

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMUNITY ON YOUTH SERVICES  
JOINTLY WITH COMMITTEE ON  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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HELD AT: Council Chambers - City Hall

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Chairperson

MARIA DEL CARMEN ARROYO  
Chairperson

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## A P P E A R A N C E S (CONTINUED)

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[sound check, background comments]

[gavel]

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Good morning. Good morning. My name is Council Member Mathieu Eugene, and I am the Chair of the Committee on Youth Services. I want to thank Council Member Co-Chair Arroyo for co-chairing with me. And I thank everyone for coming to this important hearing today to review the Administration Fiscal 2016 Preliminary Budget for the Department for Youth and Community Development. The Administration's Fiscal 2016 Preliminary Budget includes nearly \$509 million for DYCD. These funds would be used to support a broad collection of services for our city populations, our youth learning from academy, and encouragement and support to the Department of our incoming workforce. The purpose of today's hearing is to learn about the work of Department over the past year, and to sit and explain for this new budget. Over the past year, DYCD has undergone a tremendous amount of change. We saw its budgets grow by 38% along with the Department to undertake an expansion--an expansion of its after school services the likes of which our country has never seen. It has moved to not one--not only one,

but three new locations, and its new Commissioner has had an opportunity to settle into his role and assess goals. I look forward to hearing about the success and challenges brought by all these changes and what the Commissioner sees as the best direction for the department moving forward. In particular, I am interested to learn as the Commissioner sees the Summer Youth Employment program evolving over the next year. As a society, we have an obligation to support and further our young people giving them every opportunity to succeed as they strive to find their path. SYEP broadens the confidence of the young people who participate each year giving them the experience, guidance and skills they need as they embark on other work, and take on the role of the New York City Next Generation workforce. It is of utmost importance that we make opportunities like this available to as many as young people as possible. We need to expand the number of slots available for SYEP, and I'm convinced that we as a city can do this. I would like to discuss with you, Commissioner Chong, how we can make this happen. However, there are many other challenges facing our city's youth today. Besides from them, summer employment. Each



year, New York Sees at least 3,800 young people living on the street. We have 172,000 young adults out of school, out of work, and struggling with how to move forward. We have children who need a safe place to grow, and learn after the school day ends. Today, the Committee on Youth Services hopes to learn more about how we can better serve all our young people that have threatened [sic] this community.

And before I turn it over to my Co-Chair Council Member Arroyo, I want to thank all of the wonderful staff people worked very hard to make this hearing possible. And I will state their name, you know, the next time I am going to speak. And now, I would like to pass it to my Co-Chair Council Member Maria Del Carmen Arroyo. But before that, I would like to thank each one of you for coming to today's hearing. And I want to take the opportunity also thank you and commend you for the wonderful job that you are doing on behalf of the young people in the City of New York. And I know all of you here you are advocates. You are doing the best that you can do to ensure that we provide the best services, the best opportunities to our young people. We are part of this city, the city is all of us. Thank you for

that, and I hope that we will continue to work together to ensure that our young people may receive [coughs] the opportunities that they need to become what were are always--every single moment we are saying to become the leaders of tomorrow. Thank you very much. Council Member Arroyo. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you for allowing our committees to come together for this budget hearing this afternoon. Commissioner welcome. Always nice to see you, and as I was saying to my co-chair when I touched him on the arm he said, You settled into your position, and I say the honeymoon was over.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: [laughs]

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Last year, we heard from on some concerns, and we hope that we'll be able to address some of those concerns. But I want to thank everyone for being here. My name is Maria Del Carmen Arroyo. I chair the Committee on Community Development, and it is my pleasure to join my co-chair here for this hearing this afternoon. And thank both members--members of both committees for adjusting your schedules to be here on a Friday afternoon. We were originally scheduled to be here

yesterday, but we had a little bit of a conflict, and I'll talk about that in a little bit. So thank you for being here on a Friday afternoon, and to all of you. It is no secret our city faces some of the greatest challenges to address the issues and the concerns that arise in our communities. And the Department of Youth and Community Development is a strong partner with the Council to provide the services that are needed in our communities. Whether those services are ESL, GED, some form of workforce development. And that is done through the partnership of the non-profit providers in our communities. Because government cannot do this work alone. So, with that partnership, we're able to advance a great deal of the work that's very necessary in our communities. And I want to thank the agency and our community partners in the work that is advanced every single day to provide a whole host of services. The agency faces a great challenge, and we will talk about that later, about managing the contracts that the Council provides funding for on all different levels of care, and for different types of services in our community. And I'm concerned that the agency's capacity to manage

the number of contracts that we force through the system are--impacts the providers in our communities because funding is not move through as quickly as we would like. Because many of you function paycheck to paycheck for lack of a better term, and our process should not hinder the work that you're doing for our communities in the city. So I'm hopeful that we will have a meaningful conversation, but more importantly discuss how the Council could be helpful to ensure that the agency has the capacity to handle the contracts that we're forcing through the system. Because every single innovative idea that we have about a service program in our community is primarily handled through this agency. And it would be an unfair loss to demand of them to do something that maybe quite difficult for them to address. So I am tough, but I'm also fair. And I want to also talk about--although it doesn't fall on this committee particularly or this agency, but the force or the worker cooperative--the Worker-owned Business Initiative that the Council shepherded through the budget. It's under the Community Development Committee in Fiscal Year 15. We were able to fund \$1.2 million to help build and strengthen worker-

owned businesses in our city. And yesterday, the reason why we had to reschedule the hearing is that I was invited to participate at a conference in Washington, D.C. held by One D.C., the organization out of George Washington University. And it happens that our work in building and strengthening our development work around worker cooperatives and worker-owned businesses is being used as a national model. So now--and I was joined by some of the providers that are funded on that initiative. So I want to thank you all for enduring the lack of sleep to make 5 o'clock--5:00 in the morning train to Washington. And some of them are here and I want to say thank you so much for joining me. We had with us Alexis Posey from the Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies, FPWA. We had with us Stephanie Geico [sp?] from Democracy at work. We had with us Steven Wong from Working--the Working World and Chris Michaels from the New York City Network of Worker Cooperatives. They participates. I sat on a panel where we presented the model and we talked--we talked it up very, very well. And then in the afternoon a round table where they had to join actually two tables that were round table discussion where a lot

of information is being sought by other municipalities to use this model For Building and Developing from Below was the name of the sustainability--sustainability from below. The community development that could be sustained long-term. Worker-owned businesses provide municipalities in our communities that sustainable long-term development. So I want to thank you all for joining me. I know that our participation yesterday is going to generate a great deal more work for us. But I believe that we're up to that task, and that we will represent our city well both in Washington and probably Baltimore, if I'm not mistaken. So now that I've shown off a little bit, I'd like to turn it over to my colleague. But before that, I want to thank the staff, Alex Paulenoff, our Legal Counsel for the Committee on Community Development. We have Jessica Dodson [sp?] who actually does all the financial number crunching for us. Where is she? Where is she? And we have Jose Conde, our Policy Analyst somewhere in the room. So thank you guys for the work in preparing for this hearing, and Mr. Chairman, back to you.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you, Co-Chair Arroyo. Thank you very much. Let me before I speak any further, let me acknowledge the hard work of the wonderful people from the staff Jessica Dodson [sp?], Kimberly Williams, Michael Benjamin and Mufasa Ali. [sp?] And I want to also acknowledge that we have been joined by our colleagues, Annabel Palma, Darlene Mealy, Margaret Chin, Andy King, and also Alan Maisel and Helen Rosenthal. Thank you very much for being here. Thank you. Now, Commissioner, before you start, let me thank you for the wonderful job that you are doing. Also, I want to thank your wonderful staff, and I know that DYCD is a very important institution providing for young people good services, and also to their families. And hope that today's hearing is going to be very important for us to identify ways to work together, and to move forward in serving the young people and their families. Thank you very much, and you may start any time, please.

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: [off mic] Just push the red light.

COMMISSIONER CHONG: Good afternoon.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Just a second  
Commissioner. So I think that we are to swear you  
in. Are you--would you say the truth and all the  
truth and answer all the questions posed by the  
members of the City Council?

COMMISSIONER CHONG: I do.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: And please honestly,  
would you please raise your hand?

COMMISSIONER CHONG: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Will you?

COMMISSIONER CHANGE: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much.  
[laughter] Okay, you may start please.

COMMISSIONER CHONG: Good afternoon,  
Chairman Eugene and Chairwoman Arroyo and members of  
the Finance Youth Services and Community Development  
Committees. I'm Bill Chong, Commissioner of the  
Department of Youth and Community Development. I'm  
joined by Susan Haskell, Deputy Commissioner of our  
Youth Services and Sandra Gutierrez, Deputy  
Commissioner of Community Development. Thank you for  
this 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 after school and skills 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--on the jobs funded by the city baselined summer jobs funding.

Our Fiscal 2016 proposed Budget sets an all-time high of \$508.8 million. Forty-nine percent of that is city tax levy, 38% are intercity 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 year we doubled the number of program seats in Beacon, Cornerstone and COMPASS middle school summer programs in from 17,000 to 34,000. In September 2014, 271 new Schools Out NYC or SONYC middle school after school 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 providing new providers to ensure high quality. I want to give 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 24th, 50,795 youth have  
been enrolled.

This is 118.5% of the 42,856 program  
seats available. When we add enrollment in rest of  
DYCD's middle school and after school programs, and  
those at the Department of Education, 100,792 youth  
are enrolled in middle school after school programs  
citywide. Which is 120%--124.9% 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 Multiple Computing Program, Big  
Shot--Big Shot Digital Camera, and Salvadore Center  
Skate Parks. We've also released two more Request  
for Proposals to further expand SONYC into additional  
school sites, and non-public school sites. Which  
include community centers and have been upcoming  
SONYC Requests for Proposal to serve young people  
living in homeless shelters and students in District  
79 schools. Even as we've launched the new SONYC  
program, we are committed to strengthening our  
existing school based and center based after school  
programs.

Due to the baselining of Fiscal 2015, \$51 million in the formerly Council funded COMPASS Programs, wage and requests for proposals 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 a Request for Proposal in early January to select the community based organization partner for 82 of the 94 community schools. Once groups are selected, the Department of Education will assume the management of the contracts. Community schools are a key aspect of the Mayor's School Renewal Program. Schools--community schools support students' success by integrating academics, health and mental health services, social services, after school services and summer enrichment activities, and family and community supports. These wraparound services help remove barriers to learning by meeting the social, emotional, physical and academic needs of students. The selected community-based organization partners will work with school leadership to integrate these services and for supports for students and their families.

DYCD's growth has also created new services for New York City Housing Authority residents. Last January we launched 45 new Cornerstone community centers bringing the total to 70. Not only did 47 Housing Authority developments get new youth and community programming, but all 709 Cornerstones benefitted from extended hours last summer. The centers were opened until 11:00 p.m. daily. Those with gyms operated until 12:30 on the weekends. This was the first time in a generation that Housing Authority community centers were open past 6:00 p.m. in the summertime. The Cornerstones also set a record attendance last summer, and we are working towards having the extended hours again this year. The extended hours are vital to the Mayor's Action Plan for Neighborhood Safety, which included funding that allowed 992 Housing Authority youth with 15 targeted developments to work for the Summer Youth Employment Program.

We are also fortunate to have Fred Freundlich [sic] donate 150 air conditioners for 38 Cornerstone centers most in need of improved air conditioning. Last summer over 47,000 young people and young adults worked in the Summer Youth

1 Employment Program. We greatly appreciate the City  
2 Council's addition of \$15.2 million, which added  
3 10,700 jobs. 2014 was the largest program since 20--  
4 2009, when Fellowship Citizens [sic] funding allowed  
5 us to serve of 52,000 young people. We are committed  
6 to serving over 47,000 young people again this  
7 summer. But as you know, SYEP's annual budget is  
8 like a jigsaw puzzle. SYEP's budget currently stands  
9 at \$51.6 million, which can serve over 35,000  
10 participants. This assumes we will get the same  
11 level of state funding, \$14.5 million as last year in  
12 order to serve over 470,000 young--young people again  
13 this year. We will need to get to 72 million.

14  
15 Governor Cuomo proposed \$30 million for  
16 SYEP in his 2015 and 16 Executive Budget. The  
17 Assembly accepted his proposal while the Senate White  
18 House Bill included last year's level of \$27.5.  
19 Despite this, we are optimistic that the final state  
20 budget will include \$30 million. At that level, we  
21 estimate that we will receive \$15.8 million in state  
22 SYEP state funding. Starting this year, DYCD plans  
23 to substantially increase the number of private  
24 sectors, summer youth employment jobs by 2017.  
25 Recent research has confirmed what we already know,

1 placing people in more professional jobs improves  
2 their future outcomes. By finding more private  
3 sector jobs in diverse industries, SYEP can better  
4 expose teenagers to different career options. We  
5 want more for-profit business, small, medium or large  
6 corporate or large non-profits such as museums,  
7 hospitals or universities to SYEP employers. Over  
8 the past few months, we reached out to 12 city  
9 agencies to help us connect to employers. For  
10 example, I know that Commissioner Lopez at the  
11 Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment to help  
12 identify some jobs in the film and television  
13 industry. DYCD's Youth Board and Youth Council and  
14 the city's Workforce Investment Board are also  
15 reaching out to their employer networks. We are  
16 happy to work with the City Council to reach to small  
17 businesses or employers in your districts who can  
18 hire a young person this summer.

19  
20 The Mayor's and DYCD's commitment to  
21 addressing the needs of runaway and homeless youth is  
22 stronger than ever. In Fiscal Year 2015 we founded  
23 100 new crisis shelter beds for a total of 216 beds  
24 combined with 137 transition--transitional  
25 independent living beds. DYCD now fund 354 shelter

beds. In January 2015, the city funded a 24-hour day a week runaway homeless youth Drop-In Center, which began. Located in West Harlem, the Drop-In Center can also offer specialized services to LGBTQ youth.

DYCD's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivers--arrivals DACA initiative has been recognized as a national model by the Migration Policy Institute and the White House, and has been included in nation studies by the Brookings Institute and Harvard University. By combining community outreach, literacy services and legal services, we developed a model that can identify any interested DACA applicants in a non-stigmatizing way will help the immigrants access these important services. To reach additional potential, DACA applicants will partner with CUNY Citizenship Now Initiative and the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs to connect to New Yorkers to obtain an IDNYC card. Our DACA Program is funded as 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 put DYCD's budget on solid ground. The past year has demonstrated the

solid investments in after school youth employment and community centers and has made a difference in the lives of tens of thousands of young people and their families. I look forward to working with 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 are happy to answer any questions.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you. Thank you very much, Commissioner. We have been joined by Council Member Laurie Cumbo and also Council Member Carlos Menchaca. Thank you very much for being here, Council Members. Commissioner, in the Fiscal Year 2015, the budget--we have also Council Member Vanessa Gibson. Thank you very much council member. In the Fiscal Year 2015, we have seen an increase in funding to support the expansion of School Out New York City or SONYC.

COMMISSIONER CHONG: [off mic] With SONYC. [sic]

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Yes. Did that show? SONYC. Okay, right. To serve all the New York City middle school students. What percentage of the New



York City school population is currently served by  
the program?

COMMISSIONER CHONG: So, we wanted to  
have a coordinated approach to serving middle school.  
So we track not only the SONYC programs, which are  
about 50,000 but also the other programs that DYCD  
funds, which is the Beacon and Cornerstone Programs  
as well as programs that the Department of Education  
operates, which are funded with federal funds called  
the 21st Century Centers. So, in total, at this  
moment, and the number is going up every day, we're  
serving about 101,000 young people, which represents  
about 45% of the universe of about 224,000 middle  
school students. In the white paper that we  
published in February of last year, which is part of  
the basic framework of what we thought we would do.  
We projected by next school year, not next school  
year, by next school year because we're still  
finishing out building out the SONY Programs. We're  
hoping to serve 107,000. So this year's target was  
97,000. So the fact that we have three months to go,  
and we have 101,000, we have exceeded this year's  
target. And I think we're in good shape to get to  
the 107,000 next year if not exceed it. Which, you

1 know, the ultimate goal is to serve between 48 and  
2 50% of the universe because we know the middle school  
3 students have other options in many neighborhoods.  
4 And so we wanted to make the program available, but  
5 realized that unlike for programs for younger  
6 children, elementary or UPK where there is clearly a  
7 need to have day-to-day activities. Middle school  
8 youth tend to be consumers. They will--they will go  
9 to different programs in their neighborhood. They  
10 will travel around their city. So the target from  
11 the very beginning has always been between 48 and  
12 50%.

14 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much.  
15 What is the agency's ultimate goal and for that to  
16 make them after school service, and universally  
17 available to middle school students?

18 COMMISSIONER CHONG: And I think the goal  
19 was that any parent or any young person who was in  
20 middle school who wants this service will have that  
21 service. The other thing we did with the additional  
22 funding that the Mayor provided was that we increased  
23 the number of hours per week. Historically, a lot of  
24 these programs operate eight or nine hours a week.  
25 With additional money, we were able to increase to 15

hours a week. And we know, and this is something that the Chancellor and I have talked about is that we know that young people in middle school will not attend 15 hours a week. They will attend a few hours in one activity and then they travel and go and do something else. They may have childcare responsibilities for young siblings. So the 15 hours allows us to serve many more young people because we know that young people will only come four to five hours a week. So, the goal, as I said, is between 48 to 50% of the universe because we know that every young person is going to need these services.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: The SONYC program has been--what is your assessment of the--of the expansion of the SONYC program?

COMMISSIONER CHONG: I think the biggest challenge now and we're focusing on doing as many quality programs as possible. That we, you know, we hired many program managers to do site visits to make sure that the programs engage young people, that the--we introduced a lot of the things that we know engage young people like science, like engineering, arts. Things that we know at this age we--as I said, young people are consumers. So to the extent we

1 provide an array of services. So one of the most  
2 popular things we've--we've done and we're going to  
3 hope to grow this program is we started a partnership  
4 with Google to teach young people how to do computer  
5 coding. It's something that we know young people are  
6 interested in. It's something that we know can lead  
7 to a career path for them. And, you know, it's often  
8 said by the Chancellor--I always like to quote the  
9 Chancellor. Is that seventh grade is so crucial in a  
10 young person's life that that's when they have to  
11 start making choices about career, about what high  
12 school. So part of what we want to accomplish with  
13 the SONYC expansion is to expose young people to  
14 possibilities they never thought were possible.

16 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: You know, the SONYC  
17 from the increases from \$145 million in Fiscal 2015  
18 to \$190 million in Fiscal Year 2016. And can you  
19 describe how the additional \$45 million will be spent  
20 each year?

21 COMMISSIONER CHONG: We're going to--next  
22 year we're going to increase the number of young  
23 people served in the summer by another 14,000 seats.  
24 It's the Mayor's commitment based on the clear  
25 recognition that in maybe low-income neighborhoods

1 what happens is something called summer learning loss  
2 that if you're in a low-income neighborhood you don't  
3 have the access to services that middle-income  
4 neighborhoods may often have. So we want to make  
5 sure these programs are open in the summer. So we're  
6 going to--we've gone from 17,000 in Fiscal 14 to  
7 34,000 in Fiscal 15 to 48,000 next year. We're  
8 adding another 7,000 school year seats, and every  
9 SONYC program in the city that's operating this  
10 summer will be open. And so, the school--you know,  
11 this has been a challenge. I'm sure you've heard it  
12 from your constituents is that the Department of  
13 Education doesn't have the resources to keep school  
14 buildings open. So they often have to relocated and  
15 co-locate. So we've--we've budgeted enough funding  
16 so that every SONYC middle school program that is  
17 operating this summer will--will stay put. They  
18 don't have to move ten blocks away.

20 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Did you identify any  
21 areas for improvement in the COMPASS Program?

22 COMMISSIONER CHONG: I think the area we--  
23 -we need to focus more energy on is we want to--we  
24 need more subcontractors because we know there are a  
25 lot of wonderful programs out there that do something

really unique that could be a subcontractor to a program that brings added value. So I think in a few weeks we're doing a resource faire at Intrepid, and we're brining together our programs with individual other non-profits that do-- For example, the of Fashion Institute Technology. This is the best example I can think of, but there are many others. Runs a summer program for middle school youth that teaches them about the fashion world, both the fashion side and the business side. It's a very unique service, and it may be a great partners with a program in that neighborhood. There are all kinds of other programs out there that focus just on dance or arts. And we want them to be subcontractors to these SONYC programs. So that's one area we're focusing on is to have as much as confidence in a program as possible, and the way to do that is to bring in subcontractors.

The other thing we're working with is we want to raise the quality of the staff. So in this programs it requires all site directors to have a college degree. That was a huge breakthrough. There's been a lot of research we've done over the years. But there's a huge qualitative difference

between programs that are headed by someone who has a college degree versus one who doesn't. And so, we're working with CUNY to expand or DYCD Scholar's Program, which provides 12 credits--12 college credits a year in youth development. So our focus is really improving quality.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much, commissioner, and now let me turn it over to our Co-Chair Arroyo.

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Thank you, Mr. Chair and Commissioner. So we're requiring college degrees. Are these contracts healthy enough to pay--

COMMISSIONER CHONG: [interposing] We increased the--

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: --the salaries these people are going to demand?

COMMISSIONER CHONG: Yeah, absolutely. I mean the Mayor invested additional money so we can raise how much we invest per young person from \$2,100 to \$3,000, which requires us to hire more quality people.

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Good. We should do that for our Parks Department so we can hire more architects. So we can get our parks to sign faster.

1 And I did it yesterday. Fred, I'm so sorry. Fred  
2 Freundlich from Spain joined us yesterday at the--at  
3 the conference and I forgot to acknowledge him  
4 yesterday as well. So my apologies, Fred, but he's  
5 here all the way from Spain. He's one of the experts  
6 in the Worker Cooperative Development industry, and  
7 we thank you for your insight and your expertise.  
8

9 Commissioner, I'm going to focus my--my  
10 questions on the Community Development aspect of what  
11 we're here to discuss because I know that my  
12 colleagues is going to cover all of the other  
13 components of the Youth Services stuff. And, you  
14 know, for me, the--the combination of DYCD having  
15 youth and community development merged back in 1996,  
16 how--how do we view these two components of what the  
17 agency is responsible for? Youth services and  
18 community development, which are in my mind sometimes  
19 related and mostly very distinct.

20 COMMISSIONER CHONG: I think one of the  
21 challenges that I've seen, and as you know, this is  
22 my second tour of duty with DYCD.

23 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Correct.

24 COMMISSIONER CHONG: I severed as Deputy  
25 Commissioner of--



CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: [interposing] So  
you shouldn't have had a honeymoon in the first  
place, right?

COMMISSIONER CHONG: Well, but one of the  
challenges that I saw as a Deputy Commissioner for  
Youth Services is that there wasn't a lot of  
coordination with the community development side of  
the agency. And that's one of the things I want to  
fix. In fact, DYCD has actually been merged with  
three agencies. Because in 2004, I believe what was  
used to be called the Department of Employment was  
dismantled and the Youth Employment Programs got  
moved to DYCD. So that presents, I think a unique  
challenge that when people--when you have three  
different agencies, three different focuses with  
three different maybe cultures how do you become one  
cohesive agency? So one of the things that we're  
working toward that I created a new position called  
Deputy Commission for Planning and Program  
Integration is to stop looking at programs and start  
looking at neighborhoods. And so what I want to is  
look at where we're investing money. How are we  
leveraging the money. So I'll give you a great  
example of how I think CD and Youth Services can work

1 together. We have, you know, we have some wonderful  
2 literacy programs that are funded through the CD side  
3 of the agency. But often times they don't coordinate  
4 with our community centers. We have 80 Beacon  
5 community centers. We have 70 Cornerstones in public  
6 housing. They have free space. I mean one of the  
7 true marks of the genius of the leadership of Richard  
8 Murphy--  
9

10 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: [interposing] I  
11 think NYCHA would disagree that it's free space.

12 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Well, we're paying  
13 for that.

14 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Okay.

