

The City of New York

Office of Management and Budget

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**TESTIMONY OF MELANIE HARTZOG, DIRECTOR, MAYOR'S OFFICE OF
MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK TO THE CITY
COUNCIL ON THE EXECUTIVE BUDGET FISCAL YEAR 2019**

May 24, 2018

Good morning Speaker Johnson, Chair Dromm, and Finance Committee members. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today regarding the Fiscal Year 2019 Executive Budget. I also want to thank Finance Division Director Latonia McKinney and the Council Finance staff for their cooperation throughout this process.

I am joined today by OMB First Deputy Director Kenneth Godiner and Deputy Director Charles Brisky. Our dedicated and hard-working OMB staff is here to assist me in answering questions.

Earlier this month I gave this committee an overview of the Executive Expense Budget. I testified about the updated revenue projection, agency savings of \$754 million over Fiscal Years 2018 and 2019, and strategic investments. I also highlighted that the City had to backfill over \$530 million in State imposed cuts, shifts, and unfunded mandates.

Deputy Director Godiner testified the next day regarding changes to the capital budget since February. He highlighted new investments, \$6.4 billion in redistribution of capital projects and \$5.8 billion in rescindments from prior capital budgets.

The Fiscal Year 2019 Executive Budget is \$89.06 billion. This is less than ½ of one percent growth since the Preliminary Budget. Since Adoption last June, the budget has increased by 4.5 percent, which is consistent with year-to-year growth over the past three years.

Nearly two-thirds of the growth since Adoption is related to three funding areas. The cost associated with funding these needs is substantial, but they represent basic responsibilities of governing, specifically: meeting the City's commitment to its municipal workforce, educating our children, and repaying investors who finance the City's capital program.

In January 2014 all City employees were working without collective bargaining agreements. Teachers, firefighters, police officers, and other municipal employees had gone without a contractual increase in wages or benefits for up to five years. The City was also sustaining an inefficient healthcare delivery system for hundreds of thousands of employees.

Within 18 months, the City reached agreements with unions representing 99 percent of the workforce. At the same time, we worked with the Municipal Labor Committee to streamline employee healthcare. As a result, municipal employees receive better care, and the City now saves \$1.3 billion annually.

The labor contracts benefit the City and the workforce by promoting stability and predictability. And in the course of negotiating the agreements, we are able to find savings. Funding the labor agreements – which represent 30 percent of budget growth since last Adoption -- is both necessary and beneficial.

Funding education, a joint priority of the administration and Council, represents 16 percent of the budget growth since last adoption. This includes the \$125 million we invested in partnership with the Council to raise the Fair Student Funding floor to 90 percent, and the citywide FSF average to 93 percent.

We must also devote resources to paying down the bond debt that finances our capital program. Debt service payments represent 11 percent of the budget growth since last Adoption. The bonds they support fund maintenance of, and additions to, our asset base. This includes adding school seats, expanding hospital emergency rooms, maintaining NYCHA developments, and financing affordable housing. We also pay debt service on capital funds the City contributes to the MTA.

It is important to note that to fund our Capital Budget, we continue to estimate debt service cautiously, and ensure that debt service does not exceed 15 percent of City tax revenue – the benchmark of responsible capital financing in the City for years.

The spending I just discussed represents the majority of the budget growth since last Adoption. The remaining spending covers other costs of governance including agency needs and benefits and pension payments for municipal employees.

Now I would like to discuss the Executive Budget.

25 percent of new City Funds spending in the Executive Budget was used to backfill State cuts, costs shifts, and unfunded mandates. The remaining growth went towards deepening our commitment to prior investments and expanding services that New Yorkers need and expect.

A large part of the new spending in the Executive Budget is devoted to basic city services. We added funding to the Board of Elections to help run the 2018 elections. As required by the City Charter, we increased the Department of Sanitation's snow removal budget. The minimum wage for Summer Youth Employment Program participants was increased. Basic infrastructure maintenance, like storm drain cleaning and water quality management were funded.

We also strengthened our commitment to NYCHA. In order to accelerate heating systems upgrades at 20 NYCHA developments, we moved \$58 million in capital from out years to Fiscal Year 2019. We also invested \$20 million to eliminate a backlog of 50,000 work orders within two years. These investments deepen our already unprecedented commitment to NYCHA to \$1.6 billion in expense, and \$2.2 billion in capital.

Another example is protecting our technology systems from cyber threats. Businesses and public entities worldwide continue to be victimized by cyber criminals, and cyber attacks can put our data at risk of exposure. They may also have significant impacts on our ability to provide City services.

In the Executive Budget we strengthened our commitment to protecting the City's technology systems from these threats. The \$41 million we added to NYC Cyber Command will be used to enhance our around-the-clock response capacity and continue the implementation of the latest cybersecurity technology Citywide.

Safe streets are important as well. To date we have invested \$28 million in the Cure Violence program. We added \$2 million in the Executive Budget to strengthen this commitment. The majority of this investment will be used to reduce street violence by creating a mobile crisis unit in each borough that will respond to shootings.

Deepening our commitment to education is also a priority. To ensure that all students are reading at grade level by third grade, we added \$30 million to the Universal Literacy program. This funding will be used to double after-school reading programs for students in shelters, provide training to teachers who work with English language learners and disabled students, and hire more literacy coaches at lower performing schools.

In the Executive Budget we also added \$3 million to fund a public awareness campaign for the M/WBE loan program. This investment will amplify the progress the administration has already made in this area, including more than \$1 billion of contracts awarded last fiscal year alone, the most in the City's history.

Since 2017 the administration has made substantial investments to reduce opioid-related deaths. In the Executive Budget we added \$22 million to HealingNYC. This funding will create peer support programs at more hospitals citywide, increase naloxone distribution and training, and help more New Yorkers find substance abuse treatment. The total investment in HealingNYC at full ramp up is \$60 million.

In conclusion, we look forward to continued discussions as we work together to implement the Fiscal Year 2019 Adopted Budget.

I want to thank you again for the opportunity to testify today, and am happy to answer your questions.



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Testimony of Ronnie Lowenstein
Director, New York City Independent Budget Office
To the New York City Council Finance Division
On the Mayor's Executive Budget for 2019 and Financial Plan

May 24, 2018

Good afternoon Chairman Dromm and members of the New York City Council. I am Ronnie Lowenstein, director of the New York City Independent Budget Office and I thank you for the opportunity to be here today.

Earlier this month we released our [report](#) on the Mayor's Executive Budget for 2019 and the financial plan through 2022. Our report takes a wide-ranging look at many different aspects of the Mayor's plan, including our re-estimates of revenues and expenses. In the short time available today, I would like to focus on two aspects of our report: our projections of budget gaps under the plan and the sufficiency of reserves in the city's budget.

Based on IBO's economic forecast for the city and our projections of revenue and spending under the contours of the Mayor's plan, we find that the city's near-term fiscal outlook remains sound. We project that the city will end this year with a surplus of \$4.3 billion, \$677 million more than the Mayor expects. And while the de Blasio Administration has presented a balanced budget for 2019, we forecast a surplus of \$825 million. Assuming our projected surplus for 2019 is used to prepay some of the next year's expenses, 2020 is left with a shortfall of \$742 million—just 1.0 percent of planned city-funded expenditures. While we project the shortfall will grow to \$1.5 billion (2.0 percent) in 2021, these are budget gaps of a size the city has routinely managed in past years.

These projections of surpluses followed by relatively small gaps are not driven by an upbeat economic forecast. We project a marked slowdown in job growth over the next few years and, as a result, slower growth in tax revenues than we have recently experienced. IBO estimates that job gains in the city will slow from 96,000 in 2017 (4th quarter to 4th quarter) to 70,000 this year, 60,000 next year, and 52,000 in 2020. We expect tax collections to grow at an average rate of 3.7 percent a year from 2018 through 2022, the slowest four-year growth rate since the recovery from the last recession. Much of the growth is driven by the property tax, with revenues expected to rise at an average annual rate of 5.5 percent over the financial plan period. In contrast, after extraordinary gains in 2018, IBO projects that personal income tax collections will actually *decline* in 2019 and grow at an average rate of just 1.4 percent from 2018 through 2022.

Of course, there are a number of factors that could upend our projections. While doomsday scenarios related to federal funding for the city have yet to occur, the threat remains real. The Trump Administration continues to pressure cities to accept the President's immigration policies or face the potential loss of considerable federal funding. While New York City has so far steadfastly refused and not yet lost federal aid because of this position, this could change. The President has also proposed budgets that would reduce—or eviscerate—health and social services, transportation and other funding. If Congress were to support these proposals, it would force the city to make difficult choices about which, if any, shortfalls it could cover.

While the unpredictable behavior of the Trump Administration makes certain that a high level of fiscal uncertainty will continue to originate in Washington, Albany is exerting its own fiscal pressure on the city. The recent state budget has in fact added about \$500 million in unexpected costs to the city for next year. This includes more than \$250 million for the state-initiated subway action plan and nearly \$110 million related to implementing the state's Raise the Age legislation. And the Albany-related tab could grow. Seemingly overnight the Governor created the post of Independent Emergency Manager for the city's ailing public housing. Under the loosely defined purview of the emergency manager, the city could be required to add substantial new funding to meet the repair needs of housing authority developments.

Another potential source of fiscal pressure is the need to renegotiate many of the city's now expiring labor contracts. The de Blasio Administration has set aside funds for 1 percent annual raises and has said any other benefits must be funded with union givebacks, a position that may prove difficult to hold.

But what could be the most debilitating risk to the city's fiscal outlook is the potential for a recession. Even a mild recession could generate the loss of 100,000 or more jobs and reduce tax revenue by upwards of a billion dollars.

As a hedge against such risks, the Mayor and the Council have built a record level of reserves. The Mayor's budget maintains \$1.25 billion in reserve funds within each year of the financial plan and about \$4.3 billion has been maintained in a separate trust to help pay retiree health benefits. Some fiscal observers have questioned whether this is enough. Our current level of reserves is unlikely to be sufficient to sustain the city through the biggest risk, a recession. But the reserves we currently have would be enough to provide the time to allow the Council, the Mayor, and other policymakers to develop other ways to bring the budget into balance.

While it is hard to argue against the idea of building a further hedge against unexpected costs or steep economic downturn by increasing the reserves, it is important to recognize that sizable reserves can themselves be a risk. With leaders in Albany pointing to the city's substantial reserves, officials felt empowered to make decisions in the new state budget that will cost New York City more than \$500 million in 2019 and nearly \$300 million more annually through 2022. Determining the right level of reserves may be as much a political as a fiscal decision.

Thank you again, and I would be pleased to answer any questions.

May 2018

Tough Times Ahead?

The City's Fiscal Condition Is Stable, At Least for Now

Over the past 17 months, since the inauguration of the Trump Administration, IBO and others have repeatedly warned of the risks posed to the city's financial well-being by actual and proposed federal budget actions. While fiscal uncertainty from potential federal actions continues to loom there has so far been little direct effect on the city's financial plan resulting from federal budget actions. Instead, the need to replace hundreds of millions of dollars in intergovernmental aid has emanated from Albany, not Washington.

The Executive Budget for 2018 and Financial Plan Through 2022 is reactive, with increased spending and increased revenues the product of forces largely outside the city's control. The de Blasio Administration has not used the Executive Budget to launch new large-scale programs or big-ticket initiatives. Compared with his Preliminary Budget, the Mayor's latest plan includes approximately \$1 billion in additional city revenue in the current year, much of which results from one-time responses by business owners and investors to changes in federal tax law, and also identifies an additional \$750 million of savings and increased agency revenues in 2018 and 2019 through the Citywide Savings Program. But much of this is used to fill the funding shortfalls and new unfunded mandates from the state.

Under the Executive Budget and financial plan proposed by the Mayor, IBO projects that the city will end the current fiscal year with \$774 million more in tax revenue than the de Blasio Administration estimates. This additional revenue, coupled with IBO's estimate that current year expenditures will be \$98 million greater than the Mayor's Office of Management and Budget (OMB) expects, increases

Total Revenue and Expenditure Projections						
<i>Dollars in millions</i>						
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Average Change
Total Revenue	\$89,184	\$90,077	\$92,557	\$95,417	\$98,219	2.4%
Total Taxes	58,853	60,752	63,036	65,564	67,989	3.7%
Total Expenditures	89,184	90,077	93,299	96,943	98,343	2.5%
IBO Surplus/(Gap) Projections	\$0	\$0	(\$742)	(\$1,526)	(\$124)	
Adjusted for Prepayments and Debt Defeasances:						
Total Expenditures	\$89,035	\$92,905	\$94,801	\$96,943	\$98,343	2.5%
City-Funded Expenditures	\$63,897	\$68,741	\$70,535	\$72,244	\$73,245	3.5%
NOTES: IBO projects a surplus of \$4.3 billion, \$677 million more than the de Blasio Administration, for 2018 and \$825 million for 2019. The surplus is used to prepay some 2020 expenditures, leaving 2018 and 2019 with balanced budgets. Figures may not add due to rounding.						

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the 2018 surplus to \$4.3 billion. Rather than the balanced budget OMB projects for 2019, IBO forecasts a surplus of \$825 million, the product of our estimate that tax and miscellaneous revenue will be \$888 million more than OMB expects and that \$64 million in additional spending will be required under the Mayor's Executive Budget proposal.

IBO assumes that the surplus revenue from 2018 and 2019 will be used to prepay 2020 expenses, reducing the 2020 gap by \$1.5 billion. In addition, in 2020 IBO forecasts \$898 million more revenue and \$76 million less spending than projected by OMB. The combination of the prepayment of 2020 expenses with prior year revenues and IBO's forecast of \$974 million of additional resources reduces the 2020 gap to \$742 million, 1.0 percent of planned city-funded expenditures. If the \$1.25 billion in reserve funds sitting in the 2020 budget—dollars not budgeted for any specific expenditure—are not needed to cover unexpected spending needs or revenue shortfalls, they would more than fill the 2020 gap and can help with the projected 2021 shortfall as well. For the last years of the financial plan, IBO projects budget gaps of \$1.5 billion (2.0 percent of city-funded expenditures) in 2021 and \$121 million (0.2 percent) in 2022. These out-year gaps are of a size the city has routinely managed in the past.

Other key findings from our review of the Mayor's Executive Budget and financial plan:

- IBO's current forecast for total 2018 tax revenues has increased since our March outlook by \$882 million, or 1.5 percent. We project that near-term strength in the U.S. and local economies will be followed by weaker growth over the next couple of years. As a result, we expect growth in city tax revenues will also slow, from an estimated 8.4 percent increase this year to a 3.2 percent rise in 2019, when collections will reach \$60.8 billion.
- IBO's property tax forecast exceeds the Mayor's projections by \$210 million in 2018, rising to \$1.0 billion in 2022, mostly due to the Mayor's office carrying larger allowances for refunds, delinquencies, and cancellations. IBO's estimates for the personal income tax and the general corporation tax are also consistently higher each year than the Mayor's from 2018 through 2022.
- After seven years of local employment growth with an average of over 100,000 jobs added annually, IBO expects slower growth this year and next with 70,200 jobs added to the local economy in calendar year 2018 and 60,000 jobs in 2019—contributing to slower tax revenue growth beginning in fiscal year 2019
- Real wages have been declining across many sectors over much of the current expansion but are projected to shift to weak growth over the 2018-2022 period.
- Debt service and fringe benefit costs are the two largest drivers of overall expenditure growth, growing by an average of 8.4 percent and 7.0 percent annually from 2018 through 2022.
- Department of Education spending is expected to grow by \$2.7 billion from 2018 through 2022, the largest increase in agency expenditure in dollar terms in the plan.

U.S. and Local Economic Outlook

Economic Overview. IBO's outlook for the U.S. economy has changed little from our forecast in March. A strong labor market with rising incomes will continue to fuel consumer demand. With the addition of considerable fiscal stimulus from federal tax cuts late in 2017 and spending increases early in 2018, we expect economic growth to accelerate this year. Our forecast of 3.0 percent real (inflation-adjusted) gross domestic product (GDP) growth in 2018 is slightly higher than we projected in March, while our forecast of growth in 2019, 2.6 percent, has remained the same. (In our discussion of the economic outlook, years refer to calendar years and monthly and quarterly data are seasonally adjusted.) The federal fiscal stimulus will heighten inflationary pressures, which were already growing in 2017 due to the tight labor market. Inflation will accelerate and interest rates will rise this year and next while the Federal Reserve steps up its efforts to prevent inflation from rising above its target range. IBO's forecast is premised on the success of the Fed's efforts to limit inflation without rattling financial markets. Missteps in monetary policy are a significant risk to the forecast.

IBO's economic forecast for the city anticipates a slowing of the pace of job creation throughout the plan period, accompanied, however, by low unemployment rates and an uptick in wage growth. The outlook for Wall Street profits—though not for financial sector job growth—is strong. While the commercial real estate market is recovering from its recent doldrums, the residential market has been weakening and at best moderate growth is projected for both. In its broad contours the new forecast is similar to IBO's March projections.

U.S. Economy. The current economic expansion will soon be entering its 10th year and IBO expects it will continue at least into an 11th year, which would make it the longest expansion in the post-World War II era. Continued employment growth and wealth effects from

IBO versus Mayor's Office of Management and Budget Economic Forecasts						
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
National Economy						
Real GDP Growth						
IBO	2.3	3.0	2.6	1.6	1.9	2.2
OMB	2.3	2.7	2.9	2.3	1.9	1.7
Inflation Rate						
IBO	2.1	2.8	2.5	2.5	2.3	2.2
OMB	2.1	2.2	1.7	2.7	2.5	2.4
Personal Income Growth						
IBO	3.1	4.8	5.1	4.0	3.7	4.0
OMB	3.1	4.1	5.5	5.4	5.1	4.7
Unemployment Rate						
IBO	4.4	3.8	3.5	4.1	4.9	4.9
OMB	4.4	3.9	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.6
10-Year Treasury Note Rate						
IBO	2.3	3.2	4.0	4.0	4.1	4.3
OMB	2.3	3.1	3.8	3.9	4.0	3.9
Federal Funds Rate						
IBO	1.0	1.9	3.5	3.7	3.3	2.8
OMB	1.0	1.8	2.8	3.3	3.4	3.5
New York City Economy						
Nonfarm New Jobs (thousands)						
IBO (Q4 to Q4)	95.1	70.2	60.0	52.4	37.5	45.3
IBO (annual average)	81.0	80.3	63.3	58.1	41.0	43.5
OMB (annual average)	81.1	59.8	53.9	51.7	50.3	35.1
Nonfarm Employment Growth						
IBO (Q4 to Q4)	2.2	1.6	1.3	1.1	1.1	1.1
IBO (annual average)	1.9	1.8	1.4	1.3	0.9	0.9
OMB (annual average)	1.9	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.1	0.8
Inflation Rate (CPI-U-NY)						
IBO	2.0	2.6	2.7	2.6	2.5	2.5
OMB	2.0	1.9	2.0	2.7	2.5	2.4
Personal Income (\$ billions)						
IBO	565.7	586.3	608.1	631.1	658.3	683.6
OMB	567.7	590.7	617.1	643.8	670.1	694.9
Personal Income Growth						
IBO	3.3	3.6	3.7	3.8	4.3	3.9
OMB	3.7	4.1	4.5	4.3	4.1	3.7
Manhattan Office Rents (\$/sq.ft)						
IBO	78.1	79.0	81.0	82.8	84.4	85.3
OMB	79.0	77.7	81.0	83.2	84.9	86.5
SOURCE: Mayor's Office of Management and Budget						
NOTES: Rates reflect year-over-year percentage changes except for unemployment, 10-Year Treasury Note Rate, Federal Funds Rate, and Manhattan Office Rents. The local price index for urban consumers (CPI-U-NY) covers the New York/Northern New Jersey region. Personal income is nominal.						
New York City Independent Budget Office						

rising housing and financial asset prices have sustained consumer demand. Adding to overall demand is the federal government's expansionary fiscal policy of tax cuts and

spending increases. IBO forecasts an acceleration of real gross domestic product growth from 2.3 percent in 2017 to 3.0 percent in 2018. However, this rate of growth is not

likely to be sustained. With an already-tight labor market, rapid economic growth will put upward pressure on prices and lead the Federal Reserve to tighten monetary policy. IBO forecasts still-robust growth of 2.6 percent in 2019, followed by considerably slower growth of 1.6 percent in 2020.

The federal Bureau of Economic Analysis's (BEA) initial estimate of real GDP growth in the first quarter of 2018 is 2.3 percent, somewhat lower than the 3.1 percent growth in the second half of 2017. Slower consumer spending, residential construction, and export sales—all perhaps related to this year's harsh winter in many parts of the country—were major contributors to the slowdown. But ongoing measurement problems may also account for some of the apparent slowdown in the first quarter. In recent years BEA has been troubled by a widely noted pattern of underestimating first-quarter growth. If this pattern holds, it is likely that the recent estimate will be revised upward.

IBO's expects faster economic growth in the remainder of the year and into the middle of 2019. With the U.S. economy continuing to add on average about 200,000 jobs each month, consumer demand—the primary driver of economic growth in the current expansion—is expected to remain strong. Households are also in solid financial position to continue spending. Thanks to interest rates that until recently were near historic lows, their debt service burden—the share of disposable income required to stay current on debt obligations—has also remained at historic lows. Moreover, wealth effects are expected to remain strong in the coming year, helped by the recent run-up in the price of stocks. Other conditions favorable to continued economic growth include moderate energy costs and a vigorous global economy that will keep demand for U.S. exports robust. In addition to all these positive factors, recently enacted fiscal policies will further stimulate the economy, at least in the short run.

The bulk of the savings from the new federal tax law that took effect at the beginning of this year will be received by businesses. Still, after-tax disposable income of many (but not all) households will also increase thanks to the new law, helping to extend already strong consumer demand and further boost business profits. To the extent that increased corporate profits are capitalized in stock prices, the wealth effect on consumer spending would also be positive. Moreover, the addition of \$320 billion in new federal spending over the next two years will add more fuel to economic growth. (The downside of the substantial increases in the federal deficit caused by these fiscal policies is discussed below.)

IBO forecasts real GDP growth of 3.0 percent in 2018, up from 2.3 percent in 2017. The unemployment rate—4.1 percent in the first quarter of 2018—is already below what most economists consider to be full employment, the threshold under which labor markets are tight enough to spur inflation. Inflationary pressures have been building, and our forecast for 2018 is for an inflation rate of 2.8 percent, well above last year's 2.1 percent rate. We expect that tight labor markets will put upward pressure on inflation-adjusted wages, drawing more participants into the labor force and supporting growth. Despite greater labor force participation, we project that the unemployment rate will continue to drop, reaching 3.8 percent in 2018 and 3.5 percent in 2019; the latter rate would be lower than any monthly rate since 1969. Similarly, a broader measure of unemployment—the Bureau of Labor Statistics U-6 rate, which counts as unemployed part-time workers who would rather have full-time work and workers too discouraged to actively look for employment—has ranged from 8.0 percent to 8.2 percent over the past six months, the lowest levels since 2007.

With little slack in labor markets and other resource constraints, IBO forecasts slower growth beginning in the middle of next year, with real GDP growth averaging 2.6 percent in 2019 and 1.6 percent in 2020. With inflationary pressures in the economy already building toward the end of 2017, even before the extent of the fiscal stimulus was known, the Federal Reserve had signaled its intention to continue increasing the federal funds rate (the rate at which banks lend funds overnight to other banks) several times in 2018, as it did in 2017. Having raised the federal funds rate in March 2018, the Fed has indicated that there will be at least two more increases this year. The increases are expected to be small, and IBO forecasts an average federal funds rate of 1.9 percent for the year as a whole. In order to keep inflation as close as possible to the 2.0 percent rate the Fed considers optimal, we expect the funds rate to rise to 3.5 percent in 2019 and 3.7 percent in 2020.

Increases in the federal funds rate will be accompanied by increases in longer-term interest rates. IBO forecasts a rise in the 10-year Treasury rate from an average of 2.3 percent in 2017 to 3.2 percent in 2018 and 4.0 percent in 2019. Investor concern over the mushrooming of the federal government's budget deficit—from \$665 billion this past federal fiscal year to \$804 billion and \$981 billion in fiscal years 2018 and 2019 according to projections by the Congressional Budget Office—will also have the effect of pushing up interest rates.

Pursuing a policy of fiscal stimulus at this point in the business cycle eschews conventional approaches to economic policymaking. Although the tax cuts will initially spur growth, given that the economy is already at or near full employment the added demand from households, businesses, and government is likely to have more of an impact on prices than on economic output. While lower taxes will encourage businesses to invest, increases in long-term interest rates will have the opposite effect, negating much of the potential impact of the stimulus.

IBO forecasts a gradual acceleration of economic growth in the final years of the forecast period, from the projected low of 1.6 percent in 2020 to 2.2 percent in 2022. This outlook is premised on the Federal Reserve being able to raise interest rates and unwind quantitative easing (the central bank's unconventional policy of purchasing securities following the Great Recession) just enough to slow economic growth and tame inflation, but not so much as to substantially reduce business investment and consumer spending. By putting upward pressure on inflation and interest rates, the fiscal stimulus has complicated monetary policy. Years of historically low interest rates have fueled large increases in the price of equities. With stocks at record highs and—by many measures—overvalued, a misstep by the Federal Reserve risks disruptions that could rapidly deflate asset prices and lead to a bear market or (in the worst case) recession. The difficult challenge facing monetary policymakers is the primary risk to IBO's economic outlook.

Both IBO and the Mayor's Office of Management and Budget (OMB) expect faster economic growth this year and next compared with 2017, although there are differences in the trajectories of the two forecasts. OMB projects real GDP growth of 2.7 percent in 2018 rising to 2.9 percent in 2019, compared with IBO's forecast of peak growth of 3.0 percent this year slowing to 2.6 percent in 2019. Our forecast of more rapid growth in 2018 is accompanied by the expectation of considerably higher rates of inflation (2.8 percent in 2018 and 2.5 percent in 2019) than projected by OMB (2.2 percent and 1.7 percent in 2018 and 2019, respectively). OMB projects slower economic growth over the last three years of the forecast period, falling to just 1.7 percent in 2022. In contrast, IBO expects growth of just 1.6 percent in 2020 followed by somewhat faster growth of 1.9 percent in 2021 and 2.2 percent in 2022.

New York City Economy. IBO's city economic forecast anticipates a slowing of the pace of job creation throughout the plan period, accompanied, however, by low unemployment

rates and an uptick in wage growth. In its broad contours the new forecast is similar to IBO's March projections.

Employment. New York City's long employment expansion picked up steam again last year, largely on the back of surging home health care job gains, which topped 20,000 in 2017, accounting for most of the growth in the broader ambulatory health care services sector. Across other sectors that had been bellwethers earlier in the expansion (business services, education, trade, and food services), however, job growth has remained subdued.

IBO expects the pace of New York City job creation to moderate in 2018 and then decelerate over the next three years in step with the forecast trend in the national economy. This projected slackening shows up mostly in health care and to a lesser extent in financial activities, information, leisure and hospitality, and transportation; construction is expected to remain strong this year but decline in 2019 and beyond. But to an unusual extent the health care forecast, and indeed the entire city employment forecast, depends on whether home health care services sustains its recent pace of growth. Home health care employment has doubled in New York City in just six years, from 82,100 in the first quarter of 2012 to 165,500 in the first quarter of 2018, accounting for nearly a third of all the reported job growth in this sector in the entire country.

Labor Force. New York City's unemployment rate stood at 4.2 percent in the first quarter of 2018, a historic low, while the city's labor force participation rate of 60.9 percent was just off of last year's all-time high. Even with slowing payroll employment growth, the city's labor market will remain tight, with the unemployment rate projected to drop to 3.7 percent by the middle of 2019, before eventually edging back to 4.5 percent—still close to full employment—by the end of the financial plan period.

Wages. Adjusted for inflation, New York City's overall average wage fell for the fifth time in six years in 2017—a run that has dropped the real wage below the nadir of the 2009 crisis and recession. IBO expects wage growth to turn slightly positive in 2018 and for the rest of the forecast period. Rising wages are projected across most of the city economy, with health care and manufacturing as notable exceptions, reflecting the fact that even as the pace of job creation slows the city's labor market is expected to remain tight. Moreover, a projected slackening of the recent pace of gains in home health care employment will mean that overall job growth will not be tilted quite as heavily towards low-wage jobs. Even so, we project that the overall average

New York City Payroll Employment Growth

Q4 over Q4 change in thousands

	History					Forecast				
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Total Nonfarm	117.9	136.1	117.3	67.5	95.1	70.2	60.0	52.4	37.5	45.3
Total Private	120.1	132.6	113.5	66.9	96.1	70.3	60.0	52.4	37.4	45.4
Mining, Logging and Construction	6.1	8.8	11.6	3.5	6.9	7.3	4.9	3.3	2.6	3.4
Manufacturing	1.0	0.3	0.9	(3.2)	(2.6)	0.0	(0.8)	(1.4)	(0.9)	(0.6)
Wholesale Trade	2.1	2.3	1.2	(1.5)	1.0	1.1	0.4	0.1	(0.1)	0.1
Retail Trade	13.3	10.1	(4.9)	(0.5)	2.4	3.5	0.7	(1.9)	(0.0)	1.2
Utilities	(0.1)	0.4	0.3	(0.0)	0.0	0.1	(0.0)	(0.0)	(0.0)	0.1
Transportation and Warehousing	1.1	3.4	5.5	2.6	3.1	1.7	1.9	1.7	1.5	1.8
Information	6.4	3.8	5.1	3.9	4.0	2.0	2.5	2.1	1.6	2.0
Finance and Insurance	0.7	7.9	8.0	(0.9)	4.0	2.0	2.5	2.2	0.7	2.3
Securities, Financial Investments, and Related Activities	(0.7)	3.7	5.1	0.3	1.8	1.6	2.0	1.6	0.6	1.5
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	2.5	3.2	3.1	2.3	4.9	1.2	1.9	1.3	1.2	1.2
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	13.8	16.1	17.7	8.7	9.2	9.1	9.9	11.7	7.8	5.2
Management of Companies and Enterprises	1.9	3.0	(1.3)	1.4	1.9	(0.4)	0.5	1.0	0.5	0.1
Administrative and Support and Waste Management Services	5.0	10.1	13.2	9.6	8.1	9.1	7.9	7.0	4.3	5.9
Educational Services	13.1	12.7	8.8	3.4	3.4	4.8	3.1	2.4	1.5	2.7
Health Care and Social Assistance	23.5	23.2	21.3	24.6	38.0	19.1	17.0	16.3	12.9	14.7
Ambulatory Health Care Services	17.0	17.5	14.6	18.7	23.7	12.6	11.1	11.4	8.8	9.4
Social Assistance	6.2	5.6	5.6	3.6	10.3	4.5	3.8	3.5	3.5	4.4
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	6.3	2.4	3.9	0.6	2.9	1.8	0.5	0.1	0.0	0.1
Accommodation and Food Services	19.2	18.3	14.7	8.9	6.9	6.8	4.9	4.5	3.5	4.6
Food Services and Drinking Places	17.8	16.3	14.0	7.8	8.3	5.9	4.6	4.1	3.2	4.1
Other Services	4.2	6.5	4.6	3.5	2.0	1.0	2.0	2.0	0.3	0.7
Government	(2.3)	3.5	3.8	0.6	(1.0)	(0.1)	0.0	0.0	0.1	(0.1)

SOURCES: Bureau of Labor Statistics with IBO seasonal adjustments; Moody's Analytics

NOTE: Home health care is included in ambulatory health care services.

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wage in 2022 will still fall well short of the 2007 peak, and financial investments sector (Wall Street) wages will have recouped only about a third of the ground lost over the past decade.

Wall Street. New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) member firm broker dealer profits rose to \$24.5 billion in 2017, the highest level in six years. Reflecting increases in the Federal Reserve's benchmark rate, net interest costs jumped \$14.1 billion last year and have more than quadrupled over the past two years. But this was more than offset by the \$20.7 billion rise in net operating revenues in 2017.

IBO expects profits to slip to \$20.1 billion in 2018 and \$19.2 billion in 2019, and then average about \$20 billion per year over the rest of the financial plan period. Net operating revenues will continue to move on a moderate upward trajectory over the next five years. Net interest

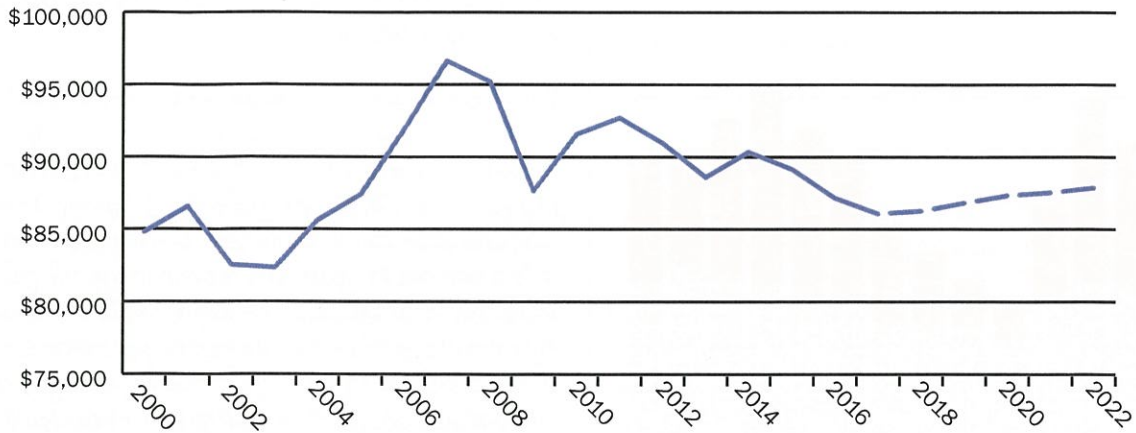
costs are projected also to continue to rise in tandem with the benchmark rate through 2020, at which point we expect the Federal Reserve to begin easing monetary policy in response to slower U.S. growth.

Real Estate. Taxable real estate sales in New York City were \$93.2 billion in 2017, the lowest level since 2012. Commercial sales were \$37.8 billion, less than half their 2015 peak. Residential sales, however, were \$55.4 billion, the highest level ever recorded before adjusting for inflation. Last year was the first year since 2010 that the value of residential sales in New York City exceeded that of commercial sales.

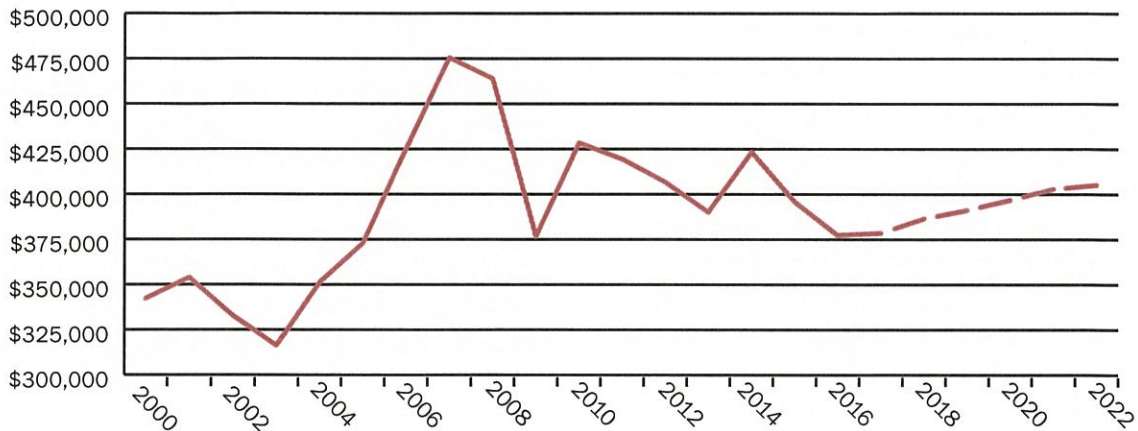
Commercial real estate sales were \$12.8 billion in the January-March 2018 quarter, well above the level of sales of any quarter in 2017, but well below the 2015 and 2016 levels. Commercial sales for the quarter were bolstered by the \$2.4 billion sale of the Chelsea Market property on

New York City Average Real Wages Have Yet To Recover From 2008-2009 Recession

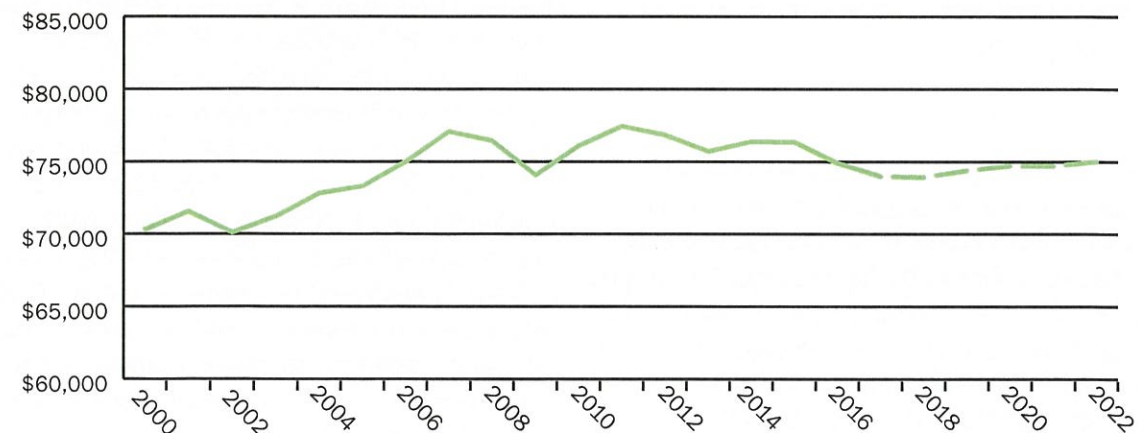
All Job Sectors



Securities, Commodity Contracts, Investments



All But Securities



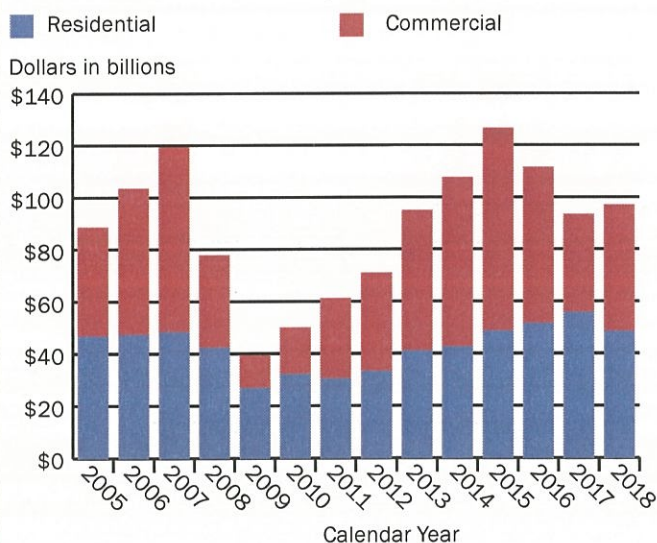
NOTES: In 2017 dollars. Based on IBO re-estimates of Bureau of Economic Analysis definitions of industry employment and wages. 2017 is preliminary.

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9th Avenue to Google in March. Residential sales for the quarter were \$12.0 billion, the lowest quarterly total since April-June 2016.

IBO's real estate forecast is substantially the same as in March. IBO expects residential sales to drop over 10 percent in 2018, with the greatest decline in Manhattan.

IBO Projects a Decline in Residential Sales in 2018, While Commercial Sales Begin to Recover



SOURCE: IBO analysis of Department of Finance data
NOTE: 2018 is forecast.

Commercial sales, on the other hand, will begin a moderate recovery. In 2019 and the following years the value of commercial sales are projected to surpass the value of residential transactions, with modest growth in both sectors continuing through 2022. Several factors will, however, work to make investments in commercial property less attractive: higher mortgage rates, weakness in brick and mortar retailing, slower growth in office-using employment, and a significant amount of new office space coming online. On the residential side, higher mortgage rates and recent policy changes that reduce the tax advantages of home ownership will exert downward pressure on sales growth.

Taxes and Other Revenues

IBO's near-term tax revenue forecast has been revised upward sharply from what we projected in our previous forecast (March 2018), spurred by what we assume to be one-time responses to federal tax law changes. Tax revenue is now expected to total \$58.9 billion in 2018, \$882 million more than in our forecast from two months ago, and \$60.8 billion in 2019, up \$553 million since March. The federal effect fades further in 2020 through 2022. By the final year of our forecast (2022), tax revenues are projected to total \$69.0 billion, only \$63 million higher than in our March forecast. (Unless otherwise noted, years refer to city fiscal years from here on.)

The two largest changes in the 2018 forecast are the \$748 million increase for personal income tax and a \$155 million

downward revision for corporate income tax revenue. For 2019 and subsequent years, the forecasts for all taxes other than personal income, unincorporated business, and sales have either been revised down or had only minor positive changes since March.

With the addition of the large boost in revenues beginning in December, 2018 tax revenues are now expected to be 8.4 percent higher than in 2017, the largest one-year increase since 2013. With less of a kick from federal tax changes expected in 2019, year-to-year growth will slow to 3.2 percent in 2019, and remain in the 3.7 percent to 4.0 percent range in the remaining years of the forecast. This slowdown in annual tax revenue growth reflects not only the expectation of a limited effect from the federal tax law changes but also the anticipation of slower U.S. GDP growth beginning in the second half of calendar year 2019.

IBO projects that revenue growth will average 3.7 annually from 2018 through 2022, which would be the slowest four-year annual average since the end of the Great Recession. Since the recession, the four-year average has ranged from a low of 4.9 percent (2013-2017) to a high of 6.6 percent (2009-2013). The real property tax is expected to show the steadiest and strongest growth, averaging 5.5 percent annually from 2018 through 2022. No other tax is projected to average more than 4.3 percent annually, with several—including the personal income tax—expected to average less than 2.0 percent annual growth between 2018 and 2022.

OMB and IBO have both increased their total tax revenue forecasts from earlier in the year, with OMB's changes larger than IBO's in 2018 and 2022 and IBO's changes larger in 2019 through 2021; as a result, the gaps between the two sets of forecasts have narrowed somewhat since our previous forecasts. Still, IBO's forecast of tax revenues exceeds OMB's in each year of the plan, with the gap growing from \$774 million (1.3 percent) in 2018 to \$861 million (1.4 percent) in 2019, and \$1.7 billion (2.5 percent) in 2022. Throughout the forecast period, much of the difference is attributable to IBO's more robust outlook for PIT, the real property tax, and the corporate income taxes; the property tax difference is particularly wide in 2022 when it exceeds \$1.0 billion.

Total revenues, including the city's fees, fines and other miscellaneous sources, state and federal grants and other categorical aid, and interfund revenues are now forecast to total \$89.2 billion for the current year, \$932 million more than in March, with \$882 million of the increase due to

IBO Revenue Projections <i>Dollars in millions</i>						
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Average Change
Tax Revenue						
Property	\$26,404	\$28,170	\$29,703	\$31,269	\$32,736	5.5%
Personal Income	13,100	12,863	13,166	13,618	13,876	1.4%
General Sales	7,395	7,694	8,150	8,397	8,686	4.1%
Corporation	3,407	3,678	3,776	3,805	3,954	3.8%
Unincorporated Business	2,225	2,287	2,410	2,496	2,629	4.3%
Real Property Transfer	1,393	1,424	1,463	1,524	1,560	2.9%
Mortgage Recording	1,004	935	967	1,013	1,052	1.2%
Utility	374	390	391	394	399	1.7%
Hotel Occupancy	587	595	612	622	632	1.9%
Commercial Rent	851	876	892	921	957	3.0%
Cigarette	36	35	34	33	32	-2.9%
Other Taxes and Audits	2,077	1,806	1,471	1,471	1,477	-8.2%
Total Taxes	\$58,853	\$60,752	\$63,036	\$65,564	\$67,989	3.7%
Other Revenue						
STaR Reimbursement	\$189	\$185	\$182	\$180	\$178	-1.5%
Miscellaneous Revenue	7,128	6,816	6,858	6,766	6,745	-1.4%
Unrestricted Intergovernmental Aid	-	-	-	-	-	n/a
Disallowances	85	(15)	(15)	(15)	(15)	n/a
Total Other Revenue	\$7,402	\$6,986	\$7,025	\$6,931	\$6,908	-1.7%
Less: Intra-City Revenue	(\$2,208)	(\$1,826)	(\$1,771)	(\$1,776)	(\$1,776)	
TOTAL CITY-FUNDED REVENUE	\$64,046	\$65,912	\$68,290	\$70,719	\$73,121	3.4%
State Categorical Grants	\$14,836	\$14,986	\$15,319	\$15,780	\$16,265	2.3%
Federal Categorical Grants	8,551	7,561	7,376	7,355	7,275	-4.0%
Other Categorical Aid	1,105	936	930	925	919	-4.5%
Interfund Revenue	646	682	641	638	638	-0.3%
TOTAL REVENUE	\$89,184	\$90,077	\$92,557	\$95,417	\$98,219	2.4%
NOTES: Corporation tax revenue combines collections of the business corporation tax, the general corporation tax, and the banking corporation tax. Figures may not add due to rounding.						
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higher tax receipts. Changes for subsequent years were more modest, with revenue from all sources now expected to total \$90.1 billion in 2019, growing to \$98.2 billion by 2022.

Real Property Tax. IBO's updated property tax forecast is little changed from our March outlook. Virtually all of the differences between our two forecasts are due to small changes in the projections for property tax reserve items rather than from changes in assessed value or the levy. (The property tax reserve includes provision for the costs of abatements, delinquencies, refunds, and cancellations, as well as revenue from prior-year liabilities and lien sales.)

IBO now projects that property tax revenue for 2018 will total \$26.4 billion, an increase of just \$57 million (0.2 percent) since March, due primarily to a reduction in

the expected cost of the J-51 abatement program and increased proceeds from lien sales. Our forecast for 2019 is \$28.2 billion, an increase of 6.7 percent from the current year. After 2019 revenues are projected to grow at an average annual rate of 5.1 percent through 2022, when they are expected to reach \$32.7 billion. IBO's forecast for each year from 2019 through 2022 is slightly lower than in March with the difference growing from \$13 million in 2019 to \$125 million in 2022; virtually all of the change is due to small shifts in our forecasts of reserve components.

Differences between IBO's forecast and OMB's outlook have narrowed and now range between \$210 million in 2018 and \$558 million in 2021, with relatively small differences (less than \$100 million each year) in projections for the levy. The gap is larger for 2022 (\$1.0

billion) due to IBO's somewhat higher levy forecast—\$402 million greater than OMB's—and IBO's smaller reserve forecast as OMB is carrying much larger allowances for refunds, delinquencies, and cancellations than IBO.

Projections of property tax revenues in the coming years are subject to greater uncertainty than usual due to growing pressure for major changes to the city's property tax system. IBO and other analysts have produced an expanding list of reports documenting inequities and inefficiencies in the current system, primarily the result of provisions of New York State laws that determine nearly all of the parameters of the city's property tax. A federal lawsuit brought by a coalition of homeowners, property owners, and advocates for tenants against the city and state is still pending.

Meanwhile, the City Council, in its response to the Mayor's Preliminary Budget, has called for establishment of a commission to consider comprehensive reform of the property tax, made up of appointees of both the Council and the Mayor. The Mayor has also endorsed a panel and promises to announce its establishment shortly, although his would be made up only of Mayoral appointees.

The extent of changes these commissions could consider will depend on whether they are required to develop proposals that are revenue neutral and whether they focus on differences in tax burdens among homeowner properties or also focus on the even greater disparities between homeowners and renters. With either focus, revenue-neutral proposals would leave some taxpayers better off and others worse off.¹

Homeowner Rebate. The City Council's response to the Mayor's Preliminary Budget also included a proposal for a property tax rebate of \$400 on the primary residence of homeowners—including owners of coops and condos—earning \$150,000 or less. In the Council's proposal, homeowners who receive the veteran's exemption would not be eligible for the rebate. The proposed rebate would also provide no benefit for renters. IBO estimates that the rebate would cost roughly \$210 million annually, although this estimate is highly dependent on assumptions regarding the number of homes that are primary residences and the incomes of homeowners.

Because of wide differences in tax burdens between types of property and location across the city, the effect of the rebate on average tax bills will differ. Those condominium owners whose income qualifies for the rebate would get a bigger percentage decrease in their property taxes (an

average decline of 25.7 percent citywide) than single-family homeowners (an average decline of 9.4 percent). The relatively small number of condominium owners in the Bronx would receive the largest percentage reduction in their taxes, with an average decrease of 88 percent in their tax bills thanks to the rebate. (Data limitations prevent similar comparisons for cooperative apartments.) Among single-family homeowners, owners in the Bronx and Staten Island—who pay higher effective tax rates on average than their counterparts in Brooklyn and Manhattan—would fare slightly better, with reductions averaging 11 percent and 10 percent, respectively, compared with 2 percent in Manhattan and 9 percent in Brooklyn.

Real Estate Transfer Taxes. IBO has made small adjustments since March in its forecasts of the real property transfer tax (RPTT) and the mortgage recording tax (MRT), but the overall trends for the years 2018–2022 remain unchanged. The sum of the two taxes—collectively referred to as the transfer taxes—has been adjusted upward for 2018, based on the strength of RPTT collections. However, at \$2.4 billion the projected total for this year is still 5.4 percent below 2017, and the lowest level since 2013. Total transfer tax collections are projected to increase slowly beginning in 2019, reaching \$2.6 billion in 2022. This sum is well below the recent nominal peak of \$3.0 billion in 2016, and far below the all-time peak of \$3.3 billion reached in 2007.

Real Property Transfer Tax. RPTT collections for 2018 are projected to be just under \$1.4 billion, an increase of \$50 million (3.7 percent) over the March forecast, and a decline of about \$22 million (1.6 percent) from 2017. IBO's 2018 forecast has been revised upward to reflect a rebound in the sales of commercial property in recent months.

The RPTT is a tax on the value of real estate sales, and revenue from the tax is directly correlated with the value of property transactions. Commercial sales have been the main driver of trends in RPTT revenue, both because of their greater variability and because commercial transactions are taxed at higher rates than residential transactions. The dramatic decline in RPTT revenue in the wake of the financial crisis, and its subsequent recovery, were the result primarily of variations in commercial sales. In 2015 commercial sales and RPTT revenue reached all-time highs. In 2016 commercial sales fell, but the rise in residential sales pushed RPTT even higher, to almost \$1.8 billion. In 2017 residential sales rose sharply, but not enough to offset the steep decline in commercial sales. As a result, RPTT revenue fell to just over \$1.4 billion.

IBO projects that RPTT revenue will increase each year beginning in 2019, reaching just under \$1.6 billion in 2022. However, the growth rate has been revised slightly downward from our prior forecast, and projected 2022 revenue is now \$46 million (2.9 percent) below the forecast in March. The value of commercial sales is projected to exceed the value of residential transactions in each year from 2019 through 2022. Because of this, and because commercial transactions are taxed at higher rates than residential sales, commercial properties will be responsible for well over half of RPTT revenue.

IBO's forecasts are slightly below OMB's in 2018 and 2019, and slightly above in 2020 through 2022. The patterns of the two forecasts are similar, except that where IBO projects a small increase in 2020, OMB projects a modest dip. For the entire 2018 through 2022 period, IBO's forecast of RPTT revenue is a total of \$49 million (0.7 percent) above OMB's.

Mortgage Recording Tax. MRT collections for the current year are projected at \$1.0 billion, unchanged since our March forecast. The outlook for 2018 represents a drop of 10.2 percent from 2017, and 18.6 percent from 2016. In 2007 MRT revenues hit an all-time peak of almost \$1.6 billion in nominal terms, before crashing in the wake of the financial crisis and hitting bottom at \$366 million in 2010. Revenue then rebounded, reaching a peak of just over \$1.2 billion in 2016.

The MRT is a tax on the value of mortgages used to purchase property, and in some cases, on the value of mortgage refinancings. While RPTT revenue is proportional to the value of property sales, in the case of the MRT the relationship between real estate sales and tax revenue is less direct. The amount of a purchase financed by a mortgage varies from one transaction to another. Moreover, refinancings—which do not involve a property sale—may or may not be subject to the MRT. In general, however, periods of high MRT revenue tend to coincide with periods of declining interest rates and high levels of refinancing activity.

Recent changes in federal tax law reduce the maximum value of residential mortgages whose interest can be deducted for income tax purposes, and also restrict the deductibility of interest from home equity loans. IBO expects these policy changes to reduce mortgage activity, independent of changes in mortgage rates.

The observed decline in MRT revenue since 2016 coincides with increases in mortgage rates. Currently, IBO projects that mortgage rates will continue to rise through mid-2020,

and then drop slightly. Also associated with the increase in rates, and with the reduction in the deductibility of interest from home equity loans, a significant drop is forecast in refinancing as a share of total mortgage activity. According to the Mortgage Bankers Association (MBA), for the U.S. as a whole, refinancings represented 43 percent of the value of residential mortgages issued in 2017. The MBA projects that the refinance share will drop to 33 percent in 2018, and 24 percent in 2019. After the projected 10.2 percent drop in MRT revenue in 2018, IBO expects collections to fall by an additional 6.9 percent, to \$935 million, in 2019. We project that revenue will slowly rebound beginning in 2020, and reach nearly \$1.1 billion in 2022.

IBO's updated forecast follows the same trend as our March forecast, but with sharper declines in 2019 and 2020. The forecast for 2019 has been brought down by \$30 million (3.1 percent), and the forecast for 2020 by \$20 million (2.0 percent). The forecasts for 2021 and 2022 are unchanged.

IBO's MRT forecast is similar to OMB's, with a decline through 2019 and a subsequent recovery. IBO projects stronger MRT growth than OMB in 2020 through 2022, and for 2022 IBO's forecast is \$73 million (7.5 percent) above OMB's.

Commercial Rent Tax. At \$851 million, IBO's 2018 forecast for the commercial rent tax (CRT) is 4.2 percent above 2017 collections and unchanged since our last forecast in March. IBO projects average annual growth from 2019 through 2022 of 3.0 percent, with 2022 collections forecast at \$957 million, \$8 million above the March forecast. IBO's CRT forecasts are all within 1.0 percent of OMB's projections.

The CRT is a tax imposed on tenants renting space for business, professional, and commercial purposes in much of Manhattan below 96th Street. Not-for-profit organizations, subtenants, tenants located in the World Trade Center area, and most retail tenants south of Chambers Street are exempt from the tax. Tenants participating in the Commercial Revitalization Program also receive reductions in their tax bill. Over time both the tax rate and the geographic area subject to the tax have been reduced. In recent years tenants with annual gross rents of less than \$250,000, regardless of where they are located, have been exempt, with a sliding scale tax credit applied to tenants with annual or annualized rents between \$250,000 and \$300,000.

The forecasts of IBO and OMB for 2019 and later reflect the impact of legislation passed by the City Council in November 2017 that seeks to reduce or eliminate the CRT

for certain small businesses. The bill, which takes effect July 1, 2018, creates a new credit that eliminates the tax for tenants paying less than \$499,999 in annualized rent, providing their total income is \$5 million or less. Tenants paying rents in this same range but with incomes of \$5 million to \$10 million are eligible for a partial tax credit, as are tenants paying from \$500,000 to \$550,000 whose income does not exceed \$10 million.

Personal Income Tax. The city's personal income tax collections have continued to be stronger than anticipated, prompting IBO to raise its forecast for the current year, to \$13.1 billion. The huge increase over 2017 revenue—\$2.0 billion (18.4 percent)—results from a combination of temporary conditions boosting collections. Changes to federal income taxes enacted in December have altered the timing of PIT collections this year, although subsequent state legislation has severed the links between provisions of the federal tax system and state and city tax law that would have directly changed PIT liabilities for many New Yorkers.² PIT collections will decline by 1.8 percent in 2019, to a projected \$12.9 billion in our forecast. From 2020 through 2022, revenue growth is expected to resume, although at a more moderate pace, averaging 2.6 percent, annually.

Increases in revenue from the two largest components of PIT collections—withholdings and quarterly estimated payments—account for all of the PIT growth from 2017 to 2018. IBO forecasts \$9.4 billion in withholding revenue for the year—14.8 percent more than in 2017. Quarterly estimated payments (excluding those with extensions) are projected to be \$2.9 billion, a huge 55.7 percent increase over 2017. Withholdings and estimated payments play a much smaller role in the large upward revision in our 2018 PIT forecast since March, accounting for only \$78 million of the \$748 million increase. A large part of the revision in our forecast stems from a \$175 million upward revision in the projection of offset receipts—periodic payments made to the city from the state's Department of Taxation and Finance (which administers the city's income tax). The other large changes to the 2018 forecast are a lower estimate for refunds and an increase in our projections for final returns and estimated payments made by taxpayers who file for extensions.

Withholdings. Throughout 2018, withholding receipts—by far the largest component of PIT revenue—have swelled in comparison to the previous year. The strength of withholding revenue this year is partly due to a change in state law enacted last spring that eliminated the remaining component of STAR-related benefits delivered through

the city's tax on personal income—the roughly 6 percent reduction in marginal PIT rates for filers with income under \$500,000. Beginning in July 2017, withholding tables were adjusted to reflect the elimination of the reduced rates and the resulting increase in city residents' PIT liabilities, (Total city revenue is not affected by the elimination of STAR because the increase in PIT revenue is offset by the loss of the state's reimbursement to the city for the foregone PIT under STAR.³)

Withholding receipts in December 2017 through March of this year—the period when securities firms and many other companies in the financial and professional services industries typically award employee bonuses—are generally larger than in other months. This year the bonus season boost to withholdings was particularly large for two reasons. One, the bull market on Wall Street in calendar year 2017 and a five-year high of New York Stock Exchange-member profits fueled a substantial increase in bonus compensation, in turn augmenting income tax withholding receipts. Two, federal tax reform enacted in 2008 required many managers of offshore hedge funds to repatriate and pay taxes on deferred compensation that had been held in hedge funds' offshore accounts since 2008. The 2008 legislation gave managers up to 10 years to repatriate already earned deferred compensation. With the 10-year deferral period coming to an end on December 31, 2017, a substantial amount of prior earnings that had been deferred became taxable, greatly adding to PIT withholdings.

Quarterly Estimated Payments. In contrast to withholdings, revenue from estimated payments initially lagged in 2018. Starting in December, however, estimated payments surged. These payments—the second largest component of PIT revenue—are made quarterly by taxpayers who are self-employed or who anticipate realizing capital gains from the sale of real property and financial assets. (Estimated payments are also made by taxpayers filing for extensions beyond the April 15th deadline, but these are excluded from this discussion.) A large amount of revenue from estimated payments made in January—the month in which most taxpayers make the last quarterly payment—was expected. Equities markets reached new highs in the past year and many investors, including some who had deferred capital gains in 2016 in anticipation of federal tax cuts, chose instead to realize capital gains in 2017. Moreover, the fourth quarterly payment was expected to be high as many taxpayers were believed to have underpaid their first three quarterly payments against calendar year 2017 liability and would therefore need to make a larger final quarterly payment.

But the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA) enacted by Congress in December generated a further surge of estimated payments that were received by the city in late December and the very beginning of January. TCJA's \$10,000 limit on the amount of state and local tax payments that can be claimed as an itemized deduction from federal adjusted gross income motivated large numbers of taxpayers across the country—including many New Yorkers—to prepay state and local taxes by the end of December, giving themselves the full benefit of the deduction one last time before the limits came into effect on January 1. Even though the fourth quarterly payment was not due until later on in January, almost \$1.4 billion in PIT estimated payments were received from city taxpayers in the last week of December and first week of January; the latter were payments that had likely been made before January 1. Combined estimated payment revenue for the two months was \$1.9 billion, which dwarfed collections in previous years.

Final Returns, Refunds, & Extension Estimated Payments. Compared to projections made at the time of the Preliminary Budget, IBO has lowered its 2018 forecast of refund payments and increased its forecasts of payments made with final returns and, especially, of extension estimated payments. With the surge of withholdings and quarterly estimated payments that became evident in December, it was thought that many taxpayers were likely to have overpaid their liability for calendar year 2017. As a result, we cautiously predicted a large decline in final returns, a large increase in refunds, and a decline in estimated payments made by taxpayers filing for extensions. But final returns to date in 2018 (through April) are already greater than projections made in March, and we now forecast \$411 million for the entire year, a slight increase over 2017 revenue. Refunds to date in 2018 are greater than in the same period last year, but not by as much as previously expected. IBO now forecasts \$1.3 billion in refunds for 2018. Finally, extension payments to date dwarf the amount projected in March. We have raised the forecast of extension payments by \$286 million, to \$745 million, only slightly less than 2017 extensions.

After 2018. IBO's forecast for PIT revenue in 2019 is \$12.9 billion—a decline of \$237 million (1.8 percent) from the amount projected for 2018. The city's economy is expected to continue adding a large number of jobs in calendar year 2018 (70,200, from Q4 to Q4), accompanied by an acceleration of personal income. But the set of conditions that swelled PIT revenue this year are not expected to recur. Barring additional effects from state and federal reforms, IBO projects slower withholding growth, a decline in

quarterly estimated payments, and an increase in refunds in 2019.

Annual increases in PIT revenue are expected to resume in 2020, though a gradual slowing of employment growth through calendar year 2021 will keep PIT growth modest. IBO forecasts PIT revenue increasing at an average annual rate of 2.6 percent in 2020 through 2022, with a projected \$13.9 billion in PIT revenue in the final year.

Differences with OMB's Forecast. IBO's forecast of PIT revenue exceeds OMB's Executive Budget forecast in each year, with the largest differences in the current year forecast (\$442 million, or 3.5 percent) and in 2019 (\$485 million, or 3.9 percent). IBO's higher forecasts of extension payments and final returns accounts for about two-thirds of the difference with OMB in 2018. The difference in the 2019 forecasts comes entirely from IBO's projection of greater withholdings growth and a smaller decrease in estimated payments. After 2019, IBO forecasts slower withholding and estimated payments growth, on average, than does OMB. As a result, differences between the two forecasts are much smaller, averaging \$193 million a year for 2020 through 2022.

Business Income Taxes. The city's business income tax collections peaked at \$6.0 billion in 2015 and subsequently declined for two consecutive years, falling to \$5.5 billion in 2017. IBO projects a return to growth starting in the current fiscal year, with business tax collections increasing by 3.3 percent to \$5.6 billion in 2018, and growing faster, by 5.9 percent, to reach nearly \$6.0 billion in 2019. More moderate growth is expected after that, at an average annual rate of 3.4 percent from 2020 through 2022. By the end of the forecast period, IBO projects that total business tax revenues will reach \$6.6 billion, an increase of \$1.1 billion over collections in 2017.

Corporate Taxes. Since state and city business tax reform in 2015, most corporations are taxed under the business corporation tax, with a limited amount of revenue still being collected from general corporation tax and banking corporation tax taxpayers, including S-corporations and firms with audits and extensions still open from tax years prior to the reform. Declines in combined corporate collections have driven the decline in overall business tax revenue that has been underway for the past two years. For 2018, IBO projects a third year of modest decline at 1.1 percent (\$38 million), bringing corporate collections down to \$3.4 billion.

IBO had previously projected growth to return this year, driven by indicators such as rising corporate profits and

earnings in key industries such as finance, trade, and information. But through the first two quarters of fiscal year 2018, receipts have been lower than expected, suggesting that the recovery in corporate tax revenue has again been delayed. However, collections have been improving as the end of the fiscal year approaches, with preliminary data from April looking particularly strong. This recent surge may be due in part to changes in tax law at the federal level, as businesses begin to take advantage of a friendlier corporate tax environment.

IBO projects robust growth in corporate tax revenue for 2019, increasing by 7.9 percent (\$270 million) to reach \$3.7 billion. Growth in collections is expected to slow down again after that, rising by 2.7 percent in 2020, 0.8 percent in 2021, and 3.9 percent in 2022. Weaker growth in 2020 and 2021 is consistent with IBO's forecast of a slowdown in U.S. GDP growth beginning in the middle of calendar year 2019, as upward pressure on wages and prices leads the Fed to accelerate its planned increases in interest rates, and businesses and financial markets adjust to this new environment. Finance, the sector that contributes more than any other to the city's corporate tax collections, is particularly sensitive to changes in interest rates and growth in the U.S. economy.

Unincorporated Business Tax. Whereas corporate tax receipts have continued a trend of weakness into 2018, collections from the unincorporated business tax (UBT) have been particularly strong. IBO projects that after a minor decline in 2017, UBT revenue will increase by 11.0 percent (\$220 million) in 2018, bringing collections to \$2.2 billion. Growth is expected to continue throughout the rest of the forecast period, but at a more moderate rate, with revenue increasing 2.8 percent (\$62 million) in 2019, and an average annual rate of 4.8 percent from 2020 through 2022, reaching \$2.6 billion by the end of this period. A major driver of the UBT forecast is earnings from the professional services sector, which accounts for the largest share of the city's noncorporate businesses (partnerships, sole proprietorships, and limited liability companies) subject to the tax. Despite IBO's forecast of weaker general economic performance after 2018, we expect growth in the professional services sector to soften but continue throughout this period, yielding more stable growth for UBT revenue.

IBO's forecast for total business tax revenue is 2.3 percent (\$129 million) higher than OMB's for 2018, and 1.7 percent (\$100 million) higher in 2019. Almost all of this is attributable to differences in expected corporate revenue. OMB projects a more substantial decline in

corporate collections for 2018 at 4.3 percent (\$147 million), whereas the strengthening of recent collections leads IBO to forecast a smaller decline of 1.1 percent (\$38 million). Some of this difference is made up in 2019, as OMB projects even more robust recovery in corporate tax collections, growing by 8.9 percent (\$295 million), compared with IBO's predicted growth of 7.9 percent (\$270 million). IBO's projections of slightly higher growth in the out-years, for both corporate taxes and the UBT, result in a widening gap between the two forecasts, reaching 8.0 percent (\$489 million) by 2022.

One factor that could affect business income tax collections moving forward is the shifting landscape of federal tax law, and changes to local tax law in response. New York City, like many state and city governments, uses federal definitions of taxable income and other items from federal tax returns as a starting point for calculating tax liability. In its most recent budget legislation, the State of New York made many changes to state and city income tax laws, decoupling the state and city from several provisions in the federal Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017. Other federal provisions remain unaddressed, however, such as a cap on the deductibility of business interest expenses. Such issues may necessitate additional action by the state in the future. IBO's current revenue forecast is based on the assumption that the city and state have or will have effectively decoupled their business taxes from all recent changes in federal law, as intended, and therefore includes no adjustments for direct impacts of federal tax policy.

Sales Tax. The general sales tax is the city's third largest source of tax revenue, accounting for about 13 percent of total revenue from taxes. Sales tax collections were up 5.6 percent through the first three quarters of the current fiscal year. IBO projects sales tax revenue of \$7.4 billion for 2018 overall, a 5.4 percent increase over 2017.

Revenue growth of 4.0 percent is projected in 2019 (to \$7.7 billion) and 5.9 percent in 2020. But these growth rates are lifted by the expiration of the Sales Tax Asset Receivable Corporation (STARC) intercept three-quarters of the way through 2019. Instituted to recoup \$600 million in savings owed to the state from the city's refinancing of STARC bonds, the intercept siphoned off \$50 million from city sales tax collections in 2016, \$200 million in 2017 and again in 2018, and is scheduled to absorb a final tranche of \$150 million in 2019.

Excluding the impact of the STARC intercept, the sales tax forecast reflects the confluence of expected weakening

Impact of Sales Tax Receivable Corporation Intercept on New York City Sales Tax Revenue Growth								
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Growth With STARC	3.8%	2.5%	1.5%	5.4%	4.0%	5.9%	3.0%	3.4%
Growth Without STARC	3.8%	3.2%	3.7%	5.2%	3.3%	3.9%	3.0%	3.4%
STARC Impact on Growth	0.0%	-0.7%	-2.1%	0.1%	0.8%	2.0%	0.0%	0.0%
NOTE: 2018-2022 are forecast.								
New York City Independent Budget Office								

growth in the city economy and underlying factors mediating the relationship between the economy and taxable sales.

Historically sales tax revenue growth has been constrained by a long-term trend decline in the portion of disposable personal income devoted to consumption of taxable goods and services; as is the case in many jurisdictions, the city's sales tax base has only partially adapted to the changing composition of final output and demand. But against this downward pull there is the boost to taxable sales provided by the enormous expansion of tourism and of visitor spending in New York City since the turn of the new century, with spending by international visitors playing an especially key role. Fears that current global political tensions might lead to declines in tourism have so far not been borne out.

More recently, the “retail apocalypse” overtaking brick-and-mortar sales establishments—and evidenced in the lack of growth in New York City retail employment since 2014—may accelerate the decline in the ratio of taxable sales to disposable income. But here again there is an at least partially offsetting factor, namely the expanding net that city and state sales taxation has been casting over Internet sales.

IBO's sales tax forecast essentially equals OMB's for the current year and is \$68 million lower in 2019. However, OMB has yet to recognize the final tranche of STARC; otherwise IBO's forecast would run \$82 million higher than OMB's in 2019. OMB's forecast exceeds IBO's each year in 2020 through 2022, although the difference is less than \$100 million a year.

Spending

Much as IBO projects higher revenues than the de Blasio Administration based on the Mayor's latest budget plan, we also estimate that total city spending including city, state, and federal funds will be somewhat higher this year and next, though our estimates for total spending in 2020 through 2022 are lower than the Mayor's. IBO projects total city spending will be \$90.1 billion in 2019 under the

contours of the Mayor's latest budget plan—\$900 million more than the \$89.2 billion we estimate spending will total this year. We project total spending will rise to \$93.3 billion in 2020 and reach \$98.3 billion in 2022. Adjusting for the use of prior budget surpluses to prepay some expenses for upcoming years, IBO anticipates total city spending will increase from \$89.0 billion in 2018 to \$92.9 billion next year and grow to \$94.8 billion in 2020.

Factors Driving Spending Growth. After adjusting for prepayments, very few agencies are forecast to have average annual growth that exceeds the citywide average of 2.5 percent, in fact most agencies average negative expenditure growth across the plan period. Much of the growth in spending the next four years is driven by increased spending in two areas: fringe benefits for city employees and debt service (note that most fringe benefits and all debt service are not carried within the budgets of city agencies). IBO estimates that in 2018 the city's expenditure on debt service and fringe benefits will comprise 18.2 percent of the total budget. By 2022 these two expenses will make up 21.2 percent of the entire city budget.

IBO projects that in 2018 citywide fringe benefit costs will total \$10.4 billion (about 11 percent of total city spending after adjusting for prepayments). Fringe costs increase in each year of the plan period and by 2022 these costs will exceed \$12.2 billion (12.4 percent of adjusted total city expenditures), an annual average growth rate of 4.1 percent. The single largest factor driving growth in fringe costs is health insurance. Even accounting for the health care savings attributed to labor settlements with the municipal unions, IBO estimates that health insurance costs will increase by an average of 5.4 percent per year from 2018 through 2022.

After adjusting for the prepayment of debt service costs, IBO estimates that the city's debt service expenditures will increase from \$6.2 billion in 2018 (7.0 percent of total city spending) to \$6.9 billion in 2019, an 11.2 percent increase. By the end of the financial plan period we project that debt service costs will total \$8.6 billion (8.7 percent of total city expenditures), an increase averaging 8.4 percent a year

IBO Expenditure Projections						
<i>Dollars in millions</i>						
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Average Change
Agency Expenditures	\$64,566	\$64,025	\$64,062	\$64,481	\$64,921	0.1%
Fringe Benefits	10,389	10,534	11,228	11,718	12,207	4.1%
Labor Reserve	63	1,445	1,785	2,259	1,699	n/a
Total Agency Expenditures	\$75,018	\$76,003	\$77,075	\$78,458	\$78,827	1.2%
Other Expenditures						
Debt Service	\$6,231	\$6,929	\$7,511	\$7,903	\$8,608	8.4%
Pensions	9,632	9,852	9,903	10,162	10,367	1.9%
Judgments and Claims	712	697	712	727	742	1.0%
General Reserve	50	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	n/a
Capital Stabilization Reserve	-	250	250	250	250	n/a
Expenditure Adjustments	(400)	-	121	220	325	n/a
FY 2017 Budget Stabilization Account and Discretionary Transfers	(4,180)	-	-	-	-	n/a
FY 2018 Budget Stabilization Account	4,329	(3,652)	(677)	-	-	n/a
FY 2019 Budget Stabilization Account	-	825	(825)	-	-	n/a
Subtotal	\$91,392	\$91,904	\$95,070	\$98,719	\$100,119	2.3%
Less: Intra-City Expenditures	(\$2,208)	(\$1,826)	(\$1,771)	(\$1,776)	(\$1,776)	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$89,184	\$90,077	\$93,299	\$96,943	\$98,343	2.5%
NOTES: Expenditure adjustments include energy, lease, and nonlabor inflation adjustments. Figures may not add due to rounding.						
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from 2018 through 2022. The Department of Education (DOE) is the only agency projected to experience sizable real (inflation-adjusted) budget increases across the plan period. From 2018 through 2022 IBO expects DOE expenditures will grow by 2.7 percent per year, to reach \$28.1 billion. Growth in DOE's city-funded expenditures is driven by increases in funds needed to cover costs from the last union settlement, a rise in Fair Student Funding, the Universal Literacy initiative, and the replacement of state aid that was anticipated but not received with local dollars.

Expenditure Re-estimates. IBO estimates that total city-funded spending will be \$98 million greater in 2018 and \$64 million greater in 2019 than presented in the Mayor's Executive Budget. Conversely, our forecast of city-funded spending is lower than the de Blasio Administration projects for the subsequent years of the financial plan: \$76 million less in 2020, \$321 million less in 2021, and \$430 million less in 2022.

Lower Spending. IBO's forecast of lower overall expenditures than the Mayor presents in the Executive Budget is primarily the result of our re-estimate of the city's health insurance costs coupled with re-estimates in debt service, sanitation, and for cash assistance.

- **Debt Service Savings.** Although IBO projects that debt service costs will grow at a faster rate than other major city expenses, we expect these costs will be lower than the de Blasio Administration has assumed for 2019 in the Executive Budget. OMB has reduced its variable interest rate assumptions for 2018 but has left its rates for 2019 unchanged. Even with interest rates expected to continue rising, the rates assumed by OMB for 2019 are likely much higher than experience suggests. IBO's assumption of lower variable rate interest reduces our forecast of debt service costs by \$33 million in 2019.

- **Health Care Costs Re-estimates.** The city's provision of health insurance for current and retired city employees is budgeted to total \$6.3 billion in 2018. By 2022 these health care costs are budgeted to increase to \$8.7 billion. Based on recent trends in spending and our own forecast of growth in health care costs, IBO estimates that the city will spend \$200 million less on health care than OMB projects for 2019, with \$73 million of the savings in the Department of Education. By 2022 IBO's forecast of health care spending is \$890 million below OMB's, with \$341 million of the savings attributable to DOE. The remainder of estimated savings in health care costs is divided among all other city agencies.

· **Department of Sanitation Expenditures.** IBO projects that Department of Sanitation (DSNY) expenditures will be lower than presented in the Executive Budget. Based on the department's historical spending we expect that in 2018 DSNY will spend \$26 million less in city funds than currently budgeted. Similarly, IBO estimates that DSNY will require less funding than budgeted for 2019 through 2021: \$27 million less in 2019, \$23 million less in 2020, and \$14 million less in 2021. The reduction in spending is primarily the result of over-budgeting for the costs related to the closure of Fresh Kills Landfill, offset slightly by our increased estimates for waste prevention and recycling other than personal service costs.

· **City Overestimates Cash Assistance Expense.** IBO projects additional expenditure savings based on the de Blasio Administration's overestimate of cash assistance costs. Based upon recent cash assistance caseloads, IBO estimates city-funded cash assistance will be lower than OMB estimates by \$18 million in 2018 and \$10 million in each year from 2019 through 2022. In addition, we estimate that federal funds for cash assistance will be \$48 million lower than OMB estimates in 2018 and \$57 million lower each year in 2019 through 2022, while state funding will be \$7 million lower in 2018, and \$4 million lower annually in 2019 through 2022.

Higher Spending. Savings derived from IBO's re-estimates of debt service, health care insurance, and other areas mentioned above are offset by our estimates of increased expenditures for overtime in uniformed agencies, education, homeless services, parks, the Board of Elections and the Campaign Finance Board, and the Departments of Small Business Services and Buildings.

· **Uniformed Agencies Overtime Expenses.** The city's uniformed agencies often underestimate their annual cost for overtime expenses. IBO estimates that over the financial plan period the budgets for the police department (NYPD), fire department (FDNY) and Department of Correction (DOC) will require a total of \$500 million in additional city funds for overtime expenses.

Through March 2018 the NYPD has spent \$525 million of \$635 million budgeted for the department's overtime expenses. IBO estimates that the NYPD will spend an additional \$25 million in both 2018 and 2019 on overtime expenses (4 percent of annual budgeted overtime expenditures). In 2020 through 2022 we estimate that the department will spend an additional \$50 million annually on NYPD overtime expenses (8 percent of annual budgeted overtime expenses).

Similarly, IBO estimates that the fire department's current plan for overtime expenditures is underfunded. Through March 2018 the FDNY has spent \$248 million. For 2019 the department has budgeted \$253 million for overtime expenses. We assume that the FDNY will need an additional \$50 million annually from 2019 through 2022 (a 20 percent increase over the annual budgeted overtime expenses).

The Department of Correction's planned expenditures for overtime are also typically less than the actual year-end totals. In 2018 so far the DOC has spent \$166 million on overtime expenses. But the department's 2019 overtime budget of \$157 million is less than the amount already spent this year. We estimate that DOC will need an additional \$25 million of city funds each year from 2019 through 2022 (a 16 percent increase over annual budgeted overtime expenses).

The uniformed agencies, particularly the NYPD and FDNY, rely on millions of dollars from the federal and state governments to fund operations. The Executive Budget assumes \$230 million of federally funded spending by the NYPD in 2018, decreasing to \$15 million in 2022. Over the previous three years the NYPD averaged \$290 million of federally funded expenditures. Based on the department's recent funding history, IBO estimates that the NYPD will receive an additional \$25 million in 2018, \$150 million in 2019 and \$200 million a year in 2020 through 2022 from the federal government. In addition, IBO assumes the NYPD will receive \$50 million of additional state funding each year from 2019 through 2022.

Federal funding for the FDNY has averaged \$139 million over the last three years. The Executive Budget includes annual federal funding for the department that is much lower than recent experience would suggest. As a result we estimate an additional \$25 million of federally funded expenditures in 2018 and \$75 million annually from 2019 through 2022.

· **Department of Education Re-estimates.** In prior years, issues with implementation of the Special Education Student Information System hampered the Department of Education's efforts to secure reimbursement for eligible Medicaid expenses. When the budget was adopted last spring it appeared that the DOE had finally overcome the implementation issues and as a result the de Blasio Administration assumed that the DOE would be able to obtain \$97 million a year in reimbursements annually. But the department has only received reimbursement for \$2 million of Medicaid claims so far this year. Until

Pricing Differences Between IBO and the de Blasio Administration
Items that Affect the Gap

Dollars in millions

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Gaps as Estimated by the Mayor	\$-	\$-	(\$3,216)	(\$2,857)	(\$2,254)
Revenue					
Taxes					
Property	\$210	\$381	\$408	\$558	\$1,034
Personal Income	442	485	197	228	154
General Sales	(4)	(68)	(17)	(94)	(93)
General Corporation	109	85	170	165	350
Unincorporated Business	20	16	38	28	139
Real Property Transfer	(11)	(35)	28	39	28
Mortgage Recording	16	(3)	43	61	73
Utility	(8)	3	(5)	(16)	(22)
Hotel Occupancy	(2)	(11)	7	7	2
Commercial Rent	3	9	(1)	5	8
Cigarette	-	-	-	-	-
Other Taxes and Audits	-	-	-	-	-
Total Taxes	\$774	\$861	\$869	\$982	\$1,673
STaR Reimbursement	-	-	-	-	-
Misc. Revenue	-	27	29	30	30
TOTAL REVENUE	\$774	\$888	\$898	\$1,012	\$1,702
Expenditures					
Debt Service	-	\$33	-	-	-
Fringe Benefits:					
Health Insurance - Education	-	73	154	264	341
Health Insurance - City University	-	3	7	11	16
Health Insurance - All Other Agencies	-	125	258	425	533
Sanitation	26	27	23	14	-
Public Assistance	18	10	10	10	10
Education	(57)	(105)	(56)	(82)	(108)
Homeless Services	(56)	(108)	(108)	(108)	(110)
Fire	-	(50)	(50)	(50)	(50)
Police	(25)	(25)	(50)	(50)	(50)
Correction	-	(25)	(25)	(25)	(25)
Parks	(4)	(10)	(12)	(12)	(12)
Board of Elections	-	(12)	(30)	(30)	(30)
Campaign Finance Board	-	-	-	-	(40)
Small Business Services	-	-	(43)	(45)	(45)
Buildings	-	-	(1)	(1)	(1)
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	(\$98)	(\$64)	\$76	\$321	\$430
TOTAL IBO PRICING DIFFERENCES	\$677	\$825	\$974	\$1,332	\$2,132
IBO Prepayment Adjustment 2018/2019	(677)	(825)	1,502	-	-
IBO SURPLUS/(GAP) PROJECTIONS	-	-	(\$742)	(\$1,526)	(\$124)

NOTES: Negative pricing differences (in parentheses) widen the gaps, while positive pricing differences narrow the gaps. Remaining banking corporation tax revenues reported with general corporation tax. Figures may not add due to rounding.

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DOE establishes a better track record for Medicaid reimbursements, it is highly unlikely that the city will be reimbursed at planned levels.

Accordingly, IBO estimates that in 2018 and 2019, DOE's Medicaid reimbursements will total \$41 million each year, the amount that the department was able to recoup in 2017. We assume that by 2020 the DOE will have the special education information system fully functional and therefore we have not modified the de Blasio Administration's estimates for Medicaid reimbursement in 2020 through 2022. To offset the loss of federal reimbursements, we assume that city funds will cover the shortfall: \$57 million in 2018 and \$57 million in 2019.

IBO's projections of DOE spending on charter schools diverge somewhat from those of the de Blasio Administration. For 2019, we anticipate 3,115 more charter school students than projected by the Mayor. We also expect charter school enrollment to increase by 3,599 more than estimated by the de Blasio Administration in 2020, with the difference increasing to 6,930 in 2022. As a result, IBO projects that the DOE's charter school costs will be greater than planned by \$48 million in 2019, \$56 million in 2020, \$82 million in 2021, and \$108 million in 2022.

• **Homeless Services Funding Shift.** IBO estimates that the funding levels in the Executive Budget for the provision of homeless shelter services are consistent with current shelter census projections. However, we believe that the distribution of funding by source requires adjustment. The city assumes the cost of homeless shelter provision and is reimbursed through federal and state sources for a portion of those costs. Historically the city has received less in Federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families reimbursements for the provision of family shelter services than is assumed in the Executive Budget. As a result, IBO projects that the Executive Budget overestimates federal reimbursement by \$68 million in 2018, \$111 million a year in 2019 through 2021, and \$112 million in 2022. We expect that a portion of this lost funding will be made up by the state, but the preponderance will need to be funded by the city. IBO estimates that the city-funded portion of the budget for the Department of Homeless Services (DHS) will increase by \$56 million in 2018, \$108 million in 2019 through 2021, and \$112 million in 2022.

• **Parks Department Underfunding.** Based upon historical agency spending over the last five years IBO projects that the parks department's budget is underfunded in areas such as auto maintenance, technical expenses, general

supplies, city zoo expenses, executive management, human resources operations, and for the Parks Equity Initiative. IBO estimates that the parks department will require an additional \$4 million of city funds in 2018, \$10 million in 2019 and \$12 million in each year from 2020 through 2022 to appropriately fund these agency operations.

• **Election Related Funding Re-estimates.** The city's Board of Elections (BOE) and Campaign Finance Board (CFB) budgets are often underfunded in the out-years of the financial plan. Based upon the agency's recent annual expenditure history, IBO estimates that BOE will require an additional \$12 million in city funds for 2019 and \$30 million a year in 2020 through 2022. Based on the CFB's expenditures in the most recent citywide election year (\$54 million in 2014) IBO estimates the board will require an additional \$40 million in 2022, the year of the next citywide election cycle.

• **Small Business Services Additional Program Funding.** In 2014 the City Council approved the one-year allocation of funds to supplement the wages of certain school bus drivers, attendants, dispatchers, and mechanics who had experienced sizable reductions to their wages following the rebidding of bus contracts. Initially the supplemental wages were to be made available for only one year and capped at \$42 million. But funding has been added by the de Blasio Administration each year since 2014. In the Executive Budget OMB added \$42 million in 2019 and \$2.1 million in 2020 for these costs but did not include them in the remainder of the plan period. IBO assumes that the de Blasio Administration will continue the pattern of providing these wage supplements; as a result we estimate an additional \$40 million in city funds will be needed in 2020, rising to \$42 million a year in 2021 and 2022.

In addition, based upon historical spending patterns, we estimate that the city will continue to fund the Graffiti Removal Program. The Executive Budget includes funding for this Department of Small Business Services program in 2018 and 2019 but not in the out-years of the plan. IBO assumes an additional \$3.1 million annually in city funds for 2020 through 2022 for this program.

New Spending. Unlike in prior plans, many of the largest increases in agency spending in the 2019 Executive Budget are related to unforeseen increases in the cost of city services or to account for shortfalls in state-funding estimates or unfunded state mandates. The Executive Budget does not include much additional funding related to the introduction of new policy initiatives or the expansion of existing programs.

Nearly the entirety of new agency spending in the current fiscal year occurs in just four agencies: the Department of Education, the Department of Homeless Services, the fire department, and the Department of Sanitation.

Action, or inaction, by Albany led to the need for an additional \$531 million of city-funds in 2019, and approximately \$295 million a year in 2020 through 2022. Unfunded state mandates account for \$362 million of the 2019 increase, with \$108 million attributable to the costs related to implementation of the state's Raise the Age legislation and \$254 million for the city's share of the state-initiated subway action plan (the latter will also require a \$164 million increase in the city's capital plan). In 2020 through 2022 unfunded state mandates account for approximately \$160 million of additional need annually, including \$130 million for Raise the Age implementation and \$30 million annually for funding the Close to Home program. In addition to these mandates the city has included an additional \$140 million in 2019 and \$136 million annually in 2019 through 2022 to cover a portion of the shortfall in anticipated state aid for the city's schools.

Several increases in the Executive Budget were made to account for unanticipated shortfalls in funding for certain agency costs. The DHS budget increased by \$186 million in the current year and \$159 million in each subsequent year of the financial plan to account for the re-estimated cost of providing shelter for the homeless. These funds are in addition to the \$150 million added to the agency for shelter costs in February's Preliminary Budget. The 2018 executive budget also includes \$80 million in tuition reimbursement for special needs students who cannot be adequately served by the city's public schools and require placement in a private special needs school.

Some spending increases are triggered by nature and formulas, and are outside the city's direct control. The budget for snow removal is set by a formula in the City Charter. But snow removal this year cost \$23 million, or 27 percent, more than budgeted under the formula and has resulted in formula-driven increases of nearly \$14 million next year and \$27 million in the succeeding years for snow removal.

Savings Plan. Since the release of the first quarter financial plan last fall OMB has initiated savings programs that provided over \$4.1 billion in additional resources (both expenditure reductions and revenue increases) over the course of the financial plan period, with \$1.9 billion of those additional resources identified for 2018 and 2019. The Executive Budget includes additional savings that add

just under \$1.4 billion in resources over the financial plan period, with \$753 million of that total projected for 2018 and 2019.

OMB assigns each initiative within the savings program into one of two categories: those that generate savings by improving agency efficiency and those that generate savings through other means such as re-estimating spending or eliminating vacant positions. According to OMB, 28.7 percent of the cumulative savings program through 2022 is the result of initiatives that increase agency efficiency; for 2018 and 2019, agency efficiencies are responsible for 20.0 percent of the additional resources.

IBO's analysis of the savings program finds that the share of resources derived from efficiency initiatives is less than OMB projects: roughly 17.5 percent, or \$717 million, of the total \$4.1 billion savings program. In 2018 and 2019, the share of savings classified by IBO as resulting from efficiency initiatives is 10.3 percent.

Resources derived from the vast majority of the savings plan initiatives would likely have become available without any proactive effort by the agencies or OMB. Over 31 percent of the additional resources in the savings plan, \$1.3 billion, in 2018 through 2022 are derived from re-estimates of debt service expenditures. Debt service cost re-estimates occur in nearly every financial plan and would have happened in the absence of the savings program. IBO estimates that an additional 21.9 percent, or \$898 million, of the savings program is the result of agency under-spending. Approximately 13 percent, \$519 million, of additional resources realized in the savings program are the product of agencies tapping into new revenue sources or identifying funds from other than city sources to finance portions of their expenses. Over \$413 million, 10.1 percent, of the total savings program is the result of the elimination of vacancies or the accrual of budget authority that is no longer needed.

Capital Expenditures. The city-funded portion of the Executive Capital Plan for 2018 through 2022 totals \$74.5 billion, \$2.5 billion (3.5 percent) more than the Preliminary Capital Plan. All of the growth between the plans occurs in 2020 through 2022 as the de Blasio Administration, in an effort to "right size" the capital plan, pushed many project commitments out of 2018 and 2019 and into the plan's final three years.

The Executive Capital Plan for 2018 is \$4.5 billion (23.0 percent) less than the Preliminary Capital Plan for 2018 and \$1.3 billion (7.2 percent) less for 2019. In contrast, the

Executive Capital Plan for 2020 through 2022 increased by a total of \$8.4 billion, a 24.7 percent increase over the Preliminary Capital Plan for those years.

As a result of shifting commitments to the latter years of the Executive Capital Plan, only 20.5 percent of the entire 2018-2022 plan is now scheduled for the current year. Meanwhile, planned commitments in 2019, the largest year of the five-year plan in dollar terms, make up only 22.7 percent of the entire plan's commitments. By way of comparison, in the Preliminary Capital Plan over 50 percent of city-funded commitments were planned for 2018 and 2019 with 26.6 percent planned for 2018 alone.

For the current year, the only areas of growth in planned commitments result from the state mandate that the city provide \$164 million in capital funding for the emergency subway action plan. The parks department's capital plan increased by \$515 million over the five-year capital plan period. The Executive Capital Plan includes an additional \$47 million for the Coney Island Beach Operations Headquarters, \$47 million for the Staten Island Indoor Pool, an additional \$50 million for the Hudson River Park Trust, and \$50 million for the reconstruction of the Lasker Ice Rink. Highway projects under the Department of Transportation increased by nearly \$306 million in the latest capital plan, including \$49 million more for pedestrian security projects and an additional \$299 million for the expansion of ferry service.

Pressure Points. IBO's revenue and expenditure re-estimates reduce the budget gaps forecast for the out-years of the financial plan period, leaving shortfalls of \$742 million in 2020, \$1.5 billion in 2021, and \$124 million in 2022. These gaps are of a size the city has readily managed in the past and are largely—if not entirely—subsumed by the reserves already carried within the budget for each year. Such optimism must be tempered by the uncertainty that exists in every budget process. State actions have already added more than \$500 million in city funded spending to the budget for 2019, with the imposition of unfunded mandates and the reduction of planned support creating unforeseen city expenditure needs. With no cessation in sight to the feuding between the executives at the city and state level, the threat of additional funding responsibilities being passed along to the city cannot be dismissed.

Another potential source of fiscal pressure is the need to renegotiate many of the labor contracts settled in the Mayor's first term. Many of these contracts are expiring.

The de Blasio Administration has set aside funds to cover 1 percent annual raises and stated that any additional benefits such as paid parental leave would require givebacks to offset the costs. If the Mayor moves away from this position as the contracts are settled it would be necessary to find millions of dollars not currently budgeted.

Governor Cuomo's recent issuance of an executive order declaring a public housing disaster at the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) and creating an Independent Emergency Manager to oversee the resolution of the problem has the potential to force the city to increase capital expenditures by millions if not billions of dollars. The Governor's order empowers the manager to create a financial plan, request funding and select contractors to complete any work determined necessary. While the manager may work within the city's existing capital budget constraints, there is the potential that city expenses on NYCHA could skyrocket.

While the doomsday prophecies related to federal funding cuts have yet to transpire, the potential for actions that would endanger the city's receipt of federal funds remains a possibility. The Trump Administration continues to pressure cities to accept its immigration policies at the risk of the loss of considerable federal funding. New York City has maintained its pro-immigration position but has yet to feel any economic pain as a result. If the federal government makes good on its threats the city could stand to lose many millions of dollars of federal funding. The President has also proposed budgets that would reduce, if not eviscerate, health and social service, transportation, and other funding that if approved by Congress would force the city to make difficult choices about which, if any, shortfalls it could cover. The continued unpredictable behavior of the Trump Administration makes certain that a high level of uncertainty will endure for the foreseeable future.

The adoption of the 2019 budget will be the first budget under the newly minted Speaker and leadership of the City Council. The Speaker has already made it clear that despite his affinity for many of the policies of the de Blasio Administration, he would not tread lightly in budget negotiations. The City Council has supported a few of the policies that the Mayor included in the Executive Budget, such as increases in Fair Student Funding and student literacy programs, but the two sides remain far apart on some of the Council's biggest expense budget priorities. The Council's support of the Fair Fare to provide reduced price MetroCards for the poor and the property tax rebate for all property owners earning less than \$150,000 are

estimated to cost the city \$400 million annually. The Council is also urging that the Mayor add \$500 million annually to the reserves already in the budget.

In addition to the major expense items, the Council has also sought to add billions of dollars to the city's capital plan. The Council's response to the Mayor's Preliminary Budget included requests for over \$4 billion in additional capital funding: \$2.5 billion for infrastructure at NYCHA, \$789 million for the expansion of the city's solar energy capture program, \$400 million to improve the combined sewer overflow system, \$225 million to increase expenditures for school accessibility and school security, \$79 million for a new animal shelter in Queens, \$60 million for library upgrades citywide, and \$30 million for the reconstruction of Orchard Beach. While capital projects are funded almost exclusively with revenue from bond sales, the issuance of additional debt would increase the city's already burgeoning debt service payments.

All Things Considered

While some fiscal observers have criticized the Mayor's Executive Budget for its growth in spending and lack of new reserves, IBO finds that a considerable portion of the new spending is driven by state actions and that the budgeted reserves are substantial. There is little in the way of new program spending and the amount of reserves built into the budget exceeds our shortfall projections in two out of the three years for which we estimate there are budget gaps.

IBO's most recent economic forecast and our re-estimates of city revenues and expenditures, suggest that the city's fiscal condition is stable, with near-term budget surpluses and future year gaps of a size that the city has routinely managed in past years. We estimate that the city will end 2018 with a surplus of \$4.3 billion, \$149 million more than the surplus for 2017. The surplus of \$825 million we project for 2019 would reduce the 2020 gap to \$742 million. Additionally, our forecasts of revenue and expenditures in the last two years of the financial plan reduce the city's budget gap in 2021 to \$1.5 billion and an almost insignificant \$124 million in 2022.

If the city is unable to close these gaps with additional revenues or agency cost savings, the \$1.25 billion in reserves budgeted for each year of the financial plan are available to help bring the budget into balance. In addition,

the city could draw on billions set-aside for the cost of future retiree health benefits, which have been used in the past to help eliminate budget gaps.

While external factors could undermine the city's financial plan, the available reserves could at least mitigate, and perhaps cover, new demands on the city's finances, depending on the magnitude of any change. The potential for continued upheaval resulting from the clash between the Governor and the Mayor and the uncertainty in funding from Washington pose one set of risks to the de Blasio Administration's financial plan and could force elected officials to make hard choices about the use of the city's reserve funds. The potential for a recession poses another and perhaps more debilitating fiscal risk. In all likelihood the city's reserves would only be sufficient in the face of a recession to buy some time while policymakers find ways to bring the budget into balance.

Although the city is carrying a record level of reserves, these funds are best thought of as way to cushion the city against fiscal or economic blows rather than a safeguard to weather all budget storms. But sizable reserves can themselves be a risk as recent events have shown. With New York City "sitting on" billions in reserve, Albany felt empowered to make decisions that will cost the city more than \$500 million next year and millions more in future years.

Endnotes

¹<http://ibo.nyc.ny.us/iboreports/addressing-the-disparities-winners-losers-in-two-property-tax-reform-scenarios-april-2018.pdf>

²Adjusted gross income, filing status, allowable itemized deductions, credits, and other items in New York State and City income tax law are defined with direct reference to analogous items in the federal law. Several changes to the federal tax code enacted by Congress in December in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act could have directly affected state and local tax liability, such as the limits to the amounts of state and local taxes and mortgage interest payment that can be itemized as deductions. State legislation enacted as part of the recent state budget altered the state tax code and the city's administrative code to prevent many TCJA provisions from flowing through to the state and city personal income taxes.

³Beginning in 1999 the STAR program reduced city marginal PIT tax rates by roughly 6 percent. While this lowered city residents' PIT liability, the city's budget was made whole through a state aid payment equal to the loss in tax revenue. In previous years the state eliminated the lower marginal rates for tax filers with incomes above \$500,000. In its budget for fiscal year 2017-2018, the state eliminated lower rates for all other filers, effectively raising their PIT liabilities. The state is replacing the benefit tax filers had previously received through the lower STAR rates with a credit of equal value against state income tax liability. Though the elimination of lower rates was retroactive to January 1, 2017, there was no impact on city PIT revenue until July 1, the start of the 2018 city fiscal year, when withholding tables were adjusted. The new withholding tables are boosting 2018 withholding receipts by an estimated \$319 million.

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New York City Council Hearing
Fiscal Year 2019 Executive Budget

Committee on Finance

&

Committee on Hospital Systems

Mitchell Katz, M.D.

NYC Health + Hospitals

President and Chief Executive Officer

May 24, 2018

Good afternoon Chairperson Dromm, Chairperson Rivera and members of the Committee on Finance and Committee on Hospital Systems. I am Mitch Katz, M.D., President and Chief Executive Officer of the NYC Health + Hospitals (“Health + Hospitals”). Thank you for the opportunity to review the Fiscal Year 2019 Executive Budget.

Each and every day the dedicated staff of Health + Hospitals deliver on our mission to provide quality, affordable, culturally responsive health care to New Yorkers. As the Council knows, we are the safety net provider for all New Yorkers. In the face of challenges over the past year, our commitment to the patients and communities we serve did not waiver. We provided care for more than 1 million New Yorkers, of which approximately 415,000 were uninsured. We had more than 5 million outpatient visits and 1 million emergency room visits. There were more than 190,000 patient discharges and 17,000 births at Health + Hospitals last year.

I have visited our facilities and talked with our staff over the past four months, and my interactions confirmed what I knew to be true – Health + Hospitals is filled with mission driven doctors, nurses, social workers, pharmacist and other professionals. I was charged by the Mayor to take the work on transformation to another level – to turbocharge it – in order to ensure long term stability and quality. Our doctors, nurses, social workers, pharmacists and other professionals are committed to Transformation and I want to work with all of you here to make the “system” as good as the people working in it.

We have many significant opportunities to improve our system and the executive budget is a key step in focusing our resources on those opportunities. Before I address the specifics of the budget, I will take a moment to outline some of

With the Mayor's leadership we have made tremendous financial progress over the past year. Beginning under Stan Brezenoff, Health + Hospitals has been successful in increasing revenue and reducing expenses to the point where we are well positioned to take the Transformation Plan to the next level. We are on track to achieve \$616 million through our revenue generating initiatives in FY 2018, including over \$150 million in revenue cycle improvements. We are also on track to achieve \$345 million in expense reductions. As a result, we are on target to close the fiscal year with a balance of over \$600 million. The delay of Federal Disproportionate Share Hospital payment cuts was also very significant – increasing revenue by a projected \$700 million over the next two years.

While this is very positive news, we still face significant long term financial challenges. If we want to return our system to a predictable, sustainable city subsidy, maintain safe and high quality patient care, and improve the patient experience, we must continue to find savings by getting more efficient and we must make targeted investments to grow revenue. The seven point financial plan we discussed at prior hearings is a path to achieve these goals. We must:

- 1. Reduce administrative expenses**
- 2. Bill insurance for insured patients and contract effectively with managed care plans**
- 3. Code and document effectively so that we can receive the payment we deserve**
- 4. Stop sending away paying patients**
- 5. Invest resources into hiring positions that are revenue generating**
- 6. Start providing those specialized services that are well reimbursed**
- 7. Convert uninsured people who qualify for insurance to be insured**

our ability to prevent – and fight back against – managed care companies who refuse to pay for care we deliver, and we will improve the rates and terms we receive from managed care plans which is worth \$175 million in revenue annually from FY 2021. Our work on coding, documentation, and overall revenue cycle improvement will also result in new revenue through our health plan Metroplus. The plan shows that we expect to achieve \$135 million in revenue in Metroplus surplus and related revenue annually from FY 2021.

Investing in Patient and Revenue Growth: The third, fourth and fifth items in our seven point plan all rely on making targeted investments to keep our existing patients and generate additional revenue per patient. Currently, nearly two thirds of MetroPlus' medical spending – over \$ 1 billion per year – goes outside our system. We are working closely together to improve access at our facilities, reduce wait times, and improve our referral processes so that we can keep more of these MetroPlus members. Similarly, we need to invest in clinical staff and new services so that we can meet community demand. For instance, several of our hospitals offer diagnostic cardiac catheterization, but do not offer interventional services like angioplasty. Not only is angioplasty a well reimbursed service that we could deliver well, but ambulances will not bring patients with chest pain to your hospital without the service.

We can also generate new revenue through our pharmacies. Currently, the majority of our pharmacies fill prescriptions only for our uninsured patients. I am changing this. All of our patients should be able to fill their prescriptions at our pharmacies. It's more convenient for the patient and can generate significant revenue. Additionally, if they use our pharmacy we will know that they've filled their

methodology for allocating those cuts, reducing Health + Hospital's losses by over \$250 million over three years.

I am confident that through our actions, Health + Hospitals will be a healthier, more resilient and balanced organization that will care for New Yorkers far into the future.

This concludes my testimony. I look forward to hearing your comments, answering your questions, and partnering with you to improve Health + Hospitals for all the people of New York.



**THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE COMPTROLLER
SCOTT M. STRINGER**

TESTIMONY OF NEW YORK CITY COMPTROLLER
SCOTT M. STRINGER

COMMENTS ON NEW YORK CITY'S
FY 2019 EXECUTIVE BUDGET

May 24, 2018

Good afternoon Chair Dromm and members of the Finance Committee. I'm here today to discuss the Executive Budget for Fiscal Year 2019. I'm joined by my Deputy Comptroller for Budget, Preston Niblack.

Since my testimony here in March, our economic outlook has remained largely unchanged. The economy remains strong, thanks to a strong labor market and a boost from the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act and the federal budget.

But increased federal spending and ongoing tax cuts will ultimately lead to higher federal budget deficits and rising interest rates going forward. As a result, we expect economic growth to peak this year, and begin to taper off in the later years of the financial plan period. Depending, in part, on how well the Federal Reserve is able to manage that transition, it should be possible to avoid a recession, and we are not projecting one as of now. But if the Fed misjudges the timing and magnitude of interest rate increases, or if other events intervene – like a trade war – the solid footing of our economy could be undermined.

Let me turn to the budget and fiscal outlook.

The Mayor has proposed an \$89.1 billion budget for FY 2019. The Administration was able to increase the surplus in this Executive Budget, thanks to a nearly \$1 billion increase in tax revenues this year. But as of now, the projected surplus for this year, of \$3.7 billion – remains below the \$4 billion surplus in FY 2017.

The boost to FY 2018 tax revenues is related to several factors, including the changes in the federal tax law, the repatriation of overseas hedge fund earnings, and a booming stock market. The Executive Budget recognized an additional \$800 million in personal income tax revenues for this year due to these various factors – \$600 million of which the Administration believes to be non-recurring. My office expects that tax revenues will ultimately go even higher this year, growing by 7.9% over FY 2017.

Despite this extraordinary one-time boost in revenues, the outyear budget gaps grew in the Executive Budget financial plan. That's because, although increased revenues for the most part do not continue through the outyears, new spending commitments do. These commitments are in part to make up for gaps in the State budget, such as the cost of the Close to Home program and last year's Raise the Age legislation.

Let me be clear – the Mayor's Executive Budget included a number of important programs which I support. From raising Fair Student Funding up to the highest average in more than a decade, so we can ensure more dollars are actually reaching the classroom, to funding \$418 million for the Subway Action Plan, including \$164 million in the Capital Budget.

These are critical steps forward that will serve students and working people in our city – that is our top priority. But there is still much more work to do.

We need to fund the Fair Fares proposal, to level the playing field for low income New Yorkers, because no one should have to choose between buying a MetroCard and putting food on the table. Affordable transportation should be a fundamental right in this city, and Fair Fares will get us a lot closer to that goal.

We also need to launch the New York City Citizenship Fund, a public-private partnership I proposed to help tens of thousands of legal immigrants cover the ever-rising costs of becoming a U.S. citizen. Supporting our immigrant communities has never been more important, and creating a Fund to finance the citizenship process is a realistic opportunity to make a measurable impact.

We have to remember that budgets are not just about numbers. Budgets are about priorities, about creating opportunities to give everyone a fair shot and provide a boost to people in need. That's why we cannot let even a single dollar go to waste. We must ensure that we are getting the results we're paying for.

I've been watching these numbers for a long time, and this year, to share our focus areas with the public, we launched the Comptroller's Agency Watch List. This month, over the course of the Executive Budget hearings, we have released our first watch list reports on the Department of Correction (DOC), Homeless Services spending, and the Department of Education (DOE). These agencies have seen tremendous growth in spending, but it remains unclear if we are getting adequate programmatic results for those investments.

Take the DOC. Since 2014, New York City's inmate population has fallen 20%, yet total agency spending is projected to rise 29% over the same period, as of the FY 2019 Executive Budget. The ratio of inmates to correction officers has fallen, while the annual cost of keeping an inmate on Rikers has increased from \$97,000 in FY 2014 to over \$144,000 in FY 2017. We need to see results for that spending, but many of the relevant indicators to measure those results in fact seem to be going in the wrong direction. It's time to ask when we will see results.

I've testified before this committee for years about our ballooning spending on homeless services. Since 2014, spending has more than doubled from \$1.2 billion to \$2.9 billion across agencies, but we still have a crisis on our hands. Close to 60,000 New Yorkers will sleep in a shelter tonight. We need to see more results, and soon. That includes reporting on the use of commercial hotel rooms, the success in finding permanent housing for homeless families, and the most effective strategies for preventing homelessness. Some of that data is currently unavailable to the public, and when it is available, lacks enough detail to evaluate the impact.

And lastly, the Department of Education has invested heavily in a variety of programs to improve student outcomes, but does not report on whether those programs are making a difference for our kids. We need to ensure that our spending is going to the classroom and not to Tweed – where the rate of hiring has been more than twice that of new teachers, even with the addition of a whole new grade for UPK.

In addition to being smart about our spending now, we need to be mindful of potential challenges down the road. While the economy is strong, we have to prepare for an inevitable slowdown. To avoid hard choices that could undermine the progressive goals we all share, we have to increase our budget cushion – now. The current financial plan projects a cushion of \$9.2 billion at the start of FY 2019. This is 10% of adjusted FY 2019 expenditures. That is \$1.8 billion short of even the lowest bound of the optimal range of 12% to 18% of adjusted expenditures. I commend the City Council for calling for a \$500 million addition to reserves, but I believe we must do more.

We have a four-year spending plan – we also need a serious four-year savings plan to increase our budget cushion and reduce the outyear gaps. As I have said repeatedly, we must demand that our agencies work harder to identify efficiency savings. This year's Citywide Savings Program, by our reckoning, contains only 14% of savings that are truly efficiencies – the rest are debt service savings, funding shifts, or spending re-estimates. And however you categorize them, agency savings represent less than 1% of agency spending in the outyears of the financial plan.

We need to raise the bar for agency savings targets. Don't get me wrong – I'm not in favor of the heavy-handed, arbitrary, and indiscriminate application of savings targets that was too often the practice in the past, regardless of the consequences. But I am in favor of giving agencies real targets for their savings efforts, in order to push them to work harder.

Over the last 3 years, the increase in the surplus roll has gone down each year, from \$1.6 billion in 2015, to just \$147 million last year. We should be growing that amount, and increasing our budget cushion. By adding \$1 billion this year and next to our surplus, we could reach a budget cushion equal to 12% of spending by FY 2021. Doubling the agency savings target to 2% per year could get us half way there.

I know the City Council shares my view that instead of spending our revenue windfall, we should be looking for more efficiency savings from our City agencies, and putting additional resources aside. I look forward to working with you to keep our City's fiscal position strong enough to weather future challenges.

Thank you.



NEW YORK CITY COMPTROLLER
SCOTT M. STRINGER

Bureau of Budget



May 24, 2018

Comments on New York City's Fiscal Year 2019 Executive Budget





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I. Executive Summary

Both the national and local economies are expected to continue to grow in 2018 and for the remainder of the April 2018 Financial Plan period, fueled by a strong labor market and modest increases in wages. Recent Federal fiscal policy actions, including the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 (TCJA), provided a boost to an already healthy economy. However, expansionary federal fiscal policy will create higher budget deficits and rising interest rates. As such, the Comptroller's Office expects growth to peak in 2018 and taper off in the latter years of the Plan period. Although the Comptroller's Office is not projecting a recession, the course of the economy over the next two to three years will depend in no small measure on the ability of the Federal Reserve to respond appropriately to economic dynamics.

