



**Department of
Youth & Community
Development**

**NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES**

FISCAL YEAR 2019 PRELIMINARY BUDGET

**BILL CHONG
COMMISSIONER**

MARCH 16, 2018

Good afternoon Chair Rose and members of the Committee on Youth Services. I'm Bill Chong, Commissioner of the Department of Youth and Community Development. I'm joined by Deputy Commissioner for Administration Alan Cheng and Chief Financial Officer and Associate Commissioner Jagdeen Phanor. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today on DYCD's Fiscal Year 2019 Preliminary Budget.

Since coming into office, Mayor de Blasio has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to youth, families and communities. Through his efforts and the support of the City Council, DYCD's budget has more than doubled from \$408.6 million to \$836.3 million.

Virtually every DYCD program area has seen increased investment under Mayor de Blasio, from COMPASS and SONYC after school programs, Beacon and Cornerstone community centers, the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP), and Runaway and Homeless Youth Services. Quite simply, our growth has been unprecedented.

DYCD's Fiscal 2019 Preliminary Budget stands at \$689.4 million. This budget continues to build on our progress serving young people and families, while being fiscally responsible and cautious during these times of uncertainty. For example, the President's Federal Fiscal Year 2019 budget proposal includes the elimination of Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) and a 40% reduction in Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) funding. These cuts would be harmful to thousands of young people and families in the city. We continue to closely monitor the federal budget process.

In 2017, the Summer Youth Employment Program set another record, serving nearly 70,000 young people. We thank the City Council for your strong support of SYEP. By working closely together, we have nearly doubled the amount of young people served since the Mayor took office. We also served a record number of Ladders for Leaders participants, with 1,855 young people accessing professional internships in sectors such as real estate, finance, fashion, technology, and city government.

With 80 percent of the SYEP funding now baselined, DYCD and its providers have more time to plan for the program's implementation each year. We opened the SYEP application period on February 5. This is the second year in a row that we released it this early, and we just extended the application deadline to March 30th.

As part of the Mayor's Action Plan for Neighborhood Safety, SYEP will continue to offer jobs to youth residing in 15 NYCHA developments with some of the highest crime rates. In addition to our efforts, NYCHA and MOCJ are also conducting special outreach to these developments through job fairs and NYCHA Digital Vans, to assist youth with the online application.

This summer, we are launching a school-based SYEP model with 18 providers at 32 vocational and technical high schools across all five boroughs. This pilot model will provide participants with summer job experiences that complement their school year academic and afterschool activities and interests.

When serving some of our city's most vulnerable youth, the Administration has made extraordinary investments of over \$20 million in services for Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY). Most of the increased funding supports the expansion of RHY residential beds, which will triple to 753 funded beds by Fiscal Year 2019. RHY's Fiscal Year 2019 Preliminary Budget level is at \$40 million dollars, and mostly city tax levy funding.

Since last month's hearing on the three runaway and homeless youth bills that passed last week, we are pleased to report that an additional 12 beds have opened. There are now 557 beds open and available to young people. An additional 196 beds are in the pipeline, and we anticipate that 96 of these beds will be certified and open by June 30th. We are grateful to our providers for their diligence in helping to expand capacity at such a rapid pace. We are on-target to have all 753 beds open in FY 2019. We look forward to continued discussions with the Council on how to best serve runaway and homeless young people.

When Beacon programs reached their 25th anniversary last year, we were very pleased to add resources to each Beacon. This represented the first increase since Mayor Dinkins launched the Beacons under his Safe Streets, Safe City initiative. Beacon funding has increased again in the current fiscal year. Overall, per Beacon funding has risen from an average of \$346,000 to \$550,000. By Fiscal Year 2020, each Beacon will be over \$600,000, once all cost of living adjustments have phased in.

We also added 11 new Beacon programs, increasing the total number of Beacons to 91 sites. The new sites expanded the reach of our comprehensive school-based community centers to thousands of additional New Yorkers in underserved schools and communities. Together these sites can serve over 109,000 youth and families annually.

Cornerstone community centers provide youth with a safe place to grow with engaging activities including recreation, STEM, academic enrichment, project-based learning, and social-emotional support. These community centers engage over 18,000 young people and families annually at 94 NYCHA developments across the city. For the second year in a row, several Cornerstone programs will be sponsoring "Spring into Health Fairs," in early April. The fairs will include health and wellness activities and information, and promote healthcare access. There will be a total of 35 health fairs in all 5 boroughs during the week of April 10 to 14. In addition to Cornerstones, some Beacon programs will also be health fair sites this year.

DYCD's COMPASS and SONYC afterschool programs continue to be very popular and successful in meeting the needs of youth and families. They complement what is learned during the school day while also offering recreation, enrichment and cultural activities to support and strengthen the overall development of young people. As of the end of January, nearly 120,000 youth were enrolled in these programs.

With an investment of \$13.4 million, including \$7.3 million from the Council, we have been able to serve 14,000 participants in Adult Literacy programs. We also expanded technical assistance and professional training, which include individual coaching, digital literacy, curriculum development, and teacher training.

As you have heard in my testimony today, despite budget uncertainties at the State and Federal levels, the FY 2019 Preliminary Budget continues to place DYCD in a very strong position to fund quality programs that improve lives and create opportunities to advance socioeconomically. We look forward to continuing to work with the City Council to support New York City's youth, families, and communities.

Thank you again for the chance to testify today. We are ready to answer any questions.

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130 East 59th Street, New York, NY 10022
Tel: 212.980.1000 • Fax: 212.888.7538
ujafedny.org

TESTIMONY: UJA-FEDERATION OF NEW YORK

New York City Council
Youth Services Committee, Preliminary Budget Hearing FY 2019
Honorable Deborah Rose, Chair

Submitted by:
Faith Behum, UJA-Federation of New York

March 16, 2018

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*Executive Committee member **Of Blessed Memory

TESTIMONY: UJA-FEDERATION OF NEW YORK
Youth Services Committee, Preliminary Budget Hearing FY 2019

Good afternoon Chairperson Rose and members of the Committee on Youth Services. My name is Faith Behum and I am an Advocacy and Policy Advisor at UJA Federation of New York. On behalf of UJA, our network of nonprofit partners and those we serve, thank you for the opportunity to testify on the importance of maintaining and expanding services for the youth of New York City.

Established over 100 years ago, UJA-Federation of New York is one of the nation's largest local philanthropies. Central to our mission is to care for those in need. We identify and meet the needs of New Yorkers of all backgrounds and Jews everywhere. We connect people to their communities and respond to crises in New York, Israel and around the world. We support nearly 100 nonprofit organizations serving those that are most vulnerable and in need of programs and services. Youth focused programs our network of nonprofit partners oversee, funded by the Department of Youth and Community Development include Summer Youth Employment Programs, COMPASS and SONYC programs, Beacons and Cornerstones.

UJA would like to thank the City Council for its efforts and commitment in the FY18 Budget to increase the funding for human service contracts. These investments once fully implemented will better allow for human services workers across the city to provide critical services to New Yorkers in need. UJA is also grateful for some investments in the FY 19 preliminary budget such as the \$2 million for the School Use Waiver that could positively impact our non-profit partners. However, there remain a number of areas that are either unfunded or underfunded and will challenge our non-profit partners as they attempt to serve youth across New York City. UJA submits the following recommendations for the FY 2019 budget:

Restore funding for COMPASS Elementary After-School Programs: \$16 million

Expanded capacity in middle school after-school programs has allowed these students to access after-school supports while ensuring parents and guardians that their child(ren) are safe when school is out between September and June. Unfortunately, the same investment in after-school programs has not been made for elementary age children. The Preliminary Budget included no funding for COMPASS elementary after-school slots. We urge the administration to restore and baseline \$16 million in the Executive Budget in order to maintain current levels of elementary after-school capacity.

Ensure all elementary after-school programs are funded at the same rate: \$8.8 million

Despite similar services offered across elementary after-school programs, there continues to be two different rates funding each. Programs previously funded by the City Council, before they were baselined at the end of the Bloomberg administration, are funded at a lower rate. We urge the administration to increase the rates for these programs by adding \$8.8 million so all elementary after-school programs can be funded at the same rate.

Restore funding for SONYC Summer Programs for Middle School Students: \$20.35 million

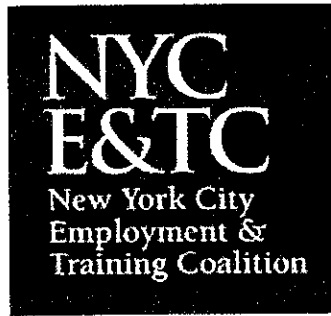
The Preliminary Budget did not include funding for SONYC Middle School Summer Programs. This means that the middle school students who attend an after-school program will not have access to summer programs. Without this funding 34,000 middle school youth will be left without a program to attend over the summer months. Furthermore, the absence of funding for

middle school summer programs in the Preliminary Budget, delay providers from hiring individuals to staff the programs and developing content. Providers cannot prepare for a program that they are unsure they will be paid to implement. We urge \$20.35 million be included in the Executive Budget in order to allow providers sufficient time to develop and implement quality summer programs for 34,000 middle school students in FY 19.

Include funding for minimum wage increases in the SYEP: \$15.6 million

In FY 2018, the SYEP was funded at \$68.7 million. This amount funded 70,000 jobs across the city in the summer of 2017. This summer, due to the increase in minimum wage, the \$68.7 million will not be able to fund the same number of jobs. An increase of \$15.6 million must be included to fund increases in minimum wage if 70,000 youth will continue to be employed in the program in FY 19.

UJA-Federation of New York respectfully urges your consideration and support of these vital programs that assist New York City's most vulnerable and neediest youth and the organizations that serve them. Thank you for your time and if you have any questions please contact me at behumf@ujafedny.org or 212-836-1338.



**Testimony by Jesse Laymon,
Policy Director of the New York City Employment and Training Coalition (NYCETC)
Before the New York City Council Committee Youth
Chairwoman Debi Rose
At the FY 2019 Preliminary Budget Hearing**

March 16, 2018

Good afternoon and thank you chairwoman Rose for holding this hearing and doing the necessary oversight of the City's Department of Youth and Community Development, a vital part of our City's ability to affect intergenerational poverty in New York.

My name is Jesse Laymon, Policy Director for the New York City Employment and Training Coalition (NYCETC). NYCETC is an association representing the expertise of over 180 community-based organizations (CBOs), educational institutions, and labor unions that annually provide job training and employment services to more than 800,000 New Yorkers, including public assistance recipients, unemployed workers, low-wage workers, opportunity youth, individuals involved with the criminal justice system, immigrants, veterans, the homeless, the elderly, and individuals with disabilities. The Coalition is the only citywide association exclusively focused on workforce development and has played a key role bringing together the city's workforce community for over 20 years, advancing policy priorities, convening to share information and best practices. The Coalition has a responsibility to give voice on what makes sense to our community to government, policy makers, researchers, the media and funders.

With regard to the Department of Youth and Community Development, we have 2 topic areas that we hope weigh in on today, and that we hope you will raise directly with the DYCD Commissioner at subsequent hearings. Those areas both related to what more the City can do to help young people make the transition from their school years to their careers in a way that helps them rise out of poverty and into rewarding careers.

Our first area of concern is Career Pathways: We'd like the Committee to ask DYCD at your next opportunity to what extent is DYCD participating in the Mayor's Career Pathways plan, and specifically what portion of the \$60 million annual promise for bridge programs will DYCD fulfill?

Career Pathways is now meant to be the blueprint for all of the City's workforce development plans and services, but some of its top-line commitments aren't being met. Of particular

concern is Career Pathways Recommendation #3 (the principle budgetary recommendation), which is so far off track as to require multi-agency efforts starting this year to achieve the goal by 2020.

That commitment is to New Yorkers whose lack of basic skills is standing between them and a quality job. For people who need literacy, numeracy or English language instruction along with basic job skills, bridge programs have been identified as the key pathway to employment or higher education. The Career Pathways plan promised that the City would budget \$60 million annually for bridge programs by 2020, but as of now the current level of spending is still less than \$10 million.

So the Council must ask DYCD how much of its total budget it is planning to spend on bridge programs, and what portion of the 2020 goal it intends to take up by that time.

We believe that SBS must take on a share of the responsibility for this goal being met; and while the funding for bridge programs should be spread across DYCD, HRA, SBS, and even EDC, DYCD should still be spending at least \$15 million by 2020 to do its part to achieve this goal.

Our second area of concern is shared with our friends and allies at United Neighborhood Houses, and that is the current year funding level for Work Learn Grow.

Work, Learn and Grow provides career readiness training and paid employment opportunities during the school year for youth enrolled in SYEP.

The program was piloted in FY16 with \$16.2 million and allowed more than 6,000 youth who had taken part in the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) the previous summer to engage in employment activities during the school year. Younger youth (14 and 15) engage in workforce preparation (workshops, job shadowing), while older youth (16-24) simply work at a private employer. Wages are paid by the City. The program was continued at the same funding level in FY17 and increased to \$19 million in FY 2018.

NYCETC supports the WLG model. In order to strengthen the program we echo the recommendations of UNH:

- Baseline funding for WLG;
- Increase funding for WLG to make it truly year-round allowing a young person to stay with the same employer in both the school year and the summer;
- Designate 250 slots for Out of School Out of Work Youth (OSOW)

Thank you for taking our concerns into consideration, and we look forward to working with the City Council to make sure that the needs of New York City's youth are addressed by DYCD not only as they remain school-aged, but also as they transition into the City's workforce.

**Brenda Cannon
77 Powers Street
Brooklyn NY 11211**

**TESTIMONY BEFORE NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES
FISCAL YEAR 2019 PRELIMINARY BUDGET
FRIDAY, MARCH 16, 2018**

Good afternoon Chair Rose. My name is Brenda Cannon, I'm from Williamsburg, Brooklyn, and I wanted to share with you today the impact New York Road Runners has had on me and my daughter Phylicia. Thank you for this opportunity to testify before both the Youth Services Committee.

My daughter Phylicia is 13 years old and an 8th grader at MS577, and she wanted to run.

Since I am disabled, I am unable to run with her, she joined New York Road Runners' youth program in school, now called Rising New York Road Runners, and participated in NYRR Open Runs, Phylicia has literally been off and running.

Ever since she joined NYRR's youth programs, she has grown as a person and an athlete. She started attending NYRR's youth events, I realized she needed more opportunities to run.

I went to NYRR's website and found NYRR Open Run and in July of 2016, we went to a Tuesday night Open Run in Brooklyn Bridge Park. At first, we just sat on a park bench and watched as the runners arrived. The Run Director approached Phylicia, asked her if she wanted a running buddy, and that's where it all began.

The adults at Open Run have taken her under their wing, she can run in safety with the group which I couldn't provide for her otherwise, and they've become our family. We've also attended Open Runs in Astoria and Flushing Meadows Corona Park, and we continue to go back week in and week out.

Phylicia has really come out of her shell because of all the adults that have impacted her life at Open Run, her school, and the NYRR running community. Phylicia now serves as a Rising New York Road Runner Ambassador, has improved her public speaking skills, is more confident in speaking with people, is more active in her community and helps with the Jesse Owens running team at Randalls Island, and loves to help little kids run. She is truly dedicated to giving back after getting so much from NYRR. She cannot wait to turn 14 years old so she can become a volunteer with NYRR to be able to help more kids.

Thanks to NYRR, Phylicia is now in her third year of running on her school team, serves as the team captain, and received a scholarship to attend Monsignor McLaney Memorial High School in East Elmhurst for fall 2018!

NYRR's programs have changed mine and my daughter's lives. She has come a long way and is just getting started! Thank you NYRR!

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. I would be happy to answer any questions you might have.



New York Road Runners
156 West 56th Street, 3rd Floor
New York, NY 10019

Tel (646) 758-9732
Web www.nyrr.org

**TESTIMONY BEFORE
NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES**

**FISCAL YEAR 2019 PRELIMINARY BUDGET
FRIDAY, MARCH 16, 2018**

**PREPARED BY
CHRISSY ODALEN
SENIOR DIRECTOR, YOUTH & COMMUNITY PROGRAMS
NEW YORK ROAD RUNNERS**

Good afternoon Chair Rose. My name is Chrissy Odalen and I serve as the Senior Director of Youth and Community Programs at New York Road Runners (NYRR). Thank you for this opportunity to testify before the Youth Services Committee on the Fiscal Year 2019 Preliminary Budget.

INTRODUCTION

NYRR's mission is to help and inspire people through running. We achieve our mission by creating running and fitness opportunities and programming for people of all ages and abilities.

NYRR demonstrates its commitment to keeping New York City's five boroughs healthy through races, community events, youth initiatives, school programs, and training resources that provide hundreds of thousands of people each year with the motivation, know-how, and opportunity to run for life.

NYRR's premier event, the TCS New York City Marathon, is not only a celebration of New York City but is a powerful contributor to its betterment. The Marathon generates \$415 million in economic impact for New York City and in 2017, 9,300 charity runners raised \$35.5 million on behalf of hundreds of not-for-profit organizations.

NYRR is woven into the fabric of our city, with programming across all age groups and an activated constituency. We engage over 25,000 volunteers annually, providing free time, talent, and energy to keep our events safe, and parks and communities clean and beautiful. Our free community running and walking initiative, NYRR Open Run, is getting thousands of New Yorkers out running and walking weekly in 13 local New York City Parks in all five boroughs, with three more park sites set to open this year. NYRR is also working with local stakeholders to identify areas with high health disparities, participating in local health fairs, walking with over 2,300 seniors as part of our NYRR Striders walking program, and serving as a resource and partner to public officials, community boards, business improvement districts, hospitals, community health organizations, and grassroots community groups.



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156 West 56th Street, 3rd Floor
New York, NY 10019

Tel (646) 758-9732
Web www.nyrr.org

While NYRR is best known for producing the TCS New York City Marathon and our other races and community offerings for adults, our organization is also the **largest nonprofit provider of free youth fitness programs in New York City**. NYRR has been providing free physical education (PE) and fitness programs for our city's youth since 1999, and in the 2016-17 school year, our free school-based programs, fitness events, and resources touched the lives of 115,000 New York City youth at 810 unique schools and community centers.

NYRR is devoted to making physical education and fitness accessible to **all** children. Our free programs are designed to help all kids aged pre-K – grade 12 build their confidence, their motivation, and their desire to be physically active for life. While engaged in our programming, children are also building their self-esteem and learning to set and reach personal goals.

BUDGET REQUESTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019

NYRR is asking the New York City Council to consider an Initiative funding request in the amount of \$500,000.

As you may be aware, last year the city announced the *Universal Physical Education Initiative* that promises a designated PE space for all New York City schools by 2021. This initiative acknowledges the vital role physical activity has on a child's education and the idea that healthy and active lifestyles are not an add-on, but an imperative to achieving greatness in all areas of life. As the city works to build these spaces, we cannot forget the essential need for physical education programs to be implemented within them.

NYRR is requesting \$500,000 in support of our signature school-based youth fitness program, Rising New York Road Runners. This school year we are on track to serve more than 800 schools and community centers and 115,000 children and youth with this free, standards-based program that is helping schools, teachers, and students alike achieve their goals. Every single Council District in New York City has schools benefiting from this program.

Despite the need for obesity-preventing physical activity programs, the Council's Obesity Prevention Initiative was cut from the FY17 City Budget, effectively defunding NYRR which was supported under this Initiative in the amount of \$250,000 for six years. During that time NYRR more than doubled our free service to New York City schools, because we recognized the immediate need for PE programming that works for each schools' unique needs and limitations. With our 2019 request, we are hoping to restore and increase funding under the Child Health and Wellness, Physical Fitness & Education Initiative, and/or a Speaker's Initiative, so our effective program can continue to be offered to schools and community centers free of cost in the coming school year.



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New York, NY 10019

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Web www.nyrr.org

Rising New York Road Runners is a new, research-based youth program that allows for higher impact at a lower cost-per-child. This program can be the change for educators who need a comprehensive physical fitness program through an easy-to-use, customizable platform. **Every single activity in the program is aligned with SHAPE America National Standards for PE, recently adopted by the NYC DOE.** NYRR is providing every school with start-up kits, comprehensive support for school leads, an online session plan builder for easy planning, plus incentives for the kids like t-shirts and water bottles, and rewards for the schools like books and healthy snacks, **completely free of cost.**

I would also like to share that our redesigned youth program model incorporates the latest research on physical literacy and focuses on building the fundamental movement skills everyone needs to be active for life. It allows us to grow our reach to the full spectrum of students, pre-K through grade 12. Because the new program is even more scalable, NYRR is positioned to have continued growth and increase our New York City service population annually. The redesigned program has been well-received in New York City schools and the application for the 2018-19 school year opens in early April.

While our service numbers are increasing, NYRR remains committed to quality. We partnered with Tufts University and Canadian Sport for Life to carefully plan and evaluate the program's curriculum and continually assess its implementation. It is designed to have even greater impact by being built on a growing body of research on gaining physical literacy, meaning children who participate in the Rising New York Road Runners program are more likely to gain the confidence and skills to be physically active throughout their lives. **Additionally, the program's session plan builder features adaptations for children with disabilities, ensuring that classes with compositions of students with varying physical and cognitive abilities can all participate.**

- With its ease of implementation and plug-and-play lesson plan builder, Rising New York Road Runners is a true resource to New York City schools that have limited time, space, and resources to run adequate physical education programs.
- Every activity in the Rising New York Road Runners curriculum is aligned with SHAPE America National Standards for PE, which have been adopted by the NYC DOE. This means NYRR's program will help schools measure and meet their standards and goals with incredible ease, especially because the physical activities in the program can be customized to run in classrooms of any size, in any space, and with students of varying abilities.
- NYRR provides start-up kits to schools, offers in-person and online trainings along with phone and email support to school teachers, and provides the online Rising New York Road Runners curriculum and session plan builder plus incentives like t-shirts and water bottles to schools and participants, **all for free.**



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New York, NY 10019

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- Every school that implements the Rising New York Road Runners program is invited and bused, if needed, at no cost to special NYRR youth fitness events that take place throughout the year at places like Icahn Stadium, The Armory Track and Field Center, and various NYC parks where students participate in fun, friendly running and physical fitness activities and receive recognition for their participation.

CONCLUSION

As the premier non-profit community running organization of our great city, NYRR recognizes that health disparities and inequities stifle growth opportunities within communities. Running and walking is something that almost everyone can do and is an activity that empowers you in your day-to-day life. NYRR is committed to working with and in every community to bring opportunities for physical activity and fitness to every child who wants and needs it.

Initiative funding will help NYRR reach more children and youth who have been unfairly sidelined from the joys and benefits of physical activity while our city works to improve PE offerings and build PE spaces for every New York City public school student to enjoy. I respectfully ask you to reinforce the city's commitment to meaningful PE by considering the funding of NYRR's free, citywide running and fitness programs for children and youth under the FY19 Budget in the amount of \$500,000.

NYRR looks forward to continuing our commitment to New York City's youth, and growing our relationship with the New York City Council. Thank you for allowing me to testify today. I would be happy to answer any questions you might have about the work of New York Road Runners, and I urge you to prioritize the funding of physical education and fitness programs for all New York City students.

March 16, 2018
PowerPlay NYC
Empowering Girls Through Play



Kate Bancks, Strategic Partnerships and External Affairs Director

Youth Services Presentation

Good morning and hello. My name is Kate Bancks, Strategic Partnerships & External Affairs Director. I'd like to begin by thanking the Council for taking time today to hear our testimony and for their crucial leadership and support of our work in youth development.