15 COMMISSIONER CHONG: It's free to us, but  
16 free to the non-profit. Son one of the things that  
17 Richard Murphy, the Commissioner of Youth Services  
18 under Mayor Dickens talked about was co-location.  
19 Free space for free services. I think we can begin  
20 to look at this more closely. And so if there's a  
21 literacy program three blocks away from the Beacon,  
22 why can't they use the classroom space that is free  
23 to the public, and have literacy programs there.  
24 Free up the money they're paying on renting classroom  
25 space, and hire more teachers. So that's the kind of

1 thinking we're moving towards. So Denise only really  
2 assumed her position about a month ago. So she is  
3 starting to map out where we're investing. We, you  
4 know, I always--I like to say that DYCD is a small  
5 agency. We're only about 500 people, but we have a  
6 huge footprint on the neighborhoods of New York City.  
7 And so I said to Nancy Wackstein from the United  
8 Neighborhood Houses, my goal at the end of this  
9 Administration whether it be four years or eight  
10 years is to make DYCD the settlement house for New  
11 York City neighborhoods.  
12

13 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: So, is there a  
14 priority in your mind as a Youth Services trump?

15 COMMISSIONER CHONG: [interposing] No.

16 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Or does Community  
17 Development take a back seat to Youth Services?

18 COMMISSIONER CHONG: I think it's  
19 neighborhood driven. I think we have to look at  
20 neighborhood by neighborhood what are the needs and  
21 where are the programs located, and how can we better  
22 encourage the programs we find to work together. As  
23 a funder I think we're in a unique position to  
24 encourage collaboration. Because non-profits by  
25

nature are competitors. They're competing for  
funding.

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: No, right.

[laughter]

COMMISSIONER CHONG: So once we've gotten  
a contract whether it's a literacy contract, whether  
it's a summer youth employment program, you know,  
then the priority has to be the communities that they  
serve. And, you know, the people who we serve we  
touch them in many different ways. Rather than look  
at them as a SYEP participant or an adult literacy  
participant let's look at them as people, as families  
as communities.

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: And so, your  
definition of community development is as an agency.

COMMISSIONER CHONG: I think it's--it's  
more than just the programs that community  
development fall into. I think it's truly building a  
community's assets. It's really much broader. I  
have a much broader definition of it than just simply  
a collection of programs under community development.

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Okay. I'm not going  
to take up a lot of time on that. But we'll circle  
back and have some discussion around that. The

Committee on Community Development's role is to examine poverty in low-income communities. So, how do you define poverty within the concept of Community Development? And is that something that we should be making DYCD responsible for?

COMMISSIONER CHONG: The programs that are funded under Community Development are mostly federal programs. You know, the Community Services Block Grant--

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: [interposing] Uh-huh.

COMMISSIONER CHONG: --which fund our neighborhood development area initiatives or those that are funded under what's now called the Workforce Investment Act. Each of them have different income levels that, you know, we can share with you. And so, we're guided by those regulations. So we don't make it up. It's--it's defined for us by the federal government.

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Okay. So, now let's talk about what I discussed during my opening statement and that is the agency's capacity for handling the contracts that the Council discretionary funds makes available to our community based

1 providers. Always in our conversations last year  
2 when you were first appointed was in fairness to the  
3 agency, what is it that the agency confronts in  
4 moving through the process expeditiously the contract  
5 that we need to get out to our providers. So that  
6 they can engage and get paid for the work that we're  
7 providing for?  
8

9 COMMISSIONER CHONG: So I think we can  
10 always improve and we always welcome your  
11 suggestions. I think a couple points. Our entire  
12 Contracting Division, which is about 50 to 60 staff,  
13 spends more than half their time processing  
14 discretionary contracts. So it's a high priority for  
15 us. We--last year I think I mentioned that we  
16 designated a senior member Andrew Miller to be the  
17 person--the point person for any inquiries from the  
18 Council, from non-profits to help troubleshoot when  
19 there are problems. Because I recognize that  
20 sometimes it's--it can be unclear who do you talk to.  
21 Do I talk to my Program Manager or do I talk to the  
22 information line. Andrew has been designated, and  
23 I've got a lot of positive feedback. He's been able  
24 to cut through situations and find out where the  
25 bottlenecks might be. And then we have a special

unit, a Discretionary Monitoring Unit, which focuses on ensuring that the programs that we--that are funded by the Council deliver quality services. So those are the three component that we've been working on, but the biggest challenge is that once a program has been pre-cleared by Council finance and the Mayor's Office of Contract Services, it takes two to three months to get the contract registered typically. The challenge is being pre-cleared. There is, as you know, all these standards that were put in place seven years ago, six years ago, which require any agency that does contracts with the City that they have to meet certain criteria set up by the Charities Bureau of the Attorney General. And that's usually where we run into problems because we cannot develop the contract until MOCS and Council Finance clears the Charities Bureau Bar. And so, if we can figure out a solution that, and I hope--and I'm glad that Councilwoman Rosenthal is here. I know she's been talking to MOCS because that impacts our ability to develop the contract. If an--if an agency can't be pre-cleared, we can't do anything and that's often the--the biggest bottleneck we face. And I was happy to hear in an earlier hearing that, you know,

that she's been talking to MOCS about re-doing Vindex. And so there's a host of things that are centrally required that are beyond our control, but I look forward to working with the Council to figure out how we can expedite that.

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: So, of the 50 or 60 employees in that unit, how many are dedicated to discretionary?

COMMISSIONER CHONG: Everyone has discretionary contracts. They're regular contracts.

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: So in addition to your RFP--

COMMISSIONER CHONG: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: --contract services?

COMMISSIONER CHONG: We wanted to make sure that no one staff person is over-burdened. So the workload is disbursed evenly?

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: So the key phrase being overburdened.

COMMISSIONER CHONG: What.

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: [laughs] The key-- key phrase there being overburdened--

COMMISSIONER CHONG: [interposing] Right.



CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: --and that's the conversation we need to engage in. And I don't think we have enough time during this hearing to get into the weeds of the nuances. But we need to as Council Member Rosenthal and this committee and her Committee of Contracts and her Committee looks to provide for the agency an advocate for making sure that agency can appropriately handle these contracts. The MOCS and the clearing of the vetting process is outside of your control. But once these organizations are cleared, we're hearing that still the contracts are taking quite some time to get to them. So that we adopt budget in June or July 1st Fiscal Year starts, and April of the following year organizations still have not received a contract. Which means that they have either not been able to start doing the work that we are hoping gets into community immediately. Or, they are incurring an expense that makes it very difficult for them to manage their day-to-day operation from a fiscal perspective. So, that--at the heart of this is Community Development a lot of these organizations provide a lot of jobs in our communities. If they're not getting a contract, if they're not paying somebody's salary that is not

1 helping us develop our community. That is not  
2 helping us support the people that are working in our  
3 communities. Because these providers by and large  
4 employ local community residents to provide services.  
5 So while we think we're doing something wonderful  
6 [bell] and we should up to an organization with a  
7 ceremonial check for X, Y, Z dollars to something,  
8 this organization is not seeing a contract until well  
9 into the fiscal year. That puts them at risk  
10 financially from a credibility point of view in the  
11 community. And that is something that we really do  
12 need to just move the needle on that in a positive  
13 direction. So that contracts are being registered  
14 sooner in the fiscal year. So that we can continue  
15 to support that community development that these  
16 discretionary dollars can make possible in the  
17 community in addition to all of the federal dollars  
18 and the general contract that you let out through  
19 some RFP process. And to be fair, you know, we need  
20 to understand what it is that we need to help you  
21 with, staffing, process.

23 COMMISSIONER CHONG: I mean we could take  
24 a look at that, but I think as I said the biggest  
25 bottleneck when I'm talking to staff is a lot of

times programs are not pre-cleared until December or January. So that leaves very little time to registered. The biggest bottleneck I've heard is the annual audit. That is one of the Charity Bureaus' requirements, and we certainly can't waive it. You know, if--and so if we don't get the green light from MOCS until December or January that's--that's the biggest--hugest--the biggest bottleneck as to why things get registered late. So if we can figure out how we can either streamline the preclearance process, do it differently I'm certainly willing to consider it, but it's really, as you said, it's outside my purview.

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: I appreciate that, and we set the bar high intentionally. I think none of us want to deal with an organization that's not doing the right thing. And that's why the bar has been set as high as it's been set. So I'm not sure that modifying the requirements should be cleared. It's something that the Council is willing to discuss. However, we do need to understand which organizations are the ones that are confronting these clearance challenges. So that internally we can identify these through some other means for support.

We are funding a non-profit stabilization fund precisely for the kind of work that organizations that confront these challenges with the clearing vetting. Either their audits or their organizational capacity, board development. You name it. They-- it's all over the place, and not every single organization faces all of those challenges. So that our support of non-profits in the community is going directly to those providers that are in need of that stabilization. So that over time we can help to address both issues. The challenges that they confront in clearing the vetting process. But more importantly empowering your agency with the appropriate documentation you need to move those contracts forward. And I understand that it is not all within your control, but we need to understand and diagnose the problem properly in order for us to come up with the right treatment plan for it. If not, we're going to continue to receive the calls. Oh, yeah, you gave us X and it's still May and I don't have a contract. And we are--I understand there's moving parts to that. My point is that we need to stay on this in order for us to move this process to that we can reduce as much as we can the

wait time for contracts. But more importantly, help our organizations understand that they need to step it up, and improve whatever they're doing so that they can continue to get the support that we can provide to them through discretionary dollars.

COMMISSIONER CHONG: I appreciate your acknowledgement of the complexity of the problem. I think we already do, but if we don't, we can provide Council Finance the list of the groups every year that don't get registered. There are the same names every year. And so, it may be worth taking a look and saying well--

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: [interposing] Yes.

COMMISSIONER CHONG: --you know, if you're not going to go through the process, maybe we should just reallocate the money to the groups that-- that can. And then we'll also take a separate look at the ones that take the longest to get pre-cleared. Because it's generally the audit. And I know if you're a small non-profit, and I've worked in small non-profits. There's a cost associated with getting the annual audit done. And so, it's not the kind of thing that you just get money from any funder to cover. So, it's a very complex issue particularly

for small groups I know. I mean if you're Children's Aid Society or if you're a Harlem Children's Zone, these don't become real issues, but if you--

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: [interposing] They have no excuse.

COMMISSIONER CHONG: Yes. No, but if your--if your budget is--

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: [interposing] I know who you are. Oh, yeah.

COMMISSIONER CHONG: But if your budget is less than half a million, it is a challenge, and so we'd be glad to share that information.

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: [interposing] I--I appreciate that, and I know this is going to be work in progress. But every time we see you at that table, I'm going to ask you the same question. So if you want to make me stop asking the question, let's move this forward. Okay, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much Co-Chair Arroyo. I just want to move to urban sizes and, you know, just ask you what about this issue of organization we see in their funding to relate. I think from the--during the Republican Run last year we addressed the issue already. And I think this is

1 very, very important that all of us, the City Council  
2 the Mayor's Office and you and also come together--  
3 [coughs] excuse me--to bring the solution to that  
4 problem. This is a critical problem. It is more--it  
5 is a bigger challenge for a small organization, a  
6 small grassroots organization. And I think that--I  
7 hope that next year we will--we won't talk about that  
8 agenda hearing. It is very important, and I know it  
9 doesn't depend on you, you know, on you. It is not  
10 under your--your power to do it alone, and we have to  
11 come together to work and to try to find a solution  
12 on that. And I think that the next project we have  
13 to look at it first, we have to bring it on the table  
14 and to discuss how we can get to the resolution of  
15 this. Yes. Now, I'm going to call Council Member  
16 Darlene Mealy, but before that we have Council Member  
17 Rosenthal. She had some questions and Darlene, too.

18  
19 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Yes.

20 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Okay. Council Member  
21 Rosenthal, please.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Thank you, Co-  
23 Chairs. Thank you, Commissioner. I just--

24 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: [interposing]  
25 Council Member Rosenthal was first.

1

2

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Oh.

3

4

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: I don't know if she--  
-if she wanted to yield. Is that okay.

5

6

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: [off mic] I'm  
happy to do whatever your pleasure is.

7

8

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Which one wants to  
go first? Council Member Rosenthal was first.

9

10

11

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: [off mic] I  
will go whatever you want to do. [sic] [on mic]  
Okay.

12

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much.

13

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COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: I'm just going  
to jump in, and actually it was in line with some  
questions that we're just being asked. So building  
on the contracts issue. I'm wondering, you--and I'm  
really glad for the collaboration between MOCS and  
yourselves. When the contracts are delayed, do you--  
you noted that you might not get them until December  
or January. Are groups notified when you--as soon as  
you then get them. First of all, are groups notified  
at that time that they're in your shop now?

23

COMMISSIONER CHONG: Yes.

24

25



COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Okay. What's the average length of time it takes to get out of NYC into the Controller?

COMMISSIONER CHONG: Typically, two to three months.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Two to three months in your shop, and that's basically writing the contract--

COMMISSIONER CHONG: [interposing]  
Right.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: --the specifics.

COMMISSIONER CHONG: And then doing the necessary--collecting the necessary documents that are required like insurance certificates. You know, there's a package of documents--

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: [interposing]  
Yeah.

COMMISSIONER CHONG: --that have to go to the Controller. The easier part generally, and I say that in quotations is the work scope and budget. But then there's a host of--there's a checklist of documents that the Controller requires us to ensure

are there to make sure that they can register the  
contract. So--

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: [interposing]  
Sure.

COMMISSIONER CHONG: --so that's why it  
takes two to three months. But once they get to the  
Controller, they can get a loan of two months  
immediately, and--

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: [interposing]  
Right.

COMMISSIONER CHONG: --and once a  
contract is registered, we usually retroactively pay  
back to the date to the date of the contract.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: You've  
answered my next two questions. So thank you for t  
hat. So they get notified that there's a--the  
refundable loan at the Fund for the City of New York.  
And that's once it leaves your shop and goes to the  
Controller's Office. So, but the paperwork, I mean  
even the insurance form and the other paperwork,  
could that be moved over MOCS' private pre-  
qualification or does that need to be done each time  
by DYCD? I mean if we wanted to figure out ways to  
speed this all up, do the agencies know when they

get, you know, the--for the discretionary awards when they get the sign-off by the Council. Do they know you're going to have to put together these ten things, this for general counsel, this for MOCS, this for DYCD so they can get the ball rolling in July?

COMMISSIONER CHONG: There's a checklist on our website that we encourage all new providers to look at. That gives them the list, and I think the requirements are slightly different depending on whether it's \$100,000 or more--

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: [interposing]  
Yep.

COMMISSIONER CHONG: --or if it's under--

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: [interposing]  
That's right.

COMMISSIONER CHONG: --\$50,000. So that is all public. We make an effort every year to educate people that, you know, that if you're a smaller contract there's less documents required. I'm going to be able to say whether it should be MOCS that does this. That's a question they're going to have to answer because it's a resource question for them as well.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Okay. And so, what's the best case scenario? So if this is a provider that you've worked with before, what's the best case scenario turnaround time out of DYCD?

COMMISSIONER CHONG: I mean anywhere from like a I said a minimum of a month to three months. So it's--

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: [interposing]  
So it's a month to three months.

COMMISSIONER CHONG: Right, it all depends--

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: [interposing]  
So three months is the worst case scenario, but like let me make up a provider Goddard Riverside. It happens to be in my district. I know they're a perennial provider.

COMMISSIONER CHONG: [interposing] Right.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: It still would take a month to get through DYCD.

COMMISSIONER CHONG: Yes. I mean the other complications and my staff pointed this out, and this is frustrating for us as well is that a group that might be cleared by MOCS, then they become

un-cleared because they fell out of Charity Bureau  
compliance.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Between the  
time that they were--

COMMISSIONER CHONG: [interposing] They  
were cleared, and then we start working on the  
contract, and then something came out that afterwards  
they didn't, that maybe they--

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: [interposing]  
So, literally in December they were good to go with  
the Charities--

COMMISSIONER CHONG: [interposing] Right.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: --Bureau, but  
by February--

COMMISSIONER CHONG: [interposing]  
Something might have happened.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: --they're no  
longer because there was an annual thing, and they  
didn't update--

COMMISSIONER CHONG: [interposing] Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: --in January.

COMMISSIONER CHONG: So that's--so that's  
why it's a much more complex problem. I mean at  
least you have the capacity. There's no question

particularly for smaller groups. It is daunting.

There's no question that--

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: [interposing]

Yes.

COMMISSIONER CHONG: --it's a daunting process. And the question is do we want to change the requires, and I think, you know, everyone feels that, you know, that that probably is problematic. But also as far as capacity, no question, but it's also a question of, you know, having, you know, a back and forth that goes with MOCS. So, that's important as well.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Absolutely.

Okay, and then just a few questions about the COMPASS, the after school programs. Was that additional information about MOCS that you wanted to--  
-?

COMMISSIONER CHONG: No, no.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Okay, good.

About the COMPASS and so basically I guess \$51 million that had been funded by, you know, the Council is now baselined. And so, when that happened, as I understand it--correct me if I'm

wrong--then DYCD would be issuing a new set of--and  
RFP.

COMMISSIONER CHONG: Uh-huh.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: And it might  
be the case that there were providers or schools that  
provided a service, had a certain number of slots  
during the time that it was City Council funded. And  
now, when it's baselined, and maybe the criteria with  
the RFP may be such that the number of slots might  
increase or decrease. The providers who will now  
provide this service might shift in some way.

COMMISSIONER CHONG: Well, there are two-

-

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: [interposing]  
Does that sound familiar?

COMMISSIONER CHONG: There--there are two  
issues there so let me--

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: [interposing]  
Yeah.

COMMISSIONER CHONG: --I can break them  
out. So, one of the things that we're very committed  
to in our conversations with the staff at Council  
Finance is to avoid disruption of services.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Yeah.

COMMISSIONER CHONG: In 2011, under the previous administration, a request for proposal was done for our after school programs, and there was mass upheaval. You weren't on the Council. So you can't take any responsibility for that. And, in response to that, the Council at that time restored many of the programs that had been previously funded up until

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: [interposing]  
Got it.

COMMISSIONER CHONG: --2011. And so those are the schools that currently have programs. So to assure continuity of services at the same schools, we with the help of the Mayor's Office of Contract Services had separate competitions at each of these schools. So the provider may change, because as you know, the principal gets to sign one, two or three partnership agreements. So if a principal has a bad relationship with the non-profit, they can sign an agreement with another profit--a non-profit. So right then--right now those schools, the proposals that went to those schools are being evaluated. And so to your second point about reduction of seats, again the previous City Council



under previous leadership made a decision that when it restored the programs that weren't selected in the 2011 RFP to fund that at less per child.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Sure.

COMMISSIONER CHONG: And so what we created is inequity in the after school system where the DYCD funded programs got \$2,800, \$2,900 and the Council funded programs got maybe \$2,100 or \$1,900. So that's unfair. I mean the providers have said this to us. The advocates said this to us. So in redoing this Request For Proposal for the baselined funding, we brought everyone to the same \$3,000 per kid because, you know, you should--

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: [interposing]  
Absolutely, Tony said it. [sic] Right answer?

COMMISSIONER CHONG: --you know, because unfortunately the money is the same amount of money.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Absolutely.

COMMISSIONER CHONG: So there's an unintended consequence here, and we raised this with the Office of Management and Budget. They're aware of this is that there were fewer seats even though the same number of programs.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Got it. So  
net what was the loss in the number of slots?

COMMISSIONER CHONG: About 2,000?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: [off mic]  
2,300.

COMMISSIONER CHONG: 2,300.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: So if it was  
2,300 and I was just doing simple math, and I  
multiplied 2,300 by 3,000, that would be the loss in  
the number of--how much money you would need--

COMMISSIONER CHONG: [interposing] Right.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: --in order to  
serve the same number--

COMMISSIONER CHONG: [interposing] Yeah.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: --of people.

COMMISSIONER CHONG: Roughly, 3,000 times  
2,300. Yeah.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Okay. I'm not  
fast enough. So it's like six something million?

COMMISSIONER CHONG: Yeah, we can give  
you the exact number in a follow up.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Okay. Sorry.  
\$6.9 million?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: [off mic]

That sounds right.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Roughly.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: [off mic] I  
would say so. [sic]

COMMISSIONER CHONG: Well, we'll send it  
to you, okay.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: All right, I  
just want to make sure I have the right number of  
zeroes.

COMMISSIONER CHONG: Yeah, we'll--we'll  
send you the exact number.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: [interposing]  
I used to work at the Office of OMB so this is all  
old stuff. Okay, anywho. So that that please--

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: [interposing] I'm  
sorry Council Member Rosenthal. So have you put in a  
request?

COMMISSIONER CHONG: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: To whom?

COMMISSIONER CHONG: To OMB.

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: And what's the  
chance you're going to get it?

COMMISSIONER CHONG: Everything is under consideration. As you know, in this--

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: [interposing] How soon will you know?

COMMISSIONER CHONG: Well, I think after the budget process is ended, and obviously OMB will look at all the concerns and feedback that it's gotten from every single city agency. They're going to have to make some decisions on that where to invest money so--

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: So when you say when the budget process is ended--

COMMISSIONER CHONG: [interposing] So likely we'll have a better sense--

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: --do you mean when the hearings end or June? What are we talking about?

COMMISSIONER CHONG: Oh, we're talking-- Well, we'll know at least like in the Executive Budget.

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Okay. Thank you. But it's \$7 million roughly.

COMMISSIONER CHONG: Yeah, give or take.

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Okay.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: And so, no  
it's fine. I mean so just to make the same point,  
this was something that obviously we all knew was  
going to happen at the end of when we were making  
decisions last fiscal year. And so, when we started  
off the current fiscal year in--on July 1st, we  
started off knowing, or within a few months we knew  
we're \$7 million short, and we were to just serve the  
same number of kids.

COMMISSIONER CHONG: Starting in Fiscal  
16 because we--the contracts--the contracts--

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: [interposing]  
Proactive? [sic]

COMMISSIONER CHONG: --will continue for  
one year.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Okay, so--so--  
so now I'm really confused. So, so the loss of 2,300  
slots will begin in 2016?

COMMISSIONER CHONG: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Fiscal Year  
16?

COMMISSIONER CHONG: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: So, I'm--so  
great. That's very helpful and so--but you're saying

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the Mayor--there's no indication. Obviously, it's  
not in the Preliminary Budget?

COMMISSIONER CHONG: But a lot is not in  
the Preliminary Budget so I--

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: [interposing]  
No, I understand.

COMMISSIONER CHONG: So no decision has  
been made. We've applied. This is a concern that's  
been brought to us. I think it's a good example of  
unintended consequences. But I think everyone wanted  
to make sure that every program had the same level--

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: [interposing]  
So, I--

COMMISSIONER CHONG: --of funding.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: --I  
understand, Commissioner.

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: [interposing]  
Council Member, I'm sorry.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: I'm sorry. Can  
I just finish one point?

COMMISSIONER CHONG: All right.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: We just went  
through the November Preliminary Budget and in the  
November Budget, the Council showed that--the City

showed an increase in revenue of over \$200 million,  
and you're telling me that in November when the Mayor  
knew that we were going to end up with a shortage of  
2,300 slots this was not funded?

COMMISSIONER CHONG: I don't think the  
RFP was even issued in November. So I don't think  
anyone knew until we actually started planning to  
baseline funds, plan how to spend the baseline funds.  
So I wouldn't make that conclusion.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Oh, so I--

COMMISSIONER CHONG: [interposing]  
Certainly in preparation for the Preliminary Budget  
we have raised this as a concern. So probably in  
January when we--

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: [interposing]  
Okay, but just to be--

COMMISSIONER CHONG: --when we started  
the conversation.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: So, just to be  
clear, I want to be on the record as having said that  
when we passed the November modification with a  
significant increase, as the City showing a  
significant increase in revenues and then basically  
the Mayor deciding how to spend those revenues. That

in those decision making, that decision making  
process-- Okay, so I'm--I just want to--

COMMISSIONER CHONG: [interposing] Okay,  
for the record.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: --feel that  
I'm on the record saying that I'm not happy with that  
decision--

COMMISSIONER CHONG: [interposing] Okay,  
can I--

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: --that was  
made.

COMMISSIONER CHONG: --clarify for the  
record the issue of the shortfall didn't become clear  
until January. So I'm not sure you can make that  
leap.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: How--how could  
it not have become clear--

COMMISSIONER CHONG: [interposing]  
Because we didn't--we didn't bring it to the  
attention of OMB until the Preliminary Budget as we  
looked to Fiscal 16 needs.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Right, but the  
November modification is meant to update the current  
year, true. But there's also spending in the revenue



certainly that we're showing going up went on into  
future years.

COMMISSIONER CHONG: But the--as I said,  
the loss in seats--

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: [interposing]  
I understand.