The Mayor has proposed an \$89.1 billion budget for FY 2019, which is balanced by using a budget surplus of \$3.7 billion estimated for the current fiscal year. The surplus increased by \$1.1 billion in the Plan largely on the strength of a \$973 million increase in FY 2018 tax revenues, but remains below the FY 2017 surplus of \$4 billion. The boost to FY 2018 tax revenues is related to several factors, including changes in federal tax law, the repatriation of overseas hedge fund earnings, and a booming stock market – nearly all of which are one-time or likely to be transitory.

Overall, FY 2018 City-funds revenues in the current Plan are \$1.03 billion more than projected in February. With the exception of FY 2022, the increases do not extend into the outyears, with City-funds revenues remaining relatively unchanged in FY 2019 through FY 2021, showing modest increases of \$87 million and \$3 million in FY 2019 and FY 2020 and a small decline of \$68 million in FY 2021.

In contrast, City-funds expenditures have been revised upwards by more than \$1 billion in each of FY 2019 through FY 2022. FY 2019 remains balanced because of an increase in the planned prepayment of FY 2019 debt service, funded primarily by the largely one-time increase in FY 2018 tax revenues. Without any offsetting increase in revenues in the outyears, however, the gaps have increased by \$1.03 billion in FY 2020, \$1.39 billion in FY 2021 and \$509 million in FY 2022. The outyear gaps are now projected to be \$3.22 billion, \$2.86 billion, and \$2.25 billion in FY 2020 through FY 2022, respectively. While these are not unmanageable gaps under current projections, any sharp or sustained slowdown in revenue growth could make them more difficult to manage without imposing difficult choices.

The Comptroller's Office's analysis of the Financial Plan projects additional budget surpluses of \$636 million in FY 2018 and \$213 million in FY 2019, followed by larger gaps of \$3.5 billion in FY 2020 and \$3.0 billion in FY 2021, and a smaller gap of \$2.20 billion in FY 2022. The Comptroller's Office's revenue forecast is consistently higher than the City's, driven primarily by a higher tax revenue forecast, which is \$706 million above the City's in FY 2018, and ranging from \$201 million to \$882 million higher in FY 2019 through FY 2022. The Comptroller's Office also estimates higher non-tax revenues of \$29 million in FY 2019 and \$27 million in each of the outyears of the Plan.

Tempering the budget relief from potential higher revenues is the Comptroller's expenditure estimates, which, on net, are consistently higher than the Plan projections, resulting in net risks to expenditure estimates in every year of the Plan. The expenditure risks begin at \$70 million in FY 2018 and grow each year, reaching \$857 million by FY 2022. The growth in expenditure risks in the outyears is driven principally by the absence of funding for additional charter school tuition expenses. Despite a change in State legislation which allows charter school tuition to grow at the same rate as public school spending, the Financial Plan does not fund the cost of this growth.

In FY 2018 and FY 2019, the difference between the Comptroller's Office's revenue forecast and the City's outweighs the expenditure risks, leading to the projection of net surpluses. In FY 2020 and FY 2021, the additional revenues forecasted by the Comptroller's Office are insufficient to offset expenditure risks, resulting in higher projected gaps by the Comptroller's Office. In the last fiscal year of the Plan, the additional revenues forecasted by the Comptroller's Office are slightly higher than the expenditure risk, resulting in a modest reduction in the gap.

Despite the generally positive outlook, the Comptroller urges that any additional revenues in FY 2018 be treated as non-recurring and be set aside to bolster the surplus available to the City in future years. The Comptroller also continues to urge the City to undertake a rigorous review of agency budgets to find recurring savings in the form of efficiency and productivity enhancements. Additionally, the rapid growth of spending in several agencies, highlighted in the Comptroller's Agency Watch List for the Departments of Correction and Education and for citywide homeless services, calls for careful evaluation to determine whether City funds are being used as effectively and efficiently as possible to achieve stated objectives. As it stands, the information necessary for such an evaluation is often incomplete and not publically available (if it is collected). The path to a sustainable fiscal future must begin with a careful examination of current spending. Any savings realized should be set aside to enhance the City's budget cushion to allow the City to better weather a future slowdown, or downturn, without unnecessary drastic actions.

Table 1. FY 2018 – FY 2022 Financial Plan

(\$ in millions)	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	Change FYs 2018 –2022	
						Dollar	Percent
<u>Revenues</u>							
Taxes:							
General Property Tax	\$26,383	\$27,974	\$29,477	\$30,891	\$31,880	\$5,497	20.8%
Other Taxes	30,585	31,046	32,151	33,150	33,894	3,309	10.8%
Tax Audit Revenues	1,299	1,056	721	721	721	(578)	(44.5%)
Subtotal: Taxes	\$58,267	\$60,076	\$62,349	\$64,762	\$66,495	\$8,228	14.1%
Miscellaneous Revenues	7,128	6,789	6,830	6,735	6,714	(414)	(5.8%)
Less: Intra-City Revenues	(2,208)	(1,824)	(1,770)	(1,774)	(1,774)	434	(19.7%)
Disallowances Against Categorical Grants	85	(15)	(15)	(15)	(15)	(100)	(117.6%)
Subtotal: City-Funds	\$63,272	\$65,026	\$67,394	\$69,708	\$71,420	\$8,148	12.9%
Other Categorical Grants	1,088	879	871	866	861	(227)	(20.9%)
Inter-Fund Revenues	646	682	641	638	638	(8)	(1.2%)
Federal Categorical Grants	8,799	7,507	7,127	7,106	7,089	(1,710)	(19.4%)
State Categorical Grants	14,865	14,969	15,299	15,760	16,243	1,378	9.3%
Total Revenues	\$88,670	\$89,063	\$91,332	\$94,078	\$96,251	\$7,581	8.5%
<u>Expenditures</u>							
Personal Service							
Salaries and Wages	\$27,146	\$28,717	\$29,611	\$30,359	\$30,060	\$2,914	10.7%
Pensions	9,632	9,852	9,903	10,162	10,367	735	7.6%
Fringe Benefits	9,989	10,733	11,647	12,418	13,098	3,109	31.1%
Subtotal-PS	\$46,767	\$49,302	\$51,161	\$52,939	\$53,525	\$6,758	14.5%
Other Than Personal Service							
Medical Assistance	\$5,915	\$5,915	\$5,915	\$5,915	\$5,915	\$0	0.0%
Public Assistance	1,583	1,605	1,617	1,617	1,617	34	2.1%
All Other	30,860	29,505	28,864	29,085	29,364	(1,496)	(4.8%)
Subtotal-OTPS	\$38,358	\$37,025	\$36,396	\$36,617	\$36,896	(\$1,462)	(3.8%)
Debt Service							
Principal	\$3,023	\$3,056	\$3,591	\$3,517	\$3,658	\$634	21.0%
Interest & Offsets	3,207	3,906	3,920	4,386	4,951	1,743	54.4%
Subtotal Debt Service	\$6,231	\$6,962	\$7,511	\$7,903	\$8,608	\$2,378	38.2%
FY 2017 BSA and Discretionary Transfers	(\$4,180)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$4,180	(100.0%)
FY 2018 BSA	\$3,652	(\$3,652)	\$0	\$0	\$0	(\$3,652)	(100.0%)
Capital Stabilization Reserve	\$0	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$250	NA
General Reserve	\$50	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$950	1,900.0%
Subtotal	\$90,878	\$90,887	\$96,318	\$98,709	\$100,279	\$9,402	10.3%
Less: Intra-City Expenses	(2,208)	(1,824)	(1,770)	(1,774)	(1,774)	434	(19.7%)
Total Expenditures	\$88,670	\$89,063	\$94,548	\$96,935	\$98,505	\$9,836	11.1%
Gap To Be Closed	\$0	\$0	(\$3,216)	(\$2,857)	(\$2,254)	(\$2,254)	NA

NOTE: Numbers may not add due to rounding.

Table 2. Plan-to-Plan Changes
April 2018 Plan vs. February 2018 Plan

(\$ in millions)	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
Revenues					
Taxes:					
General Property Tax	\$114	\$115	\$141	\$273	\$981
Other Taxes	859	(38)	(15)	(93)	(109)
Tax Audit Revenues	0	0	0	0	0
Subtotal: Taxes	\$973	\$77	\$126	\$180	\$872
Miscellaneous Revenues	133	77	(102)	(229)	(79)
Less: Intra-City Revenues	(76)	(67)	(21)	(20)	(20)
Disallowances Against Categorical Grants	0	0	0	0	0
Subtotal: City-Funds	\$1,030	\$87	\$3	(\$69)	\$773
Other Categorical Grants	(10)	9	11	11	6
Inter-Fund Revenues	(28)	12	35	33	33
Federal Categorical Grants	149	288	154	151	150
State Categorical Grants	89	1	(164)	(78)	(8)
Total Revenues	\$1,230	\$397	\$39	\$48	\$954
Expenditures					
Personal Service					
Salaries and Wages	(\$127)	\$146	\$217	\$322	\$383
Pensions	42	50	140	484	485
Fringe Benefits	17	55	90	100	99
Subtotal-PS	(\$68)	\$251	\$447	\$906	\$967
Other Than Personal Service					
Medical Assistance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Public Assistance	(11)	0	0	0	0
All Other	748	1,408	797	775	723
Subtotal-OTPS	\$737	\$1,408	\$797	\$775	\$723
Debt Service					
Principal	(\$151)	(\$373)	(\$4)	(\$73)	(\$59)
Interest & Offsets	(30)	245	(148)	(151)	(147)
Subtotal Debt Service	(\$181)	(\$127)	(\$153)	(\$224)	(\$207)
FY 2017 BSA and Discretionary Transfers	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
FY 2018 BSA	\$1,068	(\$1,068)	\$0	\$0	\$0
Capital Stabilization Reserve	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
General Reserve	(\$250)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subtotal	\$1,306	\$464	\$1,091	\$1,457	\$1,483
Less: Intra-City Expenses	(76)	(67)	(21)	(20)	(20)
Total Expenditures	\$1,230	\$397	\$1,070	\$1,437	\$1,463
Gap To Be Closed	\$0	\$0	(\$1,031)	(\$1,389)	(\$509)

NOTE: Numbers may not add due to rounding.

**Table 3. Plan-to-Plan Changes
April 2018 Plan vs. June 2017 Plan**

(\$ in millions)	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
Revenues				
Taxes:				
General Property Tax	\$369	\$235	\$374	\$667
Other Taxes	649	0	(110)	(342)
Tax Audit Revenues	449	335	0	0
Subtotal: Taxes	\$1,467	\$570	\$264	\$325
Miscellaneous Revenues	640	141	(33)	(115)
Less: Intra-City Revenues	(393)	(87)	(31)	(30)
Disallowances Against Categorical Grants	100	0	0	0
Subtotal: City-Funds	\$1,814	\$624	\$200	\$180
Other Categorical Grants	208	11	12	10
Inter-Fund Revenues	(25)	18	39	36
Federal Categorical Grants	988	493	212	205
State Categorical Grants	446	97	(72)	33
Total Revenues	\$3,431	\$1,243	\$391	\$464
Expenditures				
Personal Service				
Salaries and Wages	(\$104)	\$92	\$185	\$294
Pensions	60	(19)	(40)	157
Fringe Benefits	(122)	(83)	(68)	(87)
Subtotal-PS	(\$166)	(\$10)	\$77	\$364
Other Than Personal Service				
Medical Assistance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Public Assistance	(11)	0	0	0
All Other	2,057	1,782	1,104	1,085
Subtotal-OTPS	\$2,046	\$1,782	\$1,104	\$1,085
Debt Service				
Principal	(\$151)	(\$436)	(\$7)	(\$74)
Interest & Offsets	(147)	173	(344)	(354)
Subtotal Debt Service	(\$297)	(\$263)	(\$350)	(\$428)
FY 2017 BSA and Discretionary Transfers	(\$11)	\$0	\$0	\$0
FY 2018 BSA	\$3,652	(\$3,652)	\$0	\$0
Capital Stabilization Reserve	(\$250)	\$0	\$0	\$0
General Reserve	(\$1,150)	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subtotal	\$3,824	(\$2,143)	\$831	\$1,021
Less: Intra-City Expenses	(393)	(87)	(31)	(30)
Total Expenditures	\$3,431	(\$2,230)	\$800	\$991
Gap To Be Closed	\$0	\$3,473	(\$409)	(\$527)

NOTE: Numbers may not add due to rounding.

Table 4. Risks and Offsets to the April 2018 Financial Plan

(\$ in millions, positive numbers decrease the gap and negative numbers increase the gap)

	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
City Stated Gap	\$0	\$0	(\$3,216)	(\$2,857)	(\$2,254)
Tax Revenues					
Property Tax	\$0	\$76	\$303	\$785	\$883
Personal Income Tax	730	182	(117)	(190)	(260)
Business Taxes	0	169	20	44	53
Sales Tax	0	91	179	149	85
Real Estate Transaction Taxes	26	(23)	(384)	(483)	(79)
Audit	(50)	100	200	200	200
Subtotal Tax Revenues	\$706	\$595	\$201	\$505	\$882
Non-Tax Revenues					
ECB Fines	\$0	\$20	\$20	\$20	\$20
Late Filing/No Permit Penalties	0	4	4	4	4
Motor Vehicle Fines	0	5	3	3	3
Subtotal Non-Tax Revenues	\$0	\$29	\$27	\$27	\$27
Total Revenues	\$706	\$624	\$228	\$532	\$909
Expenditures					
Overtime	(\$100)	(\$153)	(\$150)	(\$150)	(\$150)
Charter School Tuition	0	0	(119)	(281)	(478)
DOE Medicaid Reimbursement	(50)	(50)	(50)	(50)	(50)
Carter Cases	0	(60)	(60)	(60)	(60)
CEP School Food Revenue	0	0	38	38	38
Homeless Shelters	0	(33)	(42)	(42)	(42)
NYC Health + Hospitals	0	(165)	(165)	(165)	(165)
VRDB Interest Savings	30	50	50	50	50
General Reserve	50	0	0	0	0
Subtotal	(\$70)	(\$411)	(\$498)	(\$660)	(\$857)
Total (Risks)/Offsets	\$636	\$213	(\$270)	(\$128)	\$52
Restated (Gap)/Surplus	\$636	\$213	(\$3,486)	(\$2,985)	(\$2,202)

II. The City's Economy Outlook

A. COMPTROLLER'S ECONOMIC FORECAST FOR NYC, 2018-2022

Economic growth is expected to continue in both the U.S. and New York City in 2018, and for the remainder of the April 2018 Financial Plan period. We expect growth to be more robust in the current and next calendar years, before tapering off in the outyears. An already healthy national economy, as reflected in the labor market, has received a boost from three major federal fiscal policy actions: the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 (TCJA), the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, and the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2018. While these fiscal stimuli are expected to have a positive impact on real GDP in the short term, the projected \$1.5 trillion decline in government revenues as a result of TCJA, combined with higher government expenditures, will lead to higher federal deficits, rising interest rates, and ultimately to slower GDP growth. Additional risks that would affect this economic forecast are a rise in inflation due to a multilateral trade war, geopolitical risks such as an escalation of tensions in the Middle East, or overly aggressive Federal Reserve interest rate increases.

Until recently in this cyclical expansion, New York City's economy has been outperforming the nation. New York City is still the nation's leading financial center and banks and financial institutions have been the major beneficiaries of corporate tax cuts, deregulation, and even the rise in interest rates. To the extent that these favorable factors are turned into wages, bonuses, or an increase in hiring, the City's economy should prosper. Outside of the financial services sector, the City's continuing strong job market along with modest growth in earnings are expected to fuel consumer spending and allow for moderate growth. The City's other economic indicators are mixed, but point in the direction of moderate continued growth.

Table 5 shows the Comptroller's and the Mayor's forecast of selected economic indicators for 2018 to 2022.

**Table 5. Selected Economic Indicators, Annual Averages
Comptroller's and Mayor's Forecasts**

		2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
SELECTED U.S. ECONOMIC INDICATORS ANNUAL AVERAGES						
Real GDP (2009 \$, % Change)	Comptroller	2.6	2.2	1.9	1.5	0.8
	Mayor	2.7	2.9	2.3	1.9	1.7
Payroll Jobs (Change In Millions)	Comptroller	2.3	2.1	1.7	1.4	0.6
	Mayor	2.4	2.7	2.0	1.2	0.8
CPI Inflation Rate (Percent)	Comptroller	2.1	2.3	2.2	2.2	2.1
	Mayor	2.2	1.7	2.7	2.5	2.4
Fed Funds Rate (Percent)	Comptroller	1.7	2.5	3.2	3.7	3.2
	Mayor	1.8	2.8	3.3	3.4	3.5
SELECTED NYC ECONOMIC INDICATORS ANNUAL AVERAGES						
Real GCP (2009 \$, % Change)	Comptroller	2.9	2.7	2.4	1.9	1.3
	Mayor	2.8	1.7	1.3	0.7	0.4
Payroll Jobs (Change In Thousands)	Comptroller	64	46	43	37	10
	Mayor	60	54	52	50	35
CPI Inflation Rate (Percent)	Comptroller	2.1	2.5	2.4	2.4	2.3
	Mayor	1.9	2.0	2.7	2.5	2.4
Wage-Rate Growth (Percent)	Comptroller	3.5	3.6	2.8	2.3	2.0
	Mayor	3.2	3.0	2.8	2.9	2.8

NOTE: Comptroller=forecast by the NYC Comptroller's Office. GCP=Gross City Product. Mayor= forecast by the NYC Office of Management and Budget in the Executive Budget Fiscal Year 2019 Message of the Mayor. NA=not available.

B. FACTORS AFFECTING THE FORECAST

The National Economy

The state of the nation's economy is solid as reflected in real GDP growth and the tight labor market. The U.S. economy's upward trend continued in the first quarter of 2018, albeit at a slower pace. Real GDP grew at a seasonally adjusted annual rate (SAAR) of 2.3 percent in the first quarter of 2018, after growing 2.9 percent in the fourth quarter of 2017. A strong labor market, modest increase in wages, and the latest fiscal stimuli suggest that this economic growth will continue and likely peak in 2018. However, expansionary fiscal policy will create higher budget deficits and rising interest rates. As a result, we project that economic growth will begin to taper off in the later years of the Financial Plan period, but fall short of a recession.

Half of the GDP gain was from private investment, which grew 7.3 percent. Most of the gains in private investment were in nonresidential fixed investment, which was almost equally divided between structures and equipment.

The surprise in the latest GDP report was the weakness of consumer spending, which grew only 1.1 percent. Consumer spending growth was the lowest in almost five years. Consumer sector has been the driver of the expansion thus far, and we don't see this as the beginning of a trend. Three indicators — continuing job growth, rising wages, and lower tax rates — show that this sector is poised to contribute more growth. When we consider that American household balance sheets are strong and debt burdens are manageable, consumer spending should rebound to keep the expansion going.

Net exports contributed positively to GDP growth in first-quarter 2018. Higher growth in exports than in imports are an indication of the improvement in the global economy, while import growth is

partially due to a stronger dollar vis-à-vis our trading partners. The dollar has been strengthening recently as a result of higher interest rates in the U.S. than in other places around the globe. A strong dollar helps imports but not exports and thus can be a drag on the future GDP growth.

Government expenditures rose 1.2 percent. Defense spending growth led non-defense spending growth 1.8 percent to 1.6 percent. State and local government expenditures rose 0.8 percent in first-quarter 2018 after growing 2.9 percent in fourth-quarter 2017. The Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, and the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2018 are expected to increase discretionary government expenditure and thus raise economic growth.

Jobs in the U.S. grew at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1.7 percent in the first quarter of 2018, the highest increase in over a year, and the unemployment rate fell to 4.1 percent in the first quarter of 2018 (and to 3.9 percent in April), the lowest since 2000. A tight labor market led to a rise in wages. Wages, as measured by the average hourly earnings rose 2.4 percent in the first quarter of 2018.

The TCJA also lowered the corporate tax rate from 35 percent to 21 percent, making it the biggest one-time drop in business tax rates ever. This bodes well for corporate profits outlook. Private investment, specifically, real nonresidential investment, is expected to increase. Repatriation of corporate profits from abroad will provide a one-time bonus and a continuing flow as there will be no tax incentive to keep those earnings off-shore. In addition, investment in residential structures will be stronger, as evidenced by an increase in the number of building permits issued by local authorities.

Interest rates are expected to increase due to a rise in inflation caused by stronger economic growth, tight labor markets, and price increases as a result of higher wages.

So while the economy is expected to grow over the Plan period, it is expected to peak in 2018 and then begin to subside.

In general, our outlook for the US economy is slightly more pessimistic than that of the City. We expect growth to decelerate in 2021 and 2022, falling below the rates observed thus far in the recovery.

The New York City Economy

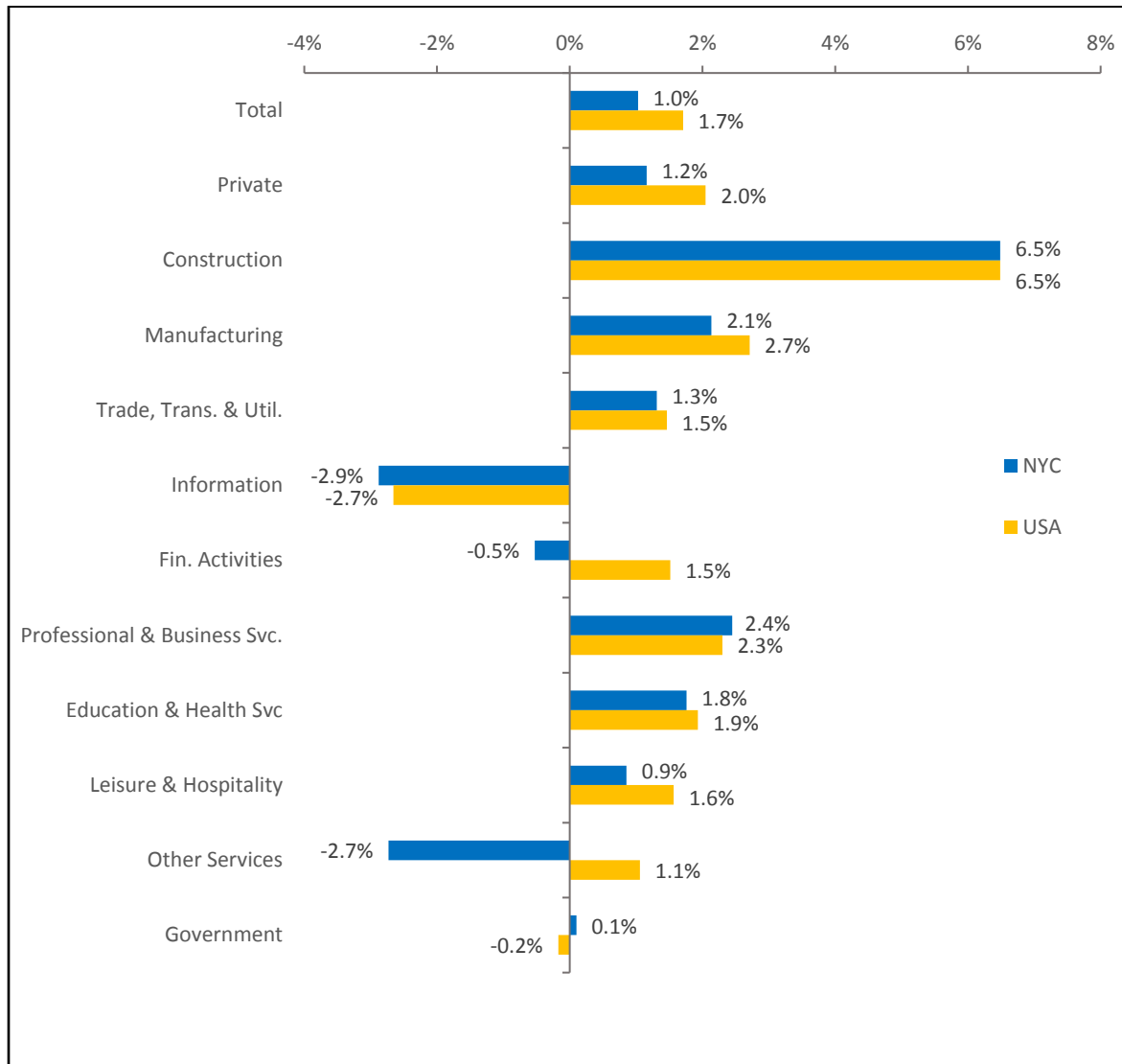
The City's economy outperformed the nation for the second consecutive quarter in the first quarter of 2018 and it is expected to continue to do so for the remainder of 2018. The City's relatively strong economic fundamentals and the fiscal stimulus, especially the corporate tax cuts that were signed into law in December of 2017, should fuel the City's future economic growth.

The City's economy, as measured by the gross city product (GCP), grew 2.7 percent in the first quarter of 2018, less than the 3.4 percent in the previous quarter, but higher than the 2.3 percent in the nation. Over the forecast horizon through 2022, the Comptroller's Office is forecasting more robust growth than is being forecast by the Mayor. From 2018 to 2022, the Comptroller is forecasting GCP to grow 8.5 percent compared to the Mayor's assumption of 4.2 percent, despite the fact that we are forecasting weakening growth rates in 2021 and 2022.

The private sector added 11,300 jobs, or 1.2 percent in the first quarter of 2018, about half of the 25,800 jobs created in the fourth quarter of 2017. U.S. private sector jobs grew 2.0 percent in the first quarter of 2018, faster than the 1.8 percent in the fourth quarter of 2017 (Chart 1). Through 2022, the Comptroller is forecasting 200,000 new total payroll jobs compared to the Mayor's forecast of 251,000. This may seem as a contradiction to the forecasts of GCP, but recent statistics suggest that New York, and the entire northeastern United States, can't fill all jobs that are

available. This supply constraint can keep employment constrained even though the GCP continues to grow at healthy rates.

**Chart 1. Jobs Growth (SAAR) in NYC and the Nation
First-Quarter 2018 over Fourth-Quarter 2017**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and NYS Department of Labor.

NYC's unemployment rate, adjusted for seasonality, fell to 4.3 percent in first-quarter 2018, the lowest rate on record. The unemployment rate can fall either as a result of a decline in the number of unemployed workers, an increase in the labor force, or a combination of both. The decrease in the City's unemployment rate was due to a decrease in the number of unemployed, which declined by 6,700 in first-quarter 2018. The number of employed City residents increased by 6,000 in first-quarter 2018. As a result, the City's employment-to-population ratio rose to 58.3 percent in first-quarter 2018, the highest ever. Despite the record percentage of New York City residents who are working, the percent of New Yorkers in the labor force still lags the nation by 2 percentage points, 62.9 percent to 60.9 percent.

Average hourly earnings (AHE) of all private NYC employees, a component of personal income, rose 2.3 percent on a year-over-year basis to \$35.84 per hour in first-quarter 2018, less than the 3.3 percent increase in first-quarter 2017. U.S. average hourly earnings increased 2.4 percent in first-quarter 2018, also lower than the 2.8 percent increase in first-quarter 2017. This could partially be explained by the increase in the minimum wage, which grew either 14.3 percent or 18.2 percent (depending on the size of the employer) in 2017 from 2016.¹ The Comptroller's wage growth forecast of 3.5 percent and 3.6 percent in 2018 and 2019, respectively, is higher than that of the Mayor at 3.2 percent and 3.0 percent. In the out years of the planning horizon the Comptroller's forecast weakens considerably in line with our view that the economy weakens in those years as well.

The relatively strong labor market, the increase in earnings, and the continuation of U.S. expansion, in general, are expected to lift consumer spending in the City. In addition, private investment in the City is expected to get a lift from the new tax cuts. New York City is the nation's leading financial center. As such, fiscal and monetary policies impacting the financial sector directly impact the City's economy. The robust first-quarter 2018 banks' earnings report bodes well for robust financial sector bonuses which will positively impact 2019 PIT.

The strong business environment and evidence that NYC is still a place where entrepreneurs can start and grow business is also reflected in venture capital investment. According to PwC Money Tree, venture capital (VC) investment in the New York metro area rose 61.2 percent on a year-over-year basis to \$2.6 billion in the first quarter of 2018, its second highest first-quarter level on record.

Finally, the City's latest leading economic indicators may be mixed, but they continue to signal growth.²

¹ <https://labor.ny.gov/workerprotection/laborstandards/workprot/minwage.shtm>

² <https://comptroller.nyc.gov/reports/new-york-city-quarterly-economic-update/>

III. The FY 2019 Executive Budget

Overview: Changes to FY 2018 and 2019

FY 2018 Budget

The FY 2018 Budget in the April Plan totals \$88.67 billion, an increase of \$1.23 billion from the February Plan. The increase is primarily in the City-funds portion of the budget which has been increased by \$1.03 billion to \$63.27 billion. The non-City funds portion of the budget, which is funded by Federal, State and other categorical grants as well as funds from the capital budget, shows a net increase of \$200 million.

As shown in Table 6, revisions to tax revenues account for \$973 million of the increase in City-funds revenue, driven by an increase of \$801 million in the estimate for personal income tax (PIT) revenues. As discussed in “Tax Revenues” beginning on page 26, the boost to the PIT revenue forecast stems from factors related to the Federal tax reform and the reform of the State PIT school tax relief (STAR) program.

Table 6. Changes to FY 2018 City-Funds Estimates from the Preliminary Budget

(\$ in millions)			
REVENUES		EXPENDITURES	
Property Tax Revenues	\$114	Agency Expenses	\$474
Personal Income Tax Revenues	801	Miscellaneous Budget	63
Business Tax Revenues	(29)	Pensions	42
Sales Tax	59	General Reserve	(250)
Real Estate Transaction	28	State Budget Impact	(1)
All Other Tax	1	Citywide Savings Program	(366)
Subtotal	\$973	Subtotal	(\$38)
Non-Tax Revenues	\$55	BSA	\$1,068
City Savings Program	\$2		
Total	\$1,030	Total	\$1,030

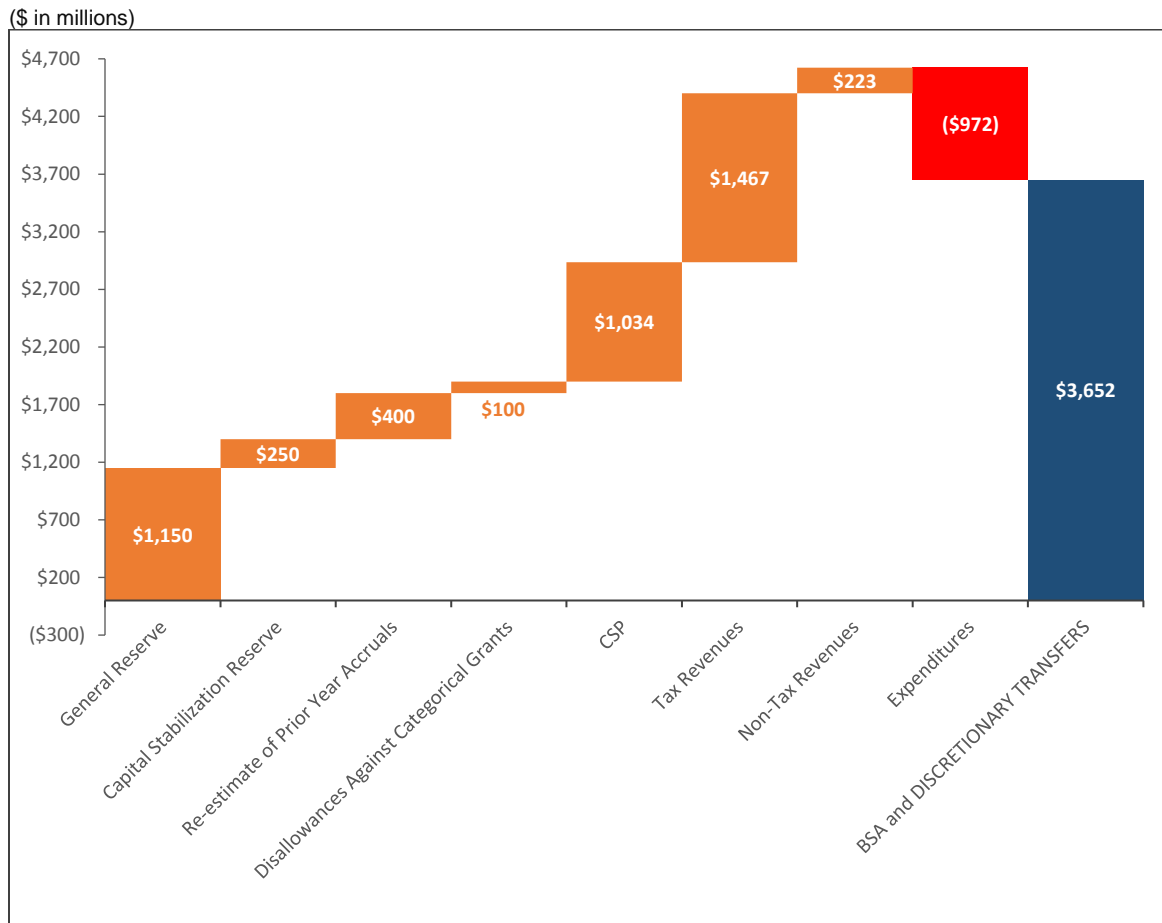
*Expenses exclude collective bargaining transfers.

The increase in City-funds expenditures is due entirely to an increase of \$1.068 billion in the Budget Stabilization Account (BSA) as shown in Table 6. Net of the increase in the BSA, City-funds spending is \$38 million less than estimated in the Preliminary Budget. Agency spending is increased by \$474 million. More than \$250 million of this increase is in the Department of Homeless Services (DHS), with additional funding for shelter operations accounting for \$213 million of the increase. Additions to the Department of Education (DOE) budget account for another \$118 million of the increase, due primarily to an additional \$80 million to fund special education Carter cases, and a \$20 million increase in student transportation costs. The remaining increase reflects budgetary adjustments across various agencies. Other increases in the City-funds budget include \$63 million in the miscellaneous budget and \$42 million in pension contributions. Offsetting these increases are a \$250 million takedown in the General Reserve and a new round of the Citywide Savings Program containing spending reductions of \$366 million, including \$181 million in debt service savings.

The increase in the BSA brings the total FY 2018 BSA to \$3.65 billion. Since the Adopted Budget in June, the City has identified \$4.62 billion of additional resources in the FY 2018 budget. About \$970 million of the additional resources are used to fund additional spending. The remaining \$3.65 billion are used to fund the BSA, which is earmarked to prepay FY 2019 debt service.

As Chart 2 shows, higher revenue forecasts and projected savings from the FY 2018 round of the Citywide Savings Program account for \$2.72 billion of the additional resources. The takedown of reserves and adjustments to prior-year accruals account for the remaining \$1.9 billion.

Chart 2. Funding the BSA and Discretionary Transfers



FY 2019 Budget

The FY 2019 Budget in the April Financial Plan totals \$89.06 billion, an increase of \$397 million from the February Plan. The increase reflects primarily an additional \$288 million in Federal categorical grants, discussed in greater detail in “Federal and State Aid” beginning on page 32. In contrast to the modified FY 2018 budget, the City-funds portion of the FY 2019 budget shows only a modest increase of \$87 million.

As shown in Table 7, the increase in City-funds revenues is due primarily to an upward revision of \$77 million in tax revenues. Property tax and PIT revenue estimates have been revised upward by \$115 million and \$194 million, respectively. Downward revisions of \$115 million and \$144 million, respectively, to business and sales tax revenues partially offset the increase in property tax and

PIT revenues. The net reduction in sales tax revenues reflect the recognition of the State intercept of \$150 million of the City's sales tax revenues in FY 2019.³

Table 7. Changes to FY 2019 City-Funds Estimates from the Preliminary Budget

(\$ in millions)			
REVENUES		EXPENDITURES*	
Property Tax Revenues	\$115	Agency Expenses	\$791
Personal Income Tax Revenues	194	Miscellaneous Budget	155
Business Tax Revenues	(115)	Pensions	55
Sales Tax	(144)	State Budget Impact	531
All Other Tax	27	Citywide Savings Program	(377)
Subtotal	\$77	Subtotal	\$1,155
Non-Tax Revenues	\$1	BSA	(\$1,068)
City Savings Program	\$9		
Total	\$87	Total	\$87

*Expenditures exclude collective bargaining transfers.

As discussed in "FY 2018 Budget" on page 19, the FY 2018 BSA grew by \$1.068 billion resulting in an attendant reduction in FY 2019 debt service. Net of the prepayment of debt service out of the FY 2018 BSA, FY 2019 City-funds expenditures are \$1.155 billion above the Preliminary Budget estimates. The increase is driven by additional agency spending of \$791 million and a State budget impact of \$531 million. Similar to the changes in the FY 2018 budget, the largest increase in agency spending in FY 2019 is in the DHS. The additional spending for homeless shelter operations in FY 2018 is extended to the outyears, but at a lower amount of \$160 million annually. The Administration for Children's Services (ACS) also saw a significant increase of \$140 million for FY 2019, driven by a \$136 million increase in child care services spending.⁴ Spending for child care services is also increased in the outyears but at a lesser amount of \$122 million annually. The remaining agency spending increases are distributed across various agencies, with individual agency increases significantly below \$100 million.

In addition to increased agency spending for new needs and budgetary adjustments, the enacted State budget resulted in additional City-funds spending in FY 2019 and the outyears through new spending requirements and reduced State support. As Table 8 below shows, the State budget impact will increase City-funds spending by \$531 million in FY 2019 and more than \$290 million in each of the outyears.

³ In FY 2016, the State began to intercept the City's sale tax revenues to recoup savings associated with the Sales Tax Asset Receivable Corporation (STARC) bonds refinancing, from which the City generated \$650 million in savings. The State intercepted \$50 million in FY 2016, \$200 million in FY 2017, and is expected to collect another \$200 million in FY 2018 and \$150 million in FY 2019. The City's April Plan recognizes the remaining \$150 million payment in FY 2019.

⁴ In addition to the \$140 million increase, the enacted State budget resulted in additional City-funds spending of \$77 million in ACS for a total increase of \$217 million in City-funds spending in the agency. The phase in of the implementation of the State raise the age law in ACS will require an additional \$46.4 million City-funds support. The withdrawal of State funding for the Close to Home initiative results in another \$30.5 million in City-funds spending in the agency.

Table 8. State Budget Impact

(\$ in millions)	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
MTA Subway Action Plan	\$0	\$254	\$0	\$0	\$0
Raise the Age Implementation	0	108	131	132	129
Private Bus Subsidy	(1)	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)
Education Aid Shortfall Backfill	0	136	136	136	136
State Budget Impact on Building Aid	0	4	0	0	0
Close to Home	0	30	30	30	30
Total	(\$1)	\$531	\$295	\$296	\$292

Citywide Savings Program (CSP)

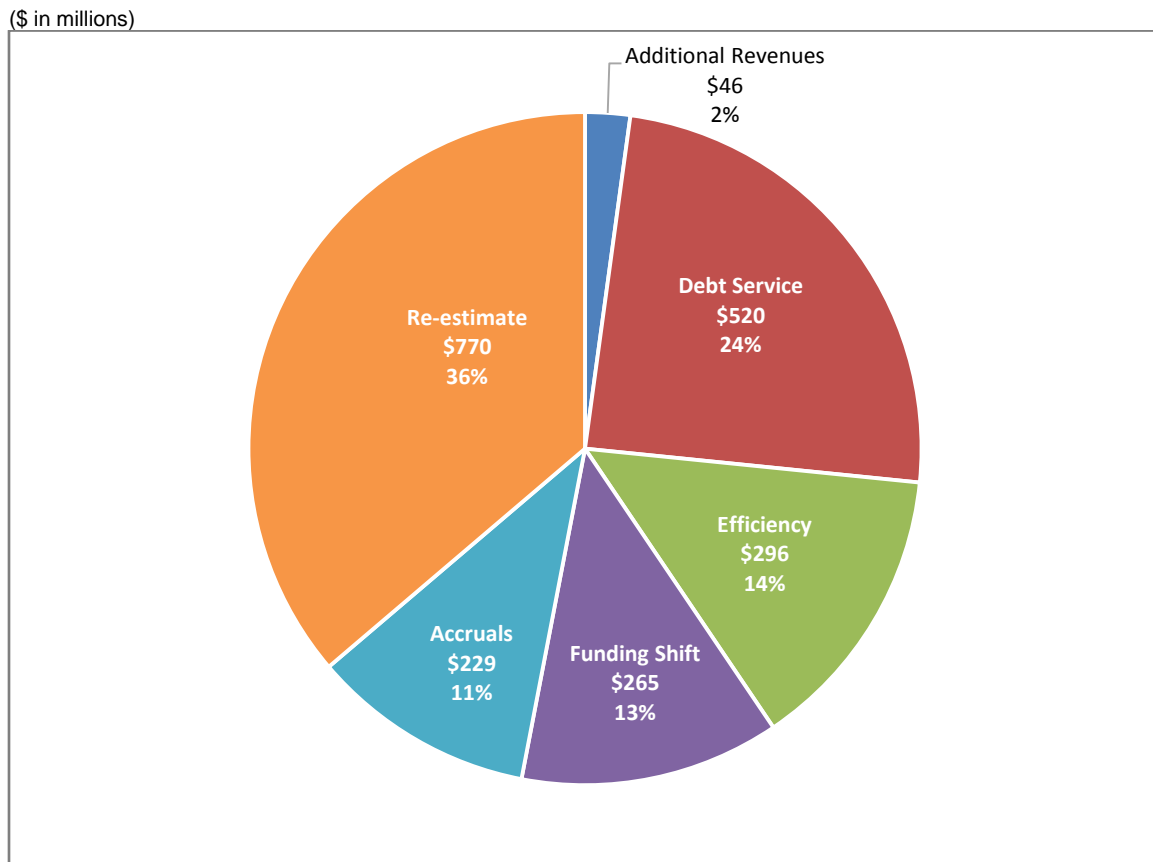
The April 2018 Financial Plan includes another round of the Citywide Savings Plan (CSP) that is expected to provide budget relief totaling \$368 million in FY 2018, \$386 million in FY 2019, \$158 million in FY 2020, \$228 million in FY 2021, and \$218 million in FY 2022. With the exception of a procurement initiative in the Department of City Planning which is expected to save the agency \$200,000 in FY 2020 and \$130,000 in each of the remaining outyears of the Plan, all outyear savings are the result of recurring savings from FY 2018 and FY 2019 initiatives. Of the 138 new savings initiatives in the April Plan, 84 are scheduled to begin in FY 2018 with estimated savings of \$368 million in FY 2018, \$143 million in FY 2019, \$103 million in FY 2020, \$153 million in FY 2021, and \$140 million in FY 2022.⁵ Another 53 initiatives are scheduled to begin in FY 2019 with estimated savings of \$243 million in FY 2019, \$55 million in FY 2020, \$75 million in FY 2021, and \$78 million in FY 2022.

With the current round of CSP, estimated budget relief over the Plan period now totals \$4.7 billion. The combined savings in FY 2018 and FY 2019 is \$2.13 billion. As Chart 3 shows, debt service and re-estimates together account for 61 percent of the savings. Efficiency initiatives account for 14 percent of the total savings, an improvement from the last fiscal year's CSP, where efficiency initiatives account for only 7 percent of total savings.⁶

⁵ The City's Citywide Savings Program list 145 initiatives added in the April Plan. However, seven of these initiatives are related to the elimination of vacant positions for which accrual savings had been recognized in prior savings plan. As such, there are no savings associated with the elimination of these position in the current Plan.

⁶ The City's categorization of efficiency initiatives include some initiatives that are categorized under funding shift, re-estimate, and new revenues in our categorization. Thus, under OMB's accounting, efficiencies in FY 2018 and FY 2019 total more than \$380 million.

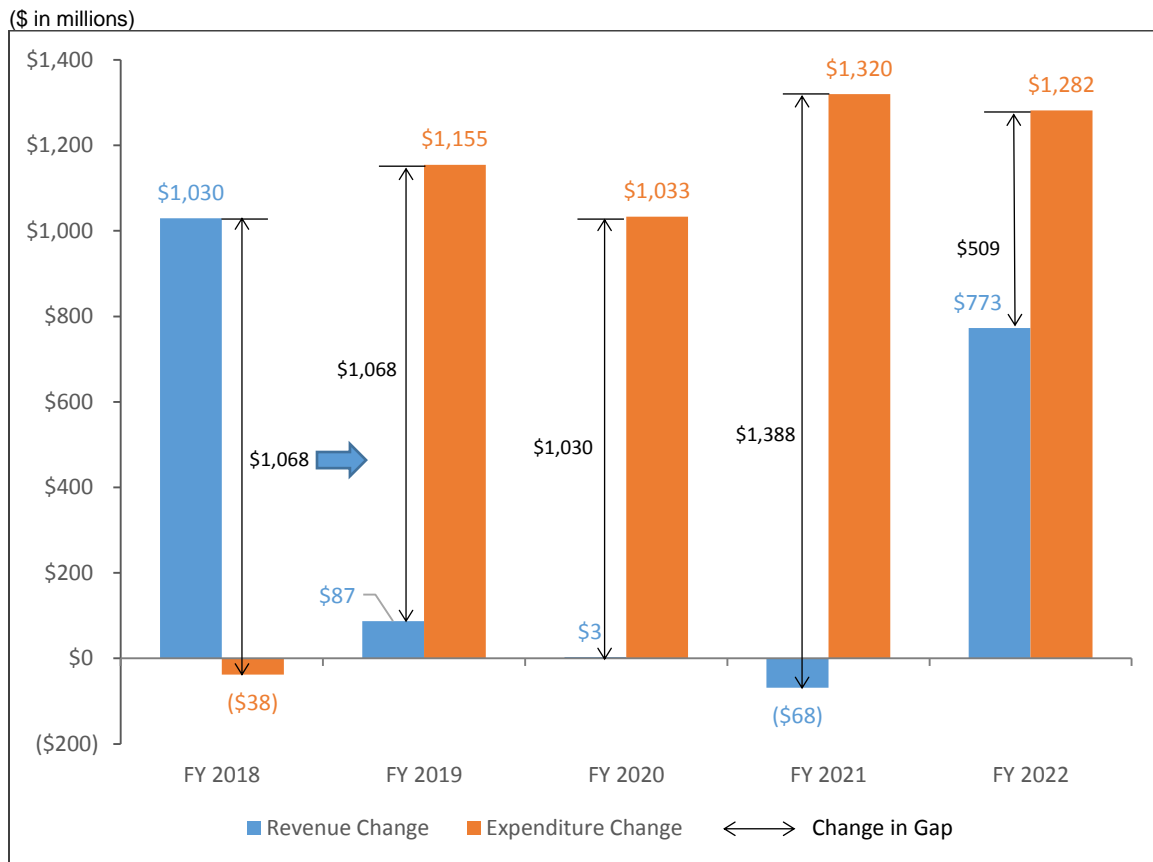
Chart 3. Combined FY 2018 and FY 2019 Citywide Savings Program



The Outyear Gaps

While FY 2018 and FY 2019 are balanced, the outyear gaps have increased by \$1.03 billion in FY 2020, \$1.39 billion in FY 2021, and \$509 million in FY 2022. Outyear gaps are now projected to be \$3.22 billion in FY 2020, \$2.86 billion in FY 2021, and \$2.25 billion in FY 2022. The increase in the gaps results from additional outyear expenditures which are not supported by additional recurring revenues. As Chart 4 shows, FY 2018 City-funds revenues are increased by \$1.03 billion while expenditures are reduced by \$38 million, resulting in additional resources of \$1.06 billion. Beginning in FY 2019, City-funds expenditures have been increased by more than \$1 billion in each year of the Plan. However, the revenue increase in FY 2018 does not extend into the outyears. FY 2019 is balanced because, as discussed above, the additional FY 2018 resources are earmarked to prepay FY 2019 expenses.

Chart 4. Change in the Outyear Gaps since February



Risks and Offsets

As Table 9 shows, the Comptroller's Office analysis of the April Plan shows net additional resources of \$636 million and \$213 million in FY 2018 and FY 2019, respectively, driven by the Comptroller's Office's tax revenue forecast, which is higher than the City's projections in each year of the Plan. The Comptroller's Office tax revenue forecast is discussed in greater detail in "Tax Revenues" beginning on page 26.

Risks to the City's expenditure estimates offset some of the gains from the higher revenue forecast. Risks to the expenditure estimates stem primarily from assumptions of overtime spending and Health + Hospitals (H+H) support, and charter school tuition expenditures. Despite increases to the overtime budget in the current Plan, the Plan's assumptions are still significantly below recent spending patterns. The Comptroller's Office's analysis indicates that overtime could be above Plan by \$100 million in FY 2018, \$153 million in FY 2019, and \$150 million in each of the outyears of the Plan.

While H+H has yet to provide an update on its financial plan, recent improvements in its outlook will likely enable H+H to reimburse the City for fringe benefits expenses and medical malpractice settlements in FY 2018. However, given that H+H has missed these payments in prior years, the Comptroller's Office continues to hold the assumption of outyear reimbursements at risk until there is a clear indication that H+H can consistently make these reimbursements.

Table 9. Risks and Offsets to the April 2018 Financial Plan

(\$ in millions, positive numbers decrease the gap and negative numbers increase the gap)

	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
City Stated Gap	\$0	\$0	(\$3,216)	(\$2,857)	(\$2,254)
Tax Revenues					
Property Tax	\$0	\$76	\$303	\$785	\$883
Personal Income Tax	730	182	(117)	(190)	(260)
Business Taxes	0	169	20	44	53
Sales Tax	0	91	179	149	85
Real Estate Transaction Taxes	26	(23)	(384)	(483)	(79)
Audit	(50)	100	200	200	200
Subtotal Tax Revenues	\$706	\$595	\$201	\$505	\$882
Non-Tax Revenues					
ECB Fines	\$0	\$20	\$20	\$20	\$20
Late Filing/No Permit Penalties	0	4	4	4	4
Motor Vehicle Fines	0	5	3	3	3
Subtotal Non-Tax Revenues	\$0	\$29	\$27	\$27	\$27
Total Revenues	\$706	\$624	\$228	\$532	\$909
Expenditures					
Overtime	(\$100)	(\$153)	(\$150)	(\$150)	(\$150)
Charter School Tuition	0	0	(119)	(281)	(478)
DOE Medicaid Reimbursement	(50)	(50)	(50)	(50)	(50)
Carter Cases	0	(60)	(60)	(60)	(60)
CEP School Food Revenue	0	0	38	38	38
Homeless Shelters	0	(33)	(42)	(42)	(42)
NYC Health + Hospitals	0	(165)	(165)	(165)	(165)
VRDB Interest Savings	30	50	50	50	50
General Reserve	50	0	0	0	0
Subtotal	(\$70)	(\$411)	(\$498)	(\$660)	(\$857)
Total (Risks)/Offsets	\$636	\$213	(\$270)	(\$128)	\$52
Restated (Gap)/Surplus	\$636	\$213	(\$3,486)	(\$2,985)	(\$2,202)

In the latter years of the Plan, the Comptroller's Office projects net risks of \$270 million in FY 2020, \$128 million in FY 2021, and a modest offset against spending of \$52 million in FY 2022. The net risks for FY 2020 and FY 2021 reflect both smaller divergences between our PIT forecast and the Plan, and higher expenditure risks. The higher expenditure risks beginning in FY 2020 are due to the lack of funding for charter school tuition increases. Despite a change in State legislation which allows charter school tuition to grow at the same rate as public school spending, the Plan does not include funding for the cost of this growth. The lack of funding poses a risk to the City's expenditure assumptions.

Overall, the Comptroller's Office's analysis of the Plan indicates that the City could end FY 2018 and FY 2019 with budget surpluses of \$636 million and \$213 million, respectively. In the outyears, the Comptroller's Office analysis shows larger gaps of \$3.49 billion and \$2.99 billion in FY 2020 and FY 2021, respectively, and a slightly smaller gap of \$2.20 billion in FY 2022.

Revenue Analysis

The April 2018 Financial Plan increases total projected revenues by \$1.23 billion in FY 2018 to \$88.67 billion. The bulk of this increase reflects higher estimated tax revenues from the personal income tax (PIT). The April Plan also raises total revenue projections for FY 2019 by \$397 million to \$89.06 billion. This revision includes increases to State and Federal grants and City-fund revenues. Total revenues are forecasted to increase by 9 percent over the Plan period, from \$88.67 billion in FY 2018 to \$96.25 billion in FY 2022. Estimated tax revenues average 68 percent of total revenues over the Plan period. Property tax revenues are forecasted to rise 21 percent from \$26.38 billion in FY 2018 to \$31.88 billion in FY 2022, while non property tax revenues are expected to increase by 8.6 percent during the same period, from \$31.88 billion in FY 2018 to \$34.62 billion in FY 2022.⁷

Miscellaneous (non-tax) revenue estimates, excluding private grants and intra-City revenues, increased slightly for FY 2018 and FY 2019 in the April Plan to \$4.92 billion and \$4.96 billion respectively. The forecast for the outyears declined by a combined \$461 million. The downward revision is mainly driven by the removal of revenues from taxi medallion sales assumed in the previous Plan. The current forecast assumes miscellaneous revenue will remain stable averaging \$4.97 billion annually.

The April Plan projects total Federal and State aid of \$23.66 billion for FY 2018, an increase of \$238 million over the February Plan. Similarly, the City has recognized net additional grants of \$289 million, almost entirely in Federal aid, in FY 2019. The additional Federal support is predominantly in the areas of social services, education and, to a lesser degree, Homeland Security funding and Community Development Block Grants. Federal and State aid are projected to grow from \$22.48 billion in FY 2019 to \$23.33 billion in FY 2022 driven mainly by the City's expectation of State education aid growth.

Tax Revenues

Changes to the City Forecast

The City increased its tax revenue projections by \$973 million in FY 2018 and by a combined \$1.26 billion in FY 2019 through FY 2022. The increase in FY 2018 largely reflects stronger than anticipated PIT collections in the current fiscal year due to one-time factors related to tax reform. As Table 10 shows, projected PIT revenues increased by \$801 million in FY 2018. Estimated property tax revenues increased by \$114 million reflecting a decrease in current year reserves, while smaller revisions to other non-property tax revenue projections mainly reflect year-to-date collections through March. In the outyears, revisions to the tax revenue forecast result in net increases ranging from \$77 million in FY 2019 to \$872 million in FY 2022. The upturn in tax revenue projections results for the most part from increases in PIT and property tax revenue forecasts. Outyear revisions to property tax revenue are mostly driven by a higher than anticipated property tax levy, while forecast increases in PIT revenues result from higher projections for non-withholding PIT collections. Partially offsetting these increases are downward revisions to business, sales, and real estate transaction tax revenues in FY 2019 – FY 2022.

⁷ If not specifically indicated otherwise, throughout this section property tax revenues include the School Tax Relief (STAR) reimbursement.

**Table 10. Revisions to the City's Tax Revenue Assumptions
February 2018 vs. April 2018**

(\$ in millions)	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
February 2018 Financial Plan Total	\$57,294	\$59,999	\$62,223	\$64,582	\$65,623
Revisions:					
Property	114	115	141	273	981
Personal Income (PIT)	801	194	213	120	16
Business	(29)	(115)	(121)	(118)	(196)
Sales	59	(144)	(60)	(86)	67
Real Estate Transactions	28	0	(72)	(28)	(10)
All Other	0	27	25	19	14
Tax Audit	0	0	0	0	0
Revisions-Total	\$973	\$77	\$126	\$180	\$872
April 2018 Financial Plan - Total	\$58,267	\$60,076	\$62,349	\$64,762	\$66,495

Comparison of Projected Tax Revenue Growth

The City and the Comptroller's Office project tax revenue growth to accelerate in FY 2018 and then taper off for the remainder of the Plan period. As shown in Table 11, the Comptroller's Office expects total tax revenue growth to accelerate to 7.9 percent in FY 2018, 1.3 percentage points above the City's 6.6 percent growth projection. This is largely due to the Comptroller's higher growth projection for PIT revenues in the current year compared to the City's forecast. In the outyears, both the City and the Comptroller's Office expect tax revenue growth to slow down to moderate rates as some of the tax revenue sources driving the FY 2018 growth are not expected to recur. The Comptroller's tax revenue growth projection slows to 2.9 percent in FY 2019 and 3.1 percent in FY 2020 before picking up pace slightly in the latter years of the Plan period. The City and the Comptroller's Office project overall tax revenue growth to average 3.4 percent annually over the Five Year Plan. A more detailed discussion of our projections and differences from the City's forecast follows.

Table 11. Tax Revenue Forecast, Growth Rates

	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FYs 2018 – 22 Average Annual Growth
Property						
Mayor	6.9%	6.0%	5.4%	4.8%	3.2%	4.8%
Comptroller	6.9%	6.3%	6.2%	6.4%	3.4%	5.6%
PIT						
Mayor	12.7%	(2.2%)	4.8%	3.2%	2.5%	2.0%
Comptroller	19.2%	(6.2%)	2.3%	2.7%	2.0%	0.1%
Business						
Mayor	1.0%	6.6%	1.9%	2.2%	(0.2%)	2.6%
Comptroller	1.0%	9.6%	(0.6%)	2.6%	(0.1%)	2.8%
Sales						
Mayor	5.4%	4.9%	5.2%	4.0%	3.4%	4.4%
Comptroller	5.4%	6.1%	6.3%	3.5%	2.6%	4.6%
Real Estate Transactions						
Mayor	(5.6%)	0.2%	(1.6%)	3.3%	3.0%	1.2%
Comptroller	(4.6%)	(1.8%)	(16.8%)	(1.1%)	24.5%	0.1%
All Other						
Mayor	7.2%	0.5%	1.2%	1.7%	2.3%	1.4%
Comptroller	7.2%	0.5%	1.2%	1.7%	2.3%	1.4%
Total Tax with Audit						
Mayor	6.6%	3.1%	3.8%	3.9%	2.7%	3.4%
Comptroller	7.9%	2.9%	3.1%	4.3%	3.2%	3.4%

Summary of Revenue Risks and Offsets

As shown in Table 12, the Comptroller's Office projections show net offsets of \$706 million in FY 2018, \$595 million in FY 2019, \$201 million in FY 2020, \$505 million in FY 2021 and \$882 million in FY 2022. In the current fiscal year the offset is driven by the Comptroller's significantly higher PIT revenue projection. In FY 2019, the Comptroller's Office projects most major tax revenues as well as audit revenues to be higher than the City's estimates, producing a net offset of \$595 million. In the last three years of the Financial Plan, the Comptroller's Office anticipates shortfalls in most non-property tax revenues. However, the Comptroller's Office's higher projection for property tax revenues and audit revenues in the outyears will more than offset projected shortfalls in non-property taxes, leading to a combined \$1.59 billion in tax revenues above the April Plan projections in FY 2020 – FY 2022.

Table 12. Risks and Offsets to the City's Tax Revenue Projections

(\$ in millions)	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
Property	\$0	\$76	\$303	\$785	\$883
PIT	730	182	(117)	(190)	(260)
Business	0	169	20	44	53
Sales	0	91	179	149	85
Real Estate Transaction	26	(23)	(384)	(483)	(79)
Audit	(50)	100	200	200	200
Total	\$706	\$595	\$201	\$505	\$882

Property Taxes

The Comptroller's Office projects property tax offsets of \$76 million in FY 2019 resulting from a reduction in total assessments between the tentative and final property tax rolls that are smaller than those anticipated by the City. Neither the Comptroller's Office nor the City incorporate data from the final property tax roll for FY 2019, which will not be available until the end of May, in the forecast.

Although both the City and the Comptroller's Office project slowing property tax growth, the Comptroller's Office projects this growth will taper off more gradually, resulting in widening offsets in the outyears of \$303 million in FY 2020, \$785 million in FY 2021 and \$883 million in FY 2022. These property tax offsets are smaller than in our February forecast, primarily as a result of the City increasing its own property tax revenue forecasts.

Personal Income Taxes

The Comptroller's Office expects FY 2018 personal income tax revenues to grow by almost 20 percent. We concur with the City's assessment that the boost to PIT revenues to date is driven in large part by non-recurring factors related to Federal tax reform – Public Law 115-97 the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA). These include the shifting of income into FY 2018 due to the anticipation and enactment of the TCJA and the limitation of SALT deductibility, and two specific tax provisions: the Repatriation of Non-Qualified Deferred Compensation and the Transition Tax on Foreign Earnings.⁸ Finally, a restructuring of the reimbursement of STAR caused withholding revenue to jump in FY 2018.

⁸ The Repatriation of Non-Qualified Deferred Compensation was enacted as part of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 and allowed certain taxpayers to defer income and taxes until December 31, 2017. Among the primary beneficiaries of this provision were employees and principals at hedge funds. The Transition Tax on Foreign Earnings was enacted as part of the TCJA and similarly requires taxpayers with foreign business income to pay taxes as of December 31, 2017.

While these results are boosted by one-time tax related events, at the same time the underlying fundamentals of the City's economy and Wall Street profitability are also strong. Assessing and distinguishing the impact of non-recurring and recurring factors on revenue is particularly challenging given the complexity of the provisions regarding the repatriation of foreign earnings and the scarcity of data available to assess these. The enactment of these complex provisions so late in the year meant that even tax filers and tax professionals had little time to determine their impact on tax year 2017 liability. Recognizing this, the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance circulated a notice on April 2018, indicating that it would weigh granting waivers for late payments.⁹ This underscores the high degree of uncertainty that still surrounds this year's filing season, which could have a large impact on PIT revenues in the remainder of the tax year. A detailed assessment of these factors and key differences with the City PIT forecast follows.

FY 2018: Based on collections data through the month of April, the Comptroller's Office estimates that PIT revenue will exceed the City's projections by \$730 million. The City did not have full collections data for April and the month's final tally was significantly higher (\$650 million) than the City's results indicate. All categories of non-withheld income, including offsets, were much higher than those indicated by the City in the Plan. The remaining months of the fiscal year are expected to build on this strength and upside, although there is considerable uncertainty regarding the second installment payment due June 15th.

FY 2019: As noted, the Comptroller's Office concurs with the City's assessment that FY 2018 are boosted by one-time nonrecurring revenues and our projection is that overall PIT will decline by 6 percent in FY 2019, driven by a 23 percent decline in non-withheld income. Even with this decline, non-withheld income is projected to be more than 8 percent higher than in FY 2017. Volatility and trading in the stock markets have picked up recently, suggesting that investors are seeking to realize gains accumulated with the run up in major indices over recent years.

Compared to the City, the Comptroller's Office's projected decline in PIT in FY 2019 is higher, but starts from a significantly higher base amount in 2018. Overall revenues therefore could be almost \$182 million higher than the City estimates.

FY 2020 – FY 2022: Both the City's and the Comptroller's Office's outyear forecast for PIT are predicated on continued but moderate economic growth with the economy approaching full employment. The Comptroller's Office expects slightly lower growth in employment, 52,000 fewer jobs by FY 2022, and a marginally lower wage rate. As a result overall PIT revenue could be \$260 million lower than the City projects in 2022.

In addition to the usual uncertainty regarding the long term forecast, out-year PIT results should be closely monitored to see if the limitation of SALT deductibility causes taxpayer flight. City PIT revenues could also be adversely impacted if employers opt into the State's payroll tax, which would take effect starting in tax year 2019. A recent proposal by the Connecticut Department of Revenue Services to craft a tax credit for New York State payroll tax payments suggests that the possibility of opt-ins to the new payroll tax is being taken seriously.

Business Income Taxes

The TCJA also impacted the timing patterns of revenues from the City's two business taxes, the general corporation tax (GCT) and unincorporated business tax (UBT). The projected decline in federal corporate business income tax rates and the incentive this provided to businesses to defer income into the current tax year was likely a factor explaining a projected FY 2018 decline of almost

⁹ https://tax.ny.gov/pdf/notices/n18_4.pdf

6 percent. Conversely, UBT income, which is passed through to individuals, was likely boosted by the limitation imposed on SALT deductions by the TCJA.

Based on collections data through April, the Comptroller's Office's forecast for FY 2018 is similar to the City's. In FY 2019 the difference is due to assumptions regarding the effects of income shifts due to the TCJA. The Comptroller's Office assumes that the bounce back in GCT from FY 2018's decline will be higher with growth of 13 percent compared to 9 percent assumed by the City. Similarly, for UBT the forecast growth of 4.2 percent following FY 2018 double digit growth is also marginally higher compared to the City's forecast. Overall revenues from business taxes combined could therefore be \$169 million higher than those shown by the City in FY 2019. In the outyears, the Comptroller's Office and the City both expect growth in business taxes to moderate along with overall growth in the economy. The overall difference in the business tax forecast is minor in the outyears.

Sales Tax

Collections from the sales tax are projected to strengthen in FY 2018, supported by higher consumer confidence, low unemployment and steady wage and employment growth. The City and the Comptroller's Office project sales tax revenue growth of 5.4 percent in FY 2018, the fastest growth since FY 2014. In FY 2019, the City forecasts growth in sales tax revenue to slow to 4.9 percent and reach \$7.76 billion. This projection is net of the final \$150 million in State intercept of sales tax revenues recognized in the April Plan. Over the Plan period, the City projects growth in sales tax revenue to average 4.4 percent annually, slightly below the Comptroller's Office's 4.6 percent growth forecast over the same period. The Comptroller's Office forecasts sales tax revenues will grow by 6.1 percent in FY 2019 and 6.3 percent in FY 2020, producing offsets of \$91 million and \$179 million respectively. Although the Comptroller's Office projects sales tax revenue growth to slow towards the end of the Plan, the Office anticipates that continued job and wage growth and strength in tourism will generate sales tax revenue in excess of the City's forecast, producing offsets of \$149 million in FY 2021 and \$85 million in FY 2022.

The outyear forecast for Sales tax revenues could be impacted by a current case pending before the U.S. Supreme Court, *South Dakota v. Wayfair, Inc.*, which could overturn the physical presence rule for taxing online sales. The outcome of that decision is unknown but New York City could potentially receive a windfall in sales revenue tax revenue from this decision.

Real Estate Transaction Taxes

The City projects a decline of 5.6 percent to \$2.39 billion in the combined revenues from the real estate transaction taxes in FY 2018, following a decline of 15.8 percent in FY 2017. In FY 2018, the City projects revenues from the real property transfer tax (RPTT) and mortgage recording tax (MRT) to decline by 0.8 percent and 11.6 percent respectively. Higher interest rates are expected to lower refinancing as well as overall sales in this period. The City projects real estate transaction taxes to average 1.2 percent growth annually over the rest of the forecast period.

The Comptroller's Office projects a more moderate decline of 4.6 percent in the combined revenues from the real estate transaction taxes in FY 2018, to \$2.42 billion, resulting in an offset of \$26 million. However, in subsequent years, the Comptroller's Office projects risks of \$23 million in FY 2019, \$384 million in FY 2020, \$483 million in FY 2021 and \$79 million in FY 2022. The Comptroller's Office projects real estate transaction taxes to average 0.1 percent growth annually over the forecast period. The Comptroller's Office's projections of offsets in FY 2018 and risks in outer years are based on the correction in the residential as well as commercial markets after record sales, as well as projected increases in interest rates, slowing growth in Gross City Product, New York City employment and financial markets.

Audit Revenues

The Comptroller's Office estimates that current year audit revenues could be \$50 million less than indicated by the City in FY 2018. Although audit collections so far seem to be on pace, the last quarter of the current fiscal year anticipates a fairly aggressive tally to reach a record high of almost \$1.3 billion in revenues. In contrast in the outyears, the City's forecast of audit revenues assumes a very sharp fall off from current levels of \$1.3 billion to just over \$700 million in FY 2022. This decline would be unprecedented. Audit revenues are more likely to remain in a range around \$1 billion. We recognize offsets of \$100 million in FY 2019 and \$200 million annually in subsequent years.

Miscellaneous Revenues

In the April 2018 Financial Plan, the City raised its FY 2018 miscellaneous revenue projection by a net \$57 million, to \$4.92 billion.¹⁰ The revision includes approximately \$2 million in revenue initiatives included in the Citywide Savings Plan. The current year projection is \$103 million lower than the total miscellaneous receipts collected in FY 2017. The decline in FY 2018 reflects lower non-recurring revenues such as asset sales and other one-time payments in the current fiscal year. For FY 2019, the Executive Budget forecasts miscellaneous revenue to grow only slightly to \$4.97 billion, a net increase of \$10 million from the February forecast.

The current miscellaneous revenue projection removes from the Financial Plan \$929 million in revenues from the sale of taxi medallions previously anticipated over FY 2019 – FY 2022, which the Comptroller's Office considered a risk to the City's Financial Plan. The City last sold taxi medallions in FY 2014, when medallion prices were at their highest level. Since then, the proliferation of ride-sharing services has put downward pressure on medallion prices. According to data from the Taxi and Limousine Commission (TLC), average medallion prices fell below \$200,000. The City's previous Plan assumed an average price of \$728,000 per medallion.

**Table 13 Changes in FY 2019 Estimates
February 2018 vs. April 2018**

(\$ in millions)	February	April	Change
Licenses, Franchises, Etc.	\$679	\$689	\$10
Interest Income	179	190	11
Charges for Services	985	1,005	20
Water and Sewer Charges	1,393	1,450	57
Rental Income	254	254	0
Fines and Forfeitures	930	943	13
Other Miscellaneous	535	434	(101)
Total	\$4,955	\$4,965	\$10

*Water and sewer revenues collected by the Water Board from dedicated water and sewer charges represent reimbursements for operation and maintenance of the water delivery and sewer systems and therefore are not available for general operating purposes.

The FY 2019 miscellaneous revenue budget reflects revisions to nearly all categories of miscellaneous revenue. As Table 13 shows, the largest revisions were in the categories "other miscellaneous", water and sewer charges, charges for services and fines and forfeitures. Revenue projection for "other miscellaneous" which comprises asset sales, cash recoveries, refunds of prior year expenditure and other non-recurring revenues decreased by a net \$101 million. The revision reflects primarily the removal of \$107 million in revenues from taxi medallion sales previously assumed in FY 2019. Projections for charges for services and fines and forfeitures increased by

¹⁰ Miscellaneous revenue analysis excludes private grants and intra-City revenues.

\$20 million and \$13 million respectively. These changes mostly reflect planned increases in passenger and commercial parking meter rates, additional fee revenue from the Affordable Housing Program and higher estimated parking violation fines. Projected revenues from licenses, franchises and permits increased by \$10 million to account for higher expected revenues from construction permits and Wi-Fi franchise revenues. Finally, the Plan raised the forecast for interest income by \$11 million in FY 2019 to reflect the City's anticipation of a steady increase in the federal funds rate.

Although the April Plan increased projections for most of the miscellaneous revenue categories in the outyears of the Plan period, the removal from the Plan of revenues from taxi medallion sales results in net declines of \$123 million in FY 2020, \$249 million in FY 2021, and \$99 million in FY 2022 compared to the February Plan. Overall, miscellaneous revenues are expected to remain steady averaging \$4.97 billion annually in FY 2019 – FY 2022.

Based on recent collection trend, the Comptroller's Office expects revenues from fines to be above the City's forecast by \$29 million in FY 2019, and \$27 million annually in each of FY 2020 – FY 2022. The Comptroller's Office believes revenues from Environmental Control Board (ECB) fines could generate an additional \$20 million annually in each of FY's 2019 through 2022. Motor vehicle fines could be higher by \$5 million in FY 2019 and \$3 million in each of FY's 2020 – 2022, while penalties from the Department of Buildings (DOB) are likely to exceed the City's current forecast by \$4 million annually in FY 2019 through FY 2022.

Federal and State Aid

The FY 2019 Executive Budget assumes \$22.48 billion in Federal and State assistance, reflecting an increase of \$289 million since the February Plan. About 82 percent of this total is expected to support education and social services spending. On a year-over-year basis, the FY 2019 assumptions represent a decline of nearly \$1.2 billion from projected Federal and State support in the current year, largely attributable to the rapid decline in Sandy-related reimbursement and more conservative estimates of certain Federal grants in FY 2019.

Changes since the February Plan is almost entirely reflected in Federal grants, rising by a net \$288 million. Net of Sandy-related funding, the City anticipates \$7.3 billion in Federal assistance for FY 2019. Excluding an inter-agency transfer of \$150 million for the EarlyLearn program between DOE and ACS, education grants has increased by \$56 million from expanded participation in the Federal school food program (\$38 million) and revised special education support (\$18 million). The Executive Budget also reflects additional funding of \$113 million in social services mainly for DHS, including \$88 million for family and adult shelters and \$17 million for hotel security. Other major changes in the Federal aid projections include increases of \$44 million in Homeland Security grants, \$37 million in Sandy-related reimbursement and \$37 million in Community Development Block Grants mainly for New York City Housing Authority repairs.

In FY 2019, the City anticipates State grants to total nearly \$15 billion, including \$11.1 billion for education. While the City managed to avoid deep cuts in charter schools, special education and child welfare services totaling \$338 million, the Executive Budget still reflects a significant negative impact of \$531 million from the enacted State budget. The impact largely stems from unfunded mandates that the State has imposed on the City, which include City payment of \$254 million to the MTA for subway improvement and implementation costs of \$108 million for the Raise the Age program for adolescent offenders. In addition, the State enacted school aid appropriations that fell short of the City's expectation by \$140 million and eliminated reimbursement for the City's Close to Home youth residential placement program of \$31 million. These reductions in aid have been offset by additional State grants recognized by the DOE for charter schools and preschool special education, as well as additional asset forfeitures, leaving State aid projections virtually unchanged since the February Plan.

However, the City still has not yet reflected a modified formula for tuition payments to charter schools that, without additional State reimbursement or a change in the formula, could pose risks of \$119 million in FY 2020, \$281 million in FY 2021 and \$478 million in FY 2022. The City could also face additional State aid reductions under the extension and expansion of executive budgetary powers adopted last year that provides the State Division of Budget with broad authority to respond to Federal budget cuts. If federal Medicaid receipts to New York State are reduced by \$850 million, or if all other federal receipts are reduced by \$850 million, in state fiscal years 2018 – 19 through 2019-20, the Division of Budget could present a plan to the Legislature to uniformly reduce related local aid disbursements. If the Legislature fails to adopt an alternative plan within 90 days, the budget director's proposal would become law.

Over the remainder of the Plan, Federal and State grants are projected to range between \$22.43 billion in FY 2020 and \$23.33 billion in FY 2022. These projections represent average annual growth of about 1.25 percent from the FY 2019 projections, driven primarily by the City's expectation of State education aid increases of more than 3 percent annually. Assuming these assumptions hold, the level of Federal and State support for the City's expense budget would decline from about 25 percent in FY 2019 to less than 24 percent by FY 2022.

Expenditures Analysis

Total-funds FY 2019 expenditures in the April Financial Plan are projected to remain relatively unchanged from FY 2018, growing by a modest \$393 million, or less than half a percentage point. However, both the FY 2018 and FY 2019 expenditures include prepayments which lower debt service expenditures in these fiscal years. In addition, expenditures in FY 2018 are further reduced by the take-down of the general reserve and the re-estimates of prior-year accruals. After adjusting for prepayments, and excluding re-estimates of prior-year accruals and reserves, expenditures are projected to grow from \$89.55 billion in FY 2018 to \$91.47 billion in 2019, a growth of 2.1 percent, as shown in Table 14.

Expenditure growth over the Plan period is driven by spending on wages and salaries, debt service, health insurance, and other fringe benefits excluding pensions. The combined spending in these areas is projected to grow by 19.6 percent over the Plan period, averaging 4.6 percent annually. All other expenditures, net of the General Reserve, Capital Stabilization reserve, and prior-year re-estimates, are projected to decline slightly by 1.5 percent over the same period, with a projected annual average decline of 0.4 percent.

**Table 14. FY 2018 – FY 2022 Expenditure Growth
Adjusted for Prepayments and Prior-Year Actions**

(\$ in millions)	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	Growth FYs 18-22	Annual Growth
Salaries and Wages	\$26,739	\$28,345	\$29,239	\$29,987	\$29,688	11.0%	2.7%
Debt Service	\$6,231	6,963	7,511	7,903	8,608	38.1%	8.4%
Health Insurance	\$6,186	6,787	7,353	8,014	8,603	39.1%	8.6%
Other Fringe Benefits	\$3,708	3,847	4,187	4,292	4,383	18.2%	4.3%
Subtotal	\$42,864	\$45,941	\$48,289	\$50,196	\$51,282	19.6%	4.6%
Pensions	\$9,520	\$9,740	\$9,791	\$10,050	\$10,255	7.7%	1.9%
Medicaid	\$5,915	\$5,915	\$5,915	\$5,915	\$5,915	0.0%	0.0%
Public Assistance	\$1,583	\$1,605	\$1,617	\$1,617	\$1,617	2.1%	0.5%
Judgments and Claims	\$712	\$697	\$712	\$727	\$742	4.3%	1.1%
Contractual Services	\$17,288	\$16,059	\$15,553	\$15,690	\$15,804	(8.6%)	(2.2%)
Other OTPS	\$11,668	\$11,508	\$11,422	\$11,491	\$11,641	(0.2%)	(0.1%)
Subtotal	\$46,685	\$45,524	\$45,009	\$45,489	\$45,973	(1.5%)	(0.4%)
Expenditures Before Reserves and Prior-Year Re-estimates	\$89,548	\$91,465	\$93,298	\$95,685	\$97,255	8.6%	2.1%
Prior-Year Accruals Re- estimate	(\$400)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		
General Reserve	\$50	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000		
Capital Stabilization Reserve	\$0	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$250		
Total	\$89,198	\$92,715	\$94,548	\$96,935	\$98,505	10.4%	2.5%

Note: Numbers may not add due to rounding.

Headcount

The Executive 2019 Financial Plan projects total-funded full-time headcount of 303,862 for fiscal year-end 2018, an increase of 31 from the February Preliminary Plan. Planned headcount remains relatively stable for FY 2019 and FY 2020, with increases in FY 2021 and FY 2022 to 308,124 and 310,903, respectively, as shown in Table 15.

**Table 15. Total Funded Full-Time Year-End Headcount Projections
April 2018 Financial Plan**

	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
Pedagogical					
Dept. of Education	119,613	120,720	120,968	122,410	125,095
City University	<u>4,441</u>	<u>4,441</u>	<u>4,441</u>	<u>4,441</u>	<u>4,441</u>
Subtotal	124,054	125,161	125,409	126,851	129,536
Uniformed					
Police	36,078	36,105	36,110	36,110	36,110
Fire	10,914	10,946	10,946	10,946	10,946
Correction	10,427	10,226	10,242	10,242	10,083
Sanitation	<u>7,543</u>	<u>7,657</u>	<u>7,670</u>	<u>7,670</u>	<u>7,670</u>
Subtotal	64,962	64,934	64,968	64,968	64,809
Civilian					
Dept. Of Education	12,271	12,358	12,444	13,111	13,387
City University	1,927	1,942	1,946	1,946	1,946
Police	15,858	15,407	15,607	15,606	15,606
Fire	6,228	6,291	6,316	6,315	6,315
Correction	2,195	2,273	2,273	2,273	2,273
Sanitation	2,268	2,302	2,302	2,302	2,302
Admin. For Children's Services	7,157	7,016	7,450	7,664	7,664
Social Services	14,713	14,670	14,725	14,725	14,725
Homeless Services	2,613	2,577	2,577	2,577	2,577
Health And Mental Hygiene	5,726	5,466	5,520	5,520	5,520
Finance	2,230	2,198	2,263	2,263	2,263
Transportation	5,395	5,384	5,505	5,502	5,501
Parks And Recreation	4,401	4,292	4,335	4,332	4,332
All Other Civilians	<u>31,864</u>	<u>32,177</u>	<u>32,104</u>	<u>32,169</u>	<u>32,147</u>
Subtotal	114,846	114,353	115,367	116,305	116,558
Total	303,862	304,448	305,744	308,124	310,903

As shown in Table 16, FY 2018 year-end headcount shows a net increase of 31 as compared to the February 2018 Financial Plan, with more significant increases, of 1,042 in FY 2019, 2,220 in FY 2020, 2,470 in FY 2021 and 2,293 in FY 2022. The change in headcount in FY 2018 mainly reflects budgetary adjustments, while the increases in FY 2019 through FY 2022 are driven primarily by new staffing needs of ranging from 1,114 to 1,195.

**Table 16. Full-time Headcount Plan-to-Plan Comparison
April 2018 Financial Plan vs. February 2018 Financial Plan**

	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
Pedagogical					
Dept. of Education	0	94	42	42	42
City University	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Subtotal	0	94	42	42	42
Uniformed					
Police	160	164	169	169	169
Fire	0	0	0	0	0
Correction	0	259	259	259	100
Sanitation	<u>0</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>23</u>
Subtotal	160	446	451	451	292
Civilian					
Dept. of Education	12	(37)	31	31	31
City University	0	0	0	0	0
Police	(207)	(408)	(220)	(221)	(221)
Fire	(2)	67	92	92	92
Correction	0	71	71	71	71
Sanitation	0	0	0	0	0
Admin. for Children's Services	0	44	479	693	693
Social Services	0	(44)	2	2	2
Homeless Services	0	0	0	0	0
Health and Mental Hygiene	5	(27)	40	40	40
Finance	0	(44)	9	9	9
Transportation	37	179	303	303	302
Parks and Recreation	0	(29)	25	25	25
All Other Civilians	<u>26</u>	<u>730</u>	<u>895</u>	<u>932</u>	<u>915</u>
Subtotal	(129)	502	1,727	1,977	1,959
Total	31	1,042	2,220	2,470	2,293

Table 17 compares actual headcount on March 31, 2018 to the planned FY 2018 year-end headcount. The current headcount plan shows an expected net increase of 8,407 full-time employees Citywide, from actual total headcount on June 30, 2017 of 295,455. As of March 31, 2017, three-quarters into the fiscal year, Citywide headcount has shown a net increase of only 2,532, a little over 30 percent of the planned increase. This pace of increase suggests that headcount may not meet its target for the current fiscal year.

Table 17. March 31, 2018 Headcount vs. Planned June 30, 2018 Headcount

	6/30/2017 Actuals	3/31/2018 Actuals	Change 6/30/2017 Actuals to 3/31/2018 Actuals	6/30/2018 Executive 2019 Plan	Planned Change 6/30/2017 to 6/30/2018	Percent of Planned Change Achieved
Pedagogical						
Dept. of Education	118,671	119,654	983	119,613	942	104.35%
City University	4,449	4,536	87	4,441	(8)	(1,087.50%)
Subtotal	123,120	124,190	1,070	124,054	934	114.56%
Uniformed						
Police	36,254	36,764	510	36,078	(176)	(289.77%)
Fire	11,090	11,067	(23)	10,914	(176)	13.07%
Correction	10,862	10,873	11	10,427	(435)	(2.53%)
Sanitation	7,544	7,641	97	7,543	(1)	(9,700.00%)
Subtotal	65,750	66,345	595	64,962	(788)	(75.51%)
Civilian						
Dept. of Education	12,528	12,735	207	12,271	(257)	(80.54%)
City University	1,904	1,860	(44)	1,927	23	(191.30%)
Police	14,802	14,999	197	15,858	1,056	18.66%
Fire	6,289	6,074	(215)	6,228	(61)	352.46%
Correction	1,729	1,772	43	2,195	466	9.23%
Sanitation	2,137	2,115	(22)	2,268	131	(16.79%)
Admin. for Children's Services	6,343	6,474	131	7,157	814	16.09%
Social Services	13,244	12,929	(315)	14,713	1,469	(21.44%)
Homeless Services	2,341	2,369	28	2,613	272	10.29%
Health and Mental Hygiene	5,176	5,443	267	5,726	550	48.55%
Finance	1,931	1,910	(21)	2,230	299	(7.02%)
Transportation	4,773	4,852	79	5,395	622	12.70%
Parks and Recreation	4,124	4,128	4	4,401	277	1.44%
All Other Civilians	29,264	29,792	528	31,864	2,600	20.31%
Subtotal	106,585	107,452	867	114,846	8,261	10.50%
Total	295,455	297,987	2,532	303,862	8,407	30.12%

Overtime (OT)

The FY 2019 Executive Budget includes \$1.350 billion for overtime expenditures, almost 14 percent lower than the current FY 2018 overtime projection of \$1.568 billion. While the Comptroller's Office projects that overtime spending will be lower than FY 2018, the estimated decline is less than the City's projection. The Comptroller's Office estimates that FY 2019 overtime spending will total \$1.503 billion, \$153 million more than the City's estimate, as shown in Table 18.

Table 18. Projected Overtime Spending, FY 2019

(\$ in millions)	City Planned Overtime FY 2019	Comptroller's Office Projected Overtime FY 2019	FY 2019 Risk
Uniformed			
Police	\$548	\$560	(\$12)
Fire	212	212	0
Correction	150	190	(40)
Sanitation	111	111	0
Total Uniformed	\$1,021	\$1,073	(\$52)
Civilians			
Police-Civilian	\$82	\$100	(\$18)
Admin for Child Svcs	17	30	(13)
Environmental Protection	21	40	(19)
Transportation	49	60	(11)
All Other Agencies	160	200	(40)
Total Civilians	\$329	\$430	(\$101)
Total City	\$1,350	\$1,503	(\$153)

Beginning in FY 2018, the City initiated cost-saving initiatives at several agencies to curb the continued growth in civilian overtime. These initiatives are expected to generate savings of at least \$138 million over FY 2018-FY 2022. Civilian overtime cost has increased at an annual rate of 11.8 percent from \$366 million in FY 2013 to \$572 million in FY 2017. When compared to the adopted budget projections for these fiscal years, FY 2013 to FY 2017, actual civilian overtime averaged \$466 million annually, 65 percent more than an average of \$282 million at budget adoption. The Comptroller's Office estimates that civilian overtime will cost the City about \$430 million in FY 2019, \$101 million higher than the City's projection.

Annual spending for uniformed overtime averaged \$1.099 billion for FY 2013 to FY 2017, an increase of 35 percent over the average budgeted amount at adoption. Over that period, uniformed overtime cost increased at an average annual rate of 6.9 percent, from \$926 million in FY 2013 to \$1.2 billion in FY 2017. Unlike civilian overtime cost, the cost for uniformed overtime appears to have stabilized over recent fiscal years. Uniformed agencies, mainly the Police Department (NYPD), the Fire Department (FDNY), and the Department of Corrections (DOC) have seen increases in headcount levels resulting in reductions of overtime hours being used to meet day to day operations. Both the Comptroller's Office and the City project a drop in uniformed overtime for FY 2019. The Comptroller's Office projects a drop to \$1.07 billion compared to a drop to \$1.02 billion projected by the City. As shown in Table 18, this represents a risk of \$52 million to the City's uniformed overtime spending projection.

Health Insurance

The FY 2019 Executive Budget projects health insurance spending for employees and retirees of \$6.787 billion. As shown in Table 19, this is an increase of almost 10 percent or \$601 million from the current estimate for FY 2018, adjusted for a prepayment of \$400 million of retiree health benefits in FY 2017. Health insurance costs are then projected to increase at an average rate of 8.2 percent to \$8.603 billion by FY 2022. Reflected in these projections are \$1.3 billion in health insurance cost savings resulting from the Healthcare Reform Agreement negotiated between the City and the Municipal Labor Committee (MLC) in May of 2014.

The current projections reflect increases to the premium rates for active employees' health insurance of 7.6 percent in FY 2018, 6.8 percent in FY 2019, 6.5 percent in FY 2020, 6.0 percent

in FY 2021, and 5.5 percent in FY 2022. Medicare-eligible retirees' health insurance premium rate increased by 2.4 percent in FY 2018, and are projected to increase by 5 percent annually in FY 2019 through FY 2022. These rates are higher than the increases in recent years which averaged 3.0 percent over FY 2015 to FY 2017 for active employees' health insurance and 1.7 percent for Medicare-eligible retirees' health insurance. The projected rates, however, are consistent with the projections of the Health Care Cost Trend Rate (HCCTR).¹¹ The City will realize budgetary savings should the rates be lower than projected.

Table 19. Pay-As-You-Go Health Expenditures

(\$ in millions)	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
Department of Education	\$2,331	\$2,491	\$2,736	\$3,060	\$3,329
CUNY	96	106	116	126	156
All Other	3,359	4,190	4,501	4,828	5,119
Subtotal	\$5,786	\$6,787	\$7,353	\$8,014	\$8,603
FY 2017 Prepayment	400	0	0	0	0
Adjusted Pay-As-You-Go Health Insurance Costs	\$6,186	\$6,787	\$7,353	\$8,014	\$8,603

FY 2018 health insurance estimate is lower by \$39 million than the February Plan, due mainly to lower headcount levels than previously projected. However, cost re-estimates and revisions to the estimates of planned headcount levels in the outyears result in net increases of \$38 million in FY 2019, \$64 million in FY 2020, and approximately \$71 million in each of FY 2021 and FY 2022. The FY 2019 increase reflects a partial offset of about \$14 million from an elimination of the need to fill 855 vacant positions across several City agencies.

Pensions

The FY 2019 Executive Budget projects pension contributions of \$9.740 billion, an increase of 2 percent over the estimated FY 2018 contribution of \$9.520 billion. Thereafter, pension contributions are projected to remain relatively stable over the Financial Plan period, increasing to \$9.791 billion in FY 2020, \$10.050 billion in FY 2021, and \$10.255 billion in FY 2022.

As shown in Table 20, pension contributions increased by \$42 million in FY 2018, \$50 million in FY 2019, \$140 million in FY 2020, and approximately \$485 million in each of FY 2021 and FY 2022 when compared to the February Plan.¹² The net increases for FY 2019 to FY 2022 resulted mainly from funds reserved in the Financial Plan for potential costs that may result after the completion of the current actuarial audit of the five actuarial systems, as detailed further below in the discussion on actuarial audits and reports.

¹¹ Source: Comprehensive Annual Financial Report of the Comptroller for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2017.

¹² Includes the transfer of custodial pension contributions of \$5 million in FY 2019 and \$6 million in each of the outyears, from the pension budget to DOE.

Table 20. FY 2018 – FY 2022 City Pension Contributions

(\$ in millions)	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
Five Actuarial Systems	\$9,538	\$9,765	\$9,680	\$9,600	\$9,816
Reserve for Expected Adjustments*	0	(9)	125	461	448
Non-Actuarial Systems	0	0	0	0	0
Non-City Systems	94	96	98	101	103
Less: Intra City-Expense	(112)	(112)	(112)	(112)	(112)
Net Pension Expense April Plan	\$9,520	\$9,740	\$9,791	\$10,050	\$10,255
Net Pension Expense February Plan	\$9,478	\$9,690	\$9,651	\$9,566	\$9,770
Net Change	\$42	\$50	\$140	\$484	\$485

*The reserve is being held to accommodate expected changes in headcount, valuation refinements, and salary adjustments.

**Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Pursuant to Chapter 96 of the New York City Charter, the Comptroller's Office has engaged Bolton, Inc. to conduct two consecutive biennial independent actuarial audits. Bolton has recently completed their first audit and issued the following reports:¹³

The Independent Actuary's Statement which certifies that the City's pension systems are being funded appropriately and accurately, on sound actuarial principles, and in accordance with applicable statutes.

The Audit Report on Employer Pension Contribution Calculations for FY 2016 which verifies the accuracy of the pension systems' assets, liabilities and employer pension contribution calculations.

The Administrative Review Report which validates the quality and completeness of the actuarial data used in valuations by reviewing the actuarial data gathering, transmission, and maintenance processes.

The Experience Study Report which reviews actual experience through June 30, 2015 and comments on the actuarial assumptions used by the Office of the Actuary (OA) to calculate contributions to the city pension funds.

Overall, the independent actuarial auditor concluded that the City funded the five actuarial pension systems appropriately for FY 2016 and that assumptions used to calculate pension contributions are reasonable. Bolton did, however, advise the City to review (1) the funding of the tax-deferred annuity (TDA) fixed fund for certain members of the Teachers Retirement System (TRS) and Board of Education Retirement System (BERS) and (2) the lag methodology utilized by the Office of the Actuary (OA) to determine annual employer contributions for the five actuarial systems.

- The TDA (403)(b) plan for employees belonging to TRS and BERS.

Employees belonging to TRS and BERS may contribute to a tax-deferred annuity plan with an investment option of a fixed rate fund with a guaranteed interest rate of either 7 percent or 8.25 percent, depending on the member's union affiliations. About 15 percent of the TRS TDA fixed fund balance and 67 percent of the BERS TDA fixed fund balance earn 8.25 percent. Since this rate is higher than the actuarial interest rate assumption (AIRA) of 7 percent, the employer contributions for these pension systems reflect an actuarial loss that was previously amortized to account for the difference. The City will now recognize

¹³ Bolton's reports are available on the Comptroller's website: <http://comptroller.nyc.gov/reports/policy-n-other>

the full cost annually and the current pension projections include \$50 million each year for this cost.¹⁴

- One-Year Lag methodology (OYLM) used to determine employer contributions.

Returns above or below the AIRA for a given fiscal year are phased-in over a six-year period beginning one year after the end of the given fiscal year. Under the OYLM, pension contributions for a given fiscal year are determined based on the fiscal year-end actuarial valuation date as of the second preceding year. For example, FY 2018 Employers' pension contributions were calculated based on the June 30, 2016 actuarial valuation date. While using a lag method is very common in public sector valuations, Bolton has proposed that the Office of the Actuary consider technical refinements to the method currently being used. In the April Plan, the City has reserved \$100 million beginning in FY 2019 for additional cost that may result from any changes or refinements to the lag methodology.

Bolton also highlighted certain trends that may result in recommendations to modify the underlying assumptions after the completion of the second audit. These areas include retiree mortality, overtime, and salary increase assumptions. The April Plan adds a reserve of \$300 million in each of FY 2021 and FY 2022 for any additional costs that may arise from changes to the underlying assumptions.

Additional changes to the pension projections resulted from an update to the actuarial valuations of the systems and headcount changes. The updated valuations increase projected costs by \$42 million in FY 2018, \$44 million in FY 2020, more than \$83 million in each of FY 2021 and FY 2022, and reduce costs by \$45 million in FY 2019.

Pension contributions are based on the assumption that pension investments will earn the actuarial interest rate assumption (AIRA) of 7 percent. Each percentage point in investment return above or below the AIRA as of June 30, FY 2018 will, respectively, lower or increase pension contributions by approximately \$23 million in FY 2020, \$46 million in FY 2021, and \$69 million in FY 2022.

Public Assistance

Through April, the City's public assistance caseload has averaged 365,905 recipients per month, representing a decline of about one percent, or 3,880 recipients from the monthly average over the same period in FY 2017. The number of public assistance recipients continues to be range-bound between 360,000 and 368,000 over the past twelve months, well below the historic peak of 1,160,593 in March 1995. While there have been no major caseload movements in FY 2018, public assistance grants spending has increased steadily in recent months. Compared with the monthly average of \$117 million in FY 2017, the FY 2018 monthly average spending has thus far jumped by more than five percent to about \$123 million. The City indicates that rent arrears payments are among the main factors contributing to the rise in spending.

The City maintains its public assistance caseload projection at a monthly average of 367,000 over the current Plan period. Net baseline grants expenditures are projected at about \$1.51 billion to \$1.55 billion in each year of the Plan. While actual caseloads are currently below projections in FY 2018, baseline grants spending appears to be in line with the City's expectation.

¹⁴ This amount was included in the reserve in the 2018 February Financial Plan for this cost.

Department of Education

The April Modification shows a net increase of \$621 million in the Department of Education's (DOE) FY 2018 budget, which now totals \$24.97 billion and represents an increase of 6.4 percent or \$1.51 billion above actual FY 2017 spending of \$23.46 billion. The budget increase in the current year is largely attributable to transfers from the miscellaneous budget that total about \$500 million. The transfers include \$447 million in scheduled lump-sum collective bargaining payment mainly for teachers, \$29 million in health savings adjustment and \$21 million in salary schedule adjustments for school safety agents. In addition, the DOE budget recognizes new needs of \$80 million for special education Carter cases spending and \$20 million for transportation costs.¹⁵

The FY 2019 Executive Budget projects DOE funding at \$25.52 billion, an increase of \$554 million or 2.2 percent from the FY 2018 budget. As mentioned above, the FY 2018 budget has risen significantly because of collective bargaining payments from the prior teachers' contract. Compared to previous estimates, the Executive Budget shows a net decline of \$62 million mainly as a result of the partial reversal of a prior transfer between the ACS and the DOE due to timing of the EarlyLearn program. Excluding the EarlyLearn transfer of \$298 million, the DOE budget has actually increased by \$236 million over the Preliminary Budget. In addition, the City has opted to backfill the shortfall in its education aid projection for FY 2019. Compared to previous education aid assumptions, the enacted State budget provided about \$140 million less than the City anticipated. The DOE portion of this impact is \$136 million, with the remainder taken against Building Aid assumption in the debt service budget.

The Executive Budget reflects new needs of \$191 million that mainly stems from an increase in Fair Student Funding (FSF) allocations to schools. The City has provided an additional \$125 million in FSF allocation that will raise the minimum funding threshold to 90 percent and the system funding average to almost 93 percent in FY 2019, compared with 87 percent and 91 percent, respectively, in FY 2018. Other major new needs in the Executive Budget include \$31 million for Universal Literacy enhancements, \$12 million for students in shelters and \$9 million for new schools maintenance and operations. In addition, the DOE budget also reflects a \$57 million increase in charter school supplemental tuition revenue from the State.

These funding increases are partly offset by additional CSP savings reflected in the DOE budget for FY 2019. Including the portion of citywide initiatives credited to DOE, the additional savings total about \$164 million, reducing the DOE budget by a net \$42 million since a significant portion of the new initiatives involve funding shifts that include \$84 million from the recognition of Federal and State prior year payments for special education services claims and \$38 million from expanded participation in the Federal Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) school food program. The remainder of the new savings include reductions in OTPS allocation of \$20 million and administrative vacancies of \$9 million.

Over the remainder of the Plan, funding for the Department is anticipated to rise to \$26.47 billion in FY 2020 and \$27.27 billion in FY 2021 before reaching \$27.97 billion in FY 2022, reflecting an average increase of \$817 million annually. State aid would comprise about \$1.18 billion or 48 percent of the projected DOE budget growth of \$2.45 billion between FY 2019 and FY 2022, while City funds would provide a similar \$1.17 billion boost in the outyears. The remainder of the increase is comprised of \$101 million in Federal funds.

The Department will likely continue to face risks from its assumptions of Federal Medicaid reimbursement in the April Plan. The DOE anticipates \$97 million annually in Medicaid reimbursement for special education related services costs. While collections has steadily improved

¹⁵ Carter cases represent payments that the Department makes to parents legally seeking reimbursement for placing their special needs children in non-public schools.

over the past three years, the current revenue targets still appear well out of reach, likely resulting in risks of at least \$50 million in each year of the current plan. The DOE budget also has not reflected the potential costs from increased charter school tuition rates approved by the State in the outyears. Unless the State provides additional reimbursement in future legislative sessions or change the formula, the City indicates that DOE could face risks of \$119 million in FY 2020, \$281 million in FY 2021 and \$478 million in FY 2022. Further, the DOE could face risks of at least \$60 million annually from under-budgeting the costs of special education Carter cases beginning in FY 2019. While the City has increased funding in this area for FY 2018, no additional funding has been provided in the remaining years of the Plan. Finally, the DOE will likely generate revenue of \$38 million annually that can potentially continue to be reflected as CSP savings in the outyears of the Plan, from expanded participation in the Federal CEP school food program. The current CSP program has thus far only reflected these savings in FY 2018 and FY 2019.

Homeless Services

Spending on adult and family shelter in the Department of Homeless Services is the primary driver of the City's homelessness expenses. However, funding for homeless assistance is also, and increasingly, drawn from the budgets of other agencies, including the Department of Social Services, the Department of Youth and Community Development, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and the Department of Veterans Services. The table below details funding for seven major categories of homeless services across these agencies.

Table 21. Citywide Homeless Services Expenditures

(\$ in millions)	FY 2014	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
Adult Shelter Operations	\$326	\$685	\$645	\$636	\$636	\$636
Family Shelter Operations	505	1,134	1,126	1,141	1,141	1,141
Rental Assistance	23	268	369	413	406	397
Prevention, Diversion, Anti-Eviction & Aftercare	82	287	346	340	339	339
Domestic Violence, Youth & Emergency Shelters	88	420	153	153	153	153
Homeless Administration & Support	151	134	266	278	284	283
Total Citywide Homeless Spending	\$1,175	\$2,928	\$2,905	\$2,961	\$2,959	\$2,949

The FY 2019 Executive Budget calls for \$303 million in additional citywide homeless spending since the Preliminary Budget. The FY 2019 Executive Budget represents a 147 percent increase in citywide homeless spending since FY 2014. However, the Executive Budget only calls for incremental changes in the outyears and aspires to hold spending in FY 2022 to just 151 percent more than in FY 2014.

The City's homeless spending increases are driven by a mix of controllable policies and uncontrollable societal forces that have elevated the City's shelter population to remarkable levels. As of April 24, 2018, there were 59,546 individuals living in City shelter spaces, a total that is 15 percent larger than the FY 2014 average of 51,770 individuals. The April 24th shelter census represents a decrease of more than 1,500 individuals from an all-time high of more than 61,000 individuals in shelter which was recorded in early February.

The City has increased its current FY 2018 spending for adult and family shelter operations since adoption by \$254 million or 59 percent and \$227 million or 25 percent, respectively, and increases FY 2019 spending by \$110 million for adult shelter operations and \$141 million for family shelter operations. These shelter operations thresholds are anticipated to remain roughly flat in the out-years. Other notable changes since the Preliminary Budget are a \$26 million reduction in shelter security spending by DHS for FY 2019 – FY 2022 and a \$26 million increase to rental assistance expenditures in FY 2019 – FY 2022 which result from recent savings in reimbursements from the

New York State Office of Children and Family Services that are now being channeled towards rental assistance spending.

Although the Executive Budget raises planned allocations for adult shelter operations in FY 2019 and beyond, budgeted expenditures in forthcoming fiscal years still lag behind currently budgeted spending for FY 2018. In FY 2019, the City projects an adult shelter operations decrease of more than \$40 million from current FY 2018 levels despite unyielding growth in the single adult shelter population, which has risen by 11.7 percent since the start of FY 2018. Based on an estimated average annual cost of approximately \$34,000 per single adult in shelter, the average adult shelter census would have to be lowered by approximately 1,185 single adults in order to achieve this \$40 million reduction in FY 2019. Considering the steady upward trajectory of the single adult shelter census in recent years and barring any major shifts in homelessness policy that could reduce the single adult shelter census, the Executive FY 2019 Budget for adult shelter operations appears to be insufficient. If the City is able to keep its adult shelter census flat in FY 2019, it is anticipated that an additional \$33 million in City funds will be necessary to meet the needs of the adult shelter population.

Debt Service

As shown in Table 22, debt service, net of prepayments, in the April 2018 Financial Plan totals \$6.30 billion in FY 2018, \$7.03 billion in FY 2019, \$7.59 billion in FY 2020, \$7.99 billion in FY 2021 and \$8.68 billion in FY 2022. These amounts represent decreases from the February 2018 Financial Plan of \$181 million in FY 2018, \$126 million in FY 2019, \$153 million in FY 2020, \$224 million in FY 2021, and \$207 million in FY 2022. Between FY 2018 and FY 2022, total debt service is expected to increase by \$2.38 billion, or by 37.7 percent. These projections do not include debt service of the New York Water Finance Authority (NYW), which is backed by water and sewer user fees, and that of the Transitional Finance Authority Building Aid Revenue Bond (TFA BARB) debt, which is supported by New York State building aid.

Table 22. April 2018 Financial Plan Debt Service Estimates

(\$ in millions)	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	Change FYs 2018 – 22	Percentage Change
GO ^a	\$3,857	\$4,012	\$4,346	\$4,506	\$4,852	\$995	25.8%
TFA ^b	2,135	2,802	3,015	3,247	3,607	1,472	68.9%
Lease-Purchase Debt	239	148	150	150	149	(90)	(37.6%)
TSASC, Inc.	73	72	82	82	76	3	4.1%
Total	\$6,304	\$7,034	\$7,593	\$7,985	\$8,684	\$2,380	37.7%

Source: April 2018 Financial Plan.

Note: Debt service is adjusted for prepayments.

^a Includes long-term GO debt service. ^b Amounts do not include TFA BARBs.

As shown on Table 23, the reduction in FY 2018 debt service is due primarily to downward revisions in General Obligations (GO) and Transitional Finance Authority Future Tax Secured (TFA) debt service. Letter of credit savings and excess building aid retention savings account for most of the reduction in GO and TFA debt service, respectively. In FY 2019 through FY 2022, GO debt service shows a net increase ranging from \$23 million to \$48 million, due primarily to accelerated and increased GO borrowing of \$1.1 billion. Some of the increase in FY 2019 debt service is offset by a transfer of \$89 million of Hudson Yards Infrastructure Corporation (HYIC) Tax Equivalency Payments (TEP) from the debt service budget to the miscellaneous budget because the TEPs are not debt service payments.¹⁶

Table 23. Changes from the February 2018 Financial Plan-Debt Service Estimates

(\$ in millions)	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
GO Baseline	(\$89)	\$23	\$48	\$25	\$27
TFA Baseline	(89)	(63)	(115)	(163)	(148)
Lease-Purchase Debt –Other	(3)	3	3	3	3
HYIC TEP Transfer to Misc. Budget	0	(89)	(89)	(89)	(89)
Total	(\$181)	(\$126)	(\$153)	(\$224)	(\$207)

Source: April 2018 Financial Plan and NYC Comptroller.

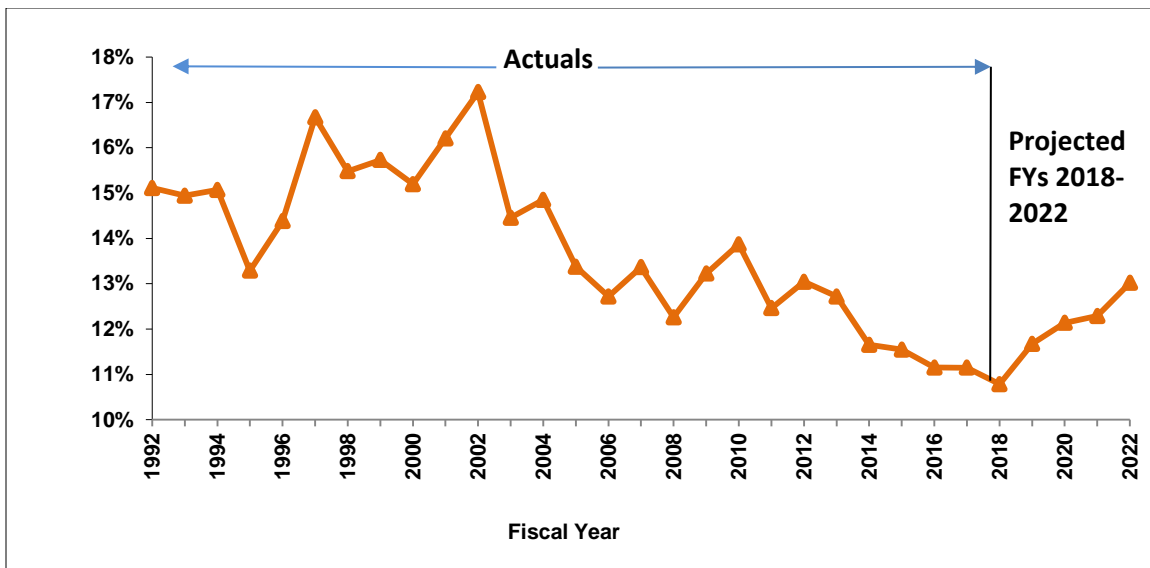
In recent years, interest rates on the City's variable-rate debt have been lower than initially projected. The Comptroller's Office estimates additional variable-rate savings of \$30 million in FY 2018 and an estimated \$50 million in each of FY 2019 – FY 2022.

Debt Affordability

The affordability of debt service is a measure which varies with each municipality, but a threshold of 15 percent of local tax revenues has been a benchmark of affordability as it puts debt service in the context of its own local resources. In FY 2017, the City's debt service was 11.1 percent of local tax revenues. The April 2018 Plan projects debt service will comprise 10.8 percent of local tax revenues in FY 2018, 11.7 percent in FY 2019, 12.1 percent in FY 2020, 12.3 percent in FY 2021, and 13.0 percent in FY 2022, as shown in Chart 5.

¹⁶ Tax Equivalency Payments (TEP) are made by the City under the terms of the Support and Development Agreement for Hudson Yards Development that obligates the City to pay to HYIC, subject to annual appropriation, the amount of real property taxes collected by the City on new development (including substantial rehabilitation of existing buildings) in the development area.

Chart 5. NYC Debt Service as a Percent of Tax Revenues



Source: Office of the NYC Comptroller, Comprehensive Annual Financial Reports, FY 1992 – FY 2017, and NYC Office of Management and Budget, April 2018 Financial Plan.

The upward trend in the debt service to tax revenue ratio reflects the disparity between debt service and tax revenue growths over the Plan period. Debt service is projected to grow at an average annual rate of 8.4 percent from FY 2018 to FY 2022 while tax revenue during this period is projected to grow 3.4 percent annually.

IV. Capital Budget and Financing Program

The April 2018 Capital Plan authorizes commitments totaling \$82.0 billion over FY 2018 – FY 2022, \$74.49 billion of which are City-funded. After adjusting for the reserve for unattained commitments, all-funds planned commitments drop to \$74.92 billion, as shown in Table 24 below. The City-funds commitments after adjusting for the reserve for unattained commitments drop to \$67.41 billion.