PowerPlay NYC advances the lives of girls through sports, by developing skills to grow physically, emotionally and academically stronger. We create opportunities for girls age 6-21 by partnering with schools and community based organizations to conduct after-school and summer programs that emphasize physical fitness and education. Using sports as our hook, we build girls' confidence and resiliency from the inside-out and create safe spaces where girls learn from each other and from strong female role models.

PowerPlay fills a critical service gap for young women of color in NYC, who face structural barriers limiting their access to valuable resources and making them particularly vulnerable. Our programs for girls and young women help to fill the gap through a continuum of services beginning with girls as young as six and intensifying as girls mature. We believe that NYC's young women are a valuable source of talent and leadership; in order to thrive, they need safe spaces to be active, think creatively, and talk about issues that affect them. We are grateful that the City Council acknowledges the importance of prioritizing opportunities for girls and we are here to highlight the ways in which our organization's programs, particularly the STARS Citywide Girls Initiative, are extremely necessary. It now more than ever that we must not lose sight of this need and mission.

STARS Citywide Girls Initiative

For the fourth consecutive year, PowerPlay is the lead agency in The Sports Training and Role-models for Success (STARS) Citywide Girls Initiative, funded at \$1.2 million by the City Council, which offers the City of New York a unique opportunity to support the healthy development of thousands of girls and young women of color.

Created in 2015 with the support of the City Council, the STARS Initiative is a collaboration of nine leading NYC nonprofits helping girls and young women of color

overcome barriers to success, gain access to high-quality out-of-school activities, and develop as leaders in their communities. The nine partners—Girls Write Now, Groundswell, Lower Eastside Girls Club, PowerPlay NYC, Row New York, Sadie Nash Leadership Project, The Armory Foundation, Figure Skating in Harlem and Girls for Gender Equity—all leaders in the out-of-school time space, will collectively serve more than 4,000 girls this year and deepen programming.

From July 2017 to February 2018, STARS has served 4,008 youth -- that is young people being offered opportunities in every single city council district in New York City.

In the Initiative's fourth year and with the current state of affairs, STARS', and organizations like STARS, refunding is more critical than ever. We are seeking renewed funding at \$1.2 million to deepen programming to continue to address girls' needs in the vulnerable immigrant youth community, offer more resources for the LGBTQ community, and continue to explore avenues in programming to address topics like violence in relationships, health, trauma and social activism.

On behalf of PowerPlay NYC, the STARS Citywide Girls Initiative thanks the Delegation and Council Members in attendance for your ongoing support. We encourage the City Council to continue its leadership and prioritization of organizations who serve girls and young women where they receive the assistance they need to succeed in school, work and life. PowerPlay NYC and STARS are meeting a variety of needs of thousands of vulnerable girls and young women across all five boroughs - particularly girls of color - and these achievements would not have been possible without your strategic input and collaboration.

March 16, 2018
PowerPlay NYC
Empowering Girls Through Play



Daisy Torres, SuperSTARS Leadership Academy 2015

Youth Services Presentation

Growing up as an only child shaped my shy personality. It wasn't until high school where I began to participate in as many extracurriculars as I could seeing as my school has over 5000 students. I saw myself joining the debate team and our school's Concert Choir in order to expose myself to new things and find my passion. Yet I felt I needed to do something for my own community. The Gateway Honors Institute at my school focuses on helping low-income minority students at Francis Lewis through internship and enrichment opportunities as well as college preparation. Gateway encouraged me to apply to PowerPlay SuperSTARS Leadership Academy, where I was challenged to think differently about myself. Not only did I get the chance to spend four weeks with inspiring young women from across all five boroughs, but PowerPlay allowed me to participate in any sport or physical activity possible. When it came to rock climbing, my friend Muna guided me to those last five steps to the top. When it came to college prep, seniors Sonya and Kamryn were there to offer their best advice on high school. When it came to my first internship, PowerPlay leaders like Kate and Marissa tended to my interests and asked me what field I'd like to gain experience in. The little things I learned from each lady at PowerPlay showed me what it meant to be empowered.

My neighborhood wasn't always keen on encouraging girls to pursue college as most girls dropped out support their family and went straight to work. PowerPlay became the first place that exposed me to unlimited support from women; all with the dream of attending college and inspiring girls in their neighborhood to do the same. PowerPlay allowed me to cherish my introvert personality, always pushing me to feel like I could do anything. Having the opportunity to coach young girls and learn from their experience, I realized I had to make the path to college easier for them by offering the same advice I received as a PowerPlay girl. As the years go by, women are now being

praised for their strong and intelligent characters, and I hope this continues as the next generation prepares for their next internship, college, or job. Programs like PowerPlay enable girls to think of others and thus, think of a new future for themselves. The PowerPlay community has motivated me to join non-profits, such as the Opportunity Network and Leadership Enterprise for a Diverse America. With this endless support, I applied to Princeton University, a place I never imagined myself in but have been blessed with an acceptance. Every girl will face a separate struggle at one point in their life, but PowerPlay encourages girls to view this as a way to realize their own potential.



STARS Citywide Girls Initiative

Program Update February 20, 2018



STARS Citywide Girls Initiative Program Update February 20, 2018

Introduction

The Sports Training and Role-models for Success (STARS) Citywide Girls Initiative, funded at \$1.2 million by the New York City Council, offers the City of New York a unique opportunity to support the healthy development of thousands of girls and young women of color in 2018.

Mission: the STARS Initiative is a collaboration of nine leading NYC nonprofits that helps girls and young women of color overcome barriers to success, grow emotionally, academically and physically stronger, and develop as leaders in their communities. The nine partners—Girls Write Now, Groundswell, Lower Eastside Girls Club, PowerPlay NYC, Row New York, Sadie Nash Leadership Project and the newest partners The Armory Foundation, Figure Skating in Harlem and Girls for Gender Equity—all leaders in the out-of-school time space, will continue to create thousands of program slots and deepen programming for girls in all five boroughs by June 2018. With support and funding from the New York City Council, the STARS Citywide Girls Initiative will develop the life and leadership skills of NYC girls through after-school and summer sports, academic enhancement, STEM, college prep and the arts.

FY18 has been another remarkable year for the Initiative with a number of key milestones and achievements, highlighted by the launch of the first ever STARS College Fair (see pages 7 & 8), and the creation of a STARS Marketing Committee.

The STARS Marketing Committee came into being upon reflection of the duration of our nine organization-strong partnership together. Collaboration for social change requires investment and mutual vision sharing across multiple organizations, agencies and individuals. CGI partners discussed the need for marketing and branding that would both powerfully share about our work, and amplify the impact among our constituents and supporters. To more effectively share our programs and showcase our impact, the Initiative agreed a dedicated marketing committee was necessary and together they produced the tri-fold below.



Nine Organizations and a Shared Goal

The STARS (Sports Training and Role Models for Success) Citywide Girls Initiative is a collaboration of nine leading New York City-based nonprofits that create opportunities and foster success for girls and young women of color. We share the goals of helping the girls we serve to overcome barriers to success; grow emotionally, academically, and physically stronger; and develop as leaders in their communities.



Our Numbers Speak Volumes

There is power in numbers — collectively we serve thousands of girls and young women across all 51 NYC council districts. We have seen tremendous growth over the past three years:

In 2015, we added
1,400

new program slots across NYC

In 2016, we served over
4,600

NYC girls through sports programs, college prep, and the arts.

In 2017, over
600

girls attended our Citywide Girls Summit, which focused on training, critical writing, and community building.



Different Roads. Same Destination.



Figure Skating in Harlem

combines the power of education with the discipline and grace of figure skating to help New York City girls grow in confidence, leadership and academic achievement.

Girls for Gender Equity

is an intergenerational organization committed to the psychological, social and economic development of girls and women.

Girls Write Now

is New York's first and only writing and mentoring organization for girls. GWN trains teen girls in literacy, writing, and creative expression skills by introducing them to new genres, teaching digital technology, and preparing them for college.



Groundswell Community Mural Project

brings together youth, artists, and community-based organizations to use art as a tool for social change for a more just and equitable world.

Lower Eastside Girls Club

provides a innovative, community-based, holistic programs and services for girls and young women to break the cycle of local poverty by training the next generation of ethical, entrepreneurial and environmental leaders.

PowerPlay NYC

advances the lives of girls from underserved communities and helps them gain self-confidence and life skills for successful adulthood through sports, education and wellness.



Row New York

empowers teens from NYC's under-resourced communities to build strength, gain confidence, and pursue excellence through the competitive sport of rowing, paired with intensive academic and college readiness support.

Sadie Nash Leadership Project

provides innovative educational leadership programs to low-income young women (ages 11-22) from all five boroughs of New York City as well as Newark, NJ.

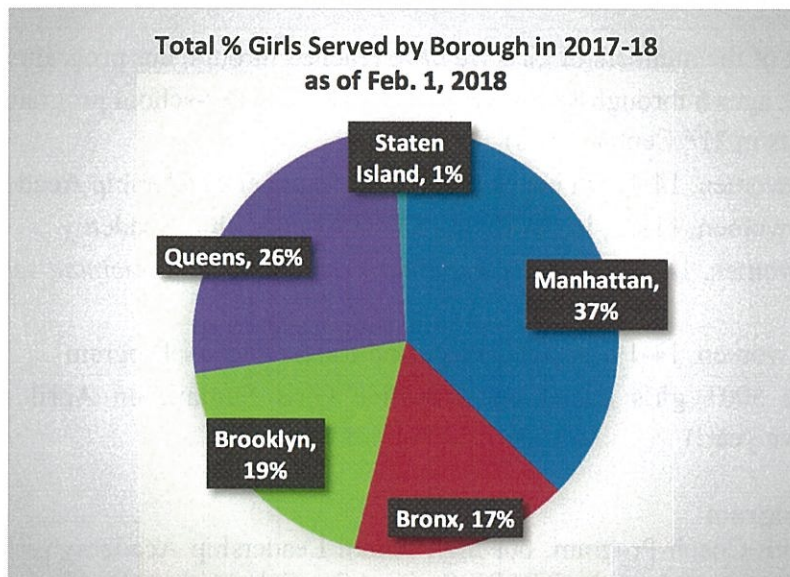
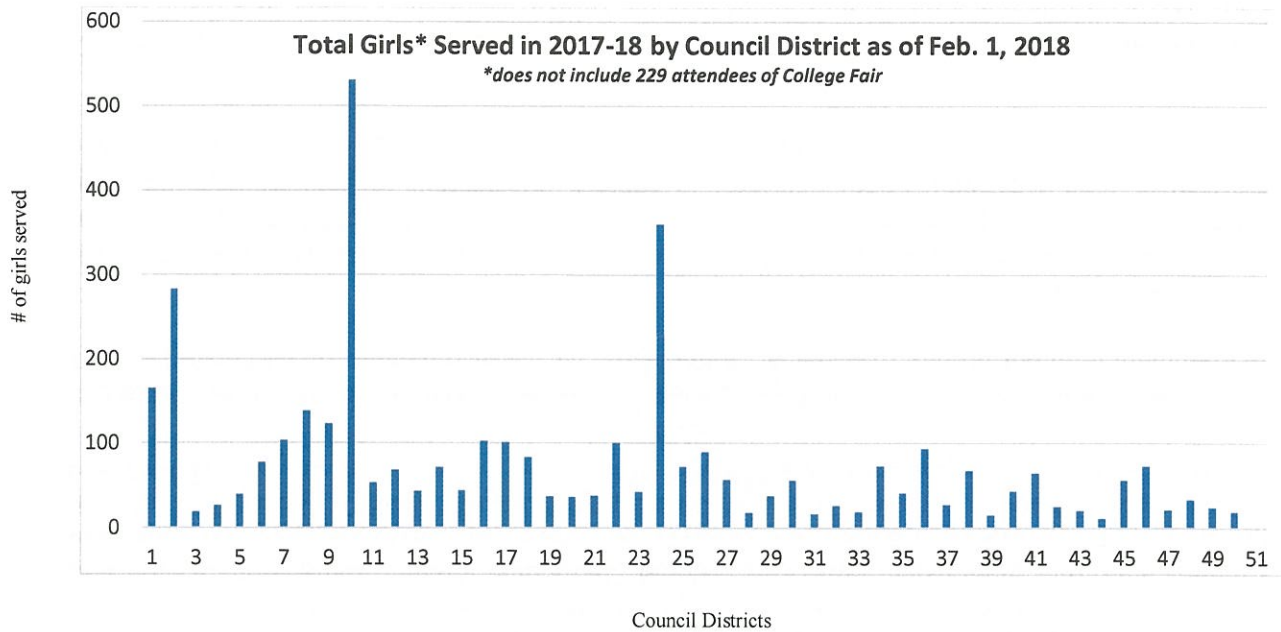
The Armory Foundation

is committed to serving youth by promoting fitness, a love of sport and the pursuit of individual excellence.

Thanks to the generous support of
the New York City Council



Together, in FY '18 to February 1, 2018, the nine partners of STARS are proud to serve 4,086 youth in all 51 city council districts through programming focused on sports, academic enhancement, STEM, college prep and the arts. We truly are a collaborative citywide initiative. Below are two graphs which outline our reach up to February 1, 2018. The first illustrates the collective number of youth served broken down by city council district. The second graph gives a visual depiction of the total percentages of youth served in each borough.



PowerPlay NYC: Serving Girls for 20 Years

The STARS Citywide Girls Initiative is changing the scope of PowerPlay's service delivery for sports and education programs for girls throughout the city. In the past two years, PowerPlay has grown significantly, and this exciting growth is reflected across all levels of our organization and programs.

For FY '18, we have taken the time to reflect on our programs and practices, assess our capacity and professional development, and make a major investment in strengthening our program quality and use of data. Throughout our after-school program, we have examined our site partnerships to continue with the most dedicated and supportive partners. Thus, as a result of this strategic and intentional process, this year we have scaled back our portfolio to offer quality programming to only 45 sites across the five boroughs.

To better understand and utilize our program and participant data, we have implemented a new assessment tool, CitySpan Youth Services, to capture information to help us determine the impact we have on our participants and how close we've come to achieving our goals. In addition, we are in the process of hiring a metrics, evaluation and learning fellow to maximize our data and inform our programs.

In alignment with our growth over the last three years, we are also focused on sustainability, and diversifying and building a variety of funding sources, including government contracts, individual donors, private foundations, and corporate sponsors. While we are fortunate to receive STARS Citywide Girls Initiative funding, we continue to strategize to invite new potential donors and supporters of our work. Our current fundraising strategy focuses on income diversification to reduce reliance on any single source of revenue. This year, we are strengthening our fundraising efforts to increase individual giving, foundation grants, and corporate sponsorships. We have already increased corporate giving by over 150% and have secured a new funding stream at the state level through 21st Century Community Learning Centers and the New York State Education Department.

Here's a snapshot of the numbers of girls we have reached through our programs:

- 500 girls*, ages 6 through 18, in our STARS Series After-school programs (*130 girls are participants in 21st Century sites)
- 50 young women, 14-17, in our SuperSTARS Summer Leadership Academy
- 20 young women, 11-13, in our Rising STARS Leadership Academy
- 9 young women, 14-19, in our Youth Coach Program. *We anticipate serving 20 by June 2018.*
- 20 young women, 14-19, in our College and Career Mentor Program
- Anticipate 500+ girls attend our Citywide Girls Summit on April 4, 2018 (for 4th consecutive year!)

Youth Coach Program

Through our Youth Coach Program, our high school Leadership Academy girls serve as youth coaches to our younger girls at the STARS Series After-School sites. Our 9 youth coaches, ages 14-19, facilitate discussion and sports activities alongside our adult coaches, helping to deliver our curriculum, fulfill their service learning goals, and grow as mentors and leaders in their

communities. This 'tri-level' approach is a powerful form of mentoring, which allows for our older girls to receive professional development, scaffolding and support from our staff, as they serve our younger girls. This in turn is aspirational for our younger participants as they can envision themselves following this path forward. It's a win-win for participants, and coaches.

College and Career Mentor Program

In fall 2016, in collaboration with Google and Wells Fargo, PowerPlay launched a new 10-month mentorship program for young women in the Leadership Academy. Last year beginning in November of 2017, PowerPlay partnered with the Macquarie Group and Oliver Wyman Consulting to roll out our second year of the program. The students are paired with employees who are stepping up to serve as role models and mentors to the girls. The pairs will meet monthly, and will focus heavily on college and career readiness. Volunteers will spend over 200 hours with our young women as they prep for successful futures. We are fortunate to have so many trusted corporate partners to engage as mentors in this program.

SuperSTARS Summer Leadership Academy in 2017

The SuperSTARS Leadership Academy is a high-impact leadership development program for young women who attend Title 1 public high schools in NYC. The young women in our Academy prepare for college and the workforce through a structured, girl-centered approach focused on three key areas: sports/physical fitness, college access, and career/life skills development. The Academy kicks off with a four-week intensive summer session where girls participate in a variety of sports, develop workplace and life skills, and learn about the college process. During the school year, the program gives girls access to a wide range of activities to build their life and leadership skills. They attend 20 hours of skill-building workshops in topics like essay writing, entrepreneurship and financial literacy; visit local and regional colleges; get help with their college applications; spend 30 hours as youth coaches and leaders, and engage in 25 hours of sporting and social events, including rowing, basketball, tennis, dance, and yoga.

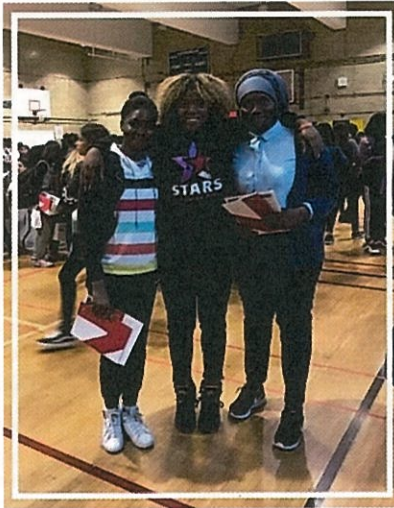
Summer 2017:

- Served 50 participants from across NYC
- Worked with girls came from 28 different high schools
- Organized 15 field trips
- Provided 10 different sports workshops
- Engaged 110 volunteers
- Saw a 94% attendance rate in the mini-internships

Rising STARS Leadership Academy

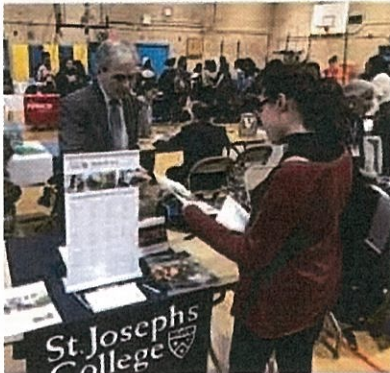
The Rising STARS Program is a summer intensive version of our STARS Series that teaches sports and healthy living, teamwork and leadership skills to middle school-age girls.

STARS Citywide Girls Initiative (STARS CGI)



STARS College Fair – October 17, 2017 at the High School of Fashion, Chelsea

As a part of STARS CGI, we hosted the first ever STARS College Fair on Tuesday, October 17th, 2017 from 5-7pm at the High School of Fashion Industries in Manhattan. Overall, 532 girls and young women signed up for the inaugural event, which exceeded our RSVP goal of 400. Joining us on a school-night, our final tallies show that we had **229 attendees**, many from the outer boroughs. There were 32 colleges, universities and organizations represented, including local/regional community colleges, CUNYs and SUNYs and Ivies. We also experienced a 100% volunteer attendance rate, reinforcing the powerful success our evening.





COLLEGE FAIR

October

17

5 - 7pm

LOCATION

High School of Fashion
Industries in Chelsea.
(225 W. 24th Street)



RSVP

bit.ly/STARScollege



FOLLOW

#STARSnycgirls
f t

FREE!

MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS ARE INVITED
PARENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND

STARS Citywide Girls (**S**ports **T**raining **A**nd **R**ole-models for **S**uccess)
is a special initiative of the New York City Council created to support
the healthy development of girls and young women from all five
boroughs of NYC and celebrate them as the leaders of tomorrow.

CONTACT: kbancks@powerplaynyc.org



STARS Citywide Girls Youth Summit – April 4, 2018 at the High School of Fashion, Chelsea

The nine CGI partners will come together on April 4 to host this day-long conference for girls in NYC. Our fourth annual gathering will be a day of fun and inspiration, as well as a culminating event for the Initiative in FY18. This year we have invested in an event planner to take our event to the next level by streamlining our planning process, reconfiguring our registration system and managing all activities during the event itself. In response to current world-wide events, we plan on incorporating the theme “YOU: the change agent” throughout our entire day to encourage our young people to work to effect positive change.

The Summit will include workshops designed to encourage the attendees to meet one another and get thinking about big decisions and choices in their lives and communities. They’ll also draft recommendations on issues they feel strongly about as young women leaders to present to the City Council. We are looking forward to an incredible day with over 500 youth in attendance for the fourth consecutive year. Workshops will include topics like leadership, empowerment, college readiness, career exploration. This year we have been intentional in being more gender-conscious and inclusive to youth identifying as female than ever before. Thus we’ve identified organizations like The Center and Planned Parenthood to support and partner in our event.

Expected outcomes of the day include girls having increased knowledge of career fields and understanding of the college application process, along with increased motivation to do well in school to maximize their opportunities, increased feelings of self-efficacy, a new network of strong and supportive females.

STARS
Citywide Girls

4TH ANNUAL GIRLS LEADERSHIP SUMMIT



YOU

THE CHANGE AGENT!

A unique one-day conference created to give you, the middle school and high school young women and gender non-conforming youth of NYC, opportunities to network, have fun and learn skills that help you reach for success.

FREE

WEDNESDAY
APRIL 4TH

9:30AM-3PM

BREAKFAST • LUNCH • SWAG

HIGH SCHOOL OF FASHION

225 W. 24TH STREET
NEW YORK, NY

RSVP...

<http://bit.ly/2018STARS>

FOR EVENT QUESTIONS WRITE TO:
KBANCKS@POWERPLAYNYC.ORG

ROW
NEW YORK

powerplayNYC
Empowering Girls Through Play

THE LOWER EASTSIDE
GIRLS CLUB
OF NEW YORK

g GIRLS FOR GENDER EQUITY

GGE
GIRLS FOR GENDER EQUITY

THE ARMORY
FOUNDATION

THE HARLEM

Groundswell
we create change

SADIE NASH
LEADERSHIP PROJECT

Meet Youth from the STARS Citywide Girls Initiative 2018

Angela Veras – Row New York

(front-most rower laughing)

“If I was to look back at myself in 9th grade I would have never thought that I was going to end up in Row New York. I personally had no clue about what rowing really was when I was recruited and now I am glad younger Ángela chose to join. During some practices it was hard to keep on going in the middle of a piece but I always knew that I had all



my teammates behind me. They are not just a family to me, but also a safety net. All my teammates are there to catch me when I need their support and can always manage to put a smile on my face when it is needed. Even in those moments when I did not believe in myself I had a group of amazing friends and coaches who believed in me. Besides gaining a second family, being part of Row New York has also allowed me to become an improved me. It has taken a massive amount of discipline to manage being a scholar and a rower, but it has all been worth it. Thanks to Row New York my self-esteem has increased and I have become more independent because I have proved to myself through every piece that I can do it. To top it all off I have the privilege of telling others about this amazing program that has shaped my life for the better and will always stay with me even when I am gone.”