COMMISSIONER CHONG: --like in Fiscal 16  
so the appropriate place for us to flag this with  
OMB--

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: [interposing]  
Well, the--

COMMISSIONER CHONG: --is the Preliminary  
Budget

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: --appropriate  
place to put it then is in the Preliminary Budget,  
which is the first look--

COMMISSIONER CHONG: [interposing] Right.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: --at the  
future year.

COMMISSIONER CHONG: We could start--

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: [interposing]  
We could debate this another time. What are your  
other lists of new needs that you asked--

1

2

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: [interposing]

3

Actually in the list--

4

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: --that you put

5

in for?

6

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: --I'm sorry. The

7

list of providers affected by this unintended

8

consequence is what--what we need.

9

COMMISSIONER CHONG: Well, we won't know

10

until the--

11

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: [interposing] So,

12

the \$7--the \$7 million translates to 2,300 slots.

13

Where did they come from? What provider was reduced

14

in the RFP so that we can--so we can talk about how

15

we can include that? [sic]

16

COMMISSIONER CHONG: We won't know until

17

the end of April because right now we're reviewing

18

the proposals in the RFP because like the current

19

Council funded programs now they have to compete.

20

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Yes.

21

COMMISSIONER CHONG: So that list may

22

change. So we can give you the list now, but that

23

number will--that list may change after we make our

24

awards. So once we make the awards and they're

25

public, then we can take a look and tell you where the loss in seats were.

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: I'm not sure that our Finance staff will agree. So if we can understand-- Do you which providers were selected?

COMMISSIONER CHONG: No, we haven't--we haven't selected them yet because the RFP, the proposals are being reviewed right now.

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: So let me--let me ask the question in a different way. We know who-- which providers were funded under the Council initiative. So we can back track into potentially the providers affected?

COMMISSIONER CHONG: That might change because--

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: [interposing] I understand that, but we need something to work with in our--

COMMISSIONER CHONG: [interposing] We can provide you a list of the current providers with a caveat that that list will probably change significantly. Because in a request for proposal we've learned nothing is guaranteed. And so we can give you that information but then it will be--it

will change literally in a month. And so that--that  
will be, you know, you should just know that it's  
dated information.

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Understood, but I  
think that your finance experts--

COMMISSIONER CHONG: [interposing] Okay.

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: --and our finance  
experts will be able to figure that out. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER CHONG: Thank you. [bell]

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Can I--

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: [interposing] Thank  
you very much.

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: --continue just for  
one--

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: [interposing]  
Council Member Rosenthal, can I come back to you?

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Please  
absolutely.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: I'll be sure that--  
Thank you very much. Now, let's give the opportunity  
to Council Member Mealy. Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Okay. I'll try it  
again. Thank you to the co-leader and thank you,  
Commissioner Chong. I'm stating it on the record

that no matter if you're here for four years or eight years, you're still going to make sure you are stable in jobs, education, entrepreneurship. I want to commend you on that on the record just to say that I thank you for that. But one thing I wanted to ask you in regards to is the initiative about the Burke [sp?] Cooperative Business Development. The initiative received \$1.2 million with Council funding, and it was a creation of 234 jobs. And at the end citywide, you reached out to about 920 or has it been an increase?

COMMISSIONER CHONG: I think you're talking about something that's funded through the Small Business Services Agency.

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Uh-huh.

COMMISSIONER CHONG: So I can't really speak to another agency's initiative.

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: So you don't have anything to--

COMMISSIONER CHONG: [interposing] It doesn't fall under my agency.

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: At all?

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3 COMMISSIONER CHONG: It's Commissioner  
4 Torres. So I would suggest you direct that question  
5 to them.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Okay, so the NYC  
7 the NYCHA, the 46 new Cornerstones.

8 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Forty.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Oh, 40?

10 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Wait, 45--45.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Yeah, 45--45  
12 Cornerstones. But then we've got some more so it  
13 brings it up to 70, correct?

14 COMMISSIONER CHONG: No, there were 25 in  
15 place that were not operating since 2009. In January  
16 of 2014, we took on 45, which brings us to the  
17 current 70.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Seventy. Okay, in  
19 each center. Where did you get--did you get any DA  
20 funds in regards to that?

21 COMMISSIONER CHONG: No.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Because I know  
23 D.A. Cy Vance he started having some of the NYCHA  
24 programs open to 12 o'clock. So you're saying you  
25 didn't get any other funding?

COMMISSIONER CHONG: There are some pilot programs that the Manhattan District Attorney is making available--

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: [interposing] To NYCHA?

COMMISSIONER CHONG: --to community centers. Well, to both Beacons--Beacon Community Centers and the Cornerstone Public Housing Centers, but it's relatively--it's to fund additional services. But the basic operation of the Cornerstone, of the 45 new ones and the 25 old ones is city tax levy money.

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Okay. Do you think you need more money for those programs?

COMMISSIONER CHONG: I think we came up with a pretty robust budget, and the Mayor added money last year to cover the cost of keeping these centers open to 11 o'clock at night in the summer. So I think we're in very good shape.

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: That's good, and I have only one more question. You said that you had a meeting on Intrepid in regards to--it's about neighborhoods, and here it is. Have you ever thought about coming to Brooklyn where it's most needed? You

1 said a lot of funding with subcontractors. Because  
2 right now even in my district I get a--I have a host  
3 of new organizations coming subcontracting. But the  
4 small organizations who have been there for years  
5 that maybe do not know how to get the funding, the  
6 big money like others do. So how--when will you  
7 start coming into the neighborhoods who most need it,  
8 and have that roundtable with them in regards?  
9 Because we have a lot of organizations that we could  
10 do subcontractors in dancing. So, could you give me  
11 a plan or have you thought about it?

12  
13 COMMISSIONER CHONG: We'll be glad to  
14 have staff work with your office to host a workshop?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Excuse me.

16 COMMISSIONER CHONG: We'll be glad to  
17 have my staff work with your staff to host a workshop  
18 in your district.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Thank you very  
20 much. I close my case. Thank you. [laughs] But  
21 thank you for saying it on the record about no  
22 matter--because a lot of people just work for their  
23 job just for that four years. But you're making sure  
24 the city is stable with our youth. Thank you so  
25 much.



COMMISSIONER CHONG: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much,  
Council Member Mealy. Commissioner, let's talk about  
runaway and homeless youth because as you know we  
have a moral obligation to serve all of our  
constituents especially the young people in trouble.  
There are more than 3,800 runaway and homeless youth  
living in New York City. We have an obligation, as I  
told you, to serve them, and to provide them with the  
best services, but yet, we continue to fall short.  
Can you tell me approximately how many of those young  
people, homeless youth that DYCD has contacted--

COMMISSIONER CHONG: [interposing] Well,  
so I--so let me--

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: --or has been  
serving.

COMMISSIONER CHONG: So, if you're  
looking at numbers, we can give you numbers of young  
people served annually because a bed is kind of  
misleading. When we talk about the number or crisis  
shelter beds, typically a young person who is  
homeless stays 30 days or less, and then they are  
able to transition into a little bit more permanent  
arrangement. So we can give you--Susan can give you

the number of homeless youth we served in the last fiscal year. The other point I would like to make is that homeless youth have two options. If you're a young person who is homeless and 18 and over, you can either access our system, which is a relatively small system, or you can access the Department of Homeless Services if you're 18 and older.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Uh-huh.

COMMISSIONER CHONG: We will give priority to young people who are 16 and 17 because they are obviously the most vulnerable to, you know, to being homeless, but so-- Susan, do you want to give us the number.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: Hi.

COMMISSIONER CHONG: Introduce yourself.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: I'm Susan Haskell, Deputy Commissioner of Youth Services at DYCD. We in the last fiscal year we served in crisis about 1,744 young people in 116 beds. We served another 355 in the traditional--

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: [interposing] What is the age range?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: This is--we serve age 16 to under 20.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: No, no, I'm talking  
about the 1,744 that you are serving.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: 16 to 20.  
Ages 16 to 20.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: 16 to 20. Uh-huh.  
Thank you.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: And we also  
in our Drop-In Centers we have about 12,000 young  
people coming through seven drop-in centers citywide.  
Our street outreach teams--street outreach contacts  
is about 10,000--more than 10,000. And the point  
that I want to make about the--you mentioned 3,800  
runaway and homeless youth. And I'm excited that  
DYCD is taking efforts to try to update a new number  
that's from 2008, and get concrete. And we did a  
joint initiative with the advocates and DHS to try  
and count the number of runaway and homeless youth  
this year, and we're looking forward to the results  
of that survey in April. I also want to note that  
the numbers that we served last year will be greatly  
expanded because of the Mayor's investment in both  
crisis shelter funding 100 additional crisis shelter  
beds, and 24-hour drop-in services. So we think it's  
possible that we'll serve--we project that we will

1  
2 serve more like 3,000 young people in this fiscal  
3 year due to the expansion.

4 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: But do you believe  
5 that the DYCD has been able to serve all the young  
6 people that are qualified to receive services that  
7 are below 18 years old?

8 COMMISSIONER CHONG: No young person is--  
9 If there is no bad for them, they are referred to the  
10 Department of Homeless Services.

11 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: [interposing] Uh-  
12 huh.

13 COMMISSIONER CHONG: So every young  
14 person has access to shelter if they need it. We  
15 prioritize the young people who are under 18. Those  
16 are 16 and 17. And any young person if they're 18 to  
17 20 and they come to us, and we don't have a bed,  
18 they're given immediate referral to Department of  
19 Homeless Services, which does have beds--youth  
20 shelters.

21 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Yes, I do understand  
22 that, but have you been making any effort, or have  
23 you been developing any strategy to see if you can  
24 extend the services to those young people that you  
25 referred to the homeless center?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: We've talked to Department of Homeless Services. They've looked at the kind of services we provide. I think they're exploring how they can add those services at their agency as well.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: But it seems that there is a disparity between the number of beds available and the number of transitional and developing needs in beds. Is there a disparity between those two?

COMMISSIONER CHONG: Transitional--the transitional independent living beds is a very different model. Crisis shelter is intended to stabilize a young person and the state regulations allow the young person to stay 30 to 60 days. Sometimes we can arrange for them to stay longer. The transition to independent living beds are intended for young people to stay up to two years. Is it two years or 18 months?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: 18 to two years.

COMMISSIONER CHONG: Yeah, and until they turn 21 to help them make their transition to independent living. And so those beds tend to focus

on more robust comprehensive services. So you help young people to get on their feet, and to live independently. So there are different types of services. So you have to understand that the model is slightly different.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: We know that the funding from our--for our runaway youth and homeless youth has been increased due to litigation by our--from our Legal Aid Society. Could you give us an update on this litigation and what it--

COMMISSIONER CHONG: [interposing] I can't discuss any details relating to litigation.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Okay. We understand that. All right. Now, let me call Council Member Margaret Chin for some questions.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: [off mic] Excuse me--

[background comments]

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: I'm sorry, I think that Council Member Menchaca was first. I'm sorry. Council Member Menchaca.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Sorry, Council Member Chin.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Council Member  
Menchaca, please.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: You were  
surprised. Okay.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Thank you. My  
questions will be focused on DACA. We'll talk a  
little bit about workforce and adult literacy, and  
we'll talk a little bit about administrative relief,  
too, and some of the planning that's happening there.  
But, let's start with DACA, and really understanding  
because the--the two-year commitment that you're  
celebrating in your testimony happened before this  
administration, both the Council and the Mayor. So  
can you kind of break down for us the dollars, these  
are--where they came from essentially? Are they city  
dollars, federal dollars? And kind of break up the  
entire initiative.

COMMISSIONER CHONG: Okay, this has just  
pre-dated me. I'll start and then maybe who can?  
Joe, I think maybe you. Correct me if I'm wrong, but  
my understanding is that this was a joint initiative  
with the City Council under the previous leadership,  
and the previous administration. Funding was made

at \$14.3 million of two years to provide an array of services related to those people eligible under the President's first executive order. There's a heavy emphasis on the literacy programs because we recognize that there's a clear need. But there is also dedicated services working towards our legal services to help people take advantage of what's required under the President's first executive order. The design of the program is intended to cast a wide net because we know that people are undocumented and are not going to self-identify readily.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Uh-huh.

COMMISSIONER CHONG: And so we know that by offering literacy services, it's a way of capturing a broad cross-section of people. And then when you engage them in services, you build a certain trust level. And people will disclose what their status is, and then at that point they are referred to the network of legal service providers that are funded under DACA. So it's unique in a sense that we created a community of DACA basically. And they meet by borough and they share information. We recognize that the number of people eligible for DACA might go up eventually. So in anticipation of whatever the



1 court decision--resolution is, we're starting to wrap  
2 our outreach with Citizenship NYC at CUNY as well as  
3 working with MOIA to really tap into a network of  
4 nearly 260,000 who applied for Municipal ID Card many  
5 of whom are undocumented to introduce them to DACA.  
6 So that if necessary we can wrap up quickly if the  
7 enhanced DACA goes through. But as you know, there's  
8 a major case in Texas.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Right. So  
11 let's just go back again because I just want to make  
12 sure. This is all about keeping ourselves  
13 accountable as a city, and understanding where the  
14 dollars came from. So were these federal dollars  
15 that funded this two-year program post the  
16 Presidential action?

17 COMMISSIONER CHONG: There's--there's no  
18 federal dollars. It's all City money.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: It's all city,  
20 all city dollars?

21 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Yes. So we don't  
22 have to worry about Congress.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Okay. Okay  
24 great because then that begs the next question.  
25 Which is as we're seeing in our Preliminary Budget

1 this doesn't show up yet in the Preliminary Budget  
2  
3 And so we're incredibly concerned in how we are going  
4 to be delivering that same level of service, and like  
5 you said, there is so much trust building factors  
6 that are incorporated into this entire initiative.  
7 And so that's a big concern for us. Can you answer  
8 what left out this big chunk of federal dollars? I'm  
9 sorry, of City dollars for--for this initiative?

10 COMMISSIONER CHONG: We flagged it as a  
11 new need for OMB, but again no final decision has  
12 been made yet. We hope to get some clarity by the  
13 time the Executive Budget is issued.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: So the--so all  
15 you're saying is that it's just a flag for you all?  
16 What kind of commitment are you--are you looking for?  
17 [sic]

18 COMMISSIONER CHONG: [interposing] Yeah,  
19 we recognize its value. That's why, you know, I cite  
20 it as a national model. It's certainly, you know,  
21 that information has been shared with the budget--  
22 people who make decisions in the budget. But, no  
23 final decision has been made because as--as every  
24 agency has clear priorities, I think the city needs  
25 to take a step back and look at all the feedback that

1 has come out of the public hearing--out of the budget  
2 hearings to this date, and then make some decisions.  
3 But, you know, we feel strongly about this program.  
4 We know it works. That's why it's a national model.  
5 So at this point, no final decisions has been made,  
6 and that's, you know, I can say, you know, hopefully  
7 that will change.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Well, we  
10 definitely want more than hope here because this is  
11 an incredibly important program for our--for our  
12 communities on the ground. And to years has kind  
13 shown the--the kind of excellence. So can you give  
14 us a hint about the plans that you might have to fund  
15 it? Because clearly we need a plan to get there.  
16 And so, while we might get to the final destination  
17 and fully funding, can you share with us what the  
18 different possibilities might be?

19 COMMISSIONER CHONG: I mean I think  
20 really it's a decision to be made during the  
21 Executive Budget process. And, you know, hopefully  
22 in the next few weeks once the Preliminary Budget  
23 process ends today I guess, OMB will start asking  
24 city agencies, you know, looking at our new needs.  
25 And obviously it was a new need for us. Because when

1 the money was put in our budget two years ago, no one  
2 anticipated that it would be continued. So we will,  
3 you know, hopefully have a clear resolution by the  
4 time the Executive Budget is resolved--is issued--is  
5 issued.

6  
7 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: So let's put it  
8 over to the adult literacy world because potentially  
9 what we're seeing is an estimated over 200,000 people  
10 who in New York anyway and DACA and DAPA potentially  
11 having opportunities for work authorizations. And so  
12 this is--this is really the kind of theme that I'm  
13 seeing in this budget round of conversations is the  
14 workforce component, and really connecting these  
15 individuals to a workforce. A kind of holistic  
16 approach to workforce. And I want to hear your plans  
17 about how to bridge that gap. And career pathways  
18 has been something we've talked about so at the DEC,  
19 SBS hearing yesterday, at the Legal Services  
20 Committee today that is still going on over there.  
21 Everyone kind of talked about really incorporating  
22 adult literacy into the different pieces. Not just  
23 for relationship building, but actually getting them  
24 competent literacy building for these jobs. Tell us  
25 your plan about how that's going to be used.

COMMISSIONER CHONG: So the Department--  
the Department of Labor has just issued its 2,000-  
page regulations for the Workforce Innovative  
Opportunity Act, which used to be called the  
Workforce Investment Act. And so, that will give us  
more clarity on how much flexibility we'll have in  
redesigning our workforce programs. You're  
absolutely right. Literacy is an important part of  
that, but when the challenges that, you know, came up  
in the discussions in the Jobs Community-Based Task  
Force is that if we want to move people to better  
paying jobs, one of the biggest challenges is  
literacy. So, one of the things that came out of the  
Jobs Community-Based Task Force, which we're still  
working on developing is the idea of Bridge Program.  
That would essentially take low literacy young  
people, which is our primary focus, those that have  
fourth, fifth, and sixth grade reading levels. Give  
them some sort of intensive support so that they can  
become more eligible for some of the more federally  
funded programs that are--that are--that are going to  
become available under the new redesign of the old  
program. So we are starting early to figure out the  
planning of this, but we definitely recognize that

there's a service gap for low literacy group that  
unfortunately they have sometimes forgotten.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: What is that  
gap? Have you measured that gap?

COMMISSIONER CHONG: The numbers. Do we  
have numbers I mean on low literacy youth?

WONG XIN: I think we've got them.

COMMISSIONER CHONG: Okay. Introduce  
yourself.

WONG XIN: Okay. My name is Wong Xin.  
I'm the Senior Director for Adult Literacy Services  
at DYCD. The, you know, the estimated number of  
young people who are out of work and they're not in  
school that are called--known as second opportunity  
youth is somewhere between 170 to 200,000 people.  
And actually we, you know, in light of this task  
force recommendations we are actually looking at our  
young adult literacy programs to look at  
incorporating career path, you know, breach programs  
into career themes about the contextualized  
curriculum to help young people not only achieve  
their academic success. But also we are looking  
toward a career path. So working with private  
sectors, industry sectors to make that link.

COMMISSIONER CHONG: So let me must clarify that. I think of the 170,000 second opportunity youth, there's a subset that are very low literacy. We can look into the exact number because among the second opportunity youth, you have a cross section of people with high school degrees, some with college. So the low literacy, the ones who I think are the most in need is a subset of the 170,000. So we can ask our research staff to find out what that universe.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Well, and just help us understand, too, this is a ninth grade-- that's the ninth grade literacy level that allows the Bridge Program to be accessible. And so, you're saying that the gap, there's a--there's a kind of line--

COMMISSIONER CHONG: [interposing] There are people below ninth grade, which are the ones we want to make sure they have some access to services.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Okay. So then you're saying that the world of 170,000 people-- individuals there is--you have line that says X are under the ninth grade reading level. Which means that they can't access the Bridge Program, but--

COMMISSIONER CHONG: [interposing] Well, no, they can't access--I think they can't access the existing workforce programs because they're not even at that minimum threshold.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: I see.

COMMISSIONER CHONG: So the gap is something we can get back to you on, what is that number of the 170,000 that are truly low literacy.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: And so, what are you doing for that group?

COMMISSIONER CHONG: Well, that's the Bridge Program that's--that was discussed in the Jobs Communities-Based Task Force where we're still trying to nail down the funding for that. But the hope is that that will be something that will be piloted to begin to bring those young people who are at the low literacy level to the point where they can access other services.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Well, just as a--just a kind of general note, our literacy, adult literacy programs are not funded at the level that we were even before. So we're not even asking for a kind of continued growth. We're--we're pennies on the dollar of the amount of commitment. And so now



1 we're hearing both on DACA and DAPA, a lot of  
2 uncertainty. You're still thinking about it. You  
3 and I were talking about adult literacy. Same thing.  
4 We're still thinking about it, and if we're really  
5 hoping to get back to the executive discussions that  
6 we have those plans. And I know there's a lot of  
7 advocates out there that are thinking about this in a  
8 real way, and have some suggestions. So I'm hoping  
9 that immediately after this hearing we can kind of  
10 talk about how we connect all the pieces. Because so  
11 many different agencies are attacking this problem,  
12 and we're not--we're not having synergy here. So  
13 that's--that's an important piece I think to solve  
14 this problem, but we don't have a lot of time. So  
15 we've got--we've got to get to this budget, this  
16 final budget. And so, the next question--the last--  
17 maybe the last question--because I feel like I've  
18 been asking a lot of questions--is on administrative  
19 relief. And, really working with. You said you're  
20 working with MOIA on this IDNYC piece. Is there any  
21 extra funding that you're anticipating for this, for  
22 DYCD?

24 COMMISSIONER CHONG: I think it's really  
25 making our educational material and our outreach

materials about DACA available to the--the universe of 260,000 people that have applied for Municipal ID, and people will self-select obviously. Because those that are eligible will then hopefully be referred to a DACA literacy program. Or, if they have unique literacy requirements under the President's Executive Order, they will go directly to a DACA legal services provider.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: And so, the only thing I'm going to say is I'm going to wrap up with something you said earlier is that these adult literacy programs are a place to create trust. And so, anything that we do outside of that realm of that experience for people might fall short. And so really concentrating on beefing up these kind of-- Sometimes these are the first things that people step into with adult--with our adult literacy programs to build that relationship. And it won't come from a letter that we send them because they have an ID Card now. And so this is why this next budget must for the workforce questions, for the DAPA and the DACA questions we really have to beef up adult literacy. And so, I'm hoping for some real--real commitment to that in our community.

COMMISSIONER CHONG: I think that you can be assured that both MOIA and DYCD are very committed to the--to casting a wide net and engaging people because we want to make sure that we take advantage of the President's Executive Order.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Yeah, and we're all waiting for that. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much, Council Member Menchaca. Do you have a follow-up question?

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Commissioner, generally on the baseline-- It's a general baseline question. When RFP--when do you anticipate the RFP process to be concluded and awards?

COMMISSIONER CHONG: To which program?

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: To any of the baseline programs.

COMMISSIONER CHONG: Well, we--NDA?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: There aren't that many really, NDAs. [sic]

COMMISSIONER CHONG: Well, I think actually COMPASS I think is, yeah, probably mid to late April.

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Will we have enough time to react to the number of providers who have come back to us saying I didn't get awarded on the new RFP?

COMMISSIONER CHONG: Well, mid to late April should give you enough time.

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: So we're--adult literacy and all of the other?

COMMISSIONER CHONG: On the adult literacy I think we didn't do an RFP. What we did was since we had just done an RFP like the year before, we were advised by the Mayor's Office of Contract Services to use that RFP. So what we did is we--using the groups that had been funded by the Council in adult literacy, we amended the contracts to the groups in the same neighborhoods. So that the same neighborhoods would be getting services. And then when we--when we went further down the list of that previous RFP to make sure that was geographic diversity. So those awards were made back in--I want to say in the fall. Because that was an RFP already in place. We just used the list. We just announced the IOI awards I think about two months ago. They're all on our website. So we can certainly send you the

list of all the baselined, previously Council funded by baselined initiatives. That's all public information. It's on our website, and the only one that hasn't been announced is COMPASS, the elementary programs.

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Okay. So of the adult literacy and the process that you use to back into the RFP--

COMMISSIONER CHONG: [interposing] Right.

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: --how many of the funded--Council funded groups lost funding?

COMMISSIONER CHONG: I think--let's see. I have this number here.

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: You just if you can get that.

COMMISSIONER CHONG: We can get it to you.

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Please.

COMMISSIONER CHONG: Yeah.

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Because more importantly there's a lot concern out in the provider community about the baseline funding. And not just with DYCD, but all of the other agencies where there's been a redefining of what the funding would

be used for. So the initial intent of the funding the Council provided will probably not continue in the manner that the Council or in the spirit in which Council funded the initiative. So there's a great deal of concern out in the community that a lot of those that are being funded through the end of this fiscal year will lose the funding that they have been accustomed to getting from the Council in some cases for many years.

COMMISSIONER CHONG: We'll give you that list.

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: You know, that in my opinion is community disinvestment, and that's not cool. So we'll--

COMMISSIONER CHONG: [interposing] We'll give you the list.