**Table 24. April 2018 Capital Commitment Plan
All-Funds FY 2018 – FY 2022**

(\$ in millions)	April 2018 Plan	Change from February 2018	Percent of April Plan Total
Education & CUNY	\$14,761	\$215	18.0%
Environmental Protection	14,292	533	17.4%
Dept. of Transportation & NYC Transit	14,618	600	17.8%
Housing and Economic Development	12,181	458	14.9%
Administration of Justice	5,332	(1)	6.5%
Technology and Citywide Equipment	4,341	112	5.3%
Parks Department	4,596	521	5.6%
NYC Health + Hospitals	2,817	(233)	3.4%
Other City Operations and Facilities	9,062	178	11.1%
Total	\$82,000	\$2,384	100.0%
Reserve for Unattained Commitments	(\$7,082)	(\$1,576)	N/A
Adjusted Total	\$74,918	\$808	N/A

Source: Office of Management and Budget, FY 2019 Executive Capital Commitment Plan, also known as April 2018 Capital Commitment Plan.

The April 2018 Capital Commitment Plan shows an increase from the February 2018 Capital Plan of \$2.38 billion in all-funds authorized commitments over FY 2018 – FY 2022. City-funds commitments over this period are \$2.55 billion more than in February.¹⁷ Non-City commitments dropped by \$163 million over the period.

Estimated commitments for capital projects in DOE and the City University of New York (CUNY) account for \$14.76 billion or 18.0 percent of planned all-funds commitments, with DOE accounting for \$14.16 billion of the commitments. Other major capital commitments of the Plan are for capital projects in the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) which comprise 17.4 percent of the planned all-funds commitments, Department of Transportation (DOT) and New York City Transit projects, which account for 17.8 percent, and Housing and Economic Development projects, which account for 14.9 percent of the Plan.¹⁸ As with prior plans, these four major program areas constitute a majority of the Commitment Plan, accounting for \$55.85 billion, or 68.1 percent of the Plan.

¹⁷ After netting out the reserve for unattained commitments, the increase in all-funds commitments drops to \$808 million.

¹⁸ DEP capital commitments are primarily funded through the issuance of NY Water Finance Authority debt.

As shown on Table 25 below, major changes from the February 2018 Plan include:

- An increase of \$521 million in the Parks Department, including an increased allocation of \$77 million for state of good repair projects and \$50 million for the Hudson River Park Trust.
- An increase of \$339 million for Economic Development projects, \$299 million of which is for the purchase of ferries and landing infrastructure improvements.
- An increase of \$313 million for Highways related projects in DOT, \$104 million of which is for increased sidewalk and pedestrian ramp reconstruction.
- An increase of \$250 million for water main projects in DEP, primarily for watershed related infrastructure projects and water main extensions citywide.
- An increase of \$204 million in the Dept. of Education, \$73 million of which are Borough President additions.
- An increase of \$164 million for New York City Transit for the Subway Action Plan (SAP).
- An increase of \$129 million related to Water Pollution Control projects, \$98 million of which is for combined sewer overflow abatement projects.
- A decrease of \$233 million to the H + H capital plan; due primarily to a delay in a portion of the new Coney Island Hospital Campus (Sandy related) project to FY 2023.

Compared to the previous Plan, FY 2018 and 2019 commitments in the April Commitment Plan are reduced by \$4.83 billion and \$1.59 billion, respectively, while outyear commitments are increased by \$1.75 billion in FY 2020, \$3.87 billion in FY 2021, and \$3.19 billion in FY 2022. The redistribution of commitments into the outyears is an attempt to provide a more realistic forecast of future commitments. As a result, the April 2018 Plan is less front-loaded than the February Plan, with 44 percent of estimated commitments contained in FY 2018 and FY 2019, compared to 53 percent in February.

**Table 25. April 2018 Capital Commitment Plan
Change from February Plan by Project Type**

(\$ in millions)	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	Cumulative Change FYs 2018 – 2022	
						Dollars	Percent
Dept. for the Aging	(\$5)	(\$1)	\$2	\$0	\$3	(\$0)	0.0%
Waterway Bridges	(\$99)	\$35	\$65	\$1	\$1	\$4	0.3%
Correction	(\$1,364)	\$310	\$939	\$46	\$70	\$0	0.0%
Courts	(\$60)	(\$166)	\$44	\$106	\$74	(\$1)	(0.1%)
Admin. for Children Services	(\$227)	\$96	\$101	\$17	\$18	\$6	1.1%
D.O.I.T.T	(\$50)	\$32	\$0	\$9	\$9	\$0	0.0%
Education	(\$23)	\$227	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$204	1.5%
Economic Development	(\$450)	(\$254)	\$154	\$525	\$363	\$339	8.3%
DEP Equipment	(\$8)	(\$6)	\$19	(\$52)	\$96	\$48	10.0%
Fire Dept.	(\$94)	(\$37)	\$38	\$57	\$37	\$0	0.0%
Ferries	(\$9)	(\$22)	(\$48)	\$73	\$27	\$21	5.3%
Housing Authority	\$0	\$159	(\$19)	(\$39)	\$0	\$100	7.3%
Highway Bridges	(\$11)	(\$317)	(\$29)	\$199	\$162	\$4	0.1%
Housing Preservation & Dev.	(\$41)	(\$39)	(\$50)	\$75	\$75	\$20	0.3%
Homeless Services	(\$16)	\$41	(\$7)	(\$21)	\$3	\$0	0.0%
Health	(\$40)	(\$47)	\$42	\$21	\$23	(\$1)	(0.2%)
City University of New York	(\$91)	(\$41)	\$55	\$51	\$37	\$12	2.0%
NYC Health + Hospitals	(\$89)	(\$275)	\$88	\$93	(\$49)	(\$233)	(7.6%)
Human Resources Administration	(\$38)	\$27	\$29	(\$1)	\$10	\$26	11.7%
Highways	(\$64)	(\$441)	\$18	\$169	\$631	\$313	6.4%
NY Research Libraries	(\$1)	\$1	\$0	\$0	\$0	(\$0)	(0.2%)
Brooklyn Public Library	(\$10)	(\$90)	\$79	\$24	(\$2)	\$2	0.6%
New York Public Library	(\$54)	\$43	\$23	\$2	(\$13)	\$2	0.4%
Queens Public Library	(\$44)	(\$35)	\$11	\$37	\$31	\$0	0.1%
MTA Bus Company	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.0%
Parks & Recreation	(\$547)	(\$4)	\$115	\$819	\$139	\$521	12.8%
Police Dept.	(\$107)	(\$161)	(\$83)	\$332	\$18	\$0	0.0%
Citywide Equipment	(\$591)	(\$126)	\$180	\$385	\$264	\$112	3.0%
Cultural Affairs	(\$145)	(\$80)	\$13	\$100	\$113	\$2	0.2%
Public Buildings	(\$190)	\$48	\$66	\$134	\$30	\$88	5.6%
Real Property	(\$25)	(\$25)	(\$25)	\$75	\$0	(\$0)	0.0%
Sanitation	(\$67)	\$81	(\$219)	\$259	\$0	\$54	2.5%
Sewers	\$36	(\$337)	\$63	(\$0)	\$346	\$108	3.3%
S.I. Rapid Transit	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.0%
Transit Authority	\$170	\$79	(\$85)	\$0	\$0	\$164	25.6%
Transportation, Equipment	(\$2)	(\$14)	\$12	\$12	\$5	\$13	8.5%
Traffic	(\$7)	(\$26)	\$9	\$30	\$76	\$81	16.7%
Water Supply	(\$216)	\$206	\$5	\$2	\$0	(\$3)	(0.1%)
Water Mains, Sources, & Treatment	(\$49)	(\$239)	\$64	\$205	\$268	\$250	8.2%
Water Pollution Control	(\$202)	(\$198)	\$83	\$120	\$326	\$129	2.6%
Total	(\$4,829)	(\$1,594)	\$1,750	\$3,866	\$3,190	\$2,384	3.0%

NOTE: Numbers may not add due to rounding.

Financing Program

The April 2018 Financial Plan for FY 2018 – FY 2022 contains \$52.23 billion of planned borrowing in FY 2018 – FY 2022 as shown below in Table 26. The borrowing is comprised of \$21.49 billion of GO bonds, \$20.53 billion of TFA borrowing, \$8.58 billion of NYW borrowing, and \$1.63 billion of TFA BARBs borrowing, which are supported by State building aid revenues.

Table 26. April 2018 Financial Plan - Financing Program

Estimated Borrowing and Funding Sources		Percent of
(\$ in millions)	FYs 2018 – 2022	Total
GO Bonds	\$21,490	41.2%
TFA – PIT Bonds	20,530	39.3%
NYC Water Finance Authority	8,578	16.4%
TFA – BARBs	1,633	3.1%
Total	\$52,231	100.0%

SOURCE: NYC Office of Management and Budget, April 2018 Financial Plan.

Total projected borrowing in the April Plan for FY 2018 through FY 2022 is \$632 million less than the February 2018 Plan estimate for the same period. This is due to a reduction in planned NYW borrowing of \$892 million offset by a net increase of \$260 million in GO/TFA borrowing over the period.

More specifically, FY 2018 borrowing increased by \$1.1 billion due to the acceleration of GO borrowing into FY 2018. In FY 2019, TFA borrowing was dropped by \$1.2 billion as a result. In FY 2020 both GO and TFA decreased by \$500 million each. In FY 2021 GO and TFA combined for a modest increase of \$100 million, followed by an increase of \$1.26 billion in FY 2022.

V. Appendix

Table A1. April 2018 Financial Plan Revenue Detail

(\$ in millions)	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	Change FYs 2018 – 2022		Annual Percent Change
						Dollars	Percent	
Taxes:								
Real Property	\$26,383	\$27,974	\$29,477	\$30,891	\$31,880	\$5,497	20.8%	4.8%
Personal Income Tax	\$12,658	\$12,378	\$12,969	\$13,390	\$13,722	\$1,064	8.4%	2.0%
General Corporation Tax	\$3,298	\$3,593	\$3,606	\$3,640	\$3,604	\$306	9.3%	2.2%
Unincorporated Business Tax	\$2,205	\$2,271	\$2,372	\$2,468	\$2,490	\$285	12.9%	3.1%
Sale and Use Tax	\$7,399	\$7,762	\$8,167	\$8,491	\$8,779	\$1,380	18.7%	4.4%
Real Property Transfer	\$1,404	\$1,459	\$1,435	\$1,485	\$1,532	\$128	9.1%	2.2%
Mortgage Recording Tax	\$988	\$938	\$924	\$952	\$979	(\$9)	(0.9%)	(0.2%)
Commercial Rent	\$848	\$867	\$893	\$916	\$949	\$101	11.9%	2.9%
Utility	\$382	\$387	\$396	\$410	\$421	\$39	10.2%	2.5%
Hotel	\$589	\$606	\$605	\$615	\$630	\$41	7.0%	1.7%
Cigarette	\$36	\$35	\$34	\$33	\$32	(\$4)	(11.1%)	(2.9%)
All Other	\$778	\$750	\$750	\$750	\$756	(\$22)	(2.8%)	(0.7%)
Tax Audit Revenue	\$1,299	\$1,056	\$721	\$721	\$721	(\$578)	(44.5%)	(13.7%)
Total Taxes	\$58,266	\$60,076	\$62,349	\$64,762	\$66,495	\$8,229	14.1%	3.4%
Miscellaneous Revenue:								
Licenses, Franchises, Etc.	\$740	\$689	\$719	\$716	\$725	(\$15)	(2.0%)	(0.5%)
Interest Income	\$110	\$190	\$252	\$282	\$284	\$174	158.2%	26.8%
Charges for Services	\$1,023	\$1,005	\$1,007	\$1,006	\$1,006	(\$17)	(1.7%)	(0.4%)
Water and Sewer Charges	\$1,423	\$1,450	\$1,449	\$1,436	\$1,416	(\$7)	(0.5%)	(0.1%)
Rental Income	\$263	\$254	\$251	\$250	\$250	(\$13)	(4.9%)	(1.3%)
Fines and Forfeitures	\$975	\$943	\$938	\$928	\$917	(\$58)	(5.9%)	(1.5%)
Miscellaneous	\$386	\$434	\$444	\$343	\$342	(\$44)	(11.4%)	(3.0%)
Intra-City Revenue	\$2,208	\$1,824	\$1,770	\$1,774	\$1,774	(\$434)	(19.7%)	(5.3%)
Total Miscellaneous Revenue	\$7,128	\$6,789	\$6,830	\$6,735	\$6,714	(\$414)	(5.8%)	(1.5%)
Reserve for Disallowance of Categorical Grants	\$85	(\$15)	(\$15)	(\$15)	(\$15)	(\$100)	(117.6%)	NA
Less: Intra-City Revenue	(\$2,208)	(\$1,824)	(\$1,770)	(\$1,774)	(\$1,774)	\$434	(19.7%)	(5.3%)
TOTAL CITY-FUNDS	\$63,271	\$65,026	\$67,394	\$69,708	\$71,420	\$8,149	12.9%	3.1%
Other Categorical Grants	\$1,088	\$879	\$871	\$866	\$861	(\$227)	(20.9%)	(5.7%)
Inter-Fund Agreements	\$646	\$682	\$641	\$638	\$638	(\$8)	(1.2%)	(0.3%)

Table A1 (Con't). April 2018 Financial Plan Revenue Detail

(\$ in millions)	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	Change FYs 2018 – 2022		Annual Percent Change
						Dollars	Percent	
Federal Categorical Grants:								
Community Development	\$1,353	\$506	\$302	\$278	\$272	(\$1,081)	(79.9%)	(33.0%)
Welfare	\$3,734	\$3,605	\$3,473	\$3,481	\$3,481	(\$253)	(6.8%)	(1.7%)
Education	\$1,825	\$1,944	\$2,042	\$2,044	\$2,044	\$219	12.0%	2.9%
Other	\$1,887	\$1,452	\$1,310	\$1,303	\$1,292	(\$595)	(31.5%)	(9.0%)
Total Federal Grants	\$8,799	\$7,507	\$7,127	\$7,106	\$7,089	(\$1,710)	(19.4%)	(5.3%)
State Categorical Grants								
Social Services	\$1,815	\$1,781	\$1,796	\$1,803	\$1,795	(\$20)	(1.1%)	(0.3%)
Education	\$10,759	\$11,108	\$11,419	\$11,851	\$12,291	\$1,532	14.2%	3.4%
Higher Education	\$297	\$297	\$297	\$297	\$297	\$0	0.0%	0.0%
Department of Health and Mental Hygiene	\$616	\$543	\$543	\$527	\$527	(\$89)	(14.4%)	(3.8%)
Other	\$1,378	\$1,240	\$1,244	\$1,282	\$1,333	(\$45)	(3.3%)	(0.8%)
Total State Grants	\$14,865	\$14,969	\$15,299	\$15,760	\$16,243	\$1,378	9.3%	2.2%
TOTAL REVENUES	\$88,669	\$89,063	\$91,332	\$94,078	\$96,251	\$7,582	8.6%	2.1%

Table A2. April 2018 Financial Plan Expenditure Detail

(\$ in millions)	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	Change FYs 2018 – 2022		Annual Percent Change
						Dollars	Percent	
Mayoralty	\$133	\$133	\$129	\$127	\$127	(\$6)	(4.5%)	(1.2%)
Board of Elections	\$143	\$122	\$98	\$96	\$96	(\$47)	(32.9%)	(9.5%)
Campaign Finance Board	\$44	\$21	\$14	\$14	\$14	(\$30)	(67.9%)	(24.7%)
Office of the Actuary	\$8	\$7	\$7	\$7	\$7	(\$0)	(5.2%)	(1.3%)
President, Borough of Manhattan	\$5	\$5	\$5	\$5	\$5	(\$0)	(8.6%)	(2.2%)
President, Borough of Bronx	\$6	\$6	\$5	\$5	\$5	(\$1)	(9.3%)	(2.4%)
President, Borough of Brooklyn	\$7	\$7	\$6	\$6	\$6	(\$1)	(14.8%)	(3.9%)
President, Borough of Queens	\$6	\$6	\$5	\$5	\$5	(\$1)	(15.1%)	(4.0%)
President, Borough of Staten Island	\$5	\$5	\$4	\$4	\$4	(\$0)	(6.8%)	(1.7%)
Office of the Comptroller	\$106	\$106	\$106	\$106	\$106	\$0	0.4%	0.1%
Dept. of Emergency Management	\$64	\$57	\$28	\$29	\$29	(\$35)	(55.3%)	(18.2%)
Office of Administrative Tax Appeals	\$5	\$5	\$5	\$5	\$5	\$0	7.0%	1.7%
Law Dept.	\$222	\$231	\$240	\$239	\$239	\$17	7.8%	1.9%
Dept. of City Planning	\$41	\$52	\$42	\$42	\$40	(\$1)	(2.1%)	(0.5%)
Dept. of Investigation	\$48	\$34	\$33	\$33	\$33	(\$15)	(31.6%)	(9.1%)
NY Public Library — Research	\$28	\$28	\$28	\$28	\$28	(\$0)	(0.2%)	(0.0%)
New York Public Library	\$138	\$137	\$137	\$137	\$137	(\$1)	(0.5%)	(0.1%)
Brooklyn Public Library	\$103	\$102	\$102	\$102	\$102	(\$1)	(0.8%)	(0.2%)
Queens Borough Public Library	\$106	\$105	\$105	\$105	\$105	(\$1)	(0.7%)	(0.2%)
Dept. of Education	\$24,969	\$25,524	\$26,469	\$27,274	\$27,974	\$3,005	12.0%	2.9%
City University	\$1,156	\$1,160	\$1,168	\$1,184	\$1,199	\$44	3.8%	0.9%
Civilian Complaint Review Board	\$16	\$17	\$17	\$17	\$17	\$1	6.2%	1.5%
Police Dept.	\$5,524	\$5,324	\$5,265	\$5,230	\$5,230	(\$293)	(5.3%)	(1.4%)
Fire Dept.	\$2,152	\$2,020	\$2,040	\$2,037	\$2,031	(\$121)	(5.6%)	(1.4%)
Dept. of Veterans' Services	\$4	\$5	\$5	\$5	\$5	\$0	10.2%	2.4%
Admin. for Children Services	\$3,075	\$2,894	\$2,651	\$2,673	\$2,666	(\$409)	(13.3%)	(3.5%)
Dept. of Social Services	\$9,893	\$9,909	\$9,950	\$9,960	\$9,951	\$58	0.6%	0.1%
Dept. of Homeless Services	\$2,148	\$2,059	\$2,079	\$2,085	\$2,084	(\$64)	(3.0%)	(0.8%)
Dept. of Correction	\$1,420	\$1,402	\$1,441	\$1,442	\$1,439	\$19	1.3%	0.3%
Board of Correction	\$3	\$3	\$3	\$3	\$3	\$0	11.9%	2.9%
Citywide Pension Contribution	\$9,520	\$9,739	\$9,791	\$10,049	\$10,255	\$735	7.7%	1.9%
Miscellaneous	\$9,118	\$11,714	\$12,305	\$13,265	\$13,174	\$4,056	44.5%	9.6%
Debt Service	\$4,096	\$4,161	\$4,495	\$4,656	\$5,000	\$904	22.1%	5.1%
T.F.A. Debt Service	\$2,135	\$2,802	\$3,015	\$3,247	\$3,607	\$1,472	68.9%	14.0%
FY 2017 BSA and Discretionary Transfers	(\$4,180)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$4,180	(100.0%)	(100.0%)
FY 2018 BSA	\$3,652	(\$3,652)	\$0	\$0	\$0	(\$3,652)	(100.0%)	(100.0%)
Public Advocate	\$4	\$4	\$4	\$4	\$4	(\$0)	(0.1%)	(0.0%)
City Council	\$65	\$81	\$54	\$54	\$54	(\$11)	(16.7%)	(4.5%)
City Clerk	\$5	\$5	\$6	\$6	\$6	\$0	3.6%	0.9%
Dept. for the Aging	\$373	\$345	\$351	\$352	\$352	(\$20)	(5.4%)	(1.4%)
Dept. of Cultural Affairs	\$188	\$147	\$145	\$145	\$145	(\$44)	(23.2%)	(6.4%)
Financial Info. Serv. Agency	\$106	\$113	\$115	\$112	\$112	\$6	6.0%	1.5%
Office of Payroll Admin.	\$17	\$17	\$17	\$17	\$17	\$0	2.5%	0.6%
Independent Budget Office	\$6	\$5	\$6	\$5	\$5	(\$0)	(5.8%)	(1.5%)
Equal Employment Practices	\$1	\$1	\$1	\$1	\$1	\$0	7.2%	1.8%

Table A2 (Con't). April 2018 Financial Plan Expenditure Detail

(\$ in millions)	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	Change FYs 2018 – 2022		Annual Percent Change
						Dollars	Percent	
Civil Service Commission	\$1	\$1	\$1	\$1	\$1	\$0	10.4%	2.5%
Landmarks Preservation Commission	\$6	\$7	\$7	\$7	\$7	\$0	6.3%	1.5%
Taxi & Limousine Commission	\$49	\$52	\$60	\$60	\$52	\$2	4.3%	1.0%
Commission on Human Rights	\$15	\$13	\$13	\$13	\$13	(\$1)	(9.9%)	(2.6%)
Youth & Community Development	\$673	\$552	\$539	\$542	\$542	(\$131)	(19.5%)	(5.3%)
Conflicts of Interest Board	\$3	\$3	\$3	\$3	\$3	\$0	0.0%	0.0%
Office of Collective Bargaining	\$2	\$2	\$2	\$2	\$2	(\$0)	(5.5%)	(1.4%)
Community Boards (All)	\$18	\$18	\$18	\$18	\$18	(\$0)	(2.5%)	(0.6%)
Dept. of Probation	\$96	\$113	\$111	\$111	\$111	\$15	15.8%	3.7%
Dept. Small Business Services	\$294	\$255	\$171	\$156	\$135	(\$159)	(53.9%)	(17.6%)
Housing Preservation & Development	\$1,350	\$922	\$831	\$815	\$825	(\$525)	(38.9%)	(11.6%)
Dept. of Buildings	\$168	\$203	\$190	\$179	\$179	\$11	6.8%	1.7%
Dept. of Health & Mental Hygiene	\$1,718	\$1,611	\$1,643	\$1,644	\$1,644	(\$74)	(4.3%)	(1.1%)
NYC Health + Hospitals	\$844	\$828	\$930	\$831	\$831	(\$13)	(1.5%)	(0.4%)
Office of Administrative Trials & Hearings	\$46	\$50	\$51	\$51	\$51	\$5	9.9%	2.4%
Dept. of Environmental Protection	\$1,480	\$1,385	\$1,294	\$1,277	\$1,256	(\$224)	(15.2%)	(4.0%)
Dept. of Sanitation	\$1,730	\$1,721	\$1,746	\$1,748	\$1,750	\$19	1.1%	0.3%
Business Integrity Commission	\$9	\$9	\$9	\$9	\$9	(\$0)	(3.7%)	(0.9%)
Dept. of Finance	\$294	\$299	\$302	\$300	\$300	\$6	1.9%	0.5%
Dept. of Transportation	\$994	\$1,039	\$995	\$986	\$987	(\$7)	(0.7%)	(0.2%)
Dept. of Parks and Recreation	\$519	\$454	\$454	\$452	\$453	(\$66)	(12.8%)	(3.4%)
Dept. of Design & Construction	\$501	\$160	\$162	\$149	\$149	(\$351)	(70.2%)	(26.1%)
Dept. of Citywide Admin. Services	\$484	\$452	\$440	\$439	\$438	(\$45)	(9.3%)	(2.4%)
D.O.I.T.T.	\$591	\$515	\$527	\$567	\$564	(\$27)	(4.6%)	(1.2%)
Dept. of Record & Info. Services	\$8	\$10	\$11	\$11	\$11	\$3	33.7%	7.5%
Dept. of Consumer Affairs	\$40	\$41	\$40	\$40	\$40	(\$0)	(0.1%)	(0.0%)
District Attorney - N.Y.	\$124	\$104	\$104	\$104	\$104	(\$20)	(16.0%)	(4.3%)
District Attorney – Bronx	\$75	\$74	\$74	\$74	\$74	(\$0)	(0.3%)	(0.1%)
District Attorney – Kings	\$101	\$101	\$101	\$101	\$101	\$0	0.4%	0.1%
District Attorney –Queens	\$66	\$64	\$64	\$64	\$64	(\$2)	(2.9%)	(0.7%)
District Attorney - Richmond	\$15	\$15	\$15	\$15	\$15	(\$1)	(4.1%)	(1.0%)
Office of Prosec. & Special Narc.	\$22	\$23	\$23	\$23	\$23	\$0	1.1%	0.3%
Public Administrator - N.Y.	\$3	\$3	\$3	\$3	\$3	\$0	1.9%	0.5%
Public Administrator - Bronx	\$1	\$1	\$1	\$1	\$1	(\$0)	(2.9%)	(0.7%)
Public Administrator - Brooklyn	\$1	\$1	\$1	\$1	\$1	\$0	0.5%	0.1%
Public Administrator - Queens	\$1	\$1	\$1	\$1	\$1	\$0	1.9%	0.5%
Public Administrator - Richmond	\$1	\$1	\$1	\$1	\$1	\$0	2.1%	0.5%
Prior Payable Adjustment	(\$400)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$400	(100.0%)	(100.0%)
General Reserve	\$50	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$950	1900.0%	111.5%
Citywide Savings Initiatives	\$0	\$0	(\$43)	(\$65)	(\$74)	(\$74)	NA	NA
Energy Adjustment	\$0	\$0	\$17	\$46	\$67	\$67	NA	NA
Lease Adjustment	\$0	\$0	\$36	\$72	\$110	\$110	NA	NA
OTPS Inflation Adjustment	\$0	\$0	\$111	\$167	\$222	\$222	NA	NA
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$88,670	\$89,063	\$94,548	\$96,935	\$98,505	\$9,835	11.1%	2.7%

Note: Numbers may not add due to rounding.





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**NYC DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TESTIMONY
PRELIMINARY BUDGET HEARING BEFORE THE CITY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
May 16, 2018**

Good afternoon Chair Rodriguez, Chair Dromm, Chair Gibson, and members of the Transportation and Finance Committees and the Subcommittee on Capital Budget. I am Polly Trottenberg, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Transportation. With me today are Elisabeth Franklin, Associate Commissioner for Budget and Capital Program Management, and Benjamin Smith, Director of City Legislative Affairs. I am pleased to be here on behalf of Mayor Bill de Blasio to testify on DOT's Fiscal Year 2019 \$1 billion Executive Expense Budget and 5-year \$13.8 billion Capital Plan.

Introduction

As I said back in March, this budget will support DOT in its mission to provide for the safe, efficient, and environmentally sustainable movement of people and goods in New York City at a time when we are responding to a number of major transportation challenges and opportunities. Those include our continued work on Vision Zero, preparing for the impending L Train closure, the BQE triple-cantilever project, addressing increasing congestion, and keeping our buses moving.

Today I will share updates on those topics and detail some other major DOT needs that are addressed in this Executive Budget.

Pedestrian ramps

First, I would like to start with the most significant new item in DOT's budget: a major commitment of resources and personnel to upgrade and install more pedestrian ramps. As you know, DOT already works to make streets safer, more accessible, and easier to cross for all users. With this enhanced commitment to ped ramps, our goal is to make accessible paths of travel a reality for more New Yorkers, every day.

This budget includes approximately \$20 million in new expense funds for the ped ramp program in FY19, rising to close to \$34 million in FY22 and provides 252 full time positions across the agency, in addition to 112 seasonal positions, for 24 new in-house construction crews, administration and management. Building on this administration's previous investments, in total the budget now proposes \$36 million and 332 positions in FY19 for ped ramps, rising to \$52 million and 488 positions in FY20 and then base-lined at that number of positions.

With these robust resources, we will assess over 300,000 ped ramp locations at our street corners as well as mid-block crossings and medians, and upgrade or install ped ramps at those locations

as needed. This long-term undertaking presents tremendous challenges that many other American cities are also grappling with, although none on the same scale that we face.

New York City has one of the largest and most complex street networks in the world with widely varying topography and conditions, and no two corners are alike. So in our ped ramp program we must design and construct around numerous obstacles, including utility lines, catch basins, hydrants, street lights, elevated and below ground transit structures, vaults under the sidewalk, distinctive materials in landmarked historic districts, and narrow sidewalks.

And to make it even more challenging, the city streetscape is also ever-changing, with private developers, utilities, and other agencies working on our streets and sidewalks every day and installing ped ramps as well.

So even getting a complete picture of the current condition of all our ped ramp locations has proven difficult, but we will do so by taking a big leap forward with our technology. Under a contract procured by the Department of Finance, DOT has engaged Cyclomedia Technology to conduct a survey that leverages up-to-date, high definition, street level imagery and LIDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) data to extract measurements of each ramp. We will supplement this data with visual inspections to further identify obstacles and site constraints.

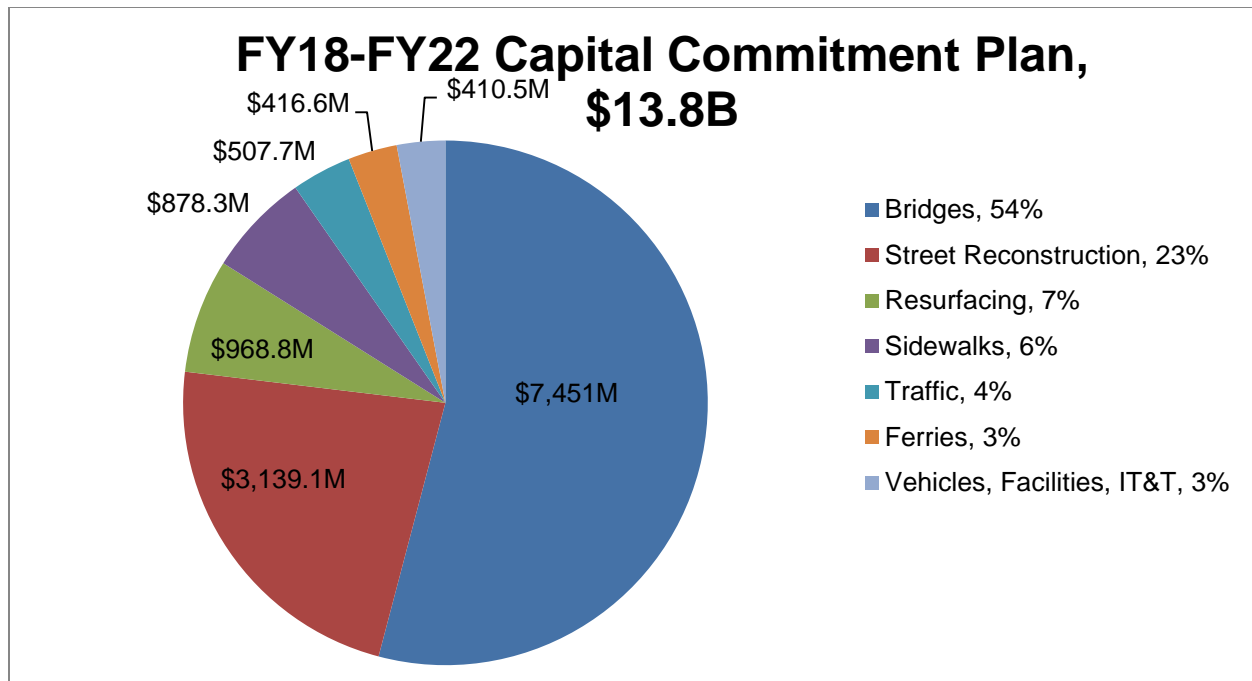
As part of our efforts, DOT will also launch a website that will provide the public with an accurate, transparent picture of data based on the most recent survey, inspection and construction updates for each ped ramp, and we will work to ensure that the site is clear, user-friendly, and accessible to all.

This major new effort will become a big part of what this agency does, even as we exercise heightened fiscal prudence and belt-tightening in our budget. This is because this Administration believes in full accessibility and I would like to acknowledge the Mayor's leadership on this effort.

Budget Overview

Now, before turning to some other highlights of this budget, an overview. DOT's proposed capital plan for FY18-FY22 is \$13.8 billion and includes:

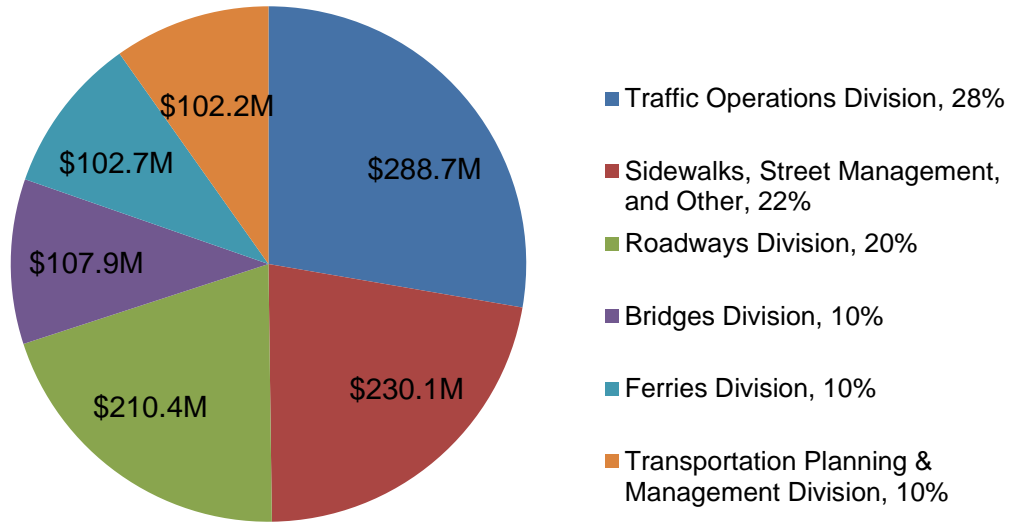
- \$7.5 billion for bridge reconstruction and rehabilitation;
- \$4.1 billion for street reconstruction and resurfacing;
- \$878 million for sidewalk and pedestrian ramp repair and reconstruction;
- \$417 million for the Staten Island Ferry;
- \$508 million for streetlights and signals; and
- \$411 million for the facilities and equipment needed to support DOT's operations.



For DOT's \$1.04 billion FY19 Executive Budget the Mayor proposes:

- \$289 million for traffic operations, including signals, streetlights, and parking;
- \$210 million for roadway maintenance;
- \$108 million for bridge maintenance and inspection;
- \$102 million for transportation planning and management, including installation of street signs and roadway markings;
- \$103 million for ferry operations and maintenance; and
- \$230 million for other DOT operations and administration, including sidewalk management and inspection.

DOT FY 19 Expense Budget, \$1.04B



Congestion

When it comes to addressing congestion, this Executive Budget provides funding for the Mayor's Congestion Action Plan, about which I testified a little over a month ago. Overall, the budget provides \$2.3 million in FY18 and \$7.2 million in FY19, with \$4.7 million added to our baseline budget.

Significantly, in addition to supporting aspects of the Clear Intersections and Clear Zones initiatives, this funding will strengthen DOT's ability to address congestion in several important ways.

First, it will allow us to expand our Midtown-in-Motion network of traffic cameras and sensors to Lower Manhattan.

Second, we will purchase INRIX GPS-based transportation data for the entire City and surrounding counties. With this tool, DOT will be able to produce faster and more accurate analyses of roadway use and congestion citywide.

Third, we will increase support for our Off-Hour Deliveries Program to offer technical assistance to businesses that opt to shift deliveries to less busy times.

Parking Rates

Parking policy can be another tool to manage congestion and this budget reflects parking rate changes. New York City's parking rates are low compared to other large U.S. or global cities, and we are now seeing cities like San Francisco move to more dynamic pricing models.

Currently, 60 percent of our 14,500 meters are set at \$1 an hour. The meters in heavily congested, transit-rich Downtown Brooklyn are priced the same as those in less dense East New York. We think modest rate increases will promote turnover in commercial areas and have a positive effect on congestion as well.

Our goal is to begin these rate changes later this year and we will be in touch with your offices with more detailed information in the coming months. The current system of three rate zones will evolve into a new system of more zones to more closely match land use and parking demand in both Manhattan and the outer boroughs. We will also introduce a new, progressively-priced second hour below 96th Street in Manhattan to give folks who need it a little extra time, while still encouraging curb availability.

And on the topic of parking, as we have been implementing the Mayor's Congestion Action Plan one thing we certainly heard was the need to reform the stipulated fine program, and I am proud to say we have been working closely with DOF on proposed changes. Since the program was implemented 15 years ago with a goal of reducing the administrative burden of the adjudication process on both the City and industry, the City's needs, priorities, and enforcement technologies have changed.

Reforms to these programs are now needed to manage congestion while addressing growing consumer delivery demands and as many of you may be aware, Commissioner Jiha testified last week about changes to this program which will reduce discounts for several violations that contribute to traffic congestion.

Vision Zero

When it comes to Vision Zero, this budget adds capital funding for several important street reconstruction projects:

- \$38 million for Vision Zero improvements to the East Midtown Rezoning area, including \$15 million for the capital construction of a plaza on Pershing Square East and an additional \$6.25 million for security infrastructure in the 43rd Street Shared Street capital build-out;
- \$8.2 million to the Long Island City-Hunter's Point project, funding, that will supplement \$38 million in existing funding for significant improvements to pedestrian safety and connectivity; and
- \$36.3 million in additional funding for the full reconstruction of Beach Channel Drive from Beach 145th Street to Beach 124th Street and from Beach 116th Street to Beach 108th Street, including a highly needed protected bike lane.

L Train

Moving to the L train tunnel closure, we are actively continuing our dialogue with affected communities about next year's plans. As you know, DOT, MTA, and NYPD had a spirited townhall with Manhattanites last week, and we will be having another one with Brooklynites tonight.

We are continuing to refine our plan, with a focus on buses, bikes and overall mobility during this unprecedented 15-month closure and we will be coming back to stakeholders and the affected Community Boards in June with another update.

Keeping Buses Moving

Another major priority for DOT continues to be improving bus speeds and we are looking forward to partnering with NYCT President Andy Byford on his Bus Action Plan. We are already meeting with the NYCT to discuss next steps. Here are some of the steps we have been taking at DOT.

First, we have quadrupled our pace of transit signal priority installation and will expand our network from 500 intersections currently to 1,000 by 2020. In addition, we are looking at key intersections where we might employ the use of signalized queue jumps or other bus priority signal systems.

This year we are excited to implement an off-set double bus lane serving 75,000 riders on 5th Avenue from 34th to 61st Streets, as well as an extension of peak hour bus lanes on Fulton Street in Brooklyn, serving 20,000 riders.

We are making dramatic changes to improve bus service by adding concrete bus boarding islands, curb-extended bus stops, and pedestrian connections as part of over 30 separate street improvement projects throughout the City. These changes not only improve bus speeds, they will make it safer for customers to get on and off the bus.

On the capital side this year, we will begin design on the M79, Bx6, and B82 SBS capital projects and will break ground on the Flushing-Jamaica-Main Street project.

And finally, when the L train tunnel shuts down in April, our improvements along Grand Street in Brooklyn and the approaches to the Williamsburg Bridge will provide better bus priority service for tens of thousands of riders. And of course, along 14th Street, we will make dramatic street-design changes to serve the new M14 SBS, which we anticipate will become America's busiest bus line during the closure.

Bollards and other physical security measures

Turning to bollards, unfortunately, the recent attacks in New York and Toronto underscore the continued need for additional physical security measures in our public spaces. This DOT budget includes \$70 million in new capital funding for perimeter security infrastructure, bringing the

Mayor's total proposed commitment across all agencies to approximately \$150 million. DOT will continue its ongoing partnership with NYPD Counterterrorism, and other sister agencies, to identify sites where bollards and other measures can best protect New Yorkers.

Authorized Parking

Our Authorized Parking unit issues approximately 160,000 parking permits each year, including New York City and New York State Disability parking permits. We currently manage this system with ePermits, a 10-year-old web-based system with limited workflow capabilities.

This budget provides funding to improve customer service and efficiency through the creation of a new, web-based New York City Authorized Parking Application that will promote transparency, accessibility and accountability. The expense budget provides \$4.5 million from FY19–FY22, which will supplement over \$5 million in capital funds previously received.

NYCWiN Replacement

And to replace NYCWiN, a vital but outdated system for traffic signals control, this budget adds \$75 million in capital funding, supplemented by \$35 million in expense funds in FY19 for build-out and startup costs, and \$15 million in FY20 and annually thereafter for cellular communication fees and system maintenance.

Over the last decade, we used NYCWiN to connect nearly all DOT's 13,000 traffic signals and 300 traffic management cameras but it is now past its useful life.

Efficiencies

Now I would like to turn to efficiencies. As we heard in the Mayor's budget address, although the City's economy is strong, new obligations from the State and continued uncertainty at the Federal level make it prudent for us to continue to find operational savings. As in the Preliminary and the November financial plans, DOT has worked closely with OMB to identify efficiencies in our operations while limiting impacts to programs that serve the public.

In this plan we were able to find savings of \$12.6 million in FY18 and \$9.2 million in FY19, including \$7.5 million in recurring annual savings. Together with initiatives from the November and January budgets, we have delivered \$48.4 million in City funds savings in our FY18 and FY19 budgets.

As a couple examples, we identified \$1.9 million in savings to our personal services budget in FY18 and FY19, including \$1.5 million in FY18 and FY19 from 20 vacant positions and \$342,000 in overtime savings in our administrative areas.

We will also realize additional revenues through reimbursements from the State Consolidated Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS) for new speed humps, saving slightly over \$1 million

in FY18 and FY19. And delays in the City's takeover of the Gowanus Expressway High Occupancy Vehicle Lane allow us to give back \$1.4 million in FY18 and \$700,000 in FY19.

Design-Build

And we recently had a major victory with big implications for savings in our budget and an important step for streamlining our procurement process. After years of rallies, letter writing, and trips to Albany to lobby legislators, we are happy to report that in late March, New York State granted New York City design-build authority for the BQE Atlantic to Sands reconstruction project.

We are grateful for the ability to use design-build for one of the largest and most complex bridge rehabilitation projects we have ever undertaken. Using design-build for the \$1.9 billion BQE project will save time and taxpayer dollars.

Along with the Mayor and my fellow commissioners who worked with us on this, I would like to say a big thank you to Speaker Johnson and the many Council Members who voiced their support. And we are so grateful to the bill's original sponsors—Assembly Members Benedetto and Rodriguez, Senators Golden and Lanza—and acknowledge the hard work of Senator Kavanagh and Assembly Member Simon.

We also thank our many business, labor, and industry partners and local advocates. We are eager to demonstrate how the City can successfully implement design-build.

Speed Cameras

Now that we have secured this victory, our next urgent priority in Albany is our speed camera program, which will expire on July 25th of this year. I was in Albany last week with NYPD Chief of Transportation Thomas Chan, Families for Safe Streets, and a broad coalition of advocates and elected officials to urgently lobby for the re-authorization and expansion of this vital, life-saving program.

Since the speed camera program began over four years ago, we have seen speeding violations reduced by an average of 63 percent where cameras are deployed. And at a time when roadway fatalities have increased 15 percent nationwide, here in New York City we have seen a 23 percent reduction under Vision Zero. We think speed cameras have played a key role in saving lives and we look forward to continuing to work with the Council to support this critical reauthorization and expansion.

Conclusion

In closing, DOT faces important challenges and opportunities as we work to keep New Yorkers moving safely, equitably, and sustainably while supporting our City's economic growth and prosperity. We look forward to working with the Council. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today and I will now be happy to answer any questions.

Subject: Testimony: disconnected youth

To:
Finance Testimony

Name
Erica

Email
egonzalez@council.nyc.gov

Subject
disconnected youth

Testimony
The Council must fund services that bridge out of school, out of work youth into skills and job opportunities, with close and long term mentorship and structured but customized support.



**TESTIMONY OF
THE NEW YORK PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH GROUP
SUBMITTED TO
THE FINANCE COMMITTEE
OF THE NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL
ON THE NEW YORK CITY HIGHER EDUCATION BUDGET
New York, New York
June 8, 2016**

The New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG) is New York State's largest student-directed non-partisan research and advocacy organization. Through NYPIRG, CUNY students learn about policymaking and how to impact policy decisions, including decisions about funding for public higher education and financial aid. Interns and other students involved with NYPIRG's nine CUNY chapters learn to become effective advocates by working hand-in-hand with full-time campus organizers, issue experts and attorneys to educate their peers, spur civic engagement on campus, conduct research, generate media coverage and meet directly with policymakers.

I write today to urge you to continue to make the City University of New York a priority in the final 2016-2017 budget. CUNY graduates work and pay taxes here, and 275,000 degree-seeking students are enrolled at CUNY. Among the many CUNY success stories are Jonas Salk and Colin Powell, both City College graduates and children of immigrants. Without a doubt, CUNY is part of what makes New York City so vibrant and successful.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide NYPIRG's perspective on higher education in regards to the New York City budget for fiscal year 2016-2017.

Immigration Opportunity Initiative – Citizenship NOW!

CUNY's Citizenship NOW! program provides much needed immigration legal services—not only to CUNY students, but throughout New York City. Through CUNY's Citizenship NOW!, attorneys conduct legal services and immigration events in neighborhoods with large immigrant populations. This past year, nearly 4,000 students and community members have been assisted by this initiative. We urge the Council to support CUNY's request of \$1.5 million: \$1 million to keep this service going strong, and an additional \$500,000 to meet the growing demand from communities throughout New York City.

New York City Council Merit Scholarship

The City Council Merit Scholarship is a critical resource for students, which was created to help New York City high school who maintain at least a B average and apply to CUNY pay for books, transportation and other expenses that are not covered by state's Tuition Assistance

Program (TAP). Currently, 16,000 students receive this scholarship and it is the only public funding available to undocumented youth. To continue and expand the New York City Council Merit Scholarship, we urge the City Council to restore \$17.5 million to cover current and incoming students.

Other Council Supported Programs

CUNY's research centers and many great opportunity programs have earned national recognition for their proven track records helping students overcome the financial and academic obstacles to completing a college education. The programs listed below offer social, academic, and financial assistance to students who need it most. All of these programs require continued support in order to serve as many students as possible.

We strongly urge you to reinvest in all CUNY opportunity programs and research centers by restoring funding to the following programs: The Dominican Studies Institute at City College (\$970,000); The Center for Puerto Rican Studies at Hunter College (\$970,000); Creative Arts Team (\$372,000); New York City Food Policy Center at Hunter College (\$200,000); and Joseph S. Murphy Institute for Worker Education and Labor Studies (\$100,000). We also strongly urge the Council to include these programs, along with Citizenship NOW! and other Council-supported initiatives in CUNY's baseline budget. This would help protect these critical programs from future budget cuts.

Accelerated Study in Associate Programs

Hailed by many, including the President Obama and The American Federation of Teachers, CUNY's Accelerated Study in Associate Programs (ASAP) has become a model of success for colleges throughout the country. ASAP is designed to provide academic, financial and personal support necessary to help remove barriers to obtaining an associate's degree. We support the additional \$1 million in ASAP included in the Executive Budget (in addition to \$3 million already added in the Mayor's preliminary budget). With the \$7 million in capital investments, New York City's total investment of \$61.6 million in ASAP is to be supported and applauded.

Capital Budget Request

Recognizing the need to maintain, modernize and expand CUNY's facilities, the City Council has appropriately provided funding for critical capital and maintenance needs for CUNY's community colleges. Funding capital projects such as replacing the roof of the Technology Building at Queensborough Community College are essential for maintaining and upgrading CUNY's infrastructure. We urge you to support CUNY capital budget request of \$29.7 million.

In closing, we would like to thank you for providing this opportunity for us to share our thoughts on higher education in New York. The above recommendations will help to ensure an affordable, accessible, high quality public higher education for the students of New York City.

Thank you.

Exploring the Metropolis, Inc.

Workspace Solutions for NYC's Performing Arts Communities

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New York City Council
Cultural Affairs, Libraries & International Intergroup Relations Committee
Council Chambers – City Hall
Executive Budget Hearing Testimony FY19
Thursday, May 24, 2018

My name is David Johnston and I am the Executive Director of Exploring the Metropolis. At this time, I would like very much to thank Councilmember Jimmy Van Bramer and the entire Cultural Affairs Committee for their strong leadership and advocacy for this field.

Since 1982, Exploring the Metropolis (EtM) has focused on solving the workspace needs of New York City's performing artists. Currently, we administer the EtM Con Edison Composer Residencies, the Choreographer + Composer Residency in partnership with the Jamaica Center for Arts & Learning, and the EtM Ridgewood Bushwick Composer Residency.

Since 2009, EtM has supported more than 80 composers, choreographers and performing artists.

EtM has provided more than \$130,000 worth of support to NYC's nonprofit cultural and community centers to maximize their space usage, and supported more than 70 free public programs for New York City audiences, ranging from new music premieres to work-in-progress dance showings, composition workshops for visually impaired students, and even a new children's opera.

By mid-2019, EtM will have provided more than one million dollars' worth of no-cost rehearsal space and cash awards to New York City artists.

In the past nine years, previous EtM Artists-in-Residence have gone on to win recognition from the Pulitzers, the Jerome Foundation, the Kleban Foundation, the Guggenheim Foundation, Baryshnikov Arts Center Cage Cunningham Award, American Composers Orchestra, New Music/USA, MacDowell Colony, Larson Foundation and the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation.

For the second year, EtM is joining #NYCInspires and New Yorkers for Culture & Arts to advocate for increased funding for arts and culture across all New York City communities. An increase in funding would allow the Department of Culture Affairs to bolster financial support for currently funded organizations, grow funding for arts councils to offer re-grants to individual artists, and add new funding that would increase cultural equity by supporting a wider array of arts and culture groups across all five boroughs.

We are asking for a \$30 million increase in the City's funding for the Department of Cultural Affairs to be equally divided between the Cultural Institutions Group and the Cultural Development Fund:

Cultural organizations and artists are essential to our economy, and they contribute to our city's cultural vibrancy, which serves all our citizens. It is vital that the city continue to support the full scope of nonprofit culture.

David Johnston
Executive Director
Exploring the Metropolis
david@exploringthemetropolis.org

Testimony to the New York City Council Committee on Finance - May 24th, 2018.

Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee and staff,

Thank you for this opportunity to provide this testimony to the committee today.

My name is Tanya Bley, and I have been affiliated with the Red Hook Compost Project at Red Hook Community Farm since 2010. The site has been funded by the New York City Department of Sanitation through Brooklyn Botanical Gardens since 2012.

The Red Hook Compost Project is and has been, since its inception, the premier model in the US of local, no carbon footprint and sustainable solution to New York City's nearly 1,000,000 tons of organic materials in the City's residential waste stream misdirected to landfill.

Through the commitment and involvement of 2,000 volunteers annually and dedicated staff, the Red Hook Compost Project processes over 200 tons of organic materials from New York City each year on less than one acre of land. Organic materials that otherwise would have had to be trucked out of New York City, exacerbating not only congestion and resulting emissions, but also nuisance odors and attracting pests in the process. Potentially, the ultimate destination of this material would be a landfill, where it would break down slowly over time, contributing to greenhouse gas emissions-- primarily methane, for decades.

This processing of organic materials into the components of valuable and sustainable soil amendments is accomplished at **this site** entirely on renewable sources:

Human labor, solar and wind power.

Since its inception this has been the method of operation of the Red Hook site.

Recently, as is well known, I am sure, to this committee and its members as well as to the composting community in New York City (and, sadly now, to many New Yorkers) the New York Compost Community and has suffered a tragic loss. This loss was particularly felt by staff and community engaged at the Red Hook Community Farm Compost Operation. The director of that site [David Buckel] recently and tragically decided to take his own life in a very public manner.

He has left behind the site, its staff and the compost community he was devoted to.

Since David's passing there have been some concerns raised by the compost community. regular visitors to the Red Hook site, and those who depend upon that site as an important organics processing hub that this site's mission will be changed. Specifically that the method of processing the organics will be changed from the low carbon footprint of human, wind and solar power to that based on fossil fuels and machines.

There is a concern that the Department of Sanitation is considering mechanizing the site to obviate and, eventually eliminate the community volunteer component. It has been suggest by some members of the composting community that the Red Hook Compost Project could in fact become a demonstration site for machinery. This would add insult to the injury of David's loss, as one of the greatest assets of this site was in its ability to make the issue of sustainability and resiliency tangible and practical, and served as a venue for sharing the knowledge and skill of the craft of composting. Most importantly, however, the site serves as a refuge for those seeking to take care of the great mother, our Earth, and all of its children – you and I.

If the course of this site is changed, the social, cultural, and spiritual capital built up overtime by thousands of volunteers and David as well as some of the physical capital obtained through corporate and private donations will have been lost to the residents of this city. The value to the city and its residents of a working site that involves the community in the physical process of learning and doing while engaged solving one the city's most vexing solid waste management problems will have been lost.

The Chair on the Committee on Waste Management has requested, this year for the second year, that the Department of Sanitation allocate \$10M of its over \$2B budget to outreach and education to help the city achieve its zero waste goals by 2030. As further expansion of the curbside organics collection program is stalled for the foreseeable future, and given the low participation rates and high levels of contamination that plague the program, now is not the time to change one of the most renowned, engaging and educational composting sites in the US. The site processes over 200,000 tons of organics on a single acre, with no inputs beyond the carting to get the organics to the site. Given that NYC's ~13,000 ton/day waste stream is close to 1/3 organics, this material can be processed without sophisticated and costly equipment on the available inventory of marginal and submarginal municipally-owned real estate. The portion of the budget that NYC Department of Sanitation allocates to long haul contracts (about 2/3 of its over \$2B budget) can be invested in local communities that are actively engaged in reducing and minimizing its waste and carbon footprint.

On behalf, therefore, of the Composting Community of New York City, I urge the members of this committee to call on the Department to allocate an appropriate level of funding in order that the site is staffed at adequate levels. Further, we call on the committee to preserve and protect not only the spirit of the legacy of the Red Hook Compost Project, but to protect the interests of those in the community who serve the public good in its operation, as well as those in the community who are served by it, by making sure the site remains true to its original intent and spirit as a non-mechanized organics site powered by sun, wind and human labor.



FY 2019 Agency Watch List

Department of Education

New York City Comptroller Scott M. Stringer

Bureau of Budget

MAY 2018

Why is This Agency on the Watch List?

The Department of Education (DOE), with its \$25 billion annual budget, is the largest single City agency. Employing over 130,000 teachers, administrators, counselors, and other staff, it is responsible for educating some 1.1 million school children from pre-K through high school. The DOE has improved on several broad measures over the last four years, including passing rates for required State exams and high school graduation rates. The Administration has committed substantial resources toward improving the performance of all schools, with a focus on low-performing schools, and to ensure that all students have access to the education necessary for success after graduation. But such a massive agency requires a particular level of oversight and accountability to ensure that resources are being deployed effectively and efficiently. Accordingly, the Comptroller has included DOE on his Agency Watch List for FY 2019. First announced in the Comptroller's [Preliminary Budget Presentation](#), the Agency Watch List spotlights City agencies – the Department of Correction (DOC), Department of Education (DOE), and homeless services – that raise the most budgetary concerns due to rapidly increased spending and meager measurable results. Reports, to be released quarterly, will review trends and recommend indicators that should be reported and monitored to evaluate the effectiveness of agency spending in achieving the Administration's stated goals.

Recent Developments

- Beginning in 2014, the DOE expanded its pre-kindergarten program, providing full-day pre-kindergarten to 70,000 four year-olds at an annual cost of \$800 million
- In an effort to turn around the DOE's lowest performing schools, the City identified 94 Renewal Schools in the 2014-15 school year. Renewal Schools receive extra resources, including 100% Fair Student Funding allocations, with the goal of reducing chronic absenteeism and improving reading and math exam results and graduation rates. Due to closures, mergers, and some schools successfully graduating out of the program, 46 of the original 94 Renewal Schools remain in the program.
- A series of initiatives under the rubric "Equity and Excellence" were laid out in September 2015, with the goal of ensuring that all students had equal access to educational opportunities. These included universal 2nd grade literacy, advanced placement courses for all students, algebra instruction for all students, enhanced college visits and access, and a dedicated counselor program ("Single Shepherd").

- More recently, the Administration has launched 3-K for All, a program to provide quality early education to three-year olds, beginning this fiscal year (2018), with plans to phase the program in for twelve districts by September 2020.

Indicators to Watch

The Watch List includes tables with selected indicators as reported in the Mayor's Management Report (MMR) and other sources. Also included are key indicators that should be tracked and reported in order to evaluate the effectiveness of initiatives, labeled "Indicators to watch." A number of these are not currently publicly reported, however, and the Administration should move immediately to make the relevant statistics publicly available and ultimately incorporate them into the MMR.

Budget and Spending

\$ millions	FY 14	FY 15	FY 16	FY 17	FY 18*	FY 18 To Date**	FY 19*
Personal Services	\$13,064	\$13,393	\$14,470	\$14,565	\$15,562	\$10,493	\$15,902
OTPS	7,021	7,607	7,951	8,943	9,462	7,928	9,632
Total	\$20,085	\$20,999	\$22,422	\$23,508	\$25,024	\$18,421	\$25,534
Personnel (Pedagogical)	109,901	112,272	115,799	118,671	119,613	119,654	120,720
Personnel (Non-Ped)	11,411	11,693	12,248	12,528	12,271	12,735	12,358

SOURCE: Office of the Comptroller, Financial Management System. *As of Executive Budget. **As of 4/30/18 for spending and as of 3/31/18 for headcount.

- Since FY 2014, DOE central administration staffing has risen by nearly 21 percent. Through February 2018, the Department reports a total of 2,254 full-time positions in central administration, 387 more positions than at the end of FY 2014. The largest increases are in the Office of Strategic Coordination and Planning, the Division of Information and Instructional Technology, the Division of School Support and the Office of Special Education Initiatives, combining for 286 positions or nearly three-quarters of the overall increase.
- Personal services spending in central administration has jumped by 40 percent during this span, from \$149 million in FY 2014 to a projected \$209 million in FY 2018.
- The number of pedagogical personnel, by contrast, has risen just 9.8 percent over the same period – even with the addition of universal pre-kindergarten.

New Programs and Initiatives

DOE projected spending nearly half a billion dollars on programs and initiatives to improve student outcomes in FY 2018, rising to \$626 million in FY 2019.

- The original budget for Renewal Schools called for \$192 million in spending in FY 2018. Actual current spending is not reported.
- The Equity and Excellence initiatives were budgeted for \$149 million in spending in FY 2018, rising to \$221 million in FY 2019.
- A series of other initiatives, including expanded Career and Technical Education (CTE), summer programming, mental health access and guidance counselors, were budgeted for \$136 million this year, rising to \$151 million in FY 2019.
- Finally, 3k for All, which began this year, is expected to cost \$65.8 million next year.

<i>Planned Spending, In thousands</i>	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019
Renewal Schools	\$30,700	\$168,400	\$192,200	\$192,200	\$188,200
Equity and Excellence					
Universal 2nd Grade Literacy	\$-	\$1,375	\$16,405	\$41,958	\$89,791
AP for All	-	1,298	21,141	30,759	41,190
Algebra for All	-	800	22,444	25,871	27,103
College Visits and Access	-	761	16,992	28,539	40,611
Single Shepherd	-	500	15,784	16,868	16,885
District-Charter Collaborations	-	974	3,000	5,000	5,000
Subtotal	\$-	\$5,708	\$95,766	\$148,995	\$220,580
3k for All	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$16,475	\$65,766
Other Initiatives					
Career & Technical Education	\$-	\$4,046	\$21,674	\$36,123	\$41,141
Physical Ed & Wellness	-	6,608	15,689	39,038	48,186
Summer in the City	-	-	22,854	35,260	35,612
Mental Health Clinics / Initiatives	-	2,874	18,357	18,884	19,348
Guidance Counselors	-	7,173	7,173	7,173	7,173
Subtotal	\$-	\$20,701	\$85,747	\$136,478	\$151,460
TOTAL	\$30,700	\$194,809	\$373,713	\$494,148	\$626,006

SOURCE: OMB Financial Plans.

NOTE: Financial Plan figures.

Renewal Schools

- Twenty-one of the original 94 Renewal Schools were designated “Rise” schools and graduated from the program, due to improved performance. They continue to receive full Fair Student Funding allocations.
- Chronic absenteeism has declined at nearly all Renewal Schools.

- Students at most Renewal Schools still struggled to perform up to standards on State reading and math exams, with only 15.9 percent and 9.4 percent of Renewal School students in grades 3 through 8 passing the 2017 reading and math exams, respectively. (The Citywide average passing rates were 40.6 percent in reading and 37.8 percent in math.)
- Graduation rates at most high schools improved, although about two-thirds of high schools in the program still failed to reach their targeted graduation rates.

Indicators to Watch

Certain indicators are reported at the individual school level, but not for Renewal Schools as a group:

- Spending on active Renewal Schools (*not reported*).
- Chronic absenteeism rates at Renewal Schools.
- Passing rates on State reading and math exams at Renewal Schools.
- High school graduation rates at Renewal Schools.

Equity and Excellence

DOE has begun to implement the Equity and Excellence initiatives:

- DOE has hired more than 100 reading coaches concentrated in Bronx and Brooklyn districts showing the greatest need;
- Over 400 teachers have received special math instruction training;
- New AP courses have been offered at more than 63 schools in the past school year; and
- DOE has added 140 counselors for the Single Shepherd program.

Initiative	Goal	Full Implementation*
Computer Science for All	All students receive computer science education at all grades	2025
Universal 2 nd Grade Literacy	Access to reading specialists for all 2 nd graders with need; 700 reading specialists	2019
AP For All	At least 5 AP classes in every high school; 75% of students by fall 2018	2022
Algebra for All	All 8 th graders	2022
College Access for All	All students in grades 6-12	2018
Single Shepherd	All students in grades 6-12 in Districts 7 and 23	2017
District-Charter Learning Partnerships	All students at up to 50 district and charter schools citywide	2017

SOURCE: Office of the Mayor, Press Release: *Equity and Excellence: Mayor de Blasio Announces Reforms to Raise Achievement Across all Public Schools* (<http://www1.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/news/618-15/equity-excellence-mayor-de-blasio-reforms-raise-achievement-across-all-public>)

NOTES: *Fiscal Year **Annual cost at full phase-in.

Indicators to Watch

- Measure of 2nd grade literacy (*not reported*).
- Percentage of students with access to AP classes (*not reported*).
- Percentage of students with algebra instruction (*not reported*).
- Number of graduates enrolling in college (*not reported*).

Other Initiatives

- Since FY 2015, the DOE budget has shown an increase of more than 250 guidance counselors (including “single shepherds”) under general education instructional and support services.
- 40 new CTE programs are expected to come online by 2019, subject to State approvals.
- 48 new programs serving English Language Learners in 42 schools were announced, at an estimated cost of \$1.2 million

Procurement

- DOE is budgeted to spend \$9.5 billion on contractual and other non-personnel services in FY 2018, including a contractual services budget of \$6.95 billion. The contractual services budget is projected to rise to \$7.16 billion in FY 2019.
- Although the DOE’s OTPS budget is by itself fully one-quarter of the total citywide OTPS budget, and its contractual services budget constitutes 44% of the entire City Contract Budget, it is not included in the annual *Agency Procurement Indicators* report published by the Mayor’s Office of Contract Services (MOCS).
- The Comptroller’s [Annual Contracts Report](#) provides a review of DOE procurement.

FY 2018 DOE OTPS Budget (\$ millions)	
Contractual Services	\$6,953.5
<i>Charter Schools</i>	1,939.3
<i>Special Education Contract Schools</i>	1,487.8
<i>Direct Educational Services to Children</i>	873.9
<i>Transportation of Pupils</i>	1,240.5
<i>Maintenance & Operation of Infrastructure</i>	933.8
<i>All Other Contractual & Professional Services</i>	478.1
Supplies & Materials	\$738.4
Property & Equipment	\$212.7
Fixed & Misc. Charges	\$133.5
Other Services & Charges	\$1,423.7
TOTAL	\$9,461.7

Because the Department is governed by New York State law, it is not subject to NYC Procurement Policy Board rules. Instead, DOE has its own *Procurement Policy and Procedures* (PPP), approved by the Panel for Education Policy (PEP). All DOE contracts are supposed to be reviewed and approved by the PEP. Audits and analyses by the Comptroller's Office have documented numerous instances of poor financial and program management, including a failure to abide by the approved PPP. The Comptroller's office has observed the following deficiencies in DOE's procurement practices, among others:

- Contracts are presented to the PEP retroactively;
- PEP presentations contain only outlines or minimal information for PEP review;
- Contracts are submitted without completed VENDEX Vendor and Principal Questionnaires;
- Vendor performance is not evaluated;
- Overuse of non-competitive procurement methods;
- Overuse of Emergency Procurement for goods and services that should be known in advance with a fair degree of accuracy, such as food and bus transportation.

Indicators to Watch

The following indicators should be reported as part of the MOCS annual Agency Procurement Indicators report:

- Number and value of competitive procurement actions, by type.
- Number and value of non-competitive procurement actions, by type.
- Number and value of retroactive contract registrations.
- Original contract amounts and actual spending.



2018 Legislative Priorities/ New York City Council

FOR THE RECORD

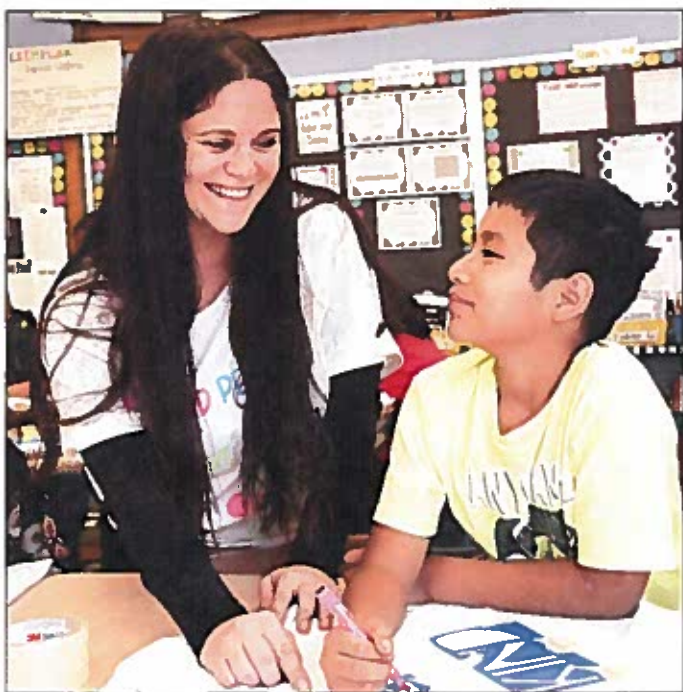
Making a Difference

The City Council's support is vital to the success of our neighborhood public schools and why the UFT works so closely with council members, keeping them apprised of our programs and initiatives.

As in the past, the UFT is asking the City Council for its continued support of schools in our joint mission to improve the educational opportunities for students.

There's no denying we're making progress in the city's schools. We have seen record graduation rates accompanied by the highest-ever college readiness rate and a record number of juniors taking the SAT. These results are partly due to programs like Teacher's Choice, the Community Learning Schools initiative, the Positive Learning Collaborative, the anti-bullying BRAVE initiative, Dial-A-Teacher and Broadway Bridges, which provides students with discounted theater tickets.

Our public schools provide opportunity for children from all economic backgrounds, and we are proud that our members' accomplishments in the classroom help students reach new heights. Thank you for doing your part in advancing that important work. Together, we make a difference. ■



Teacher's Choice

The City Council helps teachers put books, musical instruments and art supplies into the hands of students by reimbursing teachers for a portion of their out-of-pocket expenses. New York City teachers, on average, spend \$500 a year of their own money on classroom supplies including pencils, paper, math manipulatives — small cubes, tiles and squares for counting — telescopes, balls, rulers, compasses and even Hula Hoops.

Thanks to the Teacher's Choice program, created in 1986 by the DOE and the UFT, New York City teachers each received \$250 in reimbursement this year.

We are asking the City Council to continue to fund this worthwhile investment in our students at the same level as last year — \$20 million. ■

Community Learning Schools

The UFT'S community learning schools work with over 18,000 students in 31 schools — some of the highest-need schools in the city — and create vibrant school communities that help students and their families triumph over the impact of poverty and barriers to learning.

The numbers speak for themselves. With \$100,000, we can hire a Community School Director. Our CSDs, on average, each bring in more than \$600,000 in services and grants to the community, a six-to-one return on investment.

What's more, 80 percent of CLS schools outpaced NYC public schools in reading proficiency gains between 2013 and 2017, and 70 percent of CLS schools outpaced other city schools in math proficiency gains during that same time period. Seventy-one percent of our teachers say they their students seem to be healthier, and 79 percent are seeing academic improvement in students receiving targeted support.

We are asking for \$4 million this year to directly support work at each of our schools. That funding will help us continue to expand and enhance mental health services at our other schools by providing crisis intervention, working with at-risk children and providing group counseling as well as funding to help us reach more students to utilize our vision services in our two new

Continued on next page

school-based health clinics at PS 18 in Mott Haven and PS 188 on Coney Island. We also intend to provide each of the 31 schools with additional supplies, equipment and professional development. ■

The Positive Learning Collaborative

The PLC is a joint venture between the UFT and the DOE that attempts to do something hard: change the behavior of children and adults through positive behavior systems and restorative practices. Our goal is to move away from punitive, after-the-fact discipline still in effect in many schools, and replace it with proactive, highly restorative practices that can change school climate as well as the individual behaviors of students and staff.

We started with six schools in 2013 and now have 19. Adults in PLC schools report clear improvements in school climate, as tracked by annual, anonymous surveys. They report more students feel more comfortable talking to adults about personal issues; they are better equipped to manage challenging classroom behavior; and the new school discipline policy is consistently applied. PLC schools have also seen a reduction in incidents and suspensions and experienced higher growth rates than the city and state in ELA and math.

But changes don't happen overnight. The first time a school begins restorative conversations, students and their teachers must build up the courage to share their thoughts, and these can be long, and sometimes painful, conversations. As the dialogue continues and students get to know each other, respect and understanding build. Students feel empowered to support peers who are harassed. And students who are acting out feel secure enough to talk about their issues rather than blindly lash out.

We ask that the Council invest \$3 million into PLC this year, to help us provide support to 10 more schools and expand supportive programming to the families and communities in each of our schools. ■

BRAVE anti-bullying initiative

BRAVE, an acronym for Building Respect, Acceptance and Voice through Education, offers an array of resources and tools to help educators tackle bullying in their schools including a series of workshops for UFT members.

The BRAVE initiative began in 2012, and continues to be an important venture. In a year when the New York City public school community bore witness to the first killing inside a city school since 1993 — a teenager was allegedly bullied to his breaking point — students need to know they have allies in their schools.

Thanks to your support last year, we're having a powerful impact on those who reached out to us. With an additional \$250,000, we will increase the number of trained mental health professionals answering our hotline and better meet the demand for school trainings. ■

Dial-A-Teacher

Dial-a-Teacher provides homework help on subjects ranging from basic math and reading to advanced calculus and physics, with more than 40 UFT members answering more than 60,000 calls a year. It's totally free and we have a staff that speaks a variety of languages. This year, our staff speaks Armenian, Bengali, Chinese, French, Haitian Creole, Korean, Russian, Spanish and Tagalog.

Students and parents love this service. We receive scores of thank-you emails from satisfied mothers, fathers, grandparents and guardians.

Your support last year helped us put in a new state-of-the-art phone system. This year, we are asking for \$165,000 to provide an easy-to-access online option for students and parents. ■

A ticket to Broadway

Broadway Bridges wants every student in a New York City public high school to see a Broadway show before graduation. Through Broadway Bridges, The Broadway League subsidizes \$20 tickets to weekday matinee and evening performances by paying half the ticket price as well as the few dollars in fees associated with each ticket purchase. This enables The Broadway League to offer schools \$10 tickets. We ask that you support this creative initiative in the FY19 City Council budget. ■



United Federation of Teachers
A Union of Professionals

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FOR THE RECORD



**TESTIMONY OF
THE UNITED FEDERATION OF TEACHERS

BEFORE THE
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

REGARDING THE FY2019 CAPITAL PLAN**

MAY 22, 2018

The United Federation of Teachers thanks the City Council for its leadership addressing the many challenges facing our public schools. We will continue to work with Council members and Mayor Bill de Blasio to improve the city's public school infrastructure because we know a healthy, safe, clean environment is essential to creating opportunities for our children.

We also want to thank the City Council for allowing us to comment on the February 2018 Proposed Amendment to the Department of Education's Fiscal 2015-19 Five-Year Capital Plan. As the final year of this plan begins in July, this Amendment partially sums up the plan's goals, states what has been accomplished and outlines current and future projects.

Much has been done. For example, we've eliminated PCB-containing light fixtures from schools and for less money than originally estimated. The School Construction Authority responded to the concerns of school communities and parents, and we applaud this. Another success: We've reduced the number of trailers used for classrooms from more than 370 to 120. That's an enormous improvement and the city should be commended for listening to parents, educators and union leaders.

It's important to note that the Five-Year Capital Plan is not a static document. Every year, we've make changes, and this continual review serves the public well. The 2018 Proposed Amendment includes two new initiatives: the Universal Physical Education Initiative and the Air Conditioning Initiative. We applaud Mayor de Blasio, DOE and SCA for their leadership and we thank the Council, the borough presidents and the mayor for the additional \$900 million above last year's funding level.

What's inside counts!

As the Council knows, many challenges still persist. Chronic problems with our buildings, many of them more than a century old, require both daily maintenance and long-term investment. Maintenance is as important to the health of a building as any large-scale projects and, in many cases, ensures the capital projects attain their expected years of use. For example, after windows are installed or a roof is installed, the city must remain vigilant in keeping them in good working order.

However, our children and educators are often subjected to substandard conditions, which is a disgrace in a city that's among the world's wealthiest. Our ceilings leak, toilets don't flush, faucets run dry, window shades are tattered and broken and overhead lights remain dark for months. Unbelievably, these minor repairs can take months or years to get fixed because we don't have the money, we are told.

The UFT recognizes the difficulties in deciding priorities in a system where demand seems endless, but we also believe that with the political will, we can have a system in which every school sparkles inside and out. We are encouraged that this Proposed Amendment adds funding for both exterior and interior projects and sets us on the right path.

Over the last several capital plans, the City Council, the mayor, DOE and SCA have kept a steady eye on repairing the exterior of our aged school buildings, and we thank them for that. So many of them looked exhausted and broken, and it has been a pleasure to watch them revitalized; some of them are architectural gems.

Not that there haven't been improvements inside the buildings. We commend the SCA and DOE for upgrading student bathrooms system-wide. We're also grateful for the vast improvements we've seen in middle school science labs.

But, our children and educators feel the impact of insufficient maintenance funds in unfixed leaks, inoperable toilets and sinks, and broken shades and lights. We urge all those involved in these interior maintenance decisions to take the same comprehensive approach they took with the building's facades, roofs and exterior walls.

Two initiatives for healthier, happier children

Two mayoral initiatives introduced in the Proposed Amendment approach the scale we're talking about.

- 1) The Air Conditioning Initiative, funded at \$50 million, will provide the electrical upgrades needed to install air conditioning in every classroom by 2022.
- 2) The Physical Education Initiative, funded at \$105.5 million, will ensure all students have space inside schools for exercise by 2021. The Amendment specifies that three schools will get gym annexes, a promising start.

Both of these programs are so important, it's hard to estimate the value to our city. The Amendment lacks details, however, as to how these initiatives will be completed. We look forward to learning more about them in the next capital plan.

Let's save energy and money

Another mayoral initiative focuses on a sustainable source of energy for the city's schools. With 35 projects completed and another 90 in the pipeline, we're moving toward a solar energy profile. We're on board with the SCA and DOE making energy sustainability a priority in all projects. It's the only smart way to go, at this point. And, once again, we urge the SCA to accelerate the conversion of #4 oil-burning boilers. The current mandate aims for 2030. These conversions will improve the quality of air in neighborhoods where these schools are located.

The need for more seats

The city now has 8.6 million people living here, the largest population in its history. As the city grows, so does the school-age population. The Proposed Amendment projects 44,628 new K-12 seats across 88 projects, a small increase of about 300 seats over last year's plans. The SCA also expects to create nearly 8,800 universal pre-kindergarten seats, also an increase of 600 seats over last year. And for the Class Size Reduction program has announced projects for nearly 1,400 seats. This totals around 54,820 new seats.

If all of this work is accomplished during the current five-year plan that would be a sizable achievement. However, some say many more seats are needed, plus finding land for new schools in a congested city is difficult. Of the 44,628 new seats, 31,800 seats have been completed or are under creation. That leaves 12,800 seats, almost 29 percent, funded but existing on paper only.

These seats are located in every borough but there are 4 districts with 1,000 or more funded seats that are not yet in the process – Districts 10, 20, 24 and 30. District 10 has 1,700 seats that are not yet underway and District 20 has 3,500.

What are the problems in these districts? Is it a function of locating feasible school sites or other issues? These are important questions that need answers in all of these districts, which also have histories of being chronically overcrowded.

The challenges of keeping up with growth are not just a problem of getting projects started in these 4 districts and in other neighborhoods. Overall, there are 43 neighborhoods in 20 districts, Queens and Staten Island High schools with an identified need for new capacity – a total of 38,428 seats - that are currently unfunded. Of these, 10 districts and Queens High Schools have an unfunded need in excess of 1,000 and in three of them - Districts 15, 25 and Queens High Schools – the need is in excess of 3,000 seats and District 20 has an astonishing shortfall of 5,000 seats. Much has been built but the need remains high and challenging in many neighborhoods.

While projections see enrollment declining modestly during the next 10 years, a number of districts will grow. The five with the greatest projected growth are Districts 20, 25, 28, 26 and 11. These districts already have chronic overcrowding. This growth will exacerbate the problem.

Crowded schools lead to school problems

Overcrowding translates into real problems for our students and staff: oversized classes, crowded hallways, discipline issues, the loss of cluster rooms; music, art and dance spaces; specialized classrooms; teacher offices and space for those who provide support services – school counselors, speech therapists and social workers to name a few.

The Mayor's Office of Operations says kindergarten through 3rd grade classes optimally should have no more than 20 children. Throughout the city, however, these grades are bigger than that target and have incrementally increased from the previous year. Target class sizes in grades 4 through 8 are below the maximum number, and that's something to cheer about.

SCA and DOE created a program to supplement the new capacity program. The class-size reduction initiative dedicates funding to specific projects. Three projects have been identified, one each in Queens, Brooklyn and Bronx. The Amendment costs out these projects and the price is significantly less than the funding envelope for this program. SCA should prioritize this program and identify additional projects to expend these funds completely.

SCA and DOE also must examine opportunities to more efficiently configure our school buildings. We are concerned to learn that funding for facility restructuring has decreased. This program is so valuable in converting over-sized shops and classrooms into much needed capacity and other important school-based initiatives: the school-based health centers and other community school features.

Health concerns

The city has made great progress in removing temporary classroom units (TCU) — also known as trailers — from schoolyards throughout the five boroughs, but 120 will still house children at the end of the current capital plan. They quickly deteriorate, becoming ripe for mold and mildew. Children with allergies, asthma, respiratory disease or compromised immune systems are obviously at risk, but all children are endangered by attending school in a TCU. In addition, the TCUs isolate students and staff from the main building.

As we noted above, the city has removed the crumbling PCB-containing lighting fixtures. But we remain concerned about whether PCB-containing caulk, used to seal windows in the schools presents a health hazard. We hope the city continues to fund this project as well.

Safe Schools

Our schools must be safe havens. The drinking water must be free of lead and we support DOE's testing and remediation efforts and are working with them on this effort. Lead paint and asbestos abatement are important ongoing initiatives. Security in school buildings is another high priority. The implementation of the digital video surveillance system is ongoing and must be completed. Again, the capital plan amendment does not provide sufficient information on this program to understand when this important initiative will be complete.

In summary

We are encouraged by the City Council's working group and its collaborations with SCA to accelerate school planning and siting. As SCA completes the projects in this capital plan and formulates the next, we must create strategies to expedite the entire process while controlling costs in meeting this challenge.

In this pivotal moment at DOE with a new Chancellor, we have an opportunity to make changes in how we do things. We urge the SCA and DOE to work collaboratively with the City Council as they shape the priorities and investment levels for the next several years.

Thank you for listening to our thoughts on this proposed Amendment to the Five-Year Capital Plan.

FOR THE RECORD



**TESTIMONY OF
THE UNITED FEDERATION OF TEACHERS
BEFORE THE
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
REGARDING THE FY2019 BUDGET**

MAY 22, 2018

The United Federation of Teachers, on behalf of our members, thanks Speaker Corey Johnson, Education Chair Mark Treyger, and the entire Council for your past support and advocacy.

There's no denying we're making progress in the city's schools. We're seeing record graduation rates accompanied by the highest-ever college readiness rate and a record number of juniors taking the SAT. We've also seen jumps in the number of students taking and passing Advanced Placement exams. Plus, thanks to a booming Universal Pre-Kindergarten enrollment that has topped 70,000 students, more students than ever before are getting a head start on their educations.

Still, even with so much positive news to report, the challenges we face this year are unique and profound.

The federal government is attacking New York state and urban centers in a variety of ways. Big-moneyed special interests are using their alliances with the Trump administration to harm working people and public schools, beginning with the billions of dollars in budget cuts that threaten our schools. We even have Betsy DeVos, the secretary of education, using her position to divert funding from public schools — schools she hasn't even bothered to visit, even though our members have invited her because they are proud of the work they do for our students.

As you also know, the 1 percent are using their wealth and corporate power to bankroll the Janus Supreme Court case, putting the very existence of organized labor, and by extension, our public schools, at risk. The court heard oral arguments in February, and we expect a decision before the end of June. A ruling against unions will damage our ability to collectively bargain on behalf of our members, and we will quickly see a negative impact on worker rights, salaries, health care benefits and worker conditions. As serious will be a dampening of worker voices as their job protections erode, and children will suffer as a result of losing their best advocates.

The UFT is not taking a back seat to any of this. We will always speak up and fight for our students, our schools and our families. We are working closely with the governor and the state Legislature, who are doing their best to insulate our schools and communities from the expected devastating budget cuts. Likewise, we will do everything in our power to protect our members and their families from the harmful agenda pushed by the organizations behind Janus case.

We hope that the City Council will also play a major role in the months ahead to protect our schools from the Trump administration, which is a champion of privatization. We can't let potential budget cuts or the impact of the Janus case harm our public schools or our workforce.

Likewise, we were buoyed by the Council's resolution against Janus. Thank you for taking that important stand on behalf of our members and organized labor.

Maintain Teacher's Choice

Teachers need smaller class sizes, more school counselors and more restorative programs. Educators need more books. More science experiments. More instruments. More tools. More trips to the museum. More computers and working Wi-Fi. Teachers must buy classroom supplies with their own money — it's not really a choice when children don't have pens or paper and the school doesn't have any. Surveys tell us that our members spend an average of \$500 a year, with many exceeding \$1,000 or more.

The City Council recognizes this problem. Your support last year put books, musical instruments and art supplies into the hands of students by reimbursing teachers for a portion of their out-of-pocket expenses. This school year, each teacher received \$250 in reimbursement. They've spent it on everything from the basics — pencils, paper and markers — to math manipulatives — small cubes, tiles and squares for counting — telescopes, balls, rulers, compasses, school trips, and even lumber and tools to outfit a wood shop. The City Council support of Teacher's Choice provides immediate help to classrooms because teachers, school counselors, social workers and therapists, among others, do not have to wait for the bureaucratic approval process to they purchase the items they need. Children can't wait for the red tape to clear.

We are asking the City Council to continue to fund this incredibly worthwhile investment in our students at the same level as last year — \$20 million.

Expand and enhance community learning schools

Building a strong partnership between a neighborhood school and its surrounding community is a powerful strategy. Our schools are often the hubs of neighborhoods, and the community schools model amplifies important work in a way that helps not just the students, but also their families.

The community schools approach is backed by evidence-based research. It's a long-term strategy that aims to address the needs of the whole child by leveraging relationships with outside organizations, government agencies, non-profits and local businesses, bringing their expertise and manpower right into the building. The educators in community schools work hard to remove

barriers to learning by addressing the academic, social and emotional needs by securing programs and services that address those needs.

We have found that often times, that means providing students with access to not just tutors and mentoring, but also health and mental wellness services, which include nutrition programs and food support, social workers and other social-emotional services. Some of the work takes place during the school day, but a good chunk takes place before and after school, during evenings and over the weekend. Every school community has its own distinct needs, and the beauty of the community school model is that it's specifically designed to address a school's unique needs and unique demographics.

The UFT launched its own Community Learning Schools Initiative in 2012. We now have 31 schools in the five boroughs, thanks in large part to the ongoing support of this Council. We purposefully chose some of the city's highest-needs schools, where the student populations included high numbers of English language learners, students with special needs and students in poverty. We set out to improve student achievement in each of those schools by meeting the health, safety and social emotional needs of the students, their parents and the surrounding communities.

Our work includes recruiting and placing a full-time Community School Director in each building. This staff member works with the school community to determine what the school and community need, and then sets out to bring those resources to students and families as well as manage the relationships between the school and the program providers.

The numbers speak for themselves, beginning with the significant return on investment we're seeing in each of our CLS schools. A simple \$100,000 investment to hire a Community School Director can bring in more than \$600,000 in services and grants to the school community, a six-to-one return on investment.

What's more, 80 percent of CLS schools outpaced NYC public schools in reading proficiency gains between 2013 and 2017, and 70 percent of CLS schools outpaced other NYC schools in math proficiency gains during that same time period. Seventy one percent of our teachers are seeing a major impact in the positive health and wellness of students, and 79 percent are seeing a major impact on academic improvement for students receiving the targeted support.

We are asking for \$4 million this year to directly support work at each of our 31 schools. That funding will maximize the reach of our two school-based health clinics at PS 18 in Mott Haven and PS 188 on Coney Island, as well as expand and enhance mental health services at our other schools. We also intend to provide each of the 31 schools additional supplies, equipment and professional development.

Safety issues and the Positive Learning Collaborative (PLC)

Our day-to-day work as a union includes a rapid response to health and safety emergencies in schools. We have teams in all five boroughs, and, unfortunately this year, our members are reporting an increase in safety and discipline issues.

For our part, we have added staff at the UFT to make additional school visits and provide support and solutions. We are also offering a variety of workshops for our members on relevant topics including, "Techniques to Support Positive Behavior," "Welcoming Schools for All: LGBTQ" and "Mindfulness Meditation."

We ask that the Council make school safety a priority this budget. Reach out to the schools in your districts. Talk with the teachers and school safety officers, and ask them how you can help in their buildings.

We also ask that you consider extending your partnership with the UFT's Positive Learning Collaborative initiative, which currently has 19 schools. The uptick in safety issues has resulted in many calls from our members, asking to be included in the PLC initiative and all we can do is add them to our waiting list.

PLC is an intensive schoolwide effort to change the trajectory of a building in crisis. Changing a school's culture isn't just about training a few people or changing discipline procedures; it's a much deeper dive into creating a culture of community, respect, empathy and responsibility where all voices are heard.

Students are encouraged to be the very best they can be, while also learning how their actions and behaviors affect others. PLC also helps educators and students build bridges and mend relationships. Problems are seen through a positive lens: an opportunity to teach compassion, self-worth and community values as well as an opportunity for student growth. PLC is also designed to decrease the number of conflicts, particularly violent conflicts, within schools, by increasing awareness of self-worth and increasing an understanding of peer pressure.

With the rise of Donald Trump, the nation has seen an increase in acts of bigotry, sexism and racism. Our students are often targets of this unacceptable behavior. Many educators don't feel equipped to effectively address these issues. In fact, the PLC emerged from the realization that existing disciplinary school practices were inadvertently causing problems for our most vulnerable children, those targeted because of their religion, gender, race or disability.

PLC provides training and on-site coaching for educators. We aim to shift mindsets so our fellow educators understand that punitive policies aren't the best way to serve our students.

PLC's impact is holistic and transformative. We have seen a reduction in incidents and increases in a positive mindset, according to a recent survey. But changes don't happen overnight. The first time you begin restorative conversations, students and their teachers must build up the courage to share their thoughts, and these can be long, and sometimes painful, conversations. But, as the dialogue continues and students get to know each other, respect and understanding build. Students feel empowered to support peers who are being harassed. And students who are acting out feel secure enough to talk about their issues rather than blindly lash out.

Thanks to the Council's support in 2017, PLC expanded into a dozen schools, bringing the total to 19. We ask that the Council invest \$3 million into PLC this year, to help us provide support to 10 more schools. We also want to expand supportive programming to the families and communities in

each of our schools, including teaching crisis prevention strategies and intervention techniques to parents and guardians, as well as teaching restorative practices to address family conflict and strengthen family bonds.

Upgrade the BRAVE anti-bullying hotline and support services

Most kids have been bullied at one time or another in their lives, especially our most vulnerable and at-risk students. It's an unfortunate part of growing up, and it's exacerbated by the divisive political climate.

We know that students who are bullied need support and an advocate. That's why the UFT, in collaboration with the City Council and the Department of Education, created the BRAVE program. BRAVE provides confidential one-on-one support for students and parents who call or text. The hotline is open to students, staff and family members, Monday through Friday, from school dismissal time until 9:30 pm. We hear stories about physical bullying as well as verbal and cyber bullying, and we receive many of these calls right after dismissal. In the past few months, the average call is nearly 30 minutes, an indication of how intense these conversations are.

The BRAVE program also offers schools workshops for parents, students and teachers to help them identify various bullying behaviors and the warning signs of students at risk, while providing resources as well. In a year when the New York City public school community bore witness to the first killing inside a city school since 1993 — a direct result of a teenager allegedly bullied to his breaking point — we need to make sure students know they have allies in their schools. What was accepted as “normal” behavior 20 years ago is no longer considered acceptable, and that's a good thing. We're listening to our children and finding strategies to help them.

Thanks to your support last year, we're having a powerful impact on those who reached out to us. With an additional \$250,000, we could increase the number of trained mental health professionals answering our hotline and to better meet the demand for school trainings.

Expand the Dial-A-Teacher homework help line

Students and their parents love the UFT's Dial-A-Teacher homework help. During the school year, a team of more than 40 UFT members race from school to our Manhattan office and field calls from thousands of students and parents. Last year, we received 61,000 phone calls and we're on track to receive a similar number this year.

Whether they need help with basic reading or math, or in advanced calculus or physics, parents and students are connected with a licensed teacher who is an expert in the topic. It's totally free and we have a staff that speaks a variety of languages, including Armenian, Bengali, Chinese, French, Haitian Creole, Korean, Russian, Spanish and Tagalog. Math and literacy are among the most frequent topics asked about, followed by science and social studies.

The UFT has been doing this great work for more than 30 years. Some of our high school students have been calling Dial-A-Teacher since they were in first grade because they love and appreciate the help they get.

Your support last year helped us put in a new state-of-the-art phone system. This year, we are again asking for your financial support so we can take our services online and reach even more students. Specifically, if you provide us with \$165,000, we can build the software and hire the staff to provide an easy-to-access online option for students and parents. We are excited about this possibility and hope you will join us in this venture.

Paid parental leave

More than 70 percent of New York City's public school educators are women, but, unfortunately, the city's current parental leave policy ignores the reality of that demographic. New mothers can only take up to six weeks of leave (or eight for a C-section), and they only get paid if they have sick days. To save up enough days to cover a six-week leave, UFT members have to hoard sick days for three or four years.

What's more, the policy doesn't apply to those who are adopting children or fostering children. The policy also discriminates against men, who aren't even allowed to take sick days to take care of their new family members. In essence, our current system forces new parents to choose between caring for their own children and earning a paycheck.

Mayor de Blasio's December 2015 announcement about a new city policy for paid parental leave included givebacks from managerial employees who significantly overpaid for the benefit. We can't accept that for our members. We also need a policy that covers adoption, foster care and our fathers.

We sincerely appreciate the Council's support on this critical issue, and we are hopeful that the city will negotiate with us to achieve this important benefit.

Final thoughts

Public schools and labor unions are cornerstones of our city's great history, and we are proud of the opportunities we provide our students and the representation we provide our members. The UFT stands for fairness and inclusion, not division and fear, and we will continue to work hard as we face down these threats. We hope you will continue to be a part of that important work.



**New York City Council
FY 2019 Executive Budget
May 24th, 2018**

**Testimony of Anita Gundanna and Vanessa Leung
Co-Executive Directors, Coalition for Asian American Children and Families**

We are Anita Gundanna and Vanessa Leung, the Co-Executive Directors at the Coalition for Asian American Children and Families (CACF). We would like to thank Speaker Johnson, Chair Dromm and members of the Finance Committee for holding this public hearing on the city fiscal year (FY) 2019 Executive Plan.

Since 1986, the Coalition for Asian American Children and Families (CACF) is the nation's only pan-Asian children and families' advocacy organization and leads the fight for improved and equitable policies, systems, funding, and services to support those in need. The Asian Pacific American (APA) population, over 1.3 million people, comprises over 15% of New York City – the same size of the entire population of Dallas. Yet, the needs of the APA community are often overlooked, misunderstood, and uncared for. This means our communities and the organizations that serve them lack resources to provide critical services for those in need. We work with almost 50 member organizations to identify and speak out on common challenges and needs across the APA community.

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

CHALLENGES

During budget deliberations, we ask the City Council to protect the most vulnerable members of New York during these tough financial times. Any budget cuts should not be detrimental to New Yorkers with the greatest needs. The City must especially preserve services to recently arrived immigrants, low-income, limited English proficient, children, and seniors.

Despite the "model minority" stereotype, the Asian Pacific American community must also overcome many challenges.

- 1 out of 2 APA children are born into poverty.
- 40% of NYC APA youth are not college ready upon graduation from high school
- Nearly 25% of Asian Americans live in poverty in New York City, the highest poverty rate across all ethnic groups in the City
- Asian Americans have the highest poverty gap – or intensity of poverty - indicating the cost to bring those in poverty out of poverty
- Asian Americans have the highest poverty rate in the City among full-time, year-round workers

- Asian Americans are heavily immigrant with 78% foreign-born; APAs also have the highest rate (42%) of linguistic isolation, meaning that no one over the age of 14 in a household speaks English well.
- 75% of the APA senior population are linguistically isolated.
- Almost 15% of Asian Americans (AA) ages 18 and over remain uninsured in New York City;
- A majority (89%) of AA uninsured in NYC are foreign-born
- Over 38% of Asian Americans receive Medicaid, the highest rate of Medicaid usage within racial/ethnic groups in NYC

Many CACF members continue to provide culturally competent and language accessible vital services that are not already provided by City agencies. These organizations rely on City Council discretionary dollars to bridge funding gaps and to continue to provide services in APA children and families in Council districts city-wide. CACF's analysis of Schedule C from the FY 2018 Adopted Budget revealed that **APA led and serving organizations received only 4% of City Council discretionary dollars**. Consider that APA led and serving organizations receive less than 1.5% in public social service contract dollars. While City Council discretionary funding provides us the opportunity to be flexible, innovative, and responsive to community needs, city agencies must improve their policies and approaches in contracting out health and human service funding.

There remain significant gaps and a relative shortage of almost all types of services in lower income and disenfranchised communities of color. The lack of resources available to those with the highest need creates barriers to education, health care, employment, civic participation, and other factors critical for APA community members to become fully contributing members of New York City.

Below are recommendations for new and existing initiatives and programs that we urge the City Council to support.

Nonprofits of Color

Enhance the Communities of Color Nonprofit Stabilization Fund (NSF) to \$5 Million. Nonprofits in communities of color in New York City serve a critical social and economic function, especially in times of economic hardships and diminishing social safety nets. Leadership development, financial management, management information systems improvements, and outcomes system development supported through the NSF will allow more community groups to strengthen their ability to serve New York City's most vulnerable communities.

Children and Youth Services

Children and youth services not only support working families, but also provide early education and support for youth, helping to lay the foundation for future school and life success.

Restore \$9.8+ to Discretionary Child Care supports child care programs that do not have an EarlyLearn contract, and adds additional child care slots to certain programs.

Enhance COMPASS funding to increase the number of elementary schools in high needs areas can provide free, quality after school.

Older Adult Services

In NYC, 23% of APA seniors live in poverty. More than 2 in 3 APA seniors are limited English Proficient. Supporting these programs would ensure the good health and well-being of our seniors.

Restore \$1.5 Million to Senior Centers for Immigrant Populations that provides operational support to culturally competent and linguistically accessible non-DFTA senior centers and programmatic support for DFTA senior centers that predominantly serve immigrant seniors.

Restore \$3.06 Million to Support Our Seniors that provides funding for senior services citywide.

Restore \$1,905,540 to Geriatric Mental Health that supports organizations that provide a range of mental health services to older adults in non-clinical settings.

Immigrant Services

The APA community is a highly immigrant population with 78% foreign-born. APAs have the highest rate of linguistic isolation of any group in NYC at 42% (no one over the age of 14 in the households speaks English well or at all).

Restore \$6 Million to Adult Literacy Initiative that creates basic literacy, English for Speakers of Other Languages and Graduate Equivalency Degree classes for adults who cannot read, write or speak English. We acknowledge and support the Council's request to the Administration to baseline \$6 million into its funding for the Initiative.

Restore \$2.6 Million to Immigrant Opportunities Initiative that provides legal services for recent immigrants to assist with application for citizenship or permanent residency.

Restore \$5.865 Million to Cultural Immigrant Initiative that supports cultural organizations to provide programming focused on the cultural history of an immigrant community in NYC.

Health and Well-Being

Almost 15% of APAs ages 18 and over remain uninsured in NYC and a vast majority (89%) of APAs uninsured is foreign-born. Health care access problems are exacerbated in the APA community by immigration status-related challenges, language barriers, cultural stigmas, and low utilization of primary and preventive care.

Enhance the Access Health NYC initiative to \$2.5 Million that equips organizations to conduct education and outreach among hard-to-reach populations, many of whom remain uninsured in NYC.

Restore \$1,423,658 to Viral Hepatitis Prevention that stops the spread of Hepatitis B and C through services like care coordination, testing, sterile syringe access, addiction treatment.

Restore \$1.81 Million to Healthy Aging Initiative that promotes healthy behavior, detection of a chronic disease, training to prevent injuries through exercise and education, and education to teach practical pain/stress/fatigue management for seniors.

Restore \$1.5 Million to Immigrant Health Initiative that decreases health disparities among foreign and native New Yorkers by improving access to healthcare, addressing cultural and language barriers, and targeting resources and interventions.

Housing and Economic Security

Contrary to the model minority myth, almost 25% of Asian Americans live in poverty in NYC. APAs have the HIGHEST poverty rate in the City among full-time, year-round workers.

Restore \$3.055 Million to Legal services for the Working Poor that prevents eviction and foreclosure, assists individuals attain disability benefits, immigration assistance, protection from workplace abuses, and representation of domestic violence and abusive housing practices.

Restore \$3.651 Million to Community Housing Preservation Strategies that combats the loss of affordable housing through tenant organization, code enforcement advocacy, housing court assistance, apartment repossession, and other housing-related public education.

Restore \$2.5 Million to Stabilizing NYC that prevents the loss of affordable housing and defends low-income tenants in predatory equity buildings through legal representation and organizing.

Violence Prevention and Intervention

According to the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, in a 15 year time frame, female homicides rates declined in all race/ethnicity groups except in Asian/other women.

Restore \$335,000 to Elder Abuse Enhancement that provides elder abuse services, especially for immigrants.

Restore \$7.805 Million to Domestic Violence and Empowerment Initiative (DoVE) supports prevention, empowerment workshops, comprehensive service referrals and legal advocacy to survivors of domestic violence.

Restore \$1 Million to Support for Victims of Human Trafficking supports services to survivors in human trafficking intervention courts that includes counseling and assistance.

Restore \$250,000 to Initiative for Immigrant Survivors of Domestic Violence provides resources for immigrant survivors of domestic violence with services that may include interpretation, referrals, counseling, and legal representation.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony, we look forward to working with the City Council to ensure that all New Yorkers have access to the services and support they need to thrive.



Testimony of Stanley M. Isaacs Neighborhood Center

Gregory J. Morris, Executive Director
Fiscal 2019 Executive Budget
May 24, 2018

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on the Mayor's FY '19 Executive Budget. I appreciate the leadership of Chair Dromm and Members of the Committee on Finance, as well as the Members of the Committees for Public Housing, Aging, Youth Services and General Welfare, for their commitment to the human services sector.

As a Member of the Human Services Council, LiveOn NY, and United Neighborhood Houses networks, we stand with our colleagues in thanking both the Administration and the City Council for initial strides made in securing the programmatic, financial, and operational resources needed to fully cover costs and meet the contractual obligations of provider organizations holding City human services contracts. We are disappointed to know that the FY '19 Executive Budget does not contain further sector-wide investment in the areas of indirect cost reimbursement, fringe benefits for provider staff, insurance, occupancy costs, and critical investments historically made through City Council initiatives, including funding for after-school programs, adult literacy and aging services. We'd like to thank the City Council for calling upon the Administration to "review current human services contracts and include provisions that allow providers to request additional funding for rent increases and related insurance costs" and recognizing "human services vendors and their employees [as] a vital arm of the City's government" in its *Response to the Fiscal 2019 Preliminary Budget and Fiscal 2018 Preliminary Mayor's Management Report*.

As the operator of a multi-service non-profit organization that is physically embedded within two public housing developments in Manhattan, and as part of a network of neighborhood based agencies that provide programs in support of 56 public housing developments in New York City, I will focus my testimony on the unique and challenging nature of the relationship between non-profit service providers with leased agreements to operate services within City-owned buildings, and the New York City Public Housing Authority (NYCHA). Specifically, these comments will focus on the value and impact of our current Council-supported service provision to NYCHA residents at these sites, barriers to the general upkeep and maintenance, and the possibility of improved quality of life of residents that would result from increased investments in the "on the ground" operators of these sites.

In close partnership with the City Council, the Stanley M. Isaacs Neighborhood Center provides access to critical programs and services on NYCHA property that include senior services, after school, career readiness and job placement services, mental health services, case management, and legal advocacy. We are located at the Isaacs Houses-Holmes Towers development in upper Manhattan and the James Weldon Johnson Houses in East Harlem. Between the two sites we serve more than 6,000 New Yorkers - the vast majority of whom are residents of public housing.

Similar to other operators at NYCHA developments, the Isaacs Center does not receive targeted funding from NYCHA to operate these sites on an annual basis.¹ Any expectations related to general upkeep and maintenance on the facilities including general repair, extermination, etc., are the responsibility of the operator. Similar to any resident, when the operator requires a repair, it must submit a work order, which is entered into a queue. As noted in the Council Finance Division's *Briefing Paper and Report to the Committee on Finance*, dated May 16, 2018, "...Aging infrastructure and total estimated capital repair backlog of \$25 billion contribute to NYCHA's many issues." The report further notes, "As of March 2018, there are over 150,000 open work orders across NYCHA's portfolio; this is larger than the Authority's manageable workload of about 90,000 work orders."

¹ The Isaacs Center does receive support to operate in the late evening and on weekends during the summer as part of The Mayor's Action Plan for Neighborhood Safety.

It is clear that a designated funding stream for non-profit organizations with whom NYCHA has existing lease agreement(s), to provide for the general upkeep and maintenance of their sites, is critical to both the betterment of the lives of public housing residents who access services, as well as the health and sustainability of the sector. Investments will reduce the length of time needed to resolve emergency and non-emergency repairs, ensure that community facilities that are used by residents are accessible and well-maintained, and increase the amount of resources that NYCHA will be able to direct to resolve residents' emergency and non-emergency repairs.

Similarly, capital funds for improvements to sites operated by non-profit organizations with whom NYCHA has existing lease agreement(s) to provide critical repair and/or upgrades to the structures of their facilities (e.g. roofs, HVAC systems, etc.) remains an unaddressed need throughout the network of CBOs, embedded within public housing developments.

I implore Chair Dromm, Chair Ampry-Samuel, and the Members of the Committee on Finance and Public Housing to work with the Mayor's Office of Management and Budget, as well as organizations like ours, to address critical infrastructure deficiencies, through the FY '19 Adopted Budget. **The Isaacs Center strongly supports the Council's call to the Administration to provide \$2.45 billion in capital funds to NYCHA to address ongoing critical capital needs and invest in housing development on NYCHA land**, as noted in the Council's *Response to the Fiscal 2019 Preliminary Budget and Fiscal 2018 Preliminary Mayor's Management Report*.

Multi-service non-profit organizations physically embedded public housing developments play an extraordinary role in the lives of public housing residents. Our services are available at free or significantly reduced cost and are focused on the long-term success of vulnerable New Yorkers - children and families, young adults, immigrants, veterans, and seniors. The future of public housing will hinge on the Authority's ability to improve its infrastructure while responding to the urgent and emergent needs of its tenants. By strengthening the investment in non-profit organizations with whom NYCHA has existing relationships, the Authority will improve its capacity to create significant and tangible results for its tenants.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Re: Fiscal Year 2019 Executive Budget Meeting 5/24/18 – Accessibility of NYC Schools

Our son, Joshua, is 14 years old. He is completing his Freshman year at Beacon, a competitive high school in New York City. He has a medical diagnosis of Cerebral Palsy. He cannot stand or walk independently and uses a wheelchair as his mobility device.

When you meet our son, you may first see he is in a wheelchair, but once he speaks you will notice immediately that Joshua is very articulate and knowledgeable (he enjoys reading the New York Times and “surfing” Wikipedia). He creates stories with science fiction or historically based fiction themes and uses Dragon Dictation to record his work. There is humor in his stories. He has plans for college and a future career (as a writer, politician or financier.) He has come a very long way since his premature birth with complications of bleeding and scarring on both sides of his brain.

When Joshua started speaking at the age of 18 months, we knew that no matter the severity of his physical disability, he belonged in an inclusive environment with “typically developing” children. We found a modified Montessori preschool with a supportive principal who opened up her school to Joshua, their first pupil with physical special needs: he flourished there. We were then fortunate to be accepted into the program at Manhattan School for Children where Joshua was a student from Kindergarten to 8th grade. With a supportive school administration, dedicated teachers and resourceful therapists, Joshua continued to make academic gains. With educational supports he was able to perform academically at, and sometimes above, his grade level. He was inducted into the Junior Honor Society in 7th grade, and was a member in 8th grade.

During his 8th grade year, the Department of Education assisted Joshua and other students with special needs in their search for high schools. There were very few schools to choose from that were without any physical barriers, and even fewer that offered the level of academic challenge Joshua needs. We hope the information gathered and the DOE’s first hand observation of the process parents and students experience will help future families and help schools to understand the need to create and improve accessibility, both by physical means and academic supports. In March of last year we were thrilled when Joshua received his acceptance letter to Beacon, his first choice of schools! He has had a productive and enjoyable year which has boosted his self confidence and self esteem to new heights.

NONE of this could have happened had the three schools not had functioning elevators or ramps where appropriate. Joshua would not have been able to develop into the

confident student and empowered individual he is today had he not had physical access to these three human resource-rich schools. We thank the City Council for recognizing this need and we hope they will continue to support accessibility and enable inclusion in our schools.

We urge you to stand steadfast and negotiate a final budget that includes at least an additional \$125 million for school accessibility.

Thank you for considering my testimony. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me, Amy Wong Stern at amyjwong@gmail.com or 212-866-3659

Written Testimony for FY 19 Executive Budget Hearing

Re: Fiscal Year 2019 Executive Budget – Accessibility of NYC Schools

Thank you for the opportunity to submit a written testimony regarding the Fiscal Year 2019 Executive Budget. My name is **Jasmine Tay** and I am **a parent of a child with a physical disability**. I am also a member of the ARISE Coalition. I am writing to ask you to ensure that the final FY 19 budget includes at least \$125 million to make more schools accessible to students, parents, and teachers with physical disabilities.

I would like to share some of the challenges we have experienced in finding appropriate schooling for my son, Harry, who has cerebral palsy and uses a walker to move around his environment. Harry requires a fully accessible school.

We live in the E90s in District 2 and the closest accessible school he could attend Pre-K in was at E35th – a 60 block commute, taking up to an hour each way, everyday. As a 4 year old with a physical disability, this was unacceptable yet this was our only option. The social impact also needs to be acknowledged. Our distance from the school neighborhood made it difficult to participate in social activities, and become part of a local community, which I believe would have been the case if he were able to attend one of the schools in our neighborhood.

My son now attends P.S. 333 in District 3, which is recognized as a great school for including children with physical disabilities. Despite this, the building is only partially accessible and we are still seeing structural barriers to access. For the first few months of the school year, two elevators were out of service – a violation of Section 504 of the ADA. Additionally, children requiring stair free access to the building need to use a different entry/exit to their peers. Not only is this entrance further to the elevators than the main entrance, but this segregated access can exacerbate the sense of difference between children with and without disabilities.

Due to the significant lack of accessible public schools in NYC, we have had limited choice in schools our son could attend, and have had to make decisions based on accessibility, rather than what might be in his best interest. Furthermore, the constant barriers which our family has faced and the time, effort and stress involved in trying to do what's right by our child has taken a significant emotional toll.

It is unfair and unjust that the social and academic development of my son, and others with disabilities, can be directly impacted by the lack of funding towards accessibility initiatives.

I urge you to negotiate a final budget that includes at least an additional \$125 million for school accessibility and create equal opportunity for children with disabilities.

Thank you for considering my testimony. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at **646 671 0927** or [**jaz.tay@gmail.com**](mailto:jaz.tay@gmail.com).



BARBARA PACA, PH.D., AMERICAN SOCIETY OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS
PRESERVATION GREEN OF NEW YORK & MARYLAND LLC

22 May, 2018

REGARDING 2019 ACCESSIBILITY AT NYC SCHOOLS

Dear Sir/Madame,

My name is Barbara Paca, and I am a parent of Philip Tilghman Paca-Logan, who is a child with disabilities. I am also pleased to be a member of the Arise Coalition. I am writing to you now in hopes that you will confirm the \$125 million budget to improve the environment for persons with disabilities at NYC schools.