Amy Alagor – The Armory Foundation

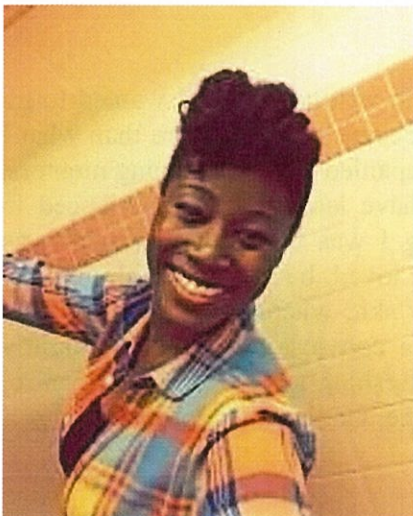
“I joined the Armory College Prep program my sophomore year when one of my track teammates, Marion, raved about it. During my sophomore and junior year I prepped rigorously for the SAT under the guidance of Meghan, the math tutor and Michael, the English tutor, in the Academic Achievement department. With their help I got a 1340 on my SAT, the highest score in my school. Meghan, a Columbia University PhD candidate, recommended that I apply to a summer internship at the Laboratory for Synthetic and Nanobiology lead by head researcher Henry Hess. I got accepted into the internship and spent five weeks learning about microtubules and kinesin. I researched how to replicate the conditions microtubules are subject to by replicating the viscosity that is present in the cell. When it came time to start the college application process I thought it was simple and straight to the point. Write a personal statement with a couple of supplements. How hard could it be? I couldn't have been more



clueless. It took me eight drafts of my personal statement to finally compose a piece that reflected my story, not my parents' stories, not my siblings' stories, but mine. I had to dig deep within and reveal unique anecdotes that illuminated my determination to achieve within a patriarchal Nigerian culture. This period was intense because in some ways I was discovering who I was. For the first time, I stepped back from my "good student" role and assessed my nature, character and identity from a more mature perspective. The writing evolved as I evolved. At times I felt like I couldn't do it, but Mary Rose would read my drafts and keep pushing me to "talk more about how you felt, how the experience shaped you, not just what happened." The supplemental essays required for competitive colleges can be overwhelming. I wrote over forty of these pieces. Mary Rose would direct me to the websites and ask me to talk through what aspects of the schools appealed to me. "What is this institution's mission?" She would come in on Saturdays to help me meet deadlines, stay late on weekdays. Clayton would encourage me when I felt like it was too much, "Alagor, becoming a doctor is not an easy path. You have to be able to bounce back when the work seems insurmountable." I was applying for Questbridge, finishing a supplement I had overlooked, when the computer crashed and I just wanted to give up. After I took a walk Mary Rose and Clayton were there to encourage me to get back on task. I was pushed to try things out of my comfort zone such as applying to NESCAC schools, many of which I hadn't known existed. One of the schools, Williams College, caught my eye and after Mary Rose arranged a visit to the school, I fell in love and knew I would fit right in.

During my years with ACP I've formed close relationships with many of my peers. We have encouraged one another throughout the college application process and have shared some pretty cool experiences, such as a women's luncheon. We were asked to present to a room of 40 ladies and we were scared out of our minds. Three of us shared about ourselves and why Armory College Prep is important to us. Later I reported back to my ACP cohort about how the day empowered me. My friends stared at me in amazement because they could see my progression and the younger students looked up to me as a role model. I cannot praise Armory College Prep enough. There are many other events that contributed to my present growth and success, from the summer program which included performing the role of Antigone in a theatrical showcase to the many Broadway and college trips which expanded my vision of what is possible after high school and the rest of my life."

Branda Brumaire – Groundswell Community Mural Project



"After my summer job with Voices Her'd ended at Groundswell, I was able to walk away with a refreshed mind and I was extremely happy for the work we all got a chance to do. The community of artists I found myself surrounded by helped me to see myself considering the process instead of the destination. Every morning we would check in and just share out how our day was going or week had been, to just be there for each other. It was an amazing space to be in.

One of my favorite memories while working on this project was while visiting the school where we would paint our mural. I remember standing outside the school and talking to a Groundswell staff worker and I remember mentioning that I wasn't an artist. Her response was a question that helped me to think critically about who an artist was and how I fit on the

spectrum.

Art is fluid and very multidimensional, and coming in with very little technical skill I didn't think that I was a legitimate artist because of my lack. The problem with that is that it was hindering me because I was viewing myself in this negative light. In the same way silence is just as much music as sound is not, being able to make a straight line doesn't disqualify you as an artist.

The important thing is that you remember to make it meaningful and about something you care about. Making a difference is no easy task but doing it alongside other amazing people made work feel like fun. From barely believing in myself to backlogging growth, my time and experience as a youth muralist helped me to see myself as a work in progress."

Havi Pham – Girls Write Now

(left with glasses)

"I like writing!

Writing was a skill that I had been building for the better part of a year before I found Girls Write Now. I had always enjoyed writing as a pleasant pastime; the world evaporated the longer I wrote. I had the power to manipulate anything in a completely alternate universe of my own making. But I was still unfamiliar with my own skillset and was unsure of what I could pursue in writing.



In freshman-year I was a participant in Oppnet, a professional career program, that held annual fairs that helped students find other programs more specifically catered to their interests. While I was walking around the room, I came across various programs but only one caught my eye. The Girls Write Now booth shone like a star in the middle of a night sky (or specifically in this case, the brightest booth in a room of blues and greys). I had been honing in on Girls Write Now for a while before I applied. After pushing past the hesitance and nerves, I took on the program's application and made it to an interview.

Before Girls Write Now, I wasn't sure what I wanted to do with writing, where I wanted to go with it. But once I was accepted to the program, writing had become so much more than what I had imagined. Over the span of the program, I have been accompanied by two amazing mentors. Both have played such an important role in shaping what I have learned and experienced in writing. When I first started at Girls Write Now, the writing I was most familiar with was screenwriting. It was a genre that kept my interest and I dearly loved, but did not push my way out of. Last year my (previous) mentor and I wrote a comedy skit, where I played a stuck-up musician who insists she can make music from anything in a conversation with an (slightly awkward and uncomfortable) interviewer. It was incredibly refreshing to have so much control over my work. I was able to both write and act out my own piece. Getting to incorporate myself into my art in every way is the most exciting thing.

When my mentor this year, KK, and I walked into our first workshop together, I was excited. It would be our first workshop together and it was on Twine, a media platform that uses some code and some design skill. I was hesitant towards the program at first, since coding and being “tech savvy” was something that I had never thought I could do. However, with the amazing support from my mentor I found out how much I really enjoyed coding and writing digitally. I was so happy with myself because of what I had learned to do and make.

Moving forward, I always want to grow more as a writer and I know Girls Write Now will be there for me.”

Mirza Afrin – Sadie Nash Leadership Project

“Courage starts by showing up and letting ourselves be seen.”- Brene Brown.



“Sadie Nash has been a tremendous form of support system for me during the Summer Institute that I joined and also the CAP program I am doing right now. For me, success means overcoming obstacles in life which can help me grow as a person. In my journey of personal growth, Sadie Nash played an important role. This summer when I did the summer institute, I majored in unafraid by raising my voice for the things I felt was wrong around me. Sadie Nash gave me that voice, that courage to speak up. I had always been a shy girl who had a lot to say but somehow muted her thoughts with the fear of what others might think of her. Before doing the internship, I knew full well that I had to put myself out there. Being in the program with some amazing

and insightful young women of color, the deans and the directors was truly an exhilarating experience. Throughout the summer internship, I met some amazing deans and directors such as Tiffany, Ramelcy and Maya who helped me be the person I am today. I took some classes such as Leadership Seminar through which I learned to see the leader in me, I learned how it was alright to not feel like a leader all the time. One of the most valuable lesson I learned as a result of my Summer Institute is that, being vulnerable was also courageous. Because of their guidance and hard work, I believed in myself to the point where I hosted a segment of the final celebration. The fact that Sadie Nash polished me enough to present myself out there, was more than enough for me to consider Sadie Nash my home. Now that summer institute is over, I am doing CAP program, under which I am interning for another amazing supervisor, Bonnibel at a place close to my heart.”

Tanay Davis – Figure Skating in Harlem
(below center)



"I will never be able to fully explain the magnitude in which this program has changed my life. I will say that because of Figure Skating in Harlem, I have the confidence to walk into any room and make a statement. Figure Skating in Harlem takes positive traits and helps you master your craft. Even better, they take negative traits and teach you how to change them for the better. I can say without a doubt that Figure Skating in Harlem polished me into the young woman that I am today. Additionally, the program created a deep passion inside of me to give back to my community. I honestly don't know where or who I would be without FSH. Every child deserves to have that support system, pushing them to break barriers and be the absolute best that they can be.

Being a part of Figure Skating in Harlem was a blessing in disguise to me. At the tender age of seven, I didn't realize exactly what this program offered me. Now standing here today at the age of seventeen I clearly see its vision. I was granted a sisterhood that couldn't be found anywhere else. I was granted a safe space to

make mistakes and find out who I am. I was granted the opportunity to blossom into a fearless, independent, and intelligent young woman."

Porscha – Girls for Gender Equity



"I'm a woman of color and I have a lot to overcome. So many women came together and risked themselves to make sure that I can do what I'm doing with Young Women's Advisory Council (YWAC) and sooo much more. I also see that back then, women didn't really know or fight for trans so being with YWAC I see we are doing more and extending what these women fought for and poured their blood into. When I envision a new world: I don't see everyone agreeing that Neon Green and Highlighter Yellow are the same colors but I see trans being the norm. I see more people coming out to their parents about their questioning of themselves and their gender. I even see a glimpse of a trans president. The

people who inspire me to make a difference and be an activist are my ancestors I never met, my grandparents who never got a chance to see me grow and become who I am today, and my (trans) sisters in YWAC who fear for their lives every day. Fearing someone taking their lives,

not being able to have the right of happiness of being themselves. The fear of “Will I be here tomorrow? Will this be my last day?” Who wants to wake up thinking that? Go to bed thinking that? That’s what pushes me to defend their honor.”

Daisy Torres – PowerPlay NYC

“Growing up as an only child shaped my shy personality. It wasn’t until high school where I began to participate in as many extracurriculars as I could seeing as my school has over 5000 students. I saw myself joining the debate team and our school’s Concert Choir in order to expose myself to new things and find my passion. Yet I felt I needed to do something for my own community. The Gateway Honors Institute at my school focuses on helping low-income minority students at Francis Lewis through internship and enrichment opportunities as well as college preparation. Gateway encouraged me to apply to PowerPlay SuperSTARS Leadership Academy, where I was challenged to think differently about myself. Not only did I get the chance to spend four weeks with inspiring young women from across all five boroughs, but PowerPlay allowed me to participate in any sport or physical activity possible. When it came to rock climbing, my friend Muna guided me to those last five steps to the top. When it came to college prep, seniors Sonya and Kamryn were there to offer their best advice on high school. When it came to my first internship, PowerPlay leaders like Kate and Marissa tended to my interests and asked me what field I’d like to gain experience in. The little things I learned from each lady at PowerPlay showed me what it meant to be empowered.



My neighborhood wasn’t always keen on encouraging girls to pursue college as most girls dropped out support their family and went straight to work. PowerPlay became the first place that exposed me to unlimited support from women; all with the dream of attending college and inspiring girls in their neighborhood to do the same. PowerPlay allowed me to cherish my introvert personality, always pushing me to feel like I could do anything. Having the opportunity to coach young girls and learn from their experience, I realized I had to make the path to college easier for them by offering the same advice I received as a PowerPlay girl. As the years go by, women are now being praised for their strong and intelligent characters, and I hope this continues as the next generation prepares for their next internship, college, or job. Programs like PowerPlay enable girls to think of others and thus, think of a new future for themselves. The PowerPlay community has motivated me to join non-profits, such as the Opportunity Network and Leadership Enterprise for a Diverse America. With this endless support, I applied to Princeton University, a place I never imagined myself in but have been blessed with an acceptance. Every girl will face a separate struggle at one point in their life, but PowerPlay encourages girls to view this as a way to realize their own potential.”

Sports & Arts in Schools Foundation
Friday, March 16, 2018



SPORTS & ARTS IN SCHOOLS FOUNDATION
Giving students the edge they need to succeed.

FY 19 Preliminary Budget Hearing

New York City Council
Committee on Youth Services
Honorable Deborah Rose, *Chair*

Submitted by Dr. Maureen Fonseca, *CEO*

Presented by Ms. Sheila Wilson-Wells, *Director of Programs & Special Initiatives*

I. A Note of Thanks

In 1992, the New York City Council recognized the need that free summer camps could fill in the lives of New York City's youth and working families. Since that initial investment, the Sports & Arts in Schools Foundation (SASF) has been able to substantially impact the lives of hundreds of thousands of New York's most vulnerable youth by leveraging City Council funding to not only run its flagship New York City Council Summer Camps but by bringing its school year leagues, special events, weekend programs, and holiday break programming to youth across the five boroughs. None of this would be possible without the support of the New York City Council.

II. Mission and Efficacy

Over the past 25 years, the Sports & Arts in Schools Foundation has become one of the largest providers of school-based after-school and summer programs in New York City. SASF's mission is to help bridge the opportunity gap for New York City's students by extending the school day and year with wholesome, skill-building activities designed to improve New York City children's academic performance, health & wellness, attitude towards school, self-confidence, character and values, and opportunity for lifelong employment. Founded as an organized sports provider, SASF programs have proactively evolved through the years in order to meet the needs of New York City's children and families.

Over our years of operation, we have become known for high quality programming, skilled staff, high levels of enrollment and attendance. Additionally, SASF has a proven track record of success that includes:

- Serving over **35,000** youth in FY 2018 in **210** programs
- Providing programs that reach almost **every** New York City Council District
- **100%** of our Elementary Sites are rated as "Above Standard" in independent evaluations by the Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD)
- **85%** of our Principals state that SASF supports student academics
- **85%** of our Principals recognize that SASF supports the development of 21st Century Skills (i.e., creativity, technology)
- **90%** of our Principals report that SASF supplements their school with skill-based enrichment activities (e.g. sports, arts, STEAM, leadership)
- **53** City Council supported events to date in FY 2018
- In an effort to maintain the highest quality of services, SASF employees are paid an equitable rate of no less than \$15.00 an hour for over **1700** New York City Residents.

III. A Growing Need

In over 70% of working families parents are not off when their children are. During the summer months this leaves families in an untenable position. Families that cannot afford camps cobble together care from family members or friends, or are forced to leave children home alone. Self-care for 6- to 12-year-olds increases during the summer months, many of New York's most vulnerable children are alone, parked in front of the TV. The lack of affordable child care and the achievement gap collide for lower income families in the summer. Most children lose math skills over the summer, but low income children also lose, on average, more than two months of reading skills — and they don't gain them back. That puts them nearly three years behind higher income peers by the end of fifth grade, and the gap just keeps getting wider. Researchers credit the summer slide for about half of the overall difference in academic achievement between lower and higher income students.

As the 21st Century matures, it becomes ever more apparent that the skills needed to thrive in the next half century are deeply embedded in the realms of Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math (STEAM). By 2020, over 1 million Tech Sector jobs will be unfilled in the United States due to lack of skilled candidates. New York City's Tech Sector directly employs over 290,000 people, generating 13.8% of New York City's total economic output, and is growing at a faster rate than the national average. The fact is that most industries will require advanced computer literacy making technology skills as critical as reading, writing, and arithmetic. There is a disparity amongst students who use technology to create, design, build, explore and collaborate and those who simply use technology to consume media passively; a disparity that will limit their earning potential.

The lack of access to high quality programming that incorporates STEAM during the summer months leaves New York's neediest families without the opportunities afforded to more affluent New Yorkers. It has been well documented that summer programs offering a mix of academics and fun enrichment activities can address these disparities, helping children from low-income families achieve better academic and social-emotional outcomes. **SASF is answering this challenge with its 2018 Summer Camp theme, "Generation NEXT." By leveraging its experience providing quality STEAM, Academic, Sports, and Arts programs to New York City's youth. Our goal is position SASF's Summer Camps to support the growth of 21st Century learning skills.**

IV. Moving Forward

With the support of the City Council, SASF will provide children an experience that otherwise would only be available to families who can afford a private technology camp at a cost upwards of \$950.00 *per week, per child*. **With the requested additional funding of \$500,000 SASF will be positioned to:**

- Meet the rising costs of its existing summer camp programs and increase its camps budget to reflect actual operating costs
- **Increase the hours of service provided to every City Council Camp by 20%**
- Introduce **NEW STEAM** programs to every City Council Camp. These programs that are designed to be student-centered, project and inquiry based, and offer integrated/diversified subject offerings including but not limited to: Coding, 3D printing and Design, Digital Photography, and LEGO Robotics.
- Create **5 NEW STEAM Camps**, one in each borough, which will incorporate the Common Core Standards and Next Generation Science Standards through a combination of workshops and field trips.

SASF, its students, and families are extraordinarily grateful for the support provided by the New York City Council. The needs of our families inspire us to introduce new elements to the City Council Summer Camp.

Twenty-six years ago the New York City Council stepped up to meet the needs of New York's families. We are now looking to you to meet the needs of the next generation of young people. In order for us to keep innovating, I ask you, on behalf of the 35,000 youngster that we serve, to support our **\$1.5m** FY 19 funding request and to advocate on this behalf.

Thank you.

Testimony to the New York City Council
Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD)
16 March 2018



Susan Lacerte
Executive Director, Queens Botanical Garden

Queens Botanical Garden is one of 33 organizations within the CIG—the Cultural Institutions Group—that are located on City-owned land or in City-owned buildings. We work in concert with many partners to provide cultural, educational, and community services in a wide variety of ways and with many partners, including smaller organizations in the “Program Group.” Our work is vital to fostering a healthy, vibrant, equitable and inclusive community. We work with all ages, in all demographics, all over the City.

We started working closely with Queens Historical Society, of the Program Group, during the recent celebrations of the NY World’s Fairs. Richard Hourahan, from Queens Historical, will be sharing other aspects of this cultural work a little later. QBG also works with Queens County Farm Museum, Alley Pond Environmental Center, the Kupferberg Center for the Arts, Flushing Town Hall, and many other organizations and institutions to serve thousands of New Yorkers and tourists every year. Last year, we served over 225,000!

We ask that the \$10M allocated to the cultural budget in FY18 be baselined in the FY19 Budget, with:

- \$4.5M allocated to the CIGs
- \$5M allocated to the Program Groups
- \$0.5M allocated to the CUNY Culture Corps.

In 2017 the CIG—with many cultural colleagues around the City—partnered with the City to produce CreateNYC, the City’s very first cultural plan. The plan is ambitious, and is broken down into 8 key areas:

1. Equity
2. Social & Economic Impact
3. Affordability
4. City-wide Coordination
5. Arts
6. Culture & Science Education
7. Health of the Cultural Sector
8. Arts & Culture in Public Space.

These 8 areas align with existing programming at museums, botanical gardens, and zoos across all 5 boroughs. With additional funding, these programs could be expanded.

We request an additional \$20M in funding, to be divided 50/50 to the CIG and Program Groups, to enact the goals outlined by the City in the Cultural Plan. We have proven that we are excellent partners, working with City agencies to implement City initiatives that meet the needs of New Yorkers.

Some examples of programs include:

- **Staten Island Children's Museum:** *Ladders for Leaders*—provides pathways for employment and college readiness;
- **Brooklyn Children's Museum:** offers a free after-school program run at PS 189, a Title 1 public school in Brownsville; a 5-week summer program and free holiday time care for children. Not only do children get museum enrichment, these programs provide parents the childcare they need to be able to hold full-time jobs.
- **The Met:** *Teens Take the Met!* Is a partnership program with DYCD and one of the world's most illustrious museums—this great collaboration opens a bigger world for the City's youth.

I am very moved by the **Summer Youth Employment Program**, and the opportunity it has provided for SO many—going back decades! **Queens Botanical Garden** hosts between 30 and 45 young people who work at the Garden for six weeks each summer. Most work outside with our horticulture and maintenance staffs; some work with Visitor Services.

We teach job-readiness skills—the importance of being on time, not to use your cell phone while working, how to check in, communicate, resolve conflicts, and more—that help prepare people for finding their path, supporting themselves and contributing to society. And the young people experience the joy of receiving a paycheck—often their first! At times, the young person working is the only one in the family to be receiving a paycheck.

Members of our board in the banking industry provide financial literacy training, a staff member provides a “Rock Your Resume” class, and we take summer youth on field trips (the Mets have provided tickets to games!). We have found that many young people come to work having not eaten. So, we provide food: the seniors that practice Tai Chi at the Garden daily provide pork buns and hard-boiled eggs, The Hindu Temple of North America provides samosas, the Mexican restaurant down the street provides empanadas, Kanen Diner provides sandwiches, the pizza place provides pizza (of course!). We have received great appreciation from our interns who, through food and working together, come to understand cultures beyond their own.

This program is a proven pipeline to employment, job readiness, and adulthood, both at QBG and around the City. We have numerous stories of people who started their professional career at QBG through Summer Youth, progressing the next year to an internship in horticulture or visitor services and then were hired into a part-time position and then full-time at QBG. One SYEP alum, Christina, now works as a Greenhouse Intern at Brooklyn Botanic Garden, after a stint at QBG. Another, Jeff, is now on the “gardening team” at CitiField for the NY Mets. They were New York City kids who have grown into happy, productive adults, earning money to support themselves.

Queens Botanical Garden thinks of itself as *the place where people, plants and cultures meet*. The Department of Youth and Community Development's extremely successful Summer Youth Employment Program allows us to carry out this mission while providing training and a real pipeline to employment and self-sufficiency for the next generation of New York City leaders. It is a truly vibrant example of one of the many ways cultural institutions carry out City initiatives in the best way possible.

With your help in baselining the \$10 M for Culture for FY19 and in adding \$20M we can meet the needs of the City and its Youth, helping to assure a more equitable, healthy and green future for our young people. We thank you the members of this Committee, and the City at large, for the ongoing partnership.



45 Broadway • 22nd Floor • New York, N.Y. 10006-3007

(212) 967-0322

www.unhny.org

**Testimony of United Neighborhood Houses
Before the New York City Council
Committee on Youth,
Honorable Debi Rose, Chair
At the FY19 Preliminary Budget Hearing
Presented by Gregory Brender, Co-Director of Policy & Advocacy**

March 16, 2018

Good Afternoon. Thank you Chair Rose and members of the Committee on Youth Services for the opportunity to testify. My name is Gregory Brender and I am here on behalf of United Neighborhood Houses. United Neighborhood Houses (UNH) of New York is New York City's association of settlement houses and community centers. Rooted in the history and values of the settlement house movement begun over 100 years ago, UNH promotes and strengthens the neighborhood-based, multi-service approach to improving the lives of New Yorkers in need and the communities in which they live. UNH's membership includes 39 organizations employing 13,000 people at over 650 sites across the five boroughs of New York City to provide high quality services and activities to over 750,000 New Yorkers each year.

Typical settlement house services range from early childhood education and after-school, to youth employment and college access, to adult education and workforce development, to behavioral health services, homelessness prevention and older adult services. Essentially, our members provide "one-stop" shopping for all community members—be they children, youth, immigrants, older adults, or working families.

UNH is part of Campaign for Children- a coalition of more than 150 organizations working towards high-quality early childhood education and after-school programs for every child in New York City. Along with Campaign for Children, we have worked with you and other City Councilmembers to bring the voices of youth impacted by budget cuts to City Hall.

UNH also leads the Campaign for Summer Jobs which advocates for City and State investment in the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP). In this role, UNH trained over 250 young people to be advocates for SYEP funding.