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: To be continued.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much, Council Member Arroyo. Commissioner, I think Council Member Rosenthal is back. Okay, before I turn it over to Council Member Rosenthal for some questions, I would like to talk about the Summer Youth Program, SYEP. I know that DYCD, we all know that DYCD is providing, you know, wonderful programs or services

1 to the young people. And all of those programs they  
2 are very, very important and critically needed. But  
3 the Summer Program is one of the best I believe. The  
4 Summer Youth Program is one of the greatest programs  
5 and even though, you know, we provide jobs to the  
6 young people only for a short period of time. But  
7 when we see the benefits of the Summer Youth Program,  
8 I think this is a program that we should try to  
9 improve, and we have to try to increase the number of  
10 slots. We know that every year DYCD received  
11 approximately 135,000 applications, but only 35,000  
12 approximately--135,000 young people are lucky enough  
13 to receive jobs. Less than 35%. But I do believe  
14 that in the great City of New York we can do better  
15 than that. And we all know that the young people who  
16 went through the summer jobs, they do better in  
17 school, better in life. And also, we can mention  
18 that we observe less incarceration among young  
19 people. And there are many benefits. There are many  
20 benefits that are so many. But last year the City  
21 Council under the leadership of the Speaker Mark-  
22 Viverito and also with efforts of the Mayor, we add  
23 10,300 more jobs. That's an extra \$10,000--\$10  
24 million to do that. But we know that this year there  
25

1  
2 is a big challenge. Last year we had--we were facing  
3 the same challenge, but we are facing the challenge  
4 to increase the wages, the minimum wages. What do  
5 you have in a model, in place to ensure that we have  
6 the same number of slots last year or more if, you  
7 know, the issue of increase of the minimum wages is  
8 not resolved by the state, or for example, by the  
9 city?

10 COMMISSIONER CHONG: So the Mayor is very  
11 committee to the Summers Jobs Program. In fact,  
12 because of the additional money added last year, and  
13 the additional money that the Council added last  
14 year, we served 47,000 young people, which is the  
15 second most in recent memory. So, I think there's a  
16 strong commitment both by the Council and the Mayor  
17 to make this program viable. The mayor has already  
18 added the money necessary to cover the minimum wage  
19 for the jobs that the city, the Mayor's Office  
20 baselined. So that piece is covered. The Governor  
21 has proposed additional funding to cover the minimum  
22 wage increase for the State funded jobs. In fact, I  
23 was in Albany a few weeks ago meeting with different  
24 legislators to ensure. So there seems to be a  
25 difference of opinion between the Assembly and the



Governor on one side and the Senate. Which has actually not covered the cost of minimum wage. So we're hopeful that the Senate will come around to the Governor's and Assembly's perspective on minimum wage. And then obviously the Council will have--can do its support for this program to continue to fund at least 47,000 jobs. The cost of the Council funded jobs last year, the minimum wage is about \$600,000 I believe on top of the \$15.2 million. So we can give you more details. So every year, putting together the budget for the Assembly's Employment Program is like a jigsaw puzzle. I mean we started the planning for the Assembly's program in mid-January. I spoke at a meeting of our Assembly's employment providers. It was 8 degrees outside. But to run a program of this scale, the largest summer job program in the country and to ensure the kind of quality we want to ensure, we need to start early. The challenge often times is that we don't know how much money we have to work with. So we do the best with what we have. And I think, you know, you said there are a lot of studies out there that show it reduces incarceration. There's a higher mortality rate among young people who don't get summer jobs. So I think the benefits

of this program outweigh whatever the cost is. And so we're looking forward to working with you to make sure that we can get to the 47,000 number again this year.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: But I think I have to take the opportunity to thank and commend the Mayor and the Speaker also because that was historic and the history of the DYCD to increase summer youth jobs by I think 10,700 jobs or up to I think 47,000-- 47,700 jobs. That was wonderful. That was a giant step towards a goal of increasing the number of jobs for the young people. But I would say to you that we don't know what's going to happen since we are waiting for the State. And there's a need, a critical need for improve the number of slots for the young people. As I said before, all the services provided by DYCD they are wonderful programs. They are needed programs, but we are facing the limit of the lack of funding or resources. And we are not sure if we will be able to increase the number of jobs. And we are all working for that. But in case let us assume that--but in life, in everything that we are doing, we have to prioritize. We have to make sure we set a priority when referencing these

1  
2 different things. [sic] Let us assume that you  
3 decided or we decided to put summer youth jobs among  
4 the top priorities, would you be able to notify the  
5 budget plan and shift numbers around to create  
6 additional funding that will be used to add more  
7 summer jobs?

8 COMMISSIONER CHONG: All our funding is  
9 already spoken for, for specific programs. So if  
10 you're asking me do I cut money for after school to  
11 fund summer jobs, that's not something I can do.

12 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: So there is no way  
13 to modify the, you know, the numbers, and if we  
14 visit, you know--

15 COMMISSIONER CHONG: [interposing] It's  
16 a funding kind of money. The money is earmarked for  
17 specific services. If you steal from Peter to pay  
18 Paul, it never works.

19 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Okay. So we know  
20 that the funding for summer jobs come from the city,  
21 state and federal government.

22 COMMISSIONER CHONG: The federal  
23 government has walked away from this program. In  
24 fact, the history of the Summer Jobs Program that's  
25 not been told is that it started mostly with federal

1 funding, and over the many years-- The program has  
2 been around in one shape or form since 1963. The  
3 federal government with the exception of 2009 right  
4 after the Great Recession where there was a federal  
5 stimulus money has never funded much in the way of  
6 the Summer Jobs Program. So that's the great  
7 challenge here. I think the city and state and  
8 Council leaders have stepped up to the plate to fund  
9 this program because they recognize how important,  
10 and how impactful it is. But the fact of the matter  
11 is the federal government has walked away from this  
12 program.  
13

14 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: So we know also that  
15 part of the money comes from the private sector. So  
16 what have you been doing to reach out to the private  
17 sector to increase their participation?

18 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Well, the good news  
19 is that I think Mayor de Blasio is very committed to  
20 engaging the private sector in this area. He's been  
21 reaching out and talking to business leaders to get  
22 them to support the Summer Job Program. Last year we  
23 raised over a million dollars in private funding. We  
24 hope to increase that amount this year because I  
25 think that the business community recognizes the

1 importance of putting young people to work. The  
2 challenge is making sure we match young people to the  
3 right job. And that's, you know, that's, you know,  
4 that's on the--that's the responsibility of DYCD and  
5 it's the responsibility of the non-profits we fund.  
6 But I think the private sector understands this. I  
7 think the Mayor understand the importance of engaging  
8 the private sector as a partner in this.

9  
10 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you,  
11 Commissioner. Let me call Council Member Rosenthal  
12 for some questions. Are you on it?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Thank you so  
14 much, Chair, and thanks for your patience,  
15 Commissioner. It's a new issue for me. So I'm a  
16 little less familiar with what's going on with DYCD.  
17 But the first question I would just like to clarify  
18 is could you send over to the Finance staff for the  
19 committee the list of new needs that you'll be asking  
20 for, for the Executive? To be funded in the Exec?

21 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Yeah, we can do  
22 that.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Great. Thank  
24 you. So specifically on the after school, and again  
25 I apologize if I'm muddling this up. So it sounds

1 like there was because of the increase in payment  
2 level, which I 100% agree with we're down--someone  
3 has actually done the numbers, \$7.7 million for the  
4 2,300 elementary school after school slots. Are you  
5 going---do you have a sense of-- From the way you  
6 wrote the RFP, do you have a sense of whether or not  
7 those will fall equally or if there are going to be  
8 neighborhood that will pop out?  
9

10 COMMISSIONER CHONG: It's going to be  
11 prorated I mean across the system.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: So there was  
13 nothing written in the language of the RFP that would  
14 affect one particular neighborhood over another?

15 COMMISSIONER CHONG: No.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Okay. :

17 COMMISSIONER CHONG: In every RFP there's  
18 always language about baseline funding availability.  
19 So we will look across the board and say well, they  
20 asked for 200 seats, but we can only, you know, pro  
21 rate it to whatever the number is, the pot of money  
22 that we have.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Okay, and then  
24 this might be separate. It might be the same  
25

question. I'm not quite sure, but apparently we're  
down \$5.9 million for 17 sites.

COMMISSIONER CHONG: That's a separate  
issue.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Okay. Can you  
help me out to understand that issues, how those--  
So an RFP was issued--

COMMISSIONER CHONG: [interposing] No,  
these 17 are--it's a different kettle of fish.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Okay.

COMMISSIONER CHONG: I believe in  
September of 2013, Chancellor Walcott with I guess in  
working with Commissioner Walgrave [sic] decided to  
add 17 elementary after school programs--

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: [interposing]  
Yep.

COMMISSIONER CHONG: --that the  
Department of Education funded. Then Mayor de Blasio  
come in, in January 2014. We were able to work with  
our partners at the Department of Education and to  
continue funding these programs through this current  
fiscal year. It's now unclear whether the Department  
of Education can continue to fund these programs  
because they obviously have their own budget

1 challenges. So we have flagged this as a new need  
2 for OMB. We recognize it was a last minute decision  
3 made by the previous administration, but we recognize  
4 the value of these 17 programs. They're all fully  
5 enrolled. We--you know, we know that services for  
6 elementary school age youth are greatly needed in  
7 this city. So we're fully aware of it. We flagged  
8 it for the Office of Management and Budget, but again  
9 until this process is completed and no final  
10 decisions have been made, I know the advocacy  
11 community has been very active on this. And, you  
12 know, we encourage them, you know, because it really  
13 impacts 19--I think 1,900 young people.

14  
15 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Wow. Okay.  
16 So DOE is self-funded and they are looking to free up  
17 \$5.9 million by not continuing?

18 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Well, I can't speak  
19 for DOE. At this point, we will take the money from  
20 anywhere we can get it.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Have they done  
22 the contracts through you, DYCD previously? No, they  
23 just self-funded in their own location?

24 COMMISSIONER CHONG: No, what happened is  
25 there was intercity transfer of funds from DOE to us



and the contracts are with DYCD. But again, this all pre-dates my tenure, and certainly Chancellor Farina's tenure. So--

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: [interposing]  
Got it.

COMMISSIONER CHONG: --I just want to be mindful of that.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Yeah. Got it. Thank you. And then lastly, when I look at the amount of money added to the budget to fund the expanded full day pre-K, and when I look at the amount of money funded to pay for middle-school after school programs, it's all just so impressive and great. What portion of that is city funds, and what portion of funded by the state?

COMMISSIONER CHONG: So the unique thing about the SONYC expansion is that it's all state education dollars or what's called Foundation Funding that I believe the Governor last year even made changes made clear that local educational--local school districts can use a portion of their foundation funding for after school. So, the Mayor decided that he was going to set aside \$145 million

last year, and \$190 million this year out of the  
Education Funding to fund after school programs.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Okay. I guess  
what I'm getting at is, is there any chance that some  
of the lost--I guess--I don't know. Okay. Never  
mind.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much.  
That's fine.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you, Council  
Member Rosenthal. Now, let me recognize Council  
Member Chin for some questions.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Commissioner, it's--  
I think from your testimony it's great to talk about  
new needs and how it's a one-time, what? High in  
terms of over a \$500 million budget. That is great.  
I want to follow up on the summer programs for  
elementary school age youth. The Mayor baselined  
\$17.6 million. So going forward are we going to be  
able to provide summer programs for more than 20,000  
kids. Or, are we just going to stay at that number?

COMMISSIONER CHONG: It's the same  
number, right?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: [off mic]

Yeah, it's the same. [on mic] The slot--the slot

loss related the PPP Equalization that the

Commissioner was just talking about, is--that's part

of the RFP that's being reviewed right now is--

Thanks to that baselining of the summer funding going

to be year-round programming. So it will include the

after school period, and the summer period as a year-

round program.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Okay. So you're

still going to be serving the same number of

children--of students?

COMMISSIONER CHONG: In the summer.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: In the

summer yes except for the small amount that we--

Well, not so--the amount that we will have to reduce

because right sized the price participant. So it's

going to be short a couple thousand from what it had--

-what it is this current fiscal year.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Because of the--of

the--the rate change from the previous question that

Council Member Rosenthal asked, we're already going

to be losing over 2,000 slots for elementary school

because of the rate increase.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: That's  
right.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: So we are going to  
lose also summer slots.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Yes, the two--2,300  
that we referenced as lost seats because of the  
equalization of the investment per young person  
translates into a year-round loss. So it's school  
year and summer. So, it's--and typically for  
elementary programs, they're typically year-round  
because we recognize that there's a need in most  
communities particularly for younger youth to have  
summer services. So it will be roughly 2,000--20,000  
instead of 22,000.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: So going forward,  
it's great that the Mayor is talking about universal  
after school programs for middle-school kids, and  
that expansion is great. And I think we still cannot  
forget about the elementary school kids, the  
kindergarteners all the way up to fifth grade. It's  
so important that we invest early, right. So going  
forward, how--how much funding do you project? That  
we want to give every single elementary school kid at

the school and summer program what would that need  
be?

COMMISSIONER CHONG: We'd have to run the  
numbers. We could send them to you, but at this  
point it's many more dollars than we have in our  
current budget, but--

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: [interposing] Oh,  
yeah, but I'm--it's new needs. I mean it's something  
that going forward that I--that I hope that  
Commissioner you will continue to advocate--

COMMISSIONER CHONG: [interposing] Yeah.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: that because it's  
so critical for every elementary school kid to get  
the extra, you know, support that they need to do  
well.

COMMISSIONER CHONG: I think in the short  
run, our goal this year was to stabilize the programs  
that currently serve elementary youth. And we do  
that by two ways. One, getting the baselining of  
money needed for the summer, and two making sure that  
every elementary program whether it was previously  
Council funded or whether it was DYCD funded gets the  
same amount per young person. So I think we  
accomplished that so far in the Preliminary Budget.

Going forward we'd be glad to share with you the cost of ensuring universal elementary programs.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: That would be good, but I think also for this year we need to take a step forward. But it's good to stabilize, but I think we need to add some extras so that we are on the road of getting to that point of universal after school programs and a program for our elementary school students just like the Mayor talked about middle school. I mean last year we started it, and this year we're going to be expanding. So for the elementary school students, I think we've got to take another step to show the commitment, you know, from the administration that what you talked about in your testimony that we would have to give every kid an opportunity to learn. So I think, you know, share that number with us and see if we can get some funding added in the Executive Budget. So that we're not losing thousands--you know a couple thousands of slots, which are so critical.

COMMISSIONER CHONG: We will.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Okay. Thank you.

Thank you, Chair.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Let me acknowledge that we have been joined by Council Member Greenfield. Thank you very much, Council Member Greenfield for being here. Let me turn it over now to our Co-Chair Arroyo.

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: And Commissioner, just a couple more questions and then we'll--I promise we'll--we've had you here for two hours, and appreciate tremendously your patience in this process. Two--one request and then some clarification that I need on performance measures. So could you provide the Council with a list of the initiatives that fall under Community Development--

COMMISSIONER CHONG: Sure. I mean--

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: --generally.

COMMISSIONER CHONG: Now, I can send you it by--

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: [interposing] No, no, please, just provide that for the committee--

COMMISSIONER CHONG: [interposing] Okay.

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: --so that we can understand. I'm trying to have clarity about how we can make sure that this agency is representing both the interests of Youth and Community Development

equally. Not because I have a preference for either one except that it's my responsibility as Chair of Community Development I want to have that clarity.

COMMISSIONER CHONG: We'll send you that list afterwards. [sic]

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: And I think that's important for all of us to understand. Now, on our budget briefing documents I'm looking at how community development programs are measured by the agency. And I find that the number of indicators are for very few, and don't understand why there are more--there are not more indicators. Which is why I'm asking what are the programs that are categorized community development programs.

COMMISSIONER CHONG: So like you--

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: [interposing] So that I can understand why we're only looking at four or five indicators.

COMMISSIONER CHONG: So by community development, I'll talk about the ones that are baselined because Council funded initiatives, as you know, are not baselined. So it's hard to measure year to year progress if you're not sure that the funding will stay the same. So the two big Community



Development Initiative funded programs are federally funded. One is the Community Services Block Grant Program, and there's-- I can say that inviting retail but there is a system called ROMA, Result Oriented Management Accountability. ROMA, you've got all these acronyms.

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: [interposing] That makes sense.

COMMISSIONER CHONG: It provides detailed outcomes for different types of programs. And because the neighborhood development areas funds many different types of programs, the outcomes vary from program to program. We will be glad to share with you the outcome measures for each of these CHBG [sic] funded programs. The second largest pot of money under community development is the--what's called the Workforce Investment Opportunity Act, or what used to be called the Workforce Investment Act. And the outcomes there have changed because the federal--the Congress and then the President redesigned that system. So the 2,000 pages of regulations that just got issued yesterday we're having staff pore through that now to determine what the new outcomes will be, or how much flexibility we have. So, for example, on

1 a workforce program is it enough to count as an  
2 outcome that a young person got skill attainment or  
3 do they have to be placed in an actual job. All  
4 those kinds of questions we need to parse out from  
5 the 2,000-page document that was just emailed to us.

7 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Okay because what--  
8 I'm looking at our report on Fiscal Year 2016 from  
9 the Preliminary Budget, and I know that you have a  
10 copy of what has been produced here internally by our  
11 Finance Division. And I'm looking at page 28, and  
12 it's--and it just we're picking up on three  
13 indicators. I want to make sure that it's not  
14 something that we've done to include just those, and  
15 for that there are others that we should be looking  
16 at that we're not looking at in terms of how well--to  
17 decide how well we're performing in our service  
18 delivery.

19 COMMISSIONER CHONG: We'll take a second  
20 look to see if other programs can be added because I  
21 know the Mayor's Management Report wants to limit the  
22 number of indicators you have. So we can always look  
23 at it, but you can rest assured that the--

24 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: [interposing] It's  
25 just too narrow, Commissioner--

COMMISSIONER CHONG: [interposing]

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: --as far as I'm  
concerned.

COMMISSIONER CHONG: Okay, we can take a  
look at it to see if there are any other ones we can  
add because we do collect outcome measures for these  
steadily funded programs. And they're tracked  
separately by the oversight agencies like the State  
Department of Labor and Federal Department of Labor  
and by the State Department of State, which--which  
this federal money comes down to us. So, we're  
constantly monitored by them, but we'll take a look  
to see if there are other things to be added.

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: And our--our staff  
will follow up--

COMMISSIONER CHONG: [interposing] Sure.

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: --and we'll arrange  
a separate conversation--

COMMISSIONER CHONG: [interposing] Sure.

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: --so that I can wrap  
my head--

COMMISSIONER CHONG: [interposing] I'd be  
happy to.

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: --around the details. Thank you, Mr. Chair and thank you again Commissioner and your staff for your work.

COMMISSIONER CHONG: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much, Co-Chair Arroyo. Commissioner, I think that we are going to let you go, but we have been enjoying your company. Because this is you--your information very important for us in order for us to continue to work together. But before that, can I ask you two more questions?

COMMISSIONER CHONG: Sure.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: [laughs] Thank you. They are two, you know, very easy questions. We all know and every time that I try to--to raise this issue, the issue of accessibility for all New Yorkers especially the immigrant people--Because as I said before DYCD is providing wonderful programs and also-- But the problem is some of the time there are people eligible for adults program. But they don't know about them because of challenges that they are facing languages and language barriers, and cultural barrier. They don't know where to go to get access to those services. What do you have in place? Have

you been able to reach out to everybody to let them know about the wonderful services provided by DYCD. I'm talking about people who don't speak--

COMMISSIONER CHONG: [interposing] Right.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: --properly. And people, you know, immigrant people.

COMMISSIONER CHONG: We do a lot of outreach. Take the Youth Employment Program. We've been working with a number of council members who've offered to do some Summer Youth Employment clinics in their district offices. And we welcome the opportunity to work with all 51 council members to do that. Because we recognize that you are much more attached to communities than we may be. So that's something I offer to you and to any other council member. The deadline is April 10th. We're making a special effort to reach out through the ethnic media. We beefed up our capacity in the Press Office. We've brought on a Deputy Press Secretary and it's already yielded results. So, for example, when the application period for the Summer Youth Employment Program opened on March 2nd, we were able to get a front page story in El Diario about a young man, Adrian Gonzalez, who was a Summer Youth Employment

Program participant last year. And let me just take a few moments and tell you about how special his story was. And I think it resonated with a lot of immigrant communities. Adrian Gonzalez worked in our Summer Job Program last year in a program that we developed with the Economic Development Corporation, and he learned how to do computer coding--

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: [interposing] I think we should listen to this. [sic]

COMMISSIONER CHONG: --and Mr. Gonzalez, a young man, 16 years old came to this country from the Dominican Republic at the age of 8. Did not speak English, a single mother. He enrolled in this job support program last year. He learned how to do computer coding. He won a contest to create an app, and to help young people find jobs during the school year, and he got a \$5,000 investment. So he was on the front page of El Diario on March 3rd I think. We can send you the article, and that's an example of the kind of effort we're trying to make to reach ethnic communities across the city. Because we recognize the best way to reach some communities is through their local ethnic media.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Okay. Thank you very much, Commissioner. I would like to take the opportunity to thank also the Deputy Commissioner Susan Haskell and also Deputy Commissioner Sandra Gutierrez. Thank you to all of you. Thank you very much.

COMMISSIONER CHONG: Thank you. Have a good week.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you. Have a wonderful day. Thank you.

[background comments]

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Okay. So we're going to call up our first panel with the instructions that are going to be included. We have a lot of individuals signed up to testify during the public portion of our hearing. We will put a clock up for two minutes, and I'm going to beg you not to make us interrupt you and ask you to wrap up. Summarize your testimony. If you have written testimony, we entered it into the record fully. So do not feel the need to read everything you have with you. I know thorough all of you can be, and we appreciate that. So with that said, we're going to

bring Annie McShiras, the Working World. Annie.  
Annie?

SERGEANT-A-ARMS: Quiet please. Quiet  
please.

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: No Annie. Annie  
McShiras. That's you. Okay. Joe Rinehart,  
Democracy at Work; Chris Michael, New York City  
Network of Worker Cooperatives. Fred Freundlich. I  
think I have mispronounced your name the whole last  
two days. So you're going to correct me. Mondragon  
University Faculty, Yalenis Cruz, Cypress Hills Local  
Development Corporation and Omar Freilla, Green  
Workers Cooperative. So we have Annie. Annie, are  
you here? Yeah, she's here. Joe. Where's Joe.  
Chris, Fred, Yalenis and Omar. There you go. Green  
Worker Cooperatives. All right.

SERGEANT-A-ARMS: Quiet down, please.

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: We're going to--  
however you want to organize yourselves, flip a coin,  
draw straws whoever goes first. Be mindful that we  
have a clock going. So please just tell what we need  
to hear from you as summarized as possible. Not that  
your testimony is not important, but we want to get  
to everyone in the room. So thank you all for being



here, for your patience in waiting, and you may begin when you're ready.

Thank you so much Council Members, Council Member Eugene and Council Member Arroyo for having us here today.

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Identify yourselves for the record. We will not swear you in, though.

JOE RINEHART: My name is Joe Rinehart. I'm the Director of Cooperative Development at Democracy at work Institute, and I'm--we're here to-- I'm here to encourage the Council to pass and to include the enhancement of the Worker Cooperative Business Development Initiative in the budget for 2015-2016. Just to recap a little bit of what we've done this year, we've worked with more than 30 start-up businesses, more than 20 of which will be launching some time this summer, and supported the development of 20--supported the growth of more than 20 worker cooperative businesses around the city. Worked with over 500 entrepreneurs and worker cooperative worker owners in more than 42 Council Districts. And we feel that we've done a lot to move forward. And as you said, it's a growing model for how cities can create inclusive economic development

1 through cooperatives. And really, the best reason  
2 for the Council to continue to fund our work is  
3 because we are continuing to see a growing level of  
4 excitement around worker cooperatives and a growing--  
5 the worker cooperatives we work with are growing.  
6 And there's growing pipeline of individual  
7 entrepreneurs, and community organizations interested  
8 in starting worker cooperatives. Just this year  
9 we've added both Vac Net and Urban Upbound to the  
10 Worker Cooperative Business Development Initiative.  
11 Both are widely respected worker cooperatives--ethnic  
12 developers in the city. Both will be working in the  
13 Bronx and in--One will be working in the Bronx and  
14 one in Queens to develop worker cooperatives in low-  
15 income communities and public housing. We're also  
16 working with NYCHA RIIS to help them develop a  
17 worker--a cooperative to support their food--the  
18 NYCHA Entrepreneurs specifically in their food  
19 acceleration program. Along with thanks to City  
20 Council's passage of Intro 423, a growing cooperation  
21 with SBS to put worker cooperatives--to support  
22 worker co-ops in their small business services  
23 support, and also in-- [bell] Well, I'll leave it  
24 there but--  
25

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Thank you.