Our family has expressed concern over the years about the lack of accessible features in our son's school, and we have seen slow progress. The rest of the world seems decades ahead of us, and it is time to change this for the better. I am very concerned about the significant lack of funding for much needed improvements. Three of the City's 32 community school districts have no fully accessible elementary school.

Quite simply, accessibility is a civil right, and we hope that you and your colleagues will take steps to initiate change to bring our schools up to speed with other public schools. Difficult to believe that more than 27 years after the enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act, and two years after the US Dept. of Justice issued findings regarding the shortage of accessible schools in New York City, the City must provide individuals with disabilities access to additional public schools. This work must begin with a sufficient allocation of funds for renovation and construction to increase the number of accessible schools.

Thank you for reading my testimony and for your service in leveling the playing field for our youth who attend public schools in NYC.

I may be reached at barbara@preservationgreenllc.com or on +1 917 282 7102.

Kind Regards,
Dr. Barbara Paca.

MAILING: 431 EAST 12TH STREET SUITE #3-B NY, NY 10009
STOREFRONT LOCATED AT 437 EAST 12TH STREET
(BETWEEN 1ST AVENUE AND AVENUE A)

MAILING: PO BOX #543, OXFORD, MD 21654
STUDIO OXFORD THINK TANK
103 MILL STREET, OXFORD, MD 21654

TEL (917)282 7102

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**Testimony of
Chris Widelo, AARP New York**

**New York City Council
Committee on Finance**

**FY 2019 Executive Budget Hearing
May 24, 2018**

**City Hall
New York, New York**

Contact: Chris Widelo (212) 407-3737 | cwidelo@aarp.org

Chairman Dromm and members of the Finance Committee, my name is Chris Widelo and I am the Associate State Director for AARP New York. On behalf of our 800,000 members age 50 and older in New York City, I want to thank you for the opportunity to talk about some important provisions in the Mayor's FY19 executive budget.

New York City's population is aging. Nearly one-third of residents in the five boroughs are over the age of 50 and that group is expected to grow by nearly 20 percent by 2040. The growth for the 65-plus age group is projected to be even more dramatic, with a whopping 40 percent increase.

And, our city is not just aging, we are becoming more diverse. African Americans, Blacks, Hispanics, Latinos, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders account for 62 percent of New York City residents 50-plus, and half of all those 65-plus living here were born in a foreign country.

We know from our recent report, *Disrupting Racial and Ethnic Disparities: Solutions for New Yorkers Age 50+*, developed in partnership with New York Urban League, NAACP, Hispanic Federation and Asian American Federation, that people of color over the age of 50 experience stark disparities in the areas of health, economic security, and the ability to live and remain in their communities.

All this means we must make meeting the needs of older New Yorkers a bigger priority. We are grateful to the increased and baselined funding increases made to the DFTA budget last year, but there is still work to be done.

Meeting the needs of aging residents and helping them to stay in their neighborhoods is critical to retaining their tremendous economic, social, cultural and family contributions. And, it is also the right thing to do.

Model Senior Center Budget

AARP appreciates the effort by DFTA, OMB and the Administration to create a model budget for NYC senior centers. As proposed, the city will allocate \$10 million in FY18 for senior center direct staffing and programming, and an additional \$10 million by 2021. While this is a positive first step, we need to be mindful of the other costs that were not included in the model budget process such as meals, rent, OTPS and other related costs.

AARP is asking that the City Council expedites the timeline for the 3-year model budget rollout and move up the date for the additional \$10 million in funding to FY20. In addition we must make sure that our senior centers are adequately funded beyond personnel and programs so that our providers are fully reimbursed for the services they provide.

NORCs

In a rapidly aging city, the NORC program is a proven model of successful aging-in-place through the coordination of health and other social services that keep our older adults thriving in their community. AARP believes that investments in the NORC model are a sound investment for the City and we would like the City Council to increase their \$3.8 million dollar allocation in FY18 to \$6 million in FY19. These additional funds will help meet the increased demand in NYC and support the current unfunded mandate for nursing hours.

Senior Centers for Emerging and Special Needs Populations

Given the large and growing number of immigrant seniors within the New York City population, it is not surprising that many encounter language and cultural issues which can lead to isolation, lack of access to services and benefits, and related barriers to reaching a strong state of health and well-being. For example, 320,117 New Yorkers aged 60 and over report not speaking English well (American Community Survey, 2010-2014), and their languages of origin reflect the wide range of cultures that they represent. Lack of facilities in English can have a host of deleterious effects, which extend from limitations in accessing governmental and other supports and services to increased risk for social isolation.

The poverty rate for those US born over the age of 60 in New York City is 10.7%, which is one-half the poverty rate experienced by foreign born seniors (20.3%). Reasons for this poverty gap include education, literacy, lack of healthcare, language, work history and the resulting ability to receive social security and/or access to benefits.

Another change in the New York City older population is the increased demand for aging services to support those populations with special needs. These populations include those with vision, hearing and/or physical impairments, people with intellectual deficits due to dementia and autism, and LGBT seniors.

While many organizations try to fill the gaps, funding is needed for additional senior centers to serve these populations. AARP is requesting \$15 million in city funding for these specialized senior centers.

Homecare and Case Management

Working together, Case Management and Home Care ensure that our city's non-Medicaid eligible homebound seniors receive the care necessary to age in place. The care they receive in their homes is far less costly when compared to care in a nursing home. Across the city there are over 1,000 seniors on a waitlist for a case manager and over 200 are on a waitlist for home care.

AARP thanks the Mayor and City Council for baselining and increasing funding for these programs in FY18. However, the need continues to grow as the population ages and we must keep pace so those in need don't languish on a waitlist. In FY19, AARP is requesting \$1 million in baselined funding for the Home Care Program and \$2 million for Case Management.

Congregate and Home Delivered Meals

Without congregate and home delivered meals, thousands of NYC residents would go hungry every day. It is crucial that the city keeps pace with the increased costs associated with providing this essential service. Additionally, we need to make sure that the meals we are serving are culturally appropriate.

AARP requests \$12.1 million in new, baselined funding to increase the reimbursement rate for congregate and home-delivered meals. This increased reimbursement is particularly important for DFTA-mandated culturally appropriate meals that exceed the current reimbursement rate and put a further strain on the non-profits providing this service.

Social Adult Day Care

Family caregivers provide an invaluable resource in caring for their loved ones at home – many on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week. This labor of love is worth more than \$30 billion in unpaid care each year statewide. Thanks to family caregivers' commitment, millions of older people are able to live at home rather than in costly institutions, like nursing homes. While family caregivers wouldn't have it any other way, it's a big job – and once in a while, they need a break. That's why respite care programs are so important.

Social adult day care is one such program that provides a supportive environment for older adults with Alzheimer's/dementia or physical disabilities. It gives that much needed break to family caregivers. Many of these family caregivers are working and raising families of their own.

Last year this program was funded at \$950,000. This funding was not baselined. AARP is requesting \$2 million of baselined funding for Social Adult Day Services

in the FY 2019 City Budget to stabilize funding for this program and expand support for SADCs that serve as model programs in NYC.

CONCLUSION

Chairman Dromm and members of the Finance Committee, thank you for the opportunity to highlight a few of the many needs for NYC residents as they age. We strongly urge the Mayor and the City Council to continue their commitment to older NYC residents through increased funding for aging-related programs and services.

To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony regarding the Fiscal Year 2019 Executive Budget. My name is Jennifer Whisenhunt and I am writing to ask you to ensure that the final FY 19 budget includes increased funding to make more schools accessible to students, parents, and teachers with physical disabilities.

I am very concerned about the significant lack of accessible public schools in New York City, severely limiting the choices available to students, families, and teachers with physical disabilities. The NYC Department of Education has 3066 sites. There are nearly 1800 schools in about 1300 buildings. We have about 1240 schools which are not fully accessible, which translates into about 900 buildings that need to be made accessible. At the current rate of 17 schools every 5 years, we will reach full accessibility in 262 years, in the year 2280. This is appalling. We need full accessibility during our lifetime. I propose that we increase the capital budget for accessibility to \$1 billion over 5 years. At that rate, we will achieve full accessibility in 26 years.

This is not just an education issue. The ADA, passed in 1990, guarantees that people with disabilities have the same opportunities as everyone else to participate in the mainstream of American life – to be employed, to purchase goods and services, and to participate in State and local government programs and services. Our schools are public buildings where teachers, administrators and staff make their living, community members vote, and families attend conferences and events. 28 years later, we have not complied with the spirit or the letter of the ADA in our school buildings.

It is easy to focus on the Department of Education when we discuss the lack of accessibility. But the money needed to achieve compliance with the ADA has to come from you, our legislators. I strongly urge you to support increased funding for making schools accessible.

Thank you,
Jennifer Whisenhunt
2903 Broadway
Astoria, NY 11106

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Jennifer Whisenhunt
[PBDW Architects](#)

Re: Fiscal Year 2019 Executive Budget – Accessibility of NYC Schools

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony regarding the Fiscal Year 2019 Executive Budget. My name is **Rachel Paster**, and I am **a parent in the NYC School District**. I am writing to ask you to ensure that the final FY 19 budget includes at least \$125 million to make more schools accessible to students, parents, and teachers with physical disabilities.

I am very concerned about the significant lack of accessible public schools in New York City, severely limiting the choices available to students, families, and teachers with physical disabilities. Three of the City's 32 community school districts have no fully accessible elementary schools (Districts 12, 16, and 21), four school districts have no fully accessible middle schools (Districts 7, 14, 16, and 32), and six districts have no fully accessible high schools (Districts 14, 16, 18, 20, 21, and 32).

While many parents have written to you with their own stories about the difficulties their children have faced, I would like to make a different point. The lack of accessibility is a problem not only for disabled people but for all of our students. How are students supposed to meet, get to know, and become friends with students who simply cannot get into the building? How are students supposed to learn the importance of caring for others, including those with disabilities, when their own schools seem not to care enough to ensure accessibility? Denying all students the ability to share classrooms with students who are different from them hurts everyone. It limits the ability of the NYC Schools to execute on a true diversity and inclusion program.

My sons are friends with a NYC student, Abey Weitzman, who uses a wheelchair to get around. They were all zoned for the same school, PS 122. Unfortunately, Abey could not attend PS 122 even though it is literally across the street from him. We met Abey because he is our neighbor, but it is shameful that they could not attend the same school, that they could not share clubs and afterschool programs, and that other students couldn't get to know Abey as well.

I frankly think \$125 million is not nearly enough -- how many elevators, how many retrofitted bathrooms will that be? How many paras? Not enough. But it's a start, and it's imperative that NYC Schools start there.

We urge you to stand steadfast and negotiate a final budget that includes at least an additional \$125 million for school accessibility.

Thank you for considering my testimony. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at rpaster@gmail.com

Rachel Paster
Astoria NY 11105
(718)683-1857

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony regarding the Fiscal Year 2019 Executive Budget. My name is Jessica VanScoy and I am a teacher from Bard High School Early College Queens. I am also a member of the ARISE Coalition. I am writing to ask you to ensure that the final FY 19 budget includes at least \$125 million to make more schools accessible to students, parents, and teachers with physical disabilities.

I am very concerned about the significant lack of accessible public schools in New York City, severely limiting the choices available to students, families, and teachers with physical disabilities. Three of the City's 32 community school districts have no fully accessible elementary schools (Districts 12, 16, and 21), four school districts have no fully accessible middle schools (Districts 7, 14, 16, and 32), and six districts have no fully accessible high schools (Districts 14, 16, 18, 20, 21, and 32).

Due to this shortage, in a school system that prides itself on providing students with choices when applying to high school, enabling them to explore specific interests and talents, there is no equity in the admissions process for students with physical disabilities. Every time a student with physical differences applies to high school, the accessibility of school buildings becomes a primary concern in their decision-making process, often over and above the student's interests and talents.

While the Department of Education has categorized a number of schools across the City as "partially" accessible, individuals using wheelchairs often cannot access key spaces in many of these schools. We know of partially accessible schools with no accessible bathrooms. We know of others where students who use wheelchairs or walkers must enter the building through a separate entrance from their peers. At other partially accessible schools, students who use wheelchairs cannot access key rooms in the school, such as libraries, science rooms, cafeterias, and music studios—denying those students the ability to be fully included in the school's program and to learn alongside their peers.

More than twenty-seven years after the enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act ("ADA") and two years after the U.S. Department of Justice issued findings regarding the shortage of accessible schools in New York City, the City must provide individuals with disabilities access to additional public schools. This work needs to start with a sufficient allocation of funds for renovation and construction to increase the number of accessible schools.

Unfortunately, the 2015-2019 Capital Plan allocates only \$100 million over five years for improving school accessibility and \$28 million for ensuring that a number of schools can serve as accessible emergency shelters. Together, that represents less than one percent of the total

funding in the Plan. Furthermore, the City has already spent the vast majority of this funding, leaving little, if any, funding for accessibility projects in the coming year.

We are very pleased that the City Council's Response to the FY 2019 Preliminary Budget recommends an allocation of an additional \$125 million for school accessibility projects. If adopted, this funding would allow the City to make another 15-17 schools fully accessible and to improve the accessibility of additional schools throughout the City through minor renovation projects. Unfortunately, the Executive Budget, once again, omits this critical funding.

We urge you to stand steadfast and negotiate a final budget that includes at least an additional \$125 million for school accessibility.

Thank you for considering my testimony. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at jvanscoy@bhsec.bard.edu

Sincerely,

Jessica VanScoy

Jessica VanScoy

Student Support Liaison

Bard High School Early College, Queens

Phone: 718-361-6743, ext. 7371

Fax: 718-361-6742

Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee and staff,

Thank you for this opportunity to provide this testimony to the committee today.

My name is Tanya Bley, and I have been affiliated with the Red Hook Compost Project at Red Hook Community Farm since 2010. The site has been funded by the New York City Department of Sanitation through Brooklyn Botanical Garden since 2012.

The Red Hook Compost Project is and has been, since its inception, the premier model in the US of local, no carbon footprint and sustainable solution to New York City's nearly 1,000,000 tons of organic materials in the City's residential waste stream misdirected to landfill.

Through the commitment and involvement of 2,000 volunteers annually and dedicated staff, the Red Hook Compost Project processes over 200 tons of organic materials from New York City each year on less than one acre of land. Organic materials that otherwise would have had to be trucked out of New York City, exacerbating not only congestion and resulting emissions, but also nuisance odors and attracting pests in the process. Potentially, the ultimate destination of this material would be a landfill, where it would break down slowly over time, contributing to greenhouse gas emissions-- primarily methane, for decades.

This processing of organic materials into the components of valuable and sustainable soil amendments is accomplished at this site entirely on renewable sources:

Human labor, solar and wind power.

Since its inception this has been the method of operation of the Red Hook site.

Recently, as is well known, I am sure, to this committee and its members as well as to the composting community in New York City (and, sadly now, to many New Yorkers) the New York Compost Community and has suffered a tragic loss. This loss was particularly felt by staff and community engaged at the Red Hook Community Farm Compost Operation. The director of that site David Buckel recently and tragically decided to take his own life in a very public manner.

He has left behind the site, its staff and the compost community he was devoted to.

Since David's passing there have been some concerns raised by the compost community, regular visitors to the Red Hook site, and those who depend upon that site as an important organics processing hub that this site's mission will be changed. Specifically that the method of processing the organics will be changed from the low carbon footprint of human, wind and solar power to that based on fossil fuels and machines.

There is a concern that the Department of Sanitation is considering mechanizing the site to obviate and, eventually eliminate the community volunteer component. It has been suggested by some members of the composting community that the Red Hook Compost Project could in fact become a demonstration site for machinery. This would add insult to the injury of David's loss, as one of the greatest assets of this site was in its ability to make the issue of sustainability and resiliency tangible and practical, and served as a venue for sharing the knowledge and skill of the craft of composting. Most importantly, however, the site serves as a site that fosters care and compassion for and between communities and the natural environment.

If the course of this site is changed, the social, cultural, and spiritual capital built up over time by thousands of volunteers and David as well as some of the physical capital obtained through corporate and private donations will have been lost to the residents of this city. The value to the city and its residents of a working site that involves the community in the physical process of learning and doing while engaged solving one the city's most vexing solid waste management problems will have been lost.

The Chair on the Committee on Waste Management has requested (this year for the second consecutive year) that the Department of Sanitation allocate \$10M of its over \$2B budget to outreach and education to help the city achieve its zero waste goals by 2030. As further expansion of the curbside organics collection program is stalled for the foreseeable future, and given the low participation rates and high levels of contamination that plague the program, now is not the time to change one of the most renowned, engaging and educational composting sites in the US. The site processes over 200,000 tons of organics on a single acre, with no inputs beyond the carting to get the organics to the site. Given that NYC's ~13,000 ton/day waste stream is close to 1/3 organics, this material can be processed without sophisticated and costly equipment on the available inventory of marginal and submarginal municipally-owned real estate. The portion of the budget that NYC Department of Sanitation allocates to long haul contracts (about 2/3 of its over \$2B budget) can be invested in local communities that are actively engaged in reducing and minimizing its waste and carbon footprint.

On behalf, therefore, of the Composting Community of New York City, I urge the members of this committee to call on the Department to allocate an appropriate level of funding in order that the site is staffed at adequate levels. Further, we call on the committee to preserve and protect not only the spirit of the legacy of the Red Hook Compost Project, but to protect the interests of those in the community who serve the public good in its operation, as well as those in the community who are served by it, by making sure the site remains true to its original intent and spirit as a non-mechanized organics site powered by sun, wind and human labor.

Funding for 132 Street/Lincoln Street South Ozone Park, NY

Dear Councilmembers,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit email testimony regarding funding allocations in FY2019 Capital Budget for the repair of 132 street and Lincoln Street in South Ozone Park, New York. Your concern about the issues affecting our community is readily apparent and greatly appreciated.

I respectfully request your support in securing dedicated funding to remedy the ongoing dangerous road conditions along the section of Lincoln Street, between 132nd Street and 116th Avenue, in South Ozone Park, NY.

In 2008, a house was built on a vacant, triangular shaped lot bounded by 132nd Street westerly, Lincoln Street easterly, and 116th Avenue northerly. This construction left the southerly area of said lot unpaved, and without adequate drainage; sidewalks; curbs; pedestrian curb cuts; and a crosswalk. The construction also left a utility pole dangerously positioned at the apex of the merge at Lincoln Street and 132nd Street.

The sidewalks that were installed around the house force pedestrians to cross unsafely into traffic coming from four directions at this merge. In addition, cars and trucks make frequent, illegal U-turns across the lot. Missing crosswalk markings provide no conspicuous right-of-way for motorists, or pedestrians. It is appalling that parents pushing strollers; children heading to school; individuals getting around in wheelchairs; and seniors using walkers are put in constant jeopardy by simply trying to get across either street.

There are no curbs or catch basins to effectively channel rainwater, and that creates more layered concerns. The portion of the lot along Lincoln Street has gradually deteriorated into a trench several feet long causing ponding water. As a result, loose asphalt, gravel, mud and other assorted debris are strewn across this busy thoroughfare continuously. Drivers veering to avoid this trench can be put in the path of oncoming traffic, causing a potentially dangerous situation at times. In the summer, the ponding water is a breeding ground for mosquitoes, and it produces a dreadful stench. In the winter, the ponding water turns into a slick, icy patch that significantly covers the adjacent road surface, whenever the temperature is below freezing.

These deplorable conditions have existed for ten years, and they warrant immediate attention and a permanent fix.

I have submitted numerous 311 complaints regarding these conditions. In addition, I have worked with representatives from Community District 28, NYPD, New York City Sanitation, and New York City Department of Health over the last several years to try and mitigate these conditions. Further, I have contacted Commissioner Trottenberg and her staff at NYC Department of Transportation repeatedly raised these concerns and seek remedy. Karyn Petersen, Community Board 10 District Manager, has worked diligently for many years to help

in these endeavors. However, despite all of our collective efforts, these conditions have persisted.

On behalf of the surrounding community, I would greatly appreciate your support in finally eradicating a critical situation that has existed for far too long. And I remain committed to continuing my efforts to obtain a successful resolution for our neighborhood. So, please let me know what I can do to assist further in this regard. Please feel free to contact me at (718) 659-1319, if you require further information.

And finally, thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Michelle Roberts

Lincoln Street

South Ozone Park, New York 11420-2616

Testimony in support of funding for adult literacy programs

Honorable Members of the Finance Committee,

My name is Hannah Marcus and I am an Adult Education Instructor at CAMBA, a community organization in Flatbush.

I am writing in support of continued funding for Adult Literacy programs in New York City, including ESOL (English as a Second Language), ABE (Adult Basic Education) and HSE (High School Equivalency) prep classes.

I am currently teaching two beginner-level ESOL classes for adults. Many of my students come from Haiti, where only 64% of adult men and 57% of adult women are literate. I have students from several countries who stopped going to school before they were 10 years old. A couple of my beginner-level students have been in the United States for as long as 25 years.

Taking ESOL classes has an impact on my students' lives that is often immediately visible. Since the beginning of the current class cycle, two months ago, I have seen about 10 students in my classes (between one third and one half of my roster) enter the workforce. Other students have told me that they called a clinic and made a doctor's appointment in English for the first time. Others have begun to read to their children in English. Still others have started using language that helps them ask for clarification and advocate for themselves.

These students, whose lives have changed so much in just two months of classes, are just a fraction of the thousands of immigrant New Yorkers who will lose their current classes if \$12 million for adult literacy is not restored to the budget.

2.2 million adult New Yorkers lack either a high school diploma or basic English skills. That's a quarter of our city's population. Across the country, only 10% of adults who need literacy classes are receiving these services. Now is the time for more services, not less.

I suggest that the Committee restore \$12 million to the budget for adult literacy. It's time for us to continue our city's tradition of welcoming immigrants with open arms.

Thank you.

Hannah Marcus

Funding libraries adequately. 42nd Street Master Plan

To the Members of the City Council,

This message comes to urge you to fund libraries adequately. They are not frills. Apart from the obvious fact that they are repositories of necessary knowledge and tools of citizenship, they are places of refuge for latchkey children, for elderly people who are increasingly numerous in the city, for immigrants needing English lessons and information, for public discussion where good ideas are presented that Council members may not yet have thought of, sources of knowledge, for lectures and concerts, and even sources of ethnic pride, as well as other things that benefit the city.

Libraries need professional librarians to aid citizens. Please see that the libraries are properly staffed, maintained, and that the personnel know enough to answer citizens' questions. Clerks are not the same as professional librarians with M.L.S. degrees. It puts the city in a bad light to have inadequately educated people answering questions.

The City Council needs to give careful scrutiny to the NY Public Library's master plans, since the NYPL has not make its plans available yet to the citizens. Much money is being spent on redoing the second floor of the Research Library at 42nd Street, but no plans have been shown to the public, and the purposes for which the rooms are being rehabilitated is unclear. For instance, if the Library trustees plan to reopen special collections rooms there, such as the former Slavonic Division, citizens would like to know that. The public needs to know why a new staircase is essential; perhaps it is to aid caterers, but not to aid readers.

Not a word has been uttered to the public about improving the climate control and fire safety mechanisms of the seven floors of iron stacks that hold up the main reading room. If the stacks were improved, between 2.5 and 3 million books could be brought back to Manhattan from the repository in New Jersey where they are located inconveniently for readers in Manhattan and where the NYPL pays to store them.. Shipping and handling of these books has the potential to cause injury to them, something that would be avoided if the books returned to the city and the readers.

The valuable Map Division is to be closed and replaced by a cafe in an area where there are already plenty of cafes that pay taxes to the City. This is wholly unnecessary in a library intended for research. Another cafe is planned for the roof of the Mid-Manhattan Library, also unnecessary and also competitive with private businesses that pay taxes to the City.

For these and other reasons, careful oversight by the City Council of the Library's various plans is essential for the proper operation of the branch and research libraries.

Respectfully,

(Dr.) Carol H Krinsky, Professor, New York University

TEACHER PAY PARITY

Teachers work hard in classrooms and at night going to school. In order to do both WELL BETTER salaries are immediate solutions to their future. Give children a better start!

Cynthia Stenson

Testimony re: Lack of Prek Salary Equality in NYC

As the Education Director of a CBO preschool in the Bronx that has been serving the community for over 60 years, the lack of pay parity in NYC's prek system is a real "thorn in my side." It is heartbreaking and unfair to see my hardworking, dedicated, and equally (or more highly qualified) staff making so much less than those in DOE prek when they teach MORE of the city's DOE "Prek For All" students than even DOE staff does!! CBO/NYCEEC preks have 60% of the Prek children in the city, and staff is being paid up to 60% LESS. Those numbers just do not add up! It is insanity. Even worse than that, it is discrimination and sexism at its ugliest, as most of the educators, directors, and support staff in CBOs are women of color.

These staff members even work year round - that's right, NO summers off, like in the DOE. They also work extended days, have fewer vacations and paid holidays, and PAY into their insurance (which is horrendous, by the way). Institutional racism such as that in the NYC prek system is unacceptable and truly shameful. It is an embarrassment. We can do better, and we MUST!

In addition to huge disparities in pay, benefits, time off, etc., there is also a lack of funding and resources allotted to CBO preks for safety and security. There are no "school safety" officers, and at many sites, no cameras or any other basic safety measures. These preschools are located in the city's roughest neighborhoods, serving the poorest in our city. Many are located in NYCHA developments and buildings. Recently, bullets sprayed through the front door of a CBO prek in Brooklyn. The children were inside. This also occurred, several years back, at our preschool. How can you justify gambling with our students, parents and staff members' lives in this way? Because they are black and brown? Disturbing, to say the least.

Moreover, since there is no funding for CBO preks to have full time nurses, God forbid, something did happen, there would most likely be no one on site to help! What if a child has an allergic reaction? An accident? A suspicious rash? When these incidents inevitably happen in an Early Childhood setting, who can we turn to? In a DOE prek or a private setting, they can ask their school nurse. Our parents are concerned about the lack of a full time school nurse, as they should be. Multiply those parents by all of the CBO prek sites across the 5 boroughs, and that is a pretty large group of folks. Why doesn't the health of their children matter? Why should white children on the Upper East Side of Manhattan have a school nurse, but not our black and brown students in the Central Bronx? Right, there is no valid reason.

Below are heart wrenching, yet very real quotes from three CBO prek staff members. One works in a Head Start setting in Manhattan, and the other two at a CBO Early Learn/Prek For All preschool in the Bronx. I'll let them speak for themselves...

1.) "I have been a Family Assistant in a Head Start program for years. I've seen great teachers leave due to low salaries. Our programs are training grounds for most and then they leave. Many work hard and most important, are devoted and provide quality services to our children, families, and community. They deserve to be paid the same as in the DOE. I remember two great quotes I read once and have kept in my soul:

"Children are like colors. They brighten up the place!"

"Children are our best investment for the future."

2.) "I'm a preschool teacher who's a single mom with one special needs child who requires my financial support. The cost of living in NYC keeps rising but our salaries still remain lower than teachers from the Dept of Education. Why?

3.) "I am currently 25 and have been working at the same preschool since I was 20. I love what I do and I love that I am helping to shape the kids of our future, but it is disheartening that I can't afford to take care of my OWN child, who is only 1 year old. We need to have pay equal to DOE teachers. If not, we are going to lose a lot because we can't afford the cost of living in NYC on our current salaries."

Changes MUST be made! ALL preks matter!

Chloe Pashman

**Williamsbridge NAACP Early Childhood Education Center
ADVOCACY STATEMENT UPDATED MARCH 2018**

THANK YOU:

For all who advocated for and supported via additional funding resulting in a Signed Contract for both DC 1707 and CSA Members Thank You. For those engaging in conversation for the future of Child Care we ask that you continue to engage the Current Providers and their Staff Members all who are willing to embrace a shift in dynamic, a shift from ACS to DOE. The individuals who are willing to assist in creating the Best Possible Future for Our Children while working to ensure the current child care work force members are protected and included in this future.

We Need:

Oversight & Implementation - One Organization for oversight and implementation; eliminate the current ACS childcare vs. DOE Pre-K, Pre-Three world. Create a world in which all providers are under one umbrella and one set of regulations and guidelines eliminate the current DOHMH vs. DOE/ACS; a world in which mandated requirements are the same across funding streams. Create a world where Best Practices in Early Childhood Education is the Foundation not Best Practices based on funding streams.

Equal Salary/Pay Parity = A unified Salary and benefit package equal and/or comparable to one received by Direct DOE Colleagues. While the negotiated DC 1707 and CSA contracts provided much needed and overdue salary increase to ECE workers they are in No Way equal/comparable to the salary received by our Direct DOE colleagues. This current salary disparity results in our most qualified, talented Teachers leaving our ECE Centers to go to the DOE to receive higher wages and better benefits.

Security – Leases sustained, RFP's eliminated= Program Stability. Providing quality early childhood education Must Not be tied to a competitive RFP Process for proven providers. Yes quality of services must be monitored but the applying to be a service provider every two-three years must be eliminated. As Schools exist so must Early Childhood Education Centers. Leases and negotiations must be long-term again as Schools exist so must Early Childhood Education Centers. Security within our buildings NYPD School Safety Officers for All Programs

Quality Mandates – Required Mandates Must be Fully Funded. You cannot expect a program to maintain program standards Without the proper funding, training, resources, and/or personnel to fully implement such mandates. Funding of mandates must take into consideration program size, location, capacity not merely be a one size funding for all.

Submitted on behalf of Williamsbridge NAACP Early Childhood Education Center

*Cheryl Dewitt, Executive Director
Updated February 2018*

New York City Council Committee on Finance/Health & Hospitals Joint Hearing Testimony

Annette Gaudino, HCV/HIV Project Co-Director, Treatment Action Group

May 24, 2018

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on the City budget to the City Council Committee on Finance, and Health and Hospitals. I submit this testimony as a member of a citywide coalition that includes Housing Works, VOCAL NY, Harm Reduction Coalition, Hepatitis C Mentor and Support Group, Coalition on Positive Health Empowerment (COPE), and my organization, Treatment Action Group. We speak on behalf of the almost 150,000 people in New York City living with hepatitis C, the 100,000 people living with hepatitis B; and to call attention to the approximately 14,000 new viral hepatitis cases reported each year. We request City Council support to maintain and expand our response to this serious public health threat, and to advance towards elimination of hepatitis C, as called for by the World Health Organization, and in alignment with New York State's commitment to hepatitis C elimination as stated by Governor Cuomo in March of this year.

As you may know, the City Council established the "Viral Hepatitis Initiative" in FY2015 to improve health care access for the estimated 250,000 people living with viral hepatitis in NYC. We ask the Council to expand this program to fully staff peer outreach and patient navigation services for all those at risk of infection, especially at harm reduction sites serving people who inject drugs and community based organizations serving immigrants.

The NYC Health Department works collaboratively with funded community health organizations to develop and implement the citywide Hepatitis Navigation Program, and Hepatitis Clinical Provider and Navigator Training Program. Together, these programs provide culturally sensitive, cost effective services in neighborhoods throughout the city. This includes support for 30 community health organizations that reached over 10,000 New Yorkers at risk of viral hepatitis in 2017, with 3500 people infected with hepatitis B or C linked to medical care under the Navigation Program. To date, the Clinical Provider and Navigator Training Program has trained 1,244 clinical providers, 79 Hep C Peer Navigators and 56 Hep B and C Patient Navigators. New York's efforts have been highlighted in national and international conferences and publications – we have the know how to meet this challenge, we need the resources to scale up our efforts.

The participating organizations are committed to continuing their life saving work, and more community based health centers are eager to hire peer outreach workers and patient navigators. Additional funding would allow expansion to 7 programs requesting to join the effort. Infectious disease prevention is also essential to addressing all the harms caused by the opioid misuse epidemic. The hepatitis C, HIV and overdose epidemics cannot be separated, and dollars put towards the hepatitis C response will have multiple impacts.

I grew up and live in the Bronx, where 2% of all residents have chronic hepatitis C, twice the national rate and over 4.5 times as many new infections as HIV. New York City can be the first US city to eliminate hepatitis C as a public health threat. We ask you to help us reach this goal.

May 21, 2018

Dear Elected Officials:

Re: Fiscal Year 2019 Executive Budget – Accessibility of NYC Schools

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony regarding the Fiscal Year 2019 Executive Budget. My name is Iriss Shimony, and I am a parent of a young teen with physical disabilities, who has been a student in the NYC public school system since entering Kindergarten and he just started high school this year. I am also a member of Parents for Inclusive Education (P.I.E.) and the ARISE Coalition and a disability rights advocate. **I am writing to ask you to do your part to ensure that the final FY 19 budget includes at least \$125 million to make more of our NYC public schools physically accessible to students, parents, and teachers with physical disabilities. All of our city officials should and can help remove barriers to access to public schools for our families.**

In our own search for physically accessible schools for our son over the years, my spouse and I went to nearly every information session and panel on the middle school and high schools process. In our high school search alone, we attended over twenty-four (24) high schools open houses, only to discover in fact that of the many schools listed as “accessible” in the school directories, only a handful were actually accessible. We widened our search and spoke with nearly fifty high schools. Pounding our feet to pavement was the only way to determine true access. Few NYC families have this luxury of time from work and a two-person parent partnership to tour schools in order to leave no stone unturned to try to find a match that enables our son to physically enter and access all classes and common spaces in the far too few physically accessible NYC public schools.

More needs to be done so in fact more NYC public schools can be made accessible so that families have as many choices as those without physical disabilities for every admission cycle, but especially the critical years of high school (ensuring accessibility ensures even students and staff with temporary accidental injuries can also access all classrooms in a school too!). It should be noted that not all students with motor disabilities apply to high school as a student with disabilities, they may just require an accessible school or accommodations under ADA or have a 504 plan rather than an IEP, so the city needs to be mindful that it captures and provides the right match for these students in the first round of the admissions process. Also, if a family member has a disability and requires an accessible school to attend parent teacher conferences or the auditorium for events, this must somehow be able to be coded in the application and receive priority in the match process for accessible sites. There after admission, accessible and inclusive education training and sensitivity needs to be given to the whole school staff who may not know how to truly welcome a student with mobility differences in order to create a school culture that is accepting of differences and provides a place where all students are held to high expectations and standards.

While the Department of Education continues to categorize a number of schools across the City as “partially” accessible, we experienced firsthand how this is a misleading label – as the “partially accessible” should be translated into “not yet accessible” (or the less jazzy, “only for ambulatory folks not using mobility aids”). The following are some of our firsthand experiences at DOE coded “partially accessible schools”: the single elevator may not reach all school floors – you may not be able to get to all instructional classrooms, or gym, or cafeteria! Each of these experiences was true in different schools, or in fact the elevator was too narrow to permit a wheelchair to fit inside!). Or you can access the auditorium but can’t get on stage. We know of “partially accessible schools” with no accessible bathrooms. We know of other situations where students feel like second class citizens because a solution was not found for those who use mobility aids, they must enter the building through a separate entrance from their ambulatory peers. Metal detectors at schools also can lead to an embarrassing daily prolonged entry for these students. At other partially accessible schools, students who use wheelchairs cannot access key rooms in the school, such as libraries, science rooms, cafeterias, and music studios — de facto denying those students the ability to be fully integrated students in the school’s program and to learn alongside their peers. Accessibility can be made at many school sites with minimal capital investments - some minor renovations such as removing door frames to requisite width, adding ramps or lifts, or automatic door openers can make the world of difference to so many people – those who need those aids for access. **Many of these can be addressed with very quick, minor renovations or a reasonable accommodation fix, all via a modest budgetary boost for a reasonable yet impactful increase in ADA compliance and most importantly access for many students, families and staff!**

Currently, there is a severe shortage of physically accessible school sites which adversely biases students with physical disabilities. The high school buildings, in particular must be discussed and targeted for remediation. In a school system that prides itself on providing students with choices when applying to high school, enabling students to explore specific interests and talents, there is no equity in the admissions process for students with physical disabilities. Every time a student with physical differences applies to high school in NYC, the physical accessibility of the school buildings becomes the primary limiting factor - or “the physical funnel” as we called it in our family - that greatly limits choices, decision-making process, often over and above the student’s interests and talents and friendships. While our son’s friends were picking schools to apply to together, we were much more limited in our choices given physical access to buildings. Given logistical challenges families of student’s with physical disabilities cannot even consider other programs due to solely to these primary logistics concerns which we are asking for your help to address urgently. This process is extremely high stakes to families as the student may have to go to a lower performing school to accommodate a student’s accessibility needs than would be a better match academically, socially, emotionally to help these students ready for their future post school plans, including college admissions. Given bullying stats for kids with disabilities, this is another layer of worry parents have for our kids as their choices are exponentially narrower than those of their non-disabled peers.

IRISS SHIMONY

I am writing today, along with many friends whose children grew up with my son who do not have disabilities, and we are very concerned about the significant lack of accessible public schools in New York City, severely limiting the choices available to students, families, and teachers with physical disabilities. In fact, the state of our City schools is one that must be addressed boldly as the current situation is unacceptable:

- Three of our City's 32 community school districts have zero fully accessible **elementary schools** (NYC School Districts 12, 16, and 21),
- Four school districts have zero fully accessible **middle schools** (NYC School Districts 7, 14, 16, and 32), and
- Six districts have zero fully accessible **high schools** (NYC School Districts 14, 16, 18, 20, 21, and 32)
- **URGENT ATTENTION → NYC School District Awards of Distinction = "The ZERO Access Club"**
 1. NYC School District 16 has the trifecta NOT award – currently offers ZERO fully accessible schools for any age category:
 - (i) not any elementary school accessibility, (ii) not any middle school accessibility, and (iii) not any high school accessibility for students, teachers or families in its district
 2. NYC School District 21 has the dual NOT award - currently offers ZERO fully accessible elementary schools and zero fully accessible high schools for its students, teachers or families
- Further, when reviewing and analyzing all our NYC high schools in the NYC DOE's High School Directory, in actuality, only 15% (FIFTEEN PERCENT!!) of all high schools are in fact, fully accessible – a vexing statistic that we urge you to act to help improve!

URGENT ACTION PLAN RECOMMENDATION: Today, this work is urgent. It is over twenty-seven years after the enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act ("ADA") and two years after the U.S. Department of Justice issued findings regarding the shortage of accessible elementary schools in New York City. Our City must provide individuals with disabilities access to additional public schools and we need your help. This work needs to start with a sufficient allocation of budgetary funds for renovation and new construction to increase the number of accessible schools in all our boroughs however we point out those in most urgent need above. As new construction has long lead time and is not always possible, we must convert more of these "partially accessible" sites to FULLY accessible with targeted funding. We hope the elected officials throughout our City will act to increase funding on this important school accessibility equity issue for all our school districts at all grade levels but especially those above.

Unfortunately, the rolled out 2015-2019 Capital Plan allocated only \$100 million over five years for improving school accessibility and \$28 million for ensuring that a number of schools can serve as accessible emergency shelters. Together, this represents less than one percent of the total funding in the Plan. Furthermore, the City already spent the vast majority of that funding, leaving little, if any, funding for accessibility projects in the coming year.

We are hopeful that with the City Council's Response to the FY 2019 Preliminary Budget recommends an allocation of an additional \$125MM for school accessibility projects and encourage its unanimous support. If adopted, this funding would allow the City to make another 15 - 17 schools fully accessible and to improve the accessibility of additional schools throughout the City through minor renovation projects. Yet, unfortunately, the Executive Budget, once again, omits this critical funding. This is unacceptable. We urge you to stand steadfast and to negotiate a final budget that includes at least an additional \$125MM for urgently needed to impact and improve greater accessibility to NYC Public Schools.

Disability can befall anyone at any time. This is why we have to plan universally for access for all. It is that important. On behalf of my family and others similarly situated with a family member who we love deeply who has a disability who is such a positive person, as well as on behalf of our friends, neighbors and the many communities within communities with whom we are deeply connected in NYC, you have a very important role to play – the budget you help decide will impact and create opportunity and positive impact for many in our communities by making jobs accessible to more people who could not enter these school buildings, creating construction and repair jobs, and our initial mission - providing impactful educational access and therefore opportunities for students with physical disabilities and choice for their futures in creating more accessible schools. We thank you for your advocacy efforts on this key issue. Thank you for considering my testimony. I can be contacted at iriss.shimony@gmail.com or (917) 841-3466.

Sincerely,
Iriss Shimony
Parent Advocate

**Testimony to be delivered to the NYC Council Finance Committee on the 2018 Budget
May 24, 2018**

Thank you so much for your strong support and commitment to make more NYC public schools accessible. My name is Kim Madden and my 15 year son, Owen, has a complex neuromuscular disability and uses a wheelchair. He also loves math, sports, and, inexplicably, Pink Floyd.

We were very lucky when my son started Kindergarten so many years ago because we live next to a wonderful K-8 school, Manhattan School for Children. Although it's not fully accessible, they have an expertise in and commitment to including students like my son. I'll never forget my tour there in preschool. The students rushed up to Owen and commented on all the stickers on his walker but were completely unfazed by the fact that he used a walker and later a wheelchair because so many other students there did too. It was completely normal.

That's not to say that it was perfect. One time an announcement went out about a new policy that all the side doors to the school would be locked during the day and "all" students had to exit the school down the flight of steps to the front door. I had to take my son to a doctor's appointment before school dismissal. As I pushed him down the ramp to the accessible side door, he went berserk. He kept telling me "ALL students needed to exit by the front."

It was a moment I won't ever forget because I realized my son assumed that "all" included him. Since that time, he went through the high school application process and he definitely learned that in NYC public schools "all" doesn't mean him. Given my son's health issues we first looked at high schools that were close to us. In our district, there is one fully accessible high school. It's a transfer school, and it is only open to students who are 17 and older without credits. We went to look at a school in the partially accessible school closest to us and discovered that there was no buzzer at the wheelchair entrance which was on a different street than the main entrance. Someone was kind enough to walk around the block and tell the security officers who let us in. On the way out of the building we got locked in the ramp outside the building and banged on the door for a good 15 minutes until a janitor came and found a key.

We didn't fare much better at the Manhattan High School fair. It was at the MLK building, a gigantic building that takes up an entire city block and houses the other partially accessible high school programs in our district. The front entrance has a steep set of steps. To get in we walked around almost the entire building to the back where we saw the garbage piled up by the accessible entrance. (A good tip for the inexperienced: look for the garbage to find the accessible entrance. It's easier to wheel it out that carry it down stairs).

Although there was a buzzer and there were hundreds of people inside, no one answered the buzzer or picked up the phone number listed by the buzzer to call. I called a friend who I knew

was in the building and she found a guard who eventually found the entrance, but it took almost 30 minutes of waiting to get in.

Next, I thought I would look at the fully accessible schools that I could get to quickly from my job in west midtown in case my son had a health emergency. The fully accessible schools were Stuyvesant, Beacon and Clinton. As you may know, there are a many other barriers to getting into those highly selective schools. Maybe Stephen Hawking could have gone to them. My son shouldn't have to be Stephen Hawking to get into high school.

Chancellor Carranza recently commented that all schools should be available to all students. I think he said that in the context of discussing specialized and selective schools' admission policies, but I think it's equally true for my son. All schools should be for all students. Please stand by your commitment to add at an additional \$125 million for school accessibility in the budget.

Thank you for your time.

Kim Madden

kimamadden@gmail.com



NYC Council Budget Hearing

Testimony Submitted by The Committee for Hispanic Children & Families, Inc. (CHCF) May 24, 2018

The Committee for Hispanic Children and Families (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. 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 between our communities and policy makers, while simultaneously supporting the empowerment of our parents and students to carry their own truth directly to their legislative leaders, which is an essential part of CHCF's identity.

One branch of CHCF's direct service is Youth Development. We currently have two elementary after-school programs and one SONYC program at PS 59 and PS/MS 279 in the Bronx, engaging a total of 450 youth in high-quality extended learning time programming, and providing a positive environment that mentors and supports our youth for three additional hours every day after school. Through these programs, we bring much needed academic enrichment for our youth and parents and build a strong rapport and connection with our families and community.

With such a close connection to our families and youth, we work to engage them in conversations that allow their voices to be heard surrounding issues that directly impact their education and lives. One area of growing concern is the students and families living in temporary housing. PS/MS 279 has had a growing percentage over the past year, with the percentage of the total student body living in temporary housing rising from 28.7 to 34.4 percent.

We commend the Mayor on restoring \$10.3 million for DOE support for students living in shelters; and adding \$1.6 million to fund additional Bridging the Gap social workers, Students in Temporary Housing Content Experts, and increased enrollment support. However, this funding is currently only for FY 19, and not base-lined as it should be, given the 50% growth of students in temporary housing over the past five years.¹ These increases are also not enough to address the magnitude of issues faced by so many families and students with housing insecurity across New York City.

While the Executive Budget did add funding to double the after-school reading programs in shelters, the experiences of our families show that there are other ways to ensure academic and economic support for families that may not be in the shelter system. Having access to high-quality after-school and extended learning time programs provides a safe space for children to stay for an additional 3 hours after day-school ends, which is beneficial to all working parents, especially if they are facing housing insecurity as well. Although there has been an investment in universal middle school after-school through SONYC, there is still a significant deficit of available seats in after-school for elementary students across the city. The 2014 America After 3PM survey conducted in New York City found that 89% of parents in the city supported public funding for after-school, with only 26% receiving government assistance for the cost of after-school. Only 28% of children participated in after-school programming, but 67% of children not enrolled in after-school would be enrolled in a program if

¹ Advocates for Children budgetary ask, 2018.



The Committee for Hispanic Children and Families, Inc.

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made available to them.² Our program at PS/MS 279, for example, which we know is serving a community that is facing increasing housing issues, only has 140 elementary seats available through State funding and an on-going waitlist of at least 100 students. While we recognize that after-school falls under the Committee on Youth Services, we would like the City Council to more openly recognize the value of this extended learning time programming and begin to push for universal after-school for all families and students that need and want it.

CHCF believes that schools, and the community-based organizations that partner with schools to provide supplemental programming for students and families, play a pivotal role in ensuring families have access to needed supports and services. They hold a significant potential to ensure that all families are receiving wraparound services, which ultimately work to protect every child's right to their education and enable each to thrive and access opportunity, regardless of the hardships they might be facing. Schools and partnering CBOs also have an inherent obligation to ensure that the spaces students are stepping into are culturally responsive and sensitive to their identities and realities. We commend the Mayor for allocating \$23 million for anti-bias training across the DOE. We are eager to see the outcomes of the DOE's implementation plan for this training, understanding the value of ever-creating culturally responsive, safe and supportive spaces for our students and families – especially those that are vulnerable within the current economic and political climate. We do however, see a limit in only addressing individual implicit bias and classroom/school based culturally responsive pedagogy. While addressing individual-based prejudice and practice is valuable to the experiences that are children and families have in schools, they do nothing to address the systemic racism that has historically marginalized and oppressed specific populations and communities throughout this city. We urge the Mayor's office and the DOE to consider further investment in meaningful best practices that address systemic racism and barriers, as well as the opportunity gap.

CHCF is also highly concerned that while this \$23 million investment in anti-bias training is reaching all DOE staff, the school safety and resource officers will not be required to participate in the same training. While the NYPD has ownership over the trainings that their school officers receive, there should absolutely be an investment in the collaboration between the DOE and NYPD to ensure that all school safety and resource officers are given the same training as all DOE staff. Nationally, there has been a rising trend of disproportionate investment in SROs rather than school counselors or social workers – in NYC there are 5.28 security staff per 1,000 students and only 2.9 counselors per 1,000 students. School safety and resource officers' presence is clearly significant in these schools, with continual calls to increase their presence at the federal, state, and city level. A study conducted by the ACLU and published in 2017, found that in 2013 90% of school arrests involved Black or Latinx students; in 2016 100% of incidents where police handcuffed students who were ultimately released without charges were Black or Latinx students.³ School safety and resource officers should clearly be going through training tailored to their role and mirrored to the anti-bias and cultural responsiveness training that DOE staff will be participating in. This should also be ongoing training for all, and not just a onetime occurrence. This investment should be baselined to allow for ongoing, tiered training for all.

In addition to our after-school programs, CHCF is the CBO partner at the Bronx High School of Business, where we have spent the past three years building a strong relationship with our students and families and have developed a true partnership with the school administration to deliver high-quality, holistic supports and produce tremendous gains with our students. As part of the Coalition for Community School Excellence, we are

² America After 3 PM. (2014) After School Alliance. Retrieved from <http://afterschoolalliance.org/AA3PM> on May 21, 2018.

³ Bullies in Blue: The Origins and Consequences in School Policing (2017). ACLU.



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engaged in the advocacy for equitable funding to support the community school model across New York City and State. We know that our school faces difficult funding circumstances, even with the additional support it gets as a Community School in New York City. Staffing shortages and the ability to effectively implement all elements of the model, including social emotional and mental health supports and services, are just a few of the ongoing challenges we face in our community school. We can imagine the hardship endured by schools and community-based organizations that are severely underfunded and constantly face funding insecurity. CHCF continues to advocate for reliable, appropriate, sustainable, and equitable funding that allows for best practices to be implemented across all Community Schools.

CHCF also works with and advocates for home-based Family Child Care providers. We have been involved in the DOE Advisory Group looking at the expansion of Pre-K and the transition of Early Learn from ACS to DOE and are increasingly concerned with a seemingly continual underinvestment in a valuable resource in the early care sector: home-based Family Child Care providers (FCC).

FCC providers can give more individualized care to meet the needs of working families. In addition, family child care helps foster emotionally secure interpersonal relationships for everyone involved. We know that FCC providers are best positioned to ensure vulnerable communities gain equitable access to supports and services across the city. However, a consistent inability of the City to invest in this work force, and the additional threat posed to these local business owners with the expansion of universal pre-K, which prioritizes center-based programs, could have a devastating impact on some of our most valuable community and economic supports. We encourage the DOE to not only invest in CBOs that could help to implement the growth of Universal 3K, but also the Family Child Care providers that have been serving this age group already and now risk losing significant business if these seats are moved to DOE spaces that prioritize other parts of the sector. We additionally ask that the DOE begin to invest in the professional development and licensing of this valuable community resource and move towards pay parity for Family Child Care Providers and CBOs who could provide services for the growing demand under the Universal PreK initiative.

I want to thank you for your consideration of our testimony submitted today.

If you have any questions about our work or what we have presented in this testimony, please do not hesitate to reach out to Danielle Demeuse, Policy Analyst for CHCF, at ddemeuse@chcfinc.org or 212-206-1090.

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.



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

Youth Development

We partners with schools to promote youth leadership, provide academic enrichment through extended learning time, create safe spaces for mentoring and counseling, foster positive peer relationships and connections with adult role models, encourage healthy lifestyle choices, and link with the school day to complement and enhance academic priorities.

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 underrepresented and underserved communities, and the empowerment of these communities to directly mobilize for change.



New York City Coalition for Adult Literacy

Arab American Association of NY
Arab American Family Support Center
Bronx Works
Brooklyn Public Library
Catholic Charities
Chinatown Manpower Project
Chinese-American Planning Council
Community Service Society
Cypress Hills Local Development Corp
The Doe Fund
Edith & Carl Marks JCH of Bensonhurst
Fifth Avenue Committee
Fortune Society
HANAC
Institute for Immigrant Concerns, Inc.
International Center of CCCS
Jacob A. Riis Neighborhood Settlement
JCC of Greater Coney Island
JCC of Staten Island
Kingsbridge Heights Community Center
LaGuardia Community College,
Adult Community Learning
Lehman College Adult Learning Center
Literacy Assistance Center
Literacy Partners
Lutheran Family Health Centers,
Adult & Family Education
Make the Road New York
Neighborhood Family Services Coalition
New York Immigration Coalition
NMIC
City Tech Adult Learning Center
NYC Employment & Training Coalition
Opportunities for a Better Tomorrow
Queens Community House
Riverside Language Program
Shorefront YM-YWHA
Turning Point Brooklyn
UAW Region 9A Education Fund
Union Settlement Association, Inc.
UJA - Federation of New York
United Neighborhood Houses
University Settlement Society
YMCA of Greater NY

#LiteracyLiftsNYC

<http://www.nyccaliteracy.org/>

@NYCCAL

Testimony of New York City Coalition for Adult Literacy Before the New York City Council Committee on Finance

**Honorable Daniel Dromm, Chair
Executive Budget Hearing**

Presented by Kevin Douglas, United Neighborhood Houses
May 24, 2018

The New York City Coalition for Adult Literacy (NYCCAL) is *comprised of adult literacy teachers, managers, students, and allies from over 40 community-based organizations, CUNY campuses, and library programs across New York City. NYCCAL advocates for an adult literacy system that provides quality, comprehensive and accessible educational services to all New Yorkers who need them. **We believe that the ability to read and write, learn English, obtain a High School Equivalency, and enter training and post-secondary education is the right of every New Yorker, and the cornerstone to an equitable and just society.***

With 2.2 million New Yorkers—immigrants and native-born alike—lacking English proficiency, a high school diploma or both, our City has a long way to go in fostering opportunities for all to truly succeed. Fortunately, in FY2017 the City began to address this crisis of 1/3 of the adult population lacking basic literacy skills with an investment of \$12m for community based adult literacy classes including *English for Speakers of Other Languages* (ESOL), *Adult Basic Education* (ABE) and *High School Equivalency* (HSE) preparation. However, this funding, evenly split between the Administration and City Council, was only committed for one year, throwing thousands of students and teachers into jeopardy in FY2018 when the Mayor proposed eliminating the funding.

While the \$12m was ultimately restored last year, the Mayor has again omitted the funding from his FY2019 Executive Budget. **If the Council does not fight to restore and baseline this funding, over 7,400 students enrolled in adult literacy programs will see their classes close. In addition to renewing this \$12m, the investment must be baselined** so that a new Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) adult literacy procurement can be developed with fair reimbursement rates. DYCD currently pays nonprofit providers between \$850- \$1,000 per student, while a 2017 DYCD-commissioned report found the true cost of a high-quality programs to be closer to \$3,700 per student.

NYCCAL further recommends that City Council work with the Administration to **develop a Task Force on Adult Literacy**. One of the long-standing impediments to NYC having a comprehensive strategy and system of adult literacy is the fact that services are provided by so many entities with no coordinated oversight or vision. No less than a half dozen City entities provide some form of adult literacy programs, either directly or through contracts, including DYCD, HRA, DOE, CUNY, MOIA,

WKDEV and others. In addition, dozens of community based organizations, library branches, and unions also provide services with a combination of city, state, federal and philanthropic dollars. Much as the City has plans to support its young children (UPK, 3K), and its older adults (Age-Friendly NYC), it should have a comprehensive vision for the City's 2.2 million immigrants and other adults lacking English proficiency and/or high school diploma. Such a taskforce would also be responsible for designing the City's response to changing federal policies that will make it harder to serve undocumented adult learners, as well as establishing a unified user-friendly referral system for New Yorkers seeking adult literacy services.

Now, more than ever, as the federal administration continues to attack immigrant families and economic forces displace low-income New Yorkers from their communities, NYC must make a meaningful and lasting investment in adult literacy programs that support immigrant empowerment and integration, as well as the educational development and economic mobility for adult New Yorkers at large. On behalf of NYCCAL and our community of learners, we thank you for your leadership and continuing the fight.

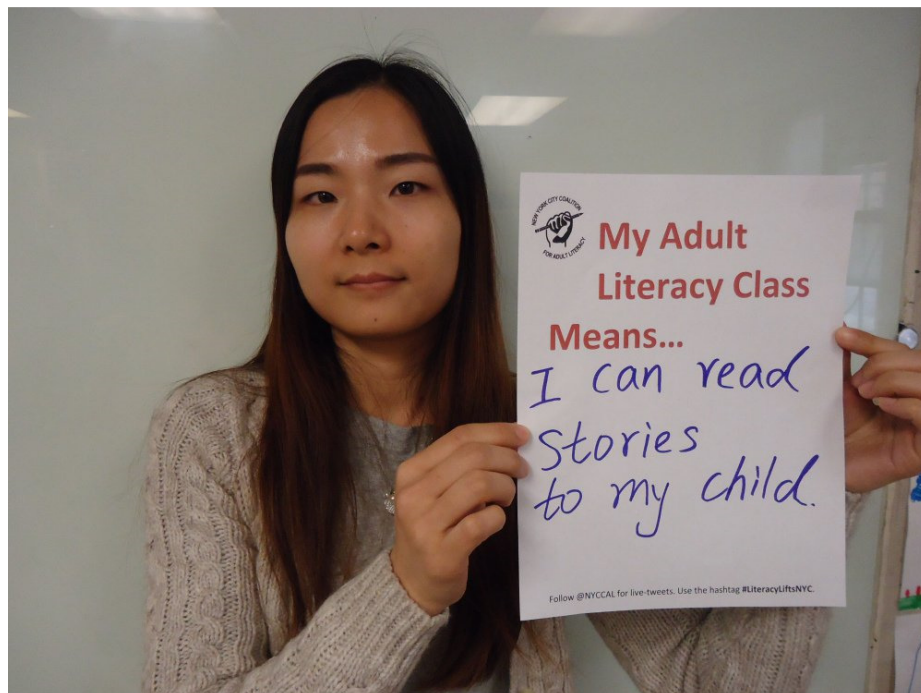
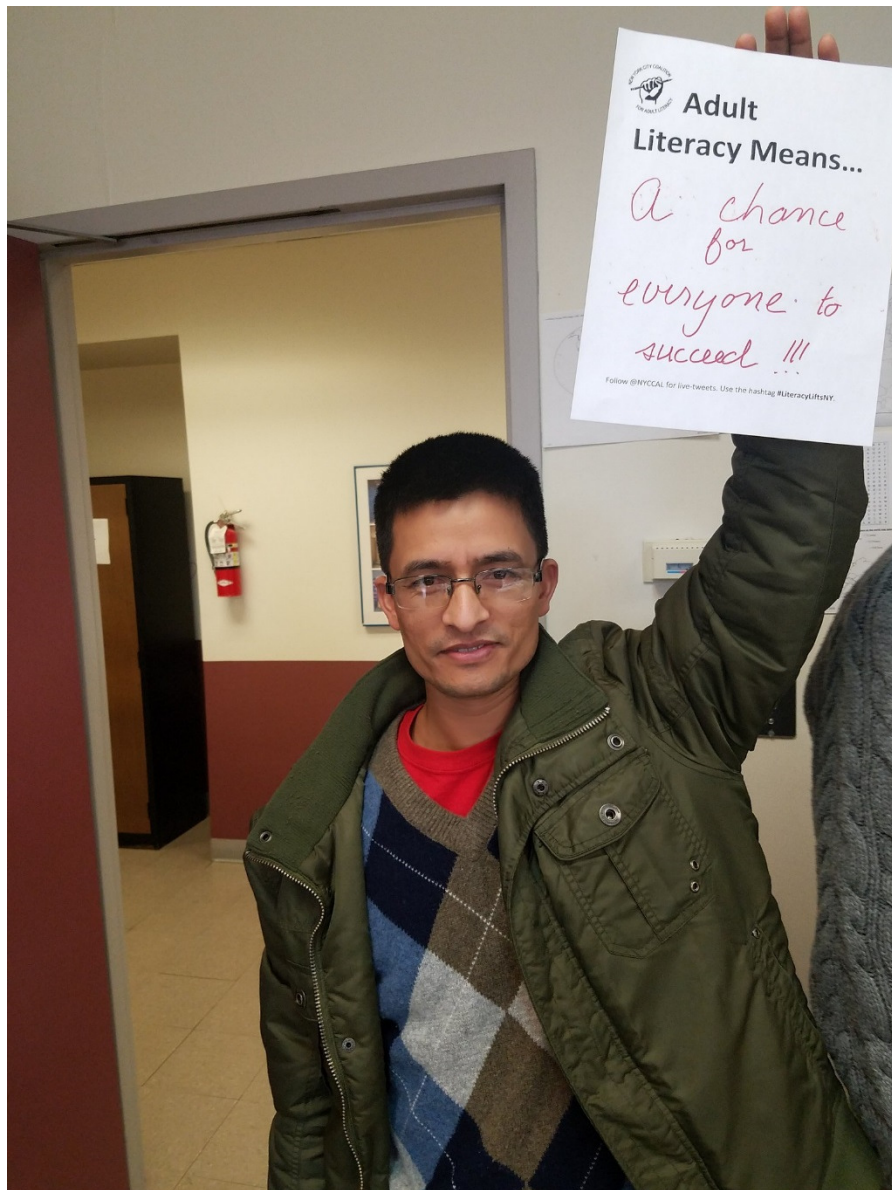
Because many adult literacy students are working multiple jobs to make ends meet as well as caring for their families, they could not be here today. However, their words are reflected on the following pages where they explain what adult literacy means to them—we sincerely hope you'll look through these pictures to hear their voices. You can also follow #LiteracyLiftsNYC for more of these stories.

We also invite you to stand in unity with hundreds of adult literacy students on Wednesday, June 6th at 10:30am outside of City Hall Park for a rally and press conference.

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

Student reflections continued on following pages:

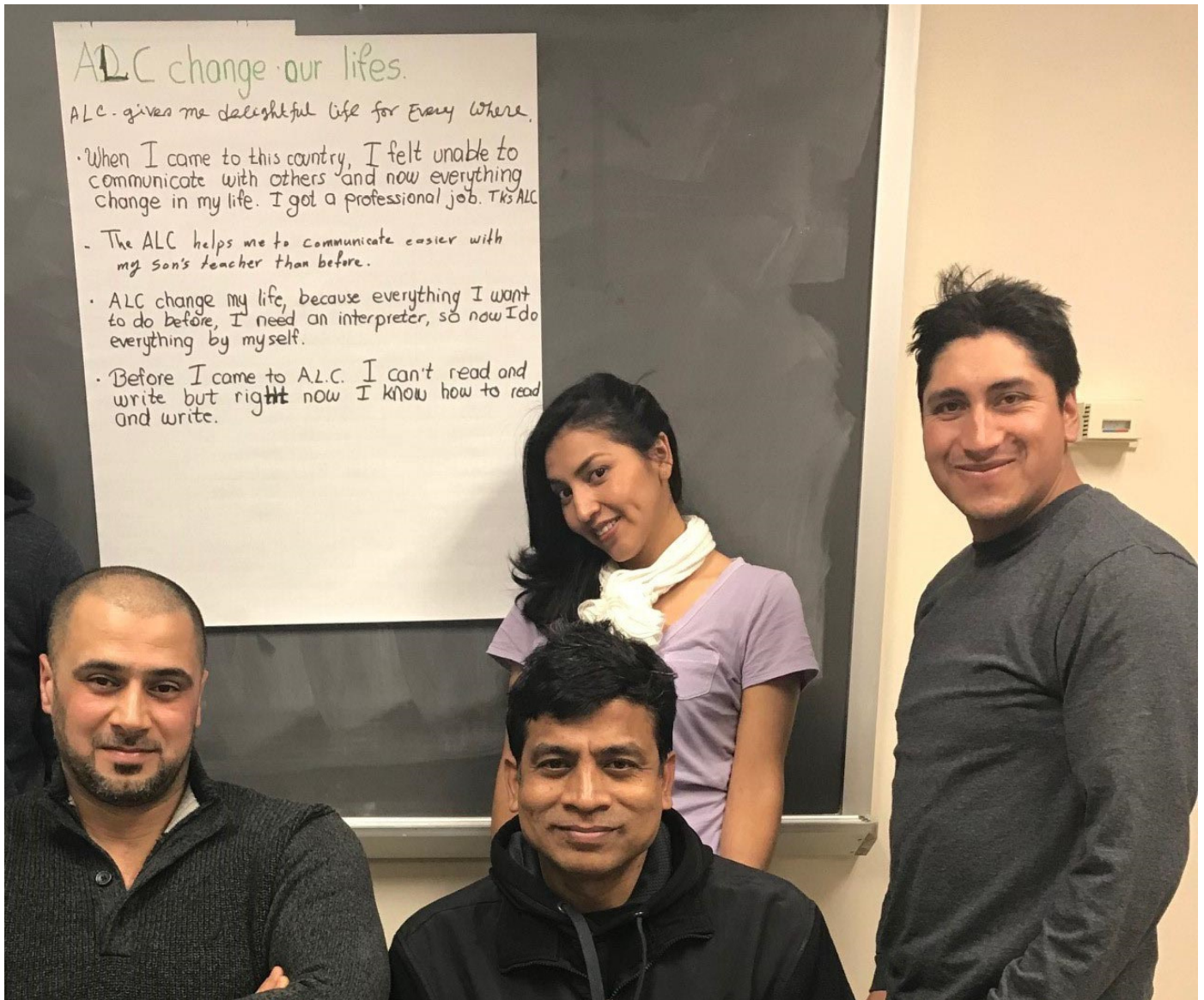
"My Adult Literacy Class Means..."

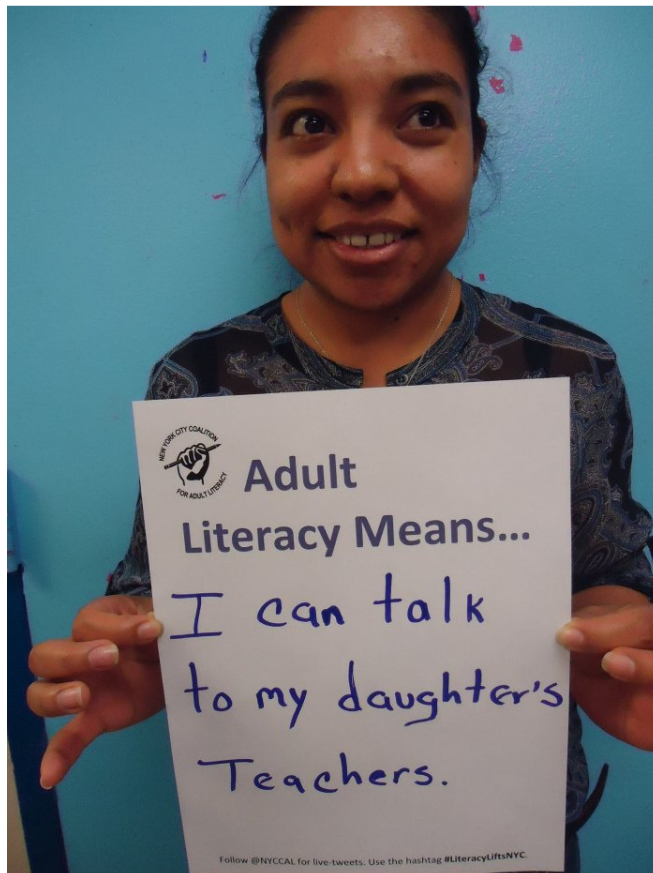
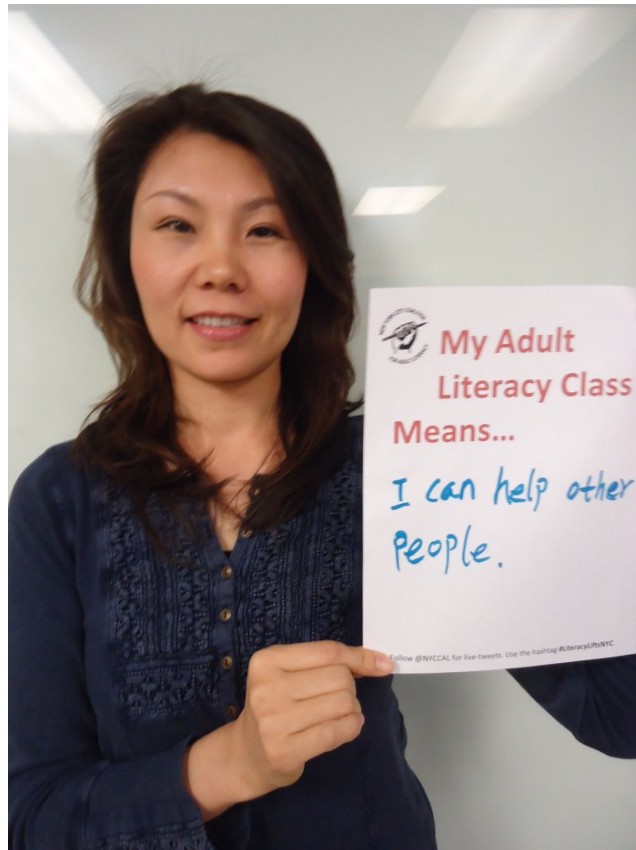


ALC change our lives.

ALC gives me delightful life for Every Where.

- When I came to this country, I felt unable to communicate with others and now everything change in my life. I got a professional job. Tks ALC
- The ALC helps me to communicate easier with my son's teacher than before.
- ALC change my life, because everything I want to do before, I need an interpreter, so now I do everything by myself.
- Before I came to ALC. I can't read and write but ~~right~~ now I know how to read and write.





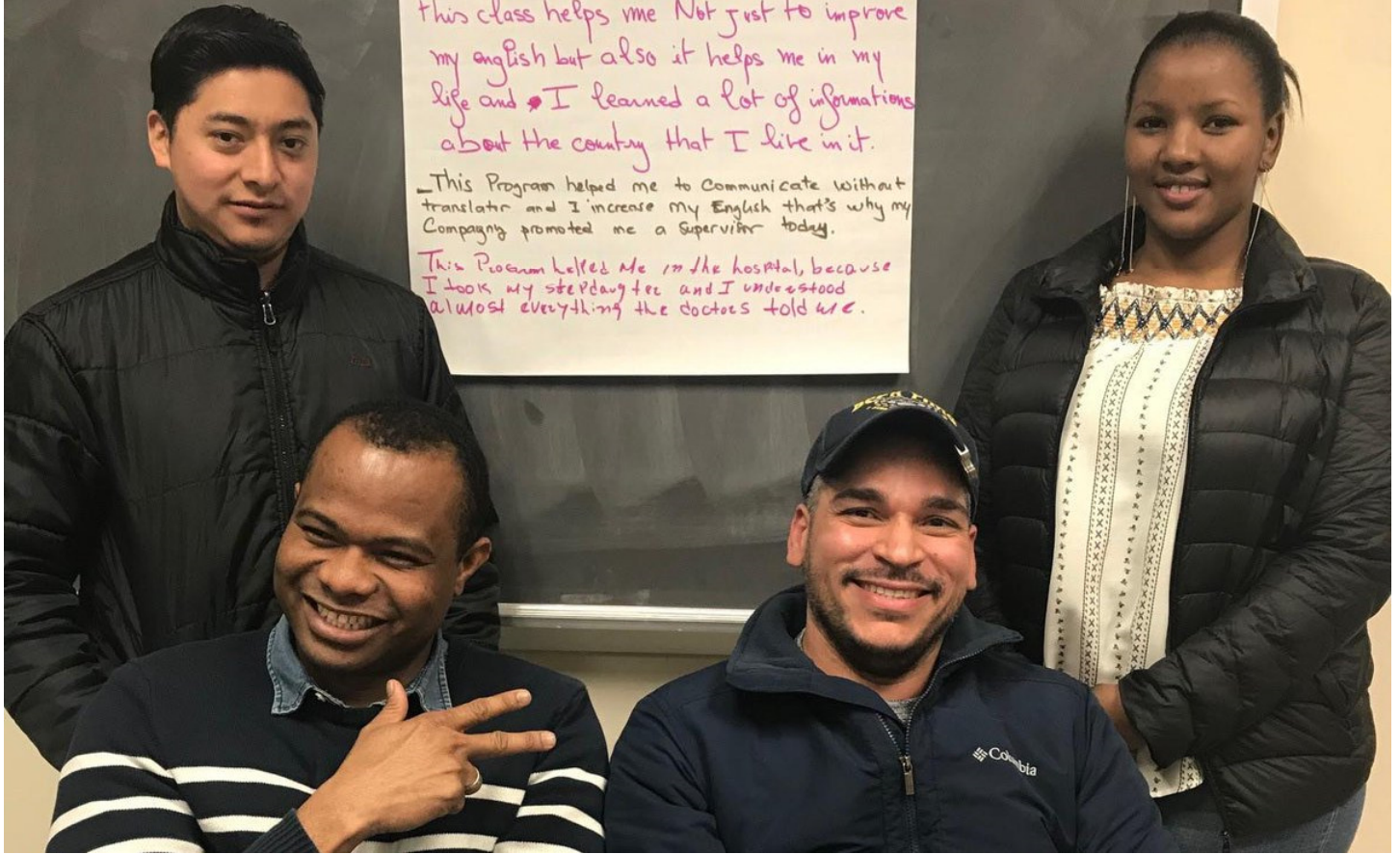
This class helps me ~~to~~ learn my citizenship and communicate with people.

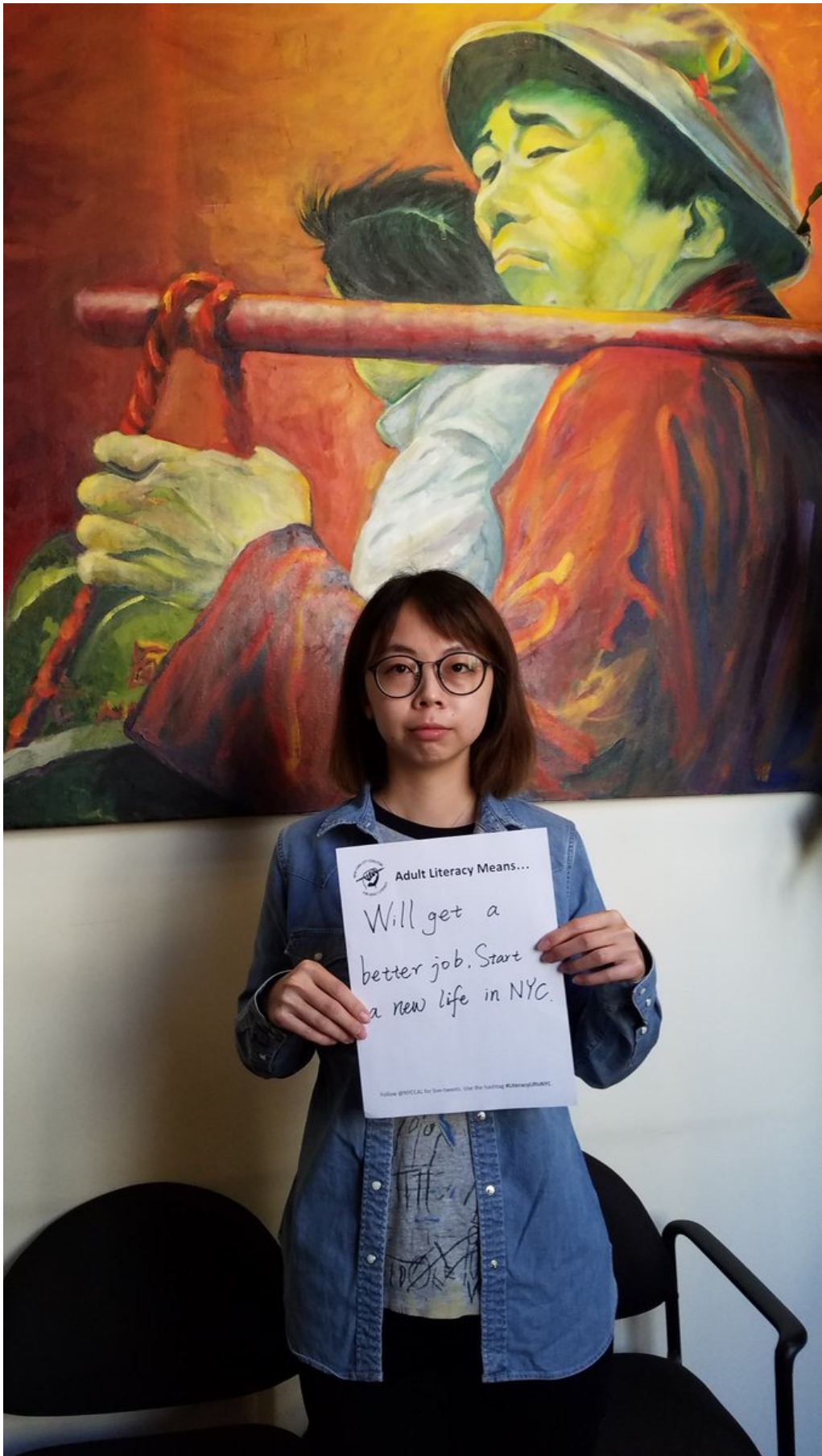
The English classes has helped me understand the vocabularies in their tenses.

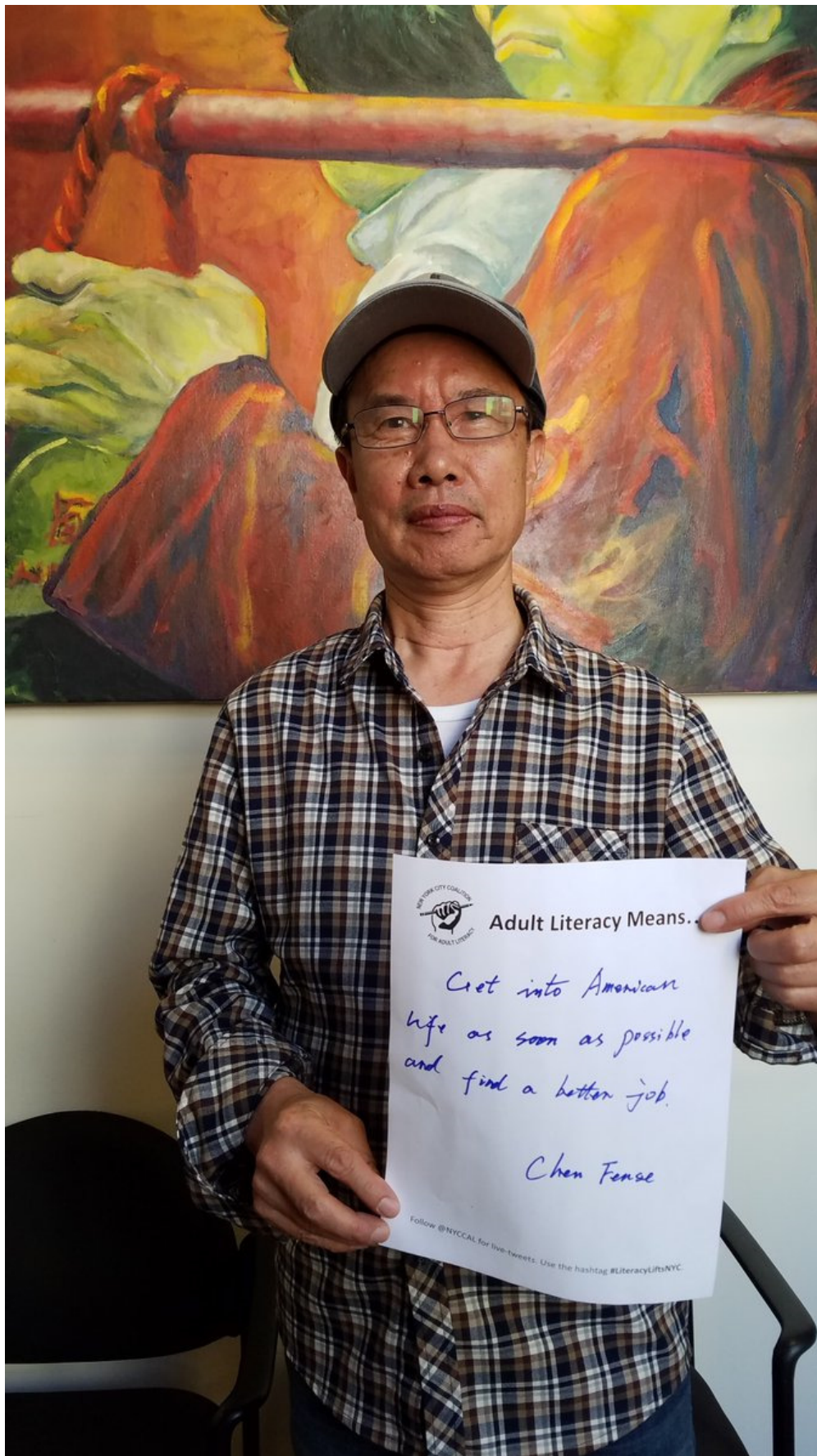
this class helps me Not just to improve my english but also it helps me in my life and I learned a lot of informations about the country that I live in it.

-This Program helped me to Communicate without translator and I increase my English that's why my Company promoted me a Supervisor today.

This Program helped me in the hospital, because I took my stepdaugter and I understood almost everything the doctors told me.





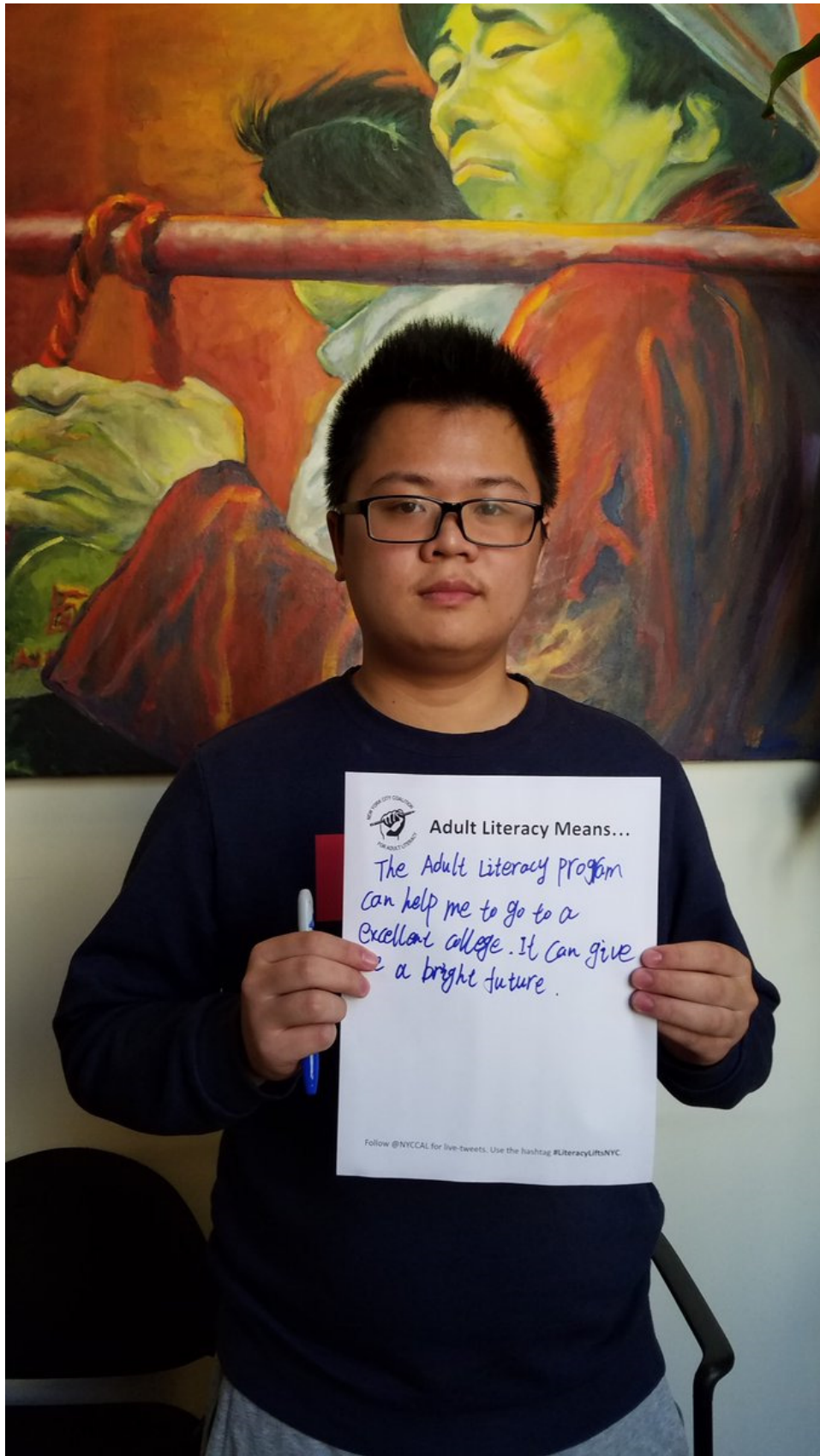


Adult Literacy Means...

Get into American
life as soon as possible
and find a better job.

Chen Fense

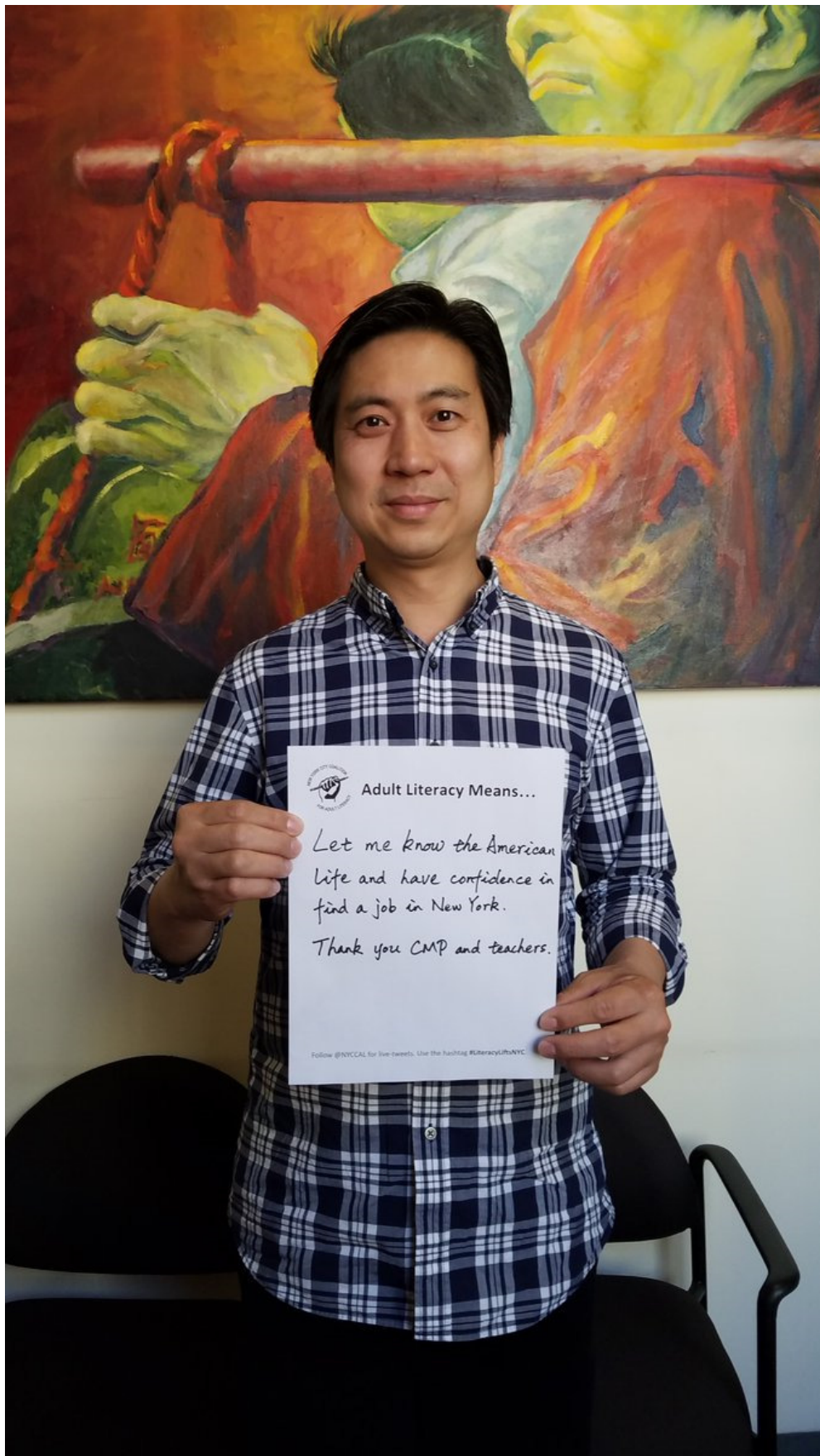
Follow @NYCCAL for live tweets. Use the hashtag #LiteracyLiftsNYC.



Adult Literacy Means...

The Adult Literacy program
can help me to go to a
Excellent college. It can give
me a bright future.

Follow @NYCCAL for live-tweets. Use the hashtag #LiteracyLiftsNYC.





Adult

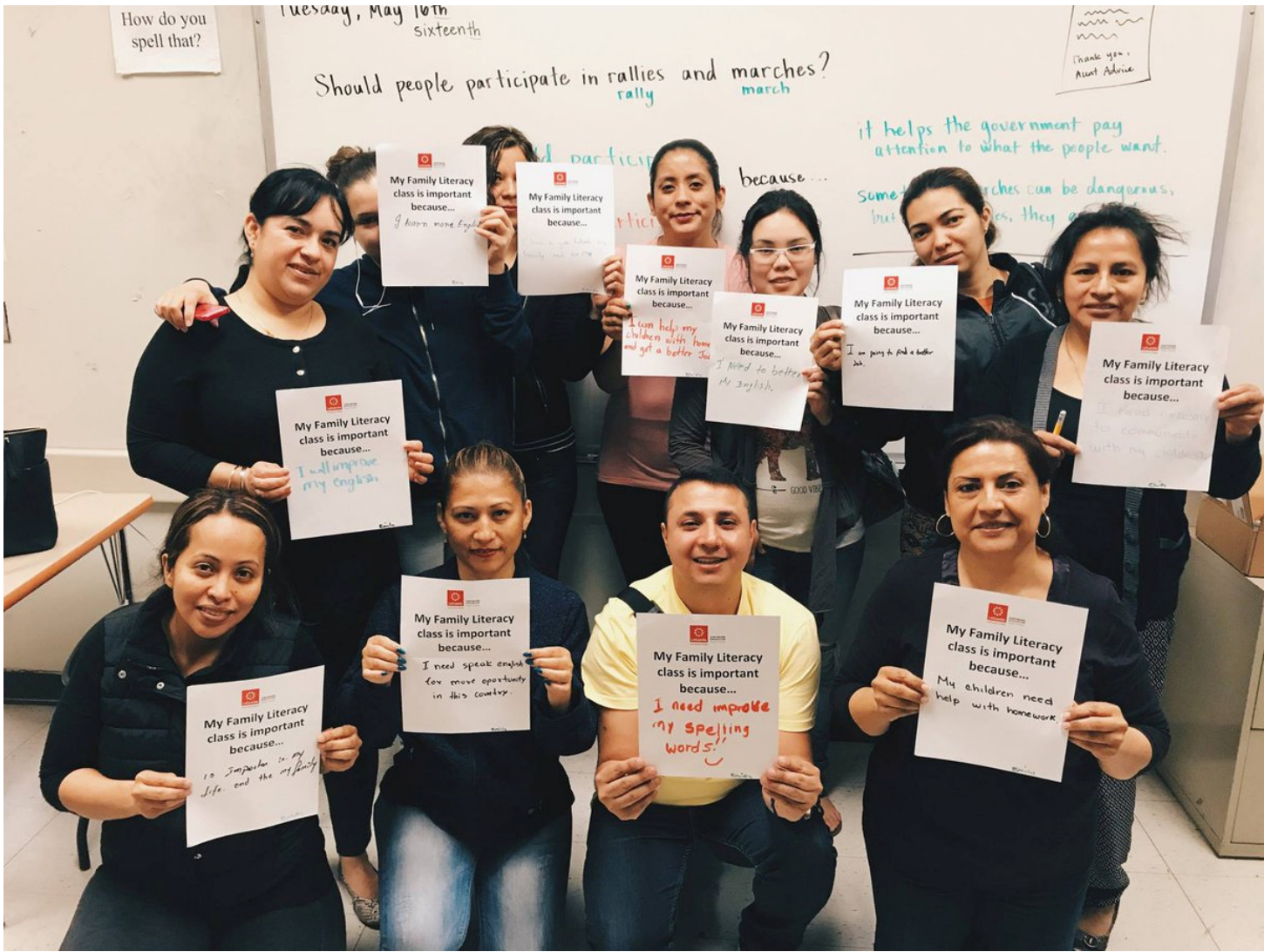
Literacy Means...

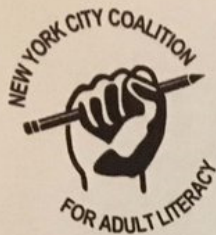
I can get a better
job in the future.

I can communicate
with other people.

I can finish **H**igh School.

Follow @NYCCAL for live-tweets. Use the hashtag #LiteracyLiftsNYC.





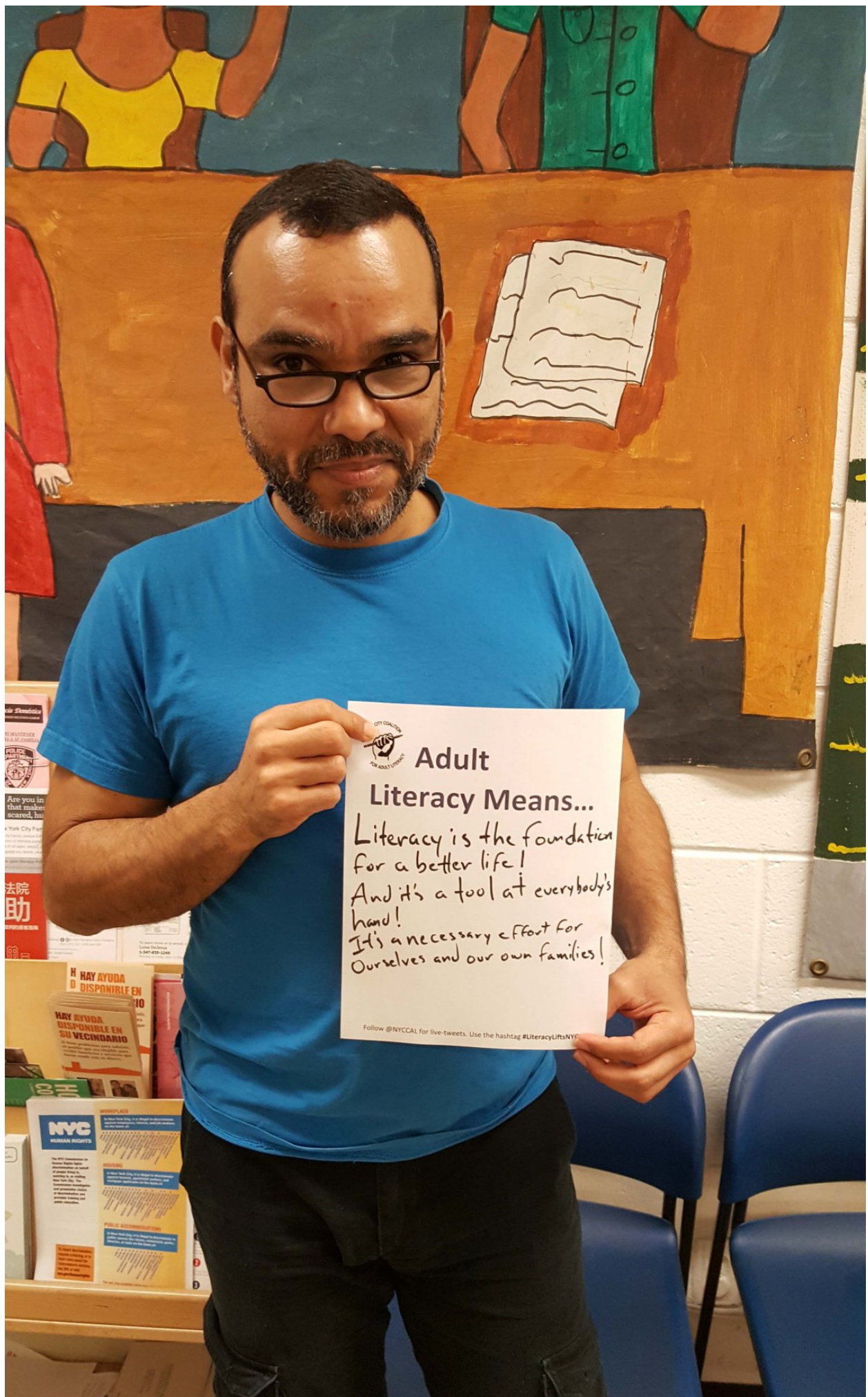
Adult

Literacy Means...

ACCESS



Follow @NYCCAL for live-tweets. Use the hashtag #LiteracyLiftsNYC.

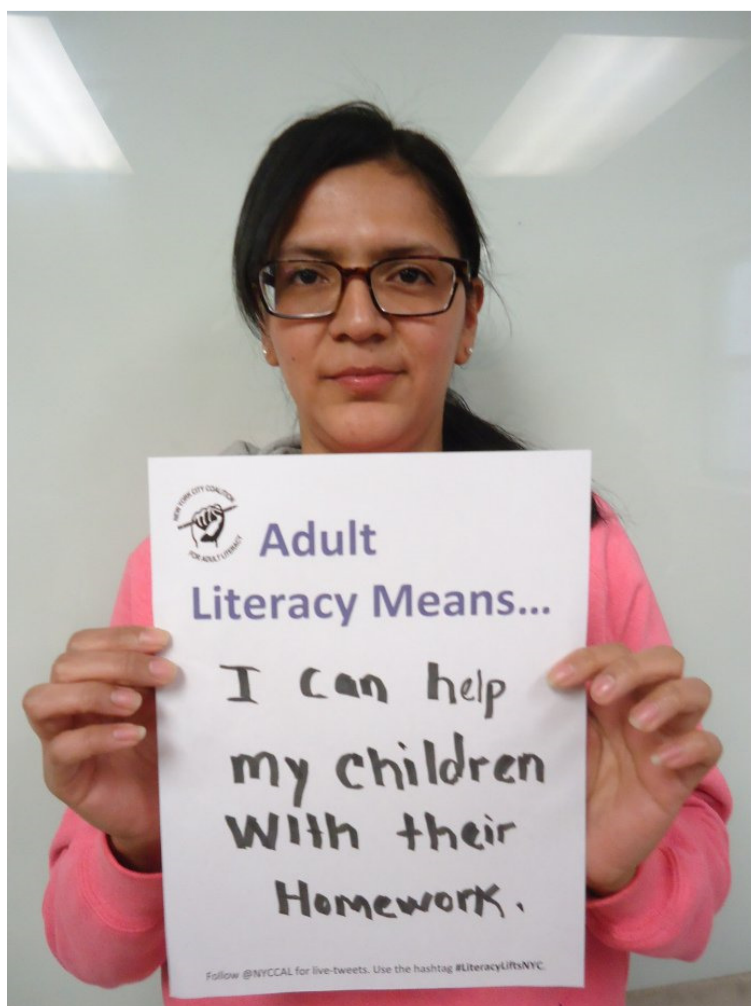


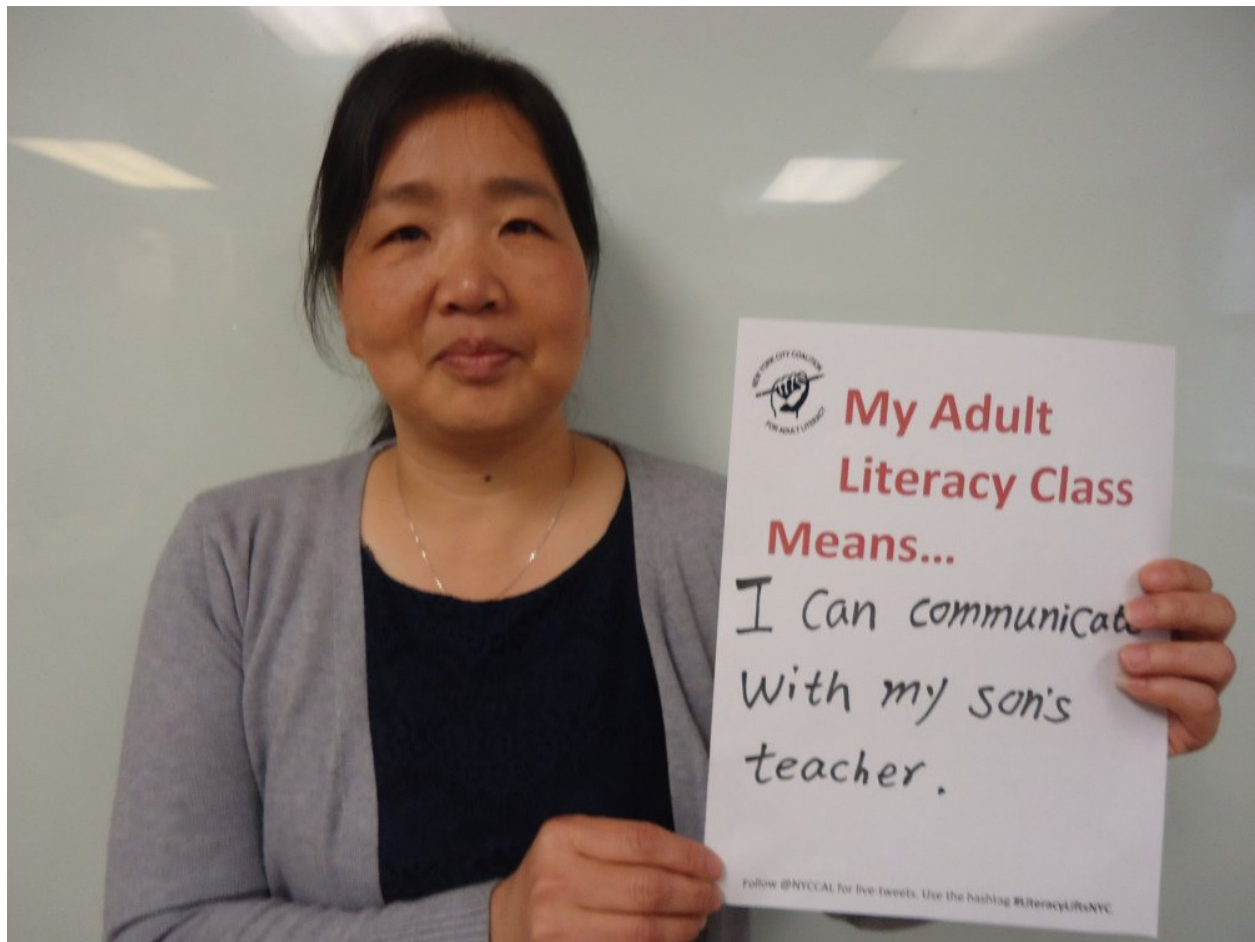
Adult

Literacy Means...

Literacy is the foundation
for a better life!
And it's a tool at everybody's
hand!
It's a necessary effort for
ourselves and our own families!

Follow @NYCCAL for live-tweets. Use the hashtag #LiteracyLiftsNYC





More student voices available at **#LiteracyLiftsNYC** on twitter

@NYCCAL



Testimony of New York County Defender Services (NYCDS)

The New York City Council Committee of Finance
FY 19 Executive Budget Hearing

Thursday, May 24, 2018

Since its founding in 1997 as a public defender office, New York County Defender Services (NYCDS) has greatly expanded the scope of our work and services. Our team of 68 attorneys, forensic social workers, investigators and administrative staff has assisted over 300,000 New Yorkers with highest-quality representation at no cost to our clients. Today we are the second largest criminal defense firm in New York County and represent more than 20,000 indigent defendants per year.

Our society has at long last come to appreciate the toxic far reaching effects of what has come to be called mass incarceration. For more than twenty years our office has been on the frontline of this governmental war against mostly indigent people of color. But while our system's belated recognition of this widespread injustice is certainly welcome, true reform can only be achieved at an economic cost.

New York County Defender Services recognizes that while the needs of our individual clients are always paramount, our work reverberates beyond them. Accordingly, we also advocate extensively outside of the courtroom for large-scale criminal justice reform. For example we have played and continue to play a prominent role in progressive issues like Discovery and Bail Reform, Sealing and Reentry, and Raise the Age.

Our clients come from all 5 boroughs and from all backgrounds. The past failures of our educational, economic and criminal justice system have unduly harmed our communities of color but the benefits of true reform would accrue to all New Yorkers.

The public is demanding that offices like ours respond like never before to provide better outcomes for our clients and to address the underlying causes that enmesh people in the vicious cycle of our criminal justice system. We welcome this laudable redefinition of our role but public defenders must be provided the tools to achieve these results by those in position to assist us.

A critical component of partnering with indigent defenders to make our system more just and achieve once unthinkable goals like the closing of Rikers Island, is a pronounced emphasis on training a new breed of public defenders that will thrive in this new landscape. Our office needs to hire more attorneys then conduct a rigorous training program steeped in the principles of holistic representation and genuine criminal justice reform. It will surprise no one here that palpable progress in this area can be costly.

Our new Client Centered Advocacy Training Program will focus on training new public defenders in a client centered approach of advocacy; this new generation of public defenders must focus on a holistic model of representation whereby collateral issues such as housing, disability, immigration, DACA, addiction, veterans, and mental health issues are not only explored but addressed. Trainees will develop the skill set to provide clients in the criminal justice system with a complete needs assessment with the goal meeting those needs.

Our client communities, in particular those that experience a high level of contact with NYPD, will be empowered to know their constitutional rights, have collateral matters addressed in their lives, and be in a better position to handle their criminal case as well as relevant related matters. While we have provided this type of training in the past, we must never grow complacent but rather always be prepared to adjust to the evolving needs of our client community.



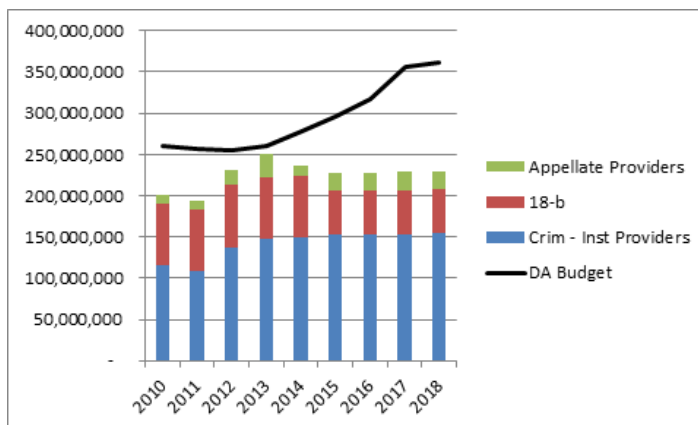
Our FY 19 Funding Need

Most of our funding comes from the City of New York. Unfortunately, for the past couple of years, City funding has been offered on a short-term and impermanent basis and remains likely to flat-line in FY 2019 and beyond. Although the City and State have made, and continue to make, important efforts in redefining criminality away from petty offenses, the result is that the seriousness and complexity of our average case has grown considerably. Likewise, our budget needs have naturally increased as well. Operation costs have increased dramatically in the City: for example, the cost of office space in NYC has nearly doubled in the past 6 years. We cannot fail to address the evolving needs of our public defenders, our investigators, and our social workers.

We must ensure that we adequately provide the resources to fund the critical mission of public defenders. New York County Defender Services respectfully requests \$200,000 from Speaker Johnson and the City Council so we may continue to provide constitutionally-mandated high-quality legal representation to the city's most vulnerable population in a justice system often stacked against them.

The following charts show a comparison of the cumulative budgets of the five NYC prosecutors and compares them to the budgets of the city's indigent defense organizations. Note that the DA's budgets do not include rent, other than Brooklyn, since they are housed in city properties while NYCDS pays rent in extremely pricy downtown Manhattan. Also, DA's have the free services of the NYPD while NYCDS has to pay staff investigators.

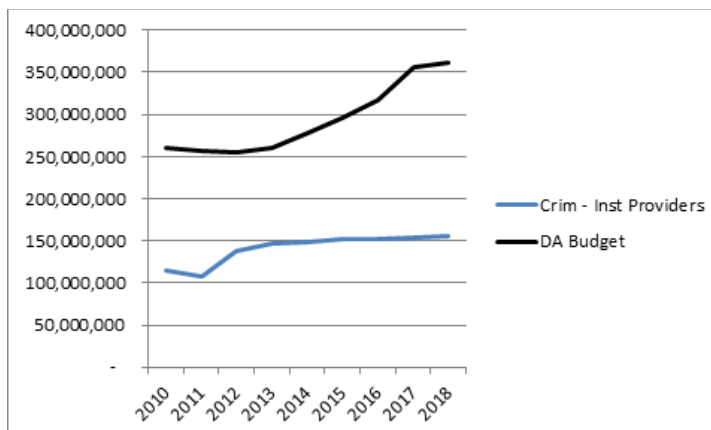
1. DA budget vs combined sum of institutional and appellate providers + 18b



As you can see, up until about 2013, there was a close correlation between the overall budgets expended on prosecution and defense. However, since that time, the disparity has grown so that there is currently a \$150 million difference in expenditures.

2. DA budget vs Institutional Providers.

As you can see, the DA's budget has grown close to 50% since 2013 as the institutional providers' budgets have remained stagnant.



**Testimony of New York City Coalition for Adult Literacy
Before the New York City Council Committee on Finance**

**Honorable Daniel Dromm, Chair
Executive Budget Hearing**

Testimony from Liliana Polo-McKenna, Opportunities for a Better Tomorrow
May 24, 2018

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Bushwick

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Bedford Stuyvesant

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Y Roads Jamaica

161-04 Jamaica Avenue
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F: 212-202-6456

Innovation Lab

87 35th Street, 2nd Floor
Brooklyn, NY 11232
P: 718-801-8970

info@obtjobs.org
www.obtjobs.org

Thank you Chairperson Dromm and members of the committee for this opportunity to testify. Opportunities for a Better Tomorrow (OBT) is one of NYC's leading workforce training organizations, connecting nearly 4,000 youth and adults with education and job training and providing access to improved employment opportunities. As part of our mission over the past 35 years, we understand that literacy skills remain a significant barrier for many of the adults we serve, and ESOL classes and a high school equivalency are necessities when working to obtain family-sustaining employment.