Summer Programs for Middle School Students

Background

Summer programs are essential, both as a youth development program and a key work support for working families who need a positive, safe space for children and youth. Summer programs provide the recreational activities and educational reinforcement that keep young people engaged and learning.

And summer programs are a key support for families. In fact, in a survey conducted by Campaign for Children of 2,500 parents with children in summer programs, nearly 90% of parents reported they rely on summer camp so they can work or go to school, and that their children learn crucial academic skills while in summer camp. Nearly two-thirds of parents also reported that they relied on the free meals at summer camp to ensure their youth receive nutritious meals.

One of Mayor de Blasio's most important investments upon taking office was the expansion of middle school after school programs now known as SONYC. The SONYC initiative expanded access to after-school programs for middle school students to that every student who wanted a place in an after-school program could get one. SONYC is operated entirely through community based organizations which provide programs in schools, public housing developments and other community spaces.

And SONYC is a success. Mayor de Blasio said "...{k}ids are learning and – and they like it. We're growing tomorrow's leaders, keeping kids safe and busy while parents are at work, building their confidence and closing in on the achievement gap."

After school programs typically include summer activities as part of their model both because parents need care for their children when schools are closed and because keeping kids active and engaged is the most effective strategy for combating summer learning loss. The inclusion of a summer component is a key part of SONYC's success up until this point. However, in the FY 2019 Preliminary Budget, summer activities for at least 34,000 middle school students at more than 400 sites has been eliminated.

FY 2019 Budget

The proposed cut will have a particularly devastating impact on low-income communities. Programs in all five boroughs and fifty City Council districts will be unable to provide summer programs for kids in their neighborhood if funding is not restored. This cut eliminates:

- Summer programs for 7,680 kids in the Bronx
- Summer programs for 10,711 kids in Brooklyn
- Summer programs for 5,763 kids in Manhattan
- Summer programs for 5,555 kids in Queens
- Summer programs for 1,220 kids on Staten Island

As you know, in FY 2016 and FY 2017, the Mayor proposed the same cut. Communities and City Councilmembers mobilized and the Mayor restored funding in FY 2018 for one year only putting these crucial programs into a dangerous budget dance.

We appreciate the City Council's strong support of summer programs. But since summer programs start only days after a budget is adopted, this funding must be restored in the Adopted Budget. We therefore ask the City Council to strongly urge the Mayor to include funding for summer programs for at least 34,000 middle school students as baseline funding in the Executive Budget.

After-School Programs for Elementary School Students **Background**

After-School programs are essential for many elementary school students. Working parents, whose jobs do not end when the school bell rings at 3:00, need quality affordable options for their children. Unfortunately, service gaps remain and a survey of after-school programs conducted by Campaign for Children found that a staggering 88% of programs for elementary school students had children on waiting lists.

FY19 Budget

Last year, the City Council invested funding to support after-school programs for 9,000 children. These included 3,400 slots which the City Council has supported for four consecutive years and an expansion of 5,600 slots. UNH urges the City to restore funding for all 9,000 slots and continue this expansion by creating at least 10,000 new slots to meet unmet demand.

Summer Youth Employment Program

Background

In May 2016, United Neighborhood Houses and the Campaign for Summer Jobs released a white paper, *Summer Jobs for NYC's Youth: A Plan for Expanding NYC's Summer Youth Employment Program to Meet Demand by FY2019*, which explains

how the City can expand SYEP while meeting the needs of the provider community for a program with stable, predictable growth.

Thanks in large part to the City Council's leadership, the FY18 Budget included baselined funding for a record high 70,000 young people to work in the summer through the Summer Youth Employment Program. Concurrently, DYDC released a Concept Paper for eight new competitions for the different SYEP models listed below:

- SYEP School Based Model (Programs that work intensively with a single school to match students with internships that relate to school curriculum or student interest)
- Younger Youth SYEP (SYEP for 14-15 year olds)
- Older Youth SYEP (SYEP for 16-24 year olds)
- Ladders for Leaders (Internship for High-Performing Youth)
- Year-Round Sector Focus Programs (SYEP linked to work during the school year such as through Work, Learn and Grow)
- SYEP for vulnerable youth (SYEP that served high-needs populations including youth in foster care)
- SYEP for Mayor's Action Plan for Neighborhood Safety (Universal access to SYEP for youth living in one of 15 New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) developments that are part of the Mayor's Action Plan)
- SYEP for Cure Violence (SYEP linked to a Cure Violence program)

DYCD released the RFP for the School-Based model in December and awards were made in March. We expect that all other competitions will happen in the fall with programs starting in the summer of 2019.

FY19 Budget and Moving Forward

Our greatest area of concern moving forward is the Per Participant Price (PPP) for each of the Service Options. We do not have complete information about what prices will be for each model. The Concept Paper only provided as a range from \$325 to \$1000 per youth.

This range represents the current range of PPP for the existing SYEP models with \$325 being the amount, excluding wages, for the standard Younger Youth (YY) and Older Youth (OY) service options, and \$1000 as the amount for Ladders for Leaders. \$325 has been the rate for YY and OY since the 2008 RFP (it was \$300 in the 2004 RFP), and must be increased. However, the DYCD Concept Paper envisions a system where SYEP providers are expected to provide a much more intensive level of service to ensure higher-quality job experiences for youth.

UNH urges the City to at least double to provider rate for all models and to work with providers to determine costs of the new services proposed in the Concept Paper to ensure that the PPP allows providers to offer a meaningful job experience for youth.

Work, Learn, and Grow

Background

Work, Learn and Grow provides career readiness training and paid employment opportunities during the school year for youth enrolled in SYEP.

The program was piloted in FY16 with \$16.2 million and allowed more than 6,000 youth who had taken part in the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) the previous summer to engage in employment activities during the school year. Younger youth (14 and 15) engage in workforce preparation (workshops, job shadowing), while older youth (16-24) simply work at a private employer. Wages are paid by the City. The program was continued at the same funding level in FY17 and increased to \$19 million in FY 2018.

The launch and expansion of WLG also support the work of SYEP providers. WLG gives SYEP providers the year-round staff they need to recruit and inspect worksites prior to the summer. SYEP

FY19 Budget

UNH is a strong proponent of the WLG model. In order to strengthen the program UNH urges the City to:

- Baseline funding for WLG;
- Increase funding for WLG to make it truly year-round allowing a young person to stay with the same employer in both the school year and the summer;
- Designate 250 slots for Out of School Out of Work Youth (OSOW)

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I am happy to take any questions.



Testimony of
Grant Cowles
Senior Policy and Advocacy Associate for Youth Justice

Presented to the
New York City Council
Committee on Youth Services

Oversight:
New York City Fiscal Year 2019 Preliminary Budget

March 16, 2018

Good afternoon. My name is Grant Cowles and I am the Senior Policy and Advocacy Associate for Youth Justice at Citizens' Committee for Children (CCC). CCC is an independent, multi-issue child advocacy organization dedicated to ensuring every New York child is healthy, housed, educated, and safe. I would like to thank City Council Youth Services Committee Chair Deborah Rose, as well as all of the members of the City Council Youth Services Committees for holding today's hearing on the City Fiscal Year 2019 Preliminary Budget as it pertains to Youth Services.

CCC is grateful for the City Council's longstanding commitment to youth services. The Council has been a steadfast ally and partner to protect and expand the programs that provide youth with positive social, academic, and career-development supports that ultimately contribute to incalculable benefits for the youth throughout their lives and for the city. This past year, thousands of additional children and youth were able to participate in summer camp programs, elementary after-school programs, the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP), and Work, Learn & Grow because of the City Council's commitment to the next generation of New York City's leaders. The support and investments that the City Council has put into youth services have helped hundreds of thousands of youth and young adults who now form a foundation of our city's workforce and communities. Our gratitude cannot be overstated.

We also appreciate the investments Mayor de Blasio and DYCD Commissioner Chong have made in youth services over the past four years, including expanding the middle school after-school program, increasing capacity in SYEP, and increasing the number and rate for Beacon community centers.

While we are very grateful for the Administration's past investments in youth services, we are deeply concerned that this year's preliminary budget does not build upon these investments and instead proposes to once again cut funding for summer programs for middle school students, while failing to restore and baseline elementary after-school programs.

CCC strongly urges the Administration to restore summer and elementary school programs, strengthen elementary and high school after-school programs through expansion and rate increases, ensure sufficient funding for the Summer Youth Employment Program, invest in the Runaway and Homeless Youth system to accommodate the new laws increasing the age and length of service, and restore the City Council initiatives that support youth services.

- 1) Ensure all After-school Programs Include Summer Programming, Including the at Least 34,000 Middle School Students Whose Summer Programs are not Funded in the Preliminary Budget.**

The Mayor's Preliminary Budget once again fails to provide funding for summer programs for over 34,000 middle school students. This is extremely disappointing as this once again creates anxiety for parents, particularly low-income parents, who need to work during the summer months.

CCC strongly urges the Administration to end the budget dance over summer camp programs once and for all. This includes fully funding and baselining \$20.35 million for the 34,000 middle school slots that have been an ongoing budget issue, fully funding and baselining summer programming for the new middle school after-school slots created last year, and funding and baselining additional elementary or middle school slots created without summer camp programming. It is critical that this restoration takes place in the Executive Budget so that anxiety can be relieved for parents sooner rather than later and providers can adequately plan for the summer, including the ability to screen and hire staff.

CCC continues to applaud the de Blasio Administration for creating SONYC to ensure every middle school student would have access to after-school programs. This program has been implemented nearly flawlessly to the benefit of thousands of children in grades 5-8, but with one exception – summer programs.

Prior to the de Blasio administration's expansion of after-school programming, all after-school programs included summer programming in addition to school-year and holiday programming, in recognition that these programs were meant to provide structured programming during all out-of-school times. In 2014, Mayor de Blasio expanded access to after-school programming to more than 34,000 additional middle school students, noting that "[l]earning shouldn't stop when the school bell rings"¹

While it initially appeared that these new SONYC slots would include summer programming, it became clear just before the FY2016 Executive Budget that the de Blasio administration was not planning to fund summer programs for these middle school children. For the past four years, advocates and the City Council have engaged in a yearly budget dance to save the summer portion of these 34,000+ after-school slots. Last year – an election year – the administration included \$15.0 million for 22,800 students in the Preliminary Budget. This represented a partial restoration, as 22,800 students was the number of students that providers were able to serve (of the 34,000) in the prior year when the funding was restored in June, giving families and providers less than a month to plan.

A map and chart detailing where the 34,000 children live who will not have summer programming is included in the back of this testimony. Notably, much of this lost capacity is in high needs districts, with over 1,000 slots due to be cut in East Tremont in the Bronx, East New York and Brownsville in Brooklyn, the Lower East Side, Central Harlem and East Harlem in Manhattan, and Rockaways in Queens.

It is important to note that these 34,000 slots are merely the slots we have been advocating for since the Summer of 2015. The CFY 2018 budget included \$10.333 million to expand SONYC middle school programming for approximately 3,000 additional children who are likely missing the summer component.

¹ "New York City Launches 'SONYC,' Largest After-School Expansion for Middle School in City's History." NYC.gov (website). September 12, 2014. Available at <http://www1.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/news/439-14/new-york-city-launches-sonyc-largest-after-school-expansion-middle-school-city-s-history#/0>.

Programming during the summer months is just as important for youth and families as programs from 3:00pm to 6:00pm during the school year. Summer programs provide extra-curricular education support, positive social environments, safe supervision, recreation and healthy living activities, and a multitude of artistic, cultural, and job-exploration opportunities. Parents and guardians greatly benefit from supervised programming while they are work – both from 3:00pm to 6:00pm during the school year and during the entire work day in the summer months. After-school programs are proven investments for students and communities. Studies have shown that after-school programs improve school attendance, engagement in learning, and improve test scores and grades, and that these improvements are greatest for students with more risk factors and for students who attend after-school programming more frequently.² Additional studies have shown after-school programs improve outcomes for student safety, student’s decision-making, student health, and student behavior in school.³ Summer programming plays an especially important role in after-school outcomes, including specific findings that summer programming decreases summer learning loss.⁴ Summer programming has also been found to have particularly strong academic benefits for low-income students.⁵

If summer programming is not restored for these 34,000+ middle school students, families will be left with hard decisions. Parents or guardians will be forced to either take time away from work, pay for costly private child care, or leave children unsupervised. Middle school students who are idle all day long in the summer months are particularly vulnerable to experimenting in negative behavior and losing academic gains. Idle teenagers are also likely to spend more time in front of a tv, computer, or cell phone screen, and research has found links between teen screen time and depression and suicide-related outcomes.⁶

Finally, it is also imperative that the funding for summer programming be included in the Executive Budget and not restored at the last-minute as part of the budget dance. Two years ago, funding was eventually restored for these middle school after-school summer programs, but it was not restored until the budget was adopted (early) on June 6th. This meant many summer after-school providers were not able to adequately plan, hire, and prepare for their summer programs, and many families likewise were not prepared to take advantage of summer programming with such little notice. This led to thousands of students who would have participated if funding had been committed earlier, but who were instead not able to participate.

CCC strongly believes that effective after-school programs must include summer components.
CCC urges the City Council to continue to be strong defenders of the 34,000+ summer

² Afterschool Alliance. “Evaluations Backgrounder: A Summary of Formal Evaluations of Afterschool Programs’ Impact on Academics, Behavior, Safety, and Family Life.” March 2015. Available at http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/Fact%20Sheet_Afterschool%20Essential%20stats%2004_08%20FINAL.pdf.

³ Id.

⁴ Jennifer S. McCombs, et. al. *Making Summer Count: How Summer Programs Can Boost Children’s Learning*. Rand Education. 2011. Available at https://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/monographs/2011/RAND_MG1120.pdf.

⁵ Catherine H. Augustine, et. al. *Kids Who Attend More Benefit More: Voluntary Summer Learning Programs*. Rand Education. 2016. Available at https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_briefs/RB9924.html.

⁶ Jean M. Twenge, Thomas E. Joiner, Megan L. Rogers, and Gabrielle N. Martin. *Increases in Depressive Symptoms, Suicide-Related Outcomes, and Suicide Rates Among U.S. Adolescents After 2010 and Links to Increased New Media Screen Time*. Clinical Psychological Science. 2017. Summary available at <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2017/11/171114091313.htm>.

program slots and to make their restoration in the Executive Budget a top priority in your response to the Preliminary budget.

2) **Restore, Expand, and Baseline Elementary After-School Programs and Increase the Rate.**

While CCC is grateful for expanding middle school after-school programming to all middle school students, there is still a large need to serve more elementary school children. **We urge the administration to restore and baseline the \$16 million of one-year funding for elementary after-school programs from the FY18 Adopted Budget, and to work towards making elementary after-school programs a universally available program. Furthermore, we urge the administration to ensure all elementary after-school programs are funded at the same rate, and that the rate for all elementary after-school programs be increased.**

CCC deeply appreciates the City Council's commitment and support for elementary after-school programs. After-school programming enables parents to work while their children are safe and participating in academically and developmentally appropriate activities. This is particularly critical for children in elementary school who are too young to care for themselves. The Council's leadership led to the inclusion of \$16 million in last year's adopted budget, allowing 9,000 additional elementary school students to participate in COMPASS after-school programming.

This funding was unfortunately only for one year though, and this year's Preliminary Budget does not include funding. CCC again urges the Council to work with the administration to restore the \$16 million in the upcoming Executive Budget. We also urge the administration to build on this investment and the successful middle-school expansion by expanding COMPASS elementary capacity so it can become a universal program.

In addition, there are still two different rates for elementary after-school programs. Programs that had been previously funded by the City Council (before they were baselined at the end of the Bloomberg administration) are funded at a lower rate as these programs are not required to have an educational coordinator. We urge the administration to finally rectify this inequality by adding \$8.8 million so all elementary after-school programs can be funded at the same rate, and then increase the rate for all elementary after-school programs to address the actual costs to providers who carry out these programs.

3) **Ensure Rates Address the Minimum Wage Increase for Summer Youth Employment Program and Restore, Expand, and Baseline Work, Learn, & Grow.**

CCC thanks the City Council and Administration for continuing to expand the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) to its current capacity of 70,000 youth. **CCC recommends that all these slots are preserved by ensuring funding is added to address the minimum wage increase.**

SYEP provides youth with a paid job during the summer period. This benefits youth in many ways, including providing the youth with compensation, basic personal finance skills, workplace

experience, vocational skills, career planning opportunities, professional interactions with adults, resume building, and potentially beginning long-term employment with the employer. It also benefits the participating businesses and organizations as they gain subsidized workers who may become full-time staff.

CCC was a member of the Mayoral Task Force on SYEP and hopes to see a plan that will enable SYEP to grow to meet the needs of at least 100,000 youth in a time frame that is workable for the providers. Last summer, after the SYEP lottery was completed, nearly 50% of youth who applied for SYEP (over 70,000) were denied participation due to a lack of available capacity.⁷ CCC believes that there must be enough capacity for all youth to participate in this valuable program, and not merely those lucky enough to win the lottery. We look forward to working with the Council, the Administration, DYCD, the providers and the advocates to ensure SYEP can continue to grow in future years.

CCC also deeply appreciates the City Council creating Work, Learn, & Grow as an important component for providing job experience and opportunities to more New York City youth during the school year. Work, Learn, & Grow provides an important resource for SYEP youth who are ready to take on a longer job training and employment period by providing paid employment opportunities between October and April. This has proven to be incredibly valuable for participating youth. **CCC recommends that the \$19 million investment of one-year funding for Work, Learn, & Grow in last year's Adopted Budget be restored, baselined, and increased to address the January 2018 minimum wage increase.**

4) Increase Funding for Runaway and Homeless Youth Services.

Less than two weeks ago, the City Council passed an important package of Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) bills, which will increase the age of eligibility for RHY services from 21 to 25 and extend the amount of time youth can remain in RHY shelters. Given that 48 Council Members voted in support of these bills, we anticipate that these bills will become law. This is momentous and we thank the Council for its tremendous leadership in better meeting the needs of runaway and homeless youth and young adults.

As you know, the RHY system provides safe and developmentally appropriate shelter to some of the City's most vulnerable youth. Serving older youth and young adults, for longer timeframes will clearly require additional capacity in the RHY system to prevent displacing younger RHY.

CCC urges the Administration to include funding to address this new need in the upcoming Executive Budget. **Specifically, we ask the Administration to add \$10.2 million of funding to enable DYCD to add 100 beds for 21-24 year olds, add 15 RHY Housing Specialists, create two new drop-in centers, and increase Crisis/TIL contracts by 7%.**

⁷ 2017 Annual Summary – Summer Youth Employment Program. NYC Department of Youth and Community Development. Accessed on March 8, 2018. Available at https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/dycd/downloads/pdf/2017SYEP_Annual_Summary.pdf.

5) Restore and, Where Appropriate, Baseline City Council Initiatives

The City Council's leadership and commitment to youth services has been tremendous. The Council's consistent support has been instrumental to the successes seen through the many highly-regarded programs and the tens of thousands of youth who have benefitted.

We are especially appreciative of the programs and services that the City Council funded last year, many of which the Council has a long history of supporting. We hope to see these programs restored and baselined in the upcoming Executive Budget so that there is no need for the annual budget dance.

We hope to see the following Youth Services City Council initiatives restored and, where appropriate, baselined:

- **\$13.26 million for Cultural After-School Adventure (CASA) (DCLA)**
- **\$5.725 million for After-School Enrichment Initiative**
- **\$2.1 million for Youth Build Project Initiative**
- **\$1.2 million for Big Brothers Big Sister of New York City**
- **\$1.2 million for Sports Training and Role Models for Success Initiative (STARS)**
- **\$1.125 million for Physical Education and Fitness, which includes C.H.A.M.P.S, New York Junior Tennis League, and Small Schools Athletic League**
- **\$500,000 for Civic Education in New York City Schools**

In conclusion, we greatly appreciate the City Council's commitment to protecting, supporting, and championing youth services in New York City, as these services provide the support and opportunities that often provide the tangible difference for a youth's long-term success. We are hopeful that the Executive Budget can build upon the worthwhile investments in all these youth services programs with fully restored and baselined funding.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

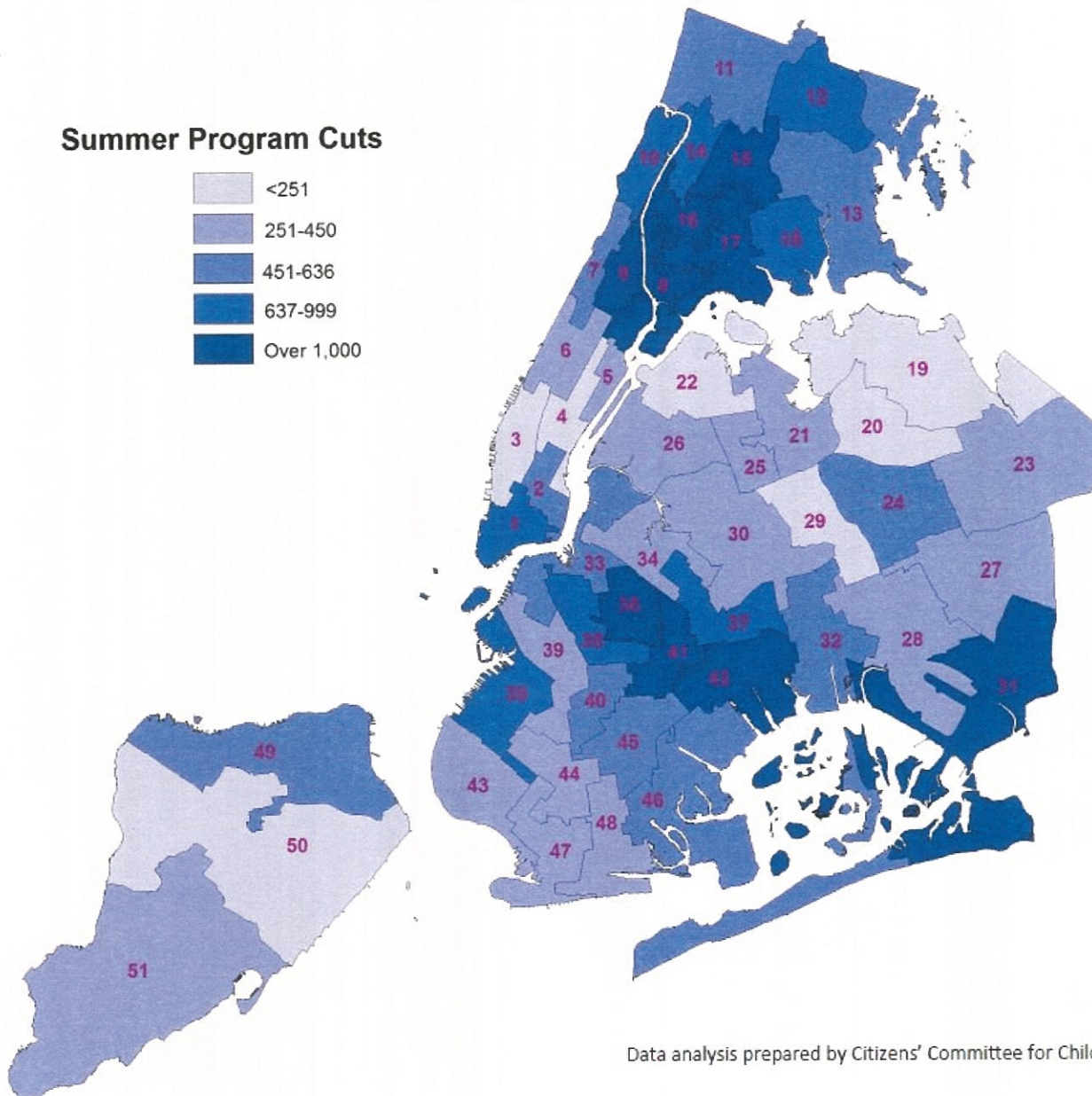
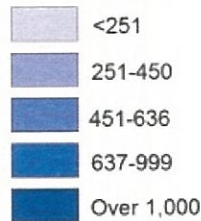
The City FY 2019 Budget Proposes to Cut Summer Programming for at least **34,000** Middle School Children throughout NYC

Campaign
for Children



Cuts by City Council District - FY 2019

Summer Program Cuts



Data analysis prepared by Citizens' Committee for Children.