ANNIE MC SHIRAS: Hi, thanks so much.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. My name is Annie McShiras. I'm the Director of Development at an organization called the Working World. The Working World creates community-based economic development through innovative financing to worker-owned businesses that build income and assets in under resourced communities across New York City. The financial and technical support we offer is pragmatic, innovative and patient. We take no personal guarantees, and the returns to our fund only comes when a project becomes profitable. The result is financing creates lasting faith-based economic development.

In the spring of 2014, we joined the New York City wide effort for the Worker Cooperative Business Development Initiative led by the Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies and for 14 other innovative organizations supporting the creation of a cooperative economy in New York City many of which are right here today on this panel. Since that time, over the past year, our work has expanded to the successful creation of many new worker-owned

1  
2 cooperatives and supported existing worker-owned  
3 cooperatives. We are currently helping launch six  
4 new start-up cooperatives with a total of 18 members  
5 by June 2015 and an estimated 62 worker owners by  
6 June 16. We currently support eight existing  
7 cooperative businesses with a combined 30 worker-  
8 owners employed.

9           Additionally, funding from the New York  
10 City Council has allowed us to expand our worker  
11 cooperative academy model by launching a new  
12 initiative in the neighborhood of Bedford-Stuyvesant.  
13 Through a 10-week course, residents are learning the  
14 basics of starting a worker cooperative. The Bed-  
15 Stuy Cooperative is the second local incubation  
16 course that The Working World has been able to offer  
17 residents since we opened our New York City office  
18 three years ago. Just like our Rockaways Cooperative  
19 Incubator Program, the Worker-owned Rockaway  
20 Cooperatives, in Bed-Stuy we're establishing a local  
21 community of cooperative business, and creating  
22 ownership for residents within the rapidly changing  
23 neighborhood at Bed-Stuy. Our success over this past  
24 year from launching new business to supporting  
25 worker-owned businesses would not have been possible

without the support of City Council. [bell] So I just want to end with that, and thank Council Members Rosenthal and Arroyo for all of your support of this work, and we hope to continue working with you. So thank you so much.

[pause]

FRED FREUNDLICH: Good afternoon, Chairpersons Arroyo and Eugene and distinguished members of the New York City Council. My name is Fred Freundlich. I'm here from Mondragon University. I'm here that a cooperative enterprise can even reduce heart attacks. There's a great deal of research that documents the negative effects on health associated with economic inequality, an issue that co-ops take on head on. Worker members, workers and cooperatives become members. They're not simply employed resources. They significantly reduce social and economic inequality, and this is very good for your health. The worker cooperatives are including more than an apple a day keeps the doctor away, and Mondragon demonstrates this. Mondragon is worthy of it's word. It's the name of a town in the vast region of Northern Spain, home to many companies that form the Mondragon Corporation, an integrated

1 network of worker cooperatives. Which started in  
2 1955 with a couple of dozen people, and one small  
3 manufacturing shop. It is now over 120 cooperative  
4 organizations tightly integrated and collaborating  
5 with each other and 75,000 people in 2013, and over  
6 \$16 billion sales. It's no accident that in  
7 Mondragon unemployment is relatively very low.  
8 Poverty is relatively very low. Inequality is  
9 relatively very low. The standards of living in  
10 cohesion, social cohesion are relatively very high.  
11 I'm an American transplant who went to Mondragon in  
12 1995. I began working with the Faculty of Business  
13 at Mondragon University and its research Center NYK.  
14 We're developing--we have a Masters Degree there in  
15 Co-Op Management, which we are trying to replicate  
16 with--with CUNY for English speakers in the near  
17 future. Funded by the Foundation for End Product  
18 [sic] Development, and we are to collaborate during  
19 this year that I'm visiting the U.S. with the  
20 cooperative sector here, and particularly here in New  
21 York.  
22

23 Lots of studies--I'm a professor--lots of  
24 studies show that worker co-ops are good for your  
25 perceptions, for competitiveness, and for people' s

relationships with each other at work. I would enthusiastically recommend that you support the initiative put forward by my New York Cooperative Courage. Thank you very much for the opportunity to speak with you today.

[pause]

CHRISTOPHER MICHAEL: Hi. My name is Christopher Michael from the New York City Network of Worker Cooperatives. Thank you so much today Chairperson Arroyo and Eugene and distinguished members of the New York City Council Committee on Community Development and the Committee on Youth Services. Again, my name is Christopher Michael. I'm the Executive of the New York City Network of Worker Cooperatives. It's 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 non-profit support organizations. We'd like to thank you on behalf of these businesses and non-profits for your support of the Fiscal Year 2014-15 Worker Cooperative Business Development Initiative.

1                   The Council's discretionary funding has  
2  
3   become a model for the nation with communities as  
4   diverse as Chicago, Illinois; Jackson, Mississippi;  
5   San Francisco, California; and Madison, Wisconsin  
6   pursuing the course towards state-funded Worker  
7   Cooperative Business Development on the lead of New  
8   York City. It has also prompted Madison, Wisconsin's  
9   Mayor Paul Soglin to remark that Madison will not,  
10   quote "Be upstaged by New York City." End quote.  
11   [laughter] And Madison's appropriation of \$5 million  
12   for a five-year initiative. Over the last year, our  
13   initiative partners have performed beyond  
14   expectations, and this in most cases absent of any  
15   cash disburse--disbursements from the city to date.  
16   For its support the New York City of Network Worker  
17   Cooperatives or NYC NOWC, has provided business and  
18   legal support to 16 worker cooperative businesses and  
19   start-ups; assisted with the conversion of seven  
20   existing entities into worker cooperative business;  
21   and successfully transferred two of these businesses  
22   to democratic employee ownership.

23                   NYC NOWC also worked with one of the  
24   initiative partners to launch a worker cooperative  
25   moving company in collaboration with the Teamsters



1 that aims to take on a share of the City's \$39  
2 million of annual spending on moving services. In  
3 Q4, NYC NOWC will provide marketing and financial  
4 services to another 15 businesses, and will host the  
5 second annual NYC Worker Cooperative Conference on  
6 May 2nd, to which you are all invited. Finally, we  
7 are engaging in a comprehensive outreach program to  
8 hundreds of existing business owners promoting  
9 democratic employee ownership as a viable option for  
10 those owners looking to sell or retire. Thank you so  
11 much. The New York City Network of Worker  
12 Cooperatives asks the City Council to expand the  
13 Worker Cooperative Business Development Initiative to  
14 \$2.34 million for Fiscal Year 2015 and 2016. Thank  
15 you so much. [laughter]

17 YALENIS CRUZ: I will try not to top that  
18 at all. [laughs] Good afternoon, Chairperson Eugene  
19 and the distinguished Council. My name is Yalenis  
20 Cruz, and I'm representing Cypress Hills Local  
21 Development Corporation, Cypress Hills, Brooklyn. We  
22 are a multi-service agency serving 72,000 residents  
23 and offering programs in career and college access,  
24 community development, community organization,  
25 housing counseling, and my division Youth and Family

Services. So, the--I'm here for the after school program provided by Cypress Hills for East New York Elementary School of Excellence. And it's one of the 17 DOE programs in danger of losing funding. We serve 120 youth everyday, and it's one of the most impoverished areas of Brooklyn. One of those District 19 schools that is really in dire need of these programs. The DOE identified 17 schools within the community that are experiencing gaps in the School Age Care programming. And if Brooklyn's funds are not restored, there are simply no other programs to replace them. Within a block away from the school there is a men's shelter, and that's pretty much the basis of our services in that area besides other day care centers. The Mayor's decision to increase the number of programs available to children of the city is something that we support. But cutting the desperately needed DOE funding after school programs would go against the very principle of increasing access to all children. Judy Touzin, which is the principal of NEC, New York Elementary School of Excellence eloquently stated to us, "Our partnership with Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation has allowed us to offer our scholars and families with

1 additional support they need and deserve." Our  
2 families receive much needed after care while our  
3 scholars receive homework help and participate in  
4 enrichment activities. The Cypress Hills After  
5 School Program is an asset to our community. So we  
6 are asking that the \$5.9 million for the 17 site  
7 serving 1,882 children currently funded by the DOE be  
8 restored when the contracts end June 30th of this  
9 year. Whoo, two minutes with two seconds to spare.  
10 [laughter]  
11

12 OMAR FREILLA: Good afternoon, members of  
13 the Council, Council Member Arroyo, Council Member  
14 Eugene. Thank you for being here. My name is Omar  
15 Freilla. I am the founder and coordinator of Green  
16 Worker Cooperatives. We are in the business of  
17 helping people to live their dreams, and create  
18 businesses that they own collective as worker-owners.  
19 That is what we do, and we believe we do it well. We  
20 are operating--we operate a number of different  
21 programs. We run a co-op academy, which is basically  
22 a cooperative business boot camp for people who want  
23 to create worker-owned business. Within the past  
24 year, thanks to the historic allocation that was made  
25 by the City Council, which is currently leading the

country, we've been able to engage a number of different--a number of different successes. Just one is that within the past year we've created eight new worker cooperatives that didn't exist before. One of these is a team of young people about seven high school 14, 15-year-olds who started a cooperative called Syllable. They're silk screen design--silk screen design--they run silk screen printing so they print T-shirts and apparel for their school, which is Bronx Compass High School, and they've also done contracts with a number of different non-profit organizations and other schools. All of you I encourage to use their services. We started a skateboard design cooperative called Palladio and they themselves have won a number of--they do custom skateboard design. We have cooperative cleaning services. We have a number of cultural workers. We have a refrigeration, heating, ventilation and air conditioning cooperative that is being launched. And others that are in the works. So these and others are made possible because of the work that has been done. We've engaged in activities that are about promoting and expanding on these outreach activities with the Department of Small Business Services. And

1 have engaged in over 800 outreach--over 800 residents  
2 of the Bronx primarily who are aspiring entrepreneurs  
3 to create worker cooperatives in the future. So this  
4 is something that we're engaged in, and we're looking  
5 for an enhancement. We're requesting an enhancement  
6 to \$2.34 million to support all of the cooperatives  
7 and cooperative development work that's happening in  
8 New York City. Thank you.

10 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Council Member  
11 Eugene wants to know how many coops are in his  
12 district? Do you know that? Not to put you on the  
13 spot, but I certainly hope that you have a copy of  
14 the report that has been generated as part of the  
15 initiative to do precisely that. It's to provide for  
16 us, and our colleagues an opportunity to understand  
17 the comprehensiveness of--and the reach that this  
18 business model has in our city. So if you know the  
19 answer, I'd like to hear it. There are two worker  
20 co-ops. Okay, in your district.

21 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: In my district. And  
22 how many do you have in Council Member Arroyo's  
23 district?

24 OMAR FREILLA: The skateboard designers  
25 that I mentioned, Palladio, are in Council Member

Arroyo's district. They're also--they're operating in Hunts Point, and we work from time to time in the--in the Bronx Incubator space with them, which is also in the district.

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: [off mic] Council Member Greenfield.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: What about in Council Member Greenfield's district? [laughter] Do you have any, council member?

COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: You're asking me? I actually have a question for you. Thank you for giving me the mic. I appreciate it. I'm curious. First of all, thank you. I think it's really terrific what you're doing allowing individuals to start businesses especially those that are worker-owned. And so, I applaud all of you for the work that you're doing. I'm just curious. First of all, thank you. I think it's really terrific what you're doing allow individuals to start businesses, and especially those that are worker-owned. And so, I applaud all of you for the work that you're doing. I'm just curious. What does it cost on average to set up one of these cooperatives, and once it gets set up how much more maintenance does it need?

1 Because obviously setting up a business is just half  
2 the story. You want to make sure that these  
3 cooperatives are successful, right?

4 CHRISTOPHER MICHAEL: It varies. All  
5 program drives vary pretty widely based on some type  
6 of incubation that we're doing. So we--some of our  
7 members work very lightly many individual businesses.  
8 So, Omar has worked I think the value of the--worked  
9 with more than ten businesses and about--and his--his  
10 allocation is about \$100,000 this year, which covers  
11 both creation of 160? 160. The value of the--that  
12 covers both business creation and also supporting  
13 existing business, as well as outreach in the  
14 community. For instance, presenting with SBS a  
15 number of small businesses--worker cooperative 101  
16 type of workshops with business owners. We've  
17 generally--and the subsequent with the Light Touch or  
18 for instance the Center for Family Life might commit  
19 half of--sort of--it's about half a staff member's  
20 time--full-time for--half a staff member's time for  
21 two years to get a business off the ground. They do  
22 much more long-term work business planning for the  
23 business, and with the business. And then they--  
24 because they're working with people who generally  
25

1 have higher barriers to income, and they're looking  
2 to design cooperatives have much longer impact. And  
3 sort of our geared for growth to grow to a lot more--  
4 to grow to a lot more worker owners. So it varies  
5 widely from sort of \$5 to \$6,000 worth of programming  
6 for a long-term--for an incubation sort of academy  
7 model to \$50,000 over the course of several years.  
8 And then what we--generally we maintain some of the  
9 best practices to maintain a long-term relationships.  
10 With the co-op where you move from providing sort of  
11 intensive services at a very low cost to providing  
12 less intensive services and charging them with the  
13 co-op as it is--as it is more and more able to pay.  
14 To providing few services basically when they come to  
15 you and say we'd like you--we'd like you to step in  
16 and help us with the next round of strategic planning  
17 and we're able to pay for it. So we sort of have a  
18 very clear timeline of moving people from sort of  
19 deep--deep--deep interaction to sort of lower paid  
20 for levels of interaction.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Okay, that's  
23 a competent answer for a short question, but what  
24 about tracking the success of these cooperatives? Do  
25 you do that? Do you have any statistics about that



in terms of the success, and I guess what is the standard that you're looking at in terms of that perspective?

CHRISTOPHER MICHAEL: Well, I think it's first just to recognize that the cooperative--the cooperative sector, the worker cooperative sector in New York is fairly young. So, you know, most worker cooperatives, the cooperatives that--certainly the cooperatives that have been engaged in this in this past year are brand new. So they're just starting out. Prior to that, we're looking at about 20 to 23 worker cooperatives that are--that are existing in New York City. Within that depending on the kind of strategy--in our case we use an academy based approach. So we work with a cohort of people of that--of say 20--20 that are interested, 15 were lined up going through. Of the 15 that lined up--that are lined up going through our academy, a total of about 10 are up in operation. So, we're looking at anywhere of about 70 to 75% or so that are engaged and begin the process wind up starting up their business and are in business. So, it's significantly more than what you would get--than what is available

even from some of the more traditional  
entrepreneurship programs.

COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Yeah, sure, I  
think it's terrific. I'm just curious about whether  
you track the--the short or long-term success of  
those actual businesses, right. How many folks are  
successful after your program is certainly  
impressive. I'm just curious if that's something  
that you track or it's okay if you don't track it.  
I'm just trying to get a better understanding of how  
your respective systems work.

CHRISTOPHER MICHAEL: So as an--as an  
initiative we have set up systems to track the  
businesses that we work with over time. We will be  
able to--so we're able to report on number of jobs  
created both this year and next--we'll be able to  
say--tell you next year and the year after that and  
the year after that the long-term impact of the City  
Council's money. We're tracking the amount of--the  
number of jobs provided--the number of jobs created,  
the level of sales, the level of profitability and  
impact on--and impact on wages for individual worker-  
owners. We're actually--we're working with the

Center for Family Life using outside funding to  
implement a new system of metrics.

COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Okay. So the  
short answer is you don't have it yet, but you're  
working on it?

CHRISTOPHER MICHAEL: We haven't finished  
the round yet, but we--

COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: [interposing]  
Great.

CHRISTOPHER MICHAEL: --and we have the  
systems to collect it all, but we will--and we will  
have it in the future.

COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: I'm a fan of  
short answers, but I appreciate it. Thank you very  
much, and especially on Friday afternoons. I'm a  
Sabbath observant, but thank you folks and really  
thank you. You're doing great work, and thanks for  
coming out today.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much,  
Council Member Greenfield. Before we let you go, I  
just want to ask you one question or one or two  
questions. You know that in the youth service  
community we are very concerned about involving the  
young people, you know, to jobs to a positive thing.

1       Could you tell us about your effort to include or to  
2       serve or to have young people also be part of what  
3       you're doing, and how many young people you have been  
4       serving?  
5

6               OMAR FREILLA: I can take that. I had  
7       mentioned in our--of the eight cooperatives that we  
8       have launched, two of them are cooperatives of young  
9       people. One in particular are 15--

10              CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Or two? Two. So  
11       how many altogether? What is it?

12              OMAR FREILLA: Of the eight.

13              CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Huh?

14              OMAR FREILLA: Eight. Of the eight of  
15       the past year.

16              CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Uh-huh.

17              OMAR FREILLA: So two were launched by  
18       young people. One a group of 14 or 15-year-olds.  
19       That's actually based out of a school. The other are  
20       19 and 20-year-olds. So we are opened to those of  
21       any age, and we work also with the school system for  
22       those--those schools that want to--want to also  
23       engage in incubating worker cooperatives for their  
24       young people. Which find it as a way to actually  
25

create employment for young people, and create the  
opportunity for them to be engaged as entrepreneurs.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: I think that I  
attended the City the big thing. I don't know what  
you call it.

ANNIE MCSHIRAS: [off mic] The Fair.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: The fair and I still  
have one of the T-shirts--

OMAR FREILLA: [interposing] Uh-huh.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: --you know that I  
received one of the young people--

OMAR FREILLA: [interposing] Absolutely.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: --that really was  
wonderful, and I think that they're doing--they  
draft--they drew their desires. So, and that was  
wonderful. But, let me ask you one thing. You know  
that every time that we are trying to provide  
services we have to make sure that we reach out to  
everyone. Especially the immigrant people, those who  
are trying to find the American dream, how to reach  
the American dream. Have you been making an effort  
to ensure that everybody regardless of ethnicities  
and language, be part of this initiative.

OMAR FREILLA: Yes. That's the short  
answer.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: [laughs]

OMAR FREILLA: The longer answer is that  
a number of our organizations, actually all of the  
organizations that are engaged in co-op--co-op  
development and engaging in academies and engaging in  
incubation have very strong bilingual and very strong  
sometimes specifically Spanish--Spanish only  
sessions. In our case, we actually have pioneered--

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: [interposing] I'm  
sorry.

OMAR FREILLA: --bilingual sessions.  
[sic]

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: --you know, I love,  
you know, the Spanish language to speak Spanish, and  
I love, you know, my brothers and sisters. But what  
about, you know, Creole speaking people? What about  
Baquista, New York?

OMAR FREILLA: I have been encouraging my  
wife to start a worker co-operative videography  
company. We'll--we'll cover the Haitian base with  
her.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: All right.

JOE RINEHART: To your--to your questions, Council Member, to add a little bit, the Center for Family Life has been launching has been launching a Youth Cooperative. It's called KALUK [sp?] working with about ten young people to do more recent graduates of high school in Brooklyn to launch a worker cooperative. And we also have--I've been working with Damayan--Damayan Migrant Workers Association to launch a Filipino commercial cleaning cooperative, and we've provided services to Sadhana NYC, which has a cooperative of Bangladeshi women who create actually an amazing frozen Bangladeshi food.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Well, seriously, let me say, that, you know, it is very important that we make very effort possible to reach out to people, to everybody that is the language of the place that they came from. Just that diversifies, you know, what we are doing because New York City is a very diverse environment in the city. I know it won't be easy for you to reach everybody. But, you know, any effort that you can make, you know, to reach that goal would be outstanding and remarkable.

CHRISTOPHER MICHAEL: And we're working with SBS to include worker cooperative materials

increasingly in as many of their programs as possible including their program that will launch soon in all the public libraries in New York City that will be in many, many languages. And there will be worker co-ops included in that.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much.  
Thank you to all of you. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Thank you all very much, and I think one of the things that's worth saying here is that given the history that we are now creating in the Council around worker-owned businesses. When we held our hearing last year that kind of launched our conversation around Council support for the business model, the business owners that came to testify during that hearing were mostly immigrants, mostly women. So I think that--that there is an interesting evolution of this that there is a lot of work that needs to be done to reach the immigrant community because they are the ones that helping to build these businesses in our city. Yeah. Thank you all very, very much. Okay, we have another worker cooperative panel, but we're going to--we're going to alternate so that we can give our service providers--health and human services providers an



opportunity. We're going to call up Monique Cordero.  
Monique, are you here?

MONIQUE CORDERO: [off mic] Yes, I am.

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Okay. Reach Out and  
Read. Andre Eaton, the Parent Child Home Program.  
I'm going to mess up your name. You're going to  
forgive me. Literacy, Inc., Sophia Rahim. Oh, I'm  
sorry. Rosalba Messina, Reach out and Read also.  
Alan Mendlesohn. Alan. I apologize for the  
butchering of your name. Children of Bellevue.  
Daniel from Queens Library. Your last name I can't  
make out. You're going to say it for the record, and  
Carrie Osborne from Jump Start. Okay, ladies and  
gentlemen of the panel, as you can see, it is quite  
possible to convey a very strong message in two  
minutes, right? So follow suit. You may begin when  
you're ready. Identify yourselves for the record.

SOPHIA RAHIM: Good afternoon. My name  
is Sophia Rahim speaking on behalf of Sherry Levine,  
Executive Director of Literacy, Inc. I'm 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, evidence 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 childcare providers with the resources needed to develop literacy skills in children birth through five years, 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 the community's existing resources to provide reading and educational experiences for children and family. With the help of the 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 sites reaching an additional 1,000 children

and families. On behalf of the eight organizations that comprise the City's First Readers Initiative, we are seeking an increase in funding in the amount of \$5 million 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 expand [bell] academic success. And we thank you for our ongoing support.

[pause]

MONIQUE HARDIN-CORDERO: Hello. Okay. Good afternoon. My name is Monique Hardin-Cordero, and I'm speaking on behalf of Reach Out and Read of Greater New York. And I am the Program Director, and sitting next to me is the Interim Executive Director Rosalba Messina. First I want to take this opportunity to thank the Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito and City Council members for their support in believe that every child in New York is entitled to start school with the skills, knowledge, and understanding that will enable him or her to succeed. This ongoing support has been invaluable, but there's still much work to be done. As stated, over 70% of third graders in New York City as still reading below

grade level. The majority of these children come from economically disadvantaged families where resources are severely lacking. Considered that by age three, children from high income families, as stated, 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, Reach Out and Read has been working to ensure that children all across New York irrespective of socio-economic backgrounds have the resources to develop a strong foundation for lifelong success. Reach Out and Read trains medical providers to advise--advise parents on the importance of reading aloud to their children regularly, and provide 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 their physicians make reading a part of everyday life. Each year, Reach Out and Read serves over a quarter million children

1 across New York. For many of these impoverished  
2 children, especially those of color, at home--they do  
3 not have libraries at home. And I can speak from my  
4 own personal experience coming from such a  
5 background. So I would simply state that funding  
6 from City Council has helped us to provider early  
7 literacy support in 43 of the 51 City Council  
8 Districts. And we would simply ask that you continue  
9 to support us so that we can continue making a  
10 difference in many of these children's lives. I want  
11 to thank you for permitting us to testify before you  
12 today.  
13

14 [pause]

15 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you. Thank  
16 you very much.

17 DANIEL NKANSAH: Good afternoon. My name  
18 is Daniel Nkansah. I'm the Coordinator for  
19 Children's Services for Queens Library. I'm here  
20 today representing the three library systems. The  
21 three library systems have supported literacy in the  
22 neighborhood. We've reached over half a million  
23 customers trying to expand the literacy process in  
24 their neighborhoods. Also, we want to thank you for  
25 the money you've given us for the City's First

1 Readers. In Queens, we are expanding the STEM  
2 programming to pre-schoolers. We started doing it as  
3 a pilot to Head Start. In Brooklyn, they promoted a  
4 Ready Start [sic] kindergarten program, and they  
5 expanded it to about 30 locations. In the New York  
6 Public Library, we are working on distribution of  
7 about 15,000 outreach kids to encourage families to  
8 read at home. With \$5 million in support of the  
9 City's First Readers, this vital program will be able  
10 to grow. We will be able to expand STEM programming.  
11 We will be able to reach more children in Head Starts  
12 and pre-schoolers. We'll be able to also work with  
13 school readiness programs, distribute more literacy  
14 to outreach kids, and provide more parent workshops  
15 and in locations across the city. In the spirit of  
16 the three library systems working together, we need  
17 every library in every neighborhood to be open a  
18 least six days a week. The three library systems are  
19 requesting for \$65 million, and we need your help and  
20 your support. We want to open the libraries for  
21 every working parent to be able to visit the library  
22 on the weekends. Thank you very much for supporting  
23 this initiative. It is a very tremendous help to our  
24 customers throughout the city. Thank you.  
25

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much.  
Next speaker.