As a city committed to dismantling inequities and providing access to economic opportunities, there is a long road ahead to make this a reality. In NYC, there are 2.2 million New Yorkers lacking English proficiency, a high school diploma or both. In FY2017, the City began to address this crisis with an investment of \$12m for community based adult literacy classes including *English for Speakers of Other Languages* (ESOL), *Adult Basic Education* (ABE) and *High School Equivalency* (HSE) preparation. However, this funding was only committed for one year, throwing thousands of students and teachers into jeopardy. Last year, and again for FY19, programs like OBT (as part of NYCCAL) have found themselves mobilizing to ensure that the funding is restored.

While the \$12m was ultimately restored last year, the Mayor has again omitted the funding from his FY2019 Executive Budget. **There are over 7,400 students enrolled in adult literacy programs, who will see their classes close. In addition to renewing this \$12m, the investment must be baselined** so that a new Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) adult literacy procurement can be developed with fair reimbursement rates. DYCD currently pays nonprofit providers between \$850- \$1,000 per student, while a 2017 DYCD-commissioned report found the true cost of a high-quality programs to be closer to \$3,700 per student.

OBT is part of a broader coalition of organizations (NYCCAL) who are also advocating for a more intentional strategy for adult literacy in NYC. This includes a task force to address current needs and challenges, as well as engage in a proactive strategy in response to changes at the federal level. These shifts will undoubtedly make it more challenging to serve individuals already facing

significant barriers to education and employment. We have a responsibility to ensure that doors continue to open for those who are seeking to further their education, not close.

Each individual story is different and each one matters. Last year, one of OBT's students, Juan Mangano, testified and presented his story of taking ESOL classes while he was a bus driver for the MTA, and continuing into a basic computer skills class. He did all of this with a greater purpose of obtaining a management level job at the MTA and better support his family. There are thousands of individuals like Juan, seeking to improve their quality of life and fulfill the promise of "the fairest city" in the country.

The need for continued investment is significant, and thousands of New Yorkers are relying on you to ensure these services continue. On behalf of OBT and our community of learners, we thank you for your leadership and continuing the fight.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. You can reach me at lpolo@obtjobs.org or 718-369-0303.

Re: Fiscal Year 2019 Executive Budget – Accessibility of NYC Schools

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony regarding the Fiscal Year 2019 Executive Budget. My name is **Rachel Paster**, and I am **a parent in the NYC School District**. I am writing to ask you to ensure that the final FY 19 budget includes at least \$125 million to make more schools accessible to students, parents, and teachers with physical disabilities.

I am very concerned about the significant lack of accessible public schools in New York City, severely limiting the choices available to students, families, and teachers with physical disabilities. Three of the City's 32 community school districts have no fully accessible elementary schools (Districts 12, 16, and 21), four school districts have no fully accessible middle schools (Districts 7, 14, 16, and 32), and six districts have no fully accessible high schools (Districts 14, 16, 18, 20, 21, and 32).

While many parents have written to you with their own stories about the difficulties their children have faced, I would like to make a different point. The lack of accessibility is a problem not only for disabled people but for all of our students. How are students supposed to meet, get to know, and become friends with students who simply cannot get into the building? How are students supposed to learn the importance of caring for others, including those with disabilities, when their own schools seem not to care enough to ensure accessibility? Denying all students the ability to share classrooms with students who are different from them hurts everyone. It limits the ability of the NYC Schools to execute on a true diversity and inclusion program.

My sons are friends with a NYC student, Abey Weitzman, who uses a wheelchair to get around. They were all zoned for the same school, PS 122. Unfortunately, Abey could not attend PS 122 even though it is literally across the street from him. We met Abey because he is our neighbor, but it is shameful that they could not attend the same school, that they could not share clubs and afterschool programs, and that other students couldn't get to know Abey as well.

I frankly think \$125 million is not nearly enough -- how many elevators, how many retrofitted bathrooms will that be? How many paras? Not enough. But it's a start, and it's imperative that NYC Schools start there.

We urge you to stand steadfast and negotiate a final budget that includes at least an additional \$125 million for school accessibility.

Thank you for considering my testimony. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at rpaster@gmail.com

Rachel Paster
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Astoria NY 11105
(718)683-1857



131 West 33rd Street
Suite 610
New York, NY 10001
(212) 627-2227
www.nyic.org

**NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL FISCAL YEAR 2019
EXECUTIVE BUDGET HEARINGS
NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL**

Claudia Calhoon, MPH
Health Policy Director, New York Immigration Coalition

May 24, 2018

Good afternoon. My name is Claudia Calhoon, and I am the Health Policy Director at the New York Immigration Coalition.

Thank you to Finance Committee Chair Daniel Dromm for calling this hearing and for the opportunity to testify on important immigrant health programs in the FY 2019 budget.

The NYIC is an advocacy and policy umbrella organization for more than 200 multi-ethnic, multi-racial, and multi-sector groups across the state working with immigrants and refugees. Our members serve communities that speak more than 65 languages and dialects.

Access Health NYC and Immigrant Health Initiative

I'm here today to impress upon the council the critical importance of sustaining council initiatives that support and efforts to keep immigrant communities healthy. Both Access Health NYC and the Immigrant Health Initiative provide critical funding and capacity to community-based, health care, and service providers to push out simple, clear, and accessible versions of complex, rapidly-changing, highly technical information to communities that are deeply affected by fear and instability.

We hear stories from our members on a daily basis about the urgent need for funding for immigrant groups to conduct outreach and education about health access in their communities. The NYIC is responsible for the training of all awardee organizations funded through the Access Health NYC initiative. The majority of organizations that receive Immigrant Health Initiative funding are either our members or collaborators. In this way we have had direct contact and know of the value of these resources for all of the organizations that benefit from these initiatives.

As we approach their fourth year, these initiatives have become more important than ever. Immigrants in New York are continue to face an ever-deepening period of stress and vulnerability from changes and threats at the federal level. We hear regular reports of decreases in service utilization and benefit enrollments related to the impending changes to public charge consideration by US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). Even when patients seek care, they must

negotiate complex bureaucracies, long wait times, poor customer service, and care that lacks cultural competence and humility. We know from our members that immigrant communities depend on community-based organizations and health centers to navigate complex systems.

In this time of heightened fear and rampant rumor, it is critical to regularly reinforce messages about the safety of using the health care system. As changes to health insurance and public benefits go into effect, communities urgently need updated information on what federal changes mean for them and where they can turn for health coverage and services.

Access Health NYC provides critical funding to get complex, rapidly-changing, highly technical information to communities that are deeply affected by fear and instability. Over the last 3 years, funded organizations have hosted more than 800 workshops on health access and coverage. In addition, they've made at least 3,680 referrals to Navigator/Certified Application Counselor/Facilitated Enrollers, 1,160 referrals to Health and Hospitals Corporation, 947 referrals to community health centers, 1,674 referrals to into SNAP enrollment, and 2,107 additional referrals to other social service providers.¹ These numbers come from a subset of awardees that voluntarily shared their data with us, meaning that the overall impact of the initiative is even greater.

Through trusted community-based organizations (CBOs) and health centers, many of the Access Health NYC awardees reach LGBTQ, homeless, women, individuals with disabilities, and formerly incarcerated individuals. Many New York City populations are vulnerable to changes emerging from the federal administration's vicious agenda. While Washington has made particularly destructive attacks on immigrants, the administration seems to have all low-income and vulnerable groups in its sights. The current situation calls for growth in the Access Health NYC initiative to fund more CBOs and extend the reach to a broader range of communities.

Given the threats to health access and equity imposed on us by federal changes, and the strong track record that the initiative has demonstrated in its first three years, we believe enhancing the initiative and increasing the number of organizations that receive funding is critical for New York's hard-to-reach communities. We are very grateful for the Council's commitment of \$1 million in the past three fiscal years. We request an enhancement to \$2.5 million in order to ensure that more organizations in more council districts and more communities have assistance in navigating the health care system. Access Health NYC has been an unequivocal success in the thirteen Council districts it has served. It is time to ambitiously expand the initiative in order to confront the unique moment we live in across New York City.

Also critically important is the Immigrant Health Initiative, which funds legal and health

¹ Based on data collected by FPWA in 2018 through their work as an Access Health NYC awardee.

service providers to improve immigrant health access and culturally competent care through a host of different activities. Many of our members and partners benefit from these resources, and we hope the Council will sustain this initiative in FY19. To our knowledge, there has not been a concerted effort to bring the awardees from both initiatives together to share approaches, strategies, or best practices.

The Need for an Uninsured Care Program

As you know, the ActionHealth NYC pilot was the major initiative to emerge from the 2014-15 Mayor's Taskforce on Immigrant Health Access.² ActionHealth NYC tested important innovations in improving health access and continuity for immigrants excluded from federally funded insurance programs, including enrolling individuals in a branded program designed to link patients to a primary care provider, linking services at H+H to federally-qualified health centers, and ensuring that care coordination prevents patients from dropping through the cracks. The NYIC served on the Community Advisory Panel of the pilot, and several of our member organizations conducted community outreach to participants. We were heartened to see positive participant satisfaction data that the city shared with the Community Advisory Panel and are eager to learn more about other findings that emerge from the pilot. We are deeply disappointed that the ActionHealth NYC pilot was discontinued without a concrete plan to incorporate lessons learned and grow an uninsured care program that reaches a broader number of New Yorkers. We look forward to working with NYC agencies and with the Council to ensure that lessons of ActionHealth NYC can be incorporated into H+H's fee-scale Options program or to some other initiative that improves care coordination, linkages with other providers and primary care access for the uninsured.

Tuberculosis control

I also want to emphasize the importance of adequately funding the TB response at \$14.89M. This funding is necessary to restore persistent cuts to TB funding that led to the largest increase in TB since 1993, when an outbreak of drug-resistant TB cost over \$1 billion to rectify. Investing a few million dollars more to end TB now will save New Yorkers billions of dollars down the line.

Despite being preventable and curable, tuberculosis is on the rise in New York City for the first time in over 25 years, with a particularly devastating effect in our immigrant communities. Also increasing at a rapid pace are cases of drug-resistant TB, which are more difficult and costly to treat. A single average case of drug-resistant TB costs \$294,000. This resurgence of TB is a direct result of years of underinvestment in New York City's TB response. While in recent years the City has steadily funded TB, a history of cuts since 2007 have reduced the City's TB funding from

² <http://www1.nyc.gov/nyc-resources/task-force-on-immigrant-health.page>

\$16.43M in 2007 (adjusted for inflation) to just \$8.59 million in the current year. Ongoing reductions at the state and federal levels over the past decade, and dramatic cuts in recent years, have exacerbated this situation. Total funding for the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) Bureau of TB Control (BTBC) has been reduced by half in the last ten years. Several of the City's TB clinics have closed, and the few that are still open suffer limited hours and staffing.

Adequate funding for the TB response would lift a heavy burden off of New Yorkers. Increased funding would allow for active outreach by community organizations to raise awareness about TB, and provide services to identify and prevent it. It would make it possible to restore clinic facilities that meet patient needs, so people can seek care in chest clinics instead of having to be hospitalized. These efforts could save the city billions of dollars. Similar to what we're seeing today, budget cuts in the 1970s and 1980s dismantled the public health response to TB and led to a massive outbreak of drug-resistant TB in New York City. This outbreak cost over \$1 billion to control in the 1990s. This is the first time since then that TB is on the rise. We are in danger of repeating history and allowing an entirely preventable epidemic to haunt us again. We are putting our already vulnerable communities, especially immigrants, at great risk. For these reasons, the NYIC joins a broad coalition appealing for a restoration of New York City funding to the DOHMH BTBC to \$14.89 million, a \$6.3 million dollar increase over the current year. We are making similar—though proportionally higher—requests at the state and federal levels. We look forward to your leadership on the city portion.

Thank you for the opportunity to share this testimony today.

Testimony to the New York City Council Committee on Finance - May 24th, 2018.

Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee and staff,

Thank you for this opportunity to provide this testimony to the committee today.

My name is Tanya Bley, and I have been affiliated with the Red Hook Compost Project at Red Hook Community Farm since 2010. The site has been funded by the New York City Department of Sanitation through Brooklyn Botanical Gardens since 2012.

The Red Hook Compost Project is and has been, since its inception, the premier model in the US of local, no carbon footprint and sustainable solution to New York City's nearly 1,000,000 tons of organic materials in the City's residential waste stream misdirected to landfill.

Through the commitment and involvement of 2,000 volunteers annually and dedicated staff, the Red Hook Compost Project processes over 200 tons of organic materials from New York City each year on less than one acre of land. Organic materials that otherwise would have had to be trucked out of New York City, exacerbating not only congestion and resulting emissions, but also nuisance odors and attracting pests in the process. Potentially, the ultimate destination of this material would be a landfill, where it would break down slowly over time, contributing to greenhouse gas emissions-- primarily methane, for decades.

This processing of organic materials into the components of valuable and sustainable soil amendments is accomplished at **this site** entirely on renewable sources:

Human labor, solar and wind power.

Since its inception this has been the method of operation of the Red Hook site.

Recently, as is well known, I am sure, to this committee and its members as well as to the composting community in New York City (and, sadly now, to many New Yorkers) the New York Compost Community and has suffered a tragic loss. This loss was particularly felt by staff and community engaged at the Red Hook Community Farm Compost Operation. The director of that site [David Buckel] recently and tragically decided to take his own life in a very public manner.

He has left behind the site, its staff and the compost community he was devoted to.

Since David's passing there have been some concerns raised by the compost community. regular visitors to the Red Hook site, and those who depend upon that site as an important organics processing hub that this site's mission will be changed. Specifically that the method of processing the organics will be changed from the low carbon footprint of human, wind and solar power to that based on fossil fuels and machines.

There is a concern that the Department of Sanitation is considering mechanizing the site to obviate and, eventually eliminate the community volunteer component. It has been suggest by some members of the composting community that the Red Hook Compost Project could in fact become a demonstration site for machinery. This would add insult to the injury of David's loss, as one of the greatest assets of this site was in its ability to make the issue of sustainability and resiliency tangible and practical, and served as a venue for sharing the knowledge and skill of the craft of composting. Most importantly, however, the site serves as a refuge for those seeking to take care of the great mother, our Earth, and all of its children – you and I.

If the course of this site is changed, the social, cultural, and spiritual capital built up overtime by thousands of volunteers and David as well as some of the physical capital obtained through corporate and private donations will have been lost to the residents of this city. The value to the city and its residents of a working site that involves the community in the physical process of learning and doing while engaged solving one the city's most vexing solid waste management problems will have been lost.

The Chair on the Committee on Waste Management has requested, this year for the second year, that the Department of Sanitation allocate \$10M of its over \$2B budget to outreach and education to help the city achieve its zero waste goals by 2030. As further expansion of the curbside organics collection program is stalled for the foreseeable future, and given the low participation rates and high levels of contamination that plague the program, now is not the time to change one of the most renowned, engaging and educational composting sites in the US. The site processes over 200,000 tons of organics on a single acre, with no inputs beyond the carting to get the organics to the site. Given that NYC's ~13,000 ton/day waste stream is close to 1/3 organics, this material can be processed without sophisticated and costly equipment on the available inventory of marginal and submarginal municipally-owned real estate. The portion of the budget that NYC Department of Sanitation allocates to long haul contracts (about 2/3 of its over \$2B budget) can be invested in local communities that are actively engaged in reducing and minimizing its waste and carbon footprint.

On behalf, therefore, of the Composting Community of New York City, I urge the members of this committee to call on the Department to allocate an appropriate level of funding in order that the site is staffed at adequate levels. Further, we call on the committee to preserve and protect not only the spirit of the legacy of the Red Hook Compost Project, but to protect the interests of those in the community who serve the public good in its operation, as well as those in the community who are served by it, by making sure the site remains true to its original intent and spirit as a non-mechanized organics site powered by sun, wind and human labor.



New York City Council Committee on Finance, May 24, 2018

Testimony of Peter Gee, Director of Strategic Initiatives and Partnerships

Good afternoon, my name is Peter Gee and I work at University Settlement, America's first social settlement house. We opened our doors on the Lower East Side of Manhattan in 1886, and have since grown to serve 40,000 low-income individuals annually at 32 sites in Manhattan and Brooklyn. We were founded on the core settlement belief that each individual can be an asset to the community's wellbeing and quality of life, which was particularly groundbreaking within the indigent and immigrant neighborhoods we have long served. Through direct services, innovative program models, and active advocacy, we are committed to developing progressive solutions to alleviate poverty and inequality, serving as an anchor in the low-income and immigrant communities where we work. Our holistic programs span across early childhood care and education, youth development, literacy, performing and visual arts, senior services, mental health, and housing services.

Early Childhood Salary Parity: In neighborhoods across the City, early childhood programs have been struggling mightily since the advent of "Pre-K For All," because of the separate salary structure for teachers in each system. Pre-K is wonderful, and having seats in the DOE is also fine, but the salary disparity is appalling. With good reason, teachers are leaving our and many other centers for opportunities in DOE settings. This has had an impact in University Settlement's early childhood centers as well. We need you to stand up to the Mayor for Equal Pay for Equal Work. We fully support CM Cumbo and Treyger's Resolution 0358!

Importance of Adult Literacy Programs: University Settlement's Adult Literacy Program provides a bridge to workforce and post-secondary education for 450 immigrant adults annually. Our record of educational achievement and exceeding State standards (Rated "highly Proficient" NYSED's highest grade the last 5 years) is evidence of our ability and performance in helping

participants achieve their goals. Unfortunately, the Mayor did not include adult literacy in his budget – we need the \$12M restored to the City's budget.

Mental Health Initiatives: The Mayor did not include two important mental health funding streams in his FY 2019 budget. The Council needs to continue to support these two initiatives.

***Children Under 5:** For the past 12 years, University Settlement's Butterflies Program has provided unique, innovative services designed to meet the specific social-emotional needs of children under 5, particularly in LES and East New York with low wage working immigrant families where the stress and trauma is high. Butterflies has helped over 800 children annually to develop positive coping skills and resiliency to face the stressors in their challenging lives. In addition, extensive consultation and community and staff education with over 100 adults annually has resulted in thousands of encounters directly related to the critical and innumerable mental health needs of children under 5.

***Autism Awareness Initiative:** University Settlement's EXCEL program at the Houston Street Center originated in 2012 as a response to the community-voiced need for affordable, linguistically- and culturally-capable enrichment programming available for youth and young adults with Autistic Spectrum Disorder. In 2018, the need for affordable, linguistically-suitable recreational activities still remains in this community. One in 88 Asian Pacific American children are identified with autism in the United States, but language barriers, limited community infrastructure, and social stigma create significant barriers for this special population. Funding from the Autism Awareness Initiative supports 100 youth and young people with autism, ages 4 to 30; over 50 caregivers; and other Chinese-speaking families impacted by autism.

Summer Camp: The Mayor's FY 2019 budget again did not include funding for summer programs for over 34,000 middle school students. University Settlement relies on this funding each year to provide 425 slots in free, quality summer school programs. We need the Mayor to commit to permanently supporting summer school!

Written Testimony from Raquel Cepeda-Llapa (resident of City Council District 9)

Re: Fiscal Year 2019 Executive Budget – Need to Provide Funding for Increased Accessibility in NYC Schools

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony regarding the Fiscal Year 2019 Executive Budget. My name is Raquel Cepeda-Llapa, and I am a parent of a student with a physical disability who is currently in high school. I am writing to ask you to ensure that the final FY 19 budget includes at least \$125 million to make more schools accessible to students, parents, and teachers with physical disabilities.

My son has a physical disability that makes it difficult for him to walk, carry books and climb stairs. Although he can do all these things, he needs to be very careful and limit his time with each of them. When my son was looking at high schools, he had very few options to choose from. My son is a talented musician and dreamed of going to high school to pursue this talent. Despite the multiple high schools in the public system that allows students to hone their musical abilities, there was only one school in the system that was fully accessible and would enable him to focus on his music. We are extremely fortunate and thankful that my son was accepted to this one school.

The choices for high school for my son were extremely slim. Even if he agreed to put aside his musical ambitions, because of his physical needs there were still only a few choices of schools of which my son could apply. Unlike his peers who were able to list 12 schools on their high school application, my son had only 4 schools to list. This was not fair to my son.

Like my son, other students with physical disabilities have similarly limited choices of schools. It is my understanding that three of the City's 32 community school districts have no fully accessible elementary schools (Districts 12, 16, and 21), four school districts have no fully accessible middle schools (Districts 7, 14, 16, and 32), and six districts have no fully accessible high schools (Districts 14, 16, 18, 20, 21, and 32).

The City needs to do better in ensuring that there are more schools in the system that can be accessed by individuals with physical disabilities. This is not just an issue that affects students, it also affects parents, caregivers, siblings, teachers, or administrators who have physical issues. More than twenty-seven years after the enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act ("ADA") the state of accessibility in NYC public schools is unacceptable. Changes need to be made and this work needs to start with a sufficient allocation of funds for renovation and construction to increase the number of accessible schools.

I was pleased to learn that the City Council's Response to the FY 2019 Preliminary Budget recommends an allocation of an additional \$125 million for school accessibility projects. If adopted, I understand this funding would allow the City to make another 15-17 schools fully accessible and to improve the accessibility of additional schools throughout the City through minor renovation projects. However, I was saddened to see that the Executive Budget, once again, omits this critical funding.

I urge you to stand steadfast and negotiate a final budget that includes at least an additional \$125 million for school accessibility.

Thank you for considering my testimony. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at rcellapa@gmail.com

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today about the upcoming Capital Budget. First, I want to thank the City Council, especially the Committee on Education chaired by Mark Treyger and the Committee on Finance, chaired by Daniel Dromm, for their ongoing support on improving accessibility in New York City Public Schools. We need their efforts and support to translate into an increased budget allocation this year.

The NYC Department of Education has 3066 sites. There are nearly 1800 schools in about 1300 buildings. We have about 1240 schools which are not fully accessible, which translates into about 900 buildings that need to be made accessible. At the current rate of 17 schools every 5 years, we will reach full accessibility in 262 years, in the year 2280. This is appalling. We need full accessibility during our lifetime. I propose that we increase the capital budget for accessibility to \$1 billion over 5 years. At that rate, we will achieve full accessibility in 26 years, just in time for my grandchildren to go to high school.

We dodge our legal requirements and our moral imperative, when we twist IDEA's mandate for "a Free and Appropriate Education" to mean an education anywhere the Department of Education sends you. An appropriate education is not one where people with disabilities are segregated into schools that they can access. An appropriate education means equal opportunities to attend your neighborhood elementary school, to have a full range of middle and high school choices, and to have your parents involved in your education.

We have seen the difference having an accessible school has made for our son, Abey, first hand this year. The change from the Henry Viscardi School, a segregated special education school, located 19 miles from our home in Albertson, Long Island, and Bard High School Early College Queens, a competitive high school 2 miles from our home, has been extraordinary. My son is finally getting the challenging education he has been missing for the last 9 years. He is a member of the vinyl club, which meets after school – something he could not do at Viscardi because there was no transportation home. My son has friends, who come over to our house, and recently attended the performance of a play he wrote. And his commute has gone from one hour each way to 20 minutes each way. This is what he was entitled to all along.

This is not just an education issue. The ADA, passed in 1990, guarantees that people with disabilities have the same opportunities as everyone else to participate in the mainstream of American life – to be employed, to purchase goods and services, and to participate in State and local government programs and services. Our schools are public buildings where teachers, administrators and staff make their living, community members vote, and families attend conferences and events. 28 years later, we have not complied with the spirit or the letter of the ADA in our school buildings.

It is easy to focus on the Department of Education when we discuss the lack of accessibility. But the money needed to achieve compliance with the ADA has to come from you, our legislators. We need you to make the allocations that will support fully accessibility for my son, Abey, to get a job, vote, participate in his community, and one day bring my grandchildren to school.

Michelle Noris, PE
21-37 23rd Street
Astoria, NY 11105
718-267-8881

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today about the upcoming Capital Budget. First, I want to thank the City Council, especially the Committee on Education chaired by Mark Treyger and the Committee on Finance, chaired by Daniel Dromm, for their ongoing support on improving accessibility in New York City Public Schools. We need their efforts and support to translate into an increased budget allocation this year.

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It is easy to focus on the Department of Education when we discuss the lack of accessibility. But the money needed to achieve compliance with the ADA has to come from you, our legislators. We need you to make the allocations that will support full accessibility for my grandson, Abey, to get a job, vote, participate in his community, and one day bring my great grandchildren to school.

Dan Fast
33-68 21st Street
Long Island City, NY 11106
718-721-5426

Esteemed Members of the City Council,

Thank you very much for granting me a moment of your time so that I can discuss something very dear to me, accessibility in the schools. My earliest memory of New York City public schools comes during the interview process at my elementary school, Manhattan School for Children (P.S. 333). The school is housed in the old Joan of Arc Junior High School complex. Because the school building is older, there is a set of stairs leading up to the lobby, and the only way in for people who utilize mobility devices is via a side door leading into the auditorium. This door was supposedly unlocked using an intercom system. When I first arrived, and for the first four years of my educational experience, the intercom was broken, so we had to hope that there was someone entering the building who we could ask to notify the security guards so that they could unlock the door. If this wasn't the case, then I would have to be left alone on the sidewalk while my caregiver ran inside to ask the security guards to open the door. I have been doing this from my earliest memory of the school up until around my third or fourth grade year. This experience frightened me, and I did not feel comfortable waiting outside. Eventually, we received a replacement intercom, and the problem was solved. However, the problem has just now resurfaced as I prepare to exit my freshman year of high school. Because I am lucky enough to have a motorized wheelchair, I am no longer depended upon paraprofessionals or other school officials to take me off the school bus to school every day. However, as of right now, I cannot open doors independently, so I'm often left sitting in front of the front doors of the school waiting for the next student to come along to assist me by opening the door. As I attempt to strive for more independence in life, I feel that this is a major setback. Here I am being dependent upon other people when I could be doing things completely independently with the aid of a little bit of mechanical technology. The technology of which I am speaking is push-button automatic doors. In a facility which has automatic doors, all I would have to do would be to come up to the button and press it, and the door would swing open to admit me and close behind me. This would complete the process of independently traveling to and from the school bus in the mornings, and would be beneficial for everyone, especially those who lack sufficient strength to push open heavy front doors (e.g. a person utilizing crutches). I hope money will be put into the final budget that can be earmarked to improve accessibility in the front entrances of schools, both in terms of automating doors and creating integrated school entrances.

I thank you again for your time.

Sincerely,
Joshua Stern

Subject: Let Red Hook Compost Project help NYC continue to reach its goals!

Hello,

An email recently crossed my desk regarding the compost project at the Red Hook Community Farm, submitted as testimony to the Finance hearing last week. It painted a beautiful picture of the progress that this project has been able to accomplish (an estimated 1,000 TONS diverted from NYC landfills with a small team and without the use of any non-renewable resources; 2,000 yearly volunteers...) and there is little that I can add about the operational and practical aspects of the program that Tanya Bley's May 24th letter didn't cover, but as there have been concerns about the future of that compost site (mostly revolving around funding - see an excerpt from Tanya's letter below regarding this concern*), I just wanted to add my voice to the choir of why this program is so important to the Red Hook community and the city-at-large - and how it can help NYC reach its goals for 2019 and beyond.

My name is Gina Leggett and I have been a volunteer - first on the agriculture side with Added Value in October 2011 and then volunteering on compost after Hurricane Sandy. I became a New York Cares team leader under David Buckel in the beginning of 2014. As a woman who works in banking during the week and runs an educational event series in my spare time, you can imagine what a reprieve it is to know that I have the ability to make a healthy difference for NYC's landscape. Encouraged by David Buckel's contributions to the community after segueing from a career as a civil rights attorney, I took all of my 2016 vacation time to volunteer on-site under David and farmer, Corey Blant, in order to build a platform for my own, still impending, career change to the urban agriculture movement.

A quick perusal of the proposed Mayor's budget led me to zero-in on how the compost project at Red Hook Farm is currently and, hopefully, will continue to help NYC reach its goals with the proper resources:

- **Zero Waste by 2030** - the output from this compost site is the most obvious benefit to continuing operations, but when you also consider the education that our orientation provides to 2,000 volunteers/year and shows how their home compost gets integrated into the cycle - the impact is much, much larger.
- **\$3M+ allocated to Parks betterment and protection** - using this NYC parkland as the venue for an operating farm and compost site requires extreme safety and cleanliness of the area. In fact, that space where the Farm lies, across from IKEA in Red Hook was overrun with vermin until, ironically, the food scraps started coming in - the work done there creates far improved conditions for New Yorkers to come by and enjoy this tract of NYC Parks-owned land.
- **Increased access to healthy foods** - Additionally, the majority of the compost from that site is used on the Added Value Farm, which improves its growing conditions, increases output, and helps fund the project further (through the student-run farmer's market and CSA). This organization provides healthy, affordable locally-grown vegetables to neighbors. As our compost is hand-sifted, we can ensure the quality that gets added to the soil for better, healthier crops.

There are three other aspects that I think the city should hone in on here:

- How cool is it that **we have the LARGEST compost site in the COUNTRY run solely on renewable resources?** We should be bragging about that to everyone. Many US cities are years ahead of us in terms of environmental conservation, but that title goes to us!
- The staff member that David Buckel left behind, Domingo Morales, is currently running that site single-handedly and doing an amazing job. **Domingo was hired directly out of Green City Force, a branch of Americorps that engages low-income youth in the city to work on greening projects.** Domingo was hand-selected because of his dedication and work ethic and should be celebrated - his story, which I feel is not mine to tell, is truly noteworthy. He has shown time and

time again that he is a born leader and he is rapidly becoming a figure-head in the community. **In this current climate of bad news, we should be celebrating these NYC successes and I'm sure you all became politicians because you love the city and want to create opportunities that lead to far more of these successes.**

- Many of our volunteers have been with us for 4+ years. **There is a community built into this site and we're all extraordinarily proud to be a part of it.**

Thank you for your time, I am available to speak further on these matters. I love this city and I love this project and I just wanted to make sure that the value of it is known. **I'd love to arrange a visit for you all to see the site in action if anyone is interested and we can always use an extra set of hands on Saturdays!**

Best regards,
Gina Leggett

* Excerpt from Tanya Bley's email: The Chair on the Committee on Waste Management has requested (this year for the second consecutive year) that the Department of Sanitation allocate \$10M of its over \$2B budget to outreach and education to help the city achieve its zero waste goals by 2030. As further expansion of the curbside organics collection program is stalled for the foreseeable future, and given the low participation rates and high levels of contamination that plague the program, now is not the time to change one of the most renowned, engaging and educational composting sites in the US. The site processes over 200,000 tons of organics on a single acre, with no inputs beyond the carting to get the organics to the site. Given that NYC's ~13,000 ton/day waste stream is close to 1/3 organics, this material can be processed without sophisticated and costly equipment on the available inventory of marginal and submarginal municipally-owned real estate. The portion of the budget that NYC Department of Sanitation allocates to long haul contracts (about 2/3 of its over \$2B budget) can be invested in local communities that are actively engaged in reducing and minimizing its waste and carbon footprint.



**Testimony of Adriana Espinoza
NYC Program Director
New York League of Conservation Voters
City Council Committee on Finance
May 23rd, 2018**

Good afternoon. My name is Adriana Espinoza and I am Director of the New York City Program at the New York League of Conservation Voters (NYLCV). NYLCV represents over 31,000 members in New York City and we are committed to advancing a sustainability agenda that will make our people, our neighborhoods, and our economy healthier and more resilient. NYLCV would like to thank Chair Dromm and members of the Finance Committee for the opportunity to testify on budget priorities that we believe will advance New York City's sustainability agenda.

NYLCV supports a thriving and sustainable local foodshed and efforts to ensure every New Yorker has access to fresh, healthy, local food. In the FY19 budget, the City should support programs that incentivize both the sale and purchase of healthy food. NYLCV suggests focus on the following areas:

Food Financing Initiative

New York State has had success in expanding the sale of healthy food through the Healthy Food, Healthy Communities Fund, an initiative that garnered private investment and provided loans and grants for the establishment of neighborhood grocery stores in underserved communities. The program resulted in 20 new food markets across the state, and 441 permanent employees, but is no longer being funded in the State's budget.

We believe the City should implement a similar healthy food financing initiative with a \$10 million investment in the budget to expand food retail establishments in neighborhoods with insufficient access to fresh produce. An investment of this size on the state level leveraged over \$150 million in investments, and we believe that success could be replicated in New York City.

Snap Incentive Programs and Healthy Corner Store Initiatives

Addressing affordability is a pivotal component to expanding access to healthy food. With 1 in 5 New Yorkers enrolled in SNAP, the City should continue to explore ways these benefits can be used to promote the purchase of fruits and vegetables while also reducing food insecurity. SNAP programs in the form of coupons or point of sale discounts have demonstrated success in incentivizing the purchase of healthy foods. **NYLCV supports an investment of \$15 million to expand SNAP incentive programs to serve more New Yorkers.**

To date, the Health Bucks program has led to the purchase of more than \$2 million in fresh produce, a figure we believe could grow exponentially if such programs were expanded beyond farmers markets to places closer to where families shop.

To that end, NYLCV supports Healthy Corner Store Initiatives, including Shop Healthy NYC and other programs led by local community-based organizations. These programs educate New Yorkers about the availability of healthy options through public engagement and provide incentives to bodega owners to follow through on commitments to provide healthier foods. **In FY19, the Council and Administration should support healthy corner store initiatives with an additional \$3 million to increase the amount of healthy food offered in corner stores in low- and moderate- income neighborhoods around the City.**

I would like to thank Chair Dromm and the entire Committee on Finance for your leadership, and I look forward to working with you all on advancing a healthy New York and healthy New Yorkers.



**Executive Budget hearing for The Department for the Aging
Aging
May 24, 2018**

**Testimony submitted by: Rachel Sherrow
Associate Executive Director
Citymeals on Wheels
355 Lexington Avenue, NYC 10017
(212) 687-1234
Rachel@citymeals.org**

**My name is Rachel Sherrow and I am the Associate Executive
Director at Citymeals on Wheels. I would like to begin by thanking
the Council for their continued support of aging services and
Citymeals on Wheels which will help to deliver over 2 million meals to
nearly 18,400 homebound elderly citywide this year.**

**Today I'm here to talk about supporting the overall ask for \$22.1
million for FY 19 that the aging coalition is requesting. Citymeals, in
collaboration with advocates for aging services who together
represent hundreds of organizations, realize the current need in the
sector and what is necessary to build an infrastructure to support the
growing obligation for services for older New Yorkers and we must
start supporting them today and continue with an investment for the
future.**

The city made a great start with an investment in FY 18 helping move DFTA funded contracts toward being more fully funded, but the system needs more. We need to continue to close the deep gaps in existing services. The proportion of Council initiative funding within DFTA is almost 10% of their budget. Our greatest fear is if this funding is not reinvested next year, aging services will not be able to continue to serve the most frail and at risk population in the city which includes the oldest old (those 90 to over 100), older immigrants who never paid into the social security system and rely upon city services, those who never married or had children and have little to no supports. Because of this over dependence on Council funding, if it were cut it could damage the already fragile infrastructure of aging services and leave our older adults without services. This money is crucial in providing the everyday services for this population throughout our city.

Part of the funding request is an investment in funding for food, including meals on wheels, so that providers can actually pay for the cost of nutritious meals which help our homebound elderly remain in their homes, a savings the city would otherwise incur in emergency rooms and hospitalizations. The model budget which DFTA has been working on with the city does not include food costs which is a huge component of senior center funding. We want to ensure these costs are supported and increased in order to provide the services community based organizations are contracted to do.

We would also like to emphasize the need to expedite the model budget senior center funding in FY 19 instead of waiting until FY 21 in order to continue to safeguard the infrastructure of our supportive services network. NYC wants fair funding which we wholly support, but without the continued funding of Council initiatives and an investment in current services and infrastructure, we will be a fair city only for those under 60.

Throughout the country and here in NYC, our population is aging, with 17% of our city over the age of 60. Living longer on fixed incomes means more struggle over access to food. Because income for older adults remains fixed, or worse, declines, many experience increased difficulty affording healthy food.

In addition, since 2012, New York City's older adults experienced an increase in poverty from 16.5% to 19.1%. According to the NYC Center for Economic Opportunity, 1 in 3 New Yorkers over the age of 65 live in poverty.

In-home services such as meals on wheels, is one less struggle for the homebound to worry about financially. In addition, this food delivery is one way to prevent them from slipping into more expensive kinds of care. Evidence does support the fact that programs like meals on wheels which allows older adults to age in place, may help save costs for families, government and our health

systems. Meals on Wheels for an entire year is the equivalent cost of the older person being hospitalized for a day, or in a nursing home for over a week! It is in their interest and ours to keep them with us, right here in the communities where they have lived for so long. Meals on wheels is also a benefit to the growing population of caregivers whose emotional, physical and financial efforts can be unburdened by knowing a meal is being delivered to their loved ones allowing for respite and relief on so many levels.

Together with the Department for the Aging, and The New York City Council, Citymeals is determined to keep 18,400 elderly New Yorkers and growing, fed 365 days a year plus some extra. We hope you, our partners in city government, will help us to continue to advocate on behalf of those who are often forgotten and marginalized.

As we move through our 36th year, we thank you for consistently working with us and I hope we can count on all of your support once again this year as we seek continued funding to keep up with the growing need and make sure no one goes without food. In addition to ensuring that core services funded through Council initiatives will not lose your support.

Baseline Budget
From: Yessenia Rosario <yrosario@nc-dcc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2018 10:43 AM
To: financetestimony
Subject: Baseline Budget

Currently the DOE reimburses program per children enrolled without taking into account the fact that salaries, rent, insurance, and day to day expenses required for 100% funding.

ACS funds for staff to be in the classroom for 6.5 hours but the programs run for 10 hours a day. Funding needs to be allocated to cover for the extended part of the day after the morning staff leaves.

--

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TESTIMONY OF BIOBUS, INC.

BEFORE THE NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL

REGARDING THE FY2019 EXPENSE AND CAPITAL BUDGETS

MAY 24, 2018

BioBus, Inc. would like to thank the members of the New York City Council for your support over the past two years. Discretionary allocations from Council Members Levine, Rosenthal, Perkins, Rodriguez, and Salamanca as well as former Speaker Mark-Viverito and former Council Members Ferreras-Copeland and Palma allowed thousands of students at public schools and in public parks to discover the excitement of science aboard BioBus mobile labs. Your support ensures our students, especially students of color, girls, and students from low-income families, have the opportunity to discover, explore, and pursue science on mobile labs parked at their schools and during outside of school programs in their communities. BioBus sparks each child's natural curiosity and gives them the critical thinking, problem-solving, and STEM skills that will prepare the next generation to solve society's biggest challenges.

Introduction and Need

DISCOVER

Four years ago, Naomi, age 12, saw the beating heart of *Daphnia magna*. She proceeded to turn the knobs and throw the switches on a research microscope, guided by biologist and BioBus Chief Scientist Dr. Latasha Wright. Using the microscope, Naomi discovered that this small crustacean is full of a hidden, living anatomy. Fascinated, she spent the next 45 minutes asking question after question and answering many of those questions herself using the microscope. It was her first time boarding a BioBus Mobile Lab, her first time experiencing the excitement of discovering the microscopic world around her.

EXPLORE

The next month, Naomi joined a weekly Saturday Science course at a BioBus community lab on Manhattan's Lower East Side. Now, Naomi could work in a research-grade lab guided by Masters and Ph.D. scientists every week to explore a science project in-depth. She developed her scientific skills through participation in the scientific process: asking questions, contributing her opinion, and helping other students during hands-on experiment time. When she made a mistake, BioBus scientist-mentors helped Naomi understand that mistakes are a valued part of the scientific discovery process.

PURSUE

Now a high school student, Naomi is interested in physics and astronomy and continues to pursue science as a paid BioBus-Regeneron intern, conducting her own project and serving as a role model for younger students. Naomi and another BioBus-Regeneron intern, Zoe, designed

and built a fully functional fluorescence microscope starting with a DIY microscope kit created by BioBus scientists. They used the microscope to explore the brain, looking at samples from mouse brains and the fruit fly larva nervous system. When asked what science project she would do with unlimited money and resources, Naomi explained that she would take inspiration from the way plants use solar energy to make a new, more efficient solar panel for use in parts of the world where electricity is scarce but sunlight is abundant. Naomi wants to “increase access to science for everyone, especially other girls because we need more women in science.”

Naomi is right; however, opportunities for students to develop science skills through research experiences continue to be rare and inaccessible to many students, despite evidence that students who have hands-on science and research experiences are more likely to pursue science paths. In recent years, workers with STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) education have had lower unemployment and higher wages in both STEM and traditionally non-STEM careers. At the same time, STEM jobs increased 16% in 10 years (2002-2011), yet women, African Americans, and Hispanics continue to be underrepresented in STEM fields.

BioBus works everyday to increase access to science, focusing on populations historically excluded from the scientific conversation. We envision a world where all people have the opportunity to reach their full scientific potential. Beginning with the initial discovery that sparks science excitement, through the in-depth explorations that hone scientific skills and understanding, to the long-term science pursuits that can both transform the individual and the world, BioBus connects students, educators, and scientists to make this vision a reality.

Pathways to Discovery, Exploration, and Pursuit of Science

The mission of BioBus, Inc. (“BioBus”), founded in 2008 and based in New York City, is to help minority, female, and low-income students reach their full scientific potential by providing opportunities to **discover, explore, and pursue** science. In our introductory “**Discover**” programs, students begin by discovering the excitement of hands-on science on a mobile lab - a research lab built on a bus or trailer, equipped with over \$100,000 of microscopes, and staffed by scientists. We park our mobile labs outside schools every day of the school year, bringing entire classes of pre-K through grade 12 students aboard. With 15:1 or better student to scientist ratios, hands-on lessons, complementary classroom teacher lesson-plans, alignment with mandated standards, and scheduling that fits seamlessly with the rest of the school day, mobile lab programs are easily accessible to schools and students. Over the next five years, at least 300,000 students will board our mobile labs and feel the excitement of scientific discovery.

After a single 45-minute “**Discover**” style program aboard a BioBus Mobile Lab, many students have more positive attitudes towards science and will explore science more in-depth during after-school, weekend, and school-break science programs. BioBus offers these in-depth “**Explore**” programs both on-site at existing schools and community centers and at our

community labs: research labs equipped with the same advanced microscopes found on our mobile labs and staffed by scientists trained to mentor students in 15-hour guided-inquiry lab courses. With a 6:1 or better student to scientist ratio, community labs give students space for creative scientific exploration. Explore programs are offered in the same underserved neighborhoods where students regularly board a BioBus mobile lab at their school for a “Discover” program, making it easy for students to then join an Explore course as part of their school’s after-school program or at a nearby community lab.

As BioBus students begin to realize their scientific interest and potential, they begin to apply scientific discovery and exploration to many areas of their lives. Our most excited students begin to **pursue** a goal of making a difference in the world by becoming tomorrow’s leaders in science research and education. BioBus facilitates this through our “**Pursue**” paid internships for high school and college students. Interns take on their own science project for independent exploration, while learning to be science communicators, presenting their work and teaching younger students. Many of our interns stay with BioBus for multiple semesters, and all interns receive support in taking the next step along their science path, whether it’s an internship in a research lab at NYU or Columbia, a college science or education major, or a job working at a science museum. BioBus students are better prepared to use science skills and scientific thinking to further their goals in both scientific and traditionally non-scientific fields.

The pathway to science for BioBus students relies on our innovative curriculum and lab designs and our highly committed, innovative, and experienced staff. Ben Dubin-Thaler, Executive Director, created BioBus after finishing his Ph.D. in Biology at Columbia and is now a dedicated nonprofit leader and expert in science education. Sarah Weisberg, Chief Scientist, is President of the Mobile Lab Coalition, designed many of our organizational processes, and spearheaded BioBus partnerships with schools on the Lower East Side and the Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD). Latasha Wright, Chief Scientist, led the creation of our first community lab and is currently leading our Harlem expansion. Our teaching staff is a team of masters and Ph.D. scientists, educated at Columbia, Harvard, Rutgers, CUNY, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, Cold Spring Harbor Labs, and Cornell. We have a group of staff with education, nonprofit, and science experience that make up our program operations team and facilities management team. BioBus has two development staff engaged in raising funds from foundation, corporate, individual, and government sources to ensure our sustainability and long-term growth. Together, we are leaders in a growing, global science outreach movement establishing best-practices and fostering the growth of new mobile labs. We have consulted extensively to establish new mobile labs, including in Egypt and Jordan via contracts with the U.S. government.

BioBus: Evidence for Success

Over the past ten years, 250,000 students at more than 500 schools have discovered the thrill of scientific discovery aboard our mobile labs. Mobile lab programs are booked six months in advance with one hundred schools waitlisted in the 2016-17 school year. Similarly, we are only

able to accept 20-25% of applicants into our community lab courses. In response to this demand, BioBus is at the end of a three year effort to double our program capacity. Our new community lab at Columbia's Zuckerman Institute in Harlem is open and our new mobile lab, built on an Airstream trailer, went into service in September 2017. We continue to operate the original mobile lab and out-of-school time programs on the Lower East Side and in Long Island City. Our mobile labs visits schools in all five boroughs, primarily public schools in low-income and minority communities. The majority of our students are New York City residents.

A recent external evaluation based on a framework pinpointing twelve indicators of STEM program quality in out-of-school time settings, reflected positively on many aspects of the BioBus model. Most students (90%) find BioBus scientists approachable for questions or discussion. In focus groups, students emphasized that BioBus activities are different than those in a regular classroom, because students have a more active role and use equipment, like microscopes, that is not available in their classrooms. Students found it exciting to investigate something alive and to be engaged in hands-on activities.

This external evaluation also validated the first stages of our Discover-Explore-Pursue pathway to science. On the Lower East Side, out of 4,500 students who boarded a mobile lab at their school, five percent (five times what we predicted based on similar programs) signed up for in-depth community lab programs. Of those who enrolled in a typical in-depth course at our Lower East Side community lab, 73% had never before done science outside of school. Student attendance rate at course sessions was over 90% and all students stated they wanted to sign up for more after the final session. The evaluator attributed the high attendance and ongoing interest to our adherence to a broad-spectrum of pedagogical best practices in research-based science education. She observed students viewing activities as purposeful; students being highly engaged with science, inquiry, and reflection; and students using their own voice to describe their activities.

Moreover, BioBus facilitates the growth of tomorrow's science leaders and researchers through our Pursue program of paid internships at both high school and college levels. Interns take on their own science project for independent exploration, while learning to be science communicators by presenting their own work at national conferences and teaching younger students. Since the beginning of "Pursue" programs in the fall of 2015, we have had approximately 44 interns. Many of them have continued science in their college endeavors as science majors or engaging in independent research at the university level, and research has shown that Pursue-style programs lead to increased undergraduate "persistence" and ultimately, college completion. Our interns benefit from the ongoing interaction and mentorship our scientists provide, while engaging in student-directed research projects. Students have developed a homemade 3D printed microscope for fluorescent neuron imaging, a new animal behavior experiment to study phototaxis in small crustaceans, and studied long-term, cross generational effects of alcohol exposure on fruit flies.

Hands-On Science for All

We aim to give every person the opportunity to reach their full scientific potential. Over two hundred thousand people have discovered the excitement science aboard BioBus mobile labs. Thousands of students, many for the first time, let their curiosity lead them on an in-depth exploration through the natural world. Hundreds have worked side-by-side with our scientist-educators as interns, finding magic in the pursuit of nature's secrets, sharing those secrets with the next generation, and nurturing academic and career goals. While we are not the first, nor the only, organization to operate a mobile lab, our unique features are an exclusive focus on the pedagogy of laboratory-based scientific inquiry paired with scientists whose life work is to practice scientific inquiry and spread its wonders and opportunities with as many people as possible. BioBus is not a museum. BioBus is not a classroom. BioBus is not a fairground ride. BioBus is not even (always) a bus. BioBus is the research science lab that is in front of your school, at your block party, in front of your neighborhood park, in your summer camp, and at the college you want to attend. From the time you are four years old until college and beyond, BioBus supports your journey to make science part of your life, wherever that journey leads.

BioBus programs are ready to scale and, with your support, we can grow rapidly to meet the great demand for our programs both in New York City. Our new mobile lab, building on our almost ten years of experience and using custom design features, is ready to replicate and deploy with eight months to build. Our community labs are built around height-adjustable, battery powered microscope stations on wheels that can be quickly deployed in most spaces of at least 700 square feet. We have strong partnerships with many schools in New York City, nonprofit and community organizations who we collaborate with, and universities who provide academic support and space for our programs. With these tools, and a staff hired from a scientific community energized to overcome the opportunity gap in science, we will create a world where everyone reaches their scientific potential.

Our Request

For Fiscal Year 2019, BioBus respectfully requests \$300,000 capital funding from the New York City Council. Our capital request will support new microscopes for our BioBus II mobile science laboratory to provide school day and school break science laboratory classes and public science events.

With this support, students will learn to use the research microscope equipment to perform science experiments. Working alongside and mentored by BioBus research scientists, students will image their own DNA, make textbook images of the organelles inside of cells, image the bacteria that live in our mouths and on our skin, record a movie of an ant's mandibles slicing apart a leaf, observe the biodiversity and bioluminescence of the animals and plants living in the New York Harbor, measure the carbon, calcium, and phosphorous content of an oyster's shell, and be limited only by what they can imagine to put under the microscope. Ultimately, students

in these BioBus programs are more interested in science class and science careers, and many will go on to enroll in our outside of school programs.

Each year, approximately 60,000 New York City public school students and members of the public will visit a BioBus lab and increase their excitement for science. The wide-range of microscope types, magnifications, illumination techniques, specimen holders, and digital imaging tools purchased in this project will allow our scientists to help students and members of the general public at public events engage interactively with the natural world in a way few have imagined and none will forget. By providing students with a touchstone positive science experience aboard the BioBus, students become more interested in science class, more likely to enroll in outside of school science programs, and more likely to become scientists. Training the next generation of New Yorkers to get the next generation of jobs will help New York become a more just, fair, and equitable place for all.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and your dedication to New York City.

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**Submitted testimony for
New York City Council Committee on Finance
May 30, 2018**

Dr. Kevin Cromar is an Associate Professor of Environmental Medicine and Population Health at NYU School of Medicine and the Director of the Air Quality Program at NYU's Marron Institute of Urban Management. He currently serves on the Utah Air Quality Board, which is the primary air quality policymaker for the state, and is the vice chair of the Environmental Health Policy Committee for the American Thoracic Society. While his experience serving in government and professional societies provide insight into these issues, his comments represent his own professional opinion.

"Conversion of the heavy-duty diesel fleet in New York to cleaner alternatives is the lowest hanging fruit available to the city council in reducing the adverse health risks from air pollution in our city, particularly for those most vulnerable to its impacts." -Kevin Cromar, PhD

Maintaining a Health Focus: Transitioning away from Heavy-Duty Diesel Fleets in New York

Like many other east coast U.S. cities, New York struggles to reconcile efforts to improve local air quality with limited jurisdiction over some of the largest contributors to ambient pollution levels, including interstate pollution and exempted emission types (e.g., new motor vehicles). Even in the face of these challenges, substantial improvements in air quality attributable to reductions in local emissions have been realized, most notably through the reductions in sulfur content and phasing out of high sulfur content heating oil for commercial and residential buildings.

Despite the fact that heating oil emissions from buildings represented a relatively small fraction of total pollution in New York, the move towards cleaner fuel and the replacement of boilers with available, less-polluting alternatives (not immediately, but as part of the natural turnover of equipment) resulted in New York experiencing the lowest wintertime levels of air pollution in the last 40 years. The New York City Council and the Mayor's Office deserve special recognition for the tremendous reduction in public health risks that resulted from this cost-effective policy solution.

Similar to heating oil in buildings, emissions from heavy-duty diesel vehicles represent a relatively small fraction of the total pollution burden in the city but make up a relatively large portion of the controllable air pollution emissions that fall under the jurisdiction of the city. Perhaps most importantly, it is one of the largest contributors to the inequity of air pollution health risks experienced by the most vulnerable populations in New York.

Transitioning away from heavy-duty diesel engines will result in immediate and sustained improvements in public health outcomes experienced by New Yorkers, including the reduction of cardiovascular health

risks among adults and respiratory health outcomes among children. These benefits not only include improvements in the anecdotal (sub-clinical) experiences of patients that report difficulty breathing when getting on and off of city buses and when walking by garbage trucks, but will make a large enough difference in daily pollution exposures to mitigate clinical health outcomes associated with short-term (e.g., emergency department visits and hospital admissions for respiratory disease) and long-term exposures (e.g., development of lung function in children and disease progression in children and adults).

Proposed policies to transition away from heavy-duty diesel vehicles in New York City fleets is particularly appealing, not only due to the cumulative emission reductions that would occur from fleet conversion, but also due to the current availability of alternative heavy-duty vehicles of comparable price and capability to diesel vehicles (i.e., natural gas powered engines). In fact, the conversion of the heavy-duty diesel fleet in New York to cleaner alternatives is the lowest hanging fruit available to the city council in reducing the adverse health risks from air pollution in our city, particularly for those most vulnerable to its impacts.

The change in air pollution exposures that would result from conversion away from heavy-duty diesel vehicles is of sufficient magnitude to reduce public health burdens of city residents. Additionally, as fleet conversion occurs, the prioritization of neighborhoods experiencing the highest rates of air pollution-related health impacts is the best available option to address environmental health disparities in the city.

I urge the city council and the finance committee to adopt policies that prevent the purchasing of heavy-duty diesel vehicles, particularly for use by the Department of Sanitation and MTA, when lower emission alternatives (i.e., natural gas vehicles) are available.



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Center for Independence of the Disabled, NY

May 26, 2018

Accessibility of NYC Schools

Lourdes I. Rosa-Carrasquillo, Esq.
Director of Advocacy

Fiscal Year 2019 Executive Budget

Re:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony regarding the Fiscal Year 2019 Executive Budget. I am here on behalf of the Center for Independence of the Disabled, NY (CIDNY). My name is Lourdes I. Rosa-Carrasquillo, Esq., the Director of Advocacy. CIDNY is a member of the ARISE Coalition.

CIDNY has a Youth Program that goes into the City high schools to teach soft skills and offer peer counseling. Our youth counselor has noted that many of the schools where she teaches are not accessible. In addition, through the last 15 years, CIDNY has conducted surveys of polling sites and emergency shelters at many of the City's 1,700 public schools.. The City's public schools serve as voting sites, public meeting places, and emergency shelters during disasters. Through our surveying, CIDNY found a high percentage to be inaccessible.

CIDNY is submitting this testimony to inform the you that the inaccessibility of public schools for students with disabilities severely limits their school choice. New York City is failing to afford students with disabilities the same rights and opportunities as students without disabilities. It is failing to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

CIDNY is writing to request that the New York City show that it intends to abide by the ADA by including at least \$125 million to make more schools accessible to students, parents, and teachers with physical disabilities.

There are three of the City's 32 community school districts that fail to have fully accessible elementary schools (Districts 12, 16, and 21), four school districts have no fully accessible middle schools (Districts 7, 14, 16, and 32), and six districts have no fully accessible high schools (Districts 14, 16, 18, 20, 21, and 32).

Due to this shortage of accessible schools in a school system that prides itself on giving students choices when applying to high school enabling them to explore specific interests and talents, there is no equity in the admissions process for students with

Re:

physical disabilities. Every time a student with physical disabilities applies to high school, the accessibility of school buildings becomes a primary concern in their decision-making process, often over and above the student's interests and talents.

The Department of Education has categorized a number of schools across the City as "partially" accessible. To characterize a school as "partially accessible" is a per se admission of inaccessibility. If students with disabilities cannot access key spaces for education and to participate in the school community, then the school is inaccessible. We know of "partially accessible" schools with no accessible bathrooms. We know of others where students who use wheelchairs or walkers must enter the building through a separate entrance from their peers, often along a ramp that is literally piled with garbage and which may not be compliant with law with respect to slope, landings, railings, etc. At other partially accessible schools, students who use wheelchairs cannot access libraries, science rooms, cafeterias, and music studios—denying those students the ability to be fully included in the school's program and to learn alongside their peers.

It should be obvious that the inaccessibility of schools denies career opportunities to teachers with disabilities and denies students the opportunity to have people with disabilities be role models. It also denies parents with disabilities the opportunity to support their student in school, take part in school activities, etc.

Two years after the ADA, the U.S. Department of Justice issued findings regarding the shortage of accessible schools in New York City. It stated that the City must provide individuals with disabilities access to additional public schools. This work needs to start with a sufficient allocation of funds for renovation and construction to increase the number of accessible schools.

Unfortunately, the 2015-2019 Capital Plan allocates only \$100 million over five years for improving school accessibility and \$28 million for ensuring that a number of schools can serve as accessible emergency shelters. Together, that represents less

Re:

than one percent of the total funding in the Plan. Furthermore, the City has already spent the vast majority of this funding, leaving little, if any, funding for accessibility projects in the coming year.

We are very pleased that the City Council's Response to the FY 2019 Preliminary Budget recommends an allocation of an additional \$125 million for school accessibility projects. If adopted, this funding would allow the City to make another 15-17 schools fully accessible and to improve the accessibility of additional schools throughout the City through minor renovation projects. Unfortunately, the mayor's Executive Budget omits this critical funding.

CIDNY supports the City Council's response to the mayor's budget. We urge that the City Council not to compromise on its budget proposal.

Thank you for considering my testimony. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 646-442-4153 or lrosacarrasquillo@cidny.org

YouthBuild NYC Collaborative

**Report prepared for submission to the
New York City Council**

Speaker:	The Hon. Corey Johnson
Youth Services Committee Chair:	The Hon. Debi Rose
Staff:	Jessica Ackerman and Eisha Wright
Prepared by:	YouthBuild NYC Collaborative
Date:	May 24, 2018

+++++

Amount funded current year (FY 2018): \$2.1 million

Amount requested for FY 2019: \$2.45 million

The member programs of the YouthBuild NYC Collaborative operate eight YouthBuild projects distributed among the five boroughs of New York City, implementing the comprehensive, nationally acclaimed YouthBuild training and youth development model. In YouthBuild, out-of-school and out-of work youth, who in many cases have been court-involved or drifting toward unproductive lives, find paths to positive educational achievement and careers that help themselves and at the same time, raise up their communities. That is the effective YouthBuild bonus. Through the comprehensive, multi-year YouthBuild approach, in the past five years close to one thousand NYC youth (16-24) have gained the remedial education they need for their High School Equivalency (HSE) certifications, while also producing affordable housing, providing community service, and building careers.

After YouthBuild originated in New York City 40 years ago, it spread across the country and by 1992 was picked up for Federal funding. The US Department of Labor YouthBuild initiative is currently funded at \$89.5 million per year and supports 150 of the 260 US-based YouthBuild programs.¹ In recent years these DOL/YouthBuild grants have become increasingly difficult to obtain, and many YouthBuild programs must operate without them, and are at risk of being lost. In NYC, of the eight YouthBuild sites, usually two or three enjoy DOL funding in any given year. To remedy that scarcity of funding, and to ensure YouthBuild opportunities for out of school and out of work youth, the City Council has allocated \$2.1 million of NYC Discretionary funds through a Citywide Speaker Initiative each of the past four years. The grants are

¹ This year, the four key leaders for YouthBuild in the House of Representatives and US Senate -- Rep. John Lewis (D-GA) and Rep. Scott Perry (R-PA), and Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) and Sen. Dean Heller (R-NV), respectively -- collected support from more than a third of their colleagues for "robust" YouthBuild funding, which led to the second \$5 million increase in the past three years for YouthBuild opportunities nationwide.

designated to the nonprofit sponsors and weighted with preference to the sites lacking the Federal YouthBuild grant, thereby ensuring that services can go forward at every site. The eight YouthBuild sites in NYC, and the hundreds of youth served, join in thanking the Council for this historic and smart allocation of public resources since 2014.

For FY2019, we have requested a Discretionary Funds allocation of \$2.45 million for the citywide Speaker Initiative for YouthBuild, which would ensure a continuity of services, and that YouthBuild sites can be fully operative. In the current year, eight sites are working with 431 youth. About half of those YouthBuild students will get their High School Equivalency, about 70% will find work or go on to college studies, about 80% will receive Vocational Certifications, and virtually every one of them will find value in the life-transforming YouthBuild experience. Five percent of the grant funds support coaches and technical assistance for each of the sites, to help ensure great programming and outcomes, and to promote productive aligned activities and sharing. The technical assistance is provided by YouthBuild USA, the award-winning agency that already provides training and support to 250 YouthBuild programs across the nation. Mid-year and five-year data is attached.

The requested increase to \$2.45 million for the Speaker Initiative reflects that only one of the current eight sites has a US/DOL YouthBuild grant in place for the coming year, which is fewer than usual. The NYC YouthBuild operators will be preparing their formal applications this Spring, and the US Congress has added an additional \$5.5 million to the national YouthBuild program for the coming year, so we are optimistic that several new federal YouthBuild grants can be obtained for FY 2020. Our request for \$2.45 million would help assure continuing services as we shift into FY2019.

YouthBuild programs provide comprehensive life-transforming services and stipends to out-of-school, out-of-work youth aged 16-24, and ongoing placement services and support for thousands of YouthBuild alumni. Considering the high costs of criminal adjudication and By that calculus, long-term public assistance, providing this transformative opportunity for youth who are at risk and marginalized is smart public policy. Investing in YouthBuild generates future gains, and not only because of the lives and futures transformed; every \$1 invested in YouthBuild saves at least \$7.80 of future public sector spending.²

The YouthBuild movement originated in New York City, before expanding nationally and internationally. YouthBuild is in effect, a New York “best practice” that now serves 20,000 youth a year in 21 countries; 8,000 of them are US-based, distributed among 46 states. Since 1994, 41,000 units of affordable housing have been produced

² As shown in studies. For example, Costs and Benefits of a Targeted Intervention Program for Youthful Offenders: The Offender Project. Mark Cohen, PhD, and Alex Piquero, PhD, Vanderbilt university, 2008

or upgraded by 150,000 YouthBuild students across the US. Over 5,000 of those students have been New Yorkers.

For two decades the federal government has funded comprehensive YouthBuild services; since 2007 it has been through the US Department of Labor (US/DOL). Each year NYC-based programs receive some portion of the \$84 million allocated for YouthBuild, but due to scarcity of funds, many strong programs are left out.

ABOUT YOUTHBUILD

YouthBuild is a successful, comprehensive education, training, service, and leadership development program that gives young adults who have left high school without a diploma, the opportunity to transform their life's direction and become responsible, contributing adults. It engages low-income, out-of-school youth for a two-year, all-inclusive process to earn high school equivalency (HSE), acquire job skills, certifications, and leadership competencies, and deliver hundreds of hours of community service while producing and preserving affordable housing in their communities. After participating in the comprehensive Program Year (usually nine months), YouthBuild students graduate and then move on to the Placement stage, at which point they may matriculate into college and/or find employment. YouthBuild students receive direct benefits, including stipends for the work they perform, while also giving back to the community in tangible, visible ways. Post-secondary studies are encouraged as the first option in placement, but YouthBuild students also receive vocational training and certifications, including construction, green industry training, OSHA, CPR, building maintenance, IT, healthcare, security, barista (Starbucks), food-handlers certification, retail and hospitality, etc. They are supported in this transition by program staff and mentors. At many YouthBuild programs, the students are also AmeriCorps members and earn education awards for providing service to their communities. Through YouthBuild, the students get the support they need for a life transformation, while providing needed services to their communities, and the economy is augmented by positive new youth participation.

Components

YouthBuild is the only national program for disconnected ("Opportunity") youth that includes equal measures of education and on-the-job training experience, and that has an emphasis on service and leadership development. In many communities across NYS, YouthBuild is the only viable option for out of school youth. Participating youth spend between nine months (actually ranges from six to 24 months) in a full-time program dividing their time equally between a construction site and a YouthBuild alternative school. YouthBuild's comprehensive approach combines opportunities for young people to learn and develop in many ways concurrently through alternative education towards a diploma or HSE, on-site job training and apprenticeships, community service, leadership development and civic engagement, youth

development and counseling, community development, and a long-term community of supportive peers and mentors. Programs provide a minimum of nine months of follow-up services that include counseling, education and job placement, mentoring, and alumni activities. While the basic model is consistent statewide, each program has the flexibility to adapt its components to address local circumstances and workforce priorities.

Sponsoring Organizations (YouthBuild sites in NYC):

The eight active YouthBuild programs citywide are housed in a variety of youth services and community development organizations. Here is a list of the current sites:

- **Bronx, NY:** New Settlement Apartments / “NSA YouthBuild”, 1512 Townsend Avenue, Bronx, NY 10452
- **Bronx, NY:** South Bronx Overall Economic Development Organization / “YouthBuild SoBro”, 555 Bergen Avenue, Bronx, NY 10455
- **Brooklyn, NY:** Settlement Housing Fund / “DREAMS YouthBuild”, 1615 St. John’s Place, Brooklyn, NY 11233
- **East Harlem, NY:** Youth Action Programs and Homes / “YouthBuild East Harlem”, 206 E 118 Street, New York, NY 10035
- **Harlem, NY:** South Bronx Overall Economic Development Organization / “YouthBuild Harlem”, 669 Lenox Avenue, New York, NY 10039
- **Jamaica, Queens, NY:** YMCA of Greater NY / “Y-Roads YouthBuild” , 161-4 Jamaica Avenue, Jamaica, NY 11432
- **Staten Island, NY:** Historic Tappen Park Partnership / “YouthBuild Staten Island”, 53 Broad Street, Staten Island, NY 10304
- **Washington Heights, NY:** Northern Manhattan Improvement Corporation / “YouthBuild NMIC”, 45 Wadsworth Avenue, New York, NY 10033

YouthBuild -- July 2017-May 2018

In the four YouthBuild years impacted by the advocacy grants from the Fund and that the City Council has offered this strategic support for YouthBuild, beautiful things have been occurring:

- The number of YouthBuild sites citywide has expanded from five to eight, now covering all five boroughs.
- The YouthBuild NYC Collaborative has engaged the NYC site leadership teams in monthly meetings to coordinate activities and YouthBuild operations, share insights and experience, and improve outcomes.
- The number of YouthBuild students served has increased substantially, from 209 three years ago to 451 this year.

- Technical assistance and coaching, which is traditionally offered by YouthBuild USA mostly to the DOL-funded sites, was supported by the City Council monies and was available to all NYC sites.
- YouthBuild USA's new data collection system, Data YouthBuild (DYB), has been fully integrated.
- For each of the past two years, the NYC sites have been bolstered by an overnight, out-of-city retreat, for shared training and planning, in Tarrytown, NY.

Even after 40 years of YouthBuild in NYC, these are fantastic signs of continued growth and reinforcement that help us to serve youth better than ever before. More information about YouthBuild successes and strong program outcomes can be reviewed in the attached report sent to the City Council on April 30, 2018.

City, State, and Federal Funds:

NY City: The centerpiece of the work supported by the Fund for the City of New York is to ensure that our NYC government knows what YouthBuild is offering to our city, and that it continues to value and fund it. In this we have been entirely successful, so that \$8.4 million has been allocated for YouthBuild in the past four budget cycles. These funds have provided needed support for each NYC site, but for the majority of the NYC sites, they were nothing less than essential, enabling funds in the absence of the increasingly elusive federal grants.

To illustrate the content and impact of the YouthBuild opportunities that the Fund is helping create, here is a section extracted from the report submitted April 30 to the NY City Council:

YouthBuild Stories and Highlights - 2017-18

**** Coordinated YouthBuild Staff Training** -- As a direct follow-up to the highly successful 2-day Spring Retreat for YouthBuild Directors and key program staff held in June 2017, the YouthBuild NYC Collaborative coordinated a successful daylong citywide training session designed for all program staff held Sept 12, 2017 at the SoBRO YouthBuild site, coordinated to precede the kick-off for the new program year. The next YouthBuild NYC Spring Retreat is scheduled to take place during the month of May 2018

As an example, this reflection from YouthBuild-NMIC: *“Three YouthBuild-NMIC staff attended the training session on September 12 at SoBRO. It was a wonderful occasion to meet other staff from the sites and discuss best practices to meet individual and programmatic challenges. Staff were able to attend trainings to address micro, mezzo and macro levels of program issues. One of the more impactful trainings for staff was the case management overview training, which provided staff a space to process work with participant and develop meaningful interventions to address each need. YouthBuild staff were taught how to develop a culture of client-focused services that is integrated into every level of service.*

“YouthBuild-NMIC staff have used the information provided from the training to develop individual intervention plans for all students that incorporates staff and teachers from all levels. YouthBuild-NMIC has seen an increase in attendance, family engagement, and student motivation since employing the intervention strategy. For instance, YouthBuild-NMIC has began a group with four TASC-bound students who have been in programming since September called “Motivation Mondays”. The aim of the group is to have students motivate each other through constant communication and a weekly check-in to discuss any barriers or facilitators to retaining in school and passing the TASC. Case managers have engaged teachers in the group to ensure that there is a unified voice around student success.”

And this reflection from YouthBuild DREAMS: *“The DREAMS YouthBuild program has worked diligently to support the learning and development of our participants throughout the school year. The students are each placed onto a 3-phase academic/vocational goal setting track upon their enrollment into our program. Since the implementation of this 3-phase track, we have seen marked success and improvements in the areas of HSE attainment and college and career enrollment/ placement. One of our greatest highlights this year has been through one of our participants who has gone through all three phases of our program. Student MN, is a 20- year old African American male, who is also a parent of a 1-year old son. MN came to DREAMS as a Phase 1 student who was unsure of what his career/ educational plans were for the future.*

“MN had already taken the TASC exam and passed 4 of 5 sub-sections. He had an aversion to mathematics and had marked troubled focusing in the math classroom. DREAMS was able to provide MN with 1-1 tutoring, provided by our full-time AmeriCorps participant. With the stern help and support of the DREAMS program, MN was able to sit for a new TASC exam and pass the previously missed section (Phase 2).

“Upon his completion of the TASC component, MN transitioned into Phase 3 of the program where he received resume writing and employment placement services. He also met with the College and Career coordinator to receive enrollment services. We are pleased to report that MN is now employed with WIN NYC as an Administrative Receptionist, at a salary of \$17.00 per hour. In the fall MN will attend a Carpentry trade school where he will complete his carpentry studies.”

**** Shared Mental Toughness --** On October 11-12-13, seven YouthBuild programs, including YouthBuild Long Island busing it in from Deer Park, LI, converged on the Boys Club of New York in East Harlem for three extraordinary days of a ground-breaking Shared Mental Toughness (MT) event that opened eyes and horizons through a unique combination of rigor and challenge mixed with heart and positive values. None of the 200 participating youth and staff will ever forget this upbeat vibe, and program directors were content for the favorable cost savings obtained by sharing the MT costs seven ways, instead of each program going it independently.

A counselor from the YouthBuild-NMIC adds these thoughts, reflecting back on the Shared Mental Toughness exercise and aftermath: *“Each youth involved exhibited great strength and resilience in the face of mentally, physically and emotionally challenging exercises. One participant from YouthBuild-NMIC stood out, in particular,*

because of his ability to actively participate, meet challenges, and be vulnerable in all individual and group activities. The young man began at YouthBuild-NMIC only three weeks prior to attending Mental Toughness. The participant came to YouthBuild-NMIC having just been released from Rikers Island Prison Complex and entering an inpatient facility within the month.

"The participant reported feelings of shame and guilt for having been incarcerated, entering a drug treatment program, and not completing school. He stated that because of his past actions, he did not feel like he had a community of caring individuals that were rooting for his success. During the first month in programming, he was often withdrawn and would limit interactions with peers and staff. He stated that if people "knew the real him" they would not accept him. As a result of these feelings, he feared sharing thoughts, feelings, concerns or comments about himself and his past.

"On the first day of Mental Toughness, participants from each site were lined up in a circle and asked to count off their respective numbers. The activity was intended to facilitate teamwork and active listening. Many of the participant's peers became agitated and expressed hostility toward each other for not listening and counting off correctly. YouthBuild-NMIC staff observed the participant calmly working with his peers to develop ways to listen more effectively, as well as providing support to his frustrated peers through acknowledging their feelings. As a result of the participant's leadership abilities, the group of participants that he was surrounded by managed to successfully count off and work together while doing so, creating a system through handshake to signify when they had been done counting. The participant exhibited newfound confidence after that activity, which guided him throughout the two-weeks. The participant went on to successfully complete individual and group challenging activities, but was still reporting that he felt somewhat disconnected from his peers.

"On the third and last day of Mental Toughness, the participant was asked to write about a time in his life when he faced a major challenge and how he met it. Participants were asked to share their papers in an assigned group of their peers the next day. The participant immediately knew what he would write about: his experience in prison. He was concerned, however, how his peers would perceive him and how it would impact him in his day to day in programming. The participant wrote three drafts of his paper, sharing them with staff before committing to sharing it with his peers. Because of some of the skills he learned from his facilitators during mental toughness, he felt comfortable sharing his concerns with staff. The participant decided he was ready to share his paper on the day of the group work. Staff observed participant nervously reading his paper, sprinkling each line with a deflective joke. When he was done, two of his peers leaned over to hug him. For the first time since the beginning of programming, staff and his peers observed participant smiling from 'ear to ear.' The participant reported that he had not felt that included in a peer group since leaving school and knowing that he could be accepted by his peers was very meaningful to him.

"Since Mental Toughness, the participant has gone on to intern at Association for Energy Affordability (AEA) and receive his high school diploma. Participant has been pursuing his dream of one day attending college by working full time. The participant remains engaged in his inpatient program and is slated to move into his own

apartment at the end of May. Participant has been observed to be much more open with staff and peers about his feelings, needs, and thoughts. He has also been observed smiling frequently.”

**** Most Students Served Ever --** With 431 YouthBuild students served in the course of the year, YouthBuild sites around five boroughs had the most productive year yet in this, the 40th year since the establishment of the YouthBuild in NYC. As of mid-March (2018), already 47 YouthBuild students had obtained their HSE (high school equivalency) and 237 had secured vocational certifications. Over the past five years, 45.8% of all YouthBuild students in NYC were placed into jobs or continuing education in the second quarter after exit, which is the placement data set favored by the US/DOL. For the coming year, we have determined to include a new placement category: Ever Placed, so that students placed in other quarters may be counted as well. Data sheets are attached.

This comment from one of the sites: “YouthBuild-NMIC has enrolled 35 students for the 2017-2018 school year, which began on October 2, 2017. 16 out of the 35 students were placed into ‘pre-HSE’ to improve reading and math scores, while the remaining were placed into the ‘HSE’ course. Youth-Build NMIC has secured 5 high school equivalency diplomas and intends to send 10-14 more students within the school year for the test. At the present time, YouthBuild-NMIC has produced the following rates for the 2017-2018 school year: 100 % voter registration, 51 % Building Principles Science Certificate, and 74 % CPR attainment. 10 of the 35 students have been ‘positively exited’, meaning they have met program benchmark(s). 50 % of all students positively exited are working part or full time. YouthBuild-NMIC has been working closely with the Pathways to Graduation College and Career Counselor to identify, refer, and serve students who are interested in post secondary education.”

**** Structured Citywide Collaboration --** To help maintain continuity, cohesion, and to share best practices in a fluid and effective way, the YouthBuild NYC Collaborative convenes monthly meetings for program leadership, either in person or by conference call, every month.

Again, a reflection from NMIC: “YouthBuild-NMIC benefits tremendously from being a part of the Citywide Collaboration. YouthBuild-NMIC is able to identify shared challenges and develop multi-tiered approaches to meeting the challenges.

“Through the YouthBuild NYC Collaborative, YouthBuild-NMIC has been able to access program supports, like speakers, who have presented best practice ideas and challenging staff to develop meaningful interventions to support programming. For example, YouthBuild-NMIC was able to welcome Charles Modiano, an accomplished coach assigned by the Collaborative, who spoke to staff from all levels within the program about the importance of cohesion, identifying and tracking benchmarks/outcomes, and developing strategies for meeting the individual and challenging needs of our youth.

“Charles spent a significant amount of time working with staff to strengthen and align the program ethos with that of the mission and work of YouthBuild. For example, he spoke about the importance of youth observing program staff acting as a

cohesive unit in individual and group decision making, as well as carving out time as a team to meet to voice concerns and raise meaningful questions.”

**** City Hall YouthBuild Award Ceremony** -- Close to a hundred YouthBuild students proudly wore their construction gear to the steps of City Hall on November 3, 2017, to honor some stand-out supporters of YouthBuild. Students spoke and read original poems, speeches were delivered, and beautiful plaques were presented to three NY City Councilmembers: Melissa Mark Viverito, Julissa Ferreiras, and Mathieu Eugene; as well as to three others: Carlos Velazquez of the Boys Club of New York, Mary McCormick of the The Fund for the City of New York, and Dorothy Stoneman, Founder and longtime CEO of YouthBuild USA, now retired. A great day, and some photos are attached.

**** Citi Field National Service Event** -- Staff and students from the Youth Action YouthBuild (East Harlem) joined hundreds more as part of an on-field tribute to national service and AmeriCorps, followed by a free tickets to watch the baseball game as guests of the NY Mets.

**** YouthBuild Graduations** -- Local City Councilmembers and the Council leadership would be welcome guests at the YouthBuild graduations this June. For example, come to the Silberman School of Social Work (E 119 Street/Third Avenue) on Thursday, June 28 for the East Harlem-based graduation of the Youth Action YouthBuild cohort. These are always emotional and heartwarming events, and we welcome the participation of our public officials and members of the press.

YouthBuild-NMIC: “YouthBuild-NMIC recognizes the great importance of celebrating accomplishments among our students, as well as involving key stakeholders in the youths’ lives. As a result, YouthBuild-NMIC holds a graduation ceremony on the last day of class every year. The event involves music, food, and awards. The ceremony is open to families, friends, and other important individuals to our students. One of the most exciting things to see as a staff is when students bring their children to the event. The students often remark that they want to show the importance of education and resiliency to their children, as well as their younger siblings.

YouthBuild-NMIC also attends the annual Pathways to Graduation ceremony, which features keynote speakers and diploma distribution. The graduation is organized as a typical high school graduation, which allows students the opportunity to experience a significant milestone in their adult lives and development. The event is a truly one in which families, friends, and students come together to celebrate their dedication to self-betterment and growth.

‘Almost as significant to students as graduation, YouthBuild-NMIC students attend the Pathways to Graduation (P2G) field day and graduation, which marks the nearing end of the school year. NMIC staff volunteer for both events ensuring that they provided needed planning and coordination. These events are open to all P2G sites across Manhattan.’

**** Conference of Young Leaders (COYL)** -- Every year 8-10 YouthBuild students and alumni attend the national COYL conference in Washington DC, for leadership development, civics lessons, confidence building, and peer support with hundreds of other youth leaders from across the US.

**** Love and Basketball --** On May 12, a YouthBuild NYC All-Stars basketball team will travel to Philadelphia to face off in a fun tournament against the YouthBuild Philadelphia Charter School of Philadelphia, PA and the Crispus Attucks YouthBuild program of York, PA. Events like this will be remembered long after this year is over, and enhance the YouthBuild experience for the Class of 2018.

Meanwhile, at the City Council, the budget decisions governing FY2019 are still in flux, but we believe the Council will endorse YouthBuild again. It is a complex year due to term limits and a new Speaker. The ramifications are big for the YB site that has a US/DOL grant in place for the upcoming fiscal year; it will receive highly useful grant assistance. And it is vital for the rest of the sites, which will be designated for the larger grants. They must have these funds to enter the new fiscal year with the capacity and the confidence that they can retain their staff and maintain strong operations for the coming year.

Federal: Our Collaborative membership and leadership has been active in sending out messages to our State and Federal officials, and we have made gains there this year as well. At the Federal level, our NY Senator Kirsten Gillibrand played the lead role this spring in the Senate to secure 40 co-signers for her Dear Colleague budget letter requesting “robust” funding for YouthBuild. And many of our NY Representatives were among the 144 congressional signers of the parallel Dear Colleague letter in the House. We actively engaged in sharing information with our representatives, inviting them to visit our sites, responding to their questions, and were pleased to have the largest number of signers ever for YouthBuild letter in both the Senate and House. A delegation of NYC and NYS YouthBuild directors were at Capital Hill May 24 for meetings with eight key Congressmembers (and their staffs), and got warm receptions from both Democrats and Republicans.

As a result, it appears that good things are occurring for YouthBuild in Washington, as the President’s budget proposal distributed last week carried YouthBuild forward at \$84 million, with no cuts. This was in stark contrast to the numerous proposed cuts in that budget message, and we considered it a substantial victory for the youth population that we serve.

NY State: Despite strong efforts year to year, and our ritual YouthBuild Albany Day each year in February with about 200 YouthBuild students in attendance, it has been difficult to get substantial State funding for YouthBuild, but we had a bit of a breakthrough last year and this year. A year ago, members of our NYS YouthBuild Coalition approached NYS officials to see if there were options for the State to contribute \$10.1 million to expand and enhance YouthBuild statewide, including in NYC. In the end, \$350,000 of new funds were allocated, and assigned in \$50,000 grants to support nine mostly upstate YouthBuild programs. There are 18 YouthBuild sites in the State, of which eight are in NYC.

Building on last year's modest success, our NYS Coalition held a statewide conference in Troy, NY in September 2016, and decided to ask for \$900,000 this year, hoping that each of the 18 sites in NYS could receive \$50,000 of NYS funds to enhance, and expand their services. The YouthBuild Albany Day on March 2 had a great turnout (200), assembling 13 of the 18 YouthBuild programs together in The Well at the Legislative Office Building of the State Capital. That day, approximately 30 state legislators had the opportunity to meet with teams of focused, impressive YouthBuild students, to learn about YouthBuild, ask questions, and to educate their youthful constituents about how government works.

When the dust settled in April 2017 and a new State budget was in place, a combination of new allocations and re-appropriations had been made, and new YouthBuild funding was listed at \$400,000... \$50,000 more than the previous year. We still do not have specifics on how those funds will be divided up, and we do not have the same kind of relationship there that we have developed in the City, where we are partners in deciding who gets what grants, based on the DOL allocations and other factors. But we know that the State is demonstrating greater warmth and concern for YouthBuild and our youth, which is a good result. For FY2019, we will propose to the Governor that YouthBuild be expanded and enhanced in his Executive Budget.

For more information:

- The Bronx: Johanna DeJesus-Cortes, Chair, YouthBuild NYC Collaborative; (718) 292-3113, or jdejesus@sobro.org
- East Harlem: Robert Taylor, Vice-Chair, YouthBuild NYC Collaborative; (212) 860-8170, Ext. 31, or rtaylor@yayb.org
- Citywide: David Calvert, Director of Strategic Partnerships, YouthBuild NYC Collaborative, 206 E 118 Street, New York, NY 10035; (646) 351-2433 or dcalvert@yayb.org

YouthBuild NYC Collaborative -- FY 2018 Mid-year Data

	In-program Outcomes			Demographics						
Current Active Students	HSE / HSD obtained (at mid-year)	2 yrs Literacy & Numeracy gains (at mid-year)	Voc Certs (at mid-year)	White	Black or African American	Hisp., Latino, or Span. origin	American Indian or Native Alaskan	Asian or South Asian	Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	Other race or origin
148	11%	1%	50%	<1%	86%	11%	0%	<1%	0%	<1%
35	3%	0%	71%	6%	31%	63%	0%	0%	0%	3%
39	3%	11%	74%	0%	49%	46%	0%	0%	0%	3%
36	4%	0%	83%	11%	72%	17%	0%	0%	0%	0%
53	25%	16%	32%	2%	47%	53%	0%	0%	0%	2%
58	18%	32%	57%	2%	64%	31%	0%	0%	0%	5%
43	9%	13%	58%	0%	63%	37%	0%	0%	0%	0%
19	0%	11%	26%	0%	58%	37%	0%	5%	0%	0%
431	11%	9%	55%	2%	66%	31%	0%	<1%	0%	2%

NYC YouthBuild Collaborative 2013-2017 Cohort Year Outcomes*

5-year Outcomes	New York State	All NYC YouthBuild Collaborative sites
Total # of Sites Reporting	18	8
Total # of Students	1977	941
Avg Attendance %	71%	69.2%
Program Completion	74%	70.5%
% Rec'g Certificates (of all)	64%	58.5%
HSE-TASC or HSD Attainment	41%	38.0%
+ Placement of All (At Exit/1Q)**	51%	45.8%
- Placement of All (Job)	44%	37.2%
- Placement of All (Edu)	11%	10.1%
Retention of Placement	74%	66.5%
Average Wage	\$10.19	\$9.81
Recidivism	8%	8.5%

Registered to Vote	59%	67.0%
Demographics		
Female	37%	36.0%
Male	63%	64.0%
African-American	64%	62.1%
Asian-American	2%	1.5%
Latin-American	27%	34.4%
Native-American	1%	0.0%
Caucasian	13%	3.2%
Pacific Islander	0%	0.6%
Other	3%	0.7%
Avg Age At Entry	19.10	19.8
Are Parents	10%	16.1%
Without GED at Entry	90%	93.0%
On Public Assistance at Entry	67%	64.4%
In Public Housing at Entry	39%	45.9%
Adjudicated	23%	23.9%

Low Income Housing		
Units Built	143	83
Total # of Units Rehabbed	544	301
Total # of Energy Star units	66	6
Total # of LEED Units	36	0
Total # of Weatherized Units	323	170
Length of Stay	9.1	9

*2017 data is not finalized. Term measures such as placement and retention are still in the process of being documented.

** # of individuals placed in the first quarter after Exit



Urban Librarians Unite - Executive Budget Testimony
May 18, 2018

As representatives of Urban Librarians Unite, we would like to thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony today.

Over the last year libraries have continued to open the doors to everyone in our community. Continued to provide access to learning and recreational opportunities, continued to help with social services, immigration issues, NYC continues to be a center for library innovation. As an outside group let us tell you that having three of the finest library systems in the world in the same city in constant friendly competition with one another has wonderful benefits for all of our patrons and the residents of New York City.

An increase of 16 million dollars will allow us to continue that work. With no funding increase in 3 years, it is difficult to maintain the same services, much less expand services. Costs have gone up, but the funding level hasn't. It is disruptive and inefficient to have this constant worry and concern, sure it is not the budget dance but in some ways it feels like the same old shuffle. Library administration, leadership, and the individual managers of branches all have to devote huge amounts of time trying to compensate for unstable budgets. We thank you for the gains that we have made but if those gains are not built into long term planning than we are just setting the Tri-Li up for more deep issues in years to come.

As an organization made up of front line library staff here at ULU it's the little thing that that will make the most difference. The minimum wage has increased, but the amount of money available for part time salaries has not. Usually we would be hiring seniors helping them to continue to contribute to their community and to continue to make a wage after retirement. Yes, we would also be hiring the classic teen aged pages who put books on the shelves and it should come as no surprise to you that those pages are the seeds of our profession in the future. We have on our own board a librarian who started off as a teen mentor in the Queens Far Rockaway Library and now provides leadership on library issues at a national level, that's not hyperbole, we work with the guy, he's on our board. We can't do this if we don't have increased funding at the basic level we need people to shelve the books, teach the classes, run the programs, so that we can do the amazing things that the library presidents have told you about today. You are sitting on a furnace of innovation, why stifle it?

As we navigate what it means to be an inclusive city, libraries are perfectly poised to play a major role. They are one of our most trusted public institutions and they are that way because YOU have made them that way. It's due to the hard work of supporters like Councilmember Jimmy Van Bramer and Speaker Cory Johnson that our libraries are able to be cost effective, high impact, neighborhood-level embedded catalysts for social good. (speaking of cost effective, do you know what to do if you need copper wire in a library? Throw a penny between two children's librarians).

If the three library systems which serve Our Fair City have to start making tough decisions, they just won't be able to contribute the same way. We are growing, we are innovating, we are staffed and we are ready, let us work, let us serve, let us be agents of change, joy and growth in our communities. We will work so hard for you, but you know that, Thank you for what you have done and what you WILL do to support libraries in New York City.



**New York City Council
Committee on Finance, Chair, Council Member Dromm
May 24, 2018
Executive Budget Hearing - Public Hearing**

Good afternoon, Chairperson Dromm, and good afternoon to the members of the New York City Council Finance Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify at today's FY19 Budget Hearing.

JASA is a not-for-profit agency serving the needs of older adults in the greater New York area. Its mission is to sustain and enrich the lives of the aging in the New York metropolitan area so that they can remain in the community with dignity and autonomy. JASA has developed a comprehensive, integrated network of services that provides a continuum of community care. Programming promotes independence, safety, wellness, community participation, and an enhanced quality of life for New York City's older adults. These programs reach over 40,000 clients and include home care, case management services, senior centers, NORC supportive services, home delivered meals, caregiver support, continuing education, licensed mental health, senior housing, advocacy, legal services, adult protective services, and guardianship services. We welcome today's hearing as an opportunity to share our priorities for FY19, and voice concerns about the FY19 budget.

Investment in the Human Services Sector

We'd like to thank the City Council for its support of the investments made in the human services sector for the FY18 budget and for your leadership this year in response to the Mayor's Preliminary Budget.

At a time when the safety net is at risk of significant cuts in Federal benefits, we are increasingly relying on the City to ensure the safety for the most vulnerable New Yorkers. JASA joins with others in the human services sector in calling for the further investment in human services contracts. Without this crucial investment, organizations like ours will have to re-evaluate how we can engage with the City; we simply can no longer carry the deficit of our City contracts.

We ask that the City Council help nonprofit provider organizations to cover the cost of delivering essential services to New Yorkers. We are asking the City to provide \$200 million in additional baseline funding to address implementation of the following allowable rates on all HHS contracts and all new procurements: setting the floor for indirect at 15%, and a 10% increase in

occupancy, casualty and liability insurance to cover escalating costs. We are also requesting funding that covers a 37% fringe rate, a generally accepted industry standard. Finally, trend factor/cost escalation formulas should be implemented for all new procurements for the duration of the contract.

This investment would go a long way to solving issues relating to staff salaries and the cost of doing business. Until the City resolves the issue with underfunding of contracts, additional gaps need to be filled.

Issues of primary concern in FY19:

Salary Parity Across DFTA Contracts:

As was stated, government contracts do not fund the full cost of direct service delivery nor the indirect expenses associated with contracts' management. Community based organizations, like JASA, cannot be expected to raise philanthropic dollars in order to resolve the funding gap. Inadequate funding prevents agencies from paying appropriate salaries for staff who are tasked with helping the most vulnerable older adults in New York. As a result, turnover rates are high and vacancies are difficult to fill.

In FY17, the budget included a much needed increase for salaries of professional staff in Case Management programs. This is alleviating the problem of vacancies, high turnover rates, and high caseloads. Most staff in senior centers will receive raises once the senior center model budget moves forward, however, social workers in other DFTA contracts will see no increases, and are left with low morale. We already have staff leaving other programs (NORCs, Caregivers, etc.) in order to work in case management and senior centers. This burdens JASA and other multi-contract programs with very serious salary inequity issues.

The FY18 budget included a model budget process for APS, to rightsize salaries for staff working with New York City's most vulnerable populations. Although this process started in July, 2018, here we are continuing to advocate for the funding to be released. This process has created an unacceptable delay in receiving the funding; we ask the Council to push for this funding to be expedited.

The Administration talks about wage discrimination and the wage gap, but it is contributing to the problem by failing to pay a livable wage to contracted workers, most of whom are women, and minorities, and unnecessarily delaying funding to human services contracts.

New York City Council Initiatives:

JASA is very appreciative of the generous support provided to senior programming through the City Council Initiatives each year. Schedule C funding provides essential support, which allows programs to flourish and serve older adults throughout the City. Without the Council's support, many programs would cease to exist. I'd like to highlight a few of these Initiatives:

- The NORC Initiative provides 10 NORC programs with the funding necessary to help older adults remain in their homes with support from a partnership of management, social workers and a nurse. JASA provides social services through the NORC Initiative at Rochdale Village, Queens; 1199 Plaza, Manhattan; and in Far Rockaway, via a Neighborhood NORC program. Without continued funding of the NORC Initiative, these programs will close.
- The Support Our Seniors and Healthy Aging Initiatives are integral to many of JASA's senior centers and NORC programs. The funding supports programs that promote healthy behaviors such as: physical activity, smoking cessation, nutrition and infectious diseases; programs that detect the onset of chronic disease such as diabetes and hypertension; strength training to prevent falls and other injuries through education or exercise; and daily living skills instruction to help older adults manage the pain of arthritis or deal with fatigue and stress.
- Senior Centers for Immigrant Populations provides operation support to culturally competent and linguistically accessible senior centers that predominantly serve immigrant seniors. This population is the fastest growing, and is in need of culturally appropriate food, programming and bilingual staff.
- DOVE Funding supports victims of domestic violence, and elder abuse. There is a significant under-reporting of elder abuse by older victims, and this funding is essential to helping address the unique needs of the community.

City Council Initiatives are unique in their flexibility and the degree to which they impact programs and services in community. While we recognize and share the City Council's concern about the rising cost of transportation and its impact on low-income New Yorkers, it is unacceptable that the funding necessary to pay for the fair fare many leave critical programs for older adults throughout the City without sufficient funds to continue operating.

Senior Center Model Budgets and the Lack of funding for Food:

Senior Centers serve a vital role in helping older adults continue to engage in community life and remain socially connected. Recent research demonstrates the importance of these factors in overall well-being. Senior Centers offer hot, nutritious meals, fitness, health, and wellness activities; classes, lectures, and trips; and meaningful volunteer, and intergenerational opportunities.

For years, senior centers have operated with bare bones funding without sufficient funds to cover increasing rent and utilities, competitive salaries in all categories, quality food and programs at the government funded sites. Generous City Council members have kept senior centers alive through discretionary funds, and Council Initiatives. After years of advocating for greater investment in senior centers, the FY18 budget baselined \$10 million for "model senior center" budgets, with additional funds in FY19 and FY20. Despite nearly a year passing, the FY18 funding has not been distributed. What's more, the model budget will only allow funding to be spent on direct staffing and consultants. It does not include funding for rent, utilities or food

expenses (which includes meals related staff), all of which are at the core of whether or not a senior center thrives.

DFTA has stated confidence in the process that was put in place for the model budget and their budget analysis. However, JASA is concerned about the senior centers that were left out of the model budget process.

There are 223 Centers receiving increases through the model budget, however, there were 38 senior centers left out of the process altogether. These centers were not included because they are either: formerly City Council discretionary funded sites (11), former NYCHA senior centers (4), are considered NYCHA Social Clubs (17), or are called Social Service Programs (6). JASA has four of these centers; JASA Club 76 (Manhattan, formerly funded by City Council- Council Member Rosenthal), Sue Ginsburg (Bronx, former NYCHA - Council Member Gonaj), Einstein Loop (Bronx, formerly funded by City Council - Council Member King), and Cooper Park (Brooklyn, considered a NYCHA Social Club- Council Member Reynoso). These senior centers are held to the same standards as other DFTA senior centers, and yet, are being excluded from a process that is meant to rightsize their budgets; they were not even included in the budget analysis completed by DFTA and OMB. This needs to be rectified. We will be testifying at an upcoming Aging Committee hearing on June 11th focused on the Model Budget, but want to be sure that the City Council is aware of this problem.

Add \$12.1 Million in Baseline New Funding for Congregate and Home Delivered Meals:

Every year, JASA testifies about the need for additional investment in food expenses for both congregate and home delivered meals. We are very appreciative that the City Council's response to the Executive Budget included the need to address senior hunger.

Senior centers provided 7.6 million meals last year, and distributed nearly 4.5 million home delivered meals. However, as with all other City contracts, the funding does not adequately cover the expense of providing the meals. New York City spends 20% below the national average on congregate meals - this means that nonprofit providers are paying the balance to provide 5 days of meals to older adults. There is no relief in the senior center model budget, which will not provide funding for food expenses or staff involved with food preparation.

City contracts also fail to address the need for culturally appropriate food. Given New York's diversity, the City must provide meals that reflect the needs of the aging population. In fact, DFTA already requires providers to offer culturally appropriate meals, but does not pay for the cost of doing so. JASA serves 762,000 meals annually, thirty eight percent are kosher meals. Providing kosher meals continues to cost an additional \$0.40-\$0.70 more per meal. As a result, JASA projects a deficit of \$107,460 for FY18.

In order to continue serving the community, providers need a long-term, stable funding solution. JASA urges the City to revisit the reimbursement rates for culturally appropriate home delivered

meals, which have remained steady since FY15, and cover their full cost. Relying on the Council discretionary funding and philanthropy to annually patch the gap, does not adequately address the challenge across City contracts in providing culturally appropriate meals.

Adding \$12.1 million in baselined funds will help fill the shortfall in current City contracts and allow providers to offer the necessary and appropriate meals to New York's diverse older adult population.

In summary, we ask the Administration to:

- fully fund all New York City contracts with the human services nonprofits; continue funding essential City Council Initiatives;
- right-size the salaries of social workers in all DFTA programs to match the increases for Case Management Social Workers;
- revisit the senior center model budget process to ensure that all senior centers are included in the analysis and,
- invest in the congregate and home delivered meals to adequately cover the expense of providing culturally appropriate, nutritious meals to older New Yorkers.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer this testimony on issues relevant to supporting New York City's aging population. JASA looks forward to working with the City Council, and the Administration toward a senior-friendly budget in FY19.

Molly Krakowski
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JASA
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TESTIMONY

NYC COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND FINANCE

CHAIRMAN, Daniel Dromm

CHAIRMAN, Mark Treyger

New York City Council Fiscal Year 2019 Executive Budget

**Presented on
Thursday, May 24th, 2018**



The Council of School Supervisors and Administrators

Mark Cannizzaro, President

Henry Rubio, Executive Vice President

Rosemarie Sinclair, 1st Vice President

40 Rector Street, 12th Floor

New York, NY 10006

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My name is Mark Cannizzaro, and as the President of the Council of School Supervisors and Administrators, I represent more than 16,000 active and retired men and women who provide leadership in our public schools and in city-funded day care centers.

We need your help.

Our members are aware of and grateful for the City Council and Administration's ongoing support for our children and our schools. A Council which has elected Daniel Dromm, a former teacher and former Education Chair to serve as Finance Chairman, and Mark Treyger, another former teacher to serve as the current Education Chair.

We congratulate you both. We know your knowledge and experience in our schools and within the City Council will serve our children and our city well.

This Council has long recognized the need for adequate funding. There is no better evidence of your commitment to our children than the city's recent announcement to provide an additional \$125 million to bring our schools to 90 percent of the city's funding formula.

Of course, 90% still leaves many schools underfunded. We therefore thank you for your commitment to continue working with us to achieve full funding for all schools. In addition, we need to work together to ensure that the "Fair Student Funding" formula is adjusted so that it no longer penalizes schools for the salaries of their teachers, unfilled seats and the type of special needs services offered.

Our children are our future. Their future is built within our schools. Our schools must be fairly and fully funded!

We are, also, especially grateful for the Council's role in the growth of professional development programs offered through the Executive Leadership Institute, or ELI.

As per our March 23, 2018 testimony, ELI is a not-for-profit organization affiliated with CSA which provides cutting-edge professional development and standards-based, results-driven leadership training for New York City's public school leaders. Since 2002, hundreds of New York City's Principals, Assistant Principals, Education Administrators, Supervisors, Administrators, and Directors and Assistant Directors of Early Childhood Education have enhanced their skills to better serve NYC's public education system.

We are especially proud of our programs that provide support and training for our newest supervisors, our year-long program that prepares aspiring principals for the rigors and complexity of the position and several new, innovative programs ELI has developed thanks to the support of the City Council. These programs include micro-credentialing, Text Talk and Writing Tasks, and our work with the NYC DOE iZone to enhance the success of our students learning English as a new language.

These are just some of the many successful programs created under ELI which are critically important to ensure that New York City's students, teachers and leaders remain on the cutting edge of education innovation. Last year, the Council generously provided some \$770,000 to help fund these professional development programs. As we approach FY19, with an eye on increasing offerings and engaging more school leaders, we are respectfully seeking an increase of \$230,000 to bring the funding to one million dollars.

Finally, we believe that much more must be done within the administration to fund our Early Childhood programs and establish pay parity for hundreds of our city's early childhood educators who deserve equal pay for equal work. Our Directors and Assistant Directors of Early Childhood Education working in city-funded day care centers support the signature program of Mayor de Blasio's education agenda. These skilled professionals serve our youngest students by providing high quality and developmentally appropriate pre-k and 3k programs that put our youngest children on the path to success. The city must begin to treat these professionals with the same respect and provide the same salaries and working conditions that are afforded to their colleagues who work for the Department of Education. We respectfully request that the City Council stand with us to demand equity for these educators who have been taken for granted for far too long.

It is only with your help that we can expand our existing programs and develop new, equally exciting and valuable programs to create a stimulating educational environment for the most diverse school population in the world. We look forward to our ongoing partnership so that, together, we can provide our students with equitable opportunities to reach their fullest potential as students and as citizens.

Thank you.

**Testimony of Diley Benn, President of Local 1505, District Council 37
before the City Council Committee on Finance
FY 2019 Executive Budget
May 24, 2018**

Good afternoon Chair Dromm and members of the Finance Committee. My name is Diley Benn and I am the President of Local 1505 representing City Park Workers (CPW) in the NYC Parks & Recreation Department. My members work in all five boroughs conducting maintenance in all City Parks.

I want to start out by thanking the Council for the additional funding in FY 2018 for the Parks Department. This funding was used to maintain the city funded lines for 100 City Park Workers and 50 Gardeners. New York City Parks has over 39,000 acres of land, and on average one (1) Gardener is responsible for maintaining approximately 254 acres of parkland. The Department of Parks and Recreation is distressingly underfunded. The support from the City Council is vital, in order to continue to maintain our communities by keeping those underserved parks in our communities beautiful.

While we did see benefits from the fy18 additional funds, we are still at risk of losing these funds since they are not baselined for FY19. If these funds are not restored, our CPW's and Gardeners will be laid off. I am urging the Council to restore and increase the funding for these above mentioned titles. Furthermore, the maintenance and upkeep of the parks will suffer, leading to blight and neighborhood decay.

As the minimum wage in New York State increases to \$15 an hour this year, and my members make \$15.48 to start, it's becoming increasingly difficult to live in the city. The city must take a long, hard wholesale look at how it can take care of its workforce.

As we approach the start of the summer season in the next several weeks, there is a lot of work to be done to prepare the parks for the thousands of New Yorkers who will be taking strolls and enjoying the warmer weather in the parks. The beautification of parks is important to all New Yorkers, as well as to the thousands of tourists, who visit these areas.

Once again, I am urging the Council to restore the additional funding in FY 19 for the CPW and gardener lines.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today and I will be happy to take any questions you may have.

New York City Council
FY 2019 Executive Budget Hearing
Public Session
Thursday, May 24, 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

I am here today on behalf of the children and families served by ***New York Junior Tennis & Learning*** (NYJTL), legally incorporated and funded as the **New York Junior Tennis League, Inc.**, to 1) thank the Council for its longstanding support of NYJTL and our mission, 2) urge the Council to continue funding the Council's **Physical Education & Fitness Initiative** under which NYJTL receives Council citywide funding and 3) ask that you support NYJTL's FY 19 funding request of **\$1.2M**.

With the support of the Council, NYJTL has become 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 **200-250** schools throughout the city to include tennis as a regular part of their physical educational curriculum. NYJTL is now a state approved **Continuing Teacher and Leader Education (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 200-250 schools 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.**

We could not do what we do without the strong funding support of the New York City Council. Like many other Council funded youth programs, NYJTL provides a much needed resource for working parents, providing their children with healthy, engaging activity in a safe and nurturing environment. **In addition, NYJTL helps to stem the tide of childhood obesity and prevents**

youth-on-youth and gang violence while teaching children the joys and benefits of tennis – discipline, good sportsmanship, team play and competition.

Through the years, in good fiscal times and bad, the Council has always recognized and understood the importance and benefit of providing after-school and summer youth programming. Continued Council funding of NYJTL's after-school and summer programming is critical to our mission.

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.

American Indian Community House



AICH is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization serving the health, social service, and cultural needs of Native Americans residing in New York City. AICH was founded in 1969, by Native American volunteers as a community-based organization, mandated to improve the status of Native Americans, and to foster inter-cultural understanding.

The mission of American Indian Community House (AICH) is to provide an urban oasis for the Indigenous Peoples of the western hemisphere who are in the greater New York area, empowering them with skills and education in order to compete in 21st Century urban living. We strive to build bridges of cultural understanding and strengthen community ties. Here are some of the Native American, First Nations, Alaskan Native, Indigenous groups we serve and support.

Children & Families

NYC College Students - Native American and Indigenous Student Group at NYU-NAISG & Native American Council of Columbia University

Wisdomkeepers/ Elders

HIV + and at risk individuals

Artists, Musicians, Film Makers

Two-Spirit/Lesbian.Gay.Bi-Sexual.Transgender.Queer Gender Non-Conforming.Intersex. Identified

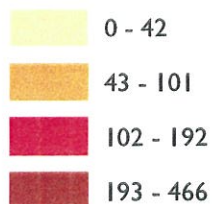
Warrior Veterans

www.aich.org

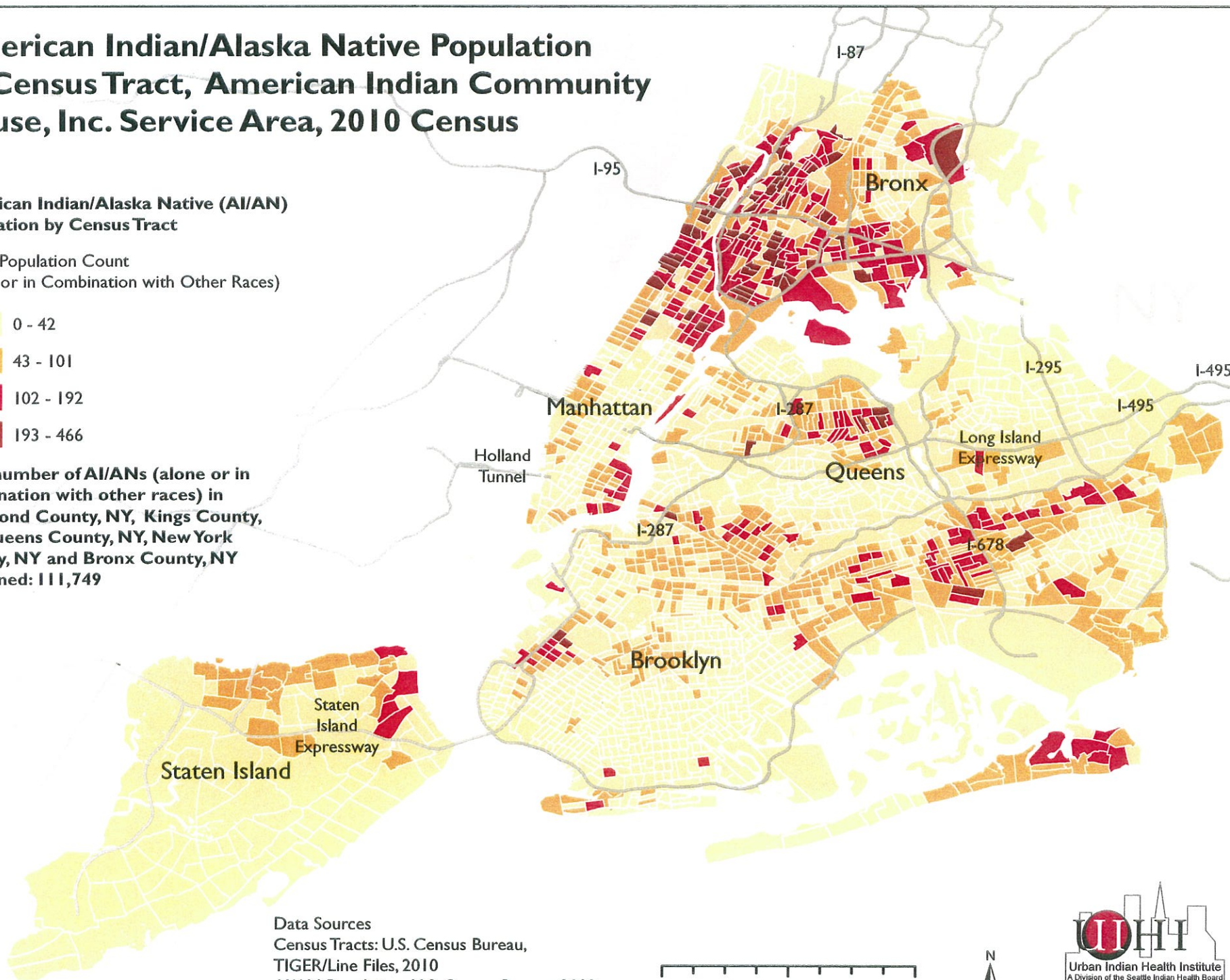
American Indian/Alaska Native Population by Census Tract, American Indian Community House, Inc. Service Area, 2010 Census

American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) Population by Census Tract

AI/AN Population Count
(Alone or in Combination with Other Races)



Total number of AI/ANs (alone or in combination with other races) in Richmond County, NY, Kings County, NY, Queens County, NY, New York County, NY and Bronx County, NY combined: 111,749



Data Sources
Census Tracts: U.S. Census Bureau,
TIGER/Line Files, 2010
AI/AN Population: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010

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**The Institute for Family Health
Testimony on NYC FY 2019 Budget
Committee on Health
May 24, 2018**

Zaira Hernandez-Cinto, BS
Immigrant Health Coordinator
Zhernandez-Cinto@institute.org

Good Afternoon. My name is Zaira Hernandez-Cinto and I am the Immigrant Health Coordinator at the Institute for Family Health. I wish to thank the Finance Committee for giving us the opportunity to provide input on the budget, and for your support of community health centers like the Institute for Family Health.