Council Member	# of Summer Slots Due to Be Cut
Margaret Chin (1)	721
Carlina Rivera (2)	590
Speaker Corey Johnson (3)	190
Keith Powers (4)	0
Ben Kallos (5)	295
Helen Rosenthal (6)	305
Mark Levine (7)	576
Diana Ayala (8)	1,631
Bill Perkins (9)	1,157
Ydani Rodriguez (10)	758
Andrew Cohen (11)	490
Andy King (12)	885
Mark Gjonaj (13)	625
Fernando Cabrera (14)	726
Ritchie Torres (15)	1,107
Vanessa Gibson (16)	1,246
Rafael Salamanca, Jr. (17)	1,245
Ruben Diaz, Sr. (18)	886
Paul Vallone (19)	150
Peter Koo (20)	140
Francisco Moya (21)	282
Costa Constantinides (22)	220
Barry Grodenchik (23)	275
Rory Lancman (24)	605
Daniel Dromm (25)	435
Jimmy Van Bramer (26)	395
I. Daneek Miller (27)	315
Adrienne Adams (28)	410
Karen Koslowitz (29)	195
Robert Holden (30)	305
Donovan Richards (31)	1,231
Eric Ulrich (32)	597
Stephen Levin (33)	636
Antonio Reynoso (34)	450
Laurie Cumbo (35)	720
Robert Cornegy (36)	1,060
Rafael Espinal (37)	948
Carlos Menchaca (38)	711
Brad Lander (39)	347
Mathieu Eugene (40)	500
Alicka Ampry-Samuel (41)	1,533
Inez Barron (42)	1,482
Justin Brannan (43)	281
Kalman Yeger (44)	410
Jumanne Williams (45)	470
Alan Maisel (46)	537
Mark Treyger (47)	260
Chaim Deutsch (48)	366
Deborah Rose (49)	560
Steven Matteo (50)	250
Joe Borrelli (51)	410

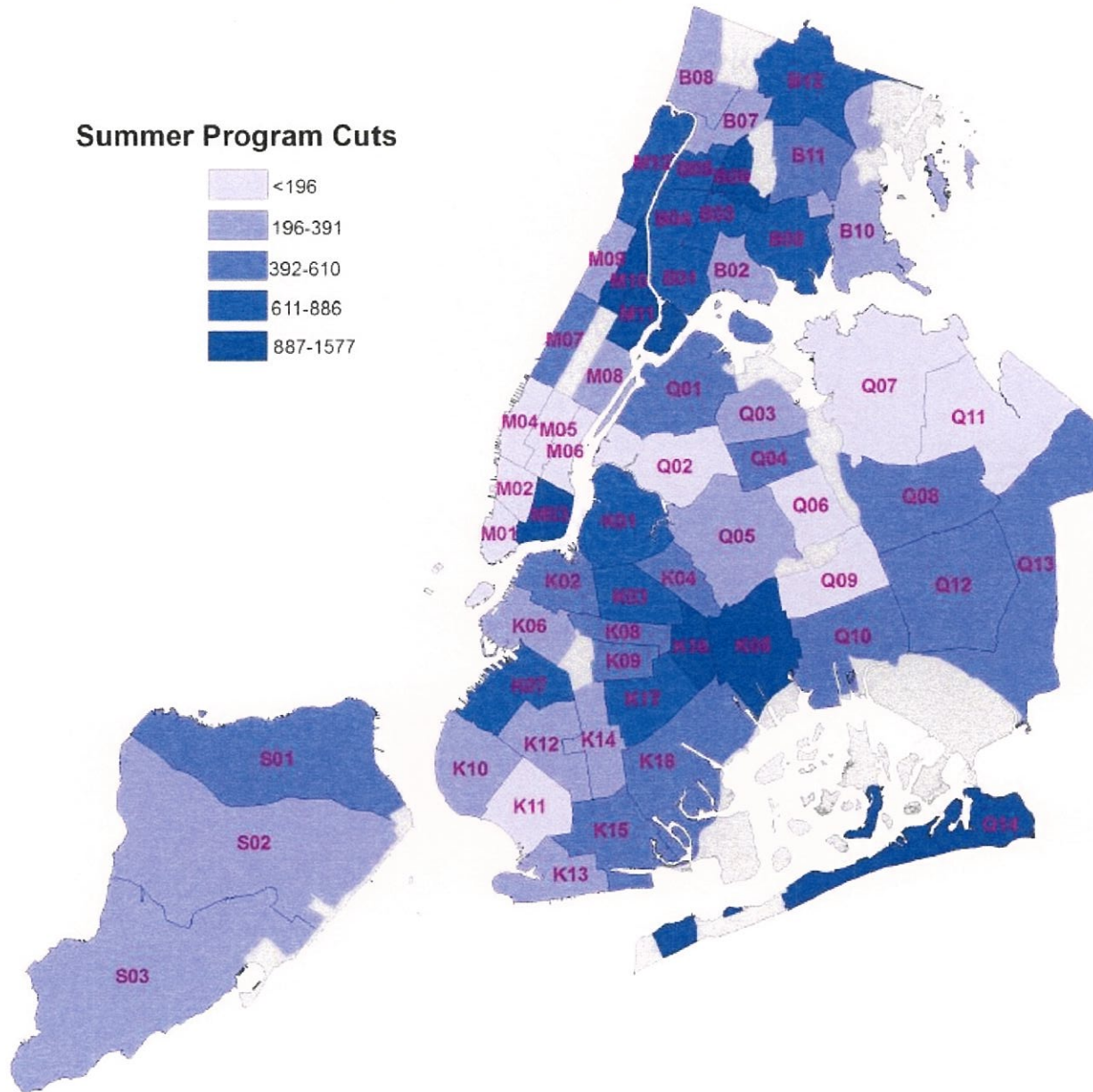
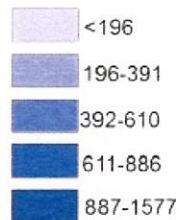
The City FY 2019 Budget Proposes to Cut Summer Programming for at least **34,000** Middle School Children throughout NYC

Campaign
for Children



Cuts by Community District – FY2019

Summer Program Cuts



Community District	# of Summer Slots Due to Be Cut
Bronx	
Mott Haven (B01)	870
Hunts Point (B02)	350
Morrisania (B03)	715
Concourse/Highbridge (B04)	816
University Heights (B05)	646
East Tremont (B06)	1097
Bedford Park (B07)	300
Riverdale (B08)	390
Unionport/Soundview (B09)	886
Throgs Neck (B10)	375
Pelham Parkway (B11)	500
Williamsbridge (B12)	735
Brooklyn	
Williamsburg/Greenpoint (K01)	671
Fort Greene/Brooklyn Hts (K02)	505
Bedford Stuyvesant (K03)	845
Bushwick (K04)	541
East New York (K05)	1319
Park Slope (K06)	391
Sunset Park (K07)	727
Crown Heights North (K08)	595
Crown Heights South (K09)	435
Bay Ridge (K10)	281
Bensonhurst (K11)	195
Borough Park (K12)	330
Coney Island (K13)	260
Flatbush/Midwood (K14)	335
Sheepshead Bay (K15)	442
Brownsville (K16)	1577
East Flatbush (K17)	671
Canarsie (K18)	591
Manhattan	
Battery Park/Tribeca (M01)	131
Lower East Side (M03)	1030
Chelsea/Clinton (M04)	190
Midtown Business District (M05)	100
Murray Hill/Stuyvesant (M06)	50
Upper West Side (M07)	526
Upper East Side (M08)	295
Manhattanville (M09)	265
Central Harlem (M10)	1087
East Harlem (M11)	1281
Washington Heights (M12)	798
Queens	
Astoria (Q01)	470
Sunnyside/Woodside (Q02)	145
Jackson Heights (Q03)	242
Elmhurst/Corona (Q04)	475
Ridgewood/Glendale (Q05)	305
Rego Park/Forest Hills (Q06)	195
Flushing (Q07)	185
Fresh Meadows/Briarwood (Q08)	555
Woodhaven (Q09)	80
Howard Beach (Q10)	491
Bayside (Q11)	105
Jamaica/St. Albans (Q12)	610
Queens Village (Q13)	560
The Rockaways (Q14)	1137
Staten Island	
St. George (S01)	510
South Beach (S02)	390
Tottenville (S03)	320



Testimony of

**Jamie Powlovich
Executive Director
Coalition for Homeless Youth**

Before the

**The New York City Council
Youth Services Committee**

On

**The Fiscal Year 2019 Preliminary Youth Services Budget and
The Fiscal 2018 Preliminary Mayor's Management Report**

March 16, 2018

Introduction

Good afternoon. My name is Jamie Powlovich, and I am the Executive Director of the Coalition for Homeless Youth (CHY), also known as the Empire State Coalition of Youth and Family Services. CHY has advocated for the needs of runaway and homeless youth (RHY) for nearly 40 years. The coalition is comprised of 60 providers of services to homeless youth across New York State, including 29 members in New York City. Our members include providers that are directly contracted to provide services to RHY as well as agencies that intersect with the RHY population within the larger scope of their work.

I would like to thank Chair Rose and the members of the Youth Services Committees for holding today's hearing. I would also like to thank Speaker Johnson and the council for their leadership in making long overdue changes to DYCD homeless youth system, through the recent passage of groundbreaking RHY legislation. It is unfortunate that in a city as progressive as NYC we had to pass laws to force the administration to do something that could have been done voluntarily, but are extremely grateful for the dedication of the City Council to do the right thing on behalf of the countless homeless young people and providers who have been pushing for these changes for several years.

Background

New York city has never adequately supported the needs of homeless young people or the providers that serve them. Although under the current Administration many positive steps have been made, we are still only touching the surface of meeting the need. Runaway and homeless youth as a population, are young people between the ages of 16 and 24, who have unique developmental needs and often fall between the cracks of the State's child welfare and adult homeless systems. DYCD contracts with various social service agencies to provide short-term crisis shelters, transitional living programs, drop-in centers and street outreach programs which offer food, shelter, case management, mental and medical health care, educational and vocational programming, legal services, programs for young mothers and a panoply of other services. Many homeless young people have previous experiences of trauma and with the juvenile and adult criminal justice systems,¹ a large percentage of youth have had both positive and negative experiences in foster care,² many lack a high school diploma or employment,³ and all have experienced neglect by the systems and adults that were supposed to support them and guide them into adulthood. For too long providers have struggled to meet the needs of the homeless youth in New York City with insufficient resources. Although the actual current number of homeless youth in NYC is unknown, a 2007 study by CHY and Columbia University estimated that on any given night there are 3,800 homeless youth sleeping on the streets of New York City.⁴ However, there are currently only 545 beds to offer them⁵.

Under Mayor Bloomberg, there were 253 RHY beds in the DYCD portfolio. Prior to Mayor Bloomberg leaving office, Legal Aid Society sued NYC for a right to shelter for homeless youth.⁶ Shortly after the lawsuit was filed, DYCD expedited the addition of 100 new crisis beds outside of the traditional RFP process, raising the number of beds to 353. In January 2016, Mayor de Blasio announced that he was adding 300 youth beds over three years,⁷ which will bring the total number of RHY beds to 753. CHY

¹Covenant House. 2014. "Homeless Youth - What We Know..." Available at: <http://ny.covenanthouse.org/homeless-youth-what-we-know>; Empire State Coalition of Youth and Family Services. 2008. "A Count of Homeless Youth in New York City." Available at: http://www.citylimits.org/images_pdfs/pdfs/HomelessYouth.pdf.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

⁴Empire State Coalition of Youth and Family Services. 2008. "A Count of Homeless Youth in New York City." Available at: http://www.citylimits.org/images_pdfs/pdfs/HomelessYouth.pdf.

⁵ Email correspondence with Department of Community Development, dated 2/12/18

⁶ A copy of Legal Aid's complaint can be found online here: <https://www.scribd.com/document/197344657/Legal-Aid-Society-Complaint-Re-Homeless-Youth>

⁷ Mayor's announcement can be found online here: <http://www1.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/news/032-16/mayor-de-blasio-dycd-commissioner-chong-hra-commissioner-banks-enhanced-services-to#/0>

commends DYCD for the work that they have done to bring new beds online. There are currently 557 beds online (321 TIL and 236 Crisis). Although this is a success, CHY continues to have concerns about the lack of attention that has been given to ensure that the DYCD portfolio has an adequate number of crisis beds, and hopes that of the remaining 196 beds that are yet to be up and running, that at least half are crisis.

Although providers have reported that the needed increase in beds has resulted in a significant reduction in monthly turnaways, DYCD has still not shown that they are able to provide beds for all youth seeking shelter. On the ground, agencies are still left in the heart-wrenching position of having to turn away youth who are seeking services due to lack of capacity. When a bed in a youth shelter is not available, providers are forced to refer youth to adult homeless shelters that are not developmentally appropriate, do not provide the comprehensive wraparound services offered by RHY programs and put the young person at risk of exploitation and physical risk. Additionally, youth continue to be reluctant to go to adult shelters out of fear, and not feeling confident that their needs will be met. Instead, many youth who are unable to access services spend their nights on the streets, in abandoned buildings or riding the subways, or risk sexual exploitation in order to gain a place to stay.

Being forced to live on the street puts youth at risk of experiencing violence, sexual exploitation and human trafficking. In a 2013 study by Fordham University and Covenant House New York, approximately one fourth of surveyed homeless youth either fit the federal definition of human trafficking or at some point felt they had no choice but to trade sex for food, money, or shelter.⁸ The trafficking survivors explained how pimps and other traffickers often take advantage of the thinly-stretched RHY shelter system, by informing youth that the shelters are full and offering a place to stay which will eventually lead to exploitation and trafficking.

Another critical population over-represented within NYC's homeless youth is LGBTQ people. Nationally, only 5-7% of all youth identify as LGBTQ, but the proportion of homeless youth who identify as LGBTQ is as high as 40%.⁹ Compared to other homeless youth, LGBTQ youth are more likely to be sexually or physically assaulted, more likely to be harassed, robbed, or become victims of hate crimes, and more likely to be forced into survival sex or sexual exploitation.

Without access to basic needs, such as food, clean clothes, and a consistent place to sleep, a young person facing homelessness is less likely to pursue or complete their education, less likely to find and sustain employment, and less able to maintain stable mental and physical health. CHY recently completed a three-year research study with NYU on the Impact of RHY programs on homeless youth and their effectiveness across the state. The study shows how effective RHY programs are at changing the trajectories of youth away from crime, chronic homelessness and public assistance and toward success and self-sufficiency, employment, and education along with building individual skills and increasing supportive relationships¹⁰.

Preliminary Budget

CHY is requesting an additional **\$10.2 million of funding in this year's FY 19 Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) budget.** This needed

⁸ <http://www.covenanthouse.org/sites/default/files/attachments/Covenant-House-trafficking-study.pdf>

⁹ Durso, L.E., & Gates, G.J. (2012). *Serving Our Youth: Findings from a National Survey of Service Providers Working with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Youth who are Homeless or At Risk of Becoming Homeless*. Los Angeles: The Williams Institute with True Colors Fund and The Palette Fund.

¹⁰ Gwadz, M., Freeman, R., Cleland, C.M., Ritchie, A.S., Leonard, N.R., Hughes, C., Powlovich, J., & Schoenberg, J. (2017). *Moving from crisis to independence: The characteristic, quality, and impact of specialized settings for runaway and homeless youth*. New York: Center for Drug Use and HIV Research, NYU Rory Meyers College of Nursing.

increase will support critical additions to the pre-existing RHY continuum, and aid in making NYC a national leader in the fight to end youth homelessness.

The requested funding will address a number of capacity gaps and future costs including:

1. Creating 100 DYCD RHY beds for youth ages 21-24yo.

A change in the New York State law now allows municipalities to opt into serving RHY up to their 25th birthday. Thanks to the recent passing of Int 0556-2018 New York City will be serving 21-24 year olds as homeless young adults, separate and apart from the DHS system. This is something that both youth and advocates have been advocating for, for years. To ensure that this new population of RHY does not take away from the beds that have already been funded for the 16-20yo population, we ask that funding be made available for an additional 100 beds to serve the 21-24yo homeless young adults.

2. Increasing 24-hour drop-in services to The Bronx and Brooklyn.

Over the past three years, DYCD has seen great success with their addition of two 24-hr Drop-in programs. However, we are constantly hearing from our members that they are regularly at maximum capacity. Given that these programs are often the only youth specific programs that youth can access at any time of day, and over the age of 21yo, we would recommend that they city fund additional 24-hr Drop-in sites in Brooklyn and The Bronx so that any youth in need of a place to go can have access without having to travel across boroughs.

3. Addition of 15 Housing Specialists to serve runaway and homeless youth.

DYCD data shows that, homeless youth rarely transition directly from homelessness (or shelter) to their own independent housing. CHY commends DYCD for collaborating with DSS to expand rental subsidy access to DYCD residents. However, unlike in DSS shelters, or in the foster care system, DYCD does not fund its programs to have housing specialists or staff specifically focusing on permanency planning. To ensure RHY successfully transition to their own apartments with DYCD/DSS issued vouchers, or other permanent housing resources, DYCD needs to award new funding to providers to hire Housing Specialists. This position would support residents in successfully obtaining safe, long-term housing.

4. Aligning current contract amounts with the real cost to run a program.

CHY applauds the city for already funding much needed increases to DYCD RHY contracts. RHY programs have been underfunded for far too long, and research shows that paying staff a more livable wage decreases staff turnover, and improves staff morale, both of which directly impact the experience of homeless young people at the programs. Although we do think that these increases will greatly benefit the programs, we also know that programs continue to struggle with capital costs and costs associated with programming to address the significant mental health and substance use needs of the youth that access services. To better support programs in strengthening the services for homeless youth, an additional 7% general contract increase should be awarded to all currently funded RHY programs.

Preliminary Mayors Management Report

CHY continues to have great concerns about the exaggeration of the success of RHY being “reunited with family or placed in a suitable environment” from the DYCD RHY system in the annual Mayors Management Report (MMR), based on a conversation with DYCD where they confirmed they are including discharge placement that are not suitable environments.

According to the MMR Indicator definitions, DYCD defines the outcome of the number of runaway and homeless youth that are "reunited with family or placed in a suitable environment" from TIL or crisis beds as the following: "The percent of youth, served through the Department's Runaway and Homeless Youth Program [crisis or transitional] shelters, who make the transition to independence or return to their families." In the 2017 MMR DYCD reported that 77% of youth in crisis shelters were "reunited with family or placed in a suitable environment from crisis shelters." However, FOIL'd data provided in testimony at the 2/13/18 RHY Oversight Hearing, not by CHY, on crisis discharges from 2017 show that only a total of 777 (23%) of the 3,444 duplicated-discharges from crisis beds returned home, transitioned to their own apartment, or transitioned to residential care/supportive housing, which are the discharge categories tracked by DYCD that CHY fall under the outcome "reunited with family or placed in a suitable environment." DYCD's MMR data reports that 88% of youth discharged from TIL beds in FY17 were "reunited with family or placed in a suitable environment from Transitional Independent Living (TIL) centers." However, the same FOIL'd data mentioned above shows that only a total of 124 (28%) of 445 duplicated discharges from TIL beds returned home, transitioned to their own apartment, or transitioned to residential care/supportive housing. There were also similarly concerning discrepancies discovered in the 2016 MMR.

Since bringing these concerns to the Mayor's Office and DYCD, CHY was told by DYCD that for the outcomes reported in the MMR they consider "transition to independence" to mean youth that are discharged from RHY programs to any known location. This includes: hospitalization, incarceration, the DHS shelter system and "Other Adult (not friend/family)" which programs often choose when a youth leaves a program to live with a pimp/trafficker. This is unacceptable. The fact that DYCD is publically reporting youth leaving their programs to jail and other potentially unsafe and exploitive situations as a success is baffling.

CHY has been and will continue to be in communication with city government, to resolve this and other related matters. CHY feels that that for the outcome of the amount of RHY being "reunited with family or placed in a suitable environment" from both crisis and TIL programs, that DYCD only include the percentage of RHY that return home, living with family, transitioned to their own apartment, or transitioned to residential care/supportive housing.

Conclusion

To conclude, the CHY is appreciative of the Mayor and DYCD's commitment to a successful and robust homeless youth services system. We are hopeful that the recommendations mentioned above will be considered and are available to support in any way deemed appropriate.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today.



The Committee for Hispanic Children and Families, Inc.

75 Broad Street, 6th Floor, New York NY 10004 T: 212-206-1090 F: 212-206-8093 www.chcfinc.org

Preliminary Budget Hearing Committees on Youth Services and Community Development Submitted by The Committee for Hispanic Children & Families, Inc. (CHCF) March 16, 2018

City's First Readers Initiative

Good Afternoon: My name is Diana Noriega and I am the Chief Program Officer for the Committee for Hispanic Children and Families. I am here today representing The Committee for Hispanic Children & Families, Inc. - known by its acronym, CHCF.

We commend Mayor de Blasio and the City Council for addressing the importance of early childhood education and the need for greater investment in our youngest constituents. A special thank you to Council Members Levin & Reynoso for supporting this initiative.

In light of our national political climate, we would also encourage continued, timely discussions around childhood literacy and community investments needed for all children, as well as the investment needed for the workforce that is responsible for educating them.

New York City is currently facing a literacy crisis that disproportionately affects children living in poverty and children of color. Approximately 56% of children under the age of 5 live in or near poverty in New York City. City-wide, only 16% of Black children and 17% of Latino children are proficient readers by grade three. Once these children fall behind, they are more likely to drop out of high school and face increased social and economic challenges.

Studies show that strong investments in early childhood literacy programming can help break cycles of poverty and CHCF sees the investment in initiatives, such as City's First Readers, as critical to helping close the achievement gap.

The partnership through City's First Readers not only promotes literacy development for the youngest of children, but provides necessary supports for the adults that are caring for and educating them - oftentimes, spending more than ten hours a day with children while their parents are working. Additionally, as part of this CFR Initiative, diverse agencies that work cross sector to improve literacy are given the opportunity to collaborate, share knowledge and resources, provide referrals for children and families, and engage collectively in outreach events.

As part of CHCF's Early Care & Education Institute, we provide culturally-informed, bilingual professional development to Family Child Care educators, to strengthen the quality of early care and learning to children. CHCF provides intensive coaching and training in Spanish in home-based early childhood programs, throughout the five boroughs of New York City.

In 2016-17, CHCF reached 17,000 families throughout New York City. The Early Care and Education Institute, through its multiservice and culturally informed approach, worked directly with over 1,400 child care educators and, thanks to City's First Readers Initiative, we were able to distribute books to 73 home-based licensed child care programs, directly benefitting over 300 children across New York City.