[pause]

CARRIE OSBORNE: Hello, my name is Carrie Osborne, and I'm here representing Jumpstart for young children, known as Jumpstart and our work with the City's First Readers Initiative. Thank you for allowing us the time to speak today. Jumpstart is an early childhood education organization with the mission of providing language literacy and social-emotional programming for pre-school children from under-resourced communities. And promoting early quality 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 pre-school classrooms to provide a curriculum targeted at improving literacy and language in social and emotional development outcomes. All while working toward our vision of every child in America entering kindergarten prepare to succeed. For this year, the 2014-15 school year, Jumpstart is currently serving

the 1,400 children and engaging 575 college students across New York City.

We are working in 83 pre-school classrooms, and partnering with a variety of community-based organizations to provide parent workshops, to provide our classroom curriculum. And to provide opportunities for children and families to come together for learning. During a Jumpstart session, a team of six to eight core members work with pre-school 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. This year Jumpstart has hosted over six community events in the Bronx, eleven events in South Jamaica; and we are planning seven more events throughout June. Our goal is to reach over 500 children through community programming. Jumpstart has seen continued success and measurable impact across the city. For example, 95% of the children who participated in the Jumpstart program in 2013-2014 school year, made gains in language and literacy skills. This translates into these children



being that much more prepared to succeed [bell] in  
kindergarten. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much,  
and next panel speaker.

ALAN MENDELSON: Hi. My name is Alan  
Mendelson. I am a pediatrician and professor at NYU  
School of Medicine and Bellevue Hospital Center.  
Today, I am representing the Video Interaction  
Project or VIP, one of the programs of the New York  
City Council's City's First Readers. VIP uses  
pediatric healthcare and checkups to promote literacy  
rich reading aloud and play activities for parents  
and children. At each checkup, and there are a lot  
of checkups, interventionists will provide  
developments that are appropriate, toy or book, video  
tape the parent and child reading aloud and/or  
playing together. Then watches the tape together  
with a parent to identify and reinforce strengths in  
the interaction. Gives the video to the family to  
watch at home, and to share with the other family  
members.

I want to comment that healthcare is a  
unique and under-utilized platform for provision of  
low-cost high impact interventions such as Reach Out

and Read, which you've heard about just previously in Video Interaction Project because they can build on existing visits. And build on relationships that already take place in the medical home. Importantly, VIP has undergone rigorous study through NIH funded randomized controlled trials. These trials have shown impacts on parent-child reading aloud and play, on child development and school readiness. And even on parents including reduced maternal depressive symptoms. Through City's First Readers we are providing--we are providing an expanding VIP at two sites, Bellevue in Manhattan and Woodhull in Brooklyn. And laying the groundwork for expansion across all five boroughs. New York City--the City's First Readers Initiative is so incredibly important because it impacts families during the critical period of early brain development from birth to five years before children start school. The linkage across platforms and programs is incredibly unique, and I would like to thank the New York City Council for having funded this program. [bell]

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Next speaker,  
please.

ANDRE EATON: Good afternoon. My name is Andre Eaton. I'm the New York State Regional Coordinator for the Parent-Child Home Program. The Parent-Child Home Program particularly focuses on providing parents with children ages two through with skills, knowledge and materials they need to support school readiness. Skill development in the home and provide caring environments that build children's cognitive and social-emotional skills. In this work we are also helping parents learn what to look for once they finish our program in childcare. And also how to register and also to enroll in pre-K and kindergarten settings. PCHP provided 36,000 home visits and distributed over 23,000 books and educational toys in New York State alone. And let me also say that the books that we use are also in the native languages of the families citywide. In the city we know that children are being minded by parents, grandparents, and other family friends and neighbor caregivers, licensed and unlicensed family childcare providers, and also childcare centers. Which sometimes can leave our children to become far behind in their development once they enter school. We believe that the parent-child home program that

1 the first teachers are primarily the parents. And  
2 that school and education begins in the home. We are  
3 grateful to the City Council for the funding that we  
4 have--currently receive. With the current funding  
5 we've got now it's providing 75 additional families  
6 with the parent engagement tools, the school  
7 management [sic] materials for children age two  
8 through four. That includes areas like Astoria,  
9 Washington Heights, and South Jamaica.  
10

11 All of the program partners around this  
12 table are providing additional services and referrals  
13 services to us as a network of partners through the  
14 library system both in Manhattan and Queens and  
15 engaging in parents workshops events, and also in  
16 school registration for their children. Let me also  
17 say that children that also complete our program  
18 graduate at an 84% high school graduation rate. And  
19 that's--that or they are what the regular high school  
20 graduation rate is for the city as well. So we do  
21 track our kids all the way up through high school  
22 too, as well, in some of our programs. So we're  
23 grateful for what the City Council has already  
24 provided. And we hope that with additional funding,  
25

we'll be able to expand to other areas throughout the city. Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Is that all or--?  
That's it. Thank you very much. Doc, let me ask you one question very quick. But in your testimony you say that in this way this program not only promotes early literacy, but it also empowers parents to be their child's first teacher. And also, you mentioned that we have conducted rigorous scientific studies of VIP, sponsored by the National Institute of Health. But could you give us more detail about your major evaluation to ensure that this program is really successful in helping those young, those children? Could you tell us a little bit more about your evaluation?

ALAN MENDELSON: Sure.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Your scientific material that you used to evaluate the success of this program?

ALAN MENDELSON: Sure. Thank you. The VIP has been studied in the context of two large clinical trials. They are called randomized control trials. They are the gold standard of scientific evaluation. I am a pediatrician, but I am also very

1 much an academic person at NYU, and the trial that is  
2 presently actually following children long term is  
3 one in which we enrolled 675 families at Bellevue  
4 between 2005 and 2008. Those families were  
5 randomized across conditions. One of those  
6 conditions was the Video Interaction Project. One of  
7 those conditions was a control group. We've been  
8 able to follow the families now into first and second  
9 grade. And we are in the process as we speak of  
10 evaluating children in the classroom with the  
11 Department of Education approval, and doing this  
12 presently. The impacts that we have found in this  
13 study have been big. The two biggest impacts have  
14 come from increases in reading aloud and play and  
15 teaching of children. And the other really big  
16 impacts have come from enhanced behavior. So that we  
17 see reduced hyperactivity, and reduced aggression,  
18 and decreased--and decreased attention problems.  
19 Together, this will set up children to be able to  
20 learn to read as they hit--as they hit school.

21  
22 To address the issue of empowerment, I  
23 think that one of the things that really all of our  
24 programs are doing is to help parents to be able to  
25 view themselves as having an integral role in their

1 child's early development. And what is completely  
2 unique here is that each of these programs across  
3 each of these platforms is able to give that same  
4 message, and help parents. And, reinforce that  
5 message that one as a parent can through reading,  
6 through play, through talking can really advance your  
7 child's developments, and help your child be ready to  
8 start school.  
9

10 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much.  
11 I thin that Co-Chair Arroyo has a question or so.  
12 Would you please.

13 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: I do and I don't  
14 know. Any of you can answer. It's not a technical  
15 question the way my colleagues has asked. But,  
16 Sophia, you said you are asking for \$5 million.  
17 What's the increase to the current funding?

18 SOPHIA RAHIM: The original

19 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: [interposing]  
20 Don't--don't hang her out to dry guys. You can all  
21 chime in.

22 SOPHIA RAHIM: When the initiative was  
23 created in FY15, the original ask was \$5 million.  
24 That's the dollar amount that is needed to fully fund  
25 the initiative.

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: But what is it  
funded at this year?

SOPHIA RAHIM: At \$1.5 million.

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: \$1.5?

SOPHIA RAHIM: Yes, and with that  
additional funding, as we mentioned, we're looking to  
expand all of the work that we're doing citywide in  
addition to executing a comprehensive marketing  
campaign. As Council Member Eugene pointed out, you  
know, what's the good of the services if parents  
don't know that they exist?

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: I understand, but  
that more than triples the money.

SOPHIA RAHIM: Yeah.

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: So you guys have  
been dreaming some real good fantasies or--? That's  
a huge increase.

SOPHIA RAHIM: It's a huge increase. \$5  
million was the original ask, and every year we're  
going to advocate for that \$5 million--

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: [interposing] Okay,  
I get it.

SOPHIA RAHIM: --so that it can be fully  
funded.



CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: I get it. If you don't ask, you don't get. [laughs] Okay, I just--I was a little concerned about the--how realistic that ask is given that everything is funded now.

SOPHIA RAHIM: And we understand that. We have been able to do great work with the \$1.5 that's been allocated--

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: [interposing] Okay.

SOPHIA RAHIM: --and any increase will help us to engage more children and families.

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Now, the Worker Cooperative Initiative they're wondering whether they should have come in and ask for six instead of \$2.3, right? [laughs] Okay, thank you for that clarity. I just wanted to make sure. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you. I've got just one question, one more--one more, the last one. You know, there's a big challenge for children who came from another country where they speak a different language. When they are put inside a classroom, and they don't have a clue of what the teachers are talking about because they don't speak the language. It will, you know, that will--it will take time for them to accommodate to the system, to

1 learn the language. But since you are providing the  
2 literacy and learning to children, do you have in  
3 your program any way or any program or any system--do  
4 you have any plan to help those children to make the  
5 transition from their language to the English one?  
6 Do you provide also literacy or reading in their  
7 specific language?

9 CARRIE OSBORNE: Well, the Jumpstart  
10 program we're working in many of the pre-school and  
11 Head Start centers around the city and working with  
12 many English language learners. We actually find  
13 that children who are English language learners have  
14 higher outcomes through the Jumpstart program than  
15 children than children who come from English speaking  
16 homes. The individualized attention that happens in  
17 the Jumpstart classroom where we're bringing in six  
18 to eight college students who can work with children  
19 in small groups is really supporting their ability to  
20 learn the English language and become more  
21 assimilated into the classroom. We do some  
22 translation throughout the Jumpstart program. But we  
23 also have an opportunity to do an English language  
24 intensive for the children with a small safe setting  
25 where they can try the language. And take risks that

can't happen in a normal classroom with a one to ten ratio.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much.  
I know--I'm sorry. Uh-huh.

MONIQUE HARDIN-CORDERO: We would also like to add in terms of Reach Out and Read we purchase books in many different languages. We have access to 12 different languages.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: [interposing] Uh-huh.

MONIQUE HARDIN-CORDERO: And, of course, if we had more funding, we could purchase books in those various languages that serve the communities that we are in. And, of course, in addition--

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: [laughs]

MONIQUE HARDIN-CORDERO: --we've partnered with our library system, which also is a way that we get additional services to our families. But having books in multiple languages would be very helpful.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much.

ANDRE EATON: I wanted to also add we also do the same, too, as well. We have more than 80

languages in books that we try to receive both in the native language and also in English. That starts in the home with the parent. So this is all before they actually go to school So they're getting both languages inside the home upfront first.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you.

SOPHIA RAHIM: And then lastly, I just want to add so all of the organizations on the panel today we convey the same message to parents that it's important to read to your child in your native language and the language that you're most comfortable with. Because studies show that it is much easier to transition a child that has strong language skills in their native language to then acquire English language skills.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much. Before I let you go, I just have a comment that I have to make. I realize that we are all part of the same team making the same effort to provide services and programs to the children and also to the youth. However, I remind you that one of the goals, or one of the goals of the Youth Service Committee is to make sure that we provide opportunities to the youth. And I want to let you know that we are going to

1 launch the Campaign for Summer Youth Jobs. You are  
2 all invited. Please join forces to ensure that we  
3 can increase the number of jobs to the young people.  
4 We're going to start it by the beginning of April.  
5 Thank you very much.  
6

7 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Thank you all for  
8 your incredible work. We know this city would not be  
9 in good shape without you. Okay. Alexis Posey,  
10 Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies; Mallory  
11 Nugent also from FPWA. We have Melissa Riser--  
12 Risser--Risser from the Urban Justice Center, and  
13 Angel Sanchez from Worker Justice Project.

14 [pause]

15 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Okay, and as they  
16 settle in, I'm going to put the next panel on notice.  
17 We have--I think it's Mo Farrell, Coalition for  
18 Asian-American Children and Families. Are we here?  
19 Okay. Sheelah Feinburg. Yes. Carrie, Jobs First New  
20 York. Okay. Ginger, Campaign for Summer Jobs.  
21 [laughs] And Ashley, also from Campaign. So you  
22 guys are up next. So get--get ready. All right,  
23 let's go.

24 [pause]

ALEXIS POSEY: All right. It's been a while. [laughs] So good afternoon, Chairperson Arroyo and Chairperson Eugene and member of the City Council Committee on Community Development. Thank you so much for allowing us to testify today. I won't take up too much of your time because a lot of my colleagues have already mentioned all of the great work that the Worker Cooperative Initiative is doing. But I wanted to spend some time just talking about the impact that we've had on communities since the initiative began in 2014. So, excuse me, and my colleague Joe had mentioned, you know, up to this point from July to where we are in March almost April, we've seen the creation of 194 jobs. So, when, you know, the Worker Cooperative model was built to help lift people out of economic crisis and help to prevent poverty, to reduce poverty, actually. And so what 194 jobs means to members of our communities is more relevant necessarily than the number of worker co-ops that are just created across the city. The number of jobs, the number of people being impacted, the number of families that are not able to support themselves, and then the businesses themselves, right. We at the Coalition have actually

worked in over 40 City Council Districts so that's  
40--over 500 business entrepreneurs, more than 500  
people who have been impacted. And what we're seeing  
now, what we're hearing back is how families are now--  
wages have been increased from about \$10 an hour to  
maybe upwards of \$25 an hour. And that's why we  
support the Worker Cooperative model. In this year  
alone we witnessed the passage of Intro 423, which  
would allow the--which allows for the City to report  
on the number of contracts that the City or Council  
awards to our cooperative businesses. So that kind  
of creates a pathway for these businesses to now  
receive that city money. And to kind of develop more  
and to kind of build more and build out their  
business, which is awesome in their relationship with  
SBS. In this past year we've built our relationship  
with SBS to where that [bell] they're not  
incorporating our training. I'm just going to go a  
little more. SBS and the Worker Co-Op Fair we are  
very happy. We appreciate the City Council funding.  
We respectfully ask that the funding be enhanced to  
\$2.34 million. Thank you so much. If you have any  
questions-- [laughs]

ANGEL SANCHEZ: Good afternoon. My name is Angel Sanchez. I'm here for the Worker's Justice Project, and I work with the FPWA, the Urban Justice Center and the Coalition. The Workers Justice Project is a rights organization that is fighting to promote justice and opportunities for day laborers, immigrant construction workers, and domestic workers through education, organizing leadership--organizing, leadership development and creation of democratic work places in low-income communities. Day laborers, immigrant construction workers, and domestic workers operate in 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 labor corners seeking a means to feed their families. Unfortunately, the majority find themselves returning home 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 an alternative to fight labor exploitation, Workers Justice Project has developed an Economic Justice Initiative that combines labors rights organizing



with worker cooperative development to building new grassroots local economy based on democracy, sustainability, and cooperation.

Since 2010, the Workers Justice Project has been partnering with Urban Justice Center to support and promote worker-owned cooperatives among our members. We provide education, train--education, training and technical support to help workers build the skills they need. Since then, Workers Justice Project and Urban Justice Center has successfully helped a group of female day laborers launch Apple Eco-Cleaning, a green cleaning cooperative that provides sophisticated eco-cleaning services in the Tri-State area. On behalf of my organization, and Apple Eco-Cleaning members, I want to express our gratitude to you for your leadership and support of the New York City Worker Cooperative Initiative. As a new member to this funding initiative we feel very excited to be able to continue strengthen--strengthening this work by creating two more additional cooperatives. And support the growth of Apple Eco-Cleaning in the upcoming year. We look forward to working with our council members to continue to building [bell] a new city economy that

embraces equality, workplace justice and worker  
ownership. Thank you for your time.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you.

MELISSA RISSER: Good afternoon,  
everyone. My name is Marissa Risser and I am an  
attorney with the Urban Justice Center's Community  
Development Project or CDP. The Community  
Development Project strengthens the impact of  
grassroots organizations in New York City's low-  
income and other excluded communities. For more than  
ten years, CDP has collaborated with community  
organizations like the Workers Justice project to  
help low-income New York City residents form worker-  
owned cooperative businesses. These ventures help  
create stable jobs for formerly low wage primarily  
immigrant workers and increasingly youth as well.

CDP first became involved with this work  
when we helped the Restaurant Opportunity Center of  
New York establish Colors, New York's first worker-  
owned and operated restaurant, which opened its doors  
in 2006. Since then, CDP has helped a number of  
grassroots organizations establish co-ops in a  
variety of industries. Notably, we've collaborated  
with the Center for Family Live in Sunset Park,

1 Brooklyn on an initiative, that I believe has already  
2 been mentioned, to train other community  
3 organizations to become co-op incubators. These  
4 incubators look at neighborhoods from Red Hook,  
5 Brooklyn to Jackson Heights, Queens to Port Chester  
6 in the Bronx and help low-income workers in their  
7 communities. Which are also largely immigrant  
8 established co-ops as a means of increasing their  
9 income and developing entrepreneurial skills.  
10

11 I'm just going to highlight a few of the  
12 organizations that we've worked with this year based  
13 on the generous funding we've received as part of the  
14 Worker Cooperative Business Development Initiative.  
15 First, we've worked with Sesapure Women's  
16 Cooperative. CDP has provided free legal services to  
17 Sesapure for more than six years. Since the initial  
18 group of 11 or 12 fomadoras or founding members,  
19 Sesapure has grown to over 50 members grossing more  
20 than a million dollars annually and continues to  
21 expand providing high quality job opportunities for  
22 low-income primarily Spanish-speaking immigrant  
23 women. The co-op has also developed a line of  
24 effective green cleaning products, which they help  
25 to--which they plan on using internally, and also

selling to the public in the near future. [bell]

We're also working with--I'll quickly mention a youth cooperative that Joe Rinehart mentioned earlier called KALUK. They provide Gorilla marketing services. They're being incubated by Good Shepherd Services, a non-profit based in Red Hook, Brooklyn to address the needs of youth employment in Red Hook, create a safe and diverse workplace for youth. And to bring needed services small businesses in the community. I believe I'm being cut off. [laughs]

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Yeah. I asked you all not to make me do it.

MELISSA RISSER: So thank you for your time. We respectfully request you to re-fund the initiative and increase, yeah, our request is.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much.

MALLORY NUGENT: Hello, my name is Mallory Nugent, and I'm a Policy Analyst with the Federation of Welfare Agencies. I'd like to thank the Commissioner for his testimony today, as well as the chairs and the Council for taking the time to hear testimony on these important issues. I think I accidentally snuck onto this worker co-op panel, which I'm going to touch on, but I'm also going to

1 share some of FPWA's broader priorities. FPWA is  
2 anti-poverty organization with a membership network  
3 of nearly 200 New York City agencies. First, I would  
4 like to second what Alexis said about thanking the  
5 Council and especially Council Member Arroyo and  
6 Rosenthal for their leadership around Worker  
7 Cooperative Business Development Initiative, and the  
8 investment of \$1.2 million last year. Worker  
9 cooperatives are a value-drive business whose core  
10 purpose is to benefit workers in their communities.  
11 Workers own a majority equity in the business, and  
12 therefore participate in making and apportioning the  
13 profits. As well as governing the organization  
14 through democratic practices. I think you've heard  
15 from all these fine people in the Worker Cooperative  
16 panel before this about the impacts that that has on  
17 the workers in our communities. FPWA strongly  
18 supports the investment of \$2.34 million for Fiscal  
19 Year 2016 to continue the impact.

21 FPWA represents many youth service  
22 organizations for systemic steering committees for  
23 Campaign for Children and the Campaign for Summer  
24 Jobs. In regard to After School, FPWA would like to  
25 thank the Council and the Mayor's Office for their

investment in After School, and particularly the investment in Middle School After School. FPWA urges the city to invest and intervene in the loss of crucial after school slots. We support the investment of an additional \$7.7 million to prevent the loss of the 2,300 slots due to the increase in the COMPASS rate. We also advocate for \$5.9 million to fund 17 After School sites currently funded by DOE whose contracts will end in June. If those sites are not funded, 1,882 children will lose their After School slots.

FPWA also urges the city to fund summer programming for all SONYC After School sites. Children of low-income families lose two months of reading and math learning during the summer months [bell] compared to their peers. Summer programs help to close this gap. FPWA also supports Campaign for Summer Jobs and ask for \$21.5 million for the Summer Youth Employment Program to increase the slots to five--to 50,000. We thank the Council for their investment last year, and hope to continue in the right direction for the ultimate goal of 100,000 jobs.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much.  
Thank you so much.

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: You didn't sneak on  
the panel. We knew what you were up to. [laughter]

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: So I got the  
message. I don't have no questions for you. I don't  
know for Council Member Arroyo.

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: No. Thank you all.  
As usual, you guys are awesome, and the service you  
provide in our city makes such a huge difference in  
our--in the difference in our communities. And I  
just thank you all for your hard work.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much.  
Thank you. Do we have the next one?

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: [off mic] They're  
in line already.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Okay.

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: I gave them a heads  
up.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Great. Next panel  
please.

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: So we have May or  
Mo? What is it? Mo. Sheelah, are you there?

1  
2 Sheelah? Okay. Carrie. Ginger and Ashley. Very  
3 good.

4 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Great.

5 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Okay, and then up  
6 next we have Center for Court Innovation, Carol.  
7 Okay. Diana from Queens Community. Okay. Liz, CCC  
8 and Northside Center for Child Development, Kimberly.  
9 Kimberly? And Louise from Make the Road. Louise?  
10 Okay, Cool. So you guys are up next.

11 [pause]

12 CARRIE FAULHABER: Hi. Good afternoon.  
13 Thank you for the opportunity to address you to day.  
14 I'm Carrie Faulhaber, Projects and Operations  
15 Director at Jobs First NYC, a non-profit intermediary  
16 that connects young adults to the economic life of  
17 New York City. I'm here to talk about what the City  
18 can do to increase employment in young adults. More  
19 than 300,000 young adults are not in school, and are  
20 not working or are stuck in low wage jobs. Thirty-  
21 five percent of the city's 18 to 24-year-olds. Many  
22 of them living in your districts. Jobs First NYC  
23 Released Recommendations end up putting the 35% on a  
24 path to middle class. The Centerpiece is a network  
25 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 re-connect 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, and the city is like Los Angeles and Boston.

To increase income mobility, New York City must move more of us particularly young adults into middle wage jobs. Enormous growth oppor--job growth is projected in sectors that the city is not planning to address such as the public sector. An industry partnership can help young adults move into those vacancies as well as opening in human services, education, and other sectors. Another recommendation from Job First NYC was a 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

1 employed. This is not a new idea except in New York  
2 City, and we can build it out using a resource that  
3 no other city has, our 311 system. Several hundred  
4 thousand [bell] middle wage job openings are  
5 projected over the next few years. And New York City  
6 cannot afford to lose income and tax revenue from  
7 leaving good jobs on the table. At Jobs First NYC we  
8 are focused on advancing economic opportunity for all  
9 new--young New Yorkers. And I hope you will join us  
10 in supporting measures that enable them to be fully  
11 integrated into a growing and healthy economy. Thank  
12 you.  
13

14 MO FARRELL: Okay. Good afternoon. My  
15 name is Mo Farrell and I'm a Policy Associate with  
16 the Coalition for Asian-American Children and  
17 Families, which is the nation's only Pan-Asian  
18 advocacy organization. We'd like to thank Youth  
19 Services Committee Chair Eugene, Community  
20 Development Chair Arroyo, and members of the Youth  
21 Services and Community Development Committees for  
22 holding this important hearing. The Asian-Pacific  
23 American community is the fastest growing group in  
24 New York City, but unfortunately 29% of APAs are  
25 living in poverty, which is the highest of all racial

groups in New York City. We're happy to see that the Administration has restored very vitally needed services in the Preliminary Budget. But there is still a large unmet need throughout the five boroughs. We urge the Administration to provide \$7.7 million to restore 2,300 lost elementary After School slots, and bring the currently funded spots to the same rate as all over elementary COMPASS programs. Additionally, we ask the Administration to commit \$5.9 million to restore summer programming slots that are set to expire in June 2015. Summer youth employment is also important to the APA community and we request an additional \$21.1 million to cover the minimum wage increase to reach a total of 50,000 available jobs. 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, helping their children succeed in school, or acquiring the language skills needed to navigate their way through their day-to-day live. 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 Fiscal Year 2014, the Council introduced an \$18 million two-year initiative to provide funds for outreach and education to immigrant communities, literacy classes and legal services. These funds are set to expire in Fiscal Year 2016, and we want to ask the Council and the Administration to renew the DACA Initiative and expand the Adult Literacy portion to \$20 million over two years. Lastly, we urge the Council to invest \$5 million in the City Council Communities of Color Non-Profit Stabilization Fund to support capacity building that targets communities of color, which my colleague Sheelah will speak more about. Thank you. [bell]

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much. Next panel. Next speaker please.