I am here today to talk about the value of the Immigrant Health Initiative for our organization and for NYC. The Institute's mission is to provide high quality, patient-centered primary health care targeted to the needs of medically underserved communities. We operate 26 health centers in the Bronx, Manhattan, and Brooklyn, as well as six centers in the Mid-Hudson Valley. Our centers offer primary care, behavioral health care and dental care to roughly 118,000 patients annually. We accept Medicaid, Medicare, most insurance plans, and welcome people regardless of their ability to pay or their immigration status. The Institute also operates two free clinics in Manhattan and the Bronx, used entirely by uninsured individuals, many of whom are undocumented and terrified of incurring bills they cannot pay. We also run the PurpLE Clinic, which stands for Purpose: Listen and Engage, which offers sensitive, respectful health care for anyone who has experienced sexual trauma, exploitation or violence or has been the victim of sex or labor trafficking.

Over the past three years, thanks to City Council funding, we have greatly increased our outreach to immigrant communities throughout the Bronx, Manhattan, Brooklyn and Queens. This funding has permitted us to establish partnerships with organizations that assist immigrants to help their clients connect to ongoing healthcare. We have assisted more than 2,400 individuals obtain healthcare services by providing health education and screening at these organizations, as well as in mosques, churches, and at community events. Establishing ongoing healthcare for immigrants improves health outcomes, and reduces costly emergency room visits for non-urgent care.

Our immigrant outreach services also allows us to educate the individuals we meet about healthy eating, chronic disease management strategies, and health care rights and protections. Our immigrant patients face many barriers in their interactions with the health system, including delays in getting appointments, long wait times, breakdowns in language access services, poor customer service, and affordability and cost concerns. These barriers impede New York City's immigrant residents from getting care and obtaining the best health outcomes possible. Our program offers immigrants a resource that can help them navigate difficulties in accessing healthcare and ease the barriers that impede getting the care they need to live healthy lives.

In addition, Council support has enabled us to develop a community-based participatory research project that helps immigrants discuss strengths and gaps in health care services in NYC. Immigrants often don't understand the U.S. health system, and this, coupled with language barriers, can make seeking healthcare a daunting task. Through our work, we've helped people to understand how the system works, steering immigrants in the appropriate direction to obtain the care they need, close to their home whenever possible.



Immigrants often forgo seeking preventive healthcare because they don't feel safe. In the current political climate, many people have expressed distrust in health, policing and educational institutions, and are scared of being taken away from their families. This is why continued funding for the Immigrant Health Initiative is essential. Through the outreach work we do, we have been able to connect with immigrant New Yorkers who have not received care in many years for fear of discrimination, or worse, deportation.

We have also been able to help those that did not know about services available to them, including connecting them with a primary care provider or with other social services. Thanks to the sliding fee scale at the Institute and other Federally Qualified Health Centers in NYC, as well as the Free Clinics and specialized programs like the PurPLE Clinic, we have been able to provide critical services to vulnerable populations that often fall through the cracks. We have assisted many patients by accompanying them to their appointments to allay fears of commuting, and provided MetroCards for those unable to purchase them.

In sum, I'd like to share two brief stories:

One of the immigrants we encountered through our outreach work had been in this country for many years but had not received any health care because of fear of the bills she would receive. She thought the only place she could receive care was in the emergency room because she didn't have health insurance. When we told her about the resources available to her, she was hesitant at first but knew that she needed to have a physical exam. We assured her that her information was safe and protected and she agreed to make an appointment. Afterward, she shared that she was treated with respect and received a very thorough exam, and expressed feeling very accomplished at finally being able to take care of herself and look out for her health.

Another patient we helped was a 34 year-old woman experiencing vision problems from a growth on her cornea, and skin growths. She needed medical attention but she was struggling to get connected to care because she didn't speak English, felt intimidated by the system and overwhelmed with trying to get help. She experienced delays in getting appointments, long wait times, and was worried about cost. We were able to get her a complete physical exam, followed by appointments with an ophthalmologist and a dermatologist to treat her condition.

Each year in New York City, there are a staggering number of preventable or unnecessary emergency room visits that are costly and overwhelm our health care systems. By connecting individuals to ongoing primary and preventive care, we not only help individuals in the immigrant community, but our city as a whole.

The Immigrant Health Initiative is critical to ensuring that foreign-born and undocumented individuals are connected to high quality primary and preventive care where they can establish long-term relationships with providers who help them stay healthy. During a time of extraordinary hostility toward immigrant communities at the federal level, the programs that link immigrants to health services are more important than ever. We hope the Council will continue to fund the Immigrant Health Initiative with an FY 2019 commitment of \$1.5 million or more.

Thank you.

Bedford Stuyvesant Family Health Center
Testimony on NYC FY 2019 Budget

Lemual Boyd

May 24, 2018

Good Afternoon, my name is Lemual Boyd and I am a Health Educator on the Access Health NYC Initiative at the Bedford Stuyvesant Family Health Center, a Federally-Qualified Health Center located in Brooklyn. Our Center is a safety net facility that targets the neediest within our community.

The Access Health Initiative has opened up a whole new world to the Center

and the community.... The Center is more involved in the community, advocating, and extending itself beyond our routine business. We are working with the community to restore renewed hope to people who previously thought that the deck was just stacked against them.

Recently, a young man approached me while I was tabling outside a drug treatment facility. I began my elevator pitch, telling him about all the services we could offer him on the spot. I indicated to him our insurance navigator who could help him on

spot and of our free HIV or Hep C tests. At this point, he proceeded to tell me that the Department of Health contacted him about his STD infection, of which he was very troubled and really burdened. He was not sure of the next steps. I was able to counsel him and he agreed to get treatment. He has started his treatment and is ready to move on with his life.

This story and the stories of many others represent the everyday life experiences of regular New Yorkers are what drive our work. **The Access Health Initiative makes a significant difference.** It changes the landscape. It provides hope in the midst of fear and uncertainty. It is a pathway for everyone who calls New York City home.

Your work at the Council is ever so important. Although we know budget is real tight, we call on you, to re-fund the Initiative **and** to re-fund it at a higher financial commitment of 2.5 million dollars.

Thank you for this opportunity and for your kind attention.

Lucy Sexton
New Yorkers for Culture & Arts lucy@ny4ca.org 646-662-6890

My name is Lucy Sexton and I am the head of the arts advocacy organization New Yorkers for Culture & Arts. We are working with both larger Cultural Institutions Group organizations and the many smaller cultural program groups across all five boroughs of the city. I am here today to implore you to increase the city's investment in culture. The data on the impact of culture and the arts on so many aspects of our civic life are indisputable. When arts are in the schools, academic performance improves. When arts are in our senior centers, life expectancy is dramatically increased. When culture is regularly available in our communities, mental health improves. Supporting culture is the best investment you can make on behalf of the lives of your constituents.

In terms of education, I can't put it better than our new Schools Chancellor who says: When it comes to improving schools, culture eats strategy for breakfast. He tells of teaching a high school student early in his career who came from a troubled family, involved in drugs and gangs. He began studying an instrument at school and it transformed his life and gave him another path forward.

In terms of aging, I am a Su Casa teaching artist at the Open Door Center in Chinatown---councilmember Chin was at our performance 2 nights ago when a man in his 80s talked about working in factories since he was 15. He cried onstage as he said that these past few years taking arts classes at the center were the happiest time in his life---when he felt truly part of a community. We had our follow up discussion yesterday and the seniors all asked if we could do the storytelling and movement class again next year, the answer from the center's manager: it depends on the funding.

In terms of mental health my 9th grade daughter recently had a friend commit suicide. As you can imagine she and her friends are reeling. Last weekend their dance group Loco Motion performed. It's a program championed by Speaker Johnson which offers scholarships so that a diverse range of kids can participate. Seeing those kids hold each other in this time of tragedy, turning their emotions into dances about friendship and community, was completely and beautifully heartbreaking.

The city's new cultural plan rightly calls for a new arts equity so that we can provide access to culture to every school, every senior center, every neighborhood. Well now we need to put our money where our mouth is. For FY 2019, the cultural community asks for your support of a \$30 million increase to the DCLA budget, to be split evenly – just as it was distributed last year—between the CIGs and the program groups to support our continued efforts to enact the goals laid out by the City in the Cultural Plan. Included in this \$30 million, we ask that the City consider baselining the \$10 million increase we received last year. If you care about education, about aging, about mental health, about the vibrant life of this great city, now is the time to increase our investment in culture to improve the lives of each of our citizens.



Initiative to Combat Sexual Assault FY 2019 Funding Request Statement

My name is Marisa Caiola and I am here on behalf of the North Brooklyn Coalition. The Coalition is a Community Based Organization that has been providing case management, therapy, and support groups to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in both English and Spanish since 1998. We also conduct community outreach and provide training to local community based organizations and NYPD Precincts to ensure victims are receiving adequate care and services.

Over the last 2 years we have seen an increase in the number of victims of sexual assault seeking services. We have also seen a lack of victim-specific services at local Emergency Rooms and Precincts, which has resulted in victims experiencing discrimination, being blamed for their rapes, and treated without respect or dignity. Most recently, a victim of sexual assault requesting a rape-kit at the local ER was accused by the responding officers of lying about her rape. This victim's experience would have been different had the local ER provided a rape-crisis advocate and had the local precincts been trained on best practices in responding to victims of sexual assault.

Unfortunately, this is not an uncommon occurrence, and we at the Coalition are continually having to advocate for victims' rights as they move through the criminal justice system.

We are requesting that the Initiative to Combat Sexual Assault be awarded 1 Million dollars in funding so that the Coalition can utilize \$200,000 of that funding to formalize our Sexual Assault Supportive Services Program. We will use this funding to hire 1 full-time program coordinate and 1 full-time community outreach/training specialist to:

- Train Rape Crisis Advocates to respond to rape victims at Woodhull Hospital
- Provide training to the local Precincts on best-practices when responding to victims of sexual assault
- Provide case management, personal advocacy and criminal justice advocacy to victims of sexual assault
- Provide short and long-term mental health services and counseling to victims of sexual assault

The majority of victims accessing our services live below the poverty line and are Spanish-speaking and we hope that the City Council will provide the Initiative with our full ask of 1 Million dollars so that we at the Coalition can continue to advocate for marginalized victims and ensure they are treated with dignity and respect throughout the process of seeking safety and justice.



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P. 646.386.3100 F. 212.397.0985 courtinnovation.org

Greg Berman . Director

Center for Court Innovation Testimony
New York City Council
Committee on Finance
Executive Budget Hearing
May 24, 2018

Good afternoon Chair Dromm and esteemed members of the City Council. My name is **Dipal Shah** and I am the **Director of Strategic Partnerships** at the Center for Court Innovation. Thank you for the opportunity to speak today.

City Council initiatives have long supported the Center's mission to reduce incarceration and recidivism, enhance public trust in the justice system, and expand access to justice throughout this City. Indeed, on the ground these funding mechanisms have served as the financial backbone of the Center's responses to human trafficking and domestic violence, new restorative justice approaches to crime in the Bronx, alternatives to bail in Brooklyn, and the lifting up of young girls and women in Brownsville. I am here today asking that the City Council continue to support the Center through initiative funding requests.

For more than twenty years, the Center has been working to create a more effective and humane justice system in New York City. The Center has created more than 30 community and court-based projects spanning all five boroughs, bringing together community members and criminal justice stakeholders to respond to local problems, improve public safety, reduce the use of jail, and transform neighborhoods. The Center improves the lives of nearly 75,000 New Yorkers annually (see included "Overview of New York City programming"), and the vast majority of those served include immigrants, the poor, young people, women, the LGBTQ community, and communities of color.

OPERATING PROGRAMS

Brooklyn Justice Initiatives | Brooklyn Mental Health Court | Brooklyn Treatment Court | Bronx Community Solutions | Brownsville Community Justice Center
Bronx Child Witness Program | Crown Heights Community Mediation Center | Domestic Violence Court | Harlem Community Justice Center | Legal Hand
Midtown Community Court | Newark Community Solutions | Parent Support Program | Parole Reentry Court | Peacemaking Program | Project Reset
Poverty Justice Solutions | Queens Youth Justice Center | Red Hook Community Justice Center | Save Our Streets | Staten Island Youth Justice Center
Strong Starts Court Initiative | Westchester Court Education Initiative | UPNEXT | Youth Court | Youth Justice Board

As the Council is aware, among other initiative applications, the Center for Court Innovation is seeking to strengthen and expand our alternative to incarceration, youth-diversion, and access-to-justice programs through \$1,000,000 in support from City Council in fiscal year 2019. This includes a \$500,000 continuation in funding and, responsive to a growing need for services because of Raise the Age and the demonstrated need for expanding existing successful programs, an enhancement of \$500,000. This funding will also help us advance the City Council's goals of improving fairness and working toward the closure of Rikers Island. (A summary of this request, matrix and budget information reflecting this request are included in today's written testimony).

We are also thankful to the more than dozen Councilmembers who have signed on to letters of support for this ask. (Letters of support, as well as a list of other initiative applications submitted by the Center and its projects, are included in the written testimony I submit today).

I can provide some information related to this request. Our diversion programs in Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens, and Staten Island currently serve thousands of young people each year through counseling, academic support, and workforce development. Looking forward these programs can be a vehicle for the successful implementation of Raise the Age reforms, serving young people who will no longer go through criminal court. Our goal is to offer meaningful off-ramps, allowing participants to avoid detention where possible. We have also developed a particular expertise in working with young women and LGBTQ survivors of exploitation and trafficking, offering trauma-informed mental health services. Our impact is clear – at our projects thousands of youth have benefited from our programs. With expanded funding in this youth justice space, the Center could serve hundreds more in Queens and Staten Island. Performance of these programs is also undeniably strong – in Staten Island, our services were met with a compliance rate of 84% for youth ages 16-24 in 2017. In Queens, 75% of the participants in alternative-to-detention programs were diverted from detention, receiving a non-criminal disposition, probation, or case dismissal.

The Center for Court Innovation is also making a deep investment in improving access to justice. Our Harlem Community Justice Center works to resolve disputes between tenants and landlords,

providing mediation, benefits assistance, and social services to local residents. In 2017, 598 individuals were served by the Justice Center, with close to 1,006 referrals made. With the Council's support, we can extend the reach of the housing support services of the Justice Center for Harlem and Manhattan residents by close to thirty percent.

Additionally, our Legal Hand program serves Crown Heights, Jamaica, and Brownsville residents facing housing, immigration, and employment civil legal issues. Legal Hand trains local residents to empower their neighbors with legal information. More than 10,000 residents were served by Legal Hand last year in Brooklyn and Queens. Council support would allow us to expand the program to new communities in the Bronx by hiring additional supervising attorneys, which will increase our capacity by more than fifty percent. Our research reflects that of the 10,000 individuals that visited Legal Hand last year, 98% agreed that Legal Hand gave them the information they needed, and the same percentage agreed that Legal Hand was a valued community resource, and would return to Legal Hand for future advice.

In addition to the requested support for our Speaker Request, on behalf of the Center I also ask the Council to put its support behind the many other initiatives where the Center has sought funding. This includes a restoration of funding for our justice circles in the Bronx, our expanded supervised release programming in Brooklyn, our human trafficking intervention work, and more.

The City Council's support has been invaluable to the success of the Center for Court Innovation, helping us maintain core operations and expand our demonstration projects throughout New York City. The Center for Court Innovation looks forward to continuing to work with the New York City Council to improve public safety, improve lives, and reduce incarceration. Thank you again for the opportunity to speak. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

**Center
for
Court
Innovation**

Overview of New York City Programming

Youth and Community Justice Centers and Courts		
Site Name	Total Served 2017	Average Age
Brownsville Community Justice Center	2,234	16 and up
Red Hook Community Justice Center	9,070	12 and up
Brooklyn Justice Initiatives	4,009	16 and up
Brooklyn Mental Health Court	173	16 and up
Total Brooklyn	15,436	
Midtown Community Court	15,308	16 and up
Harlem Community Justice Center	6,101	12 and up
Total Manhattan	21,409	
Bronx Community Solutions	7,085	16 and up
Total Bronx	7,085	
Queens Youth Justice Center	115	14 and up
Total Queens	115	
Staten Island Youth Justice Center	1,211	14 and up
Total Staten Island	1,211	
Community Programs		
Site Name	Total Served 2017	Average Age
Bronx Child Trauma Support	73	5-17
SOS South Bronx and Morrisania	5,128	16-24
Total Bronx	5,201	
SOS Crown Heights and Bed Stuy	8,657	16-24
Crown Heights Community Mediation Center	4,239	All ages served
Legal Hand Crown Heights	4,896	All ages served
Legal Hand Brownsville	2,102	All ages served
Total Brooklyn	19,894	
Legal Hand Jamaica	3,017	All ages served
Total Queens	3,017	
Youth Justice Board	22	14-17
Total Manhattan	22	
Poverty Justice Solutions	3,000	18 and up
Citywide	3,000	

Youth Courts		
Site Name	Total Served 2017	Average Age
Red Hook Youth Court	65 respondents 22 members Total: 87	14-17
Harlem Youth Court	109 respondents 22 members Total: 131	14-17
Queens Youth Court	48 respondents 12 members Total: 60	14-17
Staten Island Youth Court	53 respondents 18 members Total: 71	14-17

Center for Court Innovation	
Borough	Total Served Annually (approximate)
Bronx	12,286
Brooklyn	34,467
Manhattan	24,562
Staten Island	1,282
Queens	3,192
Total Served City Wide	76,789



Fiscal Year 2019 Citywide Speaker Funding Request

Discretionary Application Reference No. 57488

The Center for Court Innovation seeks to strengthen and expand our alternative-to-incarceration, youth-diversion, and access-to-justice programs through \$1,000,000 in support from the City Council in fiscal year 2019. This includes a \$500,000 continuation of funding for ongoing operations and a \$500,000 enhancement, which will help us advance the City Council's goals of improving fairness and working toward the closure of Rikers Island.

Council support will allow for the continuation and expansion of our work in the following areas:

Continuing Support

We work with tens of thousands of New Yorkers each year. The vast majority of the people we serve are LGBTQ, youth, immigrants, low-income, or people of color. Our programs—which include the Red Hook Community Justice Center, Crown Heights Community Mediation Center, Midtown Community Court, Bronx Community Solutions, Queens Youth Justice Center, and Staten Island Justice Center—have been documented by independent evaluators to improve safety, reduce incarceration, and enhance public trust in government.

Youth Justice

Our diversion programs in Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens and Staten Island currently serve thousands of young people each year through counseling, academic support, and workforce development. Looking forward, with expanded funding, these programs can be a vehicle for the successful implementation of Raise the Age reforms, serving young people who will no longer go through criminal court. Our goal is to offer meaningful off-ramps, allowing participants to avoid detention wherever possible. We have developed a particular expertise in working with young women and LGBTQ survivors of exploitation and trafficking, offering trauma-informed mental health services. Expanded funding would allow the Center to serve hundreds more from these vulnerable, at-risk populations.

Access to Justice

The Center for Court Innovation is making a deep investment in improving access to justice. Our Harlem Community Justice Center works to resolve disputes between tenants and landlords, providing mediation, benefits assistance, and social services to local residents. With the Council's support, we can extend the reach of the Justice Center by close to thirty percent. Additionally, our Legal Hand program serves Crown Heights, Jamaica, and Brownsville residents facing housing, immigration and employment issues. Legal Hand trains local residents to empower their neighbors with legal information. Council support would allow us to expand this program to three new communities by hiring additional supervising attorneys, which will serve hundreds of additional low-income New Yorkers.

The Center for Court Innovation looks forward to continuing its partnership with the City Council in the next fiscal year. Please support our crucial work.

For more information, please contact Dipal Shah—shahd@courttinnovation.org or 646.386.3820.

FY 2019 Enhancement Request

Youth Justice and Access to Justice

Issue Area		Target Population	Program Description	Location	Served Annually	FY19 support would allow us to serve up to
Youth Justice	Alternatives to Detention	Young people to be charged with delinquency in Family Court.	After the initial implementation of "Raise the Age" on October 1, 2018, the Queens and Staten Island Youth Justice Centers will offer young people charged with delinquency community-based alternatives to detention. These programs provide comprehensive stabilization and support services including case management, family support, educational advocacy, and vocational training and placement.	Brooklyn Manhattan Queens Staten Island	878	30% more young people.
	Trauma-Informed Mental Health Services	Young women and LGBTQ survivors of exploitation and trafficking.	In response to a spike in the number of sexually exploited youth, the Queens Youth Justice Center will offer young women and LGBTQ survivors of trafficking and exploitation specialized, trauma-informed advocacy to serve this population's unique challenges and needs.	Queens	30	50% more young people.
Access to Justice	Housing Justice	Litigants in Housing Court.	To promote increased access to housing justice for Harlem residents, the Harlem Community Justice Center will serve an additional number of residents in the Harlem Housing Court through the provision of dispute resolution, benefits assistance, and social service provision.	Manhattan	598	30% more people.
	Civil Legal Support	New York City community members with potential civil legal disputes.	To address the gap in civil legal service provision for low-income New Yorkers, the Legal Hand program will expand to additional New York City communities and provide information to residents with civil legal issues.	Bronx Brooklyn Manhattan Queens	10,015	50% more people.

Fund for the City of New York: Center for Court Innovation
New York City Council
Citywide Speaker Enhancement
July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019

PERSONNEL

Clinical Social Worker, CSEC	TBD	100%	55,000
Clinical Director, QYJC	L. Lavitt	10%	8,440
Case Manager, QYJC ATD	TBD	100%	44,000
Project Director, QYJC	S. Sanchez	10%	8,390
Case Manager, SIJC ATD	TBD	100%	44,000
Director, Community Programs	T. Warmflash	10%	6,390
Help Center Outreach Worker	TBH	100%	44,000
Help Center Coordinator	R. Moure-Punnett	10%	5,150

Subtotal	215,370
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Fringe @ 32%	68,918
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TOTAL PERSONNEL	284,288
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OTPS

TRAVEL	3,300
SUPPLIES	3,561
PROGRAM SUPPLIES	1,800
FOOD	3,600
EQUIPMENT	3,600
SUBCONTRACTORS (supervising attorneys)	100,000
RENT	21,600
CELL PHONE COSTS	1,980
INDIRECT COSTS @ 18%	76,271

TOTAL OTPS	215,712
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TOTAL	500,000
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Center for Court Innovation

FY 19 Speaker Request

Youth Justice and Access to Justice

A Report including Current Program Overviews, Performance Metrics, Location and Demographic Information, and Budgets*

*The data in this report reflects preliminary information for 2017, unless otherwise indicated.

Queens Youth Justice Center - Youth Justice

Project Overview

The Queens Youth Justice Center is a comprehensive community-based youth center. It provides evidence-based case management and care coordination, family engagement and support, leadership training, skill building in core competencies, educational advocacy, community service learning opportunities, and a range of youth development programming for justice-involved young people in Queens. Grounded in positive youth development and positive youth justice principles, and animated by procedural fairness, the Justice Center's goal is to provide young people with "off ramps" from the justice system that help them build more productive, successful, law-abiding lives.

Performance Metrics

In 2017, 75% of the participants served by the Queens Youth Justice Center's alternative-to-detention program were diverted from detention, receiving a non-criminal disposition, probation, or case dismissal.

Due to a recent spike in the number of commercially sexually exploited children (CSEC) ages 12 through 16 who are engaging the services of Queens Youth Justice Center, the program is currently serving these clients on an ad hoc basis. While no performance metrics exist at present for this group, the Center for Court Innovation runs programming at Bronx Community Solutions and at the Midtown Community Court, providing social services and alternatives-to-incarceration for a similar population. Our compliance rates for these programs are 72 % in the Bronx and 90% in Manhattan.

Contact Information

Address: 149-18 Jamaica Avenue, Queens, NY 11435

Phone Number: 718-233-4014

Demographic Information

Program	Served Annually	Benefiting Districts	Gender	Race	Age/Parenting Level
Alternative to Detention Program	83	CDs 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 27, 30	Male: 76% Female: 24%	Black/African American: 55% Latino/Hispanic: 35% Other: 10%	14 to 18 years old
Social Services for CSEC Youth* *Currently without funding	30		Women: 100%	Majority Black/African American or Latino/Hispanic.	12 to 16 years old.

Fund for the City of New York: Center for Court Innovation
New York City Council
Queens ATD
July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019

PERSONNEL

Case Manager, QYJC ATD	TBD	100%	44,000
Project Director, QYJC	S. Sanchez	100%	83,900
Clinical Director	L. Kociubas Lavitt	80%	50,640
Senior Clinical Youth Developer	S. Vargas	100%	62,200
Coordinator, Youth Development	S. Pink	100%	57,300
Coordinator, Youth Programs	W. Thompson	100%	48,600
Program Associate	T. Peake	100%	41,200
Research Associate	J. Hahn	25%	21,650
Director, Research Implementation	L. Lebron	10%	11,130
Software Architect	M. Gani	10%	8,040
Director of Community Crime Prevention Programs	R. Barbieri	10%	19,910
Subtotal			448,570
Fringe @ 32%			143,542

TOTAL PERSONNEL

592,112

OTPS

TRAVEL	9,680
SUPPLIES	5,788
PROGRAM SUPPLIES	6,386
FOOD	16,500
EQUIPMENT	1,200
CONSULTANTS	1,000
RENT	76,718
OFFICE OCCUPANCY COSTS	11,653
UTILITIES	8,000
TELEPHONE/INTERNET	1,181
CELL PHONE COSTS	5,280
FEES	25,200
INDIRECT COSTS @ 18%	136,926

TOTAL OTPS

305,512

TOTAL

897,624

FUNDING

New York City Council (Pending)	624,185
New York Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice	262,115

TOTAL FUNDING

886,300

NET FUNDING

(11,324)

Fund for the City of New York: Center for Court Innovation
New York City Council
Queens CSEC
July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019

PERSONNEL			
Clinical Social Worker, CSEC	TBD	100%	55,000
Clinical Director, QYJC	L. Lavitt	10%	8,440
Subtotal			63,440
Fringe @ 32%			20,301
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TOTAL PERSONNEL			83,741
 OTPS			
TRAVEL			1,100
SUPPLIES			888
PROGRAM SUPPLIES			600
FOOD			1,200
EQUIPMENT			1,200
RENT			7,200
CELL PHONE COSTS			660
INDIRECT COSTS @ 18%			17,386
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TOTAL OTPS			30,233
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TOTAL			113,974
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FUNDING			
New York City Council (Pending)			113,974
TOTAL FUNDING			113,974
NET FUNDING			-

Staten Island Justice Center - Youth Justice

Project Overview

The Staten Island Justice Center, a unique project dedicated to testing new approaches to criminal and juvenile justice problems, addresses youth crime by working intensively with young people who have engaged in delinquent and low level criminal behavior, providing them with the tools they need to avoid further offending. The Justice Center offers a range of on-site programming, including a teen-led youth court, behavioral discussion groups, after-school activities, individual and group mentoring, service learning projects, and a job-readiness program.

Performance Metrics

The compliance for the alternative-to-incarceration programming for youth ages 16-24 in 2017 was 84%.

Contact Information

Address: 60 Bay Street, Staten Island, NY 10301

Phone Number: 718-675-8921

Demographic Information

Program	Served Annually	Benefitting Districts	Gender	Race	Age
Alternative to Incarceration Programming for Youth 16-24	210	CDs 49, 50, 51	Unavailable	White, Black/African American, Asian, Latino/Hispanic, and Multiracial (percentages unavailable).	14 to 24 years old

Fund for the City of New York: Center for Court Innovation
New York City Council
Staten Island ATD
July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019

PERSONNEL

Case Manager, SIJC ATD	TBD	100%	44,000
Director, Community Programs	T. Warmflash	25%	15,975
Youth Programs Coordinator	M. Wilkerson	85%	39,440
Project Director, SIJC	O. Dana	45%	41,715
Coordinator, Youth Restorative Justice Initiatives	L. Lucero	15%	7,725
Software Architect	M. Gani	10%	8,040
Director of Community Justice Centers	J. Brodick	10%	17,000

Subtotal 173,895

Fringe @ 32% 55,646

TOTAL PERSONNEL 229,541

OTPS

TRAVEL	2,600
SUPPLIES	2,349
PROGRAM SUPPLIES	1,850
FOOD	2,300
EQUIPMENT	2,400
RENT	55,200
OFFICE OCCUPANCY COSTS	4,800
UTILITIES	4,800
TELEPHONE/INTERNET	1,800
CELL PHONE COSTS	1,980
INDIRECT COSTS @ 18%	55,732

TOTAL OTPS 135,811

TOTAL 365,352

FUNDING

New York City Council (Pending)	98,249
New York Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice	234,153

TOTAL FUNDING 332,402

NET FUNDING (32,950)

Harlem Community Justice Center - Access to Justice

Project Overview

As a multi-jurisdictional civil and family court, the Harlem Community Justice Center is unique among community courts. The Justice Center has assembled many non-traditional services under one roof: programs to help local landlords and tenants resolve conflicts and access financial support; programs for at-risk youth, including a youth court; and reentry programs for both juvenile and adult ex-offenders returning to the community. Ultimately, the project's long-term goal is to test the extent to which a court can work together with a community to spur neighborhood renewal.

Performance Metrics

For the Housing Help Center program in 2017, of the 598 individuals served, 1,006 referrals were made. 61% of these referrals were made to HRA. 25% of these referrals were made to the OCA volunteer attorney program. 13% of these referrals were made to legal service organizations.

Contact Information

Address: 171 East 121st Street. New York, NY 10035

Phone Number: 212-360-4100

Demographic Information

Program	Served Annually	Benefitting Districts	Gender	Race	Age
Housing Help Center	598	CDs 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9	Female: 68.8% Male: 31.2%	Black/African American: 64.4% Latino/ Hispanic: 27.9% Other: 7.7%	Unavailable

Fund for the City of New York: Center for Court Innovation
New York City Council
Harlem Housing Resource Center
July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019

PERSONNEL

Help Center Outreach Worker	TBH	100%	44,000
Help Center Coordinator	R. Moure-Punnett	100%	51,500
Help Center Aide/Office Assistant	V. Peralta	100%	35,600
Project Director, HCJC	B. Pierre	10%	10,610
Deputy Director, HCJC	Y. Yuan	10%	8,550
Research Associate	K. Dalve	15%	8,970

Subtotal	159,230
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Fringe @ 32%	50,954
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TOTAL PERSONNEL	210,184
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OTPS

TRAVEL	1,100
SUPPLIES	2,710
PROGRAM SUPPLIES	600
FOOD	1,200
EQUIPMENT	1,200
SUBCONTRACTORS (supervising attorneys)	-
RENT	-
CELL PHONE COSTS	1,980
INDIRECT COSTS @ 18%	39,415

TOTAL OTPS	48,205
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TOTAL	258,389
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FUNDING

New York City Council (Pending)	76,556
New York State Unified Court System	171,461

TOTAL FUNDING	248,017
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NET FUNDING	(10,372)
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Legal Hand - Access to Justice

Project Overview

At Legal Hand, trained non-lawyer community volunteers, under the supervision of attorneys, provide free legal information, assistance and referrals to help members of low-income communities resolve issues that affect their lives, in areas like housing, family law, immigration, divorce, domestic violence and benefits. Legal Hand volunteers make referrals, help complete applications, make advocacy calls, and provide specific information to help prevent visitors' issues from becoming legal actions. Volunteers operate out of easy-to-find, neighborhood storefront centers in Crown Heights and Brownsville, Brooklyn, and Jamaica, Queens. Volunteers are trained by attorneys from partnering legal service organizations—the Legal Aid Society, New York Legal Assistance Group, and Queens Legal Services.

Performance Metrics

Surveys measuring visitors' experiences at Legal Hand indicated the following outcomes:

- 71% reported that their issue had been resolved or was in the process of being resolved following their visit to Legal Hand.
- 85% agreed that Legal Hand Aided in the resolution of their issue.
- 93% felt that the information they received was clearly explained.
- 93% agreed that Legal Hand gave them the information they needed.
- 98% agreed that Legal Hand was a valued community resource.
- 98% indicated that they would return to Legal Hand for future advice.

Contact Information

Legal Hand Crown Heights

Address: 250 Kingston Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11213

Phone Number: 718-619-4248

Legal Hand Brownsville

Address: 650 Rockaway Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11212

Phone Number: 347-404-9585

Legal Hand Jamaica

Address: 149-13 Jamaica Avenue, Jamaica, NY 11435

Phone Number: 646-741-6411

Demographic Information

Geography	Population	Representing Districts	Gender	Race	Age
Legal Hand Jamaica, Brownsville, Crown Heights	10,015	Legal Hand served constituents of every City Council District, with the exceptions of 3, 14, 18, 50, and 51.	Female: 20.51% Male: 12.5 6% Unknown: 66.86%	Black/African American: 19.42% Latino/Hispanic: 5.71% White: 1.78% Asian: 1.89% Unknown: 69.21%	Unavailable

* Data shown here is for a period between July and December 2017.

Fund for the City of New York: Center for Court Innovation
New York City Council
Citywide Legal Fund
July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019

PERSONNEL

Project Administrator	I. Jaureguillorda	60%	73,620
Program Associate	G. Barnett	80%	32,160
Volunteer Coordinator, Queens	T. Butters	100%	56,700
Volunteer Supervisor, Brownsville	E. McSwain	10%	6,700
Volunteer Coordinator, Brownsville	C. Dyer	100%	51,000
Volunteer Coordinator, Crown Heights	H. Margolin	100%	48,500
Volunteer Coordinator, Bronx Site #1	TBD	100%	53,600
AVODAH Neighborhood Services Coordinator, Bronx Site #1	TBD	100%	13,400
Volunteer Coordinator, Bronx Site #2	TBD	100%	53,600
AVODAH Neighborhood Services Coordinator, Bronx Site #2	TBD	100%	13,400
Volunteer Coordinator, Harlem	TBD	100%	53,600
AVODAH Neighborhood Services Coordinator, Harlem	TBD	100%	13,400
Subtotal			469,680
Fringe @ 32%			150,298

TOTAL PERSONNEL 619,978

OTPS

TRAVEL	13,506
SUPPLIES	8,502
PROGRAM SUPPLIES	6,000
FOOD	16,100
EQUIPMENT	6,000
CONSTRUCTION	150,000
CONSULTANTS	20,000
SUBCONTRACTORS (supervising attorneys)	600,000
RENT	270,416
OFFICE OCCUPANCY COSTS	24,000
UTILITIES	20,640
TELEPHONE/INTERNET	8,640
CELL PHONE COSTS	4,620
STIPENDS	105,000
FEES	19,125
INDIRECT COSTS @ 16%	313,655

TOTAL OTPS 1,586,203

TOTAL 2,206,181

FUNDING

New York City Council (Pending)	118,000
New York State Unified Court System	996,000
Anonymous Donor	1,000,000

TOTAL FUNDING 2,114,000

NET FUNDING (92,181)



THE COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF NEW YORK

April 16, 2018

Speaker Corey Johnson
New York City Council
250 Broadway
Suite 1804
New York, NY 10007

Dear Speaker Johnson:

On behalf of our constituents, we are writing to express our support for the Speaker Initiative submitted by the Fund for the City of New York/Center for Court Innovation (the "Center") (application reference no. 57488). The Center's request for \$1,000,000 will both continue its core community justice operations funding in the amount of \$500,000 as well as expand existing youth justice and access to justice programs. The Center serves tens of thousands of people each year, and with support from the City Council, the Center's reach would be extended to countless more throughout the five boroughs.

Continued City Council support for the Center's community justice operations will further the work of its alternative-to-incarceration programs and contribute to efforts aimed at reducing incarceration. Further, City Council support for this request would position Center programs to be a vehicle for the successful implementation of Raise the Age reforms by strengthening the capacity of alternative-to-detention programs for youth to be charged with delinquency in family court. Additionally, this request would facilitate the growth of the Center's access to justice programming, bolstering access to civil legal services throughout New York City.

The success of Center programs has been repeatedly documented by independent evaluators, and their work has been acknowledged through national prizes for innovation from the Drucker Institute, the National Criminal Justice Association, American Bar Association, National Association for Court Management, the Ford Foundation, and Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government.

In this time of uncertainty, your support for this \$1,000,000 request would enable the Center for Court Innovation to continue its crucial work and expand its services to neighborhoods throughout the City.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Keith Powers in black ink.

Council Member Keith Powers

Handwritten signature of Diana Ayala in black ink.

Council Member Diana Ayala



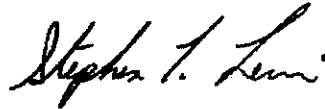
Council Member Justin Brannan



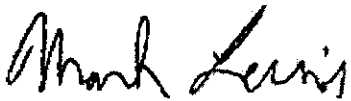
Council Member Daniel Dromm



Council Member Rory Lancman



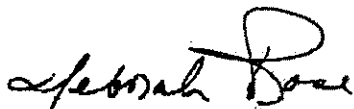
Council Member Stephen Levin



Council Member Mark Levine



Council Member Carlina Rivera



Council Member Debi Rose



Council Member Helen Rosenthal

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THE COUNCIL
OF
THE CITY OF NEW YORK
VANESSA L. GIBSON
COUNCIL MEMBER, 16th DISTRICT, BRONX

CHAIR
SUB-COMMITTEE ON CAPITAL BUDGET

COMMITTEES
FINANCE
GENERAL WELFARE
LAND USE
PLANNING, DISPOSITIONS AND CONCESSIONS
PUBLIC SAFETY
RULES, PRIVILEGES AND ELECTIONS
STANDARDS AND ETHICS

February 15, 2018

Speaker Corey Johnson
New York City Council
250 Broadway, Suite 1804
New York, NY 10007

Dear Speaker Johnson:

On behalf of my constituents in District 16, I am writing to express my support for the speaker initiative submitted by the Fund for the City of New York/Center for Court Innovation (the "Center") (application reference no. 57488). The Center's request for \$1,000,000 will both continue its core community justice operations as well as expand existing youth justice and access to justice programs. The Center serves tens of thousands of people each year, and with support from the City Council, the Center's reach would be extended to countless more throughout the five boroughs.

Continued City Council support for the Center's community justice operations will further the work of its alternative-to-incarceration programs and contribute to efforts aimed at reducing incarceration. Further, City Council support for this request would position Center programs to be a vehicle for the successful implementation of Raise the Age reforms by strengthening the capacity of alternative-to-detention programs for youth to be charged with delinquency in family court. Additionally, this request would facilitate the growth of the Center's access to justice programming, bolstering access to civil legal services throughout New York City.

The success of Center programs has been repeatedly documented by independent evaluators, and their work has been acknowledged through national prizes for innovation from the Drucker Institute, the National Criminal Justice Association, American Bar Association, National Association for Court Management, the Ford Foundation, and Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government.

In this time of uncertainty, your support for this \$1,000,000 request would enable the Center for Court Innovation to continue its crucial work and expand its services to the Bronx and neighborhoods throughout the City.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Vanessa L. Gibson".

Vanessa L. Gibson
Council Member, District 16

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THE COUNCIL OF
THE CITY OF NEW YORK
RITCHIE TORRES

COUNCIL MEMBER, 15TH DISTRICT, BRONX

CHAIR
OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS

COMMITTEES
GENERAL WELFARE
HOUSING & BUILDINGS
LAND USE
RULES, PRIVILEGES, AND ELECTIONS

DEPUTY LEADER OF
THE NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL

April 11, 2018

Speaker Corey Johnson
New York City Council
250 Broadway
Suite 1804
New York, NY 10007

Dear Speaker Johnson:

On behalf of my constituents in District 15, I am writing to express my support for the speaker initiative submitted by the Fund for the City of New York/Center for Court Innovation (the "Center") (application reference no. 57488). The Center's request for \$1,000,000 will both continue its core community justice operations as well as expand existing youth justice and access to justice programs. The Center serves tens of thousands of people each year, and with support from the City Council, the Center's reach would be extended to countless more throughout the five boroughs.

Continued City Council support for the Center's community justice operations will further the work of its alternative-to-incarceration programs and contribute to efforts aimed at reducing incarceration. Further, City Council support for this request would position Center programs to be a vehicle for the successful implementation of Raise the Age reforms by strengthening the capacity of alternative-to-detention programs for youth to be charged with delinquency in family court. Additionally, this request would facilitate the growth of the Center's access to justice programming, bolstering access to civil legal services throughout New York City.

The success of Center programs has been repeatedly documented by independent evaluators, and their work has been acknowledged through national prizes for innovation from the Drucker Institute, the National Criminal Justice Association, American Bar Association, National Association for Court Management, the Ford Foundation, and Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government.

In this time of uncertainty, your support for this \$1,000,000 request would enable the Center for Court Innovation to continue its crucial work and expand its services to the Bronx and neighborhoods throughout the City.

Sincerely,

Ritchie Torres
Council Member, District 15
New York City Council



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Greg Berman, Director

CCI Initiative Applications

- CCI Speaker Request # 57488: The Center for Court Innovation is submitting a speaker request to the City Council to support its ongoing alternative-to-incarceration and public safety operations and spur the growth of its existing programs in the areas of youth justice and access to justice. We received \$500,000 in support for the Center's ongoing operations in FY 18, and are requesting \$1,000,000 in support for FY 19. We hope to continue this ongoing partnership with the City Council on this work.
- Bronx Justice Panels # 60826: The Bronx Community Justice Program, a restorative justice based post-arrest diversion program, is submitting a funding request in support of the program staff and program expenses. This funding will also allow for researchers from the Center for Court Innovation to conduct qualitative and quantitative assessments of the program to analyze its impact on recidivism and on community perceptions of justice. We received \$710,000 in support from the City Council in FY 18 and are requesting \$710,000 in support in FY 19 for this project. We hope to continue this ongoing partnership with the City Council on this work.
- Brooklyn Supervised Release High Risk Youth Program # 60810: This application is to support the Center's high-risk youth work at Brooklyn Justice Initiatives. The program addresses an important need by diverting youth at-risk of having bail set towards pre-trial services. Pre-trial supervision allows participants to receive services, address needs, and remain in their communities during the pendency of the case. We received \$375,000 in support from the City Council for FY 18, and we are requesting \$375,000 in support for FY 19. We hope to continue this ongoing partnership with the City Council on this work.

CCI Project Applications

- Support for Victims of Human Trafficking Initiative # 62337: This program provides trauma-informed mandated counseling and case management services to defendants in the Bronx Human Trafficking Intervention Court as well as training and conducts outreach to social service providers to expand the range of services available to mandated defendants. We received \$52,935 in FY 18 for this project and we are requesting \$52,935 in support for FY 19. We hope to continue to partner with the Council on this initiative moving forward.

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- Mental Health Services for Vulnerable Populations Initiative # 62815: This is an application under the Mental Health Services for Vulnerable Populations initiative to support The Bronx Child Trauma Support program, which provides trauma-informed psychotherapy, crisis intervention, trial advocacy, and court support to children, teens, and families who have been victimized by violent crime. We are requesting \$50,000 to hire an additional bilingual (English-Spanish) clinician to fill the gap in our ability to provide services to these individuals.
- Court Involved Youth Mental Health Initiative #62829: The Queens Youth Justice Center is submitting an initiative application for QUEST Futures, which is a juvenile mental health program that seeks to establish a comprehensive, coordinated response to young people with mental illness in the juvenile justice system. We are requesting \$100,000 in support for the project.
- Community Housing Preservation Strategies # 62454: This is an application for the Red Hook Community Justice Center's Housing Resource Center. This program aids distressed individuals and families facing eviction or with severe housing repair needs in navigating the court process at the Justice Center's on-site housing court. We are requesting \$60,000 in support and are eager to expand the reach of this program.
- DoVE Initiative # 62518: This is an application for the Red Hook Counseling and Restorative Services ("CARES") at the Red Hook Community Justice Center, which seeks to reach Brooklyn residents who have been victimized by crime or experienced violence in their homes and communities through counseling, advocacy, and case management. We received \$25,000 for this program in FY 18 and are requesting \$50,000 for FY 19. We hope to continue this work with the support of the Council moving forward.
- Young Women's Leadership Initiative (Brownsville) # 62553: This is an application to continue support for programming to serve young women, ages 15-24 at the Brownsville Community Justice Center while also allowing the Justice Center to expand aftercare and alumni services, serve additional young women ages 19-24, and develop additional short-term programming open to all Brownsville young women. We received \$65,000 in support for this project in FY 18, and the Brownsville Community Justice Center seeks \$100,000 to support and enhance the Brownsville Girls Collaborative.



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- Young Women's Leadership Initiative (Crown Heights) # 62690: Funding will be used to support the Young Women's Leadership Project at the Crown Heights Community Mediation Center. Staff will work with a group of 20 young women to help them learn how their life experiences, passions, and interests can be used to catalyze positive community change. We are requesting \$50,000 in support for this project.
- Anti-Violence Initiatives – Youth Programs # 62725: This application is for support for the Youth Organizing to Save Our Streets (YO S.O.S.) program at the Crown Heights Community Mediation Center. YO S.O.S. staff will train young people in understanding violence, conflict de-escalation, trauma and self-care, help develop their leadership skills and increase their civic and public engagement in order to change norms around violence. We are requesting \$50,000 in support for this project.
- Digital Inclusion Initiative # 62768: This application is for support for the Youth Organizing to Save Our Streets (YO S.O.S.) program at the Crown Heights Community Mediation Center. The project involves YO S.O.S. staff providing training to young people to improve computer skills, media literacy, and develop confidence to be effective and responsible media participants and communicators. They obtain tools to develop their leadership skills and increase their civic and public engagement in order to change norms around violence. We received \$20,000 in support for this project in FY 18, and we are requesting \$40,000 for this project for FY 19. We hope to continue this work with the Council moving forward.



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Testimony of United Neighborhood Houses
At the New York City Council Executive Budget Hearing
Honorable Corey Johnson, Speaker of the New York City Council,
Honorable Daniel Dromm, Chair, Committee on Finance

Presented by Gregory Brender, Co-Director of Policy and Advocacy

May 24th, 2018

Good Afternoon and thank you for the opportunity to testify. My name is Gregory Brender and I am here on behalf of United Neighborhood Houses. United Neighborhood Houses (UNH) is New York City's 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.

New York can only succeed when all its residents do, and smart and stable investments in the City's human services can help individuals and families thrive, and promote the health and wellbeing of our neighborhoods and communities. Unfortunately, the FY 2019 Budget fails to include many key investments that are essential for maintaining strong neighborhoods.

On the next pages, I have included UNH's priorities for the FY 2019 Adopted Budget. We look forward to working with members of the City council to arrive at a budget that support all New York City's neighborhoods.



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UNH City Fiscal Year 2018-19 Budget Priorities

Summary

Early Childhood Education

- **Discretionary Child Care Centers-** Restore \$9.3 million for City Council-funded child care centers
- **Early Childhood Educator Salaries-** Achieve salary parity for the early childhood workforce

After-School and Summer Programs

- **Summer Programs for Middle School Students-** Immediately restore and baseline \$20.35 million summer programs for 34,000 middle school students
- **COMPASS After-School Programs for Elementary and Middle School Students-** Restore \$16 million for elementary school after-school programs

Youth Employment

- **Year-Round Youth Employment-** Restore \$16 million for Work, Learn & Grow- the school year component of the Summer Youth Employment Program.

Literacy Programs

- **Adult Literacy-** Restore and baseline \$12 million for adult literacy classes and establish a citywide taskforce to better coordinate services
- **Family Literacy-** Fund a new Family Literacy initiative at \$5 million to promote whole-family educational success

Services for Older Adults

- **Senior Center “Model Budget”-** Invest additional \$10m by FY2020, including \$5m in FY2019; ensure DFTA gets FY2018 contract amendments to providers ASAP
- **DFTA Senior Centers in NYCHA-** Invest \$5m in DFTA-funded NYCHA senior centers for upkeep and maintenance
- **Home Delivered & Congregate Meals-** Invest \$12.1m in DFTA food programs to begin closing the gap in provider’s contracts by adding \$1/meal (~\$7.6m congregate; ~\$4.5m home delivered).
- **Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities (NORCs)-** Increase Council Initiative to \$5m to support increased discretionary awards and/or new pilot programs
- **Healthy Aging Initiative-** Restore at FY2018 level of \$1.81m to continue providing key supports
- **Support our Seniors-** Restore at FY2018 level of \$3.06m to continue providing key supports

Behavioral Health

- **Geriatric Mental Health Initiative (GMHI)-** Increase to \$2.5m to support increased behavioral health services for the city’s older adults in non-clinical settings
- **Children Under 5 Mental Health Initiative (CU5)-** Increase to \$2.0m to support increased services to children who have experienced trauma at a young age
- **Autism Awareness Initiative-** Increase to \$4.0m to support increased services to children living with Autism and their families during non-school hours

(over)

Nonprofit Human Services Sector Contracts

- To continue closing the gap between the cost of delivering human services and what City government actually pays, establish cost principles on all human services contracts that include a **15% indirect rate** and a **37% fringe rate**. In addition, the City should immediately increase **occupancy and insurance (liability/casualty) budget lines in contracts by 10% each**.

Please contact Gregory Brender at 917 484-9337 or gbrender@unhny.org with any questions

Human Services Advancement Strategy Group

FY 2019 Budget & Contract Priorities

The provision of human services by community-based organizations is the key to healthy, safe and diverse neighborhoods. A commitment to this work begins by investing in the historically underfunded contracts held by human service providers across New York City.

HSASG FY19 Priorities

1. Include trend factor/cost escalation formulas in all new procurements for the duration of the contract
2. Provide \$200 million in additional baseline funding to address:
 - Implementation of the following allowable rates on all HHS contracts and all new procurements:
 - 15% for indirect costs
 - 37% for fringe benefits
 - Fund key operating expense increases in all HHS contracts and new procurements by the following rates:
 - 10% increase to occupancy costs
 - 10% increase to casualty and liability insurance

Core Human Services Contracting Principles

FLEXIBLE: Allow contract providers to suggest spending modifications in line with their budgets on a case-by-case basis.

TRANSPARENT: Provide rate and model budget methodologies for all procurements and contract renewals to enable HHS service providers to better project cost and revenue.

RESPONSIVE: Provide regular updates and guidance to providers on the status of their contracts and disbursements.

ACCOUNTABLE: Establish completion targets and a reporting schedule for each city agency on the contracting process, contract registration and disbursements.

Human Services Advancement Strategy Group

The Human Services Advancement Strategy Group formed to secure the programmatic, financial and operational resources needed to fully cover costs and meet the contractual obligations of provider organizations holding City health and human services contracts.





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UNH City Fiscal Year 2018-19 Budget Priorities **Early Childhood Education**

Discretionary Child Care Centers

Services Funded: Full-day child care programs for children from birth to age four

Challenge and Opportunity: Funding was not included in the Preliminary Budget for 11 child care centers traditionally supported by the City Council. These programs, which have operated in their neighborhoods for decades, have been supported by the City Council since 2012.

UNH recommendation: Restore \$9.3 million for child care centers, so that 11 centers can continue to provide high-quality services in their neighborhoods

Early Childhood Educator Salaries

Services Supported: Comprehensive, year-round, full day early childhood education programs serving children ages 0-4 from low-income families.

Challenge and Opportunity: Nearly two-thirds of Pre-K for All sites and nearly 60% of Pre-K for All seats are at CBOs (as of November 2017). For sites, it's 692 schools and 1,193 CBOs. For seats, it's 35,763 at schools and 51,108 at CBOs. Pre-K teachers at CBOs earn as little as 60% of what Pre-K teachers at DOE schools earn. A first-year teacher with a Master's degree at a CBO will make nearly \$15,000 (or 32%) less than what a first-year teacher with a Master's degree at a DOE school will make. By their eighth year, the teacher at the CBO will make \$32,000 (or 66%) less than the teacher at a DOE school. A first-year teacher with a Bachelor's degree at a CBO will make nearly \$14,000 (or 33%) less than what a first-year teacher with a Bachelor's degree at a DOE school will make. By their eighth year, the teacher at the CBO will make \$30,000 (or 68%) less than the teacher at a DOE school.

New York City must finally address the disparity in wages between educators, staff and directors at City- contracted early childhood education programs and their counterparts in public schools.

UNH recommendation: Achieve Salary Parity for the Early Childhood Education Workforce

For more information, please contact Gregory Brender at gbrender@unhny.org or (917) 484-9337



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UNH City Fiscal Year 2018-19 Budget Priorities **After-School and Summer Programs**

Summer Programs for Middle School Students

Services Funded: Summer Programs for at least 34,000 middle school students.

Challenge and Opportunity: The Mayor's Preliminary Budget does not include funding for summer programs for at least 34,000 children, cutting programs serving youth in 50 City Council districts.

The approximately \$20.35 million in funding for these programs must be restored no later than the Executive Budget. While the City Council has historically been a great partner in our advocacy efforts to partially restore this funding annually, parents and providers need to know well before June whether they will be able to provide and participate in summer camp programs. Participants must be registered and staff must then be hired. All staff must be cleared through background checks to ensure the safety and security of all campers. Similarly, parents cannot wait until June in order to make arrangements for their children's summer. That said, if funds are not restored before June, many program providers will be forced to turn down contracts to provide programs and children will remain on waitlists unable to participate in social and developmental programming while their parents are at work.

COMPASS After-School Programs for Elementary School Students

Services Funded: COMPASS Elementary School after-school programs, which provide enriching and educational activities from a school's closing time to 6:00 pm during the school year, and for a full day in the summer

Challenge and Opportunity: 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.

Last year, the City Council invested funding to support after-school programs for 9,000 children. This funded 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 10,000 new slots to meet unmet demand.

UNH recommendation: Restore \$16 million for after-school programs for 9,000 children and expand COMPASS to serve at least 10,000 more children

For more information, please contact Gregory Brender at gbrender@unhny.org or (917) 484-9337



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UNH City Fiscal Year 2018-19 Budget Priorities **Youth Employment**

Summer Youth Employment Program- Per Participant Rate

In September DYCD released a Concept Paper for the Summer Youth Employment Program proposing six SYEP models with more intensive service requirements. However, the Concept Paper only provided information about a Price Per Participant (PPP) 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

UNH urges the City to at least double to PPP for all models and 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.

Year- Round Youth Employment: Work, Learn, and Grow – Baseline and Restore at \$16 million

Services Funded: Workforce development programming for young adults between the ages of 14 and 24, and currently between October and April.

Challenge and Opportunity: Work, Learn, and Grow (WLG) was piloted in FY16 with \$16.2m and allowed more than 6,000 youth who had taken part in the previous summer's SYEP 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 flat-funded in the FY17 Adopted Budget.

UNH urges the City to baseline the Work, Learn and Grow at \$16 million.

UNH recommendation: Expand and baseline WLG, with 250 slots for OSOW youth, at \$52.7 million.

For more information, please contact Gregory Brender at gbrender@unhny.org or (917) 484-9337



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UNH City Fiscal Year 2019 Budget & Policy Priorities **Literacy Programs**

Adult Literacy – Restore and Baseline at \$12 million; Establish Citywide Taskforce

FY2018-2017 Adopted: \$12m (\$6m council, \$6m administration; none baselined)

FY2017-2016 Adopted: \$12m (\$6m council, \$6m administration; none baselined)

Services Funded: English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), Adult Basic Education (ABE), High School Equivalency Preparation (HSE), Basic Education in Native Language (BENL)

Challenge and Opportunity:

New York City is currently home to 2.2 million adults that lack English proficiency and/or a high school diploma. Due to these barriers to economic success, many are stuck in low-wage, low-skilled jobs where at best, they struggle to get by, and at worst, are subject to exploitative practices. In fact, nationally, Spanish-speaking English learners lose approximately \$3,000 per year in earnings as a direct result of inadequate English skills. Unfortunately, there is no universal system of adult literacy in New York City, with many immigrants and other adults stuck on long waiting lists for services. A 2015 survey conducted by the New York City Coalition for Adult Literacy (NYCCAL) found that there were at least 15,000 individuals on waitlists for adult literacy classes.

NYC responded to this crisis with a \$12 million investment in the FY2017 & FY2018 adopted budget, resulting in services for over 6,000 adult learners. However, this funding has not been baselined, meaning thousands of students are at risk of losing the ability to learn English and work towards a high school equivalency diploma. Yet, when immigrants and other adult learners are able to access adult literacy services, the benefits are clear: increased English proficiency means parents can help their children succeed in school, communicate with police, medical and other professionals, and more readily participate in the social and civic opportunities in their communities. In addition, when New Yorkers are able to earn a high school equivalency diploma there is a net economic benefit of \$324,000 to the City over the course of their lifetime due to their higher rates of employment and earnings and decreased utilization of social services.

As the federal administration adopts increasingly hostile rhetoric and policies targeting immigrants across the country, New York City has the obligation to stand up and not only defend their security and liberty, but also support pathways to opportunity that lead to stronger families and communities. The ability to read, write and speak English is the most foundational skill for success in our City and investing in adult literacy is a common-sense solution.

UNH recommendation: Baseline \$12m for community-based adult literacy programs and establish a Citywide Adult Literacy Task Force to develop recommendations for strengthening and better coordinating services.

(Over—Family Literacy on Reverse)

Family Literacy – Fund New Family Literacy Program at \$5 million

FY2017-2018 Preliminary: \$0

FY2016-2017 Adopted: \$0

...

FY2010-2011 Adopted: \$2.4m

Services Funded: A comprehensive model of intergenerational literacy services, including early childhood or afterschool education, adult education, parent and child together (PACT), and parental workshops and support.

While there are several city, state, and federal funding streams that address some individual components of family literacy such as the Family English Initiative or the City Council's First Readers program, none contain the full suite of family literacy programming. Learn more and read our full brief on family literacy programs here: www.familyliteracyny.org

Challenge and Opportunity:

Family Literacy programs are an intervention designed to involve a whole family unit in their collective educational success. By engaging both children and their caregivers in a collaborative and mutually reinforcing learning process, families are better equipped to gain the skills they need to succeed. While DYCD's family literacy programs were eliminated in 2010 due to budget cuts, the City observed that the model was successful, noting:

"Programs have reported noteworthy improvements by both children and parents. As reported by their classroom teachers and parents, participating children are more motivated to learn, have greater self-confidence, and therefore do better academically. Parents have improved their literacy skills as well. Parents are more aware of the resources available to support their families and have increased their involvement in their children's education and schools. They go to the library and read with their children, and they participate in school activities by working as volunteers and PTA meetings."

Additional benefits:

- The Goodling Institute for Research in Family Literacy at Penn State University found that some successful family literacy programs led to a 90% improvement in family engagement and a 20% increase in family literacy activities in the home and community, as well as improvements for parents in employability skills, self-efficacy, leadership skills, and social capital.
- Family literacy activities can lead to improved relationships between parents and children due to PACT activities, as well as increase parent-child interactive time, increase the number of books in the family's home, and encourage critical thinking skills.
- A comprehensive study done by Old Dominion University and the National Dropout Prevention Center at Clemson University on graduation rates found that family engagement was the single greatest determinant in a student's likelihood of succeeding at school.

In re-launching a family literacy program, NYC can capitalize on existing early childhood education, afterschool and adult education investments. Community based organizations already offering one or more of these services can be supported with funding that allows them to link the disparate programs elements together in order to serve the whole family and achieve greater outcomes.

UNH recommendation: Launch a City Family Literacy Program at \$5m, including technical assistance, provider-to-provider learning exchanges, and data collection.

For more information, please contact Kevin Douglas, kdouglas@unhny.org or (212) 967-0322 ext. 345



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UNH City Fiscal Year 2018-19 Budget Priorities **Behavioral Health Services**

Council Behavioral Health Initiatives- Renew and Expand in FY2019

Last year, the City Council continued its support for several key behavioral health initiatives, recognizing the valuable role that these programs play in promoting community health and safety. These initiatives were not renewed in the Mayor's Preliminary budget and include:

Geriatric Mental Health Initiative (GMHI)

GMHI supports mental health services specifically for older adults, including counseling in senior centers and other community settings, home visits, depression screenings, and group counseling.

Children Under Five Mental Health Initiative (CU5)

CU5 provides early childhood mental health services to young children and families, allowing organizations to work with children to develop psychosocial and educational skills, as well as cope with trauma resulting from witnessing or experiencing domestic violence, sexual abuse, or physical or mental abuse.

Autism Awareness

The Autism Awareness Initiative supports programming for children with autism spectrum disorders (ASD), including after-school programs, social skills programming, and summer camps, as well as supportive services for families of children with ASD.

Given their long track record of success and the continued need for high-quality, local behavioral health services, we urge the City Council to renew and expand these initiatives to ensure that small and mid-size providers can continue to offer quality behavioral health services to their communities.

UNH Recommendation: Renew and expand Council Behavioral Health programs for children, youth, and older adults:

- **Geriatric Mental Health Initiative:** \$2.5m (*increase from \$1.9m*)
- **Children Under Five Initiative:** \$2.0m (*increase from \$1.02m*)
- **Autism Awareness Initiative:** \$4.0m (*increase from \$3.2m*)

For more information, please contact Kevin Douglas at 917-484-9321 or kdouglas@unhny.org



UNH City Fiscal Year 2018-19 Budget Priorities **Workforce Development**

Bridge Programs

UNH recommendation: Follow through on *Career Pathways* promise to invest \$60m annually in bridge programs by FY 2020, beginning with \$30 million in baselined funding for FY 2019.

The 2015 report *Career Pathways*, written by the Jobs for New Yorker's Task Force assembled by the de Blasio Administration, promised a \$60 million annual investment by FY 2020 to ensure that “the lowest-skilled jobseekers” were not left behind in the move towards a Career Pathways framework. The report defines bridge programs as those which “skill up” jobseekers who are not yet ready for college, training, or career-track jobs, and identifies them as distinct from traditional adult basic education in their career-focus. Examples include:

- Tech Bridge, a partnership between Per Scholas and The Door that provides basic adult education and literacy services for young adult applicants to Per Scholas’ job training and placement program who are close to meeting the bar to entry but fail to qualify in order to upskill them in order to qualify while introducing them to beginner tech concepts
- LaGuardia Community Colleges’s Bridge to College and Careers, offering students high school equivalency (HSE) prep courses that are contextualized in the student’s preferred topic area of healthcare, science, or business and give them a “leg up” in further studies of that topic area

Challenge and Opportunity

As a vocal supporter of equitable workforce initiatives, Mayor de Blasio has pushed many of the City agencies that provide workforce services—like the Human Resources Administration (HRA), Small Business Services (SBS), the Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) and others—towards the Career Pathways framework since introducing the plan, but his administration has failed to invest all of the promised funds to ramp up bridge programs in service of “the lowest-skilled jobseekers”. In the Executive Budget released on April 26, 2018, the Mayor only allocated \$7.1 million for Career Pathways, which – while welcome – falls far short of the commitment and need. This is despite including bridge programs as one of five methods for connecting low-income New Yorkers to the 100,000 “good jobs” described Mayor de Blasio’s 2017 plan, *New York Works*.

UNH recommends an investment of \$30 million in baselined funding for FY 2019, 75% of which are new funds competitively bid out to non-profit community-based organizations (CBOs) that have long histories within their communities. This ramp-up will allow providers the necessary time to develop program infrastructure in anticipation of the full \$60 million investment in 2020 and baselining these funds in the City’s budget will enable programs to conduct the long-term planning that is necessary in curriculum development.

Career Pathways does reference existing adult basic education courses that could be contextualized to help meet the needs of New Yorkers, but the report also emphasizes the importance of developing new programs to reach a greater number of New Yorkers. Prior to this allocation, 100% of the approximately \$8 million the City has invested in bridge programs have been repurposed from adult education sources through DYCD, SBS, and CUNY. UNH proposes the cap for repurposed funding should instead be 25% to truly meet the spirit of the \$60 million promise.

Without training like bridge programs, the \$96 billion referenced in *New York Works* that NYC plans to invest over the next ten years to attract good jobs will not meaningfully improve the lives of New Yorkers who are currently looking for work, or the 1 in 5 that are working but live in poverty, begging the proverbial question, "Good jobs for whom?" As Career Pathways acknowledges, "a large share of workforce system clients, including an estimated 20 to 25 percent of HRA's Back to Work clients, 40 to 50 percent of DYCD's Out-Of-School Youth clients, and 20 to 30 percent of adult clients served by DYCD" are of a demographic that stands to benefit from bridge programming, and this investment would go a long way towards securing the vision for a fair and progressive New York laid out by the Mayor in the "good jobs" plan.



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UNH City Fiscal Year 2019 Budget Priorities

Aging Services

Senior Center “Model Budget”

In response to a nonprofit sector-wide advocacy campaign to improve the underfunding of human services contracts at large, the City FY2018 budget included several new investments, including \$10m within the Department for the Aging (DFTA). These funds, allocated as part of the City’s “model budget” initiative, were intended to provide the agency the opportunity to reexamine senior center contracts and begin correcting deficiencies. With nearly 250 City-funded senior centers across the City, additional funding is necessary to adequately support the system. Further, it is deeply problematic that the methodology used by DFTA has not been publicly shared, nor has sufficient rationale been offered as to why key drivers of senior center costs were explicitly excluded including occupancy, food, and OTPS.

In order to achieve the best possible outcome from this “model budget” process UNH recommends:

- That the City ensure that DFTA has the infrastructure and mechanisms in place needed to execute the \$10m in FY2018 contract amendments immediately,
- That the City invest an additional \$7.6m in FY2019 (a \$1.00 per meal increase) to address the exclusion of congregate meals from the senior center “model budget,”
- That the City include the second \$10m promised for DFTA’s “model budget” process as soon as possible and no later than FY2020, and
- That DFTA more closely work with providers and advocates on the planning and implementation of the remainder of the “model budget” process in the months and years ahead.

DFTA Senior Centers in NYCHA

DFTA funded senior centers located in NYCHA facilities face a challenging operational reality. Given the variety of crises NYCHA currently faces regarding its buildings, the upkeep of senior centers in NYCHA facilities run by human service organizations has become a back-burner priority, leaving many centers in need of basic facilities and maintenance resources. These needs are not covered in DFTAs contracts.

UNH recommendation: Invest \$5m in DFTA-funded NYCHA senior centers for upkeep and maintenance

Home Delivered Meals

Home-delivered meals programs provide a daily, nutritious meal to homebound older adults who are unable to prepare their own food. Delivered daily by staff in home-delivered meal programs, older adults receive a meal and regular interaction with staff, offering an important well-check for individuals at risk of social isolation. Home-delivered meal programs are currently struggling with rising program costs, including purchasing raw food for meal preparation and competitive wages for delivery staff. On average, DFTA’s reimbursement rate is less than the average real cost of providing a meal. The average national cost of providing a home-delivered meal is \$11.06 per meal. In the UNH network, the average reimbursement rate is only \$8.12 per meal, and within the DFTA network at large, around \$8.50 per meal.

Without a higher reimbursement rate, home-delivered meal providers will continue to struggle to ensure program quality and meet the dietary needs of older adults. While adding \$1 per home delivered meal would not fully close the gap, it would offer meaningful relief to providers that struggle to provide high-quality (and specialized/culturally-appropriate) meals to the City's older adults.

UNH recommendation: Invest \$4.5m in DFTA Home Delivered Meal program to begin closing the gap in provider's contracts by adding \$1/meal

Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities (NORCs) Supportive Service Programs

NORCs are multi-age housing developments or neighborhoods that were not intentionally built for older adults, but are now home to a significant number of older people. NORCs coordinate support from housing, social service, and health care providers to promote health and stability among older adults in concentrated apartment buildings and housing complexes, as well as in lower-density neighborhoods.

Currently, the Department for the Aging supports 28 classic NORCs through \$6.5 million in baselined funding and the City Council supports 25 NORCs, including Neighborhood NORCs (NNORC), with \$3.85m in discretionary funding. These existing NORC providers often struggle to cover nursing costs associated with their programs, and many other providers are interested in bringing these valuable services to their communities as well.

UNH recommendation: Increase Council Initiative to \$5m to support increased discretionary awards and/or new pilot programs

Geriatric Mental Health Initiative (GMHI)

Currently funded at \$1.9m, GMHI is a critical City Council initiative designed to strengthen the capacity of senior service programs to assess and provide mental health services in non-stigmatizing ways to older adults. To better meet the behavioral health needs of the City's aging population, UNH recommends a \$2.5m Council investment in FY2019.

UNH recommendation: Increase GMHI to \$2.5m to support increased accessible behavioral health services for the city's growing older adult population

Healthy Aging Initiative

The Healthy Aging Initiative provides funding for health promotion services to prevent chronic disease, prevent falls, and promote good nutrition and exercise at senior centers and other sites throughout the City. Providers credit the Healthy Aging Initiative with helping them offer holistic services to the older adults they serve through their senior center or NORC contracts.

UNH recommendation: Restore at FY2018 level of \$1.81m to continue providing key supports

Support our Seniors

The Support Our Seniors Initiative funds organizations with a city contract that operates senior services and programming. Similar to the Healthy Aging Initiative, providers cite the Support our Seniors Initiative with allowing them to offer holistic supports to the older adults they serve through senior center or NORC contracts.

UNH recommendation: Restore at FY2018 level of \$3.06m to continue providing key supports

For more information, please contact Kevin Douglas at 212 967-0322 ext.345 or kdouglas@unhny.org



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Civic Engagement Priorities

United Neighborhood Houses, an association of 39 settlement houses, is working with its members to promote higher levels of civic engagement across New York City. Civic engagement describes activities which communities may use to promote a higher quality of life through socially conscious action directed at promoting better policies. By responding to the constantly changing political needs of a community through neighborhood-based solutions, settlement houses are drivers of civic engagement, which ultimately leads to expanded access to services and good policies that benefit all New Yorkers.

Voter Mobilization for All New Yorkers: To support settlement houses and the communities they serve in receiving support and acknowledgment across all levels of government, UNH leads:

- Nonpartisan Voter Registration with member organizations working to register and educate voters in each election cycle
- Get Out the Vote phone banking campaigns to improve voter turnout
- Community Forums organized to address various political and community issues, such as the Constitutional Convention
- Efforts to promote Participatory Budgeting among settlement house communities and participating Council Members to ensure the neighborhood's budget is responsive to resident's needs

Community Empowerment Opportunities: To ensure that community members have access to opportunities within the community to develop a strong, collective voice in the face of problems facing a neighborhood, UNH leads:

- Lobby days, rallies and press conferences for staff and community members to advocate for themselves in Albany and NYC on key budget and legislative priorities
- Self-Directed Leadership Teams of older adults dedicated to advocating for better conditions in their neighborhood
- Annual advocacy trainings, offered through partnership with Advocacy Institute, to provide educational opportunities for our members to learn about the legislative process
- Coordinated efforts with statewide partners to ensure the 2020 Census is a fair, accurate and nonpartisan process in which all New Yorkers are counted in a manner that protects and safeguards their confidentiality

For more information, please contact Lena Cohen at lcohen@unhny.org or (212) 967-0322 x 313



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Testimony before the New York City Council
on the Mayor's Fiscal Year 2019 Executive Budget
PUBLIC TESTIMONY
May 24, 2018

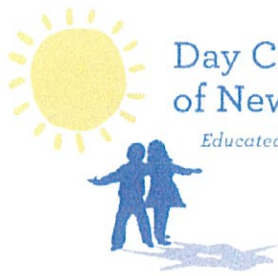
My name is Lisa Caswell and I am the Senior Policy Analyst for the Day Care Council of New York. For nearly seventy years, our non-profit members have provided quality early childhood education programs for families across the five boroughs. At this time, more than 200 of these centers are contracted with the Administration for Children's Services under EarlyLearn. We support them with a range of services that include labor relations and mediation, policy and advocacy, an early childhood employment initiative, and a professional training institute. We are also the lead agency for the state funded Child Care Resource and Referral Consortium.

First we would like to say that the City Council's support on the issue of salary parity has been invaluable. And while we know that you are pressing forward on a range of critical priorities, we know where you stand as the non-profit early education system transitions from the Administration for Children's Services (ACS) to the Department of Education (DOE).

Salary parity for certified group teachers has been deemed our most pressing concern by a membership survey conducted in February of 2018. It is followed by adequate funding for program operations and maintenance of utilization and capacity. Today in any one of our centers, a state certified Master's level teacher of two year olds will earn \$3080 less per year than her colleague who is teaching in a UPK classroom. They will not reach parity with each other until 2020 when the current labor contract expires. As you know, the situation worsens when certified teacher salaries in non-profit settings are compared with those available in school based settings under the UFT, where the salary disparity can be \$16,000 apart.

It is difficult enough to have teachers working side by side with the same qualifications and earning different amounts. How can we then hope to hold on to them when they can earn \$16,000 more under the DOE on day one? We have got to give them a reason to stay and we can't wait two more years to do it.

Attached you will find our most current research on the above issues. We hope it is helpful to you in the coming weeks. Thank you again for your strong support of the Day Care Council and its members over the years. We stand ready to assist you should there be further need of our expertise.



**Day Care Council
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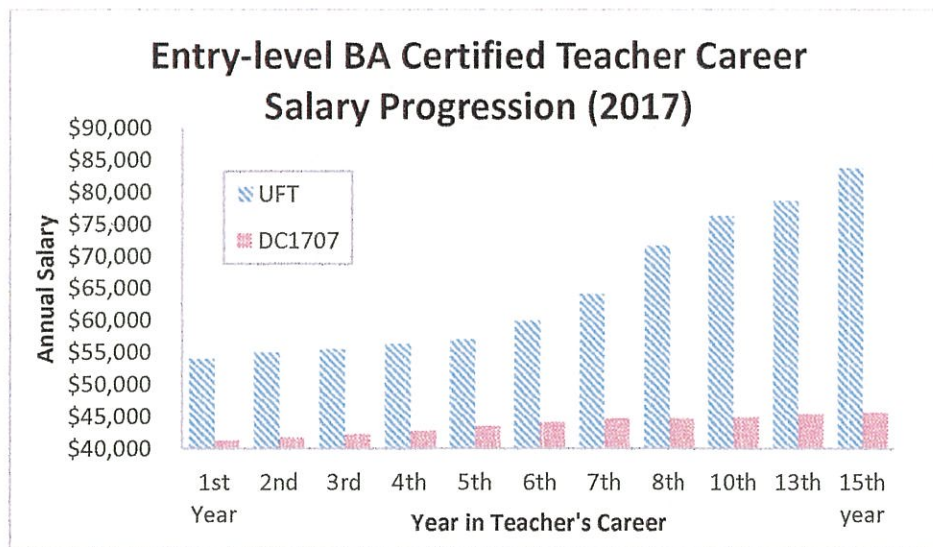
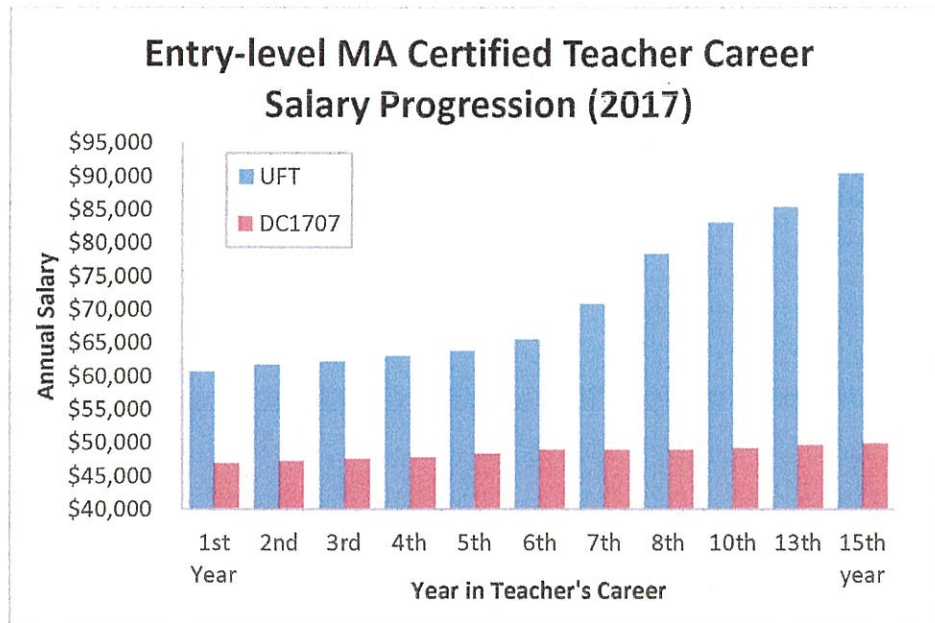
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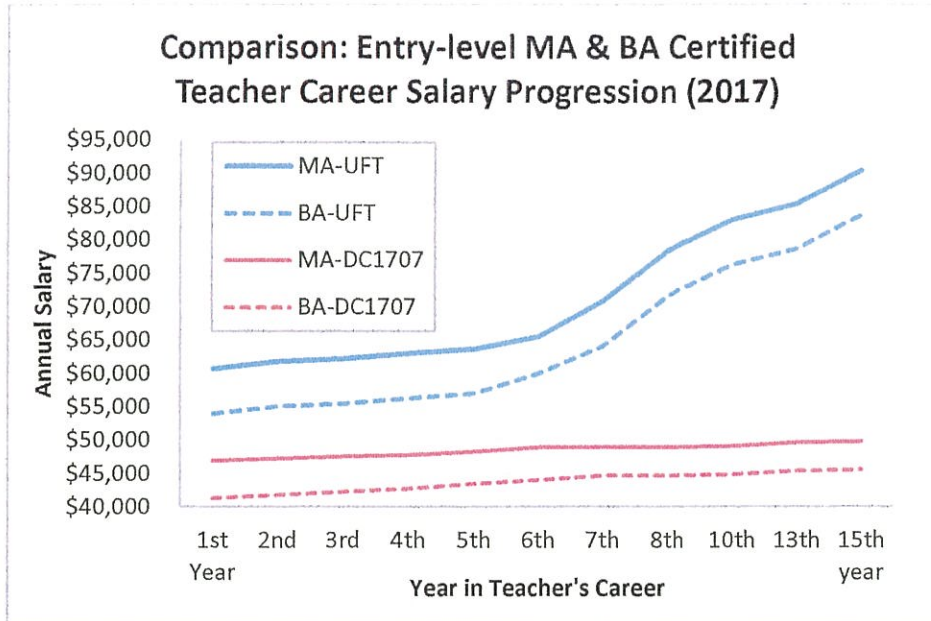
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MA/BA Teacher Salary Comparison: UFT vs. DC 1707

Prepared by Mai Miksic, Senior Research Analyst



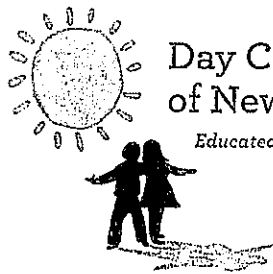


UFT Contract 5/1/17 (2008-2018) vs. DC1707 Contract 12/31/17 (2016-2020)				
Year in Career	UFT - MA Certified ¹	UFT - BA Certified ²	1707 - MA Certified	1707 - BA Certified
1st Year	\$60,704	\$54,000	\$46,920	\$41,265
2nd	\$61,777	\$55,073	\$47,220"	\$41,765
3rd	\$62,233	\$55,529	\$47,520"	\$42,265
4th	\$63,037	\$56,333	\$47,820"	\$42,765
5th	\$63,733	\$57,029	\$48,320"	\$43,465"
6th	\$65,541*	\$59,975*	\$48,920"	\$44,065"
7th	\$70,802	\$64,098	\$48,920	\$44,665
8th	\$78,346	\$71,642	\$48,920	\$44,665
10th	\$82,995*	\$76,291*	\$49,120"	\$44,865"
13th	\$85,386*	\$78,682*	\$49,620"	\$45,365"
15th year	\$90,432*	\$83,728*	\$49,820"	\$45,565"

Notes: *UFT Longevity Bonus, "DC1707 Longevity Bonus

¹ **UFT - MA Certified**=36 credits in an approved subject matter area; those 36 credits may be undergraduate, graduate, or a combination. Generally speaking, you qualify when you get your master's degree [\[C2+PD\]](#).

²**UFT - BA Certified**=This is the basic salary for those who have only a bachelor's degree [\[C1\]](#).



Day Care Council of New York

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DCCNY Full Council Child Care Policy Survey

March 29, 2018 - Prepared by Mai Miksic, Senior Research Analyst

These are the preliminary results of a survey that was distributed to DCCNY child care sponsoring boards at our most recent Full Council meeting in February 2018. The purpose of the survey was to examine the most relevant policy issues affecting the viability of our nonprofit community-based providers.

The results of our survey reflect the knowledge and opinions of employers. In some cases we asked employers about the experiences and opinions of their staff, however we are aware that those results do not come directly from the staff themselves. Instead, these results represent a broader picture of the current state of our community-based providers.

1. How many sponsoring boards participated? How many centers were represented?

58 sponsoring boards responded to the survey, representing 157 child care centers.
This was a response rate of 74% of our membership.

2. How long have these organizations been operating child care programs?

The average responding sponsoring board has been operating child care centers for over 45 years.

3. Where are their child care centers located?

17.2% Bronx, 36.2% Manhattan, 32.8% Brooklyn, 13.8% Queens, 5.1% Staten Island

1. What policy issues are most important to you?

Rankings of Policy Importance	Score (1 = most important - 3 = least important)
1. Salary Parity for All Staff	1.48
2. Child Care Capacity and Utilization	1.63
3. Salary Parity for Teacher/Director	1.82
4. Health Insurance - tie	2.00
4. Pension - tie	2.00
5. Building & Facilities Issues	2.15
6. Child Care Center Operation Regulations	2.16

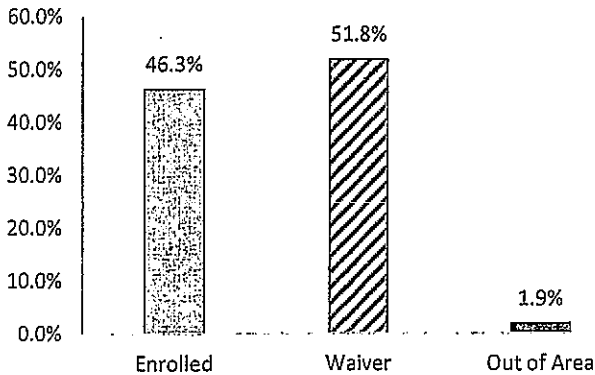
2. What policy issues are you most concerned about?

Rankings of Policy Concerns	Score (1 = most important - 3 = least important)
1. Salary Parity - Teachers & Directors	1.77
2. Adequate Funding for Program Operations	1.80
3. Competition for EarlyLearn/PKA & 3K Contracts	1.94
4. Transition of EarlyLearn to DOE	2.00
5. Labor Contract Re-negotiation and renewal	2.22

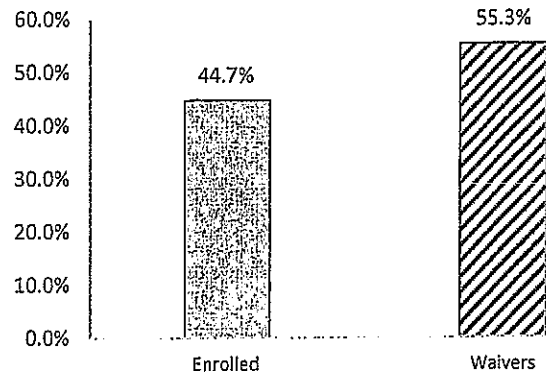
Health Insurance

DC 1707 Local 205 Welfare Fund – Health Care Enrollment 2017 vs. 2018

Local 205 All Employees in MetroPlus (2017)
n=3269, 100% All Staff* Reporting



Local 205 Teaching Staff Only in MetroPlus (2018)
n=2175, 67% All Staff* Reporting

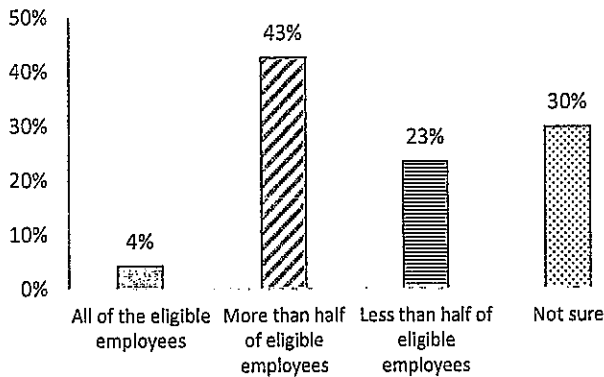


*(2017) Job titles for all staff not collected in 2017 ---- (2018) Data for all staff not yet released

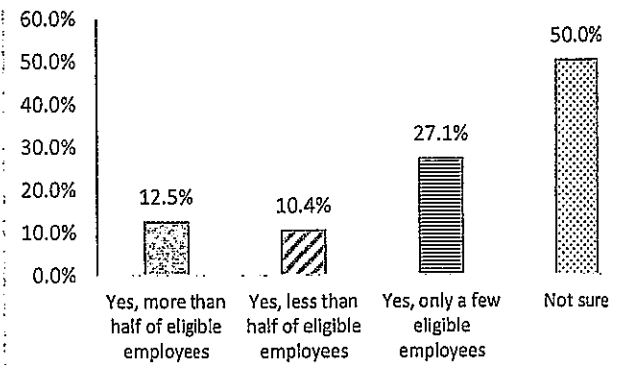
DCCNY Child Care Providers

3. How many of your DC 1707 Local 205 employees have opted out of MetroPlus?

How many of your DC 1707 Local 205 employees have opted out of MetroPlus?

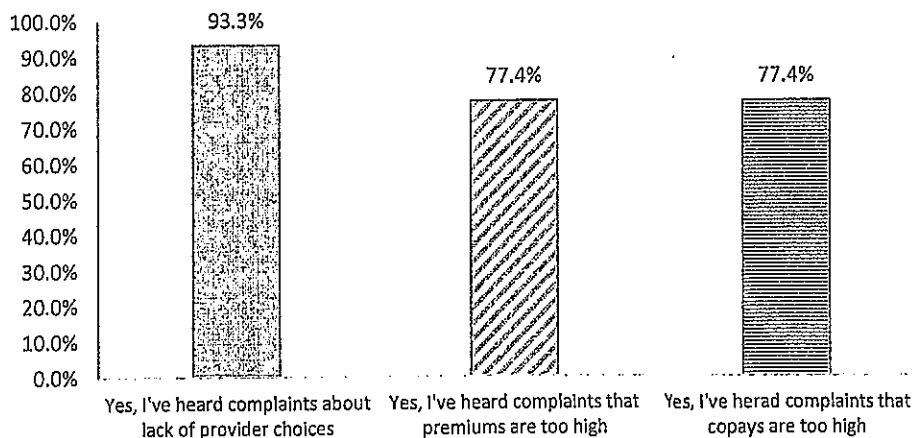


Do you know if any of your employees have opted out of Metroplus for Medicaid?



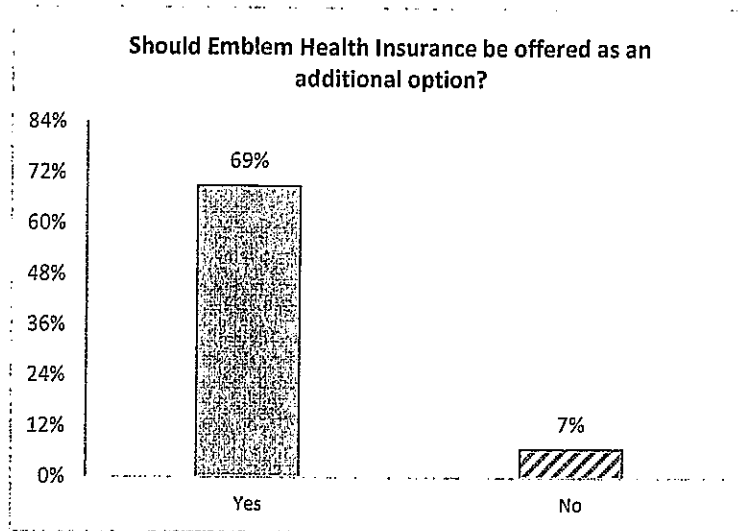
4. What complaints about MetroPlus have you heard from your employees?

Have you heard complaints about MetroPlus?



5. What solutions should be considered in order to address the health insurance problems?

a. Should Emblem be offered as an alternative health insurance option?



b. Should Local 205 workers be able to sign up for their employers' [non-union] private health insurance plan?

- Most of DCCNY members (71%) want Local 205 workers to have the option to opt out of MetroPlus and be able to enroll in their employer's private health insurance plans.
- Of the total sample, 28.9% are employers who currently offer private health insurance to non-Local 205 employees and are in favor of this option. Of the total sample, 42.1% of the employers do not offer private health insurance but would be in favor of this option.
- Employers who currently offer their non-Local 205 employees private health insurance were 36.8% of the sample. These are larger nonprofit organizations that provide multiple social services (i.e. settlement houses). Out of the total sample, only 7.9% of these providers do not want to offer their private health insurance to Local 205 workers.
- Employers who currently do not offer private insurance to non-Local 205 and also do not want others to have the option to enroll in employer-provided health insurance constituted 21.1% of the whole sample.

		Does your organization offer private health insurance to non-DC 1707 Local 205 Employees?		
		Yes	No	Totals
Would you like the option for employers to offer their private health insurance plans to Local 205 union employees?	Yes	28.9%	42.1%	71%
	No	7.9%	21.1%	29%
Totals		36.8%	63.2%	100%

WOMANKIND

FORMERLY NEW YORK ASIAN WOMEN'S CENTER

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Testimony of Womankind (Formerly New York Asian Women's Center)
Before the New York City Council
Committee on Finance
May 24, 2018

Good afternoon Chairman Dromm and distinguished members of the Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. My name is Aya Tasaki and I am the Manager of Policy and Advocacy at Womankind (formerly New York Asian Women's Center).

Womankind works with survivors of gender-based violence to rise above trauma and build a path to healing. We bring critical resources and deep cultural competency to help Asian communities find refuge, recovery, and renewal. We provide culturally matched direct services to survivors of domestic violence, sexual violence, and human trafficking across the lifespan, in 18 distinct Asian languages and dialects, as well as in Spanish, citywide. Womankind fields nearly 2,000 first time helpline calls annually. Our services include 24-hour multilingual helpline, crisis intervention, safety planning, and emergency and transitional housing, financial literacy and empowerment, education and employment assistance, children and youth services, ESOL tutoring, immigration legal services and more. Our resourceful advocates expertly navigate issues of language access, cultural norms, and trauma, within the city's systems, to ensure survivors receive the help and support they want and deserve. Annually, we serve over 1,000 survivors.

We know from experience that Asian-led, Asian-serving organizations like ours are the ones who have been doing critical work for New York City's ever-growing Asian population, and we are the ones who have been doing it well. We have gained trust from our communities, have the know-how to do outreach, and have the cultural understanding of our diverse population. This is especially important in doing work to combat gender based violence, a nuanced and sensitive issue that requires complex cultural understanding.

WOMANKIND

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We have seen time and time again that access to immediate services – in the language that the individual feels most comfortable communicating their trauma in, to a person with cultural humility – is crucial to those in crisis. We also know the importance of connecting survivors to long-term support systems with linguistic and cultural understanding, for them to truly rise above their trauma. If immediate services are the key to surviving, long-term services are the key to thriving. And we need to continue investing in both, if we are serious about intervening in and preventing violence in our communities.

We thank the City Council for funding organizations like ours, allowing us to continue growing. Womankind and our community has benefitted greatly from the City Council's discretionary and initiative funding, including from many of you on the Committee, as well as the Support for Victims of Human Trafficking Initiative, Domestic Violence and Empowerment Initiative, and the Elder Abuse Enhancement Initiative. Today, we urge you to not simply sustain but to increase your support, especially during this time of heightened attacks against the most vulnerable of our communities. The Asian population in New York City is the fastest growing group, and we cannot keep up with the demands of our expanding communities without your help and resources.

Thank you.



iamwomankind.org
24/7 Helpline 1.888.888.7702



Commitment to Improve
the Quality of Life

India Home Requests \$1.5 million in Capital Funding to Meet the Critical Need for Senior Services to New York's Aging South Asians

About India Home:

India Home is the frontline pioneering service provider for senior South Asians living in Queens. A non-profit organization dedicated to addressing the needs of the South Asian senior citizen immigrant community, India Home was started in 2007 by healthcare professionals to provide social, psychological, recreational, and spiritual services in a culturally sensitive environment.

For the past 10 years, India Home has been the only secular non-profit in the New York area providing culturally competent, linguistically appropriate direct services aimed at South Asian seniors. Our Desi Senior Center, offering culturally, dietary and linguistically appropriate services to Bangladeshi seniors in Jamaica Queens is the largest one of its kind in New York City and serves over 100 seniors every program day. We run once a week senior center programs in Sunnyside, Kew Gardens, and Richmond Hill, which serve an additional 100 individuals each week.

We go above and beyond for our clients; we call insurance agencies, car services, coordinate home health aid help to provide full wrap around care.

India Home Clients:

100% of the seniors India Home serves are foreign born and nearly 80% of them have Limited English Proficiency (LEP), which limits their access to traditional services.

Our clients come to us from the heavily South Asian neighborhoods of Sunnyside, Jackson Heights, Briarwood, Jamaica, Richmond Hill, and Queens Village. They also live in growing communities found in the Bronx, Brooklyn, and beyond.

The Problem:

The Asian-American population in New York City continues to grow, evidenced by an increase of 64% from 2000 to 2010. This includes the South Asian American populations who we serve. In Queens, the number of foreign-born seniors grew by 42,000 between 2000 and 2010 with Bangladeshi-Americans contributing significantly to this growth.

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Ms. Afreen Alam
Ms. Anjali Thadani

The Solution:

Currently, India Home provides services at 4 locations through partnerships with existing community centers. This model, while workable, is not ideal. To complement our current work, India Home has identified a site just off Hillside Avenue in Jamaica Estates, to establish a permanent location.

Our plan for this permanent location is to cover two primary functions: program space and office space. The program space would include senior center programs, and a special program to serve physically and cognitively impaired older adults who need culturally competent and linguistically appropriate socialization, and mental health services. We would provide targeted services to those with mild dementia, mild Parkinson's disease, stroke survivors, in wheelchairs or otherwise disabled. This large, multiuse space would also include: state of the art technology center with computer classes, multi-use library, and health and wellness programs.

In addition to this day program, the site would serve as an office space for our management and program teams. We expect to have office space for our Executive Director, Deputy Director, Director of Programs, Communications & Development Manager, Community Mental Health Program Director, and Health & Wellness Programs Coordinator. In addition, we will have case management and mental health services in the office so our caseworkers can reach out to homebound seniors.

Projected Budget

Item	Description	Amount
Capital Funding Request:	South Asian Community Home 3,690 square feet of commercial space	\$1,498,500
Property Acquisition	Application #: 20-874729-Y9881	
Non-City funds	Community Capital Campaign	\$176,500
Total project cost:		\$1,675,000



Commitment to Improve
the Quality of Life

Expense Request from India Home for FY 2019

About India Home:

India Home is a non-profit organization founded by community members to serve South Asian older adults. The mission of India Home is to improve the quality of life for vulnerable South Asian older adults by providing culturally appropriate social services.

India Home has grown tremendously in the last year to fulfill our mission to serve South Asian older adults with *culturally appropriate social services*. At our Desi Senior Center in Jamaica – where we attract on average 80-100 seniors daily who would otherwise be socially isolated during the daytime – we have started care coordination services in our case management department. **Our care coordinator helps vulnerable seniors navigate the complex healthcare system.** We will start mental health programs at India Home by **hiring a culturally competent mental health counselor** and starting a **daycare for older adults with mild to moderate dementia**. In addition to these exciting new steps, we are continuing our programs in collaboration with existing senior centers once a week in different locations such as at Sunnyside Community Services, and Queens Community House. In total, we serve over 200 seniors a week.

We have moved into a new office on Wexford Terrace in Jamaica Estates. **We plan to continue lay roots in CD 24** to provide targeted and much needed senior services to Bangladeshi and other immigrant older adults. Our services are accessible to everyone and we partner with established and prestigious institutions like NYU and Memorial Sloan Kettering to bring more services and awareness into CD 24.

India Home Clients:

100% of the seniors India Home serves are foreign born and nearly 80% of them have Limited English Proficiency (LEP), which limits their access to traditional services. Our clients come to us from the heavily South Asian neighborhoods of Sunnyside, Jackson Heights, Briarwood, Jamaica, Richmond Hill, and Queens Village. They also live in growing communities found in Far Rockaway, the Bronx, Brooklyn, and beyond.

Our recent senior satisfaction survey has shown that **over 90% of our clients are very satisfied** with our staff and facilities and over 80% are very satisfied with our meal programs and recreational activities.

Budget Requests for FY 2019

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Mr. Gnanendra Sinha, Secretary

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Mrs. Afreen Alam

Item	Description	Amount
Local/Aging (from CD 24)	Funds to support India Home's congregate meal program at the Desi Senior Center Reference number: 59064	\$60,000
Support Our Seniors (Council initiative)	Funds to support India Home's creative aging programs such as writing, public speaking, & more Reference number: 59918	\$25,000
Healthy Aging (Council initiative)	Funds to support India Home's culturally appropriate health and wellness programs Reference number: 59926	\$15,000
Senior Centers for Immigrant Populations (Council initiative)	Funds to support linguistically and culturally appropriate program expansion to case assistance Reference number: 59956	\$200,000
Senior Centers, Programs, and Enhancements (Council Initiative)	Funds to support India Home's general operating expenses for various senior center programs and case management activities Reference number: 59956	\$200,000
Queens Delegation	Funds to support and strengthen India Home's borough-wide programming Reference number: 59064	\$60,000
Speaker Initiative	Funds to support linguistically and culturally appropriate program expansion to case assistance Reference number: 59959	\$75,000
Geriatric Mental Health Initiative	Funds to support India Home's growing mental health counseling, education, and outreach programs Reference number: 55308	\$50,000

India Home's programs are an integral part of the diverse fabric of Queens. India Home serves not only serves South Asian seniors but promotes Queens as an ideal place to age with culturally appropriate senior services. We request your continued and increased expense support in making this a reality. Thank you.

Sports & Arts in Schools Foundation
Thursday, May 24, 2018



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

FY 19 Executive Budget Hearing

New York City Council
Committee on Finance
Honorable Daniel Dromm, *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 through the *After-School Enrichment Initiative*, SASF has been able to not only run its flagship New York City Council Summer Camps but also bring 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

For more than 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.

In FY 2018, SASF received \$1million in Council citywide funding under the Council's *After-School Enrichment Initiative*. SASF leveraged these funds to:

- Serve over **35,000** youth in **210** programs in **155** school locations
- Provide programs that reach almost **every** City Council District
- Host **53** events to date with over **5000** participants
- 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.

The quality of these programs is illustrated in:

- **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)

In order to enrich and expand its programmatic impact on the over 35,000 youth served citywide, SASF is requesting **\$1.5 million** from the Council in the FY 2019 Budget, an increase of \$500,000 over its FY 2018 allocation.

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 mathematics. 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 to position SASF's Summer Camps in order 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, includes but is 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 City Council's continued investment in the *City Council After-School Enrichment Initiative* as well as the needs of our families inspires 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. Through the City Council's continued investment in the *After-School Enrichment Initiative*, SASF can continue its mission to provide premier services to New York's neediest youth that rivals any for profit entity in New York City. SASF has been a steadfast partner to the City Council for going on three decades in aiding New York's youth to discover and nurture their unique talent while helping them develop the passion & perseverance to meet their goals.

On behalf of the 35,000 youngster that we serve, the families we impact, and the communities help strengthen, we ask you to support our **\$1.5 million** FY 2019 funding request and to advocate on behalf New York's neediest.

Thank you.

Rebecca Kostyuchenko
Written Statement of Testimony to the City Council
Education Committee
October 25, 2013 2018

My name is Rebecca Kostyuchenko. I am a parent of a beautiful joyful silly sweet bright eight year old child in Brooklyn. My daughter is currently receiving an excellent general education as well as special education services in her local zoned school, PS 321 in Park Slope. First, I want to thank you for this reform - local schools are one of the most important places, in our big and diverse and sometimes transient city, where community bonds are forged. There is nothing my child needs more than to be part of and embraced by her community and peers. Communities and neighborhoods have the power to normalize her experience - to know and understand her difference and support her and us. When you are a family with, often, the extraordinary burdens of special needs, this is especially important. And when you are a child with noticeable difference, it is invaluable to go get a slice of pizza at your local place and see your friends from school - kids who don't need explanation and who don't stare, who already know you and accept you and see YOU, not your difference, but your similarity. And, of course, that neighborhood and that local school and those "typical" friends and classmates are forever enriched and changed by the experience, as much as the child and family with special needs. As Abraham Lincoln said "The philosophy of the classroom today will be the philosophy of the government tomorrow". So I want to start by thanking you for this reform as an important change in how NYC educates and includes children with special needs at the local level. I have no doubt it will make incredibly positive societal change for the future - even beyond what its intentions may have been as relates to individual children and families.

However, I am also here because I want more from this reform. I want to ask you to clarify and strengthen the commitment of this reform to children with mobility issues, because it seems that children like my daughter - children who use manual wheelchairs, and/or who use walkers, or who need permanent crutches, or mobility scooters or 250 pound motorized wheelchairs, children with visual impairment as well as children with complex medical needs - these kids have not been clearly included in this important evolutionary change. As a parent of such a child that is unjust and disheartening.

Truth be told, my husband and I often feel that NYC does not value her the way it values other diversity - when we can't access our neighborhood subways, when the new taxicabs in the year 2013 are not going to be universally accessible, when so many businesses and stores, bodegas and nail salons, do not have accessible entrances, when the brand new millions-of-dollars ice skating rink being built in one of the city's most important parks has not required the vendor to provide accessible equipment or recreation, etc etc As a person who moved to NYC to be here - a true

believer in the city that never sleeps, in its richness and diversity and cultural openness, it is so incredibly sad and it makes me angry. But, as a family, we deal with these things, we work around them and we stay in NYC for all we love in it. We value this city perhaps more than it values our daughter's humanity - so we work around it as needed in order to stay. But, when it comes to education, when it comes to the brains of children who cannot rely on their bodies, that is one area where work-arounds are not good enough. Our daughter's school choice and school access should be 100% or MORE of that of their peers.

I am not sure how familiar this committee is with the lack of complete and true ADA- Americans with Disabilities Act - compliance within NYC schools. I am guessing you may know that, currently, many many, many, perhaps more than half, of schools do not possess elevators or are otherwise inaccessible to children who cannot ascend stairs. Currently the NYC school system is in a mode of "work around" for the equal inclusion of children like my daughter. The problem is that the work around has been in place for 23 years now. Since the passage of ADA, NYC has attempted to work around and satisfy the law by sending children with limited mobility to designated "barrier free schools" which are a minority of schools. Barrier free schools are not, in most cases, their local schools, they are not, in most cases, the lottery based district-wide schools and there is no requirement for charters to become barrier free and so, also, all these charter elementary schools are not, barrier free and thus, also, do not include children with mobility issues.

Barrier free schools are segregation. They are school segregation in the 21st century. Walk into any barrier free elementary school and you will see a large minority population of children with mobility impairment drawn from all over that district, bused there from all over that district, not a part of their local community, not making playdates with their neighbor next door, not getting a slice afterschool on the way to the playground with their the friends. So many of these children can be as independent in their zoned school as they can be in a barrier free school - they simply need an accessible entrance and a classroom on the ground floor and an administration empowered and educated to do the right thing by these children - allowed and supported to make it work

The current situation of designated barrier free schools something a lot of people don't realize. By and large people are shocked when I explain this to them. ADA is so ubiquitous in popular consciousness that even people in inaccessible schools assume there is an elevator somewhere they just haven't seen! Especially when those inaccessible schools are polling sites with wheelchair signs for accessible entrances, as is our local school. They look accessible because of the signs, but they aren't. Many families with young children in wheelchairs or walkers see those signs on their local schools and are flabbergasted when they show up the first day of school only to find their child's classroom is on the second floor and there is no elevator or chair lift. I have met more than one family who had this experience. So, the special ed reform - theoretically - holds a lot of promise for children with mobility issues. But in practice this is not happening still for many people.

For us, I knew there was no elevator at our local school, and when my daughter turned four I called my local elementary school to discuss pre-k and k, to request they place her classrooms on the first floor and to discuss other lesser details of including her in the school. I was clearly told by the school support team that she could not attend there; I was told that she must be, by DOE policy, in a barrier free school, a school which was not in our neighborhood, a school which was not the one her friends in our building would be attending, not the one the children in her playgroup would attend, not the one our family's neighborhood friends would attend. And when my daughter also tested into district based gifted and talented that same year, not every recommended program was fully accessible. At the time, our family was still dealing with the recent blow of her diagnosis with a serious, progressive neuromuscular disease. Her exclusion from our community was incredibly painful. Overwhelmed and struggling, we chose to put her in private school for the time being. Of course, getting that spot was incredibly difficult as well – and private schools are not accessible as well – another reason why the public system must be better. As time moved on, we adjusted to our lives and the diagnosis and aware of the new reforms coming into place in the summer of 2012 we re-approached the school. We contacted the school principal directly to discuss our situation.

As a result, we obtained a last minute ICT spot in our school's second grade last year. Her classroom was on the second floor and we came to school and carried her up the steps 2 to 4 times a day. We would have preferred the first floor but, being unsure of our rights under this new reform and wanting to show our school that we were team players and willing to do what it took to keep her there, we accepted what we got. Seeing is believing, and while not everything is easy and perfect, it has worked. More times than I can count people recounted they had doubts about my daughter being in the school – they couldn't see how this would work – but then once they saw it in practice – witnessed my daughter giggling with her peers in the lunchroom, just one of the kids on the playground, doing the monkey bars in her own special way, learning and sharing and participating in class discussions like everyone else– all doubts disappeared and were replaced by excitement and happiness that this possibility was realized in their school. This has been said by parents, by teachers, by staff. Many people beyond my daughter Jacqueline have been touched by her inclusion.

This year, they put her classroom on the first floor, and will do so next year if necessary, and the next – although we are all hopeful but not counting on getting a chair lift installed (that will also, incidentally, help the kids with broken legs - numerous every year- the teachers with injuries -two right now who have broken legs- parents with mobility issues and grandparents). However it happens, we are a team committed to making her inclusion work. And excitingly, this year, a visually impaired child is in our school, her zoned school, *despite* the CSE recommendation that she be placed in non-zoned barrier free school. I think this trend will continue within the walls of our school. We are lucky at PS 321 that we have an incredible

leader in our school principal as well as our new vice principal for special education– they have chosen to navigate the unknown interaction zone where barrier free policy rubs up against the special ed reform and have taken positions they are not sure are supported by the Board of Ed or CSE. **But what about outside of our school?**

THE CSE is continuing to tell families that their children with mobility issues must be in a barrier free school. Principals, support teams and teachers are not being told they must include children with mobility issues (or other differences which formerly led to barrier free placement) in the new reform. The inclusion of kids like my daughter is completely dependent on the personal decisions of local principals and the feistiness of individual families. It is not convenient to accommodate our kids, but 23 years past ADA it is time we are admitted to our local schools as well as every other child – that is what this reform is supposed to be all about FOR ALL CHILDREN. “Work arounds” of barrier free schools are no longer enough. They have never been enough but now it has been too long. It must be clarified to the CSE and zoned elementary schools that they now must do things like move classrooms and other such accommodations in zoned school for children with mobility issues as part of the new reform. Parents must have the right to expect this inclusion should it be an adequate choice they want to make for their children. Schools must be empowered to request support from their networks, the CSE, the DOE and school staff and teachers in order to make this happen.

Please make clear that the new special ed reform finally ends barrier free segregation of children with mobility issues in NYC elementary schools.

**Rebecca Kostyuchenko
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Chen Dance Center

Hello, my name is Dian Dong and I am speaking on behalf of Chen Dance Center – a vibrant cultural center in the heart of Chinatown comprised of a professional dance company, a School of Dance and a black-box theater. Artistic Director Mr. H.T. Chen is an award winning American choreographer who has created works that give poetic voice to Asians in America, and which celebrate humanity and community.

Every year, Chen Dance Center provides apx **90** children from the lower eastside and Chinatown with **free** dance training in a 24-week program. The instructors are professionals with degrees in dance as well as in dance education. While this is largely an immigrant population of Chinese descent, the program also serves the diverse population of the neighborhood. The School, which is nicknamed the ‘Chinatown Juilliard’ also provides another **400** community children with instruction and training at its flagship location on Mulberry St and through 30 weeks of Early Childhood dance classes at PS42M.

Through dance, we are able to lay the foundation for **healthy child development**. Most of these students live in small apartments and do not have the opportunity to run outdoors, move about or develop to their full capacity. The arts provide an outlet not just for physical development, but also for emotional, intellectual and spiritual growth.

Because our programs are offered for extended periods, we can witness the children making progress not just in coordination and strength, but also in **sharing, cooperation, collaboration and creation**. Classroom teachers comment that a student who was once difficult to teach, is now engaged and flourishing. But the impact doesn’t end just with the student. The students are presented in public performances, free of charge before hundreds of community members. Sometimes the events are covered by Chinese television and broadcast to thousands of audiences in the metropolitan area.

While dance is sometimes referred to as an ephemeral art form, it is also one of the most **enduring** because of its **impact**. Over the years, our School has witnessed not only the transformation of community youth into dancers, but also as **creators, thinkers and problem solvers**. We have also witnessed students who grow up to be **responsible parents** and return years later to enroll their own children in our programs.

What better way to care for the community than teaching children to be knowledgeable, taking **responsibility** for their actions, and **making the world better** as a result of the arts.



Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today about the upcoming Capital Budget. First, I want to thank the City Council, especially the Committee on Education chaired by Mark Treyger and the Committee on Finance, chaired by Daniel Dromm, for their ongoing support on improving accessibility in New York City Public Schools. We need their efforts and support to translate into an increased budget allocation this year.