The Committee for Hispanic Children and Families, Inc.

75 Broad Street, 6th Floor, New York NY 10004 T: 212-206-1090 F: 212-206-8093 www.chcfinc.org

With an enhancement of \$6Million for City's First Readers, this vitally important work will only grow in NYC's early childhood communities. CHCF could expand the number of child care programs that receive early literacy toolkits to reach more children citywide. The enhancement would also allow CFR to build a citywide public awareness campaign to connect families and caregivers directly to programs and services to support school readiness and strengthen the infrastructure to capture and evaluate data.

Additional details about CHCF is contained in our written testimony.
Thank you for the opportunity to speak today.

The Committee for Hispanic Children & Families, Inc.

Vision

CHCF envisions a future where Latino children, youth, and families have equitable access to opportunities to succeed, are empowered to realize their full potential, and are affirmed in their culture.

Mission

CHCF combines education, capacity-building and advocacy to strengthen the support system and continuum of learning for children and youth.

Program Statements

Early Care & Education

The Early Care and Education Institute (EC&EI) provides culturally-informed, bilingual professional development to Family Child Care educators, to strengthen the quality of early care and learning to children in New York City.

Youth Development

We advocate for improved policies and legislation around access to education from birth to adulthood, heightened public awareness of the social and institutional frameworks that hinder opportunity for Latino communities, and the empowerment of these communities to directly mobilize for change.

Parent and Family Engagement

The Parent and Family Engagement arm of programming aims to connect and provide high quality resources and services to parents and families. CHCF aims to enhance families' knowledge and skills to ensure independent and confident community members who will be empowered to advocate for themselves, their families, and their communities.

Policy & Advocacy

We advocate for improved policies and legislation around access to education from birth to adulthood, heightened public awareness of the social and institutional frameworks that hinder opportunity for Latino communities, and the empowerment of these communities to directly mobilize for change.



The Committee for Hispanic Children and Families, Inc.

75 Broad Street, 6th Floor, New York NY 10004 T: 212-206-1090 F: 212-206-8093 www.chcfinc.org

NYC Council Committee on Youth Services Preliminary Budget Hearing

Testimony Submitted by The Committee for Hispanic Children & Families, Inc. (CHCF)

March 16, 2018

Good Afternoon: My name is Diana Noriega and I am the Chief Program Officer for the Committee for Hispanic Children and Families, known by its acronym, CHCF. CHCF is a non-profit organization with a 35-year history of combining education, capacity-building, and advocacy to strengthen the support system and continuum of learning for children and youth. CHCF holds a unique position in the advocacy world. Our direct service experience with providers, parents, and children and youth in the early childcare and preK-12 sectors allows us to gather direct feedback that informs our policy and advocacy work. We are positioned to move communication from the ground up, which is an essential part of CHCF's identity.

CHCF currently has Advantage After-School at PS 59 and PS/MS 279, serving 240 elementary school students. We have recently added 110 elementary students to the after-school program at PS 59 thanks to the Empire State after-school funding. We also serve 100 middle school students at PS/MS 279 through our SONYC program. These programs allow us to bring much needed child care for working families, engage students in high quality extended learning time programming, and provide a positive environment that mentors and supports our youth for three additional hours every day after school.

After 19 years of serving the community of PS/MS 279 and 8 years serving PS 59 community, we have grown a tremendous rapport and connection to our families and students. In light of threats to our funding, we have engaged our parents in meaningful discussions about the value and impact of our programming. Parents have overwhelmingly expressed how fortunate they feel to have access to high quality after school programming that they do not have to pay for and that supports their children and families in such a holistic and culturally affirming way. They have also made it clear that while they are so grateful for the services they have access to at PS 59 and PS/MS 279, there is still a tremendous need in their own schools and in neighboring schools. As of January 2018, the elementary program at PS/MS 279 had a waitlist of 95 students and the program at PS 59 had a waitlist of 51. We stop collecting waitlist information because we do not want to disillusion parents when we do not anticipate further funding to open up new seats. We know there are so many more schools with no comprehensive after-school programs – but clearly there is a need.

With this obvious need and value of services in mind, it is necessary to share that we are at risk of losing state funding for Advantage After-School, which allows us to serve 240 students between the two sites. This looming loss of funding is not due to a lack of high quality programming, but because of upstate budget trends with the Governor and the state legislature. With the cuts that were included in the Executive budget proposal, at least 3,600 after-school seats are at risk of being cut across the state. There are 1,962 seats through contracts that end in June 2018, including our 240 seats in the Bronx that will face gaps in service and not be guaranteed a new contract when the next RFP is released in 2019. It

should never come to this point. We must begin to create sustainable funding to protect these valuable programs for our families.

We commend the City Council for demonstrating their support over the years to youth programs and would like to particularly thank you for your recent support of the expansion of Summer Youth Employment, elementary after-school programs, summer camp programs and more. We also commend Mayor de Blasio and DYCD Commissioner Chong on the Schools Out NYC initiative, which provides free after-school for New York City's middle school students.

While an Afterschool for All campaign might be a challenge to pursue this year, we hope the Council considers not cutting funding for summer programs for middle school students; and, baselining, restoring and increasing elementary after-school funding. Increasing expanded learning time funding to support the social emotional, academic enrichment, college and career readiness, and cognitive development of our children who deserve access to a high quality inclusive education that goes beyond the classroom is an imperative component of an educational equity agenda. There needs to be a commitment to an ongoing expansion of funding and programming, not a reduction.

As a partner with the Network for Youth Success, we share in their belief in the value of after-school programming:

- High-quality afterschool programs have a proven track record of improving students' achievement in school.
 - Providing students with consistent enrichment activities such as music, art, sports, conflict resolution, cultural experiences, and other alternative ways of learning, afterschool learning improves students' social skills, gives them more confidence, creates higher educational and career aspirations, and motivates them to consistently attend school.
 - After-school programs serve as an economic support for families. A study of programs in New York City found that 74 percent of parents said they could more easily keep their job than before because of the program and 73% missed less work.
 - Public funding for after-school is widely supported – in fact, 84 percent of parents surveyed in a poll by Afterschool Alliance are in support of such funding.
 - High-quality afterschool programs are endorsed by law enforcement organizations because they are effective in reducing violence, theft, vandalism, gang activity, and other adolescent crimes.
 - Consistent participation in quality afterschool programs helps reduce the risk of youth experimenting with alcohol and other dangerous drugs, and teen pregnancy.
 - After-school has a tremendous investment rate for public funding. In an independent study conducted by the Rose Institute at Claremont McKenna College in 2002, researchers found that every dollar invested in high quality afterschool programs saves taxpayers roughly \$3.14.14 If benefits from crime reduction are factored in, each dollar invested in an at-risk child saves \$8-\$12.
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After our policy brief, *Solutions Out of Struggle and Survival*, we have focused on 6 proposals that we want to focus on funding in the FY19 budget of the City of New York. We have presented versions of these proposals to staff in City agencies, but we seek City Council support to put these items in the budget if the Mayor does not. If Council adds this funding, we ask that Council provide this money to agencies in the Adopted Budget, and the agencies will engage in procurement. Regardless of who funds these programs, we want TGNC community members assisting in crafting and reviewing procurements.

TGNC Employment Program

Proposed Agencies: DYCD and HRA

Proposed Cost: \$6.46m

Funding for a program that can work with TGNC youth and adults (in separate cohorts, given unique needs of both populations) and prepare them for careers. Staff will connect program participants to employment programs or job openings. Staff will also provide orientation on soft skills needed in the employment field, orientation on issues that are specific to TGNC people when in jobs, and cultivation of employers and other employment programs that are safe and affirming referrals for TGNC people seeking employment. Staff will have to act as advocates for TGNC people in navigating jobs, ensuring nondiscrimination, and creating safe work environments. Funding includes \$1.83m for staffing (which can be broken into a staff for the youth program and a staff for the adult program), \$4.4m for subsidized wages, \$183,000 for evaluation, and \$50,000 for advertising. There must be a TGNC community consultation process to review responses to RFPs for this program, and preference should be given in awards to smaller organizations that can demonstrate a long-standing connection to the community.

TGNC Rental Assistance Program Pilot

Proposed Agency: HRA

Proposed Cost: \$4.1m

A pilot to provide a special rental assistance program for TGNC people, given the community's disproportionately high homeless rates. This would pay for 200 TGNC people to use a special category of rental assistance focused on TGNC people, and it would also pay for 20 case managers to help participants find housing, deal with any potential discrimination issues that may arise with landlords, and assist with other wraparound needs. Outyear costs may be modified in line with demand for the program.

TGNC Immigration Lawyer Training

Proposed Agency: MOIA

Proposed Cost: \$100,000

Funding for a pilot number of 5 non-profits (with grants of approximately \$20,000 each) to conduct training, geared for immigration attorneys, that educates about TGNC people and the means of attaining specialized visas (e.g., U Visas, which are for survivors of crimes that inflicted physical or mental abuse) that are most useful in helping undocumented TGNC people maintain safe residence in the US.

TGNC Immigration Lawyer Staffing

Proposed Agencies: MOIA and HRA

Proposed Cost: \$715,000

Funding for 5 non-profits (each receiving \$143,000 to cover wage, fringe, and overhead costs of hiring one attorney) to hire lawyers that are knowledgeable of both the visas that TGNC undocumented people need, and TGNC community needs. Grants should be made to cover the cost of a staff member.

TGNC Healthcare Liaison Program

Proposed Agencies: HHC and DOHMH

Proposed Cost: \$820,000

Funding for staff at city hospitals that can act as case managers and advocates for TGNC patients, to help enforce peoples' rights within the health care system and make sure every part of their care team is in communication to make the best possible health care outcomes. The TGNC Healthcare Liaisons should also work on issues that are not TGNC-specific, e.g., diabetes, pulmonary care, etc. This should also include an extra \$50,000 for advertising the service to the community.

Comprehensive Training/Evaluation of NYPD and Community on NYPD/TGNC Community Issues

Proposed Agency: CCRB

Proposed Cost: \$50,000

TGNC organizations should once again take part in the training process of NYPD officers, and make changes to NYPD training as soon as possible. Furthermore, funding should be provided for an evaluation of this new training with TGNC-led organizations taking a major role in the evaluation process (\$25,000), and \$25,000 should be provided to community organizations to inform the TGNC community about *their* rights in interactions with police.

Good afternoon members of the City Council, my name is Mateo Guerrero-Tabares, and I am the Leadership Development Coordinator at Make the Road New York, as well as an organizational participant in the Transgender and Gender Nonconforming (TGNC) Solutions Coalition. Today I am here to testify on the urgency and necessity that there is to provide transgender and gender nonconforming immigrant youth of color access to immigration lawyers.

I migrated from Colombia in 2010 with both of my parents. While living in Colombia my parents and I had dreamt about housing and food stability, and the opportunity for me to be college educated, and thought that by migrating to the US we would be able to provide for our family. The first year after our arrival it was extremely challenging, my family structure broke after I shared with my father that I was a lesbian (at the time). My father and I spent two months of heavy arguments before he decided to move back to Colombia, ending communication with me. However, my mother Maria Guerrero was, has been and still is the person who has supported and nourished my academic, personal and emotional growth. It was through her support and love that I was able to continue to thrive despite the emotional experiences I was going through. She encouraged me to find community spaces with youth who I could connect with. That is when I arrived to the youth program at Make the Road. During my years of high school I spent my time between school, work and volunteering at Make the Road, especially when DACA was announced in 2012. This announcement was very exciting because I had already been involved for a couple of months and it was a product of our collective efforts, but also because I thought I would be able to qualify. However, I quickly realized that I couldn't qualify because because I hadn't arrived prior to 2007, which was the cutoff date for applicants. It was a difficult moment, but I remained involved because many of my friends and people I love were able to qualify.

The lawyers at Make the Road also kept trying, they screened me, and realized that I could apply for SIJ, a Special Immigrant Juvenile Status given to undocumented youth under the age of 21 who have been abandoned by at least one of their parents or are in the foster care system, and who can demonstrate fear of returning to their country of origin. The lawyers helped me apply and the organizers gave me the emotional support to be in courts. We were successful, it took a community effort to advocate for me to be a permanent resident today. My case was the second successful case the lawyers applied, and now there are between 100-150 SIJ cases that Make the Road files a year.

Therefore, as a transgender immigrant and young person of color, I am here to demonstrate the importance of having immigration lawyers that understand the complexities of immigrant communities, and especially of lawyers that have gone through cultural and sensitivity trainings. We need lawyers that can connect with Transgender and gender Nonconforming youth and adults to provide the stability and a relief from the constant fear of being deported to our deaths.

Through the forums organized by the TGNC Solutions Coalition, the recommendations that emerged are:

- Provide funding for non-profits to conduct training, geared for immigration attorneys, that educates about the means of attaining specialized visas (e.g., U Visas, which are for survivors of crimes that inflicted physical or mental abuse) that are most useful in helping undocumented TGNC people maintain safe residence in the US. (Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs
- Provide funding for non-profits to hire more attorneys citywide that can specialize in the aforementioned TGNC-sensitive immigration law.

Testimony of Andrea Bowen before the Committee on Youth
Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming (TGNC) funding needs in FY19
March 16, 2018

Good afternoon, Chair Rose, and members and staff of the Committee on Youth Services. My name is Andrea Bowen, and I'm a consultant working on behalf of what is informally known as the Transgender and Gender Nonconforming (TGNC) Solutions Coalition, which includes the Anti-Violence Project, the Audre Lorde Project, GMHC, the LGBT Community Center, Make the Road New York, Sylvia Rivera Law Project, and the TransLatina Network. These organizations are working in concert to advocate for a series of policy and budget items that, if funded, will improve the lives of the transgender and gender-nonconforming (TGNC) community.

Starting in 2015, these organizations, alongside TGNC community members across the City, organized forums for TGNC people in each of the five boroughs of New York City, following encouragement from New York City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito, and the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Caucus of the New York City Council. Five forums were held over the course of a year and a half with 591 participants. While the City government has done much to support TGNC people, greater work and community consultation is needed to identify remaining problems and potential solutions.

Last November, the aforementioned organizations released *Solutions Out of Struggle and Survival*, a brief on policy and budget items drawn from the recommendations of the community forums, bringing attention to TGNC community needs in the areas of education, employment, healthcare, housing, immigration, and policing and violence.

From the many recommendations outlined in *Solutions Out of Struggle and Survival*, we recommend that several receive funding in the FY19 budget of the City of New York. We have presented versions of these proposals to staff in City agencies, but we seek City Council support to put these items in the budget if the Mayor does not. If Council adds this funding, we ask that Council provide this money to agencies in the Adopted Budget, and the agencies will engage in procurement. Regardless of who funds these programs, we want TGNC community members assisting in crafting and reviewing procurements. I will include at the end of this written testimony our complete collection of budget asks, but I will focus on our asks relating to the Committee on Youth Services' purview in this testimony.

TGNC Employment Program
Proposed Agency: HRA and DYCD
Proposed Cost: \$6.46m

TGNC community members face a crisis of unemployment. A 2015 NY health and human services survey showed that 36.8% of TGNC NYC respondents reported having been unfairly not hired, and 26.4% reported being unfairly fired.¹ 16.2% of TGNC NYC respondents were neither employed nor in school, compared to

¹ Frazer, M. S., Dumont, M. S., & Howe, E. E. (2017). Custom Data Request: Transgender and Gender Nonconforming New Yorkers: An analysis of data from the 2015 LGBT Health and Human Services Needs Assessment. Strength in Numbers Consulting Group, Inc.

9.9% of cisgender (non-transgender) LGB respondents. Nationwide, transgender people of color report five times the unemployment rate of the general US population.²

While there are a handful of programs to address youth unemployment, especially for youth who are out of school and out of work, TGNC youth face unique challenges. What happens when a young person's legal name doesn't match their preferred name? How do you tackle that kind of problem when filling out certain kinds of paperwork for a job? How do you find an employer who will accept you as you are? What happens if you have to go through a background check, and that turns up the fact that someone's preferred name and gender identity do not match the public record? What happens when a young person may have presented as one gender to a previous employer, but now, while seeking a reference, has to come out to that former employer as *another* gender? What happens if someone has only ever worked in the street economy—how does someone convert skills in that environment to employment within the world of taxable income? An employment program that specifically focuses on TGNC youth could help youth navigate these issues.

Thus, we seek funding for a program that can work with TGNC youth and adults (in separate cohorts, given unique needs of both populations), and prepare them for careers. Staff will connect program participants to employment programs or job openings. Staff will also provide orientation on soft skills needed in the employment field, orientation on issues that are specific to TGNC people when in jobs, and cultivation of employers and other employment programs that are safe and affirming referrals for TGNC people seeking employment. Staff will have to act as advocates for TGNC people in navigating jobs, ensuring nondiscrimination, and creating safe work environments. Funding includes \$1.83m for staffing (which can be broken into a staff for the youth program and a staff for the adult program), \$4.4m for subsidized wages, including stipends where appropriate, \$183,000 for evaluation, and \$50,000 for advertising. There must be a TGNC community consultation process to review responses to RFPs for this program, and preference should be given in awards to smaller organizations that can demonstrate a long-standing connection to the community. This program should also reach undocumented people, the formerly incarcerated, and especially vulnerable TGNC people.

Funding for this program should be baselined so training can expand and staff can be retained through at least four years.

We appreciate your attention to this issue. If you would like to discuss it further, you can contact me at andy@bowenpublicaffairs.com or 917-765-3014.

² James, S. E., Herman, J. L., Rankin, S., Keisling, M., Mottet, L., & Anafi, M. (2016). The Report of the 2015 U.S. Transgender Survey. Washington, DC: National Center for Transgender Equality. Available at <http://www.transequality.org/sites/default/files/docs/usts/USTS%20Full%20Report%20-%20FINAL%201.6.17.pdf>



Expanded-upon policy and budget solutions for transgender and gender non-conforming (TGNC) New Yorkers

March 16, 2018

After our brief on policy and budget solutions for TGNC New Yorkers, *Solutions Out of Struggle and Survival* (available at avp.org/solutions), we—a coalition composed of the Anti-Violence Project, the Audre Lorde Project, GMHC, the LGBT Community Center, Make the Road New York, Sylvia Rivera Law Project, and the TransLatina Network—have focused on 6 proposals that we want to focus on funding in the FY19 budget of the City of New York. We have presented versions of these proposals to staff in City agencies, but we seek City Council support to put these items in the budget. If Council adds this funding, we ask that Council provide this money to agencies in the Adopted Budget, and the agencies will engage in procurement. Furthermore, we want TGNC community members assisting in crafting and reviewing procurements. **All proposed programs should reach undocumented people, those who have experience with police, jails, and incarceration, and other especially vulnerable TGNC people.**

TGNC Employment Program	Proposed Agencies: DYCD and HRA	Proposed Cost: \$6.46m
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Funding for a program that can work with TGNC youth and adults in separate cohorts, and prepare them for careers. Staff will connect program participants to employment programs or job openings. Staff will also provide orientation on soft skills needed in the employment field, orientation on issues that are specific to TGNC people when in jobs, and cultivation of employers and other employment programs that are safe and affirming referrals for TGNC people seeking employment. Staff will have to act as advocates for TGNC people in navigating jobs, ensuring nondiscrimination, and creating safe work environments. Funding includes \$1.83m for staffing (which can be broken into a staff for the youth program and a staff for the adult program), \$4.4m for subsidized wages (including stipends where necessary), \$183,000 for evaluation, and \$50,000 for advertising. There must be a TGNC community consultation process to review responses to RFPs for this program, and preference should be given in awards to smaller organizations that can demonstrate a long-standing connection to the community.

TGNC Rental Assistance Program Pilot	Proposed Agency: HRA	Proposed Cost: \$4.1m
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A pilot to provide a special rental assistance program for TGNC people, given the community's disproportionately high homeless rates. This would pay for 200 TGNC people to use a special category of rental assistance focused on TGNC people, and it would also pay for 20 case managers to help participants find housing, deal with any potential discrimination issues that may arise with landlords, and assist with other wraparound needs. Outyear costs may be modified in line with demand for the program.

TGNC Immigration Lawyer Training	Proposed Agency: MOIA	Proposed Cost: \$100,000
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Funding for a pilot number of 5 non-profits (with grants of approximately \$20,000 each) to conduct training, geared for immigration attorneys, that educates about TGNC people and the means of attaining specialized visas (e.g., U Visas, which are for survivors of crimes that inflicted physical or mental abuse) that are most useful in helping undocumented TGNC people maintain safe residence in the US.

TGNC Immigration Lawyer Staffing	Proposed Agencies: MOIA and HRA	Proposed Cost: \$715,000
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Funding for 5 non-profits (each receiving \$143,000 to cover wage, fringe, and overhead costs of hiring one attorney) to hire lawyers that are knowledgeable of both the visas that TGNC undocumented people need, and TGNC community needs. Grants should be made to cover the cost of a staff member.

TGNC Healthcare Liaison Program	Proposed Agencies: HHC and DOHMH	Proposed Cost: \$820,000
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Funding for staff at city hospitals that can act as case managers and advocates for TGNC patients, to help enforce peoples' rights within the health care system and make sure every part of their care team is in communication to make the best possible health care outcomes. The TGNC Healthcare Liaisons should also work on issues that are not TGNC-specific, e.g., diabetes, pulmonary care, etc. This should also include an extra \$50,000 for advertising the service to the community.

Training/Evaluation on NYPD/TGNC Community Issues	Proposed Agency: CCRB	Proposed Cost: \$50,000
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TGNC organizations should once again take part in the training process of NYPD officers, and make changes to NYPD training as soon as possible. Furthermore, funding should be provided for an evaluation of this new training with TGNC-led organizations taking a major role in the evaluation process (\$25,000), and \$25,000 should be provided to community organizations to inform the TGNC community about *their* rights in interactions with police.



Testimony of

Natasha Jones

Director of Youth Leadership and Engagement

The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center

In response to the

New York City Council's Preliminary Budget Hearing

Youth Services

Submitted on March 16, 2018

To the

New York City Council

Committee on Youth Services

City Hall, Committee Room

New York, NY 10007

THE CENTER

Good afternoon, my name is Natasha Jones and I serve as the Director of Youth Leadership and Engagement at The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center, or The Center; and I am thankful to Youth Services Committee Chair Rose and members of the Committee for the opportunity to be here with you today.

As the federal government continually works to eradicate lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) people from the fabric of society, the need for high-quality youth programming and funding in New York City that prioritizes LGBTQ youth heightens as each-day passes. Importantly, high-quality youth programming must be inclusive of LGBTQ youth from all different walks of life no matter their skill levels. We must allow all LGBTQ youth a fighting chance to overcome multiple facets of discrimination they face for being LGBTQ, in tandem with other identities they may hold including race, religion, and disability just to name a few.

Recognizing this, Center youth utilizes a multi-tier approach ensuring that members of our youth program are equipped with a community of peers, academic support, and leadership development skills, all of which are critical in helping them learn to lead healthy, successful lives.

Creating or finding safe spaces that do not judge — but rather celebrate and uplift — LGBTQ youth for their sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression can be extremely difficult. This complexity leads many Center youth participants to seeking an environment where they can find friends, mentors, and role models that are a part of the LGBTQ community. As you know, there is great power in a young person seeing positive role models experiencing affirmative life outcomes by people that may look like them, sound like them, or come from a similar familial upbringing. Center youth's community of young folks and alumni is a great example of just this. Currently, The Center offers youth drop-in groups for individuals that identify as young men and young women. Additionally, our "Gender X" group allows transgender and gender non-conforming youth & youth exploring their identities to come up with questions and discuss what they are currently experiencing with their sexual & gender identity with their peers. By cultivating identity-specific, drop-in discussion groups, youth freely examine the full

THE CENTER

spectrum of what their sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression can be without judgment, without shame, and most importantly, alongside community — not alone.