SHEELAH FEINBERG: Hi. My name is Sheelah Feinberg. I'm the Executive Director of the Coalition for Asian-American Children and Families. Thank you for having us here, and for holding this budget hearing testimony. Today, I'm testifying on behalf of a unique collaboration. We have some of our colleagues here with us, the Community of Color

Organizations in New York City, COLAs [sic]. The Hispanic Federation, the Urban--the New York Urban League along with the Asian-American Federation and Black Agency Executives. Together we have come together to form the Communities of Color Platform and the Non-Profit Stabilization Fund. And last year we were thrilled that you all voted to fund it at \$2.5 million. And thankfully, through that generous commitment, 80 community-based organizations serving our communities are gaining the capacity building grants that they need to build their infrastructure up. Build their services up so that they can make it to the next level, and to continue provide vital services for their community. This year we're asking for not only a renewal, but also an increase in funding. We're asking for \$5 million so that more than 80 groups could qualify, and instead maybe we could have more 200 groups on the ground servicing the needs of our communities. And just to be clear, the capacity building grants what they look like are grants that help with fundraising. Help with board development. Help with database tracking systems. These are all things that really help an organization better deliver their services. Which is really our

goal in the end, right, to improve the communities in New York City. So we thank you for the support that you've given to us in the past, and we ask for more support in the future.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much.  
Next speaker, please.

ASHLEY LACARO: Hi. Good afternoon.  
Thank you Chair Eugene and Chair Arroyo for this opportunity to testify today. My name is Ashley Lacaro and I'm a Public Service Scholar from Hunter University with United Neighborhood Houses and I'm joined today by Ginger Hubbell from Neighborhood Family Services Coalition. We're both representing here Campaign for Summer Jobs, which is a coalition of nearly 100 community-based and citywide organization in New York City advocate for city and state funding--funding for the Summer Youth Employment Program.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you.

ASHLEY LACARO: Last year CSJ began our 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, 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. As you know, for decades SYEP has served as a steppingstone into the workforce for many years in New York City. SYEP provides an opportunity for young people to earn income over the summer while developing their professional skills, and learning and strengthening their soft skills. This includes the elements of punctuality, responsibility, effective communication, time management and budgeting. And 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.

GINGER HUBBELL: CSJ strong 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, they're asking for an additional \$21.5 million for SYEP to be included in this year's budget. This will cover the 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, and create 2,900 more jobs for

youth in our city. We also recommend increasing the  
number of SYEP jobs to 50,000. [bell]

ASHLEY LACARO: And on behalf of the  
Campaign for Summer Jobs, we thank you for the  
opportunity to testify.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you so very  
much. Thank you. I don't have any questions, and I  
think that we have message. Personally, I got the  
message, and I want to congratulate you and thank you  
also for the wonderful job that you are doing. And I  
love the way team up. You are together [laughs] to  
speak to us, you know, to inform us and to give the  
message. And I'm inviting all of you also team up  
with us to launch the Campaign for Summer Jobs  
because we have to increase the number of jobs for  
the young people, and also with the hope that  
thousands of people they will come to benefit from  
the other jobs that the other organizations are  
providing. Thank you very much.

ASHLEY LACARO: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you. The next  
panel, please. Carol Whistler, I believe. Diana  
Diella. Thank you very much. Lisa Mislis. [sp?]  
Thank you. Kimberly Royale. Kimberly.



KIMBERLY ROYALE: [off mic] Here.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much  
and Louis Gabriel Rodriguez. That one was--this one  
was easy. Thank you. [laughs]

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Okay, so as they  
prepare I'm calling--I'm putting on notice the last--  
I think it's the last panel, but it's certainly not  
the least. Yanelis Cordero, Center for Family Life.  
Darrell. Okay.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: [off mic] He's her.  
[sic]

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Helen. Julio.  
Juanito. Nice name, Juanito. Julio. Junito.  
Whatever.

[background comments]

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Whatever, you're up  
next. Freddy and Miguel. Okay, that's not the last  
panel, but you guys are up next. Begin when you're  
ready.

[background comments]

DIANA RAMSOWICH: Hello, honorable members  
of the Youth Service Committee. My name is Diana  
Ramsowich, and I am here on behalf of Queens  
Community House. Thank you for this opportunity to

testify. I direct the Queens Community House After School Program at PS 117, a Title 1 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 was funded through the New York City Department of Youth and Community Development with funds that are passed through from the New York City Department of Education. At this time, neither agency is designating funds in their budget for the continuation of our program, and 16 other across the city as you've been hearing. We are contracted to serve 81, but we overloaded to serve 86 participate ages 6 through 12. We also have a waiting list that almost equals that of our program with 70 plus on our waiting list. Although, 1,882 children across the 17 sites will be without an after school program and summer camp beginning this summer. Although we are thrilled to see the expansion of Pre-K and middle school after school program, it is also imperative fund current programs that the elementary after school system does not shrink. Our parents depend on high quality after school program service to provide their children while they are working. I urge the

New York City Council members to push for restoration and baselining of funds for after school programs like in their Executive Budget. In order to maintain our existing elementary after school capacity, the budget must invest \$5.9 million to ensure the 1,882 children continue to be served in the next fiscal year. Which should include summer program slots that would be in alignment with the DYCD COMPASS RFP.

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

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much.  
Next speaker, please.

CAROL FISLER: Hello, I'm Carol Fisler for the Center for Court Innovation. Thank you, Chairman Eugene and Chair Arroyo for this opportunity to speak. And I also just want to applaud you for your focus and good cheer and stamina during this rather long afternoon. So thank you for that?

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you.

CAROL FISLER: We wholeheartedly--the Center for Court Innovation wholeheartedly supports--

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: [interposing] And thank you for your patience, too.

1

2

CAROL FISLER: [laughs] Okay.

3

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: To all of you.

4

Thank you.

5

CAROL FISLER: So we very much support

6

the support that you have show for After School

7

programming and for Summer Youth Employment. We work

8

with Justice involved young people, teens and young

9

adults across New York City. Our goals are to

10

prevent crime, improve public safety, strengthen

11

neighborhoods, and really enhance the legitimacy of

12

the justice system. And picking up on a point that

13

Chairman Arroyo made earlier, we see Youth Services

14

and Community Development being absolutely intimately

15

intertwined with each other. I just wanted to

16

highlight a few of the programs that we are

17

providing. And we ask that you continue to provide

18

City Council funding to support the programs.

19

At our Youth Justice Centers in Queens

20

and Staten Island where we run alternative to

21

detention programs for Family Court involved youth,

22

we provide intense supervision and after school

23

programming that continues throughout the school

24

holidays and the summer months as well. We emphasize

25

education. We base our programming around positive

youth justice and social emotional learning goals to help young people learn to interact effectively with one another and navigate the world. In Harlem at the Staten Island Brownsville and Harlem Community Justice Centers we operate the Harlem Justice Core and Justice Community Plus programs where we are inviting employment readiness and workforce development services for youth exposed to community violence. Some of the funding that we get through DYCD includes our Up Next Program workforce development at Harlem Community Court [bell]. I will leave it there. Sorry, Midtown Community Court. But thank you for your continuing support for our programs.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much.  
Next speaker, please.

LEWIS GABRIEL RODRIGUEZ SUAREZ: Glad to see you. I am back. Thank you, sir.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: You're welcome.

LEWIS GABRIEL RODRIGUEZ SUAREZ: You see me back because I come with the other organization. But I thank you because you talk about the job. If I don't speak, I lose my job. So thank you, sir.  
Okay. Good afternoon, Council Members, ladies and

gentlemen. My name is Junito Rodriguez Suarez. I am from Colombia. I am a student of intermediate English of Make the Road New York. I went to start my testimony with two phrases. Little testimony. First, American dream and second, Make the Road New York. I give thanks to Make the Road because here comes the meaning of these two sentences. And I have a new sentence, The road of your dreams. For me, Make the Road New York is more than English classes. I form ambition and progress for what I want to accomplish in my new life. It enables for 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 to the staff--of the staff of the members giving you support in every moment. I have received other support including getting counseling, getting financial counseling to do my taxes. It's very important, right. I have participated in cultural activities, and I received legal support. At Make the Road, it doesn't matter your race, your gender, your age, your legal, or your

nationality. You need support, they will give that.  
We need your--sorry. We need your support for a  
little increasing in the budget to continue in  
building community. We need you to be part of our  
Make the Road new family. Thank you so much to the  
USA and thank you so much to New York. Thank you so  
much, sir.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much.

LEWIS GABRIEL RODRIGUEZ SUAREZ: Okay.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: That was the last  
speaker?

LEWIS GABRIEL RODRIGUEZ SUAREZ: Yes,  
sir.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: That was the last  
speaker?

LEWIS GABRIEL RODRIGUEZ SUAREZ: Yes, I  
finished, sir.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Okay. All right.

LEWIS GABRIEL RODRIGUEZ SUAREZ: Thank  
you, sir.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you, sir.

ELIZABETH HOFFMAN: Good afternoon. My  
name is Elizabeth Hoffman from Citizens Committee for  
Children of New York. 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'd like to thank Chairs Arroyo and Eugene for holding today's hearing. I also want to take this time to thank the City Council for its longstanding commitment to preserving and expanding Youth Services. As you know, keeping youth engaged in developmentally appropriate activities outside of school and meeting the needs of vulnerable youth is critical for the next generation of New Yorkers. CCC appreciates the attention the de Blasio Administration has paid to Youth Services. And notably, the plans to expand after school programs to over 100,000 middle school students next year.

We are also very pleased that the Preliminary Budget proposed to add \$17.6 million to maintain summer programming for elementary school students and programs previously funded by the City Council. We were also happy that the budget proposal proposes to add money to SYEP to maintain the same number of slots as last year at the higher minimum wage. Unfortunately, however, we do not feel that the Preliminary Budget went far enough with regard to



1 Youth Services, and we are hopeful that the Executive  
2 Budget will include a much more substantial  
3 investment. First, we were disappointed that the  
4 Preliminary Budget did not restore and baseline City  
5 Council initiatives from last year. We'll be urging  
6 the Administration to restore all of these  
7 initiatives. And you can find a list of all of the  
8 initiatives that we support on page 2 of my  
9 testimony.  
10

11 CCC also urges the Administration to make  
12 initial investments in the following: (1) After  
13 School Programs. While CCC applauds the middle  
14 school after school expansion, there is much more  
15 that the City must do to protect current capacity for  
16 elementary and high school students. Expand capacity  
17 for elementary and high school students and  
18 strengthen the overall system of-- excuse me. We are  
19 very concerned that the budget resulted in cutting  
20 slots for elementary school students. While we  
21 support the middle school expansion, it must not be  
22 at the expense of other children. In the immediate,  
23 the Administration must add money for elementary  
24 school after school slots that are lost. [bell]  
25 I'll stop there, but it's after school, RHY we'd like

to see additional money in and also for SYEP. Which you're all very familiar with and on board with. So we appreciate that. Thanks.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much. Next speaker, please.

KIMBERLY WENDT: Good afternoon, and thank you to the distinguished members of the City Council and Youth Services and Community Development Committee for conducting this hearing today. My name is Kimberly Wendt, and I'm a Special Educator and a Coordinator of the 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. The specific services provided by Northside include home based crisis intervention; ACS Preventive Services, a therapeutic child HUD program; Early Intervention; Head Start; Intensive Education Mediation; and After School in the Compass Program.

We currently have a licensed school age childcare program that is designed to provide services for special needs children. 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 every child a chance to succeed.  
We are currently seeking continued City Council  
support for salaries for special educators other  
staff critical to the after school programming who  
are not covered by COMPASS. Additional funding is  
also being sought to obtain a social worker  
specifically dedicated for the elementary after  
school to coordinate care, generate service referrals  
as well as provide some direct services and crisis  
intervention. Without question, quality after school  
can improve the outcome of children, and the 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 dropout rates.  
Reducing the risk also of Juvenile Justice  
involvement is also a critical area where after  
school programming [bell] counseling, and services  
and--are a--and shepherding is a powerful impact.  
Basically, we are really looking to have funding for  
our after school programs for youth. Instead of

1       incarcerating our youth, having these therapeutic  
2       interventions to help those children. And so, you  
3       know, Northside is a whole--all of our children are  
4       at risk, and we just hope that we can receive more  
5       fundings to help those children. Thank you.

6                   CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much.  
7       Thank you. Do you have any questions. So let me say  
8       that--I don't have any questions, but it is very  
9       significant this panel. I think this is the best way  
10      to end this public hearing.

11                   CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: We have another  
12      panel.

13                   CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: We have another one?

14                   CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Yes. [laughter]  
15      But let me--let me say--but this panel is very  
16      important. [laughs] The reason I'm saying that it  
17      is very--even, you know, this panel is not the last  
18      one but this is a very important piece or component  
19      of the hearing today. We all know that New York City  
20      is the land of opportunities for everybody. Whether  
21      you were born in the United States, or you were born  
22      in another country, but all of us we came here for the  
23      same reason. To try to reach the American Dream.  
24      And especially for the immigrant people. All of us  
25

immigrants we went through the same situation that Mr. Lewis Gabriel Rodriguez is going through right now. Come to a new country, try to adapt ourselves. You know, get our feet to the system. Number one, learn the new language, which is English. And also, try to feed ourselves on the new system paying taxes. What most of us didn't do when we were back home, especially in my country. But this is exactly the life of immigrants in order for us to reach--to have a piece of the American Dream. Congratulations, and I commend you for that. You know, he's smiling. He's grateful. He's trying very hard. He's funny. You know, he's trying to overcome all those difficulties and challenges with happiness and also hope. Congratulations, Mr. Lewis.

LEWIS GABRIEL RODRIGUEZ SUAREZ: [off mic] Thank you. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much for your testimony, and thank you to all of you. Thank you.

[background comments]

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: We have 16 more people.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Now, let us call the next panel. Eloisa Collado [sp?], Davila, Elaine Ansorude [sp?]. I hope that I pronounced it well. If I don't, please forgive me for that. Is that Julio?

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Julia.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Julia Degall [sp?] , Freddie Acevero [sp?], and Adelle Cruz. Thank you very much. And you can start as soon as you are ready.

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: So, as they're setting up the next panel Reverend Wendy Calderon [sp?]. Jose Davila, Taisy Conk, Scott Daley, Kermit Peterson--Patterson. It looks like U. [laughs] Kevin Douglas. Kevin. Annie Minguez and Gregory Brender, United Neighborhood of Houses. All right. Wow, a large panel. All right, guys, you're on.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: You may start, please.

ELOISA COLLADO: Good afternoon City Council Youth Service Committee. My name is Eloisa Collado. I work as a group leader at PS 1 Beacon, a school-based site, or Center for Family Life, a program of SCO Family Services in Sunset Park,

1 Brooklyn. As a child growing up in Sunset Park, I  
2 had the opportunity for eight years to be a  
3 participant at the program. It has made a huge  
4 impact on my life. I gained skills that allowed me  
5 to be well organized, open-minded individual. I also  
6 learned how to problem solve in ways that made me a  
7 more patient, creative person. All thanks to the  
8 strong staff who supported and helped me. The skills  
9 I gained while being a participant, and that I'm  
10 still working on to improve to this day, helped--have  
11 helped me through school, and have helped me in my  
12 day-to-day life. Being given the opportunity to give  
13 back as a 19-year-old not only has it made a  
14 difference in my life, but also in the lives of the  
15 younger ones who are shaping our future. I work with  
16 a group of girls ages 8 to 10 and I have the  
17 opportunity to help them overcome obstacles and  
18 challenges. I'm able to offer a shoulder to lean on  
19 and an ear to listen. That kind of support is  
20 something they really cherish. I've been with a girl  
21 in my group for a little under a year now. This  
22 little girl stands out to me for a particular reason.  
23 She was eight years old when she came to the United  
24 States last year coming with her family while not one  
25

of them speaking any English was a big challenge they all faced. To top it off, she was being made fun of at school for not fitting in. She came in, in the middle of the year. She didn't speak the language and she was really timid. Now, as we speak, this young girl feels a lot more confident as she has been able to show everyone how friendly, loving, and caring she is. She has also expanded her English vocabulary dramatically all thanks to the peers of her--all thanks with the support of her peers.

Change does not happen overnight, but it really--but when you're really dedicated to allowing the change, the outcome is usually amazing. [bell] And then, I'll leave that there for you guys. [laughs]

DARRELL BENAZARD: Good afternoon, honorable members of the City Council Youth Services Committee. My name Darrell Benazard. I work as a Program as a Program Specialist at PS 169, a school-based site of Center for Family Life, a program of SCO Family Services in Sunset Park, Brooklyn. When I think about leadership, I think about my parents who needed a place for me to deal with the things I was dealing with as a young child in elementary school. I was getting into a lot of trouble. I was having



1 trouble not breaking things, not cursing, not doing a  
2 lot of the things that the children in my  
3 neighborhood were doing at the time. And I was  
4 fortunate enough to have a safe place to do all those  
5 things, and work through the things that I was having  
6 trouble with in elementary school. And I felt the  
7 love and the need to be a part of a family, and I  
8 very much felt a part of that family. So much so  
9 that when I reached middle school it didn't even  
10 occur to me that I could leave and explore the  
11 neighborhood just like a lot of my other friends had.  
12 And once I was able to go through that, I was given  
13 the opportunity to volunteer at 14 as a counselor in  
14 training. And I was having a lot of trouble in high  
15 school, of course, because a new--a new period in  
16 life brings a new set of challenges. I was having  
17 trouble in school, and luckily I had mentors and  
18 other teenagers around me who had either experienced  
19 similar things or were compassionate enough to push  
20 me through and made sure that I got to college as  
21 opposed to staying on the streets, and doing the  
22 things that some of my peers were doing. Through the  
23 Counseling Training Program I was able to go to  
24 college, and I'm doing what I'm able to do now. And  
25

I feel like I'm--I'm somebody who is able to give back to my community now. I work at PS 169 now where I coordinate the Counseling Training Program myself. And unfortunately, this particular component of my site is unfunded. We also do not have a middle school component. So a lot of leadership that I was fortunate enough to grow up is absent at my site. With the elementary school kids we have having to find other sources for getting the tools that I was able to get. And for volunteers they're all word or mouth, and not able to come to the program the way I did. [bell] Thank you for your time.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much.  
Next speaker, please.

ELAINE ANSORUDE: Good afternoon, Chair Arroyo and Chair Eugene, and members of the City Council. My name is Elaine Ansorude[sp?]. I work at Center for Family Life at PS 1, a program of SCO Family Services. I am a Beacon Director there. I think that this Administration's focus on middle school, while a great improvement on what has happened in the past, has left an important gap in services for other age groups. Even beyond the 4,300 slots mentioned at this hearing. I will take the

example of Sunset Park, the neighborhood in which Center for Family Life is located. Sunset Park is a working class neighborhood with a large population of immigrants, and a relatively high percentage of young people. Most families need childcare, but very few can afford it, and they rely on DYCD funded programs. Center for Family Life has seven school-based sites in the neighborhood including five in elementary schools. Two of those located in elementary schools are Beacon programs. All of those elementary school programs have long waiting lists throughout the year. The longest one at PS 1 currently has 500 children on it. While we appreciate the three additional COMPASS elementary school programs we've gotten over the last three years, more than half of those combined slots only made up for the slots we lost in our two Beacon program when the option 2-- When the OST option 1 was removed from Beacons. And when taking into account the shift in focus for Beacon programs for community needs to middle school, the number of elementary aged children that could be served was even further which is-- [bell]

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much.

Next speaker, please.

[pause]

JULIE GILGORE: [off mic] Good afternoon.

[on mic] Good afternoon. My name is Julie Gilgore.

I'm the Counselor and Coordinator at Turning Point

Brooklyn's Education Center in Sunset Park. Our

education center serves immigrants, who need to learn

basic English to more fully engage in their

communities to obtain jobs. And also to participate

in their children's education. We also provide high

school equivalency classes to out of school youth,

many of whom face significant barriers to learning.

We found that are students are most successful with

intensive classes, extracurricular activities, and

counseling services that provide all day engagement.

Sunset Park has a very high need for adult literacy

services. Last year over a thousand people came to

sign up at Turning Point's Education Center, and we

were only able to serve about half of those people.

For these reasons, we're echoing New York City--New

York City Coalition for Adult Literacy's request to

renew and expand DYCD's DACA Initiative with \$20

million reserved for literacy services. And also to

fund the City Council's Adult Literacy Initiative.

And also, I'd like to introduce a couple of our

current students, Miguel Cruz and Freddy Acevedo and somebody who has already graduated our program Junito Ayinde, [sp?] who should have I should wrote Humberto Ayinde for on that slip. So thank you.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much.  
Next one.

MIGUEL CRUZ: Good afternoon, City Council members. My name is Miguel Cruz. I'm from Brooklyn, New York. Before Turning Point, I was just working overnight shift with no opportunities. And ever since I started Turning Point, which is based in Sunset Park, Brooklyn, I've been taking HSE classes, which is High School Equivalency, and after taking the classes for three months I felt more confident, more driven, and more determined and focused on being successful in life and achieving my career. While being there learning, made me realize I became more confident and more driven and focused. And, with the HSE you can achieve dreams like going to college, having a better job or being in a better career. Without it, you cannot do those things. And Turning Point the staff there, the teachers and the coordinators they want us to achieve and succeed in life, and become better. And they guide us and make

us feel determined and to achieve our dreams  
basically, and become successful. And for that, you  
know, I feel great.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you.

MIGUEL CRUZ: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Next speaker,  
please.

FREDDIE ACEVEDO: Hi, my name is Freddie  
Acevedo. It's a privilege to be here today to be  
able to speak to you guys. Basically, when I started  
at Turning Point, I was at a dead-end job. I was  
working five years in retail with little to no way of  
advancement. And when I got to Turning Point, they  
opened my eyes to the opportunities that awaited once  
I obtained my HSE, such as trade schools or colleges  
or certain majors that I was able to narrow down with  
their help. They not only were able to help me  
academically in the classroom, but they were also  
able to help me find a higher paying job with  
opportunity for growth, which I'm extremely thankful  
for. And I'm only one of many, many students that  
they were able to do that for. So it was a big deal  
when they asked me to come to speak to you guys  
today. All that being said, I believe that if you're

willing to invest into our education now, it would be a longer lasting and more stable opportunity to do it now rather than later. We won't need as much financial government help. That's what I believe. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much.  
Next speaker.

HUMBERTO AYINDE: Good afternoon, everybody. My name is Humberto Ayinde. I'm from Sunset Park, Brooklyn. I'm from the Turning Point Education--Turning Point Education Center. My parents came here from Puerto Rico, and I was born here, but in my household we only spoke Spanish. So when I was around--when I was around five years old, I only spoke Spanish, and I got made fun of for that? And when I grew up in Sunset Park, it was a really rough neighborhood. It was drug infested, a lot of alcohol abuse, a lot of prostitution, and a lot of single mothers doing what they had to do to survive. So, I got into high school and I joined gangs. Hung out with some drug dealers, started selling drugs. Became a part of a gang because I didn't have the family structure that I should have or that we all ask for or hope for. And, you know, they made me

1 feel like oh, this is a family, or this is how I can  
2 make money. You know, it was hard to fit in, and so  
3 being in a gang and selling drugs, I didn't get to  
4 finish high school. I actually got stabbed and I  
5 stopped just--I just stopped going to school, and I  
6 didn't know where to go or where I was going to wind  
7 up. I was just working as a security, as a bouncing,  
8 at a clothing company, dead-end jobs. And then I  
9 stepped into Turning Point and Turning Point really  
10 helped me gain my education. They helped me how to  
11 read. I didn't know how to read as much. I didn't  
12 know how to do math or really do any of that sort of  
13 stuff. I got all the help I needed from them, and I  
14 got a lot of support from them like a family. And I  
15 got my HSE from them. I actually go to college now,  
16 and I'm trying to become a community leader [bell] a  
17 community organizer. I'm going for political science  
18 and urban studies. I'm in Kingsborough. I'm in  
19 Kingsborough now, and hopefully I'll go to Brooklyn  
20 College after that, and after that Brooklyn Law  
21 School to be--to take over Community Board in Sunset  
22 Park.  
23

24 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Are you finished or  
25 do you want to continue?