The NYC Department of Education has 3066 sites. There are nearly 1800 schools in about 1300 buildings. We have about 1240 schools which are not fully accessible, which translates into about 900 buildings that need to be made accessible. At the current rate of 17 schools every 5 years, we will reach full accessibility in 262 years, in the year 2280. This is appalling. We need full accessibility during our lifetime. I propose that we increase the capital budget for accessibility to \$1 billion over 5 years. At that rate, we will achieve full accessibility in 26 years, just in time for my grandchildren to go to high school.

We dodge our legal requirements and our moral imperative, when we twist IDEA's mandate for "a Free and Appropriate Education" to mean an education anywhere the Department of Education sends you. An appropriate education is not one where people with disabilities are segregated into schools that they can access. An appropriate education means equal opportunities to attend your neighborhood elementary school, to have a full range of middle and high school choices, and to have your parents involved in your education.

We have seen the difference having an accessible school has made for our son, Abey, first hand this year. The change from the Henry Viscardi School, a segregated special education school, located 19 miles from our home in Albertson, Long Island, and Bard High School Early College Queens, a competitive high school 2 miles from our home, has been extraordinary. My son is finally getting the challenging education he has been missing for the last 9 years. He is a member of the vinyl club, which meets after school – something he could not do at Viscardi because there was no transportation home. My son has friends, who come over to our house, and recently attended the performance of a play he wrote. And his commute has gone from one hour each way to 20 minutes each way. This is what he was entitled to all along.

This is not just an education issue. The ADA, passed in 1990, guarantees that people with disabilities have the same opportunities as everyone else to participate in the mainstream of American life – to be employed, to purchase goods and services, and to participate in State and local government programs and services. Our schools are public buildings where teachers, administrators and staff make their living, community members vote, and families attend conferences and events. 28 years later, we have not complied with the spirit or the letter of the ADA in our school buildings.

It is easy to focus on the Department of Education when we discuss the lack of accessibility. But the money needed to achieve compliance with the ADA has to come from you, our legislators. We need you to make the allocations that will support full accessibility for my son, Abey, to get a job, vote, participate in his community, and one day bring my grandchildren to school.

Michelle Noris, PE
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NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL FISCAL YEAR 2019 EXECUTIVE BUDGET HEARING

May 24, 2018

John C. Williams

Co-Founder & Executive Director of Reel Works Inc.

My name is John Williams and I am the Co-Founder and Executive Director of Reel Works, a Brooklyn based youth media nonprofit that serves over 800 NYC youth annually.

The entertainment industry suffers from a crisis of inclusion on screen and behind the scenes.

But this lack of diversity does not reflect a lack of available talent - especially in NYC. To address this gap, there is an ever-increasing need for quality programs that can prepare youth for careers in media and the creative economies.

Founded in 2001, Reel Works partners with NYC schools to bring quality arts programs underserved communities; provides free after school filmmaking with 1:1 mentoring by professional filmmakers to teens in our state of the art Gowanus Lab; and partners with industry to help talented young media makers gain footholds into careers through paid internships at companies like CBS, CNN and NBC Universal.

This powerful combination of quality arts instruction; mentoring and workforce training has produced outstanding results in the lives of the young people we serve.

- Tens of millions of viewers have seen our student's films worldwide earning countless awards.
- All Reel Works students graduate high school and nearly 90% go to college.
- And over half of our working alumni make their careers in media.

Our work would not be possible without the brilliantly talented young people we serve.

And it would not be possible without the support from the City of New York.

NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL FISCAL YEAR 2019 EXECUTIVE BUDGET HEARING

May 24, 2018

John C. Williams

Co-Founder & Executive Director of Reel Works Inc.

Through the Department of Cultural Affairs, we receive essential funding to keep our core programs open and free to young New Yorkers.

And through Cultural After School Adventures - or CASA - support, we have been able to cluster our efforts in communities like Brownsville - where young people are empowered to tell their stories and celebrate local heroes - taking control of their own narratives and that of their community.

In the coming year, Reel Works will be partnering with The City University of New York and companies like Viacom, HBO and AMC Networks to create pathways from classroom to careers for young New Yorkers.

And we will be partnering with the film unions to create a workforce training program for on-set careers - real middle class union jobs in a rapidly growing industry.

But we still have a long way to go.

When only 4% of movies are directed by women; when only 6% are directed by people of color, the majority of people in our society do not see themselves, their dreams and realities, reflected on screens.

New York should be a leader in changing that reality.

It will be through close partnership between educators, industry, labor and government that we will build a media workforce that reflects the diversity of our city.

Reel Works is proud of be leader in this effort. Because when we change the storytellers, we change the world.

Josefina Sanfeliu
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229 13th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11215

LAFD/Latinas Against FDNY Cuts
<<http://BrooklynFireAnt.blogspot.com>>
"My Tribe Wears Blue and Rides Red Horses"

FINANCE
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May 24 2018 — NYC COUNCIL FINANCE/FIRE AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES

Councilmembers, Taxpayers, Fellow NYers

I dedicate my statement to the memory of 4yo Myls Dobson and protest the legal loophole that factored in his 2014 brutal murder.

I extend my sympathy to all NY's Bravest, Cmsr. Nigro, Chief Leonard, and the Ceremonial Unit for the loss of FM Christopher Zanetis, Lt. Christopher J. Raguso, and FF Michael Davidson. I also know our firefighters feel deeply the recent many civilian fire deaths.

At the 5/15/18 Joint Finance/CCFEM hearing, estimates were discussed for having a FDNY Squad on Staten Island:

- + 1 year timeframe (training, equipment, etc.) — might be expedited by assigning/volunteering current Squad members/officers while permanent crew are up-trained.
- + ±\$4million for upgrading/converting an existing Engine to a Squad — a compromise — transforming a vehicle, space and staff but not increasing local fire coverage. (The 1966 Wonder Drug 23rd Street fire killed 12 firefighters — in 1997 Engine 18 became Squad 18 — handling lethal materials and technical rescues plus routine local engine functions — creating a gap in its home range when responding as Special Operations Command.) — <<http://westviewnews.org/2015/11/fdny-squad-18-remembers/>>
- + **±\$40million for establishing a new Squad — a robust way to increase NYC fire coverage for increasing NYC population.** Brooklyn's Squad 1 is often dispatched unproductively to Staten Island although Brooklyn has the highest population, consistently highest annual fire fatalities and fire injuries, related property loss, lacks a burn unit, closed 4 engines in 2003 under Bloomberg.

CCFEM with OMB should evaluate various benefits for establishing a new SOC Squad in Staten Island:

- + ±\$40million Capital investment/one-time to establish a new Squad — not converting an engine company.
 - 2009 — Columbia University Capstone Project: FDNY Property Saved Indicator calculated that annually FDNY saves ±\$3B property value so each of FDNY's 198 engines saves ±\$15m of NYC property plus uncalculated life and health ...thus recovering within 3 years the \$40m Capital cost to establish a new Squad.
 - Since Staten Island has the lowest population thus always lowest fire incidents and fatalities/injuries, its Squad might come to help reduce Brooklyn's fire deaths/injuries and property losses.
- + ±\$1.5million Squad annual maintenance — per Bloomberg 2003 FDNY budget cuts: \$8m saved for 6 engines = \$1.5m
 - Gotham Gazette "Economy Capital Budget" M.Berkey-Gerard 11/17/03 <<http://www.gothamgazette.com/economy?start=291>>
 - The UFA said "The closing would not even be cost effective ... The six closings ... save about \$8 million ... affected firefighters ... simply transferred to other companies. In a \$44 billion budget ... "like a nickel found in you couch."
 - "Last week [FDNY] announced that the average response times - the time it takes for the first fire truck to arrive at the scene - have increased in five of the six communities where the fire companies were closed last May."

CCFEM should determine WHY FDNY never publicized this study to defend against budget cuts and also consider regulating FDNY to regularly announce/publish any/all internal/external research/results and publish/print Bureau of Fire Investigation Annual Reports for previous calendar year by set date such as April 15 so critical data is available analysis by public/Council.

- + 2009 — Columbia University Capstone Project: FDNY Property Saved Indicator — The task was to develop a Property Saved Indicator for FDNY ... a statistical method based upon current data collection of FDNY ... easily added to the current reporting system. **We estimate that the FDNY saves around \$3.1 billion of —property in NYC annually ...** [conservative] accounting only for building fires and fire damage ... Property Saved estimate is significantly higher than FDNY's annual operating budget of \$1.53 million. Highlighting the value added of the FDNY in this clear and tangible manner can give the department a better negotiation and communication position with other agencies and the public. FDNY NEVER PUBLICIZED THIS STUDY.
 - <http://www.sipa.columbia.edu/academics/workshops/documents/NYFDPropertySavedIndicatorReport.doc>
- + 06/04/2010 Council Member Elizabeth Crowley — Op.Ed. NY Post/The Hidden Cost of FDNY Cuts — That \$3.1 billion breaks down to about \$15.6 million in property saved for each of FDNY's 198 engine companies (not calculating: fire fatalities/injuries, shelter housing, school missed, pets, mementoes) — <<https://nypost.com/2010/06/04/the-hidden-cost-of-fdny-cuts/>>

CCFEM is fiscally responsible by monitoring FDNY fire suppression, recruitment/outcomes, mental health, EMS operations and should also monitor response outcomes of Engines with 5th Firefighter restored, the efficacy of FDNY having ONE air conditioner repairman and ONE painter, call box repairs that are not on mobile 311 app, UCT dispatch outcome.

SUMMARY — FDNY 2017 Bureau of Fire Investigation - BFI2017* — posted 05/2018 — search: FDNY Resources BFI Annual Reports
Brooklyn has **NO BURN UNIT** despite these alarming FDNY 2017 facts:

- Brooklyn had 31% of Fire Fatalities <2012–2017>
- Brooklyn had 30% of Fire Injuries <2012–2017>
- Brooklyn had 25% of Fire Fatalities 2017
- Brooklyn had 29% of Fire Injuries — 2017
- Brooklyn had 30% of Accidental Fires in Occupied Buildings — 2017
- Brooklyn had 31% of Incendiary/Arson Fires — 2017
- Brooklyn had 34% of BFI Arrests — 2017

I will submit additional analysis of BFI2017 by email.

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<http://BrooklynFireAnt.blogspot.com>
"My Tribe Wears Blue and Rides Red Horses"

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May 15 2018 — NYC COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON FIRE AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Councilmembers, Taxpayers, Fellow NYers

I dedicate my statement to the memory of 4yo Myls Dobson and protest the legal loophole that factored in his 2014 brutal murder.

I extend my sympathy to all NY's Bravest, Cmsr. Nigro, Chief Leonard, and the Ceremonial Unit for the loss of FM Christopher Zanetis, Lt. Christopher J. Raguso, and FF Michael Davidson. I also know our firefighters feel deeply this fire season's many civilian fire deaths.

At the 3/8/18 hearing, CM Cabrera aptly asked about chaplains and counseling. I urge this Committee to pursue extending relief for the gruesome impacts our firefighters face that compound the hazards of fire suppression. Per recent wide-spread studies, firefighters and are traumatized throughout their careers, related to PTSD, depression, suicide —exacerbated by nightmares and constant sleep shifting. NYC firefighters likely lead the fire suppression industry in variety, volume and frequency of problems, including gender and diversity issues, and in bottling up their stress and heartache. So, whatever methods lead to relief for the world's premier smoke eaters will be closely watched and applied by American and global fire departments and firefighters. For 10 years, my daughter and my son-in-law were paid-per-call firefighters in Plantation and Sunrise Fla. On New Years Night 2010, I phoned but she could not talk while extricating two youths killed in a car crash. She told me "Our crew discussed that incident but I felt I did not need counseling. Rehashing gruesome incidents in counseling was not previously very helpful to me. Years before, my peers and I had CISD/Critical Incident Stress Debriefing for my mentor's murder/suicide, plus a private session shrink [with questionable motives for volunteering]. But it helped me to know counseling was available." World-wide departments will watch how NYC faces even worse horrors — without the 5th firefighter — with traffic calming, increasingly obese and aging victims, more and taller construction, aging subway, tunnels, bridges. **MANDATE ANNUAL MENTAL HEALTH SCREENING DURING PHYSICAL EXAMS TO EXPLAIN BENEFITS AND REMOVE STIGMA.**

- + **02/22/2018 I-Team: National Data Shows Firefighters' Mental, Emotional Health Not Getting Enough Attention** — Partners IAFF/International Association of Fire Fighters, NBC NY and NBC Bay Area sent a confidential online survey to thousands of firefighters ... asking ... about the impact of post-traumatic stress on their lives, and to learn what services are available when they need help ... [Nationwide] 7,000 firefighters responded, overwhelmingly reported stressful or traumatic experiences on the job have impacted their mental health ... Struggles directly connected to the job: thoughts of suicide=19%, substance abuse=27%, family/relationship problems=59%, haunted by memories of bad calls=65%.
<https://www.nbcnewyork.com/news/local/Firefighters-Mental-Health-Survey-PTSD-474859323.html>
- + **03/15/2018 NBC Study: Most Firefighters Believe Asking for Mental Health Help Makes Them Seem Unfit for Duty** — NBC-owned stations conducted a nationwide survey: 81% believe asking for help will make them seem weak or unfit for duty,
<https://www.nbcwashington.com/news/health/Most-Firefighters-Believe-Asking-for-Mental-Health-Help-Makes-Them-Seem-Unfit-for-Duty-476998943.html>
- + **07/28/2014 NCIB – Depression and heart rate variability in firefighters** — Depression has been found to increase the risk of mortality in patients with coronary artery disease through a mechanism of changing cardiac autonomic tone which is reflected by alteration of heart rate variability indices. This study investigated whether such mechanism existed in firefighters who were at high risk of depression and sudden cardiac death.
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4607201/>
- + **02/17/2016 AASM – Study of firefighters finds potential pathway between insomnia and depression** — Funded by National Fallen Firefighters Foundation, NIH, Military Suicide Research Consortium supported by Assist. Secy. Defense for Health Affairs. "Firefighters are typically faced with many demands, including difficult work schedules, and they often both witness and experience traumatic events ... It is not surprising that firefighters may experience sleep problems and depression, but it is critical that greater efforts be made to prevent and treat these problems." ... findings suggest that emotion dysregulation may be an important therapeutic target for reducing depression risk among firefighters and other individuals who experience insomnia and nightmares.
<https://aasm.org/study-of-firefighters-finds-potential-pathway-between-insomnia-and-depression/>
- + **Post-2017 – IAFF Behavioral Health Program – Behavioral Health and Wellness in the Fire Service** — GRANTS AVAILABLE. The stresses faced by fire service members throughout the course of their careers – incidents involving children, violence, inherent dangers of firefighting and other potentially traumatic events – can have a cumulative impact on mental health and well-being. Peer support programs [are] an effective method for providing support to occupational groups. The IAFF Peer Support Training Program is a 2-day interactive course taught by experienced peers from the fire service and behavioral health clinicians.
<http://client.prod.iaff.org/#page=behavioralhealth>
- + **04/04/2018 UFA Press Release – Fifth Firefighter Returned to Select Engine Groups Throughout City** — NYC traditionally had five firefighters on each engine as recently as the 1970s. Nearly a decade ago, the Bloomberg Administration removed the 5th firefighter from all companies, requiring that TWO engines of four men/women respond to each call. The most recent agreement with the de Blasio Administration allows for 15 engines [out of 198 citywide] to be staffed with a 5th man/woman with five more expected. These may be the current 5th man companies: **Brooklyn: E235, E236, E247, E283. Bronx: E42, E48, E50. Manhattan: E5, E58, E65. Queens: E260, E308, E324. Staten Island: E156, E158.**
- + **08/06/2015 CityLimits.org – City Pact with FDNY Union Addresses Longstanding Staffing Issue** – In 1987 then-Deputy Chief Vincent Dunn ran an unofficial test on Randall's Island ... getting hose to 5th floor: **4-FF team=10 minutes, 23 seconds ... 5-FF team=under 6 minutes** ... reaching the 6th floor took 4-FF crew FOUR MINUTES more than the 5-FF crew.
<https://citylimits.org/2015/08/06/city-pact-with-fdny-union-addresses-longstanding-staffing-issue/>

Josefina Sanfeliú
718.499.2383 — — FireAntNYC@yahoo.com
229 13th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11215

LAFC/Latinas Against FDNY Cuts
<http://BrooklynFireAnt.blogspot.com>
"My Tribe Wears Blue and Rides Red Horses"

< 2/3 >

- + **2009 – Columbia University Capstone Project: FDNY Property Saved Indicator** — The task was to develop a Property Saved Indicator for FDNY ... a statistical method based upon current data collection of FDNY ... easily added to the current reporting system. **We estimate that the FDNY saves around \$3.1 billion of property in NYC annually** ... [conservative] accounting only for building fires and fire damage ... Property Saved estimate is significantly higher than FDNY's annual operating budget of \$1.53 million. Highlighting the value added of the FDNY in this clear and tangible manner can give the department a better negotiation and communication position with other agencies and the public. FDNY NEVER PUBLICIZED THIS STUDY.
<http://www.sipa.columbia.edu/academics/workshops/documents/NYFDPropertySavedIndicatorReport.doc>
- + **06/04/2010 Council Member Elizabeth Crowley – Op.Ed. NY Post/The Hidden Cost of FDNY Cuts** — That the \$3.1 billion breaks down to about \$15.6 million in Property Saved for each of FDNY's 198 engine companies. [NOT INCLUDED: FIRE FATALITIES/INJURIES, SHELTER HOUSING, SCHOOL MISSED, PETS, MEMENTOES.]
<https://nypost.com/2010/06/04/the-hidden-cost-of-fdny-cuts/>

CCFEM is very fiscally responsible by monitoring FDNY fire suppression, recruitment/outcomes, mental health, EMS operations and should also monitor response outcomes of Engines with 5th Firefighter restored, the efficacy of FDNY having ONE painter and ONE air conditioner repairman, call box repairs/not on 311 app, UCT dispatch outcome.

DIVERSITY — **May 14, 2018** at St. Jude's Church in Brooklyn, a Memorial Mass honors the memory of all deceased FDNY women firefighters. [UWF President Sarinya Srisakul sarinyyya@yahoo.com — <UnitedWomenFirefighters.org/#!/in-memoriam/yvtzq>]

SUMMARY – FDNY 2016 Bureau of Fire Investigation - BFI2016* – posted 03/2018 – search: FDNY Resources BFI Annual Reports
 Brooklyn **has no burn unit** despite these alarming FDNY 2016 facts:

- Brooklyn had 33% of Fire Fatalities <2011–2016>
- Brooklyn had 30% of Fire Injuries <2011–2016>
- Brooklyn had 29% of Fire Injuries – 2016
- Brooklyn had 28% of Fire Fatalities 2016
- Brooklyn had 25% of Accidental Fires in Occupied Buildings – 2016
- Brooklyn had 31% of Incendiary/Arson Fires – 2016
- Brooklyn had 28% of BFI Arrests – 2016

2016 BUREAU OF FIRE INVESTIGATION – BFI 2016

FDNY BFI ANNUAL REPORT 2016 (posted 03/2016) — data analysis by J.Sanfeliú

FIRE FATALITIES <2011–2016> NYC #369

BOROUGH	Bronx	85	23%	
	Brooklyn	123	33%=HIGHEST FIRE FATALITIES <2011–2016>	
	Manhattan	68	18%	
	Queens	79	21%	
	Staten Is.	14	4%	

FIRE FATALITIES 2016 – NYC #48

RACE/ETHNICITY – AfricanAmerican/Black▶25...52% +Hispanic▶11...23% = TOTAL#33...69%

STRUCTURE – MD+PD Residential Structure▶42...88% — Other Structure+Vehicle▶#06...13%

AGE – 01-19▶5...10% – LaborForce20-59▶16...33% – 60-90+▶27...56%

GENDER – Female▶19...40% – Male▶26...60%

CAUSE – Electrical ▶15...31%

SMOKE DETECTOR – Missing/Broken/NA ▶34...71%

Fire Season: Jan.▶08 + Feb.▶09 +Dec.▶04 = TOTAL#21...44% (plus March▶06 = TOTAL#27...56%)

Worst Hours: 12–1am▶#11 + 1–2pm▶#06 = TOTAL#17...29% — Day Tour▶17...29% ~ Night Tour▶42...71%

BOROUGH	Bronx	17	35%	COMMUNITY BOARD	CB-03	4	24%
	Brooklyn	14	29%	PERCENTAGE OF	CB-16	3	21%
	Manhattan	5	10%	BOROUGH FATALITIES	CB-10	2	40%
	Queens	10	21%		CB-04	4	40%
	Staten Is.	02	04%		CB-01	2	100%
	TOTAL	48			TOTAL	15	31%

Fire Service Suicide Prevention Training Survey <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NFFFSurveyP1>

May 4, 2018



05/15/2018, 01:14 PM



05/15/2018, 01:16 PM



The Rose & Maurice Halpern Lifetime Care Foundation for the Jewish Disabled
156 BEACH 9TH STREET, 2ND FL, FAR ROCKAWAY, NY 11691/718-686.3170 / FAX: 718-686.4170

May 24, 2018

Hello, my name is Harriet Blank and I represent OHEL Children's Home and Family Services a recipient of several City Council Grants which allow us to fill service gaps for vulnerable populations. Our thanks to members of the City Council who over many years have supported OHEL and the citizens of NYC.

We receive funding for:

- OHEL's Autism Awareness Program which provides wraparound services for autistic children in after-school and during school closings.
- OHEL's Trauma Response Team, which is a trained team of crisis counselors who meet with grieving and distressed family and community members to provide crisis and bereavement counseling in the five boroughs of New York City in response to community and individual traumas.
- General Access and Case Management which serves as a point of contact for persons needing extra outreach and hand-holding to obtain access to outpatient counseling and supported housing services. These services help connect clients to care and keep them in the system in a healthy manner.
- Eli Weisel Holocaust Funding which allows us to help Holocaust survivors in NYC deal with their mental health issues through therapeutic humor and laughter. In addition they are provided with tools to help other survivors and family members deal with issues around PTSD. We have hired a part time entitlement specialist and provide limited home assessments.

OHEL ■ BAIS EZRA ■ LIFETIME CARE FOUNDATION

■ Residential Rehabilitation for Adults & Children with Psychiatric Disabilities ■ Bais Ezra Programs for the Developmentally Disabled ■ Rose & Maurice Halpern Lifetime Care Foundation for the Jewish Disabled ■ Robert & Roselin Vegh Preventive Care Program ■ The Milton & Molly Schulman Foster Care Program ■ Marvin Kaylie Center at Tikvah Out-Patient Mental Health Clinic ■ Domestic Abuse Counseling & Housing Program ■ Addiction Treatment Program ■ Mobile Outreach Teams ■ Kadimah Psychiatric Day Program ■ Supported Employment Program ■ School-Based Services ■ Summer Camps ■ Institute for Advanced Professional Training ■ Meridian Capital Group Volunteer Department ■

Testimony
New York City Council
Executive Budget Hearing
Thursday, May 24, 2018

Submitted by
Msgr. Kevin Sullivan

Good afternoon to the members of the New York City Council. I am Msgr. Kevin Sullivan, Executive Director of The Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York. I am pleased to speak from the perspective of The Catholic Charities Federation of 90 organizations, from large - over \$100 Million to small - under \$1 Million, which administers about 1,000 City human services contracts with all the major NYC agencies. These contracts are valued at just under \$200 Million. The services provided touch more than 150,000 New Yorkers in need.

The Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York seeks to uphold the dignity of each person as made in the image of God by serving the basic needs of the poor, troubled, frail and oppressed of all religions. We collaborate with parishes, as well as non-Catholic and Catholic partners, to build a compassionate and just society. Through a network of administered, sponsored, and affiliated agencies, Catholic Charities delivers, coordinates, and advocates for quality human services and programs touching almost every human need.

Context

I would like to acknowledge and offer thanks for progress made, draw attention to the impact of inadequate funding on the human services sector and outline some concrete requests and examples of how funding impacts our federation's ability to deliver a variety of critical services in New York City.

The adequacy of funding for the delivery of contracted services.

Catholic Charities has joined with FPWA and UJA-Federation and other human services providers to create the Human Services Advancement Strategy Group (HSASG), a group of nine membership organizations representing 2,000 human service provider organizations, to work with NYC to secure the programmatic, financial and operational resources needed to fully cover costs and meet the contractual obligations of provider organizations holding City Health and Human Service (HHS) contracts.

With your help, our sector secured about a 3-4% additional funding of \$190 Million in the last budget to help nonprofit provider organizations cover the cost of delivering essential services to New Yorkers in need. A portion addressed salary raises as mandated by the increased minimum wage. I wish to recognize and express tremendous appreciation to the City Council and the Mayor for this investment. But more needs to be done. And in this year's FY'19 budget, to make

a similar investment to further narrow the deficit gap in funding human services for vulnerable New Yorkers.

While last year saw an important investment in human services provider organizations that hold City contracts, the fact is that government contracts only cover between 85% and 90% of the real costs of operating these programs, or a deficit in funding of approximately \$500 Million on a base of approximately \$4.7 Billion.

We continue to face increases in the cost of rents, utilities, telephones, meals for clients, even office supplies. And more importantly, the challenges that the poor and vulnerable in this city face are even more complex, requiring additional time and resources to assist families and individuals to live their lives with dignity and the basic necessities.

The areas of investment in human service nonprofit operations that need special attention in FY'19 include: real indirect costs, fringe benefits, occupancy and insurance costs.

We are suggesting funding parameters that permit up to a 15% indirect rate for all human services contracts, a 10% increase in occupancy and casualty and liability insurance. We are also asking for up to a 37% fringe rate in all human service contracts that coincidentally, mirrors the fringe rate used by the City for its own employees.

Catholic Charities is proud to be part of the HSASG, and requests that the New York City Council include approximately 4% additional funding of \$200 Million in FY'19 to address funding shortfalls.

Specific requests impacting a wide range of services to New Yorkers

Education

A significant issue affecting educational programs in the city is that contracts between the Department of Education (DOE) and Community Based Organizations do not include the recognition of the Mayor's agreement to give a 2% COLA this year, and over the next two years. Furthermore, the DOE has not been included in the work KPMG is doing to establish indirect rates. With the transfer of more and more contracts to the DOE, the growth in community schools and efforts to include 3 year olds, this is unacceptable. Significant challenges have been reported with current contract renewals. Learning to Work contracts have been cut and not finalized, threatening the need for layoffs. A particular omission in the DOE's FY'19 budget is funding for the NY Foundling's highly successful Child Abuse Prevention Program Child Safety workshops.

Mental Health

Many children, adolescents and teenagers in our communities struggle with emotional and psychological issues. Sometimes these challenges co-occur with substance abuse, compounding an already difficult situation. Families are overwhelmed by financial, emotional and other challenges, and prevalent stigma. They need qualified, compassionate support. Meeting the need is doubly hard due to the shortage of qualified mental health professionals. The lack of parity between funds available to public and non-profit providers is an ongoing threat to providing needed help to New Yorkers, in a manner that many find very effective. The City Council's approval of funds to implement training programs for early childhood providers in mental and behavioral health will enable us to train providers to deal with the issues that our children are facing.

Child Welfare

Good progress has been made in enhancing child welfare services contracts in New York City. Yet additional enhancements are still needed in the areas of health, behavioral health and educational supports in order to preserve and re-unify families, and create stability for children. Children with significant behavioral issues are well served by therapeutic housing and clinical services in their own neighborhoods, and children and families achieve better outcomes when they are served together, by the same providers, offering cohesive and comprehensive supports. Additional funding for educational services, clinical supports and staff training is critical to meeting the needs of many young people in our city.

Youth Services

Catholic Charities Alianza Youth Services, located in Washington Heights/Inwood and Highbridge/Bronx, meets the needs of young people in these neighborhoods by providing a holistic response, and filling the gaps as needed, to give the next generation the best chance at success. Services offered strengthen academic achievement, promote health and fitness, support artistic expression, promote employment, college entry, civic engagement and community service. During the summer months, Alianza offers professional development training and employment through the SYEP, however the number of applicants outweigh our capacity to accommodate. This demand reflects a true need and the enthusiasm young people have to be productive, self-sufficient and contribute to their community. SYEP allows for the organic development of mentorship relationships that carry over from the confines of the program. Additional slots are needed this summer. Our after-school programs are serving an increasing number of children living in shelters and children with Individualized Educational Plans. Given the high needs of these children, additional mental health dollars should be assigned to all after-school programs.

Day Laborers

Catholic Charities is an active member of the Day Laborer Workforce Initiative, representing the Borough of the Bronx and covering 5 Standing Sites, “Paradas”. Under this program, Catholic Charities helps Day Laborer men and women earn a living wage, contribute to society and become part of their neighborhoods. Since 2016 we have contacted close to 1,000 workers. This initiative provides educational workshops and leadership trainings through the OSHA 10 and 30 certifications, enhancing economic opportunities for the workers and their families. We are asking the City Council Discretionary Funds-FY’19, for \$300,000. This support will allow us to keep training Day Laborers in OSHA 10 and OSHA 30, Know your Rights Workshops, wage theft management and offer referrals to other services.

Economic and Development Corporation

Since 2011, CCCS has applied for and been awarded capital funds from the City Council to conduct repairs to aging infrastructure located in the very neighborhoods where we serve our communities. These funds have been essential to making improvements and maintaining our facilities so that our programs can continue to provide services as efficiently and effectively as possible. Because public funding for capital projects is extremely limited, we encourage the Council to increase the level of funds available to nonprofits to invest in infrastructure. CCCS’ Kennedy Center is an example of an aging facility in Central Harlem which has benefitted from funds to repair the façade and roof, and which continues to require funds for technology upgrades. Our South Bronx Food Hub is another example of an older building which requires funds to renovate and expand our food hub to serve a greater number of food insecure households in the South Bronx and Central Harlem.

Aging

Catholic Charities of Staten Island (CCSI) operates two NYC Department for the Aging (DFTA) Senior Centers on Staten Island – the Anderson Neighborhood Senior Center and West Brighton Neighborhood Senior Center. These senior centers provide nutritious meals, exercise, arts and culture programs, recreational activities, health services, transportation and social service assistance. Over the last 12 months, 42,677 nutritious meals were served in our centers. While DFTA funds these senior centers, sponsoring agencies like CCSI are required to supplement the budgets significantly. Therefore, every year we need the financial support of Staten Island City Council members to help fund the essential food programs in our senior centers.

Thank you for providing me with this opportunity to testify, and for your partnership on all issues impacting our community.

million research materials into a closed, extremely efficient and functional book delivery system for easy access to researchers in the Rose Reading Room, above.

I am very strongly against the Master Plan (Central Library Plan in disguise) and ask you to please practice your oversight powers and do not allow any capital improvements in the building until the HVAC is upgraded in the book stacks and the research collection is returned there. This must be PRIORITY ONE.

Even after the 42nd Street book shelves are again full, construction plans for the rest of the building need careful study of each component. \$317 million for the interior construction is a very steep price, see statement under branch libraries.

I want to clarify that the completion of the second under Bryant Park storage area (brainchild of Vartan Gregorian, (NYPL Pres. 1981 - 1989) is much appreciated but their purpose was to double the local storage capacity, not to replace it. **Only what can not be kept on location belongs off-site.**

The cost of ReCAP for each member is according to their size and frequency of use. **In 2016 NYPL contributed about 38.4% of the cost, the largest.** Princeton only contributes less than one quarter (23.7%), with Columbia in between. NYPL must disclose the annual cost of ReCAP.

Fortunately NYPL is in the middle of a large metropolis. Both NYPL and Columbia are members of **METRO (Metropolitan NY Library Council)**, a 275 member group of local libraries which, through a cooperative agreement, provides access to the collections of all participating libraries either through interlibrary loan of circulating materials with daily deliveries, or by getting a METRO referral card from the originating library for a one-time, on-site use of any of the 275 libraries. This can be repeated as many times as needed. Therefore, instead of losing access to millions of materials from NYPL's collection stored permanently off-site, if the three million items are returned to the 42nd Street book stacks, where they belong, NYPL users can get a METRO card any time and use Columbia, NYU, etc. much better than access to Princeton's collection would allow, also making the collection easily accessible to all New Yorkers.

2) Branch libraries

a) Operating budget

I recommend a careful examination of the operating budget. Too little is spent on growing the collection compared to that spent on fundraising and administration. There are many questions.

b) Capital budget

In comparison to the \$317 million Master Plan for the 42nd Street library, **NYPL's Estimated FY 2017 - 2020 total construction needs for 54 individual NYPL libraries, including the circulating branch libraries and more for system-wide work are almost \$332 million.**

I recommend to study the list at the NYS Library's website

<http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/construc/needs.htm#NYPL> and fund the capital needs in those branches before allowing additional funds spent on the 42nd Street Library.

c) Mid-Manhattan Library

I was delighted to hear in 2014 that NYPL decided not to sell the most heavily used circulating branch library in Manhattan, but renovate it. It is good to open up and reconfigure space in a different way. However, I have concerns about the expensive (\$200 million for 100,000-150,000 square feet, means cost of \$1,500-\$2,000 for each square foot) and intrusive plans for the interior renovation of the Mid-Manhattan Library. The architect plans to cut an atrium out of the middle of the Library, losing valuable floor space, and on one side will be a windowless "long room", filled with book stacks, but no seating, and on the other side library users will have seating, computers, etc. The two will be connected by walkways, presenting a problem not only to the elderly, children and the disabled, but also to all those wanting to use the library collection. **Why not have bookshelves all over on each floor, near people and seating?**

Plans are for only 400,000 volume collection while before capacity was 700,000 volumes. (In 1970, NYPL opened the Mid-Manhattan Library on the top three floors of the old Constable department store (the rest of the building was added in 1982). In 1970 a Wilson Library Journal article states "the building, whose lower floors house a department store, provides three floors (63,000 square feet), seating for 1,033 and a **book stack capacity of 700,000**". By 1982 the collection was over 500,000. After the Donnell closed (2008), its World Languages Collection (about 175,000 volumes) went to Mid-Manhattan. Users know that NYPL removed a substantial part of the circulating collection while expecting it to close, so a 400,000 volume collection is already a low number.)

The collection will also include business resources from SIBL, shrunk to fit the space
Rooftop terrace is a nice luxury, how much does it cost to create?

d) Sale of SIBL is a major mistake - SIBL, the Science Industry and Business Library, a major research library with a small circulating collection, was only completed, fully wired, in 1996, cost \$100 million, 213,000 square feet. Five floors, holding 1.2 -1.6 million research materials sold in 2012 to Church Pension Group for \$60.8 million, and three floors with the library itself sold for \$93.4 million in Dec. 2016 to Vulcan Real Estate for about 100,000 square feet, \$930 per square feet. **The total sale amounted to \$152.2 million, much less than the \$200 million cost of renovation of Mid-Manhattan and also much less than the estimated \$317 million cost of renovation of the 42nd Street Library as estimated in the Master Plan. Why sell such a beautiful, completely ready, award winning library, loved by many, next to the CUNY Graduate Center, at excellent location? Why not continue to collect research materials in science and technology?**

In my opinion these are bad budget decisions, with serious consequences for the entire NYPL system. Far too much funds are allocated to two library buildings out of 92, as described above. Please do not allow this to happen.

e) In addition, there are plans to demolish and replace the popular and much used, single standing **Inwood Library** with a new one as part of a large, new, affordable housing development. The community is still fighting these efforts.

Libraries are precious and must be protected and cherished, not sold at a time when more people than ever are needing and using them. We must not allow the power of real estate developers be greater than the power of knowledge. Transparency, accountability and oversight of the entire NYPL System is much needed. Please do not allow the sale of any public library, including SIBL, a research library.

In summary, the library's essence is not how much space is empty but how large and good a collection it contains, how many people can be seated at tables, ease of access to both seating and the collection, having adequate number of computers, laptops and wiring for technology, as well as adequate and well qualified and compensated staff, and hours open.

DDC. I disagree with the complaints heard last week against DDC (Department of Design and Construction). **The Donnell Library was sold and not replaced by NYPL for EIGHT YEARS. So far the 42nd Street book stacks have been empty for 5 years. The new plans still don't include them. How many more years do we have to wait in our City owned building?**

I believe the public library systems do not want oversight and regulation. It is all the more reason for me to recommend the use of DDC, and not a pass through process which allows less oversight for very expensive plans rather than ensure functional, cost effective ones.

**Testimony for the New York City Council Committee on Finance
Fiscal Year 2019 Executive Budget Hearing
May 24, 2018**

**By Brekeail Sanders
Education Justice Intern, Children's Defense Fund-New York**

Good afternoon, my name is Brekeail Sanders and I am a senior at Brooklyn School for Music and Theatre and an intern at the Children's Defense Fund. I am very delighted that I am here to testify today.

I believe that there is too much of a focus in the budget on school policing and I have questions about why the school safety budget went up 20 million dollars since the preliminary budget. I want to understand why the city is pouring more money into a system that's hurting the school community more than its helping. There are so many other resources that the 20 million dollars could go to – such as more restorative supports in the school's community for the students themselves.

I know not all students have access to these resources but personally my school is a safe place dedicated to practicing restorative justice. Basically in this environment we take the time to try to mend and restore relationships between the students or between the students and the staff. This environment gives students a lot of reassurance and has changed a lot of things as far as my education and safety. The rate of students getting suspended went down and before students take the risk to get into altercations they come to Mrs. Yuko, our restorative justice coordinator, and she helps them sort through their problems.

School has become an open place for students to talk freely and there are opportunities for students to become youth mediators. In that program, the training students receive allows them the opportunity to understand the bigger picture and I see students resolve situations before they escalate. I know how much of a difference it has made at my school – imagine if they had this in every school. Students would have another outlet other than resorting to physical and verbal altercations. In the future this could take these young people a long way as far as knowing how to get through certain situations and dealing with real life issues.

As the city continues to work on the final budget please think and give more funds to gaining more counselors and restorative justice programs in the school system to help these young adults grow and have a better chance for a successful future. Overall to make school more safe and restorative, the city must fund counselors and social workers instead of criminalizing students by enhancing school safety and police.

Strategic Alliance Proposal:



NYC HEALTH+ HOSPITALS | Bellevue

NYC HEALTH+ HOSPITALS | Jacobi

NYC HEALTH+ HOSPITALS | Metropolitan

NYC HEALTH+ HOSPITALS | Coney Island

NYC HEALTH+ HOSPITALS | Kings County

NYC HEALTH+ HOSPITALS | Queens

NYC HEALTH+ HOSPITALS | Woodhull

NYC HEALTH+ HOSPITALS | Elmhurst

NYC HEALTH+ HOSPITALS | Harlem

NYC HEALTH+ HOSPITALS | Lincoln



May 2018 Testimony of Jerry Wesley, Health Care Transformation Futurist of Get Healthier Care Together Inc. - a 501 C 3 shared service organization and Satisfactology Business Systems Corp .

Greetings Committee Chair and Fellow Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I am Jerry Wesley, A Health Care Transformation Futurist of Get Healthier Care Together Inc. - a 501 C (3) shared service corporation. I am also a former Sr. Management Consultant with NYC H+H.

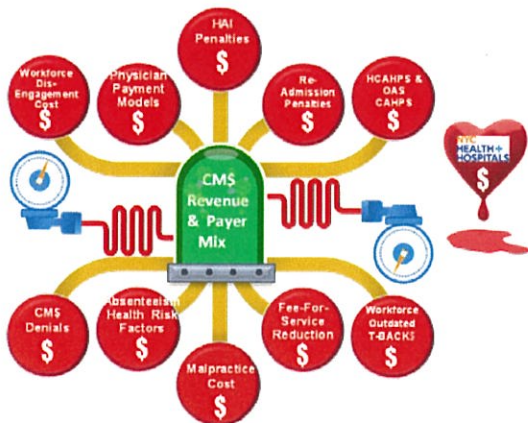
According to a 2016 article in the HIPPA Journal Titled: **"The Slow Pace of Technology Adoption in Healthcare Explained"**, states :

"When it comes to implementing new technology, the healthcare industry lags behind every other industry sector. It is a well-known fact that the industry appears to resist change, even when those changes stand to significantly benefit patients."

I am here today, seeking emergency funding to implement change to remedy an urgent crisis: :

- The dire fiscal health of NYC H+H. and its inability to generate enough revenue to remain viable.
- The low value low grade of care being administered to consumers, residents and constituents.
- The need to take immediate steps that shifts the footing of workforce and organizational performance - to healthier and wealthier pathways that lead to longer, stronger and healthier lives.

While external factors might contribute to NYC H+H troubled fiscal health, above and beyond the best intentions of very good people, at its core, this problem exist, because NYC H+H is bleeding dollars internally - from nearly all of its vital organs that generate revenue.



NEWS | HEALTH CARE

June 16, 2017 4:11 PM | Updated 4:11 PM 2017

City's public health system loses \$776 million in first half

NYC Health + Hospitals' costs are growing faster than its revenue—a bad sign, according to one budget watchdog

By [unreadable] and [unreadable]



NYC Health + Hospitals interim president Jerry Wesley

New York City Health + Hospitals reported a \$776 million operating loss for the first half of fiscal 2017, according to [unaudited financial statements](#).

The public health system's operating loss widened by 84.5% over 2015, when the system lost \$420.4 million. After investment losses and interest expenses, the system lost \$842.6 million.

The city paid the health system \$78.9 million in capital contributions, resulting in a \$763 million net loss. Enrollment in MetroPlus, its insurance arm, showed modest gains. But the system's goal of increasing the number of patients it serves is in jeopardy following declines in utilization at its hospitals and outpatient clinics. [\[Link to full report\]](#)

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May 2018 Testimony of Jerry Wesley, Health Care Transformation Futurist of Get healthier Care Together Inc. - a 501 C 3 shared service organization and Satisfactology Business Systems Corp .

PROOF OF POOR GRADE OF CARE

Based on CMS five (5) star rating system, there are 34 hospitals in NYS that are labeled with an unhealthy one (1) star rating.

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Clinical Leadership & Infection Control

Where are CMS' new overall 1-star hospitals?

January 17, 2017 | Print | Email

When CMS updated the formula used in its Overall Hospital Quality Star Rating program in December, the number of hospitals that received the lowest possible rating of one star fell from 121 in October to 112.

Even though CMS reported 121 hospitals received one star in December, the spreadsheet published on Hospital Compare shows just 108 hospitals receiving the lowest possible quality rating. Becker's is awaiting comment from CMS about the discrepancy.

Below is a listing of the 108 hospitals that received one star from CMS in December, broken down by state, as listed in Hospital Compare.

New York

HealthAlliance Hospital Broadway Campus (Kingston)	Flushing Hospital Medical Center
St. Joseph's Medical Center (Yonkers)	Coney Island Hospital (Brooklyn)
Bronx-Lebanon Hospital Center	Kings County Hospital Center (Brooklyn)
Our Lady of Lourdes Memorial Hospital (Binghamton)	Bellevue Hospital Center (New York City)
Jamaica Hospital Medical Center	Wyckoff Heights Medical Center (Brooklyn)
Nassau University Medical Center (East Meadow)	Queens Hospital Center (Jamaica)
Richmond University Medical Center (Staten Island)	Brookdale Hospital Medical Center (Brooklyn)
Southside Hospital (Bay Shore)	Westchester Medical Center (Valhalla)
Faxton St. Luke's Healthcare (Utica)	New York Methodist Hospital (Brooklyn)
Brooklyn Hospital Center at Downtown Campus	Harlem Hospital Center (New York City)
Montefiore Medical Center (Bronx)	University Hospital SUNY Health Science Center (Syracuse)
Lincoln Medical & Mental Health Center (Bronx)	Mercy Medical Center (Rockville Centre)
Columbia Memorial Hospital (Hudson)	Good Samaritan Hospital Medical Center (West Islip)
Peconic Bay Medical Center (Riverhead)	University Hospital of Brooklyn Downstate
Jacobi Medical Center (Bronx)	Franklin Hospital (Valley Stream)
Elmhurst Hospital Center	St. John's Episcopal Hospital at South Shore (Far Rockaway)
Staten Island University Hospital	Interfaith Medical Center (Brooklyn)

Twenty-two (22) of these one (1) star hospitals are located in NYC. Of the 22 hospital, NYC H+H is home to 10 hospitals with an unhealthy (1) star rating.

Namely, *Bellevue Hospital Center*; *Coney Island Hospital*; *Elmhurst Hospital Center*; *Harlem Hospital Center*; *Jacobi Medical Center*; *Kings County Hospital Center*; *Lincoln Medical & Mental Health Center*; *Metropolitan Hospital Center*; *Queens Hospital Center*; and *Woodhull Medical and Mental Health Center*. The only 2 star Hospital in NYC H+H system is North Central Bronx.

WHY THE PROBLEM IS BEING IGNORED

For nearly eight years if not longer, all of these hospitals have either been unwilling or incapable of advancing the “**low value low grade of care**” on their own.

In part, the plight of these hospitals have been ignored because a conscious or unconscious bias is masking their struggle under a false guise of high quality care.

You can see this on NYC H+H website and promotional material, they advertise that all of these hospitals deliver “high quality care” when in reality and according to CMS they do not. The following is a description of CMS performance ratings.

- 5 Star - Excellent
- 4 Star - Above Average
- 3 Star - Average
- 2 Star - Below Average
- 1 Star - Poor

Clearly, a one (1) star rating is not the equivalent of “high quality care”. Just the opposite, a one (1) star rating is what it is: **the lowest grade of care in the nation.**

The truth is, a “**low value low grade of care**” is so poor, it can’t even afford to attract attention. Especially, the attention of leaders with the purse strings and influence to make it healthier.

Let’s be clear: a “**low value low grade of care system**” is not a health care system by today’s standard. It is a “**disparity-plagued sick-care system**” that is designed to profit at the expense of poor outcome health results.

Let’s also be clear: a “**low value low grade of care system**” is in no position to cure itself. Nor is it on a pathway to growing trusting relationships or healthier lives. What it is, is a slow moving **DEATH SENTENCE** on the lives of unsuspecting patients, families, communities and constituents who have committed no **CRIME!**

Without a fundamental systemic shift to reverse current trends, NYC H+H is at risk of being swallowed up in a vicious downward cycle of cuts - that affect safety and quality of outcome health, causing market share erosion and deeper revenue losses - that in turn causes higher deficits and diminishing returns.

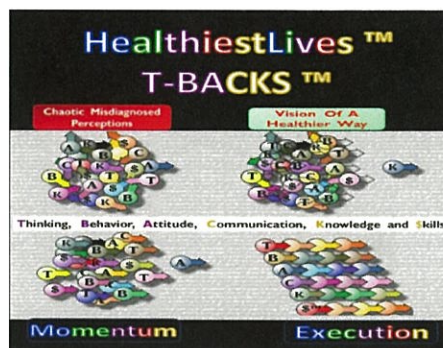
Having ignored these conditions for so long (8-12 years,) neglect has allowed the cost of repairing the damage to multiply in silence, out of sight and out of control.

May 2018 Testimony of Jerry Wesley, Health Care Transformation Futurist of Get healthier Care Together Inc. - a 501 C 3 shared service organization and Satisfactology Business Systems Corp.

WHY WE ARE HERE:

We are here today seeking your partnership in helping us secure a \$40 million dollar historic financial investment in the latest innovation in outcome health technology:

HealthiestLives Cultural Operating \$ystem™ (HLCO\$).



HealthiestLives Cultural Operating \$ystem™(HLCO\$) is a business health intelligence system that will help NYC H+H align culture, strategy and capability to optimize outcome health results at all ten (10) hospitals that are labeled with an unhealthy one (1) star rating.

HealthiestLives Cultural Operating \$ystem™ (HLCO\$) operates with surgical precision in healthifying people, communities and health care organizations. HealthiestLives Cultural Operating \$ystem™ (HLCO\$), will healthify all of the internal organs at NYC H+H that generate revenue.

In the process, HealthiestLives Cultural Operating \$ystem™ (HLCO\$) will also upgrade the value and grade of care at NYC H+H, advancing performance levels from a one (1) star rating to a 3-5 star performer. In doing so, we aim to make Queens Hospital Center the first five (5) star public hospital in America.

Here is why HLCO\$™ is one of the most innovative outcome health solutions of our time. HLCO\$™ is the new health care currency of the 21st century.

Especially, when it comes to optimizing these APPS: HCAHPS, ACA, ACO, PCMH, F QHC, and payment models like P4P, VBP, APM, MACRA, MIPS, VM and PFPM.

May 2018 Testimony of Jerry Wesley, Health Care Transformation Futurist of Get healthier Care Together Inc. - a 501 C 3 shared service organization and Satisfactology Business Systems Corp .

HLCO\$™ is *the missing operating system* that have been absent for a decade, and has now emerged to work these APPS like no other innovation on the planet.

HLCO\$™ is also A-SMART P™ restructuring and maintenance infrastructure, that support and extends lifesaving pathways, lifelong learning and lifeline restoration to consumers and businesses. All while:

- Advancing Hospital Star Ratings.
- Supporting Life-Changing Transformation.
- Modernizing Outdated T-BACK\$™.
- Accommodating Emerging Technologies.
- Regulating Organizational Climate.
- Transitioning On-boarding Partners, and
- Promoting Predictive Analytics

The average cost of this one-time investment is \$4 million dollars per hospital. This cost will retrofit NYC H+H for 21st century care and generate higher revenue that will ensure its viability for life.

To make this investment extremely affordable, the \$4 million dollars investment is based on seven (7) years of transformation services. Thus, making the annual cost per hospital, per year \$572,000.00. Please note, some specialist in healthcare make more than this in one year.

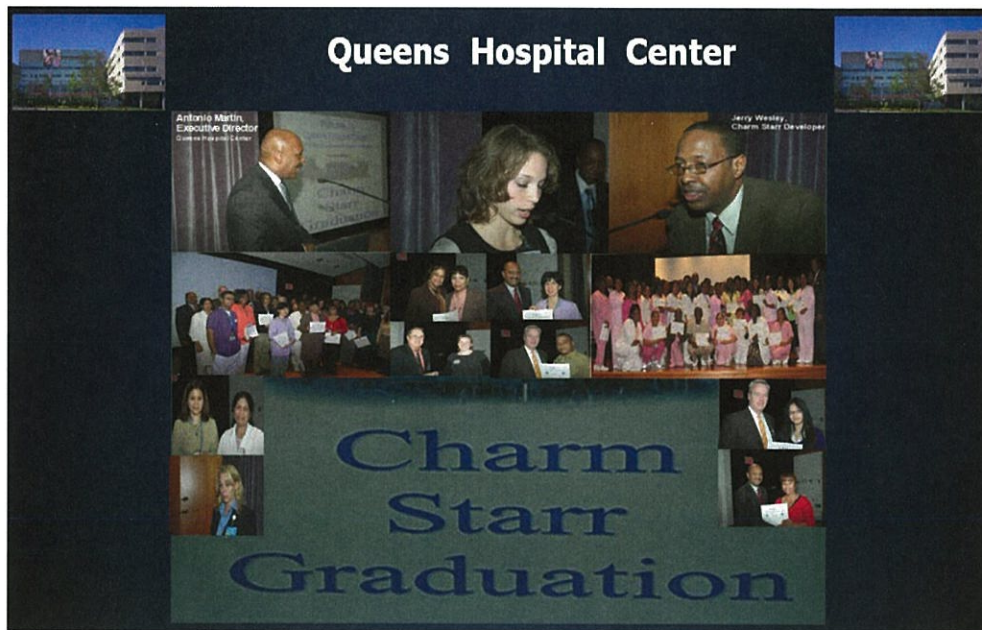
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PHASE I OF HLCOS\$ ALREADY TESTED AT NYC H+H QUEENS

Phase I of HealthiestLives Cultural Operating \$ystem™ innovation was already tested with glowing results at Queens Hospital Center between 2006 and 2008 during a CMS Hospital Consumer Assessment Healthcare Providers System (HCAHPS) Dry Run Survey.

Here are some photos validating ChaRm StarR™ Phase I training activities.

Jerry Wesley Developed Charm Charm and trained over 2000 employees.



<p>Charm™</p> <p>QH^{ospital} Center</p> <p>Charm™</p> <p>Graduation Award Ceremony</p> <p>July 18, 2007 10:00 am – 11:30 am</p>	<p>QH^{ospital} Center</p> <p>Charm™</p> <p>Graduation Award Ceremony</p> <p>October 28, 2008 09:30 am – 11:00 am</p>
<p>Opening Introduction..... Carol White</p> <p>Introduction Scene Highlights..... Communication & Teamwork</p> <p>Cultural Transformation & Customer Service Scenes: Charm Starr Actors & Jerry Wesley..... Moderator</p> <p>Customer Service Scenario.....</p> <p>★ Heene Freeman, Barbara Brummett & Gloria Kearns ★</p> <p>Welcome & Remarks..... Dr. Ann Sullivan & Antonio Martin</p> <p>Selection of Competencies & Values..... Graduate Audience</p> <p>Commencement Address..... Albert Willingham</p> <p>Graduation Awards Certificate..... Joan Gabriele Robert Rosedale Lisa Adams</p> <p>Closing Remarks..... Jerry Wesley</p> <p><small>*Charm Starr Actors (Heene Freeman, Barbara Brummett & Gloria Kearns) *Charm Starr Musicians (Mindy and Jerry) *Charm Starr Program Organizers (Carol White, Jerry Wesley, Lisa Adams & Albert Willingham) Special Thanks (Kanya Dwyer and Norma Pines of Human Resources and Inpatient Relatives of Hospital Intervention Program)</small></p>	<p>Opening Introduction..... Albert Willingham</p> <p>My Charm Starr Experience..... Lisa Stager, Sheila Robinson, Sylvester Douglas and Jennifer Daniel.</p> <p>Welcome & Remarks..... Antonio Martin</p> <p>Poem..... Carl Roc</p> <p>"Accountability"..... Jerry Wesley</p> <p>"Working Together"..... Albert Willingham</p> <p>Graduation Awards Certificate..... Carmen Benitez Anthony Rajkumar Robert Malone Roshn Weinstein Lindella Artman</p> <p>Closing Remarks..... Jerry Wesley</p> <p>(Special thanks to Carol White and Amanda Bitchell and Human Resources Staff, Rodney Clarke and Joseph Abraham)</p> <p>Refreshment: Will Be Served</p>

IMPACT OF PHASE I: CHARM STARR

NYC HHC HCAHPS Dry Run Scores				
January to June 2007: HCAHPS Dry Run Survey July 2007: CMS HCAHPS Survey Participation				
Overall Top-Box Rating by Hospital Reporting Period 2: April – June 2007				
Hospital	Rating of Hospital	2007 Jackson HCAHPS Database	Jackson Percentile Ranking	Action Strategy
Bellevue Hospital Center	46.1%	63.1%	3 ✓	0
Coney Island Hospital	49.2%	63.1%	6 ✓	0
Elmhurst Hospital Center	43.7%	63.1%	2 ✓	0
Harlem Hospital Center	43.6%	63.1%	2 ✓	0
Jacobi Medical Center	58.3%	63.1%	30	
Kings County Hospital Center	46.2%	63.1%	3 ✓	0
Lincoln Medical & Mental Health Center	41.6%	63.1%	1 ✓	0
Metropolitan Hospital Center	54.6%	63.1%	17	0
North Central Bronx Hospital	58.3%	63.1%	30	
Queens Hospital Center	61.9%	63.1%	45	
Woodhull Medical & Mental Health Facility	48.8%	63.1%	6 ✓	0
NYCHHC System	50.1%	63.1%	7	0

Please note the national Jackson HCAHPS data base score of 63.1 was the national average in the U.S., at the time of the Dry Run Survey. Queens Hospital Center rating of 61.9% meant that the performance of Queens Hospital Center - a public hospital was on par with most hospitals in America. This performance was equivalent to a 3 star rating based the 5 star system that was later implemented.

Also note Queens Hospital Center Jackson Percentile Ranking of 45 was higher and better than seven (7) NYC H+H hospitals put together. This data reveals how well Phase I prepared the workforce at Queens and how poorly workforce readiness was at seven other hospitals.

2007 Year in Review

Increasing Competitiveness Through Patient Satisfaction

Patient satisfaction goes hand-in-hand with patient-centered care, another important dimension of quality in healthcare. However, because it is an aspect of quality that is readily discernable by patients as consumers of healthcare, patient satisfaction also impacts heavily on competitiveness.



Beginning this year, the federal government will start releasing to the public the results of standardized patient satisfaction surveys that measure the degree to which inpatient hospital services are perceived by patients to meet their needs. In anticipation of this development, we engaged a consultant last year to conduct such surveys at each of our hospitals – using the same survey tool that the federal government will mandate going forward. The results were fed back to our hospitals to pinpoint for them areas of weakness from the standpoint of “customer service” that warranted their attention.

The survey results reflected that one of our hospitals – Queens Hospital Center – achieved outstanding results on each of its trial surveys, a reflection of its innovative work around customer service training under its “Charm Star” program. Although many of our facilities are devising their own approaches to addressing customer service weaknesses identified by their survey findings, we will be looking at harvesting best practices from Queens Hospital Center for possible implementation at other HHC hospitals.



Alan D. Aviles, HHC President and CEO

From President Aviles End of the Year Board of Directors report pp: 11-12

FOR THE RECORD



**Testimony by Jesse Laymon,
Policy Director of the New York City Employment and Training Coalition (NYCETC)
Before the New York City Council Committee on Finance
Chairman Daniel Dromm
At the FY 2019 Executive Budget Hearing**

May 24, 2018

Good afternoon and thank you for giving members of the public this final opportunity to testify on the FY 2019 Budget.

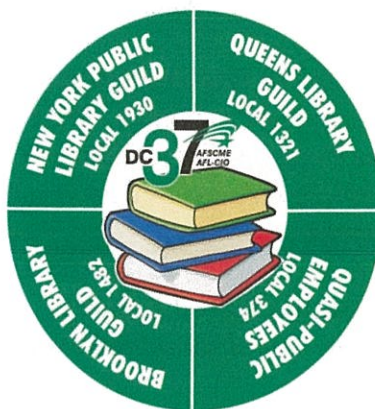
My name is Jesse Laymon, Policy Director for the New York City Employment and Training Coalition (NYCETC). The New York City Employment & Training Coalition (NYCETC) supports the workforce development community to ensure that every New Yorker has access to the skills, training, and education needed to thrive in the local economy, and that every business is able to maintain a highly skilled workforce. With over 180 members, NYCETC works with community-based organizations, educational institutions and labor management organizations engaged in New York City workforce development, to improve policy, practices, and outcomes to achieve economic inclusion for the city's workers, job-seekers and employers.

In consideration of the committee's time and many areas to cover, I've structured my testimony at today's hearing as short bullet points.

- NYCETC would like to thank and commend the City Council for its years of support for programs that constitute a foundation of the workforce development services in NYC, including Jobs To Build On, Adult Literacy, and more.
- Our area of greatest concern with the Executive Budget relates to the ongoing delays and disappointments in the implementation of the Mayor's Career Pathways vision for workforce development in New York. In particular, we are concerned that:
 - The level of funding for bridge programs, promised to be at \$60 million annually by 2020, is currently sitting below \$10 million at the most recent estimate.
 - There should be significantly more funding for these programs in the budgets of DYCD especially, as well as HRA and SBS, and potentially under CUNY and EDC.

- The “Industry Partnerships” created by SBS in response to the Career Pathways plan have not yet delivered on their promises, and there is very little budgetary evidence of their impact.
 - The HRA Employment Services contracts called “Career Pathways” do not have sufficient levels of funding per client to achieve the goals of the Career Pathways vision.
 - The New York Works plan unveiled by EDC last summer relies upon the success of training models and bridge programs envisioned under Career Pathways to connect underserved NY communities to jobs in new sectors, but this new plan has not been leveraged by the Administration to provide any new resources to those models and programs.
- In addition to the priorities for the FY 2019 Budget, we would like to draw the Council’s attention to a looming concern: next year marks the 5th year of the Administration’s 5-year Career Pathways plan to transform workforce development in New York City, but many of the promises and objectives of that plan are far from being achieved. We ask that the Council work with the workforce development community over the coming months to ensure that the vital promises of that plan, including badly needed funding for job training and educational bridge programs are achieved in the FY 2020 Budget next spring.
- Our Coalition and its many CBO members strongly support the requests made by our partners organizations on a range of areas:
- We are members of the the NYC Coalition for Adult Literacy, and support request for \$12 million for Adult Basic Education
 - We are members of the Human Services Council and of FPWA, and we support the ongoing effort to ensure that nonprofit contracts are fully funded.
 - We support the Campaign for Summer Jobs request for additional support of high-quality Summer Youth Employment Programs
 - We support the Fair Fares campaign because we know that our job-seeking clients need to be able to afford the cost of travel to classes, trainings, interviews, and new jobs.

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 lowest income jobseekers are addressed by HRA and other agencies through this and future City budgets.



**Executive Budget Hearing Fiscal Year 2019
Committee on Finance New York City Council
Joint Testimony of
Brooklyn Public Library Guild, Local 1482
New York Public Library Guild, Local 1930
New York Public Library Quasi-Public Employees, Local 374
Queens Public Library Guild, Local 1321
May 24, 2018**

Chairman Daniel Dromm and fellow committee members, thank you for giving my fellow presidents and myself an opportunity to testify.

Ronaldo Barber, President, Local 1482; Val Colon, President, Local 1930; John Hyslop, President, Local 1321; and Leonard Paul, President, Local 374 come before you united in our request for more library funding. Two months ago, in our testimony on the Mayor's Preliminary Budget we documented our need for more money. We detailed the increasing demands our communities place on our members, services, and facilities. Our patrons' needs have not changed and without additional financial support our libraries will not keep pace.

Every library system still has six and seven day service. Every branch still has computers, laptops, Wifi, tablets, and mobile hotspots. Every branch still has more programs with more and more patrons attending these programs. We visit and speak to our members and we hear the stories of how dedicated and engaged, yet overwhelmed and understaffed they are as we strive to meet the ever increasing demands of our diverse communities.

In many neighborhoods, we are the free, unofficial after-school for children. Working parents who want and cannot afford an after-school structure for their child rely on their neighborhood library. Everyday from 2:30 to close, our members are bombarded with children and teens who need homework help, computer assistance, Internet, and printers.

In every branch our computers, wifi, and printers are used daily. In every neighborhood in New York City, libraries are the only source of computers and Internet for many people. Our IT staff purchase and maintain the ever increasing hardware, software, and infrastructure demands.

Our adult literacy programs are a life blood and safe space for adults who cannot read or write English, many of whom are recent immigrants. Members are heartened when our students get their GED or become citizens.

Last year, over 5,300,000 people attended our 252,000 free programs in every library branch and our members ensured that these programs cater to our diverse communities. We have exercise classes for older adults. We have workshops on immigration. We have storytime for toddlers. We have career counseling for everyone. We have computer classes. We have gardening classes. We have author talks. We have movies. The list goes on. And so does attendance to these programs.

We maintain our core effort, ensuring our patrons have the material they need and want 24 hours/7 days a week. We circulated over 51 million items last year. All of those items were cataloged, prepared, shelved, moved from branch to branch by our members.

Our members are understaffed and overwhelmed providing these services but they thrive because they know that their work is helping.

All of our work is done in the backdrop of the increasing inequality between our city's citizens. For more than a century, New York City's public libraries have provided free services to everyone. Today, our members continue this tradition and we are keenly aware of the city's yawning gap of inequality.

We experience first-hand how our free services and programs help people. Whether it be the adult who needs to use the branch's computers, printers, and Internet because they cannot afford them. The child who has a free, safe place to go after school. The free entertainment to occupy a family on the weekend. The free citizenship programs for the recent immigrants. The free video visitation services we provide for families with incarcerated family members. The free early reading programs for children to fall in love with reading. The free books for the adults to continue their life-long love of reading. Our services alleviate one more financial burden for individuals and families.

At the Libraries' testimony on the Executive Budget Hearing on May 18th, we were surprised and disheartened to hear that all three library systems have needed to use expense funds for emergency repairs. We understand the importance of maintaining the infrastructure of library branches. Our members and patrons want a safe, clean, comfortable, and inviting library. Our elected officials must take responsibility for maintaining the City's infrastructure; not force the library to use expense funds for emergency capital repairs; and increase our capital budget.

The Library Administration provided you a wealth of information documenting our members' hard-work. One striking piece is, over 4,000 library staff, a large portion being our members, interacted with over 35 million patrons last year. That ratio of staff to patrons is amazing. Local 374, 1321, 1482, and 1930 members are productive. Everyone must commend our members for their dedication helping library users everyday. And today, we plead on their behalf for an increase in funding - funding that must result in an increase in frontline staff.

In recent years, the City Council, the Mayor, the Library Administrations, and the Unions successfully collaborated to baseline library funding. If our elected officials want another tool to lift all people and bring equality to our city, you need to increase library funding. Let us continue our collaboration and maintain our libraries' mission to be one of the most welcoming, egalitarian, equalizing institutions in New York City.

New York City Council , Finance Committee Budget Hearing 2018/2019

Testimony by DC 37 Local 1757 on May 24, 2018

Good afternoon members of the City Council Finance Committee. My name is Fran Schloss and I am president of DC 37 Local 1757. The Local represents Real Property Assessors, Appraisers and Housing Development Specialists.

The City of New York has over 1,065,000 parcels that are valued on a yearly basis. The hiring of eighty additional assessors would not merely back fill vacant districts, but would serve to create manageable ones.

The Commissioner of the Department of Finance has committed to push for thirty new district assessors. We strongly advocate for all eighty . It is projected that, taking into account a new employees learning curb, and the cost of salaries and benefits an additional 100,000,000 dollars in property tax revenue would be generated the first year and it would be sustainable.

The New York City Tax Commission needs a line of succession. Seven of its eleven assessors will be eligible to retire within one to four years. The hiring and training of assistant assessors and assessors that are skilled in the correction to valuation of real property should commence now.

Lastly, the dearth of appraisers in H.P.D. has allowed that position to be contracted out. The dollar amounts paid and the quality of the work presented needs to be stringently reviewed. Appraisers should be hired within the Civil Service system. This would allow for background checks and a standard of training in accordance with New York City government standards.

In conclusion , additional district assessors will help to resolve the issue of uncollected revenue.

The pro-active hiring and training of New York City Tax Commission assessors will ensure the continuation of fair and thoughtful decisions regarding a correction to a real property assessment valuation. It will serve to help decrease potential future writs and New York City liability. The hiring of appraisers that are on the road to Civil Service status will compel a standard that appears to be missing from numerous H.P.D. property appraisals.

DC 37 Local 1757 thanks you for your time and consideration.

Testimony of District Council 1707
Joint Hearing on the Mayor's Executive Budget for FY2019
Committee on General Welfare
Thursday May 24, 2018
Council Chambers at City Hall

On behalf of Executive Director Kim Medina and all of our members, it is important for the New York City Council to understand the frustrations of unionized child care employees working for non-profit center-based organizations. For years they have given exceptional service educating and caring for the children of New York City, primarily in communities of need.

My name is G.L. Tyler and I am the political director for District Council 1707 AFSCME, whose members include some 30,000 non-profit workers providing critical human services to our state's most vulnerable citizens.

Our members include direct care workers, home care workers, social workers, home care and child care educators and providers that deliver care and support for the developmentally disabled, the aged, the indigent and those struggling with addiction or illness.

Despite being a highly-skilled and educated workforce, the non-profit human services sector is remarkably underpaid and undervalued. Given the high demand for those workers, we should be making every effort to offer competitive wages to those willing to provide services in the nonprofit care industry. Today, as the council meets to discuss the Mayor's FY 19 Budget, we will address two issues of concern to our members.

Also, I must add that District Council 1707 and its members are appreciative of the continued funding for public center-based day care, Head Start and Universal Prekindergarten that helps thousands of children in the five boroughs.

Teacher Wage Gap:

Currently, there is considerable **wage gap** between certified teachers at public child care centers and those certified teachers in New York City in public schools. With the same experience, degrees and NYS certifications, public school teachers in New York City earn as much as \$40,000 or more than group teachers in center-based public day care and Head Start centers.

This disproportionately impacts women since titles like assistant teachers, teachers' aides, support personnel and other teaching related titles are held by predominantly women. Many are dedicated professionals who are women of color, are also heads of households. They find it challenging to raise their families on their current wages.

Public center-based teachers and other employees have proven for more than 50 years that working with the city's blossoming young population takes dedication and enthusiasm. Some centers, largely in communities-of-need, struggle to remain open due to the difficulty in hiring and retaining qualified teachers with advanced degrees as required by NYS regulations. New

York State and the City of New York must step up and provide wage parity for public child care personnel with equal qualifications.

Since March, the demands for economic justice for child care employees has increased from our unions, children's advocates and citizens of good will who were not aware of the wage discrepancies in the same industry. It is imperative that the New York City Council take the lead while the Administration lauds itself for the promotion of city-funded children but easily turns its back to the inequities of that face the women of this sector who are predominately women of color with many being heads of households.

When they suffer, we all suffer. When they struggle to pay rent, clothing food or mortgages, their communities lag economically. Our members live in the City of New York. And the City has no justification for their living second-tier existences given the sacrifices they are forced to endure.

Wage parity for unionized center-based child care workers is essential to right a wrong that has been in existence since the Lindsay Administration. This issue can be resolved as long as he City of New York has the vision and resolution to a right a wrong that has endured almost two generations.

DC 1707 Vacation Pay

When Early Learn was introduced in November 2012 by the Bloomberg Administration, many employees in public center-based day care centers (who are also members of Day Care Employees Local 205) had yet to received their rightfully-earned vacation back-wages from the contractually-maintained vacation bank provided by ACS after the program was suspended without union agreement. According to our estimate approximately \$12 to \$15 million was owed to our members at that time in the form of banked vacation wages.

The system used to maintain these wages was suspended and a considerable number of these employees have never received their contractually-earned vacation wages. Local 205 members were allowed to maintain up to 60 vacation days in the "bank" that was overseen by ACS and the employers did not have access to this funding at that time.

When the vacation wage bank was placed in abeyance, ACS hired a woefully small team of auditors to perform final audits of more than 300 centers, including centers that closed. Vacation wages were to be paid based on the audits, but the union never received exact or timely information from 2012 as to which centers and employees were paid. To date, the union has not received a complete list of centers funds were paid and which employees were properly reimbursed.

The Union has demanded ACS send the audit findings for centers that are closed and for the centers that remain open to the union as soon as possible. We are aware that some of the centers that are owed back vacation wages are now closed. The Union is ready to contact theses employees to inform them of the back wages due to them.

The Union has had several meetings with and sent correspondence to city officials including the former ACS Commissioner Gladys Carrion and Office of Labor Relations Commissioner Bob Linn. There has been no movement from ACS to make members whole.

The reason for ACS' stall is incomprehensible and irresponsible. DC 1707 would like to have a hearing from the City Council to make these members whole as well as a complete audit from ACS of which employers received this funding and the lists of employees who received funding from the centers they worked is necessary to resolve this long-standing grievance.

Thank you for your time and we look forward to working with you on these issues.



Northern Manhattan Improvement Corporation
Testimony on NYC FY 2019
Ysabel Abreu, Outreach Coordinator -Access Health NYC
May 24, 2018

Good Afternoon, Mr. Chairman and Members of the New York City Council Finance Committee,

My name is Ysabel Abreu and I am the Outreach Coordinator for the Northern Manhattan Improvement Corporation. I am here today to testify on behalf of the Access Health NYC Initiative. The Access Health NYC program has been an opportunity for NMIC to educate and spread key health information in the upper Manhattan and Bronx communities we serve, especially immigrant communities with inadequate distribution of resources for access to healthcare. As an awardee organization, we have developed multiple literacy and outreach activities we use to educate the public about affordable health care options, immigrant health care rights, emergency Medicaid applications, local social services, access to primary and specialty care, Medicare, the Affordable Care Act, and how immigrants can access other health-related and human services. The Access Health NYC Initiative has allowed us to access essential training, advocacy resources, and collaborations with other community-based organizations to facilitate access to health, especially for those clients facing barriers such as limited English proficiency.

In the past twelve months, I have had the opportunity to conduct outreach for the Access Health NYC Initiative on behalf of NMIC and have encountered many cases in which families have been deprived of essential health services due to a lack of awareness and other factors. For example, a mother and daughter had been struggling for months trying to contain the devastating impact of an autoimmune disease on their own. Even though this condition prevented the 14-year old from enjoying life like any other teenager, they failed to seek adequate help because they feared consequences and because they were not aware that they could qualify for a Medicaid for emergencies and for CHIP regardless of immigration status. A partner organization of ours in the Bronx referred them to us, and our Healthcare Navigators promptly met with them and assisted with the application process. Both mother and daughter now have health insurance and information about health options available in their neighborhood. I am pleased to inform you that this child has received the healthcare she desperately needed and continues to access treatment for her autoimmune condition. She has been able to participate in school life and other activities with a sense of normalcy that allows her to focus on her academics while enjoying a healthy and productive life.

It is critical that we continue to sustain and expand funding for the Access Health NYC Initiative. With the level of funds we receive, and the limited number of awardee organizations, we already struggle to fill the gaps in human services for diverse/immigrant communities that are often inadequately funded and underserved. NMIC is committed to supporting immigrant



communities and to building strong partnerships that can help us better serve the needs of our clients. Funds from the Access Health Initiative have allowed us to facilitate access to health education and healthcare and to increase enrollment in the high need communities we serve. We hope to be able to continue to improve the quality of life of New Yorkers, especially those who do not have a voice or the tools to access quality health care. We are proud to be an Access Health NYC awardee organization, and I am personally honored to be part of the progressive New York that proclaims health care as a human right and supports those lofty words with meaningful resources.

In community,

Ysabel Abreu
Northern Manhattan Improvement Corporation
Outreach Coordinator
CLIMB/Hike the Heights Co-Chair



**NY City Council Fiscal Year 2019
Executive Budget Hearings
City Hall, May 24, 2018**

Testimony by Energy Vision

Today, Energy Vision in partnership with the NY League of Conservation Voters, WE ACT for Environmental Justice and leading health experts are calling on New York City to get its municipal fleets off diesel. Superior alternatives exist, making this shift possible, and the City Budget Process could encourage this shift.

We are asking the City and MTA to take the following actions:

- Stop allocating funds for purchase of new heavy-duty diesel trucks and MTA diesel buses now.
- Focus new heavy-duty vehicle purchases on the best alternatives. Electric models are expensive but worth piloting. Heavy vehicles which run on conventional natural gas have long been commercially available and are in wide use. Powering them with the renewable form of natural gas (RNG) fuel made from organic wastes instead of conventional CNG provides the cleanest, lowest-carbon, most cost-effective option for New York.
- Make the necessary capital expenditures on infrastructure and fleet garage modifications to support implementation of these alternatives.

Diesel exhaust is a major source of climate-changing greenhouse gases. Its nitrogen oxide and particulate emissions threaten public health, causing cardiovascular damage and triggering asthma attacks. New York's childhood asthma rates have tripled in the last three decades and now afflict an astonishing 13.3% of children up to the age of 18 living in this City (almost twice the national average).

London has banned purchase of new diesel vehicles and other major cities are restricting or eliminating them. In the US, 60% of the refuse trucks on order are natural gas models which can run on CNG or RNG, since the fuels are practically identical chemically (both CH₄). But in our city, only 2% of the 2,100 trucks in the sanitation fleet run on natural gas. Nationwide, more than 20,000 refuse trucks burn RNG – none are in NYC.

NYC agencies continue to rely on diesel vehicles, and their budgets call for buying many more. Why do that when there are much better alternatives? New diesel procurement deserves to end now, and the budget process could help make it happen. The City Council could play a leadership role by framing its budget guidelines so they encourage City agencies to seize the opportunity we have now to deploy better alternatives for this world-class city, and to be a world-class model for greening our fleets.

A new Energy Vision report: [***Ending the Diesel Era: Cleaner Fleets for a Healthier New York City***](#), contains the latest evidence showing why it is vital and timely for the City to eliminate diesel heavy-duty vehicles and adopt alternatives. Among its findings are these:

The City can't meet its ambitious climate and air quality goals with diesel -- It has pledged to achieve the best air quality of any major U.S. city by 2050 and to cut GHGs 80% from its municipal fleet vehicles by 2035. But to meet these goals will require shifting from diesel fuel.

Heavy-duty vehicles are the key -- Heavy-duty diesel trucks consume 60% of all City fleet fuel and generate 62% of fleet greenhouse gases. Their exhaust contains not just nitrogen oxides and particulates but also carcinogens. It is much more dangerous to health than gasoline exhaust. They are therefore the most important targets for change.

RNG is the best alternative -- Natural gas vehicles equipped with commercially available "Near Zero" engines, and powered by RNG offer the fastest, healthiest, most cost-effective way for the City to attain its climate and air quality goals.

The engine and fuel are commercial products, widely available here and now. The fuel is made by capturing and refining the methane biogases from decomposing organic wastes, which would otherwise escape into the air as powerful climate-changing gases. RNG is the lowest carbon fuel available, reducing GHG emissions by 70% to 300% compared to diesel. How can that be? If food wastes or manures are the main "feedstocks," more greenhouse gases (methane) are captured in making the fuel than are emitted by the vehicles burning it (carbon dioxide). This makes it a net carbon-negative fuel over its lifecycle.

RNG is by far the cleanest fuel option for heavy vehicles. Burned in the Near Zero engine, RNG's particulate and nitrogen oxide emissions are 90% below EPA allowable limits. Near Zero engines are also 50 to 80% quieter than diesel engines.

RNG can be easily deployed in New York starting now. There are already seven public-access CNG refueling stations within the five boroughs, plus a DSNY facility in Woodside, Queens, as well as a large station in Newark, NJ to which DSNY trucks make over 100 trips a day. These are sufficient to serve hundreds more natural gas trucks. A new RNG-capable refueling station is opening in the Bronx soon, and many private sector companies are eager to expand New York's non-diesel refueling infrastructure.

RNG is an affordable option that can save the City money. Natural gas vehicles have an upfront cost that is roughly 20% higher than diesel equivalents -- about \$40,000 more per vehicle. But that difference can be more than offset by operational and fuel cost savings. Fuel providers have guaranteed to deliver RNG to New York at the same price as CNG, which is about a dollar less per gallon than diesel.

Renewable diesel is a distant second -- This year the City announced a pilot program to use renewable diesel (RD) fuel in its existing heavy-duty vehicles. But renewable diesel (RD) doesn't compare with the benefits with RNG. While it is not a petroleum product, it is made mainly from oils and residues of energy crops such as soy or palm oil; growing such crops for fuel causes land use and other environmental impacts that can aggravate climate change. RD would cut GHG emissions 60%, but RNG cuts GHGs 80% using conservative assumptions. That's an important difference; it means that RNG would generally cut GHG emissions 25% more than RD, using conservative assumptions. But the potential difference is much greater because RNG can be net-carbon-negative, and depending on what feedstocks are used to make it, its GHG reduction can be much, much higher -- all the way up to 300% reduction compared to diesel. That would be *five times* the GHG emissions reduction of RD.

Use of RD requires no infrastructure changes, which is convenient since it can be burned in existing diesel engines, but RD is not the optimal choice for public health. Its NOx and particulate emissions are comparable to conventional diesel, which is 90% higher than Near Zero engines running on RNG. Finally, RD fuel is much more expensive. There is no local supply, so this liquid fuel has to be transported across the country via truck, rail or barge, and the City will pay a premium of about \$1.50 per gallon (e.g. \$26 million a year over petroleum diesel.) RNG would save New York as much as \$2.50 per gallon compared to RD.

RNG has another important benefit: it can help solve the City's waste problem. RNG can be used to fuel NYC trucks right now, since it can be transported through existing natural gas pipelines and delivered via existing natural gas refueling stations. But longer term, the City can make RNG fuel from its own organic waste stream. Some RNG production capacity exists in New York and more is being developed in the region. However, processing the 1.2 million tons of food waste that New Yorkers generate each year would produce enough RNG fuel to displace ALL the diesel fuel used in the City's municipal fleets now -- more than 17 million gallons per year.

At present, this City is letting its organic waste stream go to 'waste' instead of recognizing it as a valuable energy resource. The City spends \$400 million a year to export its waste; a third of which is organics. Instead of discarding them, New Yorkers could get powerful economic and environmental benefits from harnessing its organics to produce RNG for its own fleets. It is time for New York's fleets, especially its huge refuse fleet, to start aggressively phasing out diesel as many other cities -- including Los Angeles, Sacramento, Seattle and Vancouver -- as well as private haulers across the country are doing.

QUOTES FROM OUR PARTNERS:

“DSNY takes pride – and rightly so – in efficiently operating the largest refuse fleet in the US. So why is it dragging its feet in replacing its outmoded diesel trucks with the more sophisticated technology available today? The new ‘Near Zero’ natural gas engines are here now, and the trucks are affordable. RNG fuel is here now, and there are already natural gas refueling stations in place that can deliver this new fuel reliably and affordably. All DSNY has to do is do it. The health and environmental benefits cry out for responsible action.” -- **Norman Steisel, Chairman of EnEssCo, former Department of Sanitation (DSNY) Commissioner, former Deputy Mayor of NYC, and an Energy Vision board member**

“Energy Vision’s new report is just the kind of resource that New York policymakers need as they seek to address New York’s significant air pollution and climate change issues.” -- **Marcia Bystryn, President of the New York League of Conservation Voters**

“For too long diesel fumes from NYC’s buses and trucks have been poisoning our children and families. Energy Vision’s report shows that we no longer need to rely on diesel engine technology and fuel. Better choices are available. It is time for the City Council and Mayor to provide leadership in moving our fleets to the fuels of the future.” -- **Cecil D. Corbin-Mark, Deputy Director and Director of Policy Initiatives, WE ACT for Environmental Justice**

“While diesel engines long had the benefits of power and fuel use efficiency, I am now convinced that they are an outmoded choice. New natural gas heavy-duty engines have the power to do what NYC trucks need to do with less noise and much less pollution or carbon impact. It is time for New York’s fleets, especially its huge refuse fleet, to start aggressively phasing out diesel as many other cities and private haulers across the country are doing.” -- **Brendan Sexton, former DSNY Commissioner, former Chair of the City’s Procurement Policy Board and an Energy Vision board member**

“Getting rid of diesel is the right thing to do. It will improve the quality of life. It will be highly cost-effective. Replacing diesel vehicles with safer, non-polluting alternatives will reduce rates of asthma among our children. It will reduce myocardial infarctions, cardiac arrhythmias, and strokes among New York City’s adults. It will reduce risk of lung cancer. And because it will prevent many cases of these debilitating diseases, the elimination of diesel trucks and buses from the vehicle fleets in New York will reduce health care costs and save money. And it can solidify New York City’s position as an environmental leader.” -- **Dr. Philip J. Landrigan, Dean of Global Health, Mt. Sinai Hospital**

“The disproportionate health impacts from diesel trucks is one of the most important environmental justice issues in New York City. While all neighborhoods will benefit from a transition to lower-emission vehicles, neighborhoods with the highest air pollution-related health impacts deserve to be prioritized as fleet conversion occurs.” -- **Kevin R. Cromar, Ph.D, Director of the Air Quality Program at New York University’s Marron Institute of Urban Management**

“Our children are our future, and in one of this country’s greatest cities, we must set an example giving them a healthy environment to grow up in. Energy Vision has long been a leader in finding solutions, and this new report on ending the diesel era has done it again.” -- **Blythe Danner, Actor and Environmental Advocate**

David R. Jones
President & Chief Executive Officer

Steven L. Krause
Executive Vice President &
Chief Operating Officer

**Community Service Society of New York
Testimony before the
New York City Council Finance Committee
New York City Council Fiscal Year 2019 Executive Budget**

May 24th, 2018

The Community Service Society of New York (CSS) would like to thank the New York City Council Finance Committee for the opportunity to submit this testimony on the Fiscal Year 2019 Executive Budget.

For more than 170 years, CSS has been an unwavering voice for low- and moderate-income New Yorkers. Our health programs help New Yorkers enroll into health insurance coverage, find health care if they are ineligible or cannot afford coverage, and help them use their coverage or otherwise access the health care system. We do this through a live-answer helpline and through our partnerships with over 50 community-based organizations throughout New York State. Annually, CSS and its partners serve over 100,000 New Yorkers, saving them millions of dollars in health care costs.

In this testimony, CSS urges the City Council to continue closing the gaps in health inequities in New York City by: (1) restoring funding to a network of community-based organizations through the program formerly known as NYC MCCAP (NYC Managed Care Consumer Assistance Program) but now called Community Health Advocates (CHA); (2) expanding the Harlem Health Advocacy Partners (HHAP) Program to other high need New York City neighborhoods, and (3) increasing funding for the Access Health NYC (AHNYC) initiative.

Fund Post-enrollment Consumer Assistance

The ACA has been successful in getting more than 4 million New Yorkers connected to coverage through the successful implementation of the NY State of Health Marketplace. While this is an amazing accomplishment, there is still a lot to be done to ensure that consumers are actually able to use their coverage and navigate the healthcare system to access care and improve their health. For New Yorkers who experience barriers to care because of their race, ethnicity, language and immigration status, there is even a greater need for help understanding insurance concepts like deductibles, co-payments, co-insurance, and maximum out-of-pocket costs; following complex processes to resolve insurance disputes; filing complaints; and appealing plan decisions. Like many New Yorkers, they must contend with the insurance and healthcare

system on their own and do not have the benefit of a workplace “HR” department to assist them when a problem arises.

In 2010, New York State designated Community Health Advocates (CHA) as New York’s Independent Consumer Assistance Program.¹ CHA is an all-payor model which provides one-stop shopping for consumers who can access ombudsprogram services through a central helpline or at one of the 27 agencies operating in neighborhoods where consumers live and work. The CHA program has been lauded nationally as the leading model of a consumer assistance program by the Kaiser Family Foundation, the National Governor’s Association, Families USA, and HHS. Since 2010, CHA has assisted over 300,000 New Yorkers, more than 30,000 through our live-answered, toll-free helpline, and saved approximately \$27 million for New Yorkers in health insurance and health care costs.

CHA was originally a New York City-funded program called the Managed Care Consumer Assistance Program (NYC MCCAP) that operated between 1998 and 2010. After more than a decade of building capacity in CBOs, and serving almost 150,000 New York City residents, NYC MCCAP had to be dismantled when the City Council funding was eliminated for Fiscal Year 2011. The defunding of NYC MCCAP coincided with the availability of ACA funds in 2010, allowing CHA to be funded through a mixture of Consumer Assistance Program funding and Exchange Establishment grants until federal funding ended in July 2015. At that point and since, CHA has been funded through New York State budget appropriations.

The transition of CHA from a New York City-based network to a statewide network has brought valuable services to upstate communities that needed them dearly, but New York City lost important resources for its underserved communities. CSS was able to incorporate just 11 of the 26 former NYC MCCAP agencies. Accordingly, New York City now receives fewer resources because the funding must be distributed across the entire state. While 61% of NYC MCCAP clients were from racial and ethnic minorities, that number under CHA is now only 45%. While 70% of NYC MCCAP services were provided in languages other than English, only 31% of CHA services are currently provided in other languages. As a result, there is a critical need for additional post-enrollment services in New York City to ensure that low-income communities of color, immigrants, consumers with special needs, and those in culturally and linguistically isolated communities receive help to successfully use their insurance and access the care they need.

Finally, CHA is a good investment. An appropriation of \$1 million of City funds for CHA can be doubled by drawing down federal matching funds.

Expand Harlem Health Advocacy Partners (HHAP)

¹ ACA § 1002.

HHAP serves approximately 13,000 residents of the Taft Houses, Jonson Houses, Kings Towers, Clinton Houses, and Lehman Village NYCHA developments in East and Central Harlem. The residents who live in HHAP developments have disproportionate diagnosis of hypertension, diabetes, and current asthma.

The HHAP model is guided by a health equity framework and employs a three-prong approach to address the needs of the residents living in the target NYCHA developments. The model combines the assistance of 12 Community Health Workers, three Health Advocates from CSS, and five Community Health Organizers to improve chronic disease management as well as long-term health and quality of life for the residents it serves.

The HHAP model is instrumental to the reduction of health disparities. This is especially true of the work of Health Advocates who work with Community Health Workers to identify uninsured residents who may not be aware of the health insurance options available to them and help insured residents address any issues with using their health coverage. Health Advocates' specialized knowledge of healthcare consumer protections allows them to advocate directly on behalf of residents to appeal health care decisions or negotiate with providers when necessary. Since HHAP's establishment in 2014, CSS Health Advocates have handled 2,354 cases and saved HHAP residents nearly \$170,000 in healthcare and health insurance costs.

Health Advocates and Community Health Workers also work together to address social determinants of health in the community by providing referrals to local social services and facilitating educational workshops and community events.

Because HHAP brings Health Advocate services directly to the community, residents are well-positioned to take advantage of them to improve their health. Replicating the innovative community-based approach of the HHAP model could help the City eliminate health inequities in other neighborhoods with similar needs.

Increase Funding for Access Health NYC (AHNYC)

AHNYC is a collaboration with the New York Immigration Coalition, the Commission on the Public's Health, the Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies, the Coalition for Asian American Families and Children, the Community Service Society of New York, and a consortium of 13 community-based organizations and providers seeking to improve access to affordable, quality healthcare for vulnerable low-income and immigrant New York City residents.

The initiative has made significant progress in training funded agencies to reach, educate, and connect hard-to-reach populations in New York City to affordable healthcare access and coverage options. Over the last three years, Access Health NYC providers have hosted over 750 workshops with over 10,000 New York residents in attendance and given over 10,000 referrals to New York City's various social and human service provider resources. In addition, awardees

have reached over 320,000 people through ethnic media readership and viewership. The initiative also launched in 2018 a multi-language Guide to Your Health Care Rights & Options guide, a community education guide detailing key health access and coverage topics for immigrant and underserved communities such as Emergency Medicaid, language access, paying hospital bills, and more.

The Council funding of Access Health NYC allows CSS to hire and train a full-time health counselor dedicated to assist New York City residents with post-enrollment issues through CSS's live-answer, toll-free helpline, and to support the CBOs and FQHCs with any technical assistance needs. In addition to the clients already served in New York City through state funding for Community Health Advocates, CSS has handled over 1,000 cases through Access Health NYC since 2016.

In the past three years, Access Health NYC has been awarded \$1 million to support the work of the five lead organizations and 13 CBOs. There are still, however, thousands of hard-to-reach immigrant, LGBTQ, and low-income populations in New York City who remain uninsured and disconnected from the healthcare system. In this time of federal uncertainty, it is important that New York City continues to lead the nation by ensuring access to coverage and care for its most vulnerable populations. Increasing funding for ACHNYC would be an important step to support these efforts. The additional funding would support more adequately current grantees and fund new organizations located in council districts that have similar needs but are currently underserved.

Recommendations

- (1) New York City should restore \$1 million funding for CHA (formerly NYC MCCAP) and leverage the infrastructure and expertise that CHA has developed for several years to ensure that consumers, especially the most vulnerable, have somewhere to go for help with their post-enrollment needs. City funding for CHA is necessary to recover the linguistic diversity that the network once had, and to ensure that these needed services are available to communities of color. This \$1million investment can become \$2 million by drawing down federal matching funds.
- (2) Expand the HHAP model to other New York City neighborhoods as a part of the City's efforts to achieve health equity. The place-based approach of HHAP has already proven valuable in serving the healthcare needs of NYCHA residents in a comprehensive way. Implementing this approach in a larger scale could be equally effective in reducing health inequities in other parts of the city with similar levels of chronic health and socioeconomic conditions.
- (3) Increase funding for Access Health NYC's to \$2.5 million to enhance the work of lead agencies to train, evaluate, and provide technical assistance/ guidance to current and new local CBO's as they engage in their efforts to reach and educate more vulnerable New York City residents about how to access healthcare and coverage. With the additional funding, CSS would be able to increase its capacity to provide post-enrollment assistance



services over the phone and to support community-based groups and City Council constituents.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony today. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at: 212.614.5353 or jpinzon@cssny.org.

TESTIMONY
New York City Council
Executive Finance Hearing
Committee on Finance
May 24, 2018

Submitted by
Michelle Jackson
Deputy Director & General Counsel
Human Services Council of New York

Introduction

Good afternoon, Chairperson Dromm, and good afternoon to the members of the New York City Council Finance Committee. My name is Michelle Jackson and I am the Deputy Director and General Counsel of the Human Services Council, a membership organization representing over 170 human services providers in New York City. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on the Fiscal Year 2019 Executive Budget. We deeply appreciate your continued leadership and partnership in addressing issues that affect the health and wellbeing of all New Yorkers.

About the Human Services Council of New York

HSC is a membership association representing New York's leading nonprofit human services organizations, including direct service providers and umbrella and advocacy groups. HSC strengthens New York's nonprofit human services sector, ensuring all New Yorkers, across diverse neighborhoods, cultures, and generations reach their full potential. Our members provide essential supports to a broad spectrum of New Yorkers, including children, the elderly, the homeless, people with disabilities, individuals who are incarcerated or otherwise involved in the justice system, immigrants, and individuals coping with substance abuse and other mental health and behavioral challenges. We serve our membership as a convener, a coordinating body, and an advocate. We are also an intermediary between the human services sector and government, fostering cross-sector collaboration. We help our members better serve their clients by addressing matters such as government procurement practices, disaster preparedness and recovery, government funding, and public policies that impact the sector.

State of the Human Services Sector

The nonprofit human service sector continues to play an essential role in the daily lives of millions of New Yorkers. These vital community services, ranging from homeless services, senior care, to employment training, assist approximately 2.5 million New Yorkers annually. Unfortunately, our sector has been historically underfunded, leaving many providers in dire financial situations. In fact, a recent report by SeaChange Partners found that 30 percent of human services community-based organizations (CBO) have cash reserves that cover less than one month of operating expenses. Additionally, more than 40 percent of human services CBOs lack liquidity to meet their short-term financial obligations. As leaders of the human services sector, we are witnesses to the continuing financial challenges facing providers each day.

New York is not alone in failing to fund essential services and organizations, but has an opportunity to lead an important change movement that will have lasting impact on the health and wellness of our communities.

- Nationally, on average, government contracts currently cover only about 70 percent of nonprofits' direct program expenses and less than half of all indirect expenses.

- Nearly one in eight human service nonprofits are technically insolvent, meaning that their liabilities exceed their assets.
- Three in 10 nonprofits have cash reserves that cover less than one month of expenses.
- Nearly half have a negative operating margin over a three-year period.¹

Most striking is that the U.S. spends three times more than other developed nations on health care, while spending significantly less than other countries on human services. Research shows that countries with "higher ratios of social to health care spending had better health outcomes one and two years later."² Countries that spend on human services are addressing the social determinants of health – housing, nutrition, education – so they in turn are spending less on emergency health services as well as the myriad of health issues created when people lack access to crucial support services. New York can be a leader nationally by spending appropriately on human services, improving wellbeing in our communities and driving down health care costs. To do so, we must also support the organizations essential in addressing the social determinants of health.

Investing in Wellbeing

Last year saw an important investment in human services provider organizations that hold City contracts. With your help, we secured \$300m of our \$500m ask to help nonprofit provider organizations cover the cost of delivering essential services to New Yorkers: 1) Funding in distinct areas for model budget processes aimed at better aligning costs. Areas receiving investment included preventive services (ACS), senior centers (DFTA), services for runaway and homeless youth (DYCD), homeless shelters (DSS-DHS), and adult protective services (DSS-HRA); 2) Cost-of-living adjustments for the human services workforce at a rate of two percent per year for the next three years, which is vital so that providers can recruit and retain qualified staff; and 3) New funding to bring indirect cost reimbursement rates to 10%, which allows providers to pay for crucial expenses including rent, maintenance, and technology.

In the upcoming year, there are two areas of human services nonprofit operations that need special attention:

- Include trend factor/cost escalation formulas in all new procurements for the duration of the contract;
- Provide \$200 million in additional baseline funding to address:
 - Implementation of the following allowable rates on all HHS contracts and all new procurements:
 - 15% for indirect costs
 - 37% for fringe benefits
 - Fund key operating expense increases in all HHS contracts and new procurements by the following rates:
 - 10% increase to occupancy costs
 - 10% increase to casualty and liability insurance

We want to thank the City Council again for their leadership this year in your response to the Mayor's Preliminary Budget to increase fringe rate reimbursement in City human services contracts up to 37%. This will help us cover the growing cost of employee health insurance, workers comp and other employee benefits. Lifting the cap on fringe rates in City human services contracts and aligning the rate to this industry standard will help us retain staff needed to meet the needs of the communities we serve. We also commend the Council for calling upon the Administration to review human services contracts and include provisions that allow providers to request funding increases of up to 10% for occupancy and insurance costs. This change will enable organizations to cover

rent increases and maintain sufficient insurance coverage to safely operate essential community programs that New Yorkers count on. Finally, we are grateful for your support for increasing the indirect rate up to 15%. This will allow human service organizations to cover the cost of compliance, good governance and other management activities mandated by the City. Unfortunately, the Mayor's Executive Budget does not contain investment in the sector in the areas of indirect, fringe, insurance, and occupancy.

Indirect Costs

Despite the notable achievements resulting from the Sustain Our Sanctuary Campaign, last year's Executive Budget did not completely address the prolonged underfunding of indirect costs in human services contracts. In order for contracted nonprofits to provide essential public needs such as homeless shelters and food pantries, their financial needs extend far beyond their ability to simply pay for direct programming costs. Nonprofit providers must also be able to pay their rent and other administrative costs to keep their organization open for business. These inadequate cost rates have contributed significantly to the destabilization of the sector and immediate investment in this area is urgently needed. HSC believes that all human service contracts must compensate indirect costs at rates that are reasonable, logical and consistent across the entire sector. We are suggesting funding parameters that set a floor of 15 percent for indirect in all human services contracts.

Furthermore, special attention must be placed around the issues of occupancy costs and casualty and liability insurance. Nonprofit organizations, like every other business, contend with rising costs that are often beyond their control. While provider rents and insurance costs have skyrocketed in the past decade, long-term City contracts have consistently failed to keep pace. As a result, reimbursement levels have struggled to meet the nonprofits' needs to cover necessary and legitimate costs. HSC is asking City Council for a 10 percent increase in the portions of human services contracts covering occupancy and casualty and liability insurance. Funding to address rising rent and insurance costs will demonstrate the City's continued concern for a fair and equitable system that delivers quality human services to the greater community.

Fringe Rates

In addition to rising indirect rates, human service providers report that the issue of fringe benefits such as employee health insurance and unemployment compensation remains one of the most significant barriers to long-term operational sustainability. As a result, many providers are forced to re-evaluate their ability to take on new RFPs as well as serious changes to existing contracts. HSC is asking for consideration of a 37 percent fringe rate in all human service contracts to reflect a generally accepted industry standard. This rate also mirrors the fringe rate used by the City for its own employees. By providing a reasonable fringe rate, the sector stands a fighting chance in attracting quality talent and convincing employees to stay. Those working on the front-lines in the human services sector often work with our community's most vulnerable citizens. For that reason, we as a community owe them the appropriate compensation that properly reflects their valuable work and contributions.

Human Services Advancement Strategy Group

We have created the Human Services Advancement Strategy Group (HSASG), a group of nine membership organizations representing 2000 human service provider organizations across the City to secure the programmatic, financial and operational resources needed to fully cover costs and meet the contractual obligations of provider organizations holding City HHS contracts.

Conclusion

In the months since the FY18 budget was adopted we have worked in coordination as a sector for the timely disbursement of funds and to identify funding gaps that continue to hamstring human service providers. Getting the allocated FY2018 funds out to us has been slow, and with the fiscal year drawing to a close, not having the amended contracts and accompanying funding creates real budget issues for us. Our organization supports the recommendation of the Human Services Advancement Strategy Group that calls for an immediate accounting of disbursements of the \$300 million for model budgets, COLA, and indirect that remains unspent in Fiscal Year 2018. We also ask the Mayor to provide an immediate remedy to the problem of processing delays in human services contracting by tasking the Mayor's Office of Contract Services and the design team at NYC Opportunity with a 30-day review of human services contract management processes and development of a mitigation plan. For the Fiscal Year 2019 budget we ask that the Mayor and City Council baseline and maintain the \$300 million initially appropriated in FY18 and add \$200 million in critical funding for the areas identified by Human Services Advancement Strategy Group - indirect, fringe, insurance and occupancy - to meet growing costs for providers delivering essential services to New Yorkers..

ⁱ *A National Imperative: Joining Forces to Strengthen Human Services in America*

<http://www.alliance1.org/web/resources/pubs/national-imperative-joining-forces-strengthen-human-services-america.aspx>

ⁱⁱ *Id.*

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TESTIMONY: UJA-FEDERATION OF NEW YORK

New York City Council

Committee on Finance, Executive Budget Hearing FY 2019

Honorable Daniel Dromm, Chair

Submitted by:
Faith Behum

UJA-Federation of New York

May 24, 2018

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Good afternoon Chairperson Dromm and members of the Committee on Finance. 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 New York City's most vulnerable residents.

Established more than 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.

UJA thanks 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 service workers across the city to provide critical services to New Yorkers in need. However, there remain a number of areas that are either unfunded or underfunded that challenge our nonprofit partners as they attempt to serve individuals and families across New York City.

UJA submits the following recommendations for the FY 2019 Adopted budget:

Supporting the Human Services Sector

The Human Services Advancement Strategy Group (HSASG), a group of nine membership organizations that includes UJA, represents 2,000 nonprofit human service provider organizations across the City. HSASG was created to advocate for and secure the programmatic, financial and operational resources needed to fully cover costs and meet the contractual obligations of nonprofit providers holding New York City health and human services contracts.

In the months since the FY18 budget was adopted, HSASG has worked to disburse funds and identify funding gaps that continue to plague human service providers.

UJA greatly appreciates the important investment made in City-contracted human services provider organizations in FY18. With the support of the City Council, \$300 million (of a \$500 million funding request) was included in the Adopted budget to help provider organizations cover the cost of delivering essential services to New Yorkers.

However, we echo the Council's concern in their response to the Mayor's FY19 Preliminary Budget that the contract rates paid to human service providers remain too low, in particular reimbursements for fringe benefits and occupancy and insurance costs. These are two areas of human service nonprofit operations that need special attention in FY19. We are suggesting funding parameters that set a floor of 15% for indirect costs in all human services contracts and are requesting a 10% increase in the portions of human services contracts covering occupancy and casualty and liability insurance to cover escalating costs in these areas. Additionally, the City uses an outdated formula to calculate employee fringe benefits. We are therefore asking for consideration of a 37% fringe rate in all human service contracts to reflect a generally accepted

industry standard and that, coincidentally, mirrors the fringe rate used by the City for its own employees.

UJA, as a member of the Human Services Advancement Strategy Group, respectfully requests that the Council continues to support the nonprofit sector and include \$200 million to address critical funding shortfalls in FY19.

Workforce Support

1) Use Career Pathways Blueprint as a Guide to Create a Stronger Workforce

This budget marks the fourth year of a five-year plan to transform the City's workforce development system. The goals of this transformation are to expand access to career-track jobs in fast-growing industry sectors, improve job quality and foster a more cohesive workforce. The Career Pathways model strives to ensure that individuals build skills employers seek, therefore expanding access to high quality jobs and achieving the goal of aligning both workforce and economic development initiatives. However, in order to realize these goals, significant increased economic investment is necessary. We urge the Council and the Administration to work together to resolve the shortfalls in this budget and create a stronger workforce using the Career Pathways blueprint as a guide.

Additionally, the Career Pathways blueprint called for an investment of \$60 million annually by Fiscal Year 2020 in bridge programs that prepare low-skill job seekers for entry-level work and middle-skill job training. The adopted budget for fiscal year 2018 includes only \$6.4 million in funding for these programs. Because of this minimal investment, many New Yorkers are left out of these important programs, including the immigrant populations that would benefit the most. Our agencies work with many immigrant families and communities, providing services to put these New Yorkers on a career trajectory and setting them up to be able to support themselves and their families. In order to be on track to meet this year's goal, the budget should include increased funding across City agencies for these programs.

2) Restore and Baseline the \$12 Million Investment for Community-Based Adult Literacy Programs

We greatly appreciate the commitment of the New York City Council and the Administration to investing in adult literacy programs in New York City, notably for the historic \$12 million investment in educational opportunities for immigrant New Yorkers, a commitment which was renewed for FY 2018. For the 2.2 million adults in New York City – one-third of the adult population – who lack English Language Proficiency, basic literacy skills, or a high school diploma, these programs are necessary tools in teaching these individuals how to read, write, obtain an equivalency diploma, and enter job training or post-secondary education programs.

However, the \$12 million investment in Adult Literacy programs was not included in this year's Executive Budget. If the funding is not restored, many English language learners will lose their classes. We urge the Administration to not only restore, but baseline, the \$12 million investment in community-based adult literacy programs.

By baselining the \$12 million investment, more immigrants will be able to access higher education programs as well as jobs and careers that will allow them to take care of themselves

and their families. Funding instability means that programs cannot hire full-time staff which results in the most qualified teachers leaving in favor of more stable employment.

Furthermore, single-year funding does not allow the Department of Youth and Community Development to update reimbursement rates and program design because it is not possible to issue a new procurement. Once funding is baselined, we urge the Administration to commit to a new procurement that adequately reflects the true costs of providing high quality, comprehensive adult literacy classes. Providers currently receive between \$850 and \$1,000 per student annually. However, when factoring in the cost of full-time instructors, preparation time and professional development, intake, testing, data entry, reporting, space costs, instructional materials and other indirect costs, the true cost per slot is much higher. By baselining funding and issuing a new procurement, community-based adult literacy providers will be able to more effectively serve their students.

Food Insecurity

The rates of poverty, food insecurity and hunger remain staggeringly high in New York City. According to the most recent U.S. Census data, the overall poverty rate in New York City is 20% and about 1.4 million people live in food insecure households, with one in five relying on food pantries and soup kitchens. It is essential that the City continue to make the fight against poverty, food insecurity and hunger a top priority in the Adopted budget by investing in crucial hunger assistance programs, as well as ensuring that New Yorkers have access to the benefits for which they qualify.

We submit the following recommendations:

1) Continue to Invest in Expanding the Anti-Hunger Safety Net

Many of our agencies work with their clients to help to enroll them in the benefits for which they are eligible. We know that the City administration and the City Council have taken steps to expand enrollment in programs such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program by identifying eligible New Yorkers using Medicaid data matching as well as allowing applicants to submit necessary documents using their smartphones and recertify for benefits over the phone.

We urge the continuation and expansion of efforts such as these so that more eligible individuals can enroll in this program.

2) Increase Funding for the Emergency Food Assistance Program (EFAP)

EFAP provides a vital supply of nutritious food to food pantries and soup kitchens across the City, including for many of our providers that host these services for their communities. Federal cuts to SNAP in 2013 decreased the amount of SNAP benefits that New Yorkers receive each month, resulting in increased reliance on EFAP to get adequate nutrition throughout the month. For families of three, the cut amounted to about \$29 a month.¹ Because of this increased reliance on EFAP, according to a report by the Food Bank for New York City, more than 75% of food pantries and soup kitchens saw increased visitor traffic and an increased number reported

¹ Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. *SNAP Benefits Will Be Cut for Nearly All Participants in November 2013*. August 2013. <https://www.cbpp.org/research/snap-benefits-will-be-cut-for-nearly-all-participants-in-november-2013>

experiencing food shortages in September 2017 compared to September 2013.² Additionally, many food pantries struggle to obtain an adequate food supply, especially proteins (meat, poultry and fish).³

Despite the need, the Executive budget failed to restore the \$7.2 million investment that was made in FY2018, which will result in reduced resources for the food pantries and soup kitchens serving the 1.4 million food insecure New Yorkers.

We urge the administration to not only restore this cut but also increase funding for EFAP to \$22 million to keep up with rising food costs and increased needs of New Yorkers throughout the City. This represents an additional \$13.8 million investment in these crucial services. We thank the City Council for their proactive support of this request.

3) Increase Access to Meals, Especially Kosher Meals

There are over 500,000 people living in poor or near-poor Jewish households in the greater metropolitan area. The high cost of a kosher meal – which on average is 30 % more expensive than a not-kosher meal – presents a unique challenge for many of our agencies in their work with clients who observe these dietary laws. SNAP recipients often exhaust their SNAP allotments by the last week of the month, but for those observing kosher dietary laws, benefits may run out much earlier in the month because of the increased cost of kosher food. In addition to expanding access to EFAP which will ensure that our agencies can better fill the gaps when their clients run out of SNAP benefits, **it is essential that the City invest resources in ensuring that food pantries are equipped with enough food to serve their clients, especially culturally competent foods, such as kosher and Halal foods.**

4) Increase the Reimbursement Rates for Home Delivered and Congregate Meals for Seniors

UJA's network of nonprofit partners provides vital food services and supports to all New Yorkers throughout the five boroughs. It is also through our partners that UJA is the largest provider of kosher food in New York City. As demonstrated by our Digital Choice Food Pantry System, UJA believes in the importance of food choice and access to culturally competent meals. Our Digital Choice Food Pantry System integrates access to kosher food with a central warehouse inventory system that allows clients to order food either at a pantry site, or from the convenience of their own home. Clients are able also to select a pick-up time for their food package, making the system work best for them.

While food insecurity rates among most New Yorkers have declined, rates among older adults have increased. Between 2014 and 2016, almost 200,000 seniors in New York experienced food insecurity, which is a 16.5% increase from 2013-2015 and represents 12.2% of seniors in New York City.⁴

² Food Bank for New York City. *Trade-Offs at the Dinner Table: The Impacts of Unwanted Compromises*. November 2017. https://www.foodbanknyc.org/wp-content/uploads/Trade-Offs-at-the-Dinner-Table_FB-Research-Brief_Nov2017.pdf

³ Food Bank for New York City. *Meeting NYC's Need: Bolstering the Emergency Food Network in 2017*. <http://www.foodbanknyc.org/wp-content/uploads/MeetingNYCsNeedNetworkBrief20172.pdf>

⁴ ⁴ Hunger Free America. *Working New York Still Hungry: New York City and State Hunger Report*. November 2017.