Because building community is an ongoing process, Center youth are encouraged to expand the ways in which they multiply their friend group by participating in The Center's academic and career development programs. Here, Center youth learn a myriad of academic, career, and leadership development skills including developing their professional elevator pitch, how to write a cover letter, and how to facilitate a drop-in group. With a strong focus on economic empowerment, Center youth's programming also teaches participants how to become financially independent. As you may know, LGBTQ youth are disproportionately affected by homelessness because their families frequently do not accept their sexual orientation and gender identity. Having to learn how to be financially independent and self-sufficient alongside facing rejection from their families is a lot to thrust upon LGBTQ youth. Therefore, Center youth's economic empowerment models are about two things: surviving and thriving. Through City funding, Center youth are placed in real, meaningful work experiences that help them pay for clothing, food, and shelter. Helping LGBTQ youth be financially stable means LGBTQ youth stay alive and thrive through career development and financial literacy in a place that affirms their identities and ultimately results in their success.

As I mentioned earlier, many queer and trans youth face the harsh reality of navigating housing and food insecurity quickly, if not immediately, after they have decided to live authentically. Open 365 days a year, Center youth provides access to resources including linkage to food pantries and housing through partnerships with organizations like Ali Forney Center. However, Center youth also provides a space where LGBTQ youth needn't worry about housing or food insecurity, but rather just about being a kid. Our "LGBTQ Leadership Camp," allows queer and trans youth get to experience the joy of a free week-long sleepaway camp outside the city, surrounded by friends that have more likely than not become chosen family.

Truly, the question is not why should the city fund programs that serve LGBTQ youth like The Center's, but rather how can it not. By funding and prioritizing programming that focuses on LGBTQ youth, the city allows LGBTQ youth to define success for themselves in a space that

THE CENTER

dramatically increases their chances at success . LGBTQ youth frequently cannot do this inside of their schools or in their homes. So they seek out after-school programs, like Center youth, to be able find a place that celebrates them as individuals while simultaneously uplifting them. Our programming ultimately encourages LGBTQ youth to stay in school and reach their personal potential in life. For queer and trans youth, the fact that their city funds LGBTQ programs means their city cares about more than just providing bare necessities like housing, food, and clothing; what it really means is that youth know their city believes in them as people and the value of their authentic selves including their sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression.

Testimony:
Hector Batista
Chief Executive Officer
Big Brothers Big Sisters of New York City

FOR THE RECORD

Youth Services Committee Hearing
March 16, 2018

Good afternoon, my name is Hector Batista and I am the CEO of Big Brothers Big Sisters of NYC. On behalf of the wonderful agency I am honored to lead, and on behalf of the youth and families we serve citywide, I would like to thank Council Member Rose and the Youth Services Committee for the opportunity to testify before you today.

As you may know, Big Brothers Big Sisters of NYC is the nation's first, and the city's largest, youth mentoring organization. We inherently believe that every young person has the ability to succeed and thrive in life. Our mission to give all of NYC's youth who face adversity an opportunity to experience a strong and enduring mentoring relationship that will help them realize their potential, support them towards a path to success, and strengthen our communities citywide. At the heart of our work are the meaningful, long-lasting, one-to-one mentoring relationships we foster and support between youth and caring adult volunteers in making a positive impact on young people's lives.

Thanks to the City Council's ongoing, continuous partnership and support, we have been able to reach more youth citywide. From 2012 to 2017, we served 54% more youth, and last year served over 5,500 NYC youth. We achieved significant academic success for our Littles, and in the last 5 years:

- 98% of our Littles were promoted to the next grade;
- 98% of our Senior Littles successfully graduated high school on time; and
- 92% of our graduating Seniors were accepted into college.

As an institution in the youth mentoring field, Big Brothers Big Sisters of NYC is looking ahead on how we can best support our youth in accessing tomorrow's opportunities and in ensuring their future success. As an agency, we are doing this by increasing their pathway opportunities and closing the mentoring gap for our city's underserved LGBTQ+ youth and immigrant youth.

This year, Big Brothers Big Sisters of NYC is launching a youth mentoring initiative for LGBTQ+ youth. Of the LGBTQ+ youth we serve:

- Academic self-confidence and family relationships are the two major issues they are struggling with;
- 20% were unsure of their ability to graduate high school; and
- 93% were promoted to the next grade vs. 99% of our general youth served population.

Through Big Brothers Big Sisters of NYC's mentoring model, we hope to provide support for NYC's underserved LGBTQ+ youth in an inclusive and supportive manner as they transition into adults. We have already make a difference in helping them to achieve their self-confidence goals by 76 percentage points and academic goals by 47 percentage points after 12 months in our program. With the City Council's support, our goal is to expand mentoring services to provide more one-to-one mentors for LGBTQ+ youth and create inclusive, safe-space peer-to-peer discussions that support positive outcomes.

For immigrant youth, many of the youth we serve are first or second generation. Without effective supports, immigrant youth are more likely to experience poor educational and life outcomes. They often struggle with the cultural divide between the new community they live in and the cultural heritage of their family. With the support of the City Council, our goal is to expand mentoring services to provide more one-to-one mentors for immigrant youth and help them adjust to our city's community, expose them to new experiences, enhance their self-esteem and improve their social and academic skills. In fact, 59% of our college-bound Littles are from immigrant households.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of NYC has been successful in gaining academic achievements for our Littles by providing them with access to additional academic supports and resources. However, the agency has the opportunity to further support them towards college success and we are doing that by extending our support for our matches through our Littles' sophomore year of college. We recognize that college access and acceptance is only the beginning, and we want to ensure the long-term success of our youth by providing the support of a mentor through their critical first year of college – especially as 73% of our college-bound Littles are first-generation college students.



Big Brothers Big Sisters
of New York City

THE POWER TO CHANGE LIVES®

Thanks to the City Council's partnership and ongoing support, we have been able to reach more of our city's at-risk youth. Looking ahead, Big Brothers Big Sisters of NYC is looking to deepen and strengthen its impact on our city's young people's lives.

For FY2019, our agency respectfully requests continued support of \$1.2 million in expense funds from the New York City Council to increase pathway opportunities for our city's youth by closing the mentoring gap for LGBTQ+ youth and immigrant youth.

With the City Council's support, we aim to serve:

- 800 youth through Professional Opportunity Days
- 400 youth through our Workplace Mentoring Center Program
- 200 youth through our Community-Based Mentoring Program

Our work is invaluable to the youth, families, schools, and organizations we serve, and sustained funding from the City Council will enable us to provide the city's underserved youth the opportunity to receive the countless benefits associated with having a caring adult mentor supporting their development.

Thank you again for your time and consideration today. I hope Big Brothers Big Sisters of New York City can once again count on your support.



**Big Brothers Big Sisters
of New York City**

THE POWER TO CHANGE LIVES®

Big Brothers Big Sisters of New York City | FAST FACTS

FY19 Citywide Initiative Funding Request: \$1.2 million in restoration

To increase pathway opportunities for our city's youth by closing the mentoring gap for underserved LGBTQ+ youth and immigrant youth.

- 800 Professional Opportunity Days
- 400 Workplace Mentoring Program
- 200 Community-Based Program

City Council Funding Citywide Impact

- FY17: Mentored 1,400 youth
- FY18: Mentoring 1,104 youth (as of February 2018 out of 1,400)

Satellite offices in Staten Island, Queens, Brooklyn, and the Bronx with 3 full-time Community Outreach Coordinators on staff

FY17 Youth Served Demographics

- 5,505 **youth** served (54% **female** Littles | 46% **male** Littles)
- Over 85% of youth served live in **low to moderate income households** (based on self-reported data)
- 57% of youth served live in **single-parent households**
- 61% of youth served reside in our city's **highest risk neighborhoods** (based on Citizens' Committee for Children's Community Risk Ranking)
- 41% of youth served are African-American/Black, 35% Hispanic/Latino, 12% Asian, and 8% Multi-Ethnic
- 35% of our Littles are first or second-generation **immigrant youth**
- 73% of our freshman Littles are **first-generation college students**
- 59% of our freshman Littles are **immigrant college students**
- Serving youth in all five boroughs: 3% Staten Island; 28% Manhattan, 14% Queens, 29% Brooklyn, 26% Bronx

FY17 Agency wide Impact

- 50% of our Littles enter into our program failing in school; after 12-months of mentoring 75% of our Littles are no longer failing
- 99% of our Littles were promoted to the next grade level
- 99% of our Senior Littles graduated from high school
- 93% of our graduating Senior Littles were accepted into college



**Big Brothers Big Sisters
of New York City**

THE POWER TO CHANGE LIVES®

New York City Council
FY 2019 Preliminary Budget Hearing
Youth Services Committee
Friday, March 16, 2018

Extending the Vision of Arthur Ashe who believed that
“Through tennis, lives can be changed and spirits reclaimed.”

Submitted on behalf of:
New York Junior Tennis & Learning (NYJTL)
58-12 Queens Blvd
Queens, NY 11377
George Guimaraes
President and CEO

Presented by
Scott Daly
Director of Community Tennis

Thank you for the New York City Council's longstanding support of ***New York Junior Tennis & Learning*** (NYJTL) legally incorporated and funded as the **New York Junior Tennis League, Inc.** We are the largest and most successful scholastic tennis program in the country, serving as a model for other states. For over 46 years, NYJTL has been a driving force for New York City's youth and tennis communities, annually reaching over **85,000** youngsters throughout the five boroughs.

With the NYC Council as our partner, NYJTL is offering the youth of our city much more than the chance just to learn tennis. The overwhelming majority of the young people we serve are Black, Latino, Asian, and new immigrant populations. Virtually all come from low-income families and neighborhoods where young people lack access to the opportunities typically available only to youth in affluent neighborhoods, suburbs, and private schools.

NYJTL addresses issues of economic and educational inequities by giving **ALL children**, including children with special needs, the opportunity to learn the sport of tennis—and just as importantly -- the opportunity to become physically fit; the opportunity to reach new educational heights; and the opportunity to expand their horizons beyond their immediate world. NYJTL helps young people build self-esteem and learn the affirmative values of perseverance, cooperation, fairness and respect.

NYJTL brings tennis to thousands of children of all economic, social, and cultural backgrounds. **Funded under the Council's Physical Education & Fitness Initiative, NYJTL provides quality tennis, educational programming, and character development in EVERY Council District throughout the city:**

- **Community Tennis Program (CTP)** - CTP reaches children throughout the five boroughs by supplying trained coaches, tennis instruction, match play, educational services, and special events to youth ages 5-18 during Spring, Summer and Fall. In our educational component, we provide a Reading Club, USTA ACE curriculum for our 4th and 5th graders,

free Princeton Review classes for our 11th graders and Nutrition/Healthy Living curriculum presentations in partnership with Emblem Health. CTP holds over 15 tennis tournaments for all ages throughout the year. We provide trips to Arthur Ashe Kids Day, US Open Qualifiers and multiple Mets/Yankees games. In addition, last year alone, CTP provided tennis to over 1,000 Special Population/ District 75 children. Finally, CTP develops not only tennis skills but also the character of youth through positive life experiences.

- **Winter Weekend Indoor Program** – This program enables players to continue their progress during the 20-week indoor season and includes NYJTL sponsored events: Hartman Cup Championships, Holiday Tournament, and Presidents' Week Tournament.
- **School-Time Tennis Program (STP)** – STP supplies free tennis equipment, teacher training, and ongoing support to **250-300** schools throughout the city to include tennis as a regular part of their physical educational curriculum. NYJTL is now a CTLE sponsor and any teacher that attends one of NYJTL's STP trainings will receive 6.5 CTLE credit hours.
- **Advanced Training & Competition Program (ATP)** – ATP provides 80-120 experienced players, ages 6-18, with year-round training led by USTA High Performance-certified coaches, travel to top local and national competitions, tournament entry fees, and special events.
- **Intensive Training Program (ITP)** – ITP provides **FREE** tennis training for high-performing/high-potential NYJTL students who currently participate in NYJTL's Community Tennis Program. NYJTL ITP targets these students who are talented tennis players but are not skilled enough to earn a spot in the NYJTL Advanced Training Program. With smaller coach-to-student ratios and increased access to tennis, ITP bridges the gap between recreational community-based programs and elite training.

Council funding also enables us to employ many of our NYJTL alumni, high school seniors and college students, as coaches and assistant coaches at various time throughout the four seasons (spring, summer, fall and winter).

In FY 18, NYJTL received \$800,000 in City Council citywide funds. This year, we have submitted a request of \$1,200,000. Funding at this level will:

- Enable us to continue to serve EVERY Council District;
- Provide EVERY Council District with an additional 30 hours of free tennis programming annually, either by extending the program day or by adding Saturday programming;
- Increase enrollment in EVERY Council District by an anticipated 20-30 participants;
- Allow for additional tournaments, trips and special events during the program year;
- Continue to reach approximately 250-300 teachers per year at our scheduled 6 School Time Tennis Trainings;
- Maintain a strong presence in District 75/ Special Populations by continuing to reach more than 1000 students through lessons and/or borough wide-carnivals;
- Help defray the growing costs of higher security and permit fees being charged us by the NYC Department of Education, as well as ever-rising equipment and personnel costs.

Continued funding of NYJTL in the FY 19 budget is crucial to our vision and that of NYJTL's founder, Arthur Ashe who believed tennis could transform the lives of poor children of color just as it had his own life as a child growing up in segregated Richmond, Virginia, during the 1950s. With your support, we can continue to change the lives of thousands of New York City youth and their families.

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

March 16, 2018

Testimony Given By:

Richard Hourahan, Curator and Collections Manager, Queens Historical Society
rhourahan@queenshistoricalsociety.org; (718) 939-0647 ext. 15

Committee on Youth Services
New York City Council
Deborah L. Rose, Chair

I have been personally involved in the Summer Youth Employment Program at the Queens Historical Society and have worked with 35 participants over the past three summers. Briefly put, my organization has benefitted greatly from the contributions of these youths. They have been extremely conscientious and have absorbed and expanded on everything our programs have offered.

One does not immediately associate historical societies with Youth Programs—Summer or After-School. This, unfortunately, I believe is the result of a stereotypical understanding of what history is . . . an unending list of names and dates. That may have been true of classroom teaching 75 years ago (it never was true of the serious study of history) but contemporary history studies all peoples, events and structures of communities and societies. This is certainly the case with my organization and in our youth programs we stress the continuities and discontinuities of history in Queens, our nation and the World. Over 48% of Queens residents are foreign-born. Another 25% are children of parents who are foreign-born. 75% of the participants in our youth programs belong to these two categories.

While QHS does not have any contracts for COMPASS or School's Out New York City—we would love some; they are very important and should be expanded (there is such an unmet need for them)—I am familiar with a number of their programs in Queens and they are very effective. In spite of not receiving funding from NYC for youth programs we provide them under two rubrics—*Immigrant Voices* and *Leading the Way--Outstanding Women of Queens*.

Cultural organizations can open new perspectives to youth. We are all Cultural (in the Arts sense of the word) and cultural (in the Anthropological sense of the word). These organizations—at least in Queens—bring these two human dimensions together in their programs and the Queens Historical Society takes these two and adds a third dimension—History.

Thank you for allotting this time to me to speak.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Richard Hourahan". The signature is written in dark ink on a white background.



Testimony submitted by New York University and the Video Interaction Project
Committee on Youth Services

In support of City's First Readers
March 16, 2018

My name is Dr. Caitlin Canfield from New York University, NYU Langone Health, and the Video Interaction Project, or VIP.

VIP uses pediatric health care to enhance children's early development and school readiness. Pediatric check-ups are a unique way to reach low-income families, since all parents have to bring their children to the doctor, allowing programs like VIP and Reach Out and Read to achieve high impacts at low cost. During their pediatric check-ups, families in VIP meet with a VIP parent coach who provides a book or toy, videotapes the parent and child as they read or play together, and then reviews the video to point out and support the parent's strengths. Through City's First Readers, these parents are also connected to other literacy programs in their communities. For instance, we have been able to sign our families up for library cards right in the pediatric clinic. VIP also empowers parents to be their child's first teacher. Rigorous studies show that children in VIP have improvements in language, problem solving and behavior that will help them succeed in school.

Our team of researchers at NYU Langone is also currently leading a scientific study of City's First Readers. We have found that using health care to promote literacy through City's First Readers is associated with increased use of library and together this is associated with parents reading more with their children at home—even before babies are 6 months old. These findings demonstrate the potential for large impacts across New York City if City's First Readers is expanded.

This research is part of the national Bridging the Word Gap Research Network and was featured at the national meeting of the Pediatric Academic Societies, making City's First Readers and New York a model for cities around the country who are prioritizing investment in young children's success. The program has also been endorsed by the American Academy of Pediatrics because of its potential to enhance the health of children, parents, and families. It is vital that City's First Readers continues to grow. Increased funding next year will allow us to reach more children and families, increasing impacts for our youngest New Yorkers.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today.



City's First Readers
An initiative of the New York City Council



Preliminary Budget Hearing
Committees on Youth Services and Community Development
Submitted by Brooklyn Public Library, New York Public Library, and Queens Library
March 16, 2018

Good Morning: My name is Kristen Aldrich, Manager of Early Childhood Education for New York Public Library. I am here today representing the three library systems of New York City. We are truly grateful for the City Council's generous support of City's First Readers and the continual increase in funding.

Each year, New York Public Library, Brooklyn Public Library, and Queens Library offer neighborhood early literacy programs with an annual attendance approaching half a million.

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

- New York Public Library has distributed 105,000 outreach kits to encourage families to read at home, and expanded our Family Literacy Workshops to 87 branches.
- Queens Public Library was expanded our play spaces into 3 new branches. We were also able to hire one more early literacy specialist to assist families in our communities to engage with literacy rich materials.
- Brooklyn Public Library is offering a credit-bearing Early Childhood Educator series on diversity, equity, and inclusion and connecting teachers with vital early literacy resources to enrich their classrooms.

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

- **Parent Child Home Program** has worked with Queens Library to provide their families a closer interaction with the library's Pre-K program in Ravenswood. We have co-hosted programs at our school to introduce their families to all that the library can offer them.
- **Jumpstart** partnered with BPL to offer programs at the New Lots Library to promote at home-learning and school readiness.
- **Reach Out and Read** medical providers are prescribing reading and going to the library.

With \$6 million in support of City's First Readers, this vitally important work will only grow in NYC's libraries. We could support and train family child care providers, expand specialized family learning opportunities, grow school-readiness activities, distribute more early literacy outreach kits, and provide more baby and toddler literacy development programs in locations across the city.

In the spirit of the three systems working together to support this important initiative, we need the Mayor and City Council to keep investing in libraries so we can continue to provide the programs and services all New Yorkers deserve. That means continuing to fund six day service at all locations and the care and keeping of our branches systemwide, which have critical maintenance and technology infrastructure needs. The Library is the first social interaction many new families have and we want it to be the most enriching experience possible, regardless of background, demographic, or means.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today.



TESTIMONY – NYC COUNCIL YOUTH SERVICES PRELIMINARY BUDGET HEARING

March 16, 2018

Good afternoon. My name is Harriet Lessel and I am the Director of Government Contracts and Advocacy at JCCA. I want to thank the Committee Chair, Council Member Rose, and the committee members for the opportunity to testify at today's hearing. JCCA is most appreciative of the Council's interest in early literacy and funding of the City's First Readers.

JCCA is here today in support of the City's First Readers initiative and the request for \$6 million dollars in funding for 2019. City's First Readers' mission is to increase literacy opportunities, build energy and enthusiasm for reading, strengthen literacy, knowledge, skills, and practice for children ages 0-5 and their families. It is an initiative of the Council that was launched in 2014 by Council Members Steven Levin and Antonio Reynoso. Its purpose is to address disparate literacy rates throughout the city and the unfortunate fact that 70% of the city's third grade students were reading below grade level. They also recognized that once students fall behind, it becomes increasingly difficult for them to catch up.

Now in its fourth year, data collected from the non-profit organizations collaborating in the initiative for 2017 indicate that 882,655 families were provided with a variety of literacy-based activities and services, over 300,000 books and educational toys were distributed across 159 locations including in pediatrician offices and six hundred and thirty two (632) parent engagement workshops in 213 locations were offered across New York City.

JCCA is fortunate to have received funding in 2018 as the first foster care agency to participate in the initiative. We have been able to serve the youngest children in foster care in our Brooklyn and Bronx offices. Foster youth are at an even greater disadvantage because they experience trauma, frequently changed homes and changed schools/childcare. As part of the City's First Readers program, JCCA has created literacy-rich spaces in our offices that are utilized during visits with birth and foster parents. Children have access to books, and over 360 have been distributed thus far to the children in foster care to keep at home. Monthly literacy-themed events have been held around books that also address dealing with challenges and critical thinking in an age-appropriate manner. Reading to children is modeled in the literacy center and individual and group assistance is provided to parents. Case managers have been trained to identify literacy challenges and to connect parents and children with needed services and resources of the literacy program.

The example below shows how the City's First Readers program supports literacy and addresses the issues of birth parents involved in the foster care system.

When FAMILY A came into care with JCCA in August of 2017, visits were difficult. The parent would struggle with providing equal attention to both of her young daughters (5 months old and 4 years old), which would often result in older child being placed in time out while she held and fed the baby sister.

Workers would often have a difficult time providing feedback and suggestions in visits and, over time, the parent grew more and more frustrated with the family's situation.

Since their visits have been moved to the Early Literacy Center, the parent has been able to engage with her children in a way that was not possible in the space they were visiting in prior. The baby is now able to crawl around and engage with age appropriate toys. The older child now has access to books and puzzles, which she is able to use to show her mom how much she has learned in her new day care. The parent is now calmer during visits, which has helped her better able to appropriately re-direct her children and manage their needs.

This parent had been resistant to feedback in the past, but in the Literacy Center, staff are slowly beginning to work with her around literacy and overall learning development with her and her children. She recognizes that her children are enjoying themselves in the space and has commented on how things are labeled (we have everything labeled in English and Spanish to help children begin to associate words with objects) and our "shoes off or booties on" policy, which helps keep the center safe for smaller children to crawl around and have tummy time.

All of the workers on the case have voiced their excitement to see that these visits are beginning to go more productively than the past. They are pleased with the family's growth and are able to praise the parent for the strengths she is beginning to show. Though there is still work to be done, this family's team of caseworkers all agree that there has been marked improvement since the family has had access to the Early Literacy Center.

In closing, the Council's City's First Readers Initiative has enhanced JCCA's work with the youngest children in foster care to improve age-appropriate literacy that serves as a foundation for lifelong learning. Literacy also serves as an entry point to engage parents and children in their interactions and communication that will affect family reunification. We urge you to fund the initiative at the \$6 million dollar request.

JCCA is one of the oldest, most distinguished child and family services organization in the nation. We provide comprehensive care to thousands of children, young people and families who come from New York's diverse communities. Since 1822, we have embraced those who need us most — abused, neglected and traumatized young people who are struggling with poverty, developmental disabilities and complex mental illness. Our programs include foster and residential care, educational assistance and remediation, case management for young people with mental health challenges and services to families to prevent child abuse and maltreatment. JCCA offers safety, stability and lifesaving support to help our clients transform their lives. Our programs help more than 16,000 children and families annually. In everything we do, we are guided by the Jewish mandate of tikkun olam — the responsibility of every person to make the world a better place.

