

I represent: Coalition for Asian American Children + Families

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3-27-15

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Sheliah Feinberg

Address: _____

I represent: Coalition for Asian American Children + Families

Address: 50 Broad St, 18th Fl, NY NY

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 03/27/15

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Missy Kisser

Address: 40 Rector St. 9th Floor, New York

I represent: Urban Justice Center

Address: _____

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

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 03/27/15

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Angel Sanchez

Address: P.O. Box 720009 Jackson Heights,

I represent: Worker's Justice Project ^{NY 11372}

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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

☒ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3-27-2015

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Fred Freundlich

Address: Ibarra Zelaya 2 Oñati SPAIN

I represent: MONDAGON UNIVERSITY - FACULTY OF BUSINESS ^{MTK}

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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

☒ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/27/2015

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Chris Michael

Address: 58 Kenmare St, #1, New York, NY 10012

I represent: New York City Network of Worker Cooperatives

Address: 244 Fifth Ave, #C230, New York, NY 10001

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**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Joe Richardson

Address: 430 Ocean Parkway Brooklyn

I represent: Democracy at Work Institute

Address: 384 Broadway Manhattan

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**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 03/27/15

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Yanellis Collado

Address: 1975 Bay Ridge ave Brooklyn NY 11204

I represent: Center for Family Life

Address: _____

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**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____
☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/27/2015

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Helene Ousevred
Address: 428-511 Street, Brooklyn 11220
I represent: Center for Family Life & Relationships
Address: Family of Services 443-39th Street

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**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____
☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/27/15

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Darryl Denizard
Address: 551 48th Street, Brooklyn NY 11220
I represent: Center for Family Life
Address: _____

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