HUMBERTO AYINDE: Well, I'm still in Kingsborough so hopefully I'll finish there and then go to Brooklyn College, and then from there Brooklyn Law School.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Wonderful. You know, I have no question, but I want to commend you for your testimony. This is powerful--

HUMBERTO AYINDE: [interposing] I'm just one of a few.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Yes, exactly, that's exactly. You said what I was going to say. Unfortunately, there are so many young people who are going right now as we speak--who are going through the same challenges. And I commend you because you chose another path, a positive path. And I would like to ask you to share your experiences with other young people who are in trouble right now. And to let them know that they can do it, and that they can be better people. And I commend you for that. And please if you feel comfortable with that, you remember to share you--your experiences with other young people in our community--in our communities to motivate them. To let them know yes, there's a possibility. Then can, you know, change. They can

become a better person. Humberto, very much and  
thank you to all of you here. Thank you and continue  
to do the good jobs. Thank you.

HUMBERTO AYINDE: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Mr. Chair, I want to  
stress something that's really important to you  
gentlemen. That when we sit here and listen to the  
stories, and some of these people come and testify  
before us all the time, and they're wonderful and  
they do great work. But nothing sends a message  
stronger than someone's personal story. So I want to  
thank you for putting yours out, right because it's  
recorded and it's going to be viewed on TV by a bunch  
of people. But how valuable your message--your  
message to us is. So I want to thank you for that,  
for taking the time to come out and do that.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: This is the last  
panel? You've got another one?

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Uh-huh.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Okay. [laughs]  
Thank you very much, and God bless you all.

HUMBERTO AYINDE: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: This is the last  
panel.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: The last one, okay.  
All right, I will call up the last panel. I hope this  
is the last one. Even I still want to call a new  
one. [sic] Vende Caldone. Jose Aguillar, Jessie  
Kirkland. Jessie. Thank you. Scott Dave--

SCOTT DALEY: Daley.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Daley. Thank you.  
Kermit Patterson.

KERMIT PATTERSON: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you. Just  
one other, Kevin Lucas. Kevin. Thank you Kevin  
Lucas. Annie Minguez, and Gregory Brender.

FEMALE SPEAKER: Brender.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Okay, very-- Oh,  
great. Thank you. Okay, thank you very much. Thank  
you so much. You can start any time, please.

[background comment]

GREGORY BRENDER: Good afternoon, and  
thanks for the opportunity to testify. I'm Gregory  
Brender. I'm here on behalf of United Neighborhood  
Houses, and also in our capacity as part of the  
Campaign for Children. We are also involved in  
Campaign for Summer Jobs and New York Coalition for  
Adult Literacy, which you've either heard from or

will hear from. And just in terms of launching Campaign for Summer Jobs again, I wanted to put the date on the record of April 8th for a press conference. And I'll be here to support the Summer Jobs ask.

So I just wanted to quickly talk a little on the After School, and then also turn it over to my colleague Annie Minguez from Good Shepherd, which is also part of the Campaign for Children. We've been thrilled to see such a progressive administration with an attention to after school. And our member agencies in both UNH and Campaign for Children have been really excited to be part of this SONYC expansion and other expansions like the work done over the summer for public housing developments, where we had programs open in the night and evening and weekends. However, it's really disconcerting to see there are still cuts. We are still facing essentially budget dance in programs that are at risk at closing June 30th. Years ago as part of Campaign for Children this called for moving toward every child in New York City having access to affordable, safe and high quality stable Early Childhood and After School systems. And we want to do this work to

1 ensure that the elementary school system where there  
2 still are risks remain stable. And I'll turn it over  
3 to Annie Minguez to discuss some of the specific  
4 cuts.  
5

6 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much.

7 GREGORY BRENDER: Thank you.

8 ANNIE MINGUEZ: Thank you, Gregory and  
9 thank you Chairman Eugene and Chairman Arroyo for  
10 inviting us. As Gregory mentioned, I'm here with  
11 Good Shepherd Services. I'm the Director of  
12 Community Relations. And along with our colleagues  
13 at the Campaign for Children, Good Shepherd Services  
14 is calling for the City to ensure that every child in  
15 New York City has access to high quality affordable  
16 and stable Early Childhood Education and After School  
17 Programs. We've heard about the two RIIS the two  
18 major budget asks that we have, which are the 17  
19 after school programs. I thought just to bring it  
20 into perspective, I would say there's four in the  
21 Bronx, one that is your district, Chair Arroyo. Six  
22 in Brooklyn, four in Queens, two in Manhattan and one  
23 in Staten Island. We're talking about 1,882 slots in  
24 total. Again, these are the 17 after school programs  
25 that if an investment of \$5.9 million is not made, we

1 will close. It will be--we will lose those. In  
2 addition, the 2,300 after school slots, which we've  
3 heard about a lot day. Again, an investment of \$7.7  
4 million would allow us the continuation of those  
5 2,300 elementary slots. I thought just for the  
6 record, and I will submit it for the record as well,  
7 that I just named off the schools programs so that  
8 we're all aware of the 17 since we continue to say  
9 the 17. So Hyde Leadership Charter School, East New  
10 York Elementary School of Excellence, the Fresh Creek  
11 School, PS 148 in Queens, PS 376, PS 41, Gun Hill  
12 Road School, PS 117, PS 192, PS 112, PS 48, PS 12, PS  
13 69, PS 94, PS 106, PS 273, PS 121 and PS 096. Again,  
14 1,882 slots. Thank you.

15  
16 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much.  
17 Next one, please. Next speaker.

18 KERMIT PATTERSON: Excuse me. Good  
19 afternoon, my name is Kermit Patterson. Thank you to  
20 the committee for allowing me to testify today. I am  
21 representing like I said Sport and Arts in Schools  
22 Foundation. Sports and Arts in Schools Foundation's  
23 mission is to help bridge the academic performance  
24 gap for underachieving students by extending the  
25 school day with wholesome skill building activities

designed to improve the children's self esteem,  
character, value, attitude towards schools,  
attendance, health, wellness and lifelong employment  
opportunities. As the Council is in the process of  
negotiation of the 2016 Year budget, I want you to  
keep in mind that Sports in Arts through our City  
Council programs, summer programs and after school  
programs are in all councilmanic districts. The  
overwhelming majority of the youth that we serve are  
minority, Black and Hispanic from the highest poverty  
neighborhoods in the city. A lot of times we get  
from our family members that if it wasn't for our  
free program provided, they wouldn't know if they  
were able to survive. Because they wouldn't be able  
to go to work knowing that their child or children  
are in a safe structured environment.

During the summer months is one of the  
times where we employ a lot of our high school as  
well as college returnees throughout New York City.  
With the partnership with the Charles Hayden  
Foundation, we agreed to provide matching funds of  
\$325,000 contingent on the restoration of the City  
Council discretionary funds. The summer camp  
program for Sports in Arts addresses very--three

critical needs. It provides a safe, fun, structured based activities for over 6,000 students, children throughout the city. Or, creation of approximately 800 jobs for teenagers and young adults as well as combating the problem with anti-obesity. With that said, the funding helps support over 20,000 participants, youngsters served throughout New York City [bell] and as well as the participants that we serve strongly urges the support and full restoration of funding. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much.  
Next speaker, please.

KEVIN DOUGLAS: Hi. Good afternoon Chair Arroyo and Chair Eugene. Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify this afternoon. My name is Kevin Douglas and I'm here on behalf of the New York City Coalition for Adult Literacy. Our membership is comprised of teachers, program administrators and allies from the school system here in CUNY. From libraries from community-based organizations that really share a common belief that every New Yorker who wants to improve their English literacy skills or earn their high school equivalency diploma should be supported in doing so. I wanted to focus on two



funding streams that I think are really important for the Council to look at. One is the DACA Initiative, which you guys worked with the previous administration to really launch, and the other is the City Council Adult Literacy Initiative. Starting at DACA, we heard the Commissioner earlier today talk about how it was a national model. And it really has been recognized as a national model. Really the first and only of its kind in the nation, and invested significant local dollars to provide literacy services, legal services, and outreach to make sure that young adults who would qualify for federal administrative relief were supported in doing so. As a result of those efforts, over 10,000 New Yorkers were server or are currently being served by this program. And many of them applied for and receive DACA, which provides separate relief from deportation, as well as a work authorization. This is critically important for New York as it moves these people out of the shadows into a place where they can feel safe and comfortable and move into the formal economy. So given that this has been such a tremendous success and so many people rely on it, we're very concerned as a coalition that it does not

1 appear in the City's Preliminary Budget. And I  
2 appreciate the fact that you guys have highlighted  
3 this, and hope that you will continue to work with  
4 them to make sure that it gets in the Executive.  
5 Even beyond this, we know that with the Federal DACA  
6 on the horizon and the DACA extension, we anticipate-  
7 -Well, not really anticipate. There's an estimated  
8 200,000 New Yorkers who will qualify for this  
9 extended relief to get work authorization. But if  
10 these folks don't have English literacy skills, the  
11 work authorization isn't going to allow them to move  
12 into the formal economy into better jobs. So, we're  
13 recommending an expansion of DACA, renewal first, and  
14 then actually expand it to \$20 million in the  
15 literacy portion so we can allow these New Yorkers to  
16 be served. [bell] I realize I'm out of time, but  
17 just ten more seconds on the Adult Literacy  
18 Initiative within the Council. This was funded by  
19 you guys at \$750,000 last year, the non-baselined  
20 portion. We absolutely encourage that to happen  
21 again, and asking for an expansion to \$5 million to  
22 really look at the City's Career Pathways Program.  
23 You guys heard a little bit earlier about this today,  
24 about how we need to move the lowest skilled New  
25

Yorkers into jobs. And if they don't have the bridge programs to get them there, or the literacy skills to even get into those bridge programs, they're going to be shut out of this entire city model without moving us forward. So we ask for your support in renewing that initiative and expanding it to \$5 million.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much.

Next speaker, please.

RON NANO: Hello. Good afternoon, Chair Arroyo and good afternoon, Chair Eugene. My name is Ron Nano. I work for New York Junior Tennis and Learning. I'd like to thank you for your longstanding support. New York Junior Tennis League is the largest tennis and educational themed program in the nation. We bring the sport of tennis to thousands of children of all social, cultural and economic backgrounds. Funding as a citywide initiative, NYJTL provides quality tennis and educational programming in every council district. Council citywide interim funding is used to support NYJTL School Yard Tennis Program, our year-round community tennis program located in school yards and in public parks. Our winter early morning program,

which the kids come out on the weekends at 5:00 and 6:00 in the morning, a most dedicated bunch. And our advanced training program, which gets these kids on a pathway to college and college scholarships. All of our programs are free. In FY15 NYJTL received \$800,000 as a citywide funding initiative. This year we have submitted a request for \$1 million. We're asking for this increase to enable use to continue to serve every council district and to defer the cost of the increase DOE security and permit fees. We are also looking to help support our new center in the Bronx in Crotona Park, our Cary Leeds Center for Tennis and Learning, scheduled to open in June 2015. This will be a tremendous resource for young people throughout the Bronx, and also young people throughout the city. Children and teens will receive free academic enrichment activities and one in 6,000 free hours of free tennis lessons each year. Programs will operate again year round. Continued support from the City Council [bell] will help us with--enrich the lives of all these young people. Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you. Next speaker, please.

REVEREND WENDY CALDERON: Hello.

Greetings. I am Reverend Wendy Calderon, the Executive Director over Bronx Connect. Bronx Connect is the oldest Bronx based alternative justice program serving youth and young adults since 2000. We are run by women of color, ex-offenders, and we are developed right out of the community's need to address the incarceration epidemic of our youth. We have maintained a 83% success in these programs for over a decade, and in total we have served 1,900. I'd like thank the chairs and the entire committee for its support of Communities of Color an indigenous organization that serve these communities. I am here in support of the \$5 million request of the New York City Council Initiative, the Communities of Color Non-Profit Stabilization Fund in the Fiscal Year 2016 Budget. Our agency was a proud recipient of those funds. In 2015, we obtained a consultant to do brand marketing so as to better promote Bronx Connect. Empowering urban people of color run organizations is good for the city. Because every urban community that is empowered, employs people from our communities, and our communities need high level employment not just mentor jobs. So I'm going to add

one more thing in my 50 seconds. I really feel that the City Council needs to secure full disclosure as to where its money goes for these initiatives. And what I mean is it's quite unraveling to run a \$2 million organization and to read about the unraveling FECS. Even more unraveling was to know that a year ago, they were overtaking a small organization and they continually have done that to find out that they were bleeding financially while overtaking organizations like mine. Even that they--the New York Times reported that they were not meeting contractual milestones. And, of course, I would ask why were they getting funding if they weren't meeting contractual milestones. So I encourage City Council to look at where their money goes, to see if all their slots are filled, and to see actual rates not general positive things. Thank you very much. [bell]

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you. Next speaker. I believe this is the last one.

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: No.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: No.

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: No, we have one more.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: No? Thank you.

TAISY CONK: You good? Good afternoon,  
Chairs and council members. My name is Taisy Conk.  
I'm a community healthy food advocate at New  
Settlement Apartments. We're now eating in the  
Bronx. I'm here on behalf of Communities for Healthy  
Food to request support for the City Council Citywide  
Discretionary Funding. Communities for Healthy Food  
New York City is a new Innovative approach to expand  
access to affordable healthy food in four of New York  
City's underserved communities. We're doing this  
through four CDCs, Community Develop Corporations in  
New York including New Settlement in the Bronx. Also  
Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation in  
Cypress Hills Brooklyn and Northeast Brooklyn Housing  
Development Corporate in Bedford-Stuyvesant and West  
Harlem Group Assistance in West Harlem. We're also  
reaching some Queens neighborhoods. And the  
developer of the program is LIS [sic] New York City.  
So this place based initiative, New Settlement and  
our partners are integrating access to healthy and  
affordable food into every aspect of our community  
development work. At New Settlement we aim to make  
healthy eating easy and appealing for our  
neighborhood children and families. And we're doing

1 that through a range of different programs. We're  
2 doing interactive culinary education for over 100  
3 elementary through high school aged students  
4 annually. We're preparing dishes like ginger chicken  
5 and broccoli stir fry, steamed snapper with Caribbean  
6 salsa and Risotto with herbs and peas. Our teams are  
7 leading a health retail initiative to sell healthier  
8 snacks and deli items and to promote these to  
9 customers. We're also working on getting better  
10 school food into our neighborhood schools. And we're  
11 running cooking demos, which reach over 1,000  
12 community members annually. Which we're really  
13 position--well positioned to do as the CDC since  
14 we're already a trusted member of the community. And  
15 we have so many residents who we serve through our  
16 programs. So we're also really influencing the  
17 health and wellness of entire families. For example,  
18 Lillian is a community member who lives in New  
19 Settlement's affordable housing. She comes to our  
20 new community center for swim classes where she also  
21 picks up her farm share and gets farm fresh fruits  
22 and vegetables at a reduced cost. [bell] Thank you  
23 for having me.  
24  
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CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you much.  
Next speaker, please.

JOSE DAVILA: Good evening. My name is Jose Davila. I'm Vice President of the Hispanic Federation. I want to thank both chairs for hanging in there today, and allowing me to come and testify of the Communities of Color Non-Profit Stabilization Fund. The Hispanic Federation is a coordinated organization for the Communities of Color Non-Profit Stabilization Fund along with some other groups you've heard from today, the Coalition for Asian-American Children and Families, the New York Urban League, the Asian-American Federation, and Black Agency Executives. And you see some of the grantees like Bronx Connect are here as well today to speak in favor of the initiative and actually growing the pot. 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 DYCD. We are pleased to inform you that we've collectively with the five coordinating groups award grants for capacity building to 80 organizations across all five boroughs to help with the capacity building needs. There's a full list of the actual

grantees attached to the testimony. So you can look and see about groups in your neck of the woods that are actually benefitting from this great fund.

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: You couldn't make it smaller?

JOSE DAVILA: I know, it's a little hard to read, but we can email to your staff as well. In addition, to say to the supportive chairs who are here today we want to thank our Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito, the Black Latino and Asian Caucus, the Bronx and Manhattan Council Delegations, Council Member Margaret Chin and Andy King, and other council members who have supported the initiative over the past year and helped to make this a reality. As the initiative has received greater than expected interest, and will yield tremendous success for dozens of non-profits 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 funding to institutions that could benefit from the Communities of Color and Non-Profit Stabilization Fund. Investing \$5 million will ensure non-profits led by and serving communities of color can continue to provide critical services that

properly address the diverse and growing needs of New York City's Black, Latino, and Asian communities. Moreover, the capacity within the initiatives will level the playing field by assisting these organizations and qualifying for more safe funded [bell] human services contracts. Thank you for your time.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much. Okay, and thank you to each one of you and all of you. Thank you so much, and a compliment to the good job that you are doing. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Thank you.

TAISY CONK: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: We have one more panel.

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: One more.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: [laughs] One more and Josephine Mendoza, Margie Esteppe and Sierra Bell, Mr. Bell?

SIERRA STONEMAN-BELL: No, I'm here. Sierra.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: I'm sorry?

SIERRA STONEMAN-BELL: That's me. Sierra.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: I'm sorry.

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SIERRA STONEMAN-BELL: That's okay.

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CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Sierra. Thank you.

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SIERRA STONEMAN-BELL: Yes.

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[background comments]

6

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much.

7

You can start please.

8

SIERRA STONEMAN-BELL: Okay, good

9

afternoon. Almost evening. Thanks for allowing us

10

to testify. I'm Sierra Stoneman-Bell from Make the

11

Road New York. I run Adult Education and Careers

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Pathways Program. I'm going to be brief and let our

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students speak for themselves. You already heard

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from Luis earlier and, you know, our focus is really

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on adult education. It's a core part of what we do

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to give community members the tools they need to live

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and succeed in the city. We have about 1,600 adult

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students who through our five community centers every

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year to study English, to earn a high school

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equivalency diploma and prepare for citizenship. And

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we often have as many as 500 students on the waiting

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list. You're going to hear from Justin and Emergi

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[sic] in a moment. But I just wanted to highlight a

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couple kind of key trends right now, which you've

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heard already today. But to underscore a few changes

that are going on that makes this really important right now. One is the change from the GED exam to the more rigorous High School Equivalency exam. The second is the immigration policy landscape, and the fact that, you know, there are transformative new policies in the city. And further opportunities under President Obama's Executive Action to expand DACA and DAPA, and it's really important. We're very concerned that the funding for the City's DACA's Initiative was not included in the Preliminary Budget. And we--we see it as a moment where we really need to build on what we started not close the doors to students. And we have about 130 adult basic ed and high school equivalency students in our program in Queens. And we would no longer have a program for them, and they are in the middle of their studies. The third piece is just--is the Career Pathways Workforce Strategy that we've heard today talked about. But just that it's really important to prepare people [bell] to participate in that. And so our two asks are to restore and expand DYCD's DACA Initiative to the \$20 million over two years, and to have the Council Adult Literacy Initiative at \$5

million. Thank you very much, and I will pass it off  
to Justin. No?

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much.  
Next speaker please.

MARGIE ESTEPPE: Hi. My name is Margie  
Esteppe. I have lived in New York all my life. I am  
studying at Make the Road New York to obtain my High  
School Equivalency Diploma. For me, this class is  
very important because I want to find a better job,  
and my aim is to go to college to be a nurse. In our  
class in Make the Road New York, people have many  
reasons to obtain their High School Equivalency.  
People want to get a better job. People want to go  
to college or to a training program and be able to  
get better jobs to support our families. Many of my  
classmates need this class not only to continue  
studying, but to obtain DACA. Please use your power  
to help us. Many people benefit from these classes  
and don't have money to pay for classes. Free  
classes like our class are very important for my  
future and my family's. Thank you for the  
opportunity to continue my education. Please keep  
funding in the City budget for adult education and  
open more classes in New York. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much.  
Next one, please.

JESSIE MENDOZA: Hi, good afternoon.  
This is my first--my first time speaking English. My  
name is Jessie Mendoza. I have lived in New York for  
16 years. I come from Mexico. I am an transgender  
woman. I am studying at Make the Road New York to  
obtain my high school equivalency diploma for one  
year now. I also studied English for some time. For  
me the class is very, very important because I want  
to find a better--a better job. In the past, I  
worked in the house as a washer. [sic] I am  
sometime better now because I am transgender, I  
suffered from discrimination in the workplace. I  
want to go to college to have more opportunities. In  
our class and the class I do enjoy people. I have  
many reasons to obtain the high school equivalency.  
People want to get better jobs. People want to go to  
college or the training programs. People want to  
always they help their families. People want to get  
the better wages. Make the Road gives the tools and  
opportunities that you need in the community. For me  
it has been like my second home. Thank you  
supporting the free class because I could not afford

to pay to study. I hope the city will continue supporting funding for big classes like ours. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much. Are there any comments?

SIERRA STONEMAN-BELL: Can I just add one thing that we have--

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: [interposing] Yes.

SIERRA STONEMAN-BELL: --one other ES Law Student who was going to come and her 11-year-old son on his own initiative wrote a testimony for today. And unfortunately they couldn't come because the younger son got sick and she had to take him out of school. But I gave you the written testimony of her and her son who talks about the importance of his parents learning English and what it means for his life.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much. I think that Co-Chair Arroyo has a question. Before I end the public hearing let me turn over to her.

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Is the baby going to testify?

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: [laughs]



SIERRA STONEMAN-BELL: Do you want him  
to?

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Yes. It's okay.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: She says yes.

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: She's been waiting  
for a long time.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: But she's so focused  
and studying and reading a book.

JASMINE: Hi.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Hi. What's your  
name?

JASMINE: My name is Jasmine.

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Hi, Jasmine. Thank  
you for joining us today.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much.

JASMINE: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: But we see that you  
love school, right? You came with your books with  
you. Thank you very much for being here. So I think  
this is the last panel and I want one more time I  
want to thank you all for being part of the wonderful  
team that makes New York City such a good city. And  
thank you also for being part of the team that works  
very hard to provide opportunities for everybody, for

1 everyone. And we in the City Council we do believe  
2 that it is our moral responsibility to do everything  
3 that we can do to provide resources, to create  
4 organizations. We are working hard to ensure that  
5 every single citizen, every single one even in New  
6 York City may have a piece of the American Dream,  
7 including the immigrant people. And to Miss--

9 SIERRA STONEMAN-BELL: Jasmine.

10 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Karen?

11 SIERRA STONEMAN-BELL: Jasmine.

12 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: I want to go back to  
13 Ms. Josamin [sp?] and I want to commend you also for  
14 your pursuit of your education and for your courage  
15 also. And this, you know, this is the embodiment I  
16 can say that of the immigrant dream and excellence  
17 also trying to, you know, learn the language and  
18 trying to pursue the dream to make sure that, you  
19 know, we have or you have a piece of the American  
20 Dream. And muchas gracias, and [speaking Spanish]  
21 and to all of you thank you very much. But before we  
22 end our public hearing, I want to thank also. We  
23 have a panel here also. I want to thank the  
24 wonderful members of our panel, my panel Co-Chair  
25 Arroyo and everyone and all of the wonderful people

from our panel those who work hard to make this  
hearing possible. Thank you very much to the  
Speaker, Kimberly Williams, Michael Benjamin, Fazal  
Ali. She was here but she left, and also Jose Conde.  
Thank you very much, and to all of you, may God bless  
you. Thank you. The meeting is adjourned.

[gavel]

COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES JOINTLY WITH  
THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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C E R T I F I C A T E

World Wide Dictation certifies that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. We further certify that there is no relation to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that there is interest in the outcome of this matter.



Date April 15, 2015