For more information, please contact: Harriet Lessel, Director of Government Contracts and Advocacy at lesselh@jccany.org or 212-558-9918.



Bronx EL Center – 555 Bergen Ave.

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

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

Jumpstart is thrilled to be a part of the City's First Readers Initiative and contribute to the Initiative's efforts to provide resources and services to help children enter school ready to read and achieve educational success. Jumpstart provides direct service to preschool children in their classrooms, and regularly coordinates and hosts family and community outreach events, introducing families to Jumpstart programming and providing participants with literacy-building activities they can do at home. This year, Jumpstart has hosted more than 50 events, including events with partners from the Initiative, and we have several more planned for the rest of the year.

Our program in preschool classrooms is serving over 1,500 children and engaging 600 college students from 10 New York City colleges and universities. These college students deliver the Jumpstart curriculum in 80 preschool classrooms throughout Manhattan, Queens, the Bronx, and Brooklyn. During the school year, teams of 6-8 college students engage preschool children in group reading, activities, and lessons that contribute to the development of skills critical to being prepared to succeed in kindergarten. During the summer, Jumpstart runs a Summer Program to help combat "summer slide" and we started an Extended Day program this year in the Bronx.

I was recently talking with an alum of our program and she shared an important truth with me: *We each have only one childhood.* Jumpstart and members of the City's First Readers Initiative are working to ensure that each child in New York City has their best childhood possible. We believe that all children deserve to have the education and opportunity to set them on the path for success. From children experiencing the supportive environment of low child to adult ratios in a classroom, full of trained and dedicated volunteers, to large-scale community events promoting effective reading tips to families and caregivers, Jumpstart and the City's First Readers Initiative partners are building a continuum of services that reach all aspects of a child's life to build strong foundations in early literacy skills.

Support for the Initiative helps to ensure that this valuable work will continue. Additional funding will allow Jumpstart to continue offering our impactful programming throughout the city, as well as provide even more robust community events.

Thank you for your support of Jumpstart and the City's First Readers Initiative, and for the opportunity to speak to you today.



Greater New York

reachoutandreadnyc.org

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Reach Out and Read of Greater New York Testimony before the Committee on Youth Services

March 16, 2018

Good Afternoon, My name is Laurie Williams, and I am representing Reach Out and Read of Greater New York—also known as ROR GNY—where I serve as the Executive Director.

I want to first take this opportunity to thank the Speaker Corey Johnson and the City Council for their commitment to ensuring that every child in New York City will begin school with the literacy skills that will enable him or her to succeed.

This ongoing city support has been invaluable, but there is still much work to be done.

Over 70% of third graders in New York City are still reading below grade level, and as the curriculum becomes more advanced, these children will fall farther behind. The majority of these children come from low-income, underserved families. Two-thirds of students who are not reading proficiently by fourth grade will end up involved in the criminal justice system or on welfare.

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

For the past two decades ROR GNY has been working to ensure that children all across New York have the resources to develop a strong foundation for lifelong success. Unlike traditional childhood literacy programs, we meet families where they are. The program takes advantage of the unique access that pediatric primary care providers have to children who are in their critical years of cognitive and language development. We provide doctors and medical staff with training and resources to help them become a child's first "reading role model."

Medical providers we work with read with children as part of routine well child visits and help parents and other family members understand the critical importance of reading aloud to their children regularly. And because so many of the families we work with simply do not have the resources to buy books,

75 Maiden Lane ■ Suite 1102 ■ New York, NY 10038

PHONE 646-237-0103 ■ FAX 212-725-9744 ■ WEB reachoutandreadnyc.org

Affiliated with the nationwide school readiness initiative Reach Out and Read, Inc.



Greater New York

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Reach Out and Read of Greater New York Testimony before the Committee on Youth Services March 16, 2018

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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children are given books to take home that are both developmentally and culturally appropriate. This book is the springboard to action; a seed of literature that will germinate as families, encouraged and informed by our physicians, make reading a part of everyday life.

Without this critical first step – before children even enter school – the obstacles that our city's children face can be insurmountable.

Annually, Reach Out and Read of Greater NY serves over 275,000 children and families at 167 hospitals and clinics across New York. For many of these at-risk children, especially those of color, a home library simply does not exist. But ROR GNY can make the difference, as a proven intervention supported by 16 independent published research studies.

And we have the American Academy of Pediatrics behind us, as evidenced by their recent policy statement reinforcing our mission. We need the city to help us carry this momentum forward!

Funding from the City Council has helped us provide early literacy services in 43 of 51 City Council Districts. Despite impressive efforts made possible by the City's First Readers Initiative, much remains to be done.

Our hospitals and health clinics are only receiving funds for 30% of their book needs. With your renewed commitment, Reach Out and Read of Greater New York aims to reach 100% support. Only then will we have the tools to narrow, and eventually erase, the 30 million-word gap. Only then will we be truly investing in our future, turning all of our children into healthy readers and, ultimately, strong leaders.

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



City's First Readers

An Initiative of the New York City Council

Preliminary Budget Hearing Committee on Finance and Committee on Youth Services and Community Development, Submitted by Literacy INC.

March 16, 2018

Good morning and thank you for this opportunity speak before you. My name is Ingrid Bentil; I am the project manager for the New York City Council's early literacy initiative: City's First Readers. City's First Readers is a collaboration between eleven nonprofit organizations* that foster the literacy development of NYC children, from birth to 5 years. The initiative provides families, early childcare providers, and teachers with the resources and services needed to ensure children enter school ready to read and achieve educational success. There is also a critical public education component designed both to increase awareness of the importance of pre-reading interactions with infants and toddlers and to stimulate those interactions.

Why is City's First Readers necessary? Reading to infants and toddlers, naming the objects they see and touch, and talking directly to them all contribute to the development of their growing brains and gives them an essential start towards school and lifelong success. Did you know that in families where parents identify as professional, children entering school have experienced being read to between 1,000 to 1,700 hours on average? For children living in poverty, that number is 25 hours. This opportunity gap has consequences; children of color and children living in poverty are disproportionately affected. Right now, 2 out of 3 children living in poverty are not reading on grade level when they are tested in 3rd grade. A student living in poverty who can't read on grade level by 3rd grade will not be able to keep up and is 13x less likely to graduate from high school. In 2015, over half of the children of color in New York City lived in high or extreme poverty neighborhoods. Schools alone cannot provide a solution. The key is prevention.

With Council support, City's First Readers will continue to offer its effective, community-based programs to help the parents and young children of NYC be prepared to enter school ready to read.

City's First Readers is making this a reality. In the FY17 program year, approximately 882,655 families (parents & children) were served by research-proven programs and services offered by the CFR partners across New York City neighborhoods.

We need your renewed and enhanced support; we are respectfully requesting a budget enhancement to \$6 Million.

Council funding at this level would allow City's First Readers to:

- Expand program outcomes and to reach more families citywide.

- Build a citywide marketing campaign to connect families and caregivers directly to programs and services to support school readiness.

- Provide families and caregivers with developmentally appropriate books.

- Strengthen the infrastructure and evaluate data.

- Roll out an interactive public service message about the importance of early literacy development.

The science is clear – a robust investment in early childhood literacy programming can help break cycles of poverty and position families and their young children for academic and career success. Thank you for the opportunity to speak, and now I'd like you to hear from a few of the partners in the initiative to share all the high impact and transformational work we are providing on behalf the collaboration.

*The initiative is comprised of eleven collaborative service providers working together: Brooklyn Public library, The Committee for Hispanic Children and Families, JCCA, Jumpstart, Literacy INC, New York Public Library, Parent Child Home Program, Queens Public Library, Reach Out & Read of Greater New York, Video Interactive Project, and United Way of New York City.





PARENT-CHILD HOME PROGRAM

A PROVEN BEGINNING FOR SCHOOL SUCCESS SINCE 1965

**Parent-Child Home Program Testimony
Committees on Youth Services and Community Development**

**Submitted by Parent-Child Home Program (PCHP)
in Partnership with the City's First Readers Initiative**

March 16, 2018

Good afternoon: My name is Cesar Zuniga and I am the Research and Evaluation Director for The Parent-Child Home Program (PCHP).

The Parent-Child Home Program's unique focus is on providing parents with the skills, knowledge, and materials they need to support school readiness skills in the home and helping to build home environments that build children's language, literacy, cognitive, and social-emotional skills. In doing this work, we are also helping parents learn what to look for in a child care setting, how to identify and access their children's next educational steps, and how to support their children's continued academic progress. Our partners in this work in New York City and elsewhere in the state include school districts, public libraries, social service agencies, literacy programs, and community-based organizations. Focusing on school readiness and early literacy support for families challenged by poverty, isolation, limited education, and language and literacy barriers, PCHP provided over 46,000 home visits and distributed over 23,000 books & educational toys in New York City last year with assistance from the NYC City Council support.

Before children enter pre-k or kindergarten, low-income children, and low-income from non-native English-speaking families in New York City are likely to be cared for by family members or in informal settings. They are the least likely children to have access to the information, materials, and activities that will build their school readiness skills, and ensure the language and early literacy skills that they need to enter a classroom ready to be successful students. For these reasons, it is particularly important that in supporting the City's First Readers Initiative, we ensure that they and their families have access to the knowledge, skills, and materials that will support their school readiness.

PCHP provides critical learning tools, books and other educational and language-stimulating materials, to families with two- and three-year-olds. This is an age group that often has very limited access to literacy supports. The Program helps families build literacy enrich environment in their homes. They are visited twice a week in their homes by an early learning specialist, or home visitor, who introduces the materials to the family, and models for parents how to read, talk, and play with their children to build language and critical early literacy skills. PCHP staff

also connect families to other social service supports when necessary and assist parents with registering their children for a pre-k or Head Start program

PCHP is pleased to be one part of the City's First Readers initiative. Working with our partners in this initiative, we are able to not only provide intensive early literacy support to 100 additional families challenged by poverty, isolation, and language and literacy barriers in communities including Astoria, Washington Heights, Sunset Park and Brownsville/East New York, but also to connect PCHP families with a continuum of other literacy services and activities in their communities that are working together to ensure that children are reading on grade level by third grade.

Working with our City's First Readers partners we can connect these families, who might not otherwise access literacy supports at all, to additional resources through their public libraries, special programs in their children's schools, and community-based programming offered by organizations like LINC, including story times, parent workshops, and school registration informational events.

With support from the City's First Readers Initiative, PCHP has been able to expand to five communities, reaching families in Astoria, Queens, Washington Heights, Manhattan, Sunset Park and Brownsville/East New, Brooklyn who would otherwise not have access to these supports. Many of these communities have historically had limited early childhood school readiness services available. With additional funding, PCHP could reach more deeply into these communities. PCHP could easily reach an additional 150 families across the city in the coming year.

We look forward to working with the City Council to expand this critical continuum of services for young children and their families. Thank you so much for allowing me this time to present the Parent-Child Home Program and its work as part of the City's First Readers initiative.



Remarks of the Samaritans Suicide Prevention Center to the New York City Council Committee on Youth Services

Friday, March 16, 2018

Good afternoon. My name is Walter Sipser and I want to thank Chairwoman Rose and all the members of the NYC Council's Committee on Youth Services for the opportunity to present testimony today on behalf of Samaritans Suicide Prevention Center.

As a member of Samaritans public education staff, I am proud to say that Samaritans has a long history of working collaboratively with the NYC Department of Youth and Community Development, going back to our role in their development over 25 years ago of the city's first youth peer support hotline, Youthline.

To this day, DYCD continues to rely on Samaritans for technical support and professional development training for its staff and the youth they serve—tied to suicide awareness and prevention planning and for knowledge and understanding of current research, best practices and community resources tied to youth mental health.

In many ways the mission of Samaritans parallels the important work done by DYCD, as we attempt to alleviate the pain and provide support to those NYC youth who are struggling with depression and self-destructive behavior that is often exacerbated by poverty, and their inability to access the help they need.

They say "the children are our future," but when it comes to violent, self-harming and suicidal behavior, the question remains, *how well are we preparing our youth for that future?*

Suicidologists, the people who study suicide and how to prevent it, tell us that young people's understanding of suicide and self-harming behavior directly influences the manner in which they cope with crises in the future; a very timely topic, considering the all too-frequent items we see on the nightly news.

The CDC reports that suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death for those age 25-34, 3rd for those 15-24, 4th for 10-14 year olds. The semi-annual Youth Risk Behavior Survey tells us that 18% of NYC high school students consider suicide each year and that as many as 8% will attempt suicide, the highest rates seen among young female Hispanics and Asians, adolescent members of the LGBTQ community and youth living in poverty.

Add the fact that the highest rates of self-inflicted injuries, opioid abuse, suicide and subsequent hospitalizations in New York are found in 15-19 year olds; and the need to

increase our young people's understanding of suicide, mental health stigma and the keys to prevention is paramount.

This is also true for the parents, teachers, guidance counselors, social workers, psychologists, group leaders, community organizers and health professionals that provide our youth with care and support.

Samaritans is seeking to address these issues in our "*Caring Community*, suicide prevention public education" project, which we have submitted to the Council Speaker for funding in FY 2019, which we hope you will consider supporting as well.

The concept of "caring community" comes from Samaritans' work with epidemiologists from the University of Rochester School of Medicine who evaluated the US Air Force's suicide prevention plan—possibly the most comprehensive and successful this country has seen in overcoming stigma and changing a culture's response to mental illness.

The lesson learned from the Air Force plan, at the heart of Samaritans program, is the need to engage and educate every member of the community you are trying to help—those in need of support and those who provide it.

Samaritans has operated NYC's 24-hour suicide hotline for over 35 years and developed the first citywide suicide prevention public education program, providing training to 40,000 lay and professional health care providers working on the frontlines responding to youth, elderly, minorities, immigrants, LGBTQ, veterans, mentally ill, victims of violence, sexual assault and bullying and others.

Suicide has increased in NYC the last three years. NYC Department of Education staff tells us they have seen significant increases in the number of incidents involving self-harming behavior compared to last year at this time. Every year 1 in 5 New Yorkers experiences a mental disorder and as many as 60% *never receive care*—destroying lives and families; and costing NYS \$1.8 billion from suicide alone.

Something must be done, and it starts with our young.

Address the needs of NYC's under-served youth. Provide alternatives to the standard programs and services that are available! Engage those community partners that have not been included in previous efforts!

Support Samaritans *Caring Community* project before the City Council Speaker, Strengthen NYC's Safety Net for Youth, alleviate suffering and save lives...

Thank you for your time and attention.

The Samaritans of New York
On behalf of Alan Ross, Executive Director



United Activities Unlimited

278 New Dorp Lane, 2nd FL, Staten Island, New York 10306

(929)-314-5585

<http://unitedactivities.org>

Testimony of Brian Ilcata at the New York City Council Committee on Youth
Services

Deborah Rose, Chair
Hearing on the

October 16th, 2017

Thank you Chair Rose and members of the City Council for the Opportunity to testify. United Activities Unlimited is a nonprofit that serves youth ages 5 through adulthood on Staten Island. UAU offers services that include after school sports and recreation, education and enrichment, counseling, prevention services, college access and career readiness, GED/HSE services, youth employment programs, and career certification tracks.

Over the past ten plus years I have had the pleasure of working with the Summer Youth Employment Program and I am grateful for the support that we have received from City Council. As SYEP has grown so too has UAU to serve the applicants in more ways, expanding into the separate contracts of SYEP, specifically Vulnerable Youth, Young Adult Literacy Program; Out of School Youth; Work, Learn and Grow; and In School Youth.

Currently the YALP, OSY and ISY Programs are not funded at the level needed to address the sheer number of applicants and the host of services needed to help

them excel in their lives. Service levels and funding levels need to be increased so that we can ensure At Risk Youth are receiving the resources for housing, mental health, substance abuse, and economic stability otherwise the job training is fruitless. Employment alone is not the enough.

Currently when SYEP ends, thousands of NYC Youth are left unemployed. The last three years, Work, Learn and Grow has allowed 6,000 NYC Youth to remain employed and gain more on the job experience leading to the youth finding employment on their own. Each year we are hearing that employers are more satisfied with the combination of SYEP and WLG to train youth for 32 weeks prior to hiring them on their own. A 6 week program fills a summer cap but does not leave a lasting impression that build towards their employment future. WLG and SYEP compliment each other. Speaking with youth, WLG has been more impactful in their lives, they get to interact with their provider for 25 weeks, have more one on one sessions, and feel more connected with us and our employers. During the school year, participants gain access to financial planning, budgeting, SAT prep, tutoring, college visits and other services not available during the summer. Not only has WLG financially impacted the youth that we work with, WLG has brought roughly \$18 million into the local economy through participant salaries.

Per participant price (PPP) is too low, and is unspecified for each service option.

The PPP is only provided as a range from \$325 to \$1000 per youth, and these amounts are not matched with any specific service options in the Concept Paper. This makes it very difficult to gauge whether we can support the different models and what is required without knowing how much funding is be awarded for each specific model. Under the current models the level of funding is inadequate as we forge into the next few years. Minimum wage has increased from \$5.65 in 2008 to \$13 in 2018, while the PPP has not been adjusted. The PPP has not risen with inflation either, in the last 10 years \$325 is more comparable to \$420.

Each service model requires a different amount of manpower to ensure that the contract is run properly. Using the current model and applying certain givens on enrollment, orientation, ongoing supervision throughout the program, instruction, followup, job development... the PPP needs to be increased across all models. Example: In 2017 it cost almost \$900 per YY to fund the program correctly.

Ladders for Leaders, the most ambitious of all SYEP programs, requires intense workshops to be completed with all applicants, regardless of placement, yet only funds the youth that are placed. Additionally most of the funding from Ladders goes directly to job development. The current PPP is \$1000 for each placed participant, but the cost is closer to double that amount for participants placed and \$500 for each youth that attends workshops.

VY PPP has been expanded but this would also need to be extended to include the Cure the Violence Initiative as well as the MAP Initiative.

SWD also has to be raised to provide for adequate development of the students during the internship program. The current PPP does not allow for the inclusion of licensed special education teachers or paraprofessionals.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. If you have any questions, please contact

Brian Licata

United Activities Unlimited

Deputy Director of Workforce Development

278 New Dorp Lane

2nd Floor

Staten Island NY 10306

(c) 347-620-1183 (t) 718-987-8111 ext 808 (f) 718-981-7152

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 03/16/18

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Mateo Guerrero-Tabares

Address: 96-02 57th avenue Corona NY

I represent: Make the Road and TGNC Solutions Coalition

Address: 42-10 Roosevelt avenue, Jackson Heights

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Jagdeen Phanoor

Address: Asst. Assoc. Comm.

I represent: DyCD

Address: 123 William St

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Bill Chang, Commissioner

Address: 123 William St

I represent: DyCD

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: DC. Allen cheng, Deputy Comm

Address: 123 william st

I represent: Dy CD

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Jesse Lannon

Address: _____

I represent: NYC Employment and Training Coalition

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Annie Minguez

Address: _____

I represent: Good Sheperds

Address: _____

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

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THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Gregory Brender

Address: _____

I represent: United Neighborhood Houses

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: SCOTT DALY

Address: NYJTL - 58-12 QUEENS BLVD WOODSIDE

I represent: NYJTL N.Y. 11377

Address: S/A/A

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/16/2018

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Grant Cowles

Address: _____

I represent: Citizens' Committee for Children

Address: _____

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**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Natasha JONES

Address: 208 WEST 13th Street 10011

I represent: The LGBT Center

Address: 208 W 13th Street NY NY 10011

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Walter Sipser

Address: 102 Powers St 3L Brooklyn, NY 11211

I represent: Samaritans of New York

Address: PO Box 1259 Madison Sq Station

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/16/18

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Faith Behum

Address: _____

I represent: USA Federation NY

Address: 130 E. 59th Street NY, NY

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THE COUNCIL THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____
☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/16/18

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Madison Hernandez

Address: _____

I represent: Girl Scouts of Greater NY

Address: _____

THE COUNCIL THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

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☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3-16-18

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Dana Cantelmi

Address: _____

I represent: DYCD

Address: 2 Lafayette St. NY 10007

THE COUNCIL THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____
☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: March 16, 2018

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Richard Flourban

Address: 176-31 Henley Rd Jamaica, NY 11452

I represent: Queens Historical Society

Address: 143-35 37th Ave; Flushing, NY 11354

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THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

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☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3-16-18

(PLEASE PRINT)
Name: Susan Lacerte

Address: 43-50 Main Street Flushing

I represent: Queens Botanical Garden

Address: 4 Cultural World

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)
Name: DANA NORIEGA

Address: 75 BROAD STREET

I represent: THE COMMITTEE FOR HISPANIC CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Address: CITY'S FIRST READERS

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)
Name: Alex Cruzado

Address: _____

I represent: Center for Family Life

Address: 543-39 Street, Brooklyn NY 11232

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

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THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/16/18

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Chrissy Odalen

Address: 156 W. 56th St NY NY 10019

I represent: New York Road Runners (NYRR)

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/16/18

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Brenda & Phylis Cannon

Address: 77 Powers St Brooklyn NY 11211

I represent: Parent & daughter, talking about NYRR

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/16/19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Carlton Canfield

Address: 330 E 73rd St #16

I represent: City's First Readers/VIP

Address: 462 First Ave (Bellevue Hospital)

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Daisy Torres

Address: 44 Court St

I represent: PowerPlay NYC

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Kate Bancks

Address: 44 Court St, Brooklyn

I represent: PowerPlay NYC

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/16/18

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Jamie Powlovich

Address: 355 Lefferts Ave #3F Brooklyn, NY

I represent: Coalition for Homeless Youth

Address: 460 W 41st St NY, NY

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

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Cesar Zenigce

Address: _____

I represent: The Parent-Child Home Program
City's First Readers

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: March 16, 2018

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: LAURIE WILLIAMS

Address: Reach out and Read 75 Maiden Lane Suite 1102
(City's First Readers)

I represent: Reach out and Read of Greater NY

Address: 75 Maiden Lane Suite 1102
NY NY 10038

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Deana Murtha

Address: _____

I represent: Jumpstart - City's First Readers

Address: 505 8th Ave Suite 303 NY, NY 10018

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/16/18

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Kristen Aldrich

Address: _____

I represent: New York Public Library for City's First Readers

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/16/18

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Ingrid Benti

Address: _____

I represent: (LLINC) City's First Readers

Address: 5030 Broadway, NY, NY 10034

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Hector Batista

Address: _____

I represent: Big Brothers Big Sisters of NYC

Address: _____

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**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

City's First Readers

Date: *3/16/18*

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: *Harriet Lesse*

Address: _____

I represent: *JCCA*

Address: *120 Wall St*

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: *3/16/18*

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: *Brian Licata*

Address: *278 New Corp Ln*

I represent: *UAU*

Address: *1000 Richmond Terr.*

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: *Susan Haskell*

Address: *DEPUTY COMMISSIONER*

I represent: *DYCD*

Address: *128 WILLIAM*

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/16/18

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Andrea Bowen

Address: 147 Oxford St Apt 1D Brooklyn 11217

I represent: TRANS GENDER & GENDER NON CONFORMING SOLUTIONS
COALITION

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Sheila Wells

Address: _____

I represent: Sports & Arts In Schools Foundation

Address: 58-12 Queens Blvd, Woodside, NY

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 03/16/18

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: ANDRIE WHITE

Address: Associate Commissioner

I represent: DYCD

Address: _____