



Department of  
Youth & Community  
Development

## **TESTIMONY**

**Before the Council of the City of New York  
Committees on Finance and Youth Services**

**Hearing on  
Fiscal 2024 Executive Budget**

**Presented by**

**Commissioner Keith Howard**

**May 10, 2023**





**Department of  
Youth & Community  
Development**

Good morning, Chairs Stevens and Brannan, and members of the Youth Services and Finance Committees. I am DYCD Commissioner Keith Howard. I am joined by First Deputy Commissioner Alan Cheng and Chief Financial Officer Nevita Bailey.

We are pleased to be here to discuss the Fiscal 2024 Executive Budget.

Despite the budget challenges we face, the Executive budget stands at a record \$1.15 billion, preserves all existing programming, and places DYCD in a strong place for a successful 2024. This is due to the Administration's commitment to youth services and significantly lowering DYCD's PEG target to accruals and revenue maximization to avoid cutting our critical programs.

DYCD's Executive budget breaks down as follows:

- \$891 million or approximately 77% is city tax levy;
- \$7 million or less than 1% is state funding;
- \$112 million or approximately 10% is federal funding; and
- \$142 million or approximately 12% is intracity funding.

We appreciate the Mayor and the City Council's strong support of DYCD's critical services to the City's young people and families. This budget ensures that young people will be engaged this summer and throughout the year.

### **Summer Youth Employment Program**

We are gearing up for the 2023 Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) and this year marks the 60th anniversary of the program. A record 173,730 young people applied, and to date, we have enrolled more than 53,000 young people, two times more than this time last year. Recruitment for worksites is going strong, with to date 8,137 commitments, including 64 for city agencies. We appreciate the City Council's strong commitment to promoting SYEP and hosting young people in their offices.

### **Summer Rising**

We received 138,900 applications for Summer Rising! As we discussed in March, we made significant improvements to the enrollment process. Families were able to apply any time during the enrollment period process (no first come, first served); and rank preferences for multiple site locations. Some student groups have priority for Summer Rising enrollment, such as students in temporary housing, academically "mandated" students, and students with disabilities. We are also offering priority consideration for students enrolled in a DYCD-funded after school program to accommodate students and families who are accustomed to year-round programming from their CBO provider. Families should start to hear about confirmed enrollments soon.





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Exploring Futures will be a new part of Summer Rising to offer career exploration and early exposure to career opportunities for middle school students, including in STEM. Exploring Futures will make learning and activities available to all Summer Rising students in grades 6-8. Exploring Futures is a partnership of DYCD, DOE, CUNY Explorers, Expanded Schools and Hats and Ladders.

**Youth Count 2023**

Chair Stevens, I also wanted to give you two important updates since your April hearing on Runaway and Homeless Youth Services. A record 3,422 surveys were collected in January for the 2023 Youth Count—a 334 percent increase from last year! In addition to the value of gaining information about where youth stayed overnight, the increase in the number of surveys means that hundreds of young people learned about the RHY services available through DYCD-funded partners. The huge increase in surveys is the result of some very hard work from the RHY team, Beacon, Cornerstone, COMPASS, Council Members, sister agencies, and other community partners to get the word out. As you know, we recently hosted a feedback session with Youth Count stakeholders and the response was overwhelmingly positive. The Youth Count data will be aggregated with citywide 2023 data in the coming months.

**Office of Neighborhood Safety**

As you know, earlier this year Mayor Adams entrusted DYCD with the Office of Neighborhood Safety (ONS). These programs are aligned with DYCD's mission and are aimed at improving community-police relations, reducing crime and contact with the justice system. Included in the Executive Budget is approximately \$185 million to support ONS contracts. We are pleased that the budget includes additional headcount to support this vital work as ONS transitions to DYCD.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to discuss the Executive Budget. We are pleased to answer your questions.