Adequate nutrition is necessary to ensure better resistance to illness and disease as well as increased mental capacity and overall health. As evidenced by the increasing rates of food insecurity among seniors and increased nutritional requirements, there is an immense need for access to nutritious and culturally appropriate meals for this population.

Beyond simple meal provision, home-delivered meals provide important social contact for those who are confined to their homes. Meal delivery can act as an access point for other important services, and helps older adults to age safely and in place. However, the high cost of a kosher meal presents a unique challenge for many of our agencies in their work with clients who observe these dietary laws. Providing culturally sensitive meal services for seniors is a priority for UJA, and we are particularly concerned about reimbursement rates for kosher home-delivered meals. The cost of kosher home-delivered meals is higher than the current DFTA reimbursement rate, and our agencies that provide these kosher meals to the elderly struggle to cover the higher costs. This also makes it difficult for service providers to meet the needs of the diverse senior communities throughout the City. Although increased investment in FY15 alleviated some of this burden, providers of kosher meals continue to feel strained.

UJA urges the City Council and the Administration to include rate increases that are adequately flexible and culturally competent for Congregate and Home Delivered Meals. We request an investment of \$7.6 million for Congregate Meals and \$4.5 million for Home Delivered Meals.

Supporting Older Adults

1) Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities (NORCs)

Classic NORCs and neighborhood NORCS are multi-age housing developments or neighborhoods that were not originally built for older adults, but now are home to a significant number of older individuals. These supportive service programs provide critical nursing services and promote health and stability among New York's seniors. NORCs provide services and resources that help enable low-middle income older New Yorkers to age in place and thrive in their communities.

DFTA contracts with 28 classic NORCs funded by a \$6.5 million baselined investment. The City Council invests \$3.85 million of discretionary funds to exclusively support 25 classic NORCs and neighborhood NORCs and ensure continuity of service in these communities.

NORCs play a crucial role in helping seniors to continue to live safely at home, allowing them to access supportive services and social programs and avoid hospital stays or costly moves to nursing homes. However, some programs struggle to cover the high cost of health and nursing care associated with the NORC supportive service model. Further, there are many parts of New York City that do not have a NORC program, despite having a high concentration of older adults.

UJA recommends that the City Council increase the NORC Initiative to \$5 million to support discretionary award enhancements, nursing services and/or new pilot programs in underserved parts of New York City.

2) Elie Weisel Holocaust Survivor Initiative

New York City is home to roughly 45,000 Holocaust survivors—almost half of the total population of survivors living in the United States. Approximately 40% of Holocaust survivors live at or below 150% of the national poverty line; many live month to month on meager assistance that does not cover the cost of food, heat, rent and medical expenses. Furthermore, as survivors grow older they require enhanced health and mental health care as the trials of their younger years show dire effects with age. It is crucial to provide specialized care and support services to this vulnerable population and enhance their quality of life to allow them to live out their remaining years with dignity.

UJA applauds the leadership of the City Council in its continued investment in New York City's Holocaust survivors. Many of our nonprofit partners have received initiative grants to provide specialized programming and comprehensive services for Holocaust survivors. The estimated average annual cost of care for one Holocaust survivor is \$3,000, excluding home care costs. Grants funded through the Elie Weisel Holocaust Survivor Initiative provide case management services, personal care and assistance, legal services and entitlement counseling, transportation services, end of life care and specialized caregiver supports. As we continue to care for this last generation of survivors, we ask that the City Council continue its compassionate support of this vulnerable population.

UJA respectfully requests that the City Council increase funding for the Elie Wiesel Holocaust Survivor Initiative and invest \$4 million in FY 2019.

3) Salary Parity Across DFTA Contracts

UJA appreciates the efforts of the City Council and Chairperson Chin for securing significant funding increases for DFTA and the human services sector in FY 18. Part of this funding is allocated to support the "model budget" process to right-size personnel and programming in DFTA senior center contracts.

With attention being giving to senior center staffing, UJA requests that the City Council further advocate to implement increases in salaries for all DFTA funded contracts. Salaries at NORC programs, caregiver programs, and other DFTA contracts remain significantly underfunded. Providers are left to wrestle with the inequity of paying different salaries to staff doing comparable work, and the inevitable recruitment, turnover, and morale problems that lowers service access and quality for New York's seniors. For some of our larger nonprofit partners, who provide services to seniors citywide, this cost has amounted to millions of dollars. Competitive salaries are needed in order to retain qualified staff, avoid turnover, and provide uninterrupted service to clients. With the aging population growing at an incredible rate, the City should recognize the need to attract skilled individuals, interested in the geriatric field.

Youth and Early Childhood Programs

1) Salary Parity Across Pre-K Contracts

UJA appreciates the efforts of the City Council specifically Council Members Cumbo and Treyger for recognizing and working towards a solution to end salary disparity between teachers in DOE and Community Based Organizations (CBO) UPK programs. Over 60% of the City's publicly funded early childhood programs are in CBOs working under contracts with the NYC

Department of Education and the NYC Administration for Children's Services. Without community based organizations providing prekindergarten programs, NYC's UPK program would be unable to reach as many children as it has. And yet, teachers, staff and directors at community based organizations earn significantly less than similarly qualified counterparts in the public schools.

The salary disparities are stark and grow over time. For example, a certified head teacher in a three year old classroom in a community based organization has a starting salary of \$46,920 while a certified teacher in a public school starts at \$61,894. After time, these disparities grow wider. With eight years of experience, a public school teacher's annual salary will have grown to slightly over \$81,042 while a teacher in a community based program will be earning just \$48,920. **UJA encourages the Administration, with support of the City Council, to end this unequal payment system and invest in the Pre-K workforce by establishing salary parity for teachers, staff, and directors between DOE schools and CBOs.**

2) Restore funding for COMPASS Elementary After-School Programs

Expanded capacity in middle school after-school programs has allowed 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 Executive Budget neglected to fund after-school slots for 9,000 children. **We urge the Administration with the support of the Council to restore and baseline \$16 million to maintain current levels of elementary after-school capacity.**

3) Ensure all elementary after-school programs are funded at the same rate

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 encourage an \$8.8 million investment, which will increase the rates for these programs and allow for all elementary after-school programs to be funded at the same rate.**

4) Restore funding for SONYC Summer Programs for Middle School Students

UJA would like to thank the Council for including funding for the Summer SONYC program in their FY19 Preliminary Budget response. Despite this, the Executive 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 Executive Budget delays 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 request \$20.35 million be restored for SONYC summer programs for 34,000 middle school students in FY 19.**

5) Restore, Baseline and Increase funding for the Work, Learn, and Grow program

UJA applauds the inclusion of \$20 million for the SYEP in the FY 19 Executive Budget that will be used to fund the minimum wage increase. This increase will allow 70,000 youth to be employed in the program in the summer of 2019.

The City Council-funded initiative Work, Learn and Grow (WLG) program provides opportunities for youth in the SYEP to continue in career readiness training and paid employment during the school year. **UJA recommends that the \$19 million investment of one-year funding for WLG in last year's Adopted Budget be restored, baselined, and increased to address the January 2018 minimum wage increase.**

Mental Health Initiatives

Our non-profit partners receive funding through a number of mental health initiatives including Autism Awareness, Geriatric Mental Health, Children Under Five, and Court Involved Youth Mental Health Initiatives. Using this money, our non-profit partners often provide services to individuals who are not eligible for state sponsored services. UJA submits the following recommendations for the FY 2019 budget that will allow our non-profit partners to continue to serve these vulnerable populations:

- 1) Increase funding for the Autism Awareness Initiative by \$800,000 funding it at \$4 million in FY 19.**

UJA thanks the Chair of the Mental Health, Disability and Substance Use committee Diana Ayala for her commitment towards expanding city sponsored services for people with disabilities. The Autism Awareness Initiative is an example of a current City Council Initiative that has an impact on individuals with autism living in NYC. Six of UJA's non-profit partners receive funding through the Autism Awareness Initiative. The funding each of them received ranged from \$50,000 to \$147,132 in FY 2018. The Autism Awareness Initiative funding allows our non-profit partners to provide wraparound services to autistic children in after-school and summer programs. It also supports trainings for parents, guardians and caregivers of children diagnosed with autism. Most importantly, these supports and trainings are offered to individuals with autism and their families who are not eligible for services through the Office of People with Developmental Disabilities. In many cases, this is one of the few supports these individuals and their families can access in the community.

The wraparound after school and summer programs provided by our non-profit partners generally focus on assisting participants to develop intellectually and socially. A program titled "Tech Kids Unlimited" teaches kids with autism how to design and edit video games while they learn how to collaborate with others and advocate for themselves. Another of our non-profit partners provides trainings to parents and caregivers of children with autism and helps them understand techniques they can use to support their child at home. This provider makes parent education and support available to vulnerable populations across the city including immigrant families and those dealing with a recent autism diagnosis. Our non-profit partners were grateful to the City Council for the funds that were restored for this Initiative in FY 18. Each has indicated that additional funds could be used to expand their programs and serve more individuals.

2) Increase funding for the Geriatric Mental Health Initiative (GMHI) by \$600,000 funding it at \$2.5 million in FY 19.

The GMHI supports organizations to provide individual and group counseling to older adults in non-clinical settings such as senior centers, Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities, and food pantries, while also supporting in-home services for homebound elderly. By offering these services in a non-clinical setting, providers are able to adapt services to the needs of the communities they serve without stigma.

One of our UJA non-profit partners uses GMHI funding to provide outreach services for homebound elderly, operate an outpatient mental health clinic, offer social work and psychiatric services at satellite clinics throughout Queens and provide transportation for those unable to take public transportation. This multi-faceted approach to mental healthcare allows our non-profit partner to connect older adults to mental health services and treatments they may not have been exposed to if this program did not exist.

Two of our non-profit partners receive funds through the GMHI and were grateful for its restoration in FY 18. Additional funding for this program in FY 19 would allow our non-profit partners to connect more older adults with the mental health services they need to live fulfilling lives in the community.

3) Increase funding for the Children Under Five Initiative (CU5) by \$1million funding it at \$2 million in FY 19.

The CU5 Initiative supports organizations that provide mental health services in clinics, early childhood classrooms, in the home, and in legal settings when families are involved with court proceedings. Through this Initiative, mental health services are provided to infants, toddlers and pre-school aged children and their families. Participants develop psychosocial and educational skills and learn techniques for how to deal with trauma that is the result of witnessing or experiencing domestic violence, sexual abuse, physical abuse, or mental abuse. Recipients of these funds provide screening and clinical evaluations, individual, small group and child-parent psychotherapy, consultations to pediatricians, preschool teachers and child welfare workers, and trauma-informed interventions. The CU5 Initiative providers develop and test interventions to find the most effective ways to treat this population and this information is replicated by mental health providers across the City.

One of UJA's non-profit partners receives funding through the CU5 Initiative. Additional funding for this Initiative would allow recipients to increase the number of children served and continue to develop treatments for this vulnerable population.

4) Increase funding for the Court Involved Youth and Mental Health Initiative by \$450,000 funding it at \$2.5 million in FY 19.

The Court-Involved Youth and Mental Health Initiative is a citywide initiative that assesses risk for mental health concerns and connects court-involved youth with non-profits who are familiar with city and state agencies. The initiative also provides family counseling and respite services to families of court-involved youth. These services are essential for preventing entry and re-entry into the juvenile justice system. At-risk youth often lack access to mental health services, family counseling, or other supports that will keep them from juvenile detention. This initiative addresses lack of access to these important interventions through best practices in support services and referrals.

One of UJA's non-profit partners receives funding through the Court-Involved Youth and Mental Health Initiative. Additional funding for this specific program would allow them to enhance the vocational services component of their program by offering internships to participants.

Conclusion:

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



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Testimony of Catherine Trapani, Executive Director, Homeless Services United, Inc. Before the NYC Council Committee on Finance May 24, 2018

Introduction

My name is Catherine Trapani, and I am the Executive Director of Homeless Services United (HSU). HSU is a coalition of approximately 50 non-profit agencies serving homeless and at-risk adults and families in New York City. HSU provides advocacy, information, and training to member agencies to expand their capacity to deliver high-quality services. HSU advocates for expansion of affordable housing and prevention services and for immediate access to safe, decent, emergency and transitional housing, outreach and drop-in services for homeless New Yorkers.

Homeless Service United's member agencies operate hundreds of programs including shelters, drop-in centers, food pantries, HomeBase, and outreach and prevention services. Each day, HSU member programs work with thousands of homeless families and individuals, preventing shelter entry whenever possible and working to end homelessness through counseling, social services, health care, legal services, and public benefits assistance, among many other supports.

Investments in Homeless Services

Faced with record high homelessness, the de Blasio administration has made important investments in homeless services. They have expanded street outreach programs and the HomeBase homeless prevention network, invested in housing subsidies for persons exiting or trying to avoid entering shelter, introduced mental health services into the family shelter system and have begun to replace poor quality cluster site shelters with purpose built, service rich shelters. In addition to these service expansions, the administration promised new investments in existing shelters for Fiscal Year 2018, vowing to adjust rates paid to shelter providers to finally reflect the true cost of responsibly operating shelter programs through a rate reform effort that came to be called "model budget implementation". Throughout the budget hearings, the administration has repeatedly touted such investments as a boon to the sector and proof of their commitment to investing in quality services to prevention and reduce homelessness. While we absolutely applaud the commitment, we need the Council to understand that **virtually none of those investments have been realized by nonprofits serving homeless New Yorkers.**

The last status report HSU received from DHS as to the status of the "model budget" showed that only 5 providers have completed negotiations to date. The result is that **despite an "on paper" investment of nearly \$200M committed to enhance shelter services last fiscal year, virtually none of that money has gone out the door to strengthen programming for homeless people.** Providers continue to struggle with inadequate budgets for maintenance, supplies, food, implementation of the higher minimum wage requirements, appropriate staffing levels and more.

The failure to implement much needed investments has harmed the sector. Now, the City has the opportunity to right this wrong in FY2019 by addressing implementation failures and, by supporting the infrastructure of the human services sector as a whole

FY18 Investments in the Human Services Sector

Last year saw an important investment in City contracted human services provider organizations. With the leadership and support of the City Council, we secured \$300m of our \$500m ask to help nonprofit provider organizations cover the cost of delivering essential services to New Yorkers, including: 1) Funding in distinct areas for model budget processes aimed at better aligning underfunded contracts to the true cost of services. Areas receiving investment included preventive services (ACS), senior centers (DFTA), services for runaway and homeless youth (DYCD), homeless shelters (DSS-DHS), and adult protective services (DSS-HRA); 2) Cost-of-living adjustments for the human services workforce at a rate of two percent per year for the next three years, which is vital to recruiting and retaining qualified staff; and 3) New funding to raise indirect cost reimbursement rates to 10%, to pay for crucial expenses including rent, maintenance, and technology.

For FY19, two key areas of human service nonprofit operations need additional support:

- 1. Include trend factor/cost escalation formulas in all new procurements for the duration of the contract;**
- 2. Provide \$200 million in additional baseline funding to address:**
 - Implementation of the following allowable rates on all HHS contracts and all new procurements:
 - o 15% for indirect costs
 - o 37% for fringe benefits
 - Key operating expense increases for all HHS contracts and new procurements at the following rates:
 - o 10% increase to occupancy costs
 - o 10% increase to casualty and liability insurance

It is critical to understand that **these cost categories are not part of the DHS model budget initiative and are not currently funded by the City**. We are therefore especially grateful to the City Council for their leadership this year in your response to the Mayor's Preliminary Budget to increase fringe rate reimbursement in City human services contracts up to 37%. This will help us cover the growing cost of employee health insurance, workers comp and other employee benefits. Lifting the cap on fringe rates in City human services contracts and aligning the rate to this industry standard will help us retain staff needed to meet the needs of the communities we serve. We also commend the Council for calling upon the Administration to review human services contracts and include provisions that allow providers to request funding increases of up to 10% for occupancy and insurance costs. This change will enable organizations to cover rent increases and maintain sufficient insurance coverage to safely operate essential community programs that New Yorkers count on. Finally, we are grateful for your support for increasing the indirect rate up to 15%. This will allow human service organizations to cover the cost of compliance, good governance and other management activities mandated by the City. Unfortunately, the Mayor's Executive Budget does not contain investment in the sector in the areas of indirect, fringe, insurance, and occupancy.

In the months since the FY18 budget was adopted we have worked in coordination as a sector for the timely disbursement of funds and to identify funding gaps that continue to hamstring human service providers. Getting the allocated FY2018 funds out to us has been slow, and with the fiscal year drawing to a close, not having the amended contracts and accompanying funding creates real budget issues for. **Homeless Services United supports the recommendation of the Human Services Advancement Strategy Group that calls for an immediate accounting of disbursements of the \$300 million for model budgets, COLA, and indirect that remains unspent in Fiscal Year 2018. We also call on the Mayor to provide an immediate remedy to the problem of processing**

delays in human services contracting by tasking the Mayor's Office of Contract Services and the design team at NYC Opportunity with a 30-day review of human services contract management processes and development of a mitigation plan. For the Fiscal Year 2019 budget we ask that the Mayor and City Council baseline and maintain the \$300 million initially appropriated in FY18 and add \$200 million in critical funding for the areas identified by Human Services Advancement Strategy Group - indirect, fringe, insurance and occupancy - to meet growing costs for providers delivering essential services to New Yorkers.

Additional Investments in Client Centered Services and Housing Solutions Are Necessary

It is important to understand that given the history of chronic underfunding of the Human Services Sector and the DHS shelter system more specifically, there is much ground to make up to get the system to a place where high quality, client centered shelter services are the norm, not the exception. As the Administration works to implement their "Turning the Tide" plan, it is our hope that mission driven nonprofit service providers will be empowered and resourced to lead the way with innovative program design.

But for the Council's own commitment to quality programs funded by initiatives like the Children and Families in NYC Homeless System and discretionary grants, these kinds of services would go without government support despite the clear need. I want to thank the Council for supporting this kind of work and request your continued investment in initiative funding until we are able to successfully scale programs and integrate best practices system-wide.

If we are to truly help the New Yorkers in housing crisis, our programs must be resourced and funded to help meet their needs. This means a reliable contracting process where we know how much funding we are working with and, a shift from a "one size fits all" mentality of shelter and re-housing of the past years. Shelters must be equipped with the funding and resources to deliver a diversity of services to match diversity of causes that lead the client's homelessness. This includes:

Children and Families in NYC Shelter Initiative

This City Council initiative, begun in FY16 and currently funded at \$1 million, gives five leading homeless services providers the opportunity to utilize a broad array of evidenced based practices solutions and expansive services to meet the diversity of needs of children and families in the New York City Shelter System.

For FY19, the initiative is seeking \$2,269,000 to expand capacity of services and begin to explore scaling them system-wide. Additional funding will be used to expand Evidence Based Practices (EBP) and Trauma Informed Care (TIC) services to additional shelters, provide TIC training for new staff and shelters, add site-based employment services, increase access to mental health services, expand data collection and analysis, and fund cost increases that occurred since the start of the initiative.

Medical Services

Some shelters for adults and families with children have medical clinics co-located with programs. This co-location model allows shelter residents to easily access care, lowering barriers to engagement with medical providers and making treatment for health issues, including opioid addiction more accessible to those most in need. Recently, DHS has tried to move away from this model suggesting that NYC Health + Hospitals (H+H) could increase capacity to take on this function. This move deprives clients with an option to receive care on-site and ignores the fact that H+H has no record of providing care of this kind to homeless clients while the

existing network of providers is already doing good work. **At a time when homeless deaths are on the rise, it is a mistake to move away from proven treatment models. Medical services should be a core component of shelter budgets.**

Employment & Education

Employment specialists and education and GED specialists provide a unique connection for our clients to see a permanent way out of homelessness. In FY11, as part of a PEG exercise, DHS (now DSS) removed employment specialist staff lines from shelter budgets. It was counterproductive and counter intuitive to cut the staff services that directly impact the likelihood that a client, who is able to work, will obtain a job that enables them to move from shelter. **Employment specialists need to be restored to shelter budgets; it was not included in the model budget.**

Recreation Services

Due to a FY10 PEG, we saw the final chipping away of critical recreation services for adults and families. Prior to entry into adult or family shelters, many clients have had few positive experiences with socializing and participating in a healthy community. Shelter recreation programs are a relatively low cost investment in homeless people that provide healthy socialization and communication skills that benefit clients in shelter and when they exit. **Recreation programs address cycles of violence and create safe forums for disclosure and exploration of alternatives to lives consumed by abuse, violence and shame. Despite recent investments in shelter, this funding was also not included in the model budget.**

Rental Assistance and Other Permanent Housing Programs

While not a part of shelter budgets, it cannot be overstated how essential viable pathways to permanent housing are to the success of shelter programs. HSU applauds the City's investment in creating subsidy programs like LINC, CityFEPS and SEPS to move people out of shelters and into permanent housing however, preliminary budget documents seem to show a decrease in funding allocated to rental assistance programs targeted to single adults even though rates of homelessness for this population remain at record highs. In addition, promises made over a year ago to streamline rental assistance programs to make them easier to navigate and market to landlords and to extend eligibility to homeless young people using the DYCD Runaway Homeless Youth shelter system remain unfulfilled and unfunded. While we've waited for this "streamlining" to take place, voucher levels have remained stagnant and are no longer competitive in the current market. As a result, families and individuals trying to find housing with a subsidy are at a competitive disadvantage, both in trying to find housing below market rate, as well as a landlord willing to put up with the inefficiently slow approval process with the City. **The City must deliver on the promise to "streamline" rental assistance programs and ensure that funding levels are robust enough to allow shelter residents to afford housing available on the market in NYC today.**

Supportive Housing is another critical resource for homeless people living in shelters and on the streets. The New York 15/15 initiative promises 15,000 supportive housing units to be created in 15 years. The first awards have been announced and progress is being made but, there are disparities in rates for scattered site and congregate housing models that could mean that residents of scattered site housing programs won't have access to the level of services necessary to remain stable and avoid a return to shelter. **Rates for these scatter site contracts must be adjusted to ensure that a sufficient number of units are produced with services available to meet the needs of those who will live in them.**

Housing financed by HPD also needs to be affordable to and set aside for homeless households. The Mayor's *Housing New York 2.0* plan commits to creating or preserving an ambitious 300,000 units of affordable housing. Unfortunately, just 15,000 or 5% of those units will be made available for homeless households. Furthermore,

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most of the 15,000 set-aside units will be preservation of existing occupied units and thus not available for move-in by homeless families currently living in shelters. HPD predicts no more than a few hundred units will be available for occupancy by homeless families each year through the life of the Housing New York 2.0 plan. This is unacceptable – **HSU is calling for an increase to the total number of housing units for homeless households under the Mayor's Housing New York 2.0 plan to 30,000, with 24,000 of these units financed and created as new construction.**

Finally, more needs to be done to **fully fund the capital backlog for NYCHA Public Housing** so that residents in NYCHA developments have access to high quality homes and to ensure that vacant units can be repaired and leased to families on the waiting list, including homeless households in need of a permanent home.

Thank you for your time and commitment to addressing the needs and concerns of homeless and at-risk New Yorkers and those who serve them. We are grateful for your support.



FOR THE RECORD

TESTIMONY
of
FPWA

Presented to:
New York City Council Committee on Finance
Daniel Dromm, Chair

Executive Budget Hearing

Thursday, May 24th, 2018

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My name is Edline Jacquet and I am the Director of Policy at FPWA, an anti-poverty policy and advocacy nonprofit with a membership network of about 170 human services and faith-based organizations. Thank you, Chairperson Dromm and members of the committee for the opportunity to testify here today.

FPWA is an anti-poverty policy and advocacy organization committed to economic opportunity and upward mobility. A prominent New York presence for nearly 100 years, FPWA has long served New York City's social service system, providing support grants to help low-income groups meet basic needs while advocating for fair public policies on behalf of people in need and the agencies that serve them. FPWA's member network of 170 human-service and faith-based organizations reaches some 1.5 million people in New York's underserved communities each year.

Build Workforce Development Initiatives to Support Economic Equity

With increasing economic disparity and stagnating wages nationwide, many low-income and immigrant New Yorkers struggle to find employment that affords opportunities for economic advancement. Minimum- and low-wage jobs do not provide these New Yorkers the income, growth opportunities, or stable, quality employment they need to achieve upward mobility. In addition, as New York declares itself a sanctuary in response to a climate of xenophobic rhetoric and action from the federal government, we must ensure that this city of immigrants remains a safe haven for all of our residents. Sanctuary should mean safety not just at home but also at the workplace. It is not enough to safeguard the most vulnerable immigrants in this city against deportation and inhumane targeting by federal immigration authorities, we must also insure that these communities continue to thrive and build prosperity.

This means that while the city increases its investment in legal services for immigrant communities, it should also make proportional investments in programs that connect all immigrants to services that allow them to achieve economic advancement. New York should lead the nation as a city that does not just tolerate diversity but embraces it, a place where immigrants of all creeds, colors, and ages are provided an opportunity to build lives free of fear and persecution.

There are two such programs that the City has created and that provide access to low-income communities to achieve economic advancement and security: worker cooperatives and the day laborer initiative.

Worker Cooperatives

Over one in five New Yorkers are trapped in poverty as a result of enduring economic barriers. Minimum and low-wage jobs do not provide these New Yorkers the income, growth opportunities, or stable, quality employment they would need to achieve upward

mobility. Worker cooperatives—small businesses owned and managed democratically by their employees—offer entrepreneurs control over their working conditions and the fruits of their labor by providing higher wages, more benefits and better job stability. Worker cooperatives root wealth in New York City by allowing worker-owners to build both individual and community assets, and they give discouraged workers the opportunity for greater economic mobility. Thanks to the City Council investment of over \$8 million over the past 3.5 fiscal years, we have achieved significant results in the following impact areas. The initiative has created over 80 worker-owned businesses as of today, effectively tripling the number of cooperatives in three years in addition to the creation of over 500 new, dignified jobs which compete with industry standards in terms of pay and conditions.

We urge the City Council to continue this positive momentum by enhancing the Worker Cooperative Business Development Initiative to \$3.95 million for FY 2019. This investment will have a positive impact on long-term unemployment as well as the growing numbers of underemployed individuals. This enhancement will provide for the start-up of 36 new worker cooperative small businesses with positions for 145 new worker-owners, assist already existing cooperatives, and provide outreach to 1,784 cooperative entrepreneurs to grow the coop support network in NYC.

Day Laborer Initiative

As members of the city's informal workforce, day laborers experience rampant wage theft, pervasive construction accidents, workforce hazards, lack of access to workforce development training and lack of infrastructure. We ask that New York City commit to support the expansion and development of Day Laborer Centers across the five boroughs. Consequently, these centers will provide job placement and workforce development services to these neediest of workers. The Day Laborer Workforce Initiative, through the existing day laborer centers in Brooklyn, Queens and Staten Island and the development of new centers, supports five services: 1) Job Referral, 2) Wage Theft Legal Clinics 3) Know Your Rights Trainings 4) Referral Services to Critical Services 5) Workplace Development.

FPWA urges the City Council to invest \$2.23 million in the Day Laborer Workforce Initiative in FY19. The Day Laborer Workforce Initiative supports the expansion and development of Day Laborer Centers across the five boroughs. There are five main day laborer centers in New York City: Bay Parkway Community Job Center & Domestic Worker Community Job center in Brooklyn (operated by Worker's Justice Project), NICE Worker's Center in Queens (operated by New Immigrant Community Empowerment), NMCIR Worker's Center in Northern Manhattan (operated by Northern Manhattan Coalition for Immigrant Rights), and Staten Island Community Job Center (operated by La Colmena). This effort will support the expansion of these four centers while creating one new center in the Bronx in FY19 (operated by Catholic Charities), which will provide dignified, physical space for day laborers, and provide support through job referrals, wage theft legal clinics, referral to critical services, and workforce development. Over the first two and a half years of the initiative close to 3,000

jobs have been dispatched through the day labor centers and thousands of workers have been trained on their legal rights, wage theft, worker safety, and occupational skills.

Ensure All New Yorkers Have Access to Health Care

Access Health NYC

Access Health NYC has made steady progress in meeting some of the urgent need for immigrant groups to conduct outreach and education on health access for their communities. Based on speaking to just ten out of the thirteen organizations, over the last three years, Access Health awardees have conducted over 800 health access workshops across the five boroughs to over ten thousand individuals. In addition, they have made nearly 10,000 referrals to social services such as navigators, Health and Hospitals Corporation, SNAP providers, community health centers, and more. These are culturally responsive, linguistically appropriate providers who have the trust and respect of their communities – and thanks to Access Health NYC, they also have the capacity to provide the outreach and education that truly helps New Yorkers live healthy and whole lives.

Access Health is a unique initiative – there is no city service funded to provide health outreach to New Yorkers. Given the continuing threats to health equity and access imposed on immigrants, LGBTQ, low income, and otherwise vulnerable populations, we believe enhancing the initiative and increasing the number of organizations receiving Access Health funding is crucial for New York's public health. We are grateful for the Council's past commitment of \$1 million and request an enhancement to \$2.5 million to ensure that community-based organizations have the resources, training, and capacity to connect New Yorkers to the care they deserve.

Tuberculosis Control Funding

Despite being both preventable and curable, tuberculosis rates are rising in New York for the first time in more than 25 years. There has also been an increase in drug-resistant tuberculosis cases. These cases are much more difficult and expensive to treat, with the average case of drug-resistant TB costing close to \$300,000. This TB resurgence is directly connected to the years of underinvestment in New York's tuberculosis control services. This increase in tuberculosis disproportionately affects our most vulnerable: immigrants, people living with weakened immune systems, and people living in crowded environments. Continued rates of tuberculosis also have a direct connection to continuing the HIV epidemic – the CDC reports that, globally, TB is one of the leading causes of death among people living with HIV. Thus, tuberculosis services can help in the goal of ending the AIDS epidemic in New York State by the end of 2020. New York has a responsibility to all its citizens to fight this resurgence – we cannot afford to leave our communities to suffer and our public health to falter.

While in recent years, the city has kept TB funding steady, a history of cuts since 2007 have reduced New York City's TB funding from \$16.43 million (adjusted for inflation) to just \$8.59 million. When factoring in ongoing reductions at the federal and state levels, total funding for the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (NYC DOHMH) Bureau of TB Control has been reduced by half over the last decade. To help close this funding gap, we request a \$6.3 million increase to the NYC DOHMH's Bureau of Tuberculosis Control, bringing it to \$14.89 million next month. New York City's TB program is a national leader in the prevention, detection, and treatment of tuberculosis. We need to give it the funding and capacity to do this job the right way.

Rebuilding the Safety Net for Older New Yorkers

Solvency for Senior Services

FPWA envisions New York City as a place where we can all safely remain in our homes and continue to contribute to the diverse social and economic fabric of our communities as we age. To do so, many of us will eventually rely on a solid network of community-based services such as senior centers, transportation, home-delivered meals, homecare, and respite for our caregivers.

The number of older New Yorkers has grown rapidly since the mid-2000s, and by 2030 one in five New Yorkers will be 60 and older. Yet, over the years there's been no plan to prepare for this demographic shift and the wider-ranging needs that come with a longer lifespan. Instead, DFTA's budget endured stagnation and cuts, stifling much needed growth and service improvements. But last year, thanks to the strong support of the City Council, the tide started to turn. We are so grateful to the Council and the Administration for clearly demonstrating their commitment to older adults by securing an investment of nearly \$23 million in baselined funding for senior services in FY18, including: \$10M for a model budget for senior centers, \$6.5 million to address the homecare waitlist, \$1.2 million to address the case management waitlist, \$1.2 million for weekend meals, and \$4 million for a new caregiver support program.

Working in coalition with other aging advocates, we've developed a 5-year plan to address current service gaps in the sector and build an infrastructure to meet the increasing needs that we are already seeing. We ask that the City commit to fully funding services for older adults with initial investment of \$60.6 million in FY18: \$15.7 million to baseline discretionary funding for core services and \$44.9 million to fill the gaps in current programs. We now ask that the Council fight to further stabilize funding, not only to meet current needs but also to shore up the City's safety net infrastructure for older adults, which is threatened by proposed federal cuts. According to our analysis, Trump's budget proposal cuts DFTA's federal funding by nearly \$27 million—more than a third of the agency's federal funding in FY18, or 7.2 percent of its \$372 million budget. DFTA relies on more than a dozen federal grants, several

of which are eliminated entirely in the budget proposal. These cuts are in addition to the decimation of direct federal assistance, such as housing, food assistance, and healthcare. Especially now, under this threat to the existing safety net for older adults, a continued, city-led investment in a long-term plan to build this service infrastructure is the right way forward.

In FY19, we encourage the Council to seek an investment of \$22.1 to build up the safety net for older New Yorkers, and push for an expedited process to implement the funding committed by the administration for the model budget for senior centers.

Last year, FPWA worked with other advocates for older adults to determine what the service gaps in the sector were and how we could build an infrastructure capable of supporting the increasing needs we are already seeing. We proposed an investment of \$132.8 million over five years to address current needs and develop an upgraded and expanded infrastructure for each of DFTA's core services: senior centers, homecare, congregate meals, home-delivered meals, case management, social adult day services, NORCs, caregiver programs, transportation, and elder abuse prevention. The Council stood with us, declaring it the Year of the Senior, and demanding that older New Yorkers be included in the city's vision for equal opportunity.

We are grateful for the Council's support and the city's strong commitment to improving senior services in FY18 with \$22.89 million in baselined funding and ask that, in year two of our five-year plan, the administration continue to make progressive improvements to the network of services. In FY19, we ask for an allocation of \$22.1 million for services that help keep older New Yorkers in their communities (see chart below).

DFTA Core Service	Description	FY19 New Needs
Congregate Meals	Increase reimbursement rate by \$1.00 and ensure cultural competency and flexibility	\$7,600,000
DFTA-run NYCHA Senior Centers and social clubs	Facilities improvements and supports for nearly 100 centers and social clubs located within NYCHA developments	\$5,000,000
Home-Delivered Meals	Increase reimbursement rate by \$1.00 and ensure cultural competency and flexibility	\$4,500,000
Case Management	Address waitlists and growing demand	\$2,000,000
Homecare	Address waitlists and growing demand	\$1,000,000
Transportation	Increase transportation support	\$1,000,000
Elder Abuse Prevention	Increase prevention and awareness	\$500,000

Caregiver Supports	Continue outreach and expand services	\$500,000
	TOTAL	\$22,100,000

Of particular importance this year is funding for both congregate and home-delivered meals, neither of which have received increases in several years. Current reimbursement rates are below the national average, according to DFTA. And while culturally appropriate meals such as kosher and halal are mandated by DFTA, they are more expensive, resulting in a deficit to nonprofits that provide them. Therefore, we request that per-meal reimbursements be increased by \$1.00, at a total cost of \$12.1 million in FY19.

There are nearly 100 DFTA-funded senior centers and social clubs located within NYCHA developments. Most of these centers are in dire need of support and stability in order to adequately serve older adults. These programs have unique needs for facility improvements given the long-standing federal disinvestment in Public Housing that has now created a capital backlog. While these centers and social clubs will receive some funding for staff and programming through the model budget process, facilities and OTPS costs are not included. In order to make these centers safe, inviting spaces, we request \$10 million over two years: \$5 million in FY19 and \$5 million in FY20.

There are over 1,100 seniors on case management waitlists across the city and over 200 on waitlists for homecare. The investments made in FY18 have begun to address the waitlists, but the need continues to grow, along with the population of older adults. Additional funding is needed to ensure that caseloads don't go higher than 65, per DFTA mandates. We request \$2 million to ensure that services keep pace with the ever-increasing demand.

Funding is also needed to serve frail, homebound seniors waiting for a social worker to be available to visit them at home, assess their needs, and provide ongoing services. Therefore, we request \$1,000,000 to address the current homecare waitlists.

Funding for transportation services has been stagnant for many years. Vans take older adults to programs and cultural or recreational trips, to run errands like food shopping, and even to medical appointments. Reliable, accessible transportation is the cornerstone of remaining independent as we age. Therefore, we request \$1,000,000 for increased transportation services provided by nonprofit service organizations.

DFTA's Elder Abuse prevention services are a critical resource to address this crisis, in which only one out of every 24 cases is reported. We request \$500,000 to increase outreach and awareness of these services.

Access to affordable elder care and support for caregivers are the workforce issues of the 21st century. Caregivers statewide provide \$32 billion of free care to loved ones. We request \$500,000 for caregiver supports to continue outreach & expand services, including support groups and respite.

Model Budget for Senior Centers

As part of FY18's historic increase in funding for senior services, the Administration committed to creating a model budget for senior centers. We thank DFTA, OMB, and the Administration for their work over the past year to finalize the details of this model budget. The process has culminated in a determination that, to bring equity into funding for senior centers, an additional investment of \$10 million dollars (beyond the \$10 million allocated in FY18) would be necessary. The city has committed to providing this funding, to be fully implemented by FY21.

This is an important investment focusing on direct staff and programming, and we are very pleased that DFTA has committed to working with each provider individually as they work to amend contracts. However, this is no small feat, and we urge the administration to ensure that there is enough capacity at DFTA to process these amendments promptly

Moreover, FPWA requests that the Council push to expedite the implementation of the full \$20,000,000 in funding by FY20, rather than the proposed FY21. This funding will have a hugely positive impact on the operations of these programs. As stated, this funding applies only to personnel and programming, but there are many other upgrades and expansions of the senior center network that are necessary to meet the needs of older adults across the city, especially in new immigrant communities. We urge the Council to prioritize the implementation of this funding so that we can attend to these other needs such as meals, rent, OTPS and other associated costs.

Human Service & Nonprofit Sector Investments

Human Services Advancement Strategy Group

Human services providers that contract with the city to provide essential services are struggling with underfunded contracts that fail to keep up with the rising costs of doing business and provide inadequate wages and support for the workforce. Just as the city has increasingly become an expensive place to live, it has also become an increasingly expensive place to do business, especially for human services organizations, whose business is caring for people. Without the ability to raise prices on services, and without increases in government funding, nonprofits have been significantly weakened-- from a chronically underpaid and under-resourced workforce, to rising costs for rent, insurance and other expenses, to underfunding of overhead and indirect expenses, and insufficient funding to deliver programs that meet the needs in communities. These challenges play off and exacerbate one another, making service delivery increasingly difficult.

To better address these critical needs, a group of nine membership organizations representing 2000 human service provider organizations across the City, including FPWA, partnered together and created the Human Services Advancement Strategy Group

(HSASG), to secure the programmatic, financial and operational resources needed to fully cover costs and meet the contractual obligations of provider organizations holding City HHS contracts. Last year saw an important investment in human services provider organizations that hold City contracts. With your help, we secured \$300m of our \$500m ask to help nonprofit provider organizations cover the cost of delivering essential services to New Yorkers.

There are two areas of human service nonprofit operations that need special attention in FY19 – costs associated with indirect rates and fringe and escalating occupancy and insurance costs. We are suggesting funding parameters that set a floor of 15% for indirect in all human services contracts and are requesting a 10% increase in the portions of human services contracts covering occupancy and casualty and liability insurance to cover escalating costs in these areas. Additionally, the City uses an outdated formula for calculating employee fringe benefits. We are also asking for consideration of a 37% fringe rate in all human service contracts to reflect a generally accepted industry standard and that, coincidentally mirrors the fringe rate used by the City for its own employees.

In the months since the FY18 budget was adopted we've worked to insure timely disbursement of funds and to identify funding gaps that continue to hamstring human service providers. Getting these funds out to the human services provider community has been slow. ACS, DYCD and DFTA have made the most progress getting funds out the door to providers. As a member of HSASG, FPWA, respectfully requests that the New York City Council include in its Response a \$200 million dollar ask for FY19 to address these critical funding shortfalls.

Human Services Budget

FPWA is very concerned about some pressing needs that have not been sufficiently addressed in the budget. These issues affect some of the most vulnerable New Yorkers.

Afterschool and Summer Programs

Afterschool and summer programs provide quality youth development opportunities to school-age children and youth. These programs offer a broad range of educational, recreational and culturally age-appropriate activities that integrate school day experiences. Summer programs prevent summer learning loss while enabling working parents to go to work each day. The Preliminary budget once again cuts the 20.35 million needed to ensure that children enrolled in afterschool programs have a safe and developmentally stimulating place to be while their parents are at work in July and August.

To maintain the strength of these programs, the following must be funded in Fiscal Year 2019:

- Restore and baseline the \$20.35 million for at least 34,000 middle school children afterschool summer program slots (FY'18 budget included a one-year restoration of

\$15 million for 22,800 children). the \$15.0 million added in the Preliminary Budget for summer programs for 22,800 middle school students.

- Invest \$15.6 million for Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) minimum wage increase in FY'18 plus additional funding needed for FY'19 minimum wage increase.
- Restore \$16 million for COMPASS elementary afterschool programs.
- Restore \$11 million for the Year-Round Youth Employment Program- the Council also funded the program with an additional \$8 million for a total of \$19 million in FY'18.

Early Childhood Education/Child Care

Mayor de Blasio's Executive Budget maintains his commitment to pre-kindergarten for four-year olds and includes, through additional investments in FY'20, \$38.28 million to expedite implementation of 3K for three-year olds.

While FPWA supports these efforts to increase the quality of early care and childhood education in New York City, we also advocate for the following restorations:

- \$9.85 million for discretionary child care programs
- \$4.25 million for the City's First Readers Initiative through DYCD
- \$2.25 million for community schools
- \$1.58 million for Dropout Prevention and Intervention Initiative
- \$3.89 million for Educational Programs for Students

Conclusion

We thank the Finance Committee for the opportunity to testify. We hope that you consider our budget priorities and recommendations during this year's negotiation process and encourage you to reach to us with any questions you may have. We look forward to working closely with you to ensure that New Yorkers and their families receive sufficient services needed for them to live and thrive in the City and to create shared prosperity for all New Yorkers.



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**FY2019 BUDGET HEARING TESTIMONY
CITYWIDE YOUTH SEXUAL ASSAULT CAMPAIGN**

My name is Saswati Sarkar. I am the Director of Program Administration & Finance at the New York City Alliance Against Sexual Assault (hereafter, the Alliance). I am here to testify on our funding request of \$87,500 for the Alliance's upcoming phase of Project Dream, Own Tell (Project DOT). This funding is part of the Young Women's Initiative. The funds will support an afterschool girl's leadership program that engages youth from traditionally underserved communities including Arab, Black, and LGBTQ youth communities as well as disenfranchised youth living in supportive housing, shelter and foster care system. The proposed leadership program, called Project DOT will engage young women of color from these communities in an 8-12 session curriculum-based community mobilization initiative using a healthy relationship and sexual violence prevention framework. The leadership program will culminate with a month-long leadership practicum where young leaders will go into their communities and participate in a range of community organizing activities to engage local businesses, families and other youth in sexual violence prevention. Social media strategies will also be utilized. The Alliance partners with community-based organizations to design and co-facilitate the curriculum in a manner that respects the participants' community-value and strengths. The Alliance is also partnering with a communications team to help guide recommendations from youth and strategies for messaging in the social media and community mobilization activities. The Alliance is very grateful for the Speaker's strong leadership in lifting voices of young girls of color as well as those from the LGBTQ community.

In FY18 the Alliance received \$87,500 from the Young Women's Initiative to launch Project DOT, in the Black, Southeast and East Asian communities. Through this initiative we were so far able to reach over 420,000 youth and community members via social media and through mobilization activities; resulting in the program being featured in WNYC, New York public radio over four segments during a ten-day period. Another 40 youth were engaged in an evidence-informed sexual violence prevention curriculum through this initiative. In fact two youth leaders from the first phase recounted their experience in a public forum stating: "Youth

voices are constantly put down based on the assumption that youth have nothing important to say. It's wrong... Youth are the ones being impacted... Our voice is valued in the media campaign. It is empowering to be taken seriously." Another student noted, "The media campaign will speak powerfully to youth. We will take on the hard issues and have honest conversations about sexual violence".

The campaign fits into an overall Alliance strategy to overcome the disparities in access to sexual assault information and services in NYC. Sexual violence among NYC youth is a serious human rights and public health concern. There is increasing evidence that sexual assault has a disparate impact on NYC's most vulnerable populations and neighborhoods. In fact, young women of color and LGBTQI youth experience sexual violence at a higher rate. Increased vulnerability to reoccurring sexual assault based on immigration status has also been noted in a study in the *Violence Against Women* journal. Despite increased incident of rape in many communities of color (according to a 2010 CDC survey), a confluence of factors results in fewer services in these communities. These factors include underreporting for fear of deportation or the repercussions of bringing law enforcement's attention to the community, concentration of communities of color in underserved outer-boroughs and taboos regarding the issue.

Project DOT aims to see the following outcomes among the youth participants in the program:

- Change social norms of violence acceptance and victim blaming,
- Increased active bystander behavior, and
- Increase in parent and community engagement in educating youth about healthy relationship and sexual violence prevention.

Project DOT and the vulnerable youth from these communities would greatly benefit from the support of the City Council and the Committee of Youth Services. This funding will allow the Alliance to engage young women and girls from NYC'S historically underserved communities in sexual violence prevention that may not often be the recipient of prevention programs. The Alliance in partnership with the community partners and their allies will recruit 8-10 youth from each community to serve as a youth advisory board. These youth will learn about how to vocalize and challenge the mechanisms of power and control that create a vicious cycle of violence in their lives; identify the social norms behind the sexual violence that they and their peers experience; and discuss ways to reduce sexual violence by inspiring activism, pro-social bystander behaviors and healthy social norms within their communities. These programs will culminate in a youth-led community mobilization project and a social media campaign, impacting and inspiring an estimated 10,000 people from each community. We hope that you would consider allocating the requested funding that will provide youth to participate in a movement that aims to prevent sexual violence in our city.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

FOR THE RECORD

ON

**FUNDING REQUEST FOR THE
STABILIZING NYC INITIATIVE:
FIGHTING PREDATORY EQUITY AND
TENANT HARASSMENT**

PRESENTED BEFORE:

THE NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL
FINANCE COMMITTEE
EXECUTIVE BUDGET HEARING

PRESENTED BY:

Jackie Del Valle
Stabilizing NYC Coordinator
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
On behalf of the
STABILIZING NYC COALITION

May 14, 2018

Good afternoon. My name is Jackie Del Valle and I am Stabilizing NYC Coordinator at the Community Development Project of the Urban Justice Center. I am testifying today on behalf of Stabilizing NYC, a citywide coalition working together to fight the depletion of affordable housing in NYC at the hands of predatory equity landlords. I am here to discuss the funding for our citywide initiative for FY19. Thank you for the opportunity to testify this afternoon.

Our coalition is currently made up of sixteen community-based organizations, a legal services provider and a housing advocacy organization —the Community Development Project at the Urban Justice Center, UHAB, Asian Americans for Equality, Catholic Migration Services, CAAAV, Chhaya CDC, Community Action for Safe Apartments at New Settlement Apartments, the Cooper Square Committee, Fifth Avenue Committee/Neighbors Helping Neighbors, Flatbush Tenant Coalition, GOLES, Housing Conservation Coordinators, Impacct Brooklyn, Mothers on the Move at the Mary Mitchell Center, Northwest Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition, St. Nick's Alliance, and Woodside on the Move. Our work combines legal, advocacy and organizing resources into a citywide network to help tenants take their predatory equity landlords to task for patchwork repairs, bogus eviction cases, unfair and illegal rent increases and affirmative harassment.

The City Council has generously allocated to our coalition for the past four years. In FY15 we first received \$1 million dollars and in FY18 we received \$2.5 million dollars. We are deeply grateful for the council's support. The funding is a critical investment in the community groups that make up the coalition and proves that this council believes in the power and the necessity of grassroots organizing to empower tenants and protect affordable housing in the threat of predatory investment and speculation.

Some of our accomplishments of the past year have included: Working the Council Member Ritchie Torres to pass Intro 1210 which will require HPD to create a "Speculation Watch list" to help target organizing & outreach efforts by tracking speculative purchases; and surveying over 800 tenants and holding 10 focus groups to create "The Predatory Equity Story: Tenant Perspectives on Speculative Landlords, Displacement and Fighting for Justice," a comprehensive report on the lived experience on tenants living in buildings owned by speculative landlords.

We have held over 600 Tenant Association Meetings, with over 300 tenants actively participating; we developed campaigns for 10 different coalitions of tenants from across predatory equity portfolios; we have won countless repairs in housing court and challenged dozens and dozens of MCIs; and we have launched a city-wide tenants union!

We are also holding a press conference on June 1 to on the City Hall steps to announce our campaign targets for the upcoming year and are working with the Council on legislation to curb predatory equity and to hold the lenders accountable.

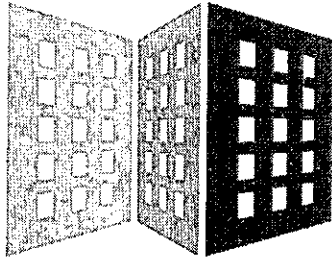
As you can hear, the 18 coalition members have worked tirelessly since being awarded the funds and have made great strides this year. We have continued to do this work despite the fact we have yet to see the FY18 money and some groups, including my organization, have not gotten the FY17 money.

Since Stabilizing NYC's inception in 2013 we have continued to grow and strengthen. In the four past years we have grown from 12 to 16 grassroots organizations – in order to reach additional neighborhoods and council districts. And we continue set ambitious new goals for the coming year to take our work to the next level. **That is why we are requesting \$3 million in Council funding for our FY19 citywide initiative.**

You are all well aware of the impact that predatory equity has on affordable housing in your districts and throughout the city, and we are grateful for your tireless advocacy and support. Our coalition seeks not only to serve tenants, but to mobilize them and build up leaders who will preserve affordable housing for generations to come. We humbly ask you to consider our request for \$3 million in initiative funding in the coming year. We look forward to working with you to defend and preserve one of our city's greatest assets.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to testify.

STABILIZING NYC



STABILIZING NYC

FY 2019 INITIATIVE FUNDING REQUEST: FIGHTING PREDATORY EQUITY AND TENANT HARASSMENT

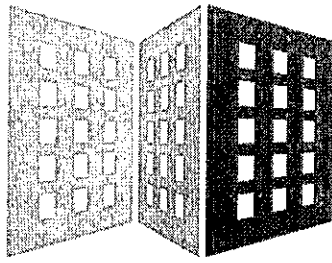
Stabilizing NYC requests **\$3,000,000** in initiative funding for the fifth year of its highly successful program to combat the loss of affordable housing at the hands of predatory equity companies, and defend low-income tenants in predatory equity buildings from harassment and eviction.

Purpose of Funding Request: **Preserving Affordable Housing in Low-Income NYC Communities**

Stabilizing NYC is a coalition comprised of a legal service provider, a housing advocacy organization, and sixteen grassroots organizations who have come together to combat tenant harassment and preserve affordable housing for the New Yorkers who need it most. Last year, the Council generously awarded us \$2.5 million to continue our work. This year, we are seeking an increase to expand and deepen our reach. This year we are also launching a city-wide tenant union of predatory equity tenants. Our work combines legal, advocacy and organizing resources into a citywide network to help tenants take their predatory equity landlords to task for patchwork repairs, bogus eviction cases, and affirmative harassment. We also work closely with CAPE, the city council-led Coalition Against Predatory Equity, to develop legislative solutions to the problems posed by the predatory equity model.

Stabilizing NYC members include:

- Manhattan:** CAAAV: Organizing Asian Communities ● Cooper Square Committee ●
Good Old Lower East Side (GOLES) ● Housing Conservation Coordinators ●
Urban Homesteading Assistance Board (UHAB) ●
Community Development Project at the Urban Justice Center
- Bronx:** Community Action for Safe Apartments (CASA) – New Settlement Apartments ●
Mothers on the Move ● Northwest Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition ●
Banana Kelly Community Improvement Association, Inc.
- Brooklyn:** 5th Avenue Committee/Neighbors Helping Neighbors ●
Flatbush Tenant Coalition ● IMPACCT ● St. Nicks Alliance
- Queens:** Asian Americans for Equality (AAFE) ● Catholic Migration Services ●
Chhaya CDC ● Woodside on the Move



STABILIZING NYC

Our accomplishments over the past year:

Tenant Organizing

- ❖ Held 600 Tenants' Association meetings, with over 300 tenants actively participating.
- ❖ Developed campaigns for 10 different coalitions of tenants from across a Predatory Equity portfolio, targeting the worst PE landlords
- ❖ We have organized Low English Proficiency tenants in 16 different languages including Mandarin, Cantonese, Taiwanese, Korean, Bangla, Urdu, Hindi, Punjabi, Polish, Haitian Creole, Spanish, French, Portuguese, and Arabic
- ❖ Conducted a dozen tenants' rights workshops to educate tenants and leaders
- ❖ Organized and hosted the inaugural meeting of a Citywide Tenant Union of tenants in over 40 Predatory Equity buildings

Data and Policy work

- ❖ Worked with Councilmember Ritchie Torres to pass Intro 1210, which will require HPD to create a "Speculation Watchlist" to help target organizing and outreach efforts
- ❖ Maintained a database of predatory equity landlords citywide, including over 1500 properties organized by owner and borough, and developed a database of the 900 buildings owned by target PE landlords
- ❖ Surveyed over 800 tenants and held 10 focus groups to create "The Predatory Equity Story: Tenant Perspectives on Speculative Landlords, Displacement, and Fighting for Justice," a comprehensive report on the lived experiences of tenants in buildings owned by speculative landlords.

Legal Assistance

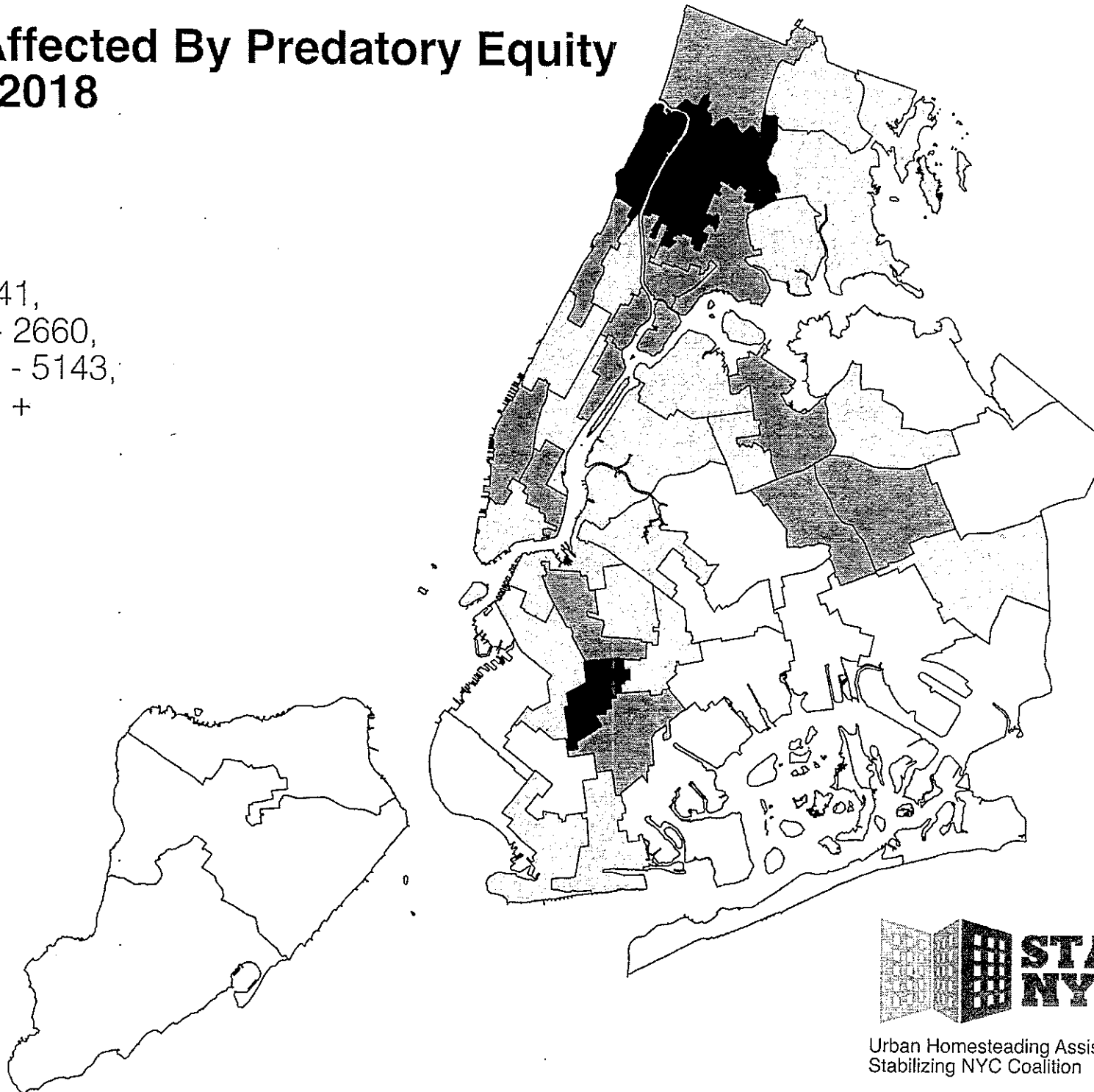
- ❖ Counseled hundreds of tenants on landlord-tenant issues, and represented over 200 tenants in litigation against abusive landlords
- ❖ Made hundreds of referrals to tenants for legal and social services

Units Affected By Predatory Equity March 2018

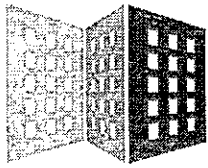
Legend

Count

- 0 - 941,
- 941 - 2660,
- ▨ 2660 - 5143,
- 5143 +



Urban Homesteading Assistance Board for the
Stabilizing NYC Coalition



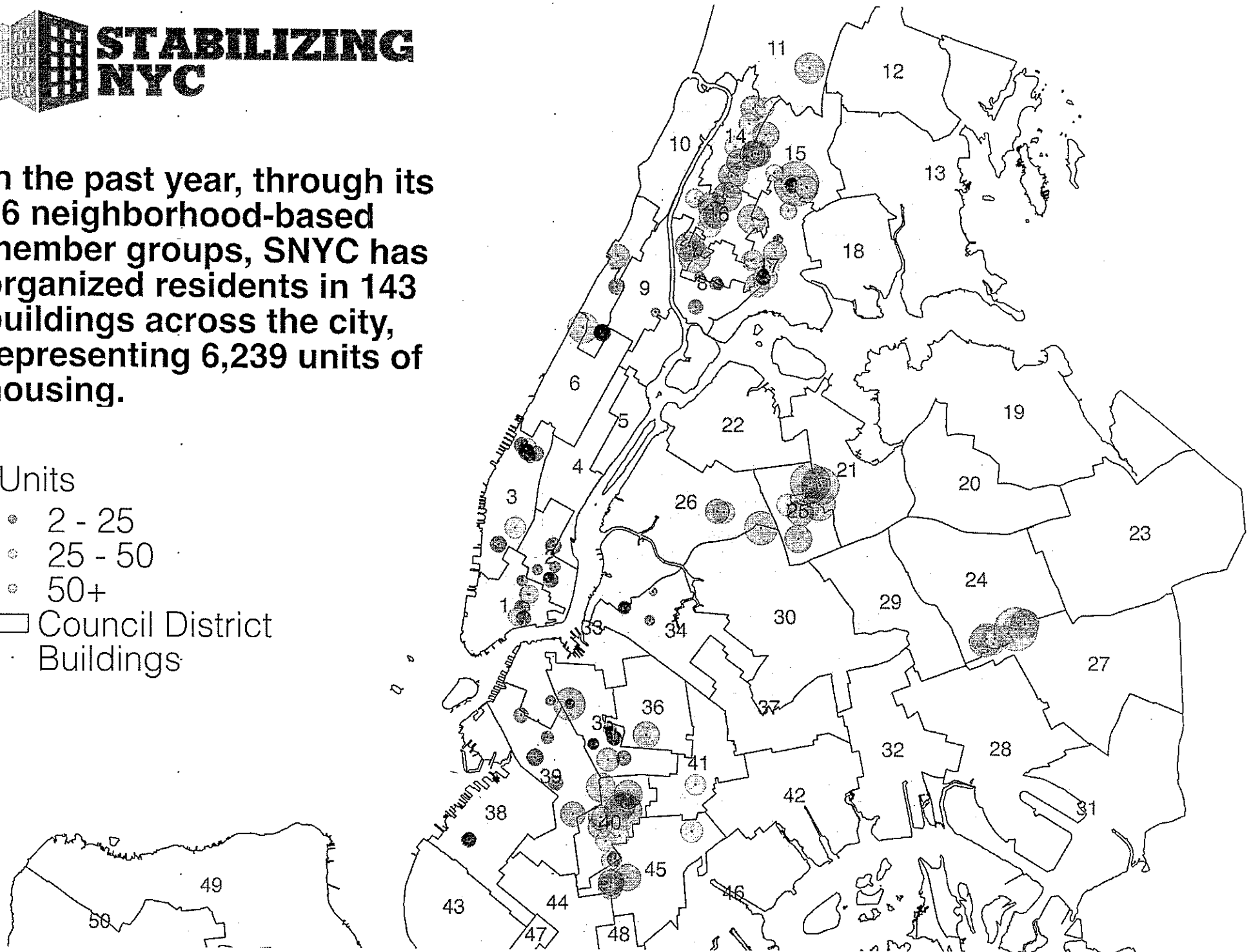
STABILIZING NYC

In the past year, through its 16 neighborhood-based member groups, SNYC has organized residents in 143 buildings across the city, representing 6,239 units of housing.

Units

- 2 - 25
- 25 - 50
- 50+

□ Council District
Buildings



STABILIZING

NYC

The

Predatory

Equity

Story

**Tenant Perspectives
on Speculative Landlords,
Displacement, and
Fighting for Justice**

2017

ABOUT THE AUTHORS



Stabilizing NYC (SNYC) is a coalition comprised of fifteen grassroots neighborhood-based organizations, a citywide legal service provider and a citywide housing advocacy organization who have come together to combat tenant harassment and preserve affordable housing for the New Yorkers who need it most. The coalition combines legal, advocacy and organizing resources into a citywide network to help tenants take their predatory equity landlords to task for patchwork repairs, baseless eviction cases, and affirmative harassment.

URBAN
JUSTICE
CENTER



The Community Development Project at the Urban Justice Center (CDP) partnered with SNYC to conduct this research. CDP provides legal, participatory research and policy support to strengthen the work of grassroots and community-based groups in New York City to dismantle racial, economic and social oppression. CDP's Research and Policy Initiative partners with and provides strategic support to grassroots community organizations to build the power of their organizing and advocacy work. We utilize a "participatory action research" model in which low-income and excluded communities are central to the design and development of research and policy.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This report could have never happened without the thousands of tenants living under predatory equity landlords, who suffer from poor conditions and the threat of displacement yet still fight for the right to live with dignity in safe, clean, and decent apartments. Your time and energy was invaluable during this process, and your stories serve as an inspiration to thousands of tenants across New York City.

A special acknowledgement is due to the Parkash Tenant Coalition, Zara Tenant Coalition, Toledano Tenant Coalition, and the Stop Croman Coalition for their support.

We appreciate the support of the New York City Council, particularly Council members Daniel Garodnick, Ritchie Torres and Jumaane Williams for their commitment to tenants and tenant organizing across New York City.

Research, writing and editing support was provided by Zarin Ahmed, Alexa Kasdan, Erin Markman and Julia Sick from the Community Development Project, as well as Kerri White from the Urban Homesteading Assistance Board (UHAB).

Thank you to all of the Stabilizing NYC members and organizers for your guidance and insight, and your tireless work in lifting up your folks' stories. A special thanks to Hal Bergold, SaMi Chester, Betsy Eichel, Jonathan Furlong, Wasim Lone, Alejandra Nasser, and Cesar Reyes, who were on the Stabilizing NYC research team.

Keriann Pauls and Jackie Del Valle from the Community Development Project provided critical support and coordination.

Thanks to Alex Tatusian for designing this report.

This report and Stabilizing NYC's work would not be possible without the generous support of the New York City Council and M&T Bank.

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STABILIZING NYC MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS WHO PARTICIPATED IN THIS RESEARCH:

- _ Asian Americans for Equality
- _ CAAAV: Organizing Asian Communities
- _ Catholic Migration Services
- _ Chhaya CDC

- _ Community Action for Safe Apartments (CASA) – New Settlement Apartments
- _ Community Development Project at the Urban Justice Center
- _ Cooper Square Committee
- _ Fifth Avenue Committee/Neighbors Helping Neighbors
- _ Flatbush Tenant Coalition

- _ Good Old Lower East Side
- _ Housing Conservation Coordinators
- _ IMPACCT Brooklyn
- _ Mothers on the Move
- _ Northwest Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition
- _ St. Nick's Alliance
- _ Urban Homesteading Assistance Board
- _ Woodside on the Move

ABOUT THIS PROJECT

Providing Tenant's Perspective on Predatory Equity

Our work has shown that landlords across New York City engage in various harassment tactics to push rent stabilized tenants out of their homes and maximize the number of market rate units in buildings. Organizations within Stabilizing NYC (SNYC) have been working with tenant associations and thousands of tenants across the Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan and Queens in order to get repairs, combat rent manipulation, and fight evictions, with the understanding that all of these issues are manifestations of the underlying problem of predatory equity. We characterize predatory equity as speculative real estate transactions that threaten building conditions and housing affordability (a more extensive definition of predatory equity can be found on p. 3). In order to illustrate how predatory equity affects tenants on the ground, SNYC partnered with the Community Development Project (CDP) to conduct a participatory action research project to explore how predatory equity impacts the lives of tenants.

This report is based on ten focus groups, 877 surveys, secondary research on buildings, and a literature review. Overall, the data tells the story of predatory equity on the ground, where landlords are using various forms of harassment to push out long-term rent regulated tenants and to maximize the number of market rate tenants in buildings.

Our research shows:

- _ Predatory equity landlords are neglecting the repair needs of long-term tenants, allowing buildings to fall into disrepair and subjecting tenants to unsafe and unsanitary conditions. Many tenants have trouble getting repairs, and if landlords eventually do the repairs, they are poor quality. Very low income tenants are forced to pay out of pocket for repairs.
- _ Despite laws in place to protect rent stabilized tenants, predatory equity landlords are also manipulating rents in various ways to increase the rent burden on tenants.
- _ Harassment tactics, coupled with the stress of unstable housing and the dangers of substandard conditions, cause tenants physical, emotional and financial distress.
- _ Tenants combat the harassment by organizing with each other and with community organizations, even though landlords attempt to disrupt and intimidate organizing efforts.

Given the widespread tactics that predatory equity landlords use to push tenants out of rent stabilized housing, we argue that City Council should support and pass legislation that would protect tenants from harassment and force landlords to prioritize tenant safety.

Predatory Equity: The Root of the Issue

Over the past decade New York City's affordable housing market has been severely destabilized by predatory private equity companies. Before the 2008 market crash, these companies purchased a large number of rent-stabilized buildings at inflated prices, often utilizing mortgage loans to finance the deals.¹ For advocates and tenants, this was an extreme shift from the typical locally-based landlord to large corporations who approached the affordable housing stock as an investment opportunity. The opportunity for profit for these new corporate landlords was predicated on greatly increasing revenue for the building by increasing rents and/or decreasing maintenance.² This pattern of behavior was termed by advocates as "predatory equity," (PE) which can be described as speculative and risky financial investment in buildings, with the expectation of quick, tremendous profits at the expense of tenant quality of life and building conditions.

Many of these companies, such as Vantage, Ocelot, Pinnacle, and Dawney Day were unable to execute their financial plans, leading many of their buildings into foreclosure.³ These foreclosure proceedings took years to resolve, leaving rent-stabilized tenants to languish in limbo without repairs.⁴

The financial crash and foreclosure crisis caused a brief downward trend in the over-inflated housing market.⁵ However, rather than leading to long term stability, new private equity firms saw the downturn as a new opportunity and once again began speculating on buildings using the same logic that had only recently failed.⁶ This speculation coupled with the continuing impact of gentrification and ever-rising rents across New York City, has created a new bubble, where private equity backed owners are betting on the affordable housing in our neighborhoods.

The first step for these companies when they purchase an affordable building with the intention of greatly increasing the revenue is to aggressively push rent-stabilized tenants out, using a wide range of harass-

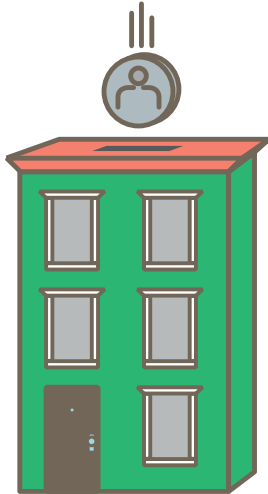
ment techniques, including frivolous lawsuits, failing to provide heat and other basic services, and manipulating or raising rent.⁷ While rent stabilization laws protect tenants from sharp rent increases and allow them a right to renew their leases, every time a rent stabilized tenant leaves their apartment, landlords are legally allowed to increase rents by at least 18%. Other loopholes in the laws allow landlords to raise rents by passing off the costs of repairs and renovations made to the apartment during its vacancy, making the legally allowed rent increases significantly higher.⁸

Formation of the SNYC Coalition and the SNYC Definition of Predatory Equity

For years, community-based groups have been organizing low-income tenants in neighborhoods across New York City, fighting against unjust evictions, rent manipulation and other forms of tenant harassment (see p. 4 for legal definition of tenant harassment). Many of these groups have worked together in various coalitions to build power of tenants and improve conditions in rent-stabilized buildings.

Stabilizing NYC was formed in 2014 in order to organize against predatory equity's threat to affordable housing and to build on the collective experiences of New York City tenants. As the coalition began to work together, they came to understand that while the tactics of predatory equity landlords may look different in different neighborhoods, it was all part of the same overarching strategy to displace long-term rent-stabilized tenants. Since its inception, the coalition has come together to identify predatory equity landlords across the Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan and Queens and to organize tenants in these landlord's buildings to build power, prevent displacement and fight harassment through organizing and litigation strategies. Through research, outreach and organizing, the coalition identifies an annual list of "target landlords" who employ predatory equity tactics in buildings across different New York City neighborhoods. Members of the coalition concentrate their organizing efforts on these shared targets. By focusing work across New York City on a limited number of predatory equity landlords, SNYC hopes to protect tenants, increase tenant and public knowledge of predatory equity and identify larger scale strategies to fight back against this trend.

Buildings that meet the threshold of predatory equity must meet at least 1 of the 5 following factors:



- **High levels of turnover**

as tenants are pushed out of their homes in order to deregulate units and raise the rent

- **A high purchase price and/or debt-to-income ratio**

meaning that the building was purchased and/or financed for a higher price than what it is actually worth based on the current rental income



- **Poor physical conditions**

caused by neglecting building maintenance and/or shoddy repair work



- **Significant percentage of tenants complaining of harassment**

Includes but not limited to repeatedly being taken to housing court and repeated interruptions of basic services such as heat and hot water



- **Affordable housing becomes unaffordable**

as landlords tack on illegal fees and tenants experience a loss of rent stabilization



NYC Local Law 7 and the Legal Definition of Tenant Harassment

In 2008, New York City passed Local Law 7 in order to codify landlord harassment as a violation of the City's Housing Code.⁹ Surveys were designed to capture tenants' experiences with harassment based on the legal definition, and the term is cited throughout the report. Below is a **summary of New York City's legal definition of tenant harassment** (find the link to the full statute in endnote 9):

- _ Causing a tenant to vacate their unit or surrender their right to it;
- _ Using force, threatening to use force, or implying that force will be used against a tenant;
- _ Repeated interruptions or discontinuances of essential services, or an interruption or discontinuance of an essential service for an extended duration that makes the apartment uninhabitable;
- _ Commencing repeated baseless or frivolous court proceedings against tenants;
- _ Removing possessions from the apartment;
- _ Removing the door at the entrance to an occupied dwelling unit; removing, plugging or otherwise rendering the lock on such entrance door inoperable; or changing the lock on such entrance door without supplying a key to the new lock to the persons lawfully entitled to occupancy of such dwelling unit;
- _ Unlawfully contacting any person entitled to occupy the dwelling unit to offer money or other valuable consideration to induce such person to vacate such dwelling unit or to surrender or waive any rights in relation to such occupancy; or
- _ Other repeated acts or omissions of such significance that substantially interfere with or disturb the comfort, repose, peace or quiet of tenants and that cause or are intended to cause tenant displacement.

METHODOLOGY

In order to document the practices of predatory equity landlords and create a definition of predatory equity rooted in tenant experiences, SNYC partnered with the Community Development Project at the Urban Justice Center (CDP) to conduct a participatory action research project. We collected data about the experiences of rent-stabilized tenants living in buildings that are identified by the coalition as predatory equity through the following methods:

10 FOCUS GROUPS

The qualitative data in this report is based on 10 focus groups with a total of 62 participants. Focus groups were conducted from January to March of 2017 in the Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens and Manhattan by the Stabilizing NYC coalition. All of the focus group questions were developed by members of the Stabilizing NYC research team utilizing a participatory action research approach. Focus group guides were translated into Spanish, Chinese, and Bangla. Members of the coalition were trained to facilitate the focus groups, and four focus groups were conducted in Spanish, four in English, one in Bangla, and one in Chinese. Demographic data on focus group participants was collected through questionnaires that participants filled out at focus group meetings.

877 SURVEYS

Stabilizing NYC staff and members collected 877 surveys in the Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens and Manhattan. Surveys were collected in 158 buildings of 35 landlords that were defined by the coalition

as predatory equity. These buildings include landlords on Stabilizing NYC's 2016 target landlord list, and those landlords being considered for the 2017 target landlord list. Surveys were collected from March to May of 2017 through door-to-door outreach and at tenant association meetings. All of the survey questions were developed by members of the Stabilizing NYC research team utilizing a participatory action research approach. The survey aims to measure tenant harassment in PE buildings, using the legal definition of tenant harassment. Members of the coalition were also trained on administering the survey. Surveys were translated into Spanish, Bangla, and Chinese, and administered in all of those languages as well as English.

SECONDARY RESEARCH ON TARGET PREDATORY EQUITY BUILDINGS

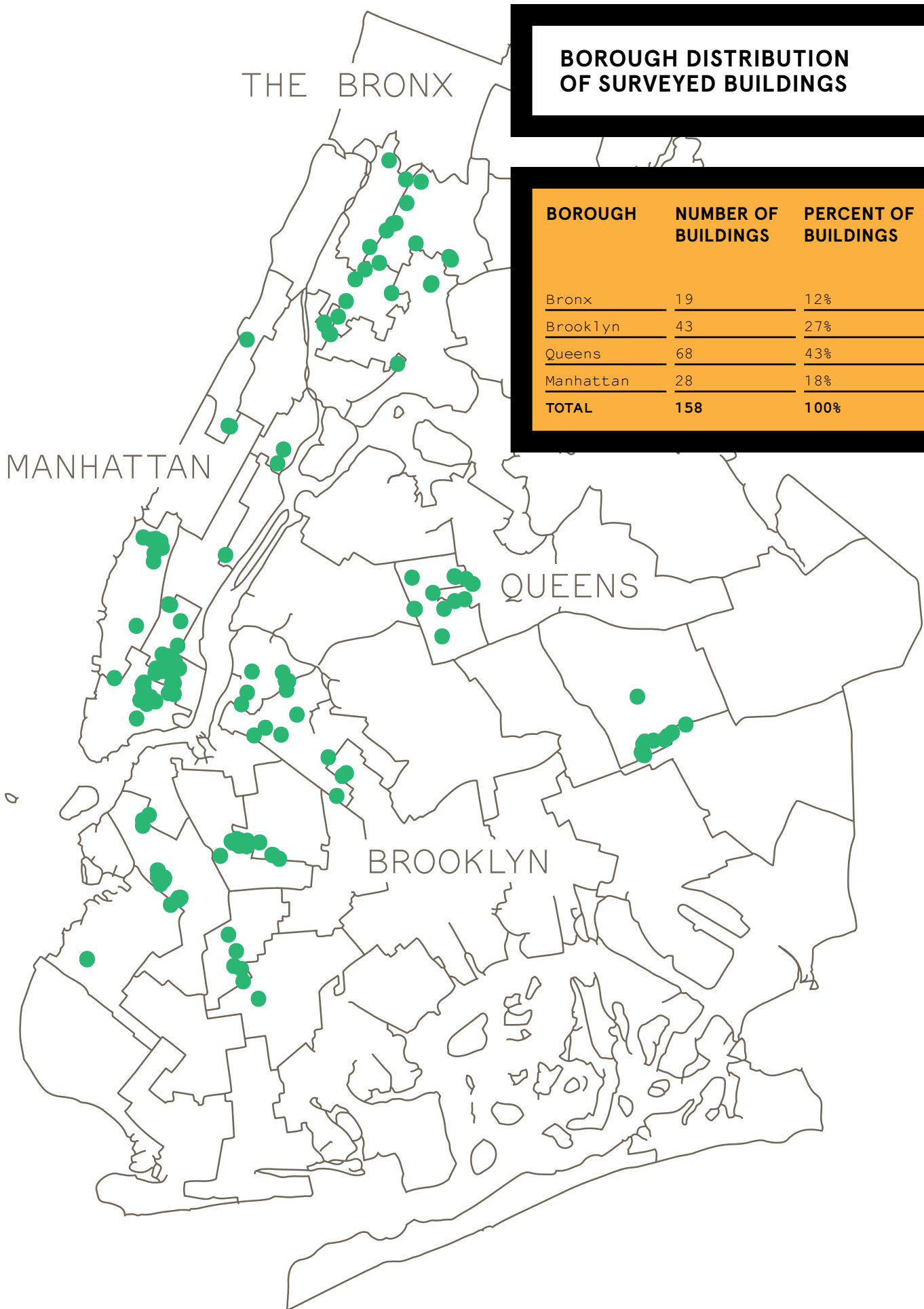
CDP researchers reviewed secondary data on 158 buildings surveyed. Data from the Department of Buildings (DOB), Housing and Preservation Department (HPD), and eCourts system was analyzed to document how many DOB, HPD, and active Housing Part (HP) cases were in each building.

LITERATURE/LEGAL REVIEW

CDP researchers reviewed previous studies and current housing policies to inform the primary research as well as the coalition's recommendations and policy platform on combatting predatory equity.

GEOGRAPHIC AND LANDLORD DISTRIBUTION OF SURVEYED PREDATORY EQUITY BUILDINGS

The coalition identified predatory equity buildings through the SNYC landlord watch list as well as discussions with tenant members and group tenant association meetings. Survey outreach was designed to collect surveys from buildings owned by each of the landlords identified. Brooklyn has the highest portion of surveyed buildings (43%) while the Bronx has the lowest portion (12%).¹⁰



BOROUGH DISTRIBUTION OF SURVEYED BUILDINGS

BOROUGH	NUMBER OF BUILDINGS	PERCENT OF BUILDINGS
Bronx	19	12%
Brooklyn	43	27%
Queens	68	43%
Manhattan	28	18%
TOTAL	158	100%

Predatory equity is impacting the most vulnerable residents of New York City.

57%

More than half of respondents **have lived in their current apartment for 11 or more years.**



The vast majority of respondents were **people of color** with over half identifying as **LATINO/A (51%)** and **22% AFRICAN AMERICAN** and **18% WHITE.**



44% of respondents report **SPANISH** as a language they are most comfortable speaking; **63%** speak **ENGLISH**; **3%** speak **CHINESE**; and **4%** speak **BANGLA.**

60%

Women make up the majority of respondents



About two-thirds of respondents **are receiving some type of safety net benefit.**

46%

Almost half of respondents **report an annual household income of \$24,999 or less.**

DISTRIBUTION OF SURVEYS ACROSS LANDLORDS

BOROUGHES	LANDLORDS	NUMBER OF SURVEYS	PERCENTAGE OF SURVEYS
Bronx	Ved Parkash	94	11%
	David David	73	8%
	Isaac Herskovitz	25	3%
Brooklyn	Silvershore	22	3%
	Slate Property Management	2	<1%
	BCB Property Management	14	2%
	Coltown Properties	10	1%
	Shamco Management Corp	20	2%
	Jonas Equities	18	2%
	Coney Realty	9	1%
	All Year Management	51	6%
	ICON	35	4%
	Madison Realty Capital/Silverstone Property Group	42	5%
Buildings in Brooklyn and Manhattan	Other	61	7%
Manhattan	RA Cohen	12	1%
	Brookhill Properties/Toledano	14	2%
	Croman	72	8%
	Citi-Urban	6	<1%
	Black Spruce	5	<1%
	Abacus Clinton LLC/Wilder Realty LLC	9	1%
	Sugarhill	3	<1%
Queens	A&E Real Estate	75	9%
	BRG Management	39	4%
	Zara Realty Holding Corp	166	19%
	TOTAL	877	100%

DEMOGRAPHICS OF RESEARCH SAMPLE

Focus Group
Data, N = 59

Survey Data,
N = 877*

Borough	Bronx	17%	22%
	Brooklyn	21%	26%
	Queens	24%	32%
	Manhattan	38%	20%
Rent regulated status	Rent Stabilized	85%	85%
	Rent Controlled	7%	4%
Length of Time in Current Apartment	I don't know	3%	10%
	0-5 Years	14%	27%
	6-10 Years	7%	16%
	11+ Years	79%	57%
Total Rent Amount	Less than \$700	10%	9%
	\$701 to \$1,100	36%	24%
	\$1,101 to \$1,500	24%	34%
	\$1,501 to \$1,700	14%	13%
	\$1,701 to \$2,000	5%	10%
	\$2,001 to \$2,500	3%	6%
	\$2,501 to \$2,700	2%	1%
	\$2,701 or more	2%	2%
Gender**	Female	68%	60%
	Male	32%	40%
	Transgender	0%	<1%
	Other gender identity	0%	<1%
Race/Ethnicity**	Latino/a	34%	51%
	Black	19%	22%
	Asian or Pacific Islander	16%	10%
	Native American	0%	1%
	White	23%	18%
	Other	8%	3%
Language**	English	61%	63%
	Spanish	26%	44%
	Chinese	12%	3%
	Haitian Creole	0%	2%
	Bangla	2%	4%
	Punjabi	0%	1%
	Urdu	0%	2%
	Other	0%	3%
Safety Net Benefits	Receiving Benefits	52%	56%
	Not receiving benefits	48%	44%
Yearly Household income	\$24,999 or less	53%	46%
	\$25,000 – \$49,999	29%	31%
	\$50,000 and up	18%	23%
Household size	Median household size	2	2

* Although the coalition collected 945 surveys, the surveys of 60 respondents who indicated that their apartments were not rent regulated were excluded from our analysis.

**These percentages add up to more than 100% because respondents selected all options that applied to them.

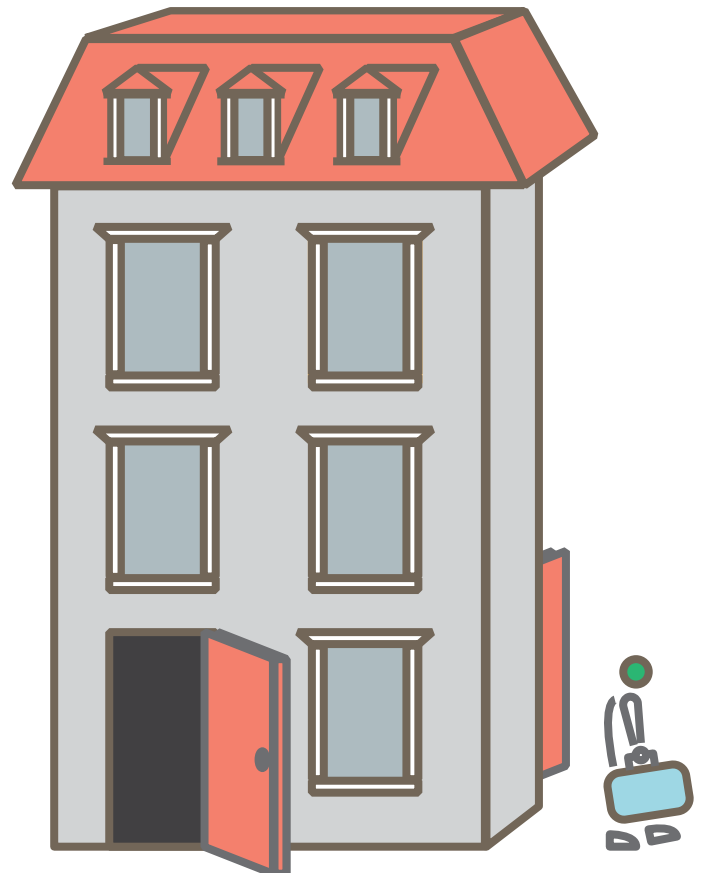
RESEARCH FINDINGS:

THE PREDATORY EQUITY STORY

This report is based on ten focus groups, 877 surveys, secondary research on buildings, and a literature review. Overall, the findings tell the story of predatory equity on the ground, where landlords are using various forms of harassment to push out long-term rent regulated tenants and to maximize the number of market rate tenants in buildings. Landlords are neglecting the repair needs of long-term tenants, and if they eventually do the repairs, they are poor quality, creating unsafe conditions for tenants. Landlords are also manipulating rents, while employing emotional harassment tactics to drive tenants away. Tenants combat the harassment by organizing with each other and with community organizations, even though landlords attempt to disrupt and intimidate organizing efforts.

Predatory equity landlords are pushing rent-stabilized tenants out of their homes to make way for market rate tenants.

For the past decade, landlords across the city have been purchasing overleveraged buildings, leaving them with inflated debt payments that cannot be covered by the revenue generated by current rental payments. As a result, these landlords use various tactics to push out rent-stabilized tenants in the hopes of gaining market rate tenants to whom they can charge higher rents. These tactics will be described in detail in the following sections of this report.



Focus group participants describe how their buildings have changed over the years, with newer landlords cutting services and pushing long-term residents out:

"I've been in my building since like '97, but [landlord] bought the building four years ago and the whole building was rent stabilized; there was...22 units and now there's **only nine of us left**, and they renovated all the apartments all at once, which as soon as [they] bought the building, we **didn't have any heat or hot water** for the first two winters, and as soon as they bought it the heat stopped." MANHATTAN FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPANT

"When I moved to my building it was magnificent, impeccable. But after the owner sold it to this company, it's been like **three or four companies** that have taken over the building; they show the beautiful apartments to rent; they give you the lease for one year, and after that it's no longer agreeable." QUEENS FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPANT, TRANSLATED FROM SPANISH

Predatory equity landlords engage in aggressive tactics in an attempt to displace tenants. These tactics are detailed in the findings below.

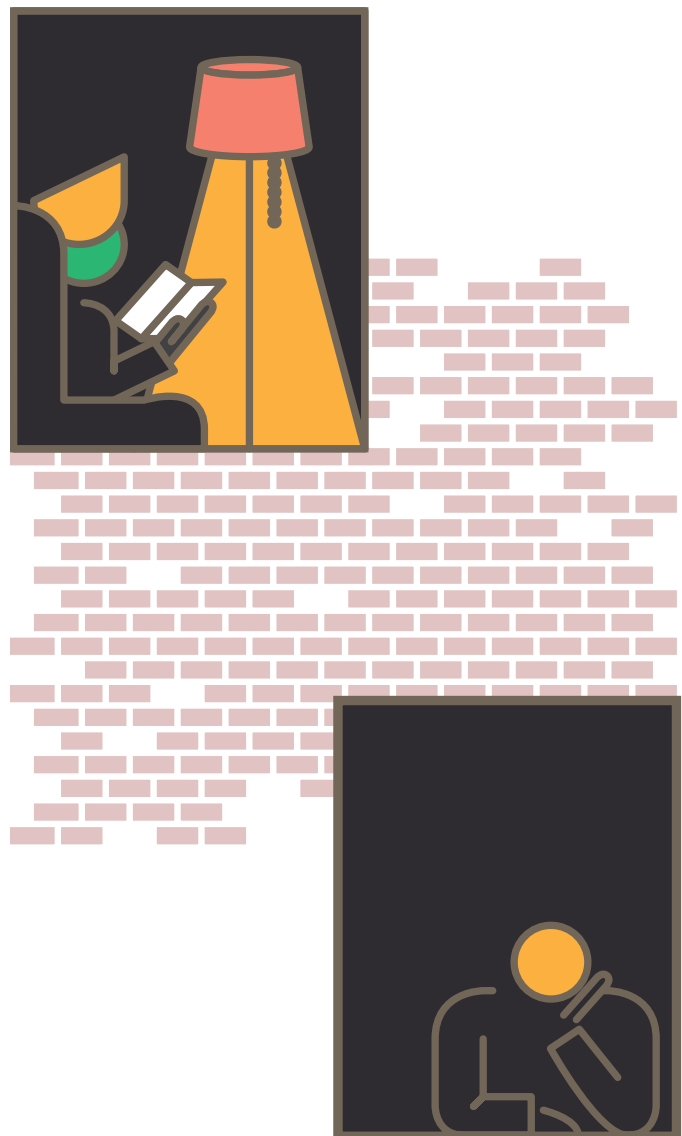
Our survey data show that almost 1 in 5 respondents report being verbally or otherwise harassed by their landlord, or by agents or employees of the landlord.

Legally, harassment includes repeated interruptions and discontinuances of essential services, repeated baseless or frivolous court proceedings, and other repeated acts that substantially interfere with the tenants' comfort or causes them to be displaced (see p. 7 for legal definition of harassment). Survey and focus group data show that landlords use a variety of such tactics to harass tenants. Over half of survey respondents (**58%**) report that they have had problems getting repairs, and the majority of these respondents are people of color (**62%**) and speak a language other

"It was a great building; we had great landlords; the person who owned the building died, and his son took over and then he started this chain of sales to **slumlord after slumlord.**

The buildings haven't had heat, haven't had gas. The building is **almost empty** now. There's like **five of us left** in a twenty-unit apartment building; and it's kind of horrible because it feels so **barren and desolate."**

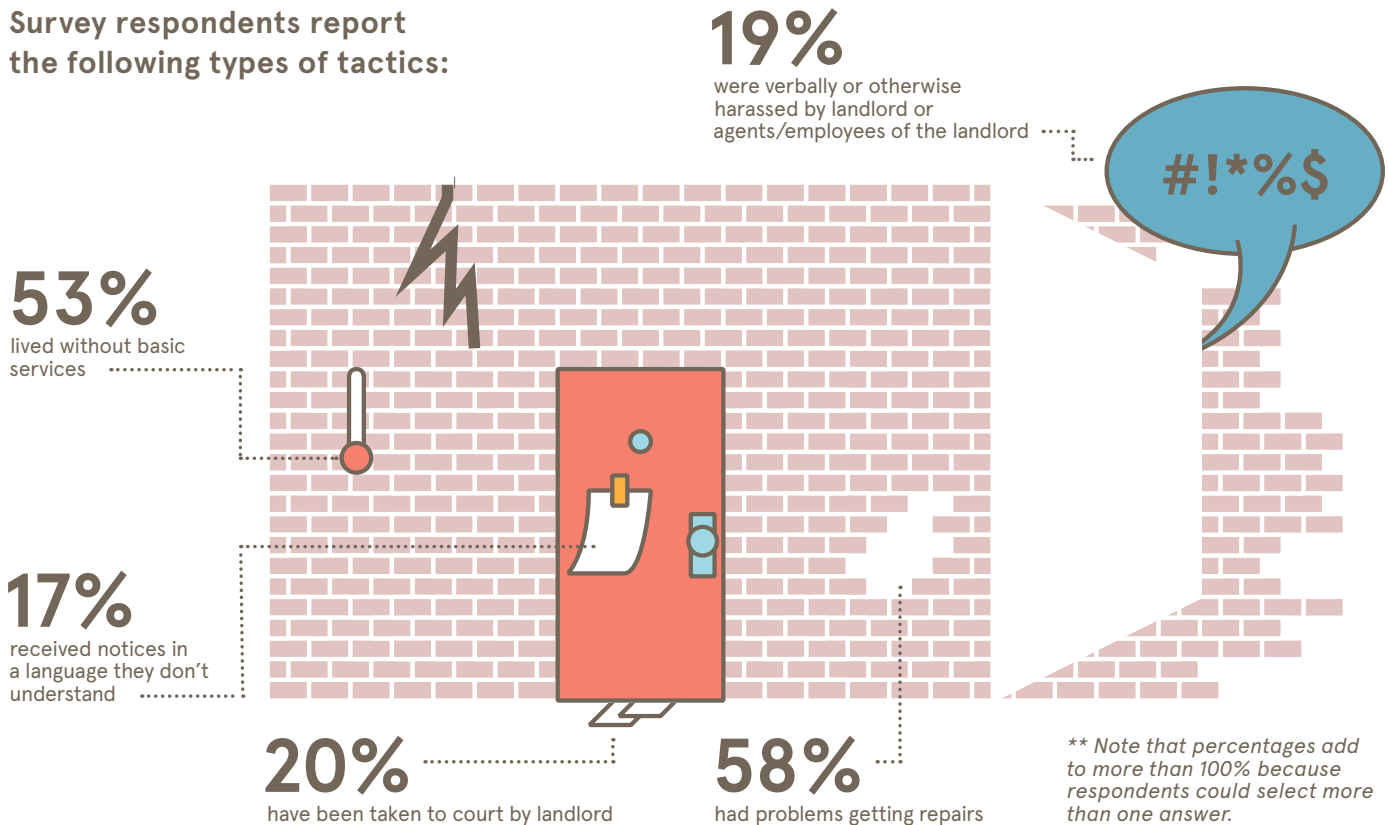
MANHATTAN FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPANT



than English (60%). One-fifth (20%) of survey respondents report that they have been taken to court by their landlord and respondents of color are more than twice as likely (22%) to report being taken to court than White respondents (9%). A 2013 study by CDP and Community Action for Safe Apartments (CASA) found that housing court was confusing and difficult to navigate for most tenants and recommended that

the quality of language access for non-English speakers should improve. Over half of respondents (53%) report living without basic services such as gas, hot water, and heat, and many focus group participants reported such stories. Almost one-fifth (17%) of respondents report receiving notices in a language they do not understand, which hinders their ability to communicate with the landlord.

Survey respondents report the following types of tactics:



A focus group participant describes being threatened and harassed by their new landlord:

"It was a great building; Since [the new landlord] purchased the building, I can't tell you how many times they have **brought me to court.** Even if I am as little as one week late to pay my rent bill, they post written notices on my door, **threatening** to evict me if I do not pay the rent within 5 days. They then begin to harass me, **constantly calling** me and **sending me written notices** demanding that I pay the rent. There have been major changes for tenants since [the new landlord] purchased the building; **I no longer sleep peacefully** because of all of this."

Another participant describes how they were harassed by an agent of their landlord:

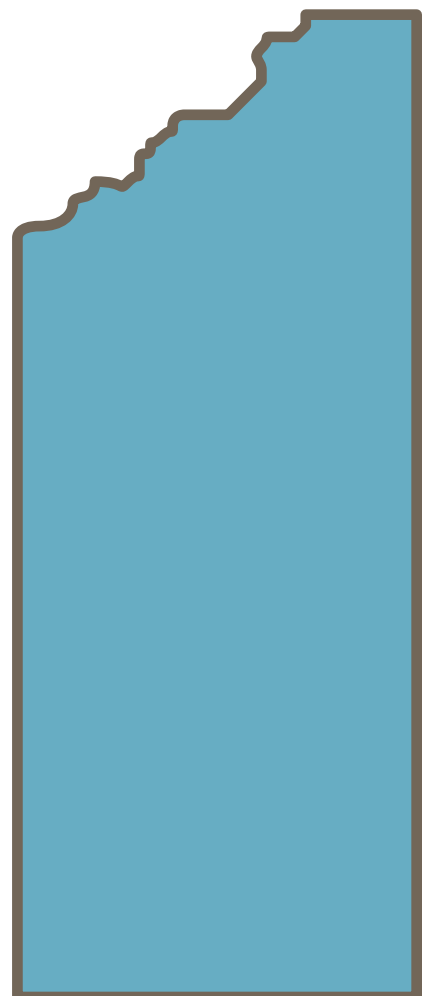
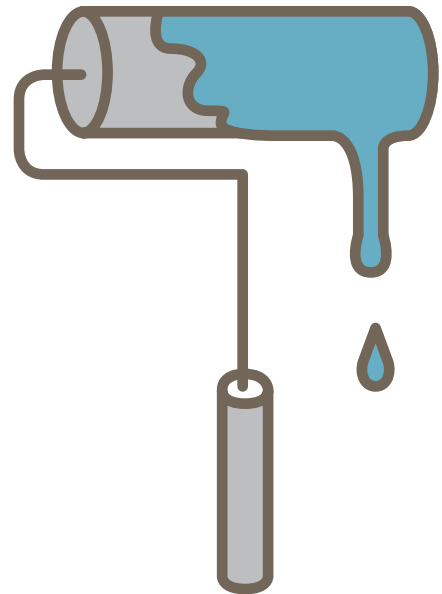
"As soon as they bought the building they started **kicking people out, arresting people**. There was this time where they had this guy...he put his foot in the door, he **walked into the apartment**. With the manager at the time, they just walked in. The guy started **asking for ID** from everybody. I thought he was a police officer." MANHATTAN FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPANT

Another participant describes how they were denied repair services after forming a tenant association in their building:

"**Harassment?** Well if you wanna consider not getting any work done in your apartment because you're forming a tenants' association in your building [as] harassment then I guess maybe that might be considered harassment; cause I do feel in some way that that's harassment to me because they **started painting my apartment** and then they didn't finish and **I never saw them again**. This has been like two to three months and because I've been going around informing my neighbors that we're having a tenants' meeting in the building and I feel that could be a part of why **I'm not getting the adequate services that I deserve.**" BRONX FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPANT

Another participant describes how they were taken to court repeatedly by their new landlord:

"The new owner came and told us that **we had to leave**. We offered him rent and **they wouldn't charge us**. Then, they took us to **court** many [times] and we told them that we were going to pay rent and they said no, because we had to leave... I think it was two years that we **didn't pay rent**. Well, we, thank god, saved all that money. There were **three other families** that didn't pay and they had to leave." BROOKLYN FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPANT, TRANSLATED FROM SPANISH



At least 9 out of 10 landlords of target buildings have an active HP or harassment case against them

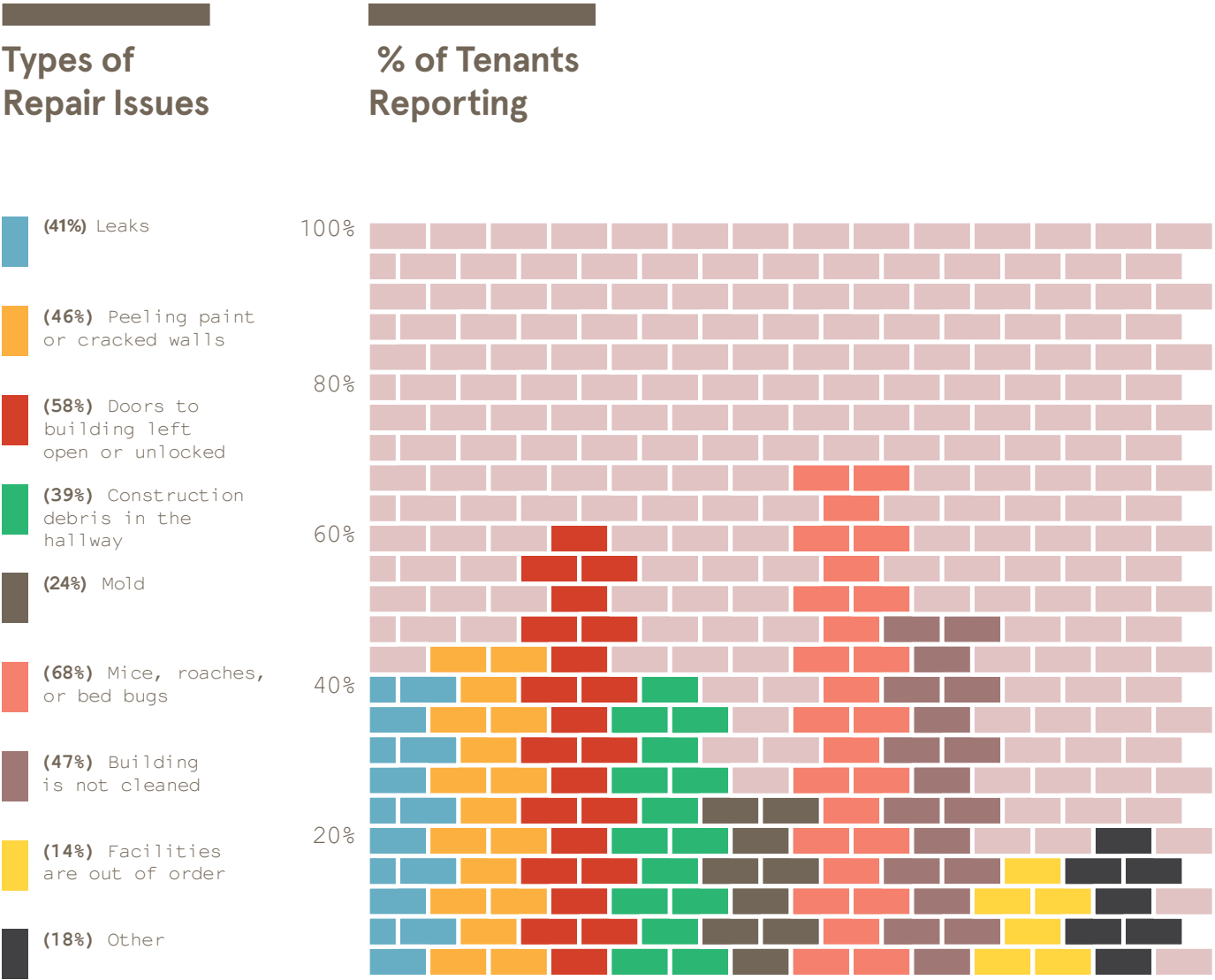
Stabilizing NYC member organizations and tenant associations have been working with attorneys at the Community Development Project to bring Housing Part (HP) and harassment cases against landlords of target buildings. Often the only way to compel landlords to do repairs is to seek relief through HP cases, which are proceedings against the landlord to force them to make repairs and correct building violations. The Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) can also file HP cases against landlords. Harassment cases can be filed against landlords who try to force tenants to leave their apartment or surrender the rights to their apartment (the legal definition of harassment can be found on p. 4).

Cases listed in eCourts and cases being litigated by CDP were analyzed, documenting cases against any landlord associated with the surveyed buildings. Because resolved cases are removed from eCourts and many cases are not available online, this analysis shows the minimum number of cases against these landlords.

This analysis revealed that at least 89% of the surveyed buildings have a landlord who has an active HP or harassment case open against them.¹¹

Predatory equity landlords neglect their buildings, causing the building to fall into disrepair and tenants to experience unsafe and unsanitary conditions.

Focus group and survey data show that tenants are living in unsafe and unsanitary conditions. Tenants report leaks, construction debris, mold, and vermin, amongst other conditions. Almost half of respondents (**47%**) report that their building isn't cleaned, and **41%** report leaks. Over **two-thirds** report mice, roaches, and bed bugs in the building, while almost a quarter (**24%**) of respondents report mold, and **39%** report construction debris in the hallway, all of which are health hazards and are considered asthma triggers. **Over half** of respondents report that the doors to their building are left open or unlocked, which compromises tenant safety. As detailed above, this neglect of the building can be considered harassment.



A focus group participant describes their super refusing to take care of the rats in their apartment:

"I called the super and said, "Look, there are **a lot of rats** here. Look, they ate my fruit. Now, what are my kids going to eat? I can't be buying all the time." And he said to me, "No...but those are vegetarian rats." And, I showed him the photo and he said, "Like I said, it's pretty because it is vegetarian. Look at how the fur is." I told him, "Because of all the fruit it ate..." But imagine it... Me, in the morning...I went to give the fruit to my kids and **I didn't have confidence to let my kids grab a banana** because maybe a rat had chewed it." BROOKLYN FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPANT, TRANSLATED FROM SPANISH

Another participant describes the emotional toll of living in such unsafe conditions:

"What's scary is falling asleep at night because you don't know if the building is **going to blow up** because there's been **chronic gas leaks**. I'm always afraid of a fire, because we had a **horrendous fire** in 2003 in the next building – newly renovated apartments, that they used **substandard work**, some substandard workers, and it went on fire; and a young girl got burnt over 80% of her body. So, that's **scary**." MANHATTAN FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPANT

More than a third of the buildings surveyed have more violations than they do apartment units

In addition to our survey and focus group data, tenants have also been documenting their unsafe and unsanitary conditions by reporting to New York City's Department of Buildings (DOB) and the Department of Housing Preservation and Developments (HPD). Violations can range from minor leaks, chipping or peeling paint, public area doors not self-closing, inadequate lighting in public areas, and vermin to immediately hazardous conditions such as inadequate fire exits, rodents, lead-based paint, and lack of heat, hot water, electricity, or gas.

For each of the surveyed buildings, the number of violations were analyzed. Because there can be more than one violation for a single apartment unit, the data is represented as the ratio of the number of violations in each building to the total apartment units in the building.

Overall, out of the 158 target buildings, more than half (58%) had a number of violations equal to half the number of units in the building or higher, including **more than a third of buildings (39%) that had more violations than there are total units in the building**.

Predatory equity landlords neglect repair and safety issues in buildings, and repairs that they do supply are often substandard.

Predatory equity landlords and management companies also harass long-term tenants by neglecting neglect their repair needs, and if they do eventually do repairs, they are poor quality. While two-thirds (67%) of respondents report that their landlord has sent someone to complete repairs in their apartment, focus group and survey data both show that repairs happen slowly, and are often poor quality. In fact, 60% of those who had trouble getting repairs were not satisfied with the quality of the work, and two-thirds were not satisfied with the timing in which repairs were completed. Respondents whose primary language was not English are overrepresented (60%) among those who had trouble getting repairs, and respondents of color are less likely to be satisfied with the quality of repairs than White respondents. Often the only way to compel landlords to do repairs is to complain to the City through HPD or DOB. Tenants also seek relief through Housing Part (HP) cases, which are proceedings against the landlord to force them to make repairs and correct building violations.¹²

A focus group participant explains that renovations happen but don't actually address the repair needs of tenants:

"The renovations they did didn't improve our lives. When the ceiling [dropped], nobody came to take care of it. They say they did renovations. For us, the building is worse and worse. One thing is that they say they did renovations but we can't really see any improvement. The other is that they don't take care of things in our daily life, such as clogging, leaking and not enough heat. They did nothing. Now they want to add rent."

MANHATTAN FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPANT,
TRANSLATED FROM CHINESE

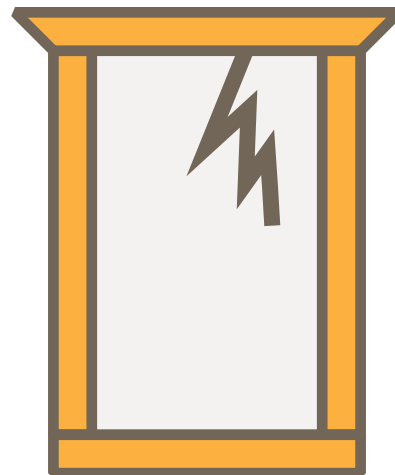
Participants describe the poor quality of the repair work they have received:

"[Repairs are] usually not done well. There's usually a mess left behind afterwards... We had leaking in the bathroom from upstairs. We had an open ceiling for a week and then, you know, they need to...retille the bathroom but [they] just...chip away...the broken tiles and patch over it and...leave the rest of it the way that it was before. So everything's just sort of...half-done, cheaply done fast as possible, leave a mess." BROOKLYN

FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPANT

"In my apartment, they have fixed the bathroom, which always has a leak, four times. One of the workers actually told me: "This leak will continue if it is not fixed properly, because it is not coming from above, it is coming from under the bathtub." The building has ten floors and the things that get done there, we do them ourselves. If we need a new floor, we put it in. Anything like the electricity or the water, we fix it, because if we call them, they never respond" QUEENS FOCUS GROUP

PARTICIPANT, TRANSLATED FROM SPANISH



58%
of respondents
have had problems
getting repairs



Another participant describes the health hazards caused by poor quality and unprofessional repair work:

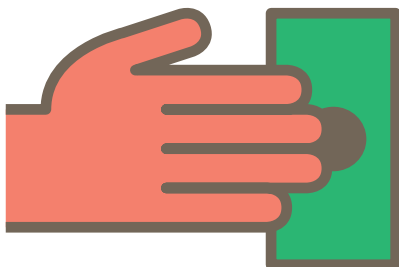
"They found a lot of lead in my apartment. For a long time, I wasn't aware that a licensed professional was necessary to clean up lead, and I have a three year old. The workers who came to address this issue worked on it for about one month, and we stayed in the apartment while they were working on it, **breathing in the dust from the repair**. We weren't even able to cook for a period of time during this repair. They did not end up doing a good job, but stated that they had done exactly what the company/ owner had arranged for them to do." QUEENS FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPANT, TRANSLATED FROM SPANISH

Another participant illustrates how the quality of repairs is so bad, they have to resort to doing their own repair work:

"I don't call anymore... I just live with. Because I know the minute I get involved with them, nothing good comes as a result. They either send their people that do really bad work, almost damage... So, I **patch things up with masking tape**. I don't call, I am **terrified** of ever contacting them. There was something leaking in the basement, so they got to my apartment. I had a toilet that broke in three pieces and I had to patch [it up], because I am terrified. I'd rather have no toilet than call them. Nothing good comes from it." MANHATTAN FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPANT

The landlord or management company also tries to push out rent-regulated tenants by manipulating rent or offering other financial incentives.

Despite rent stabilization laws established by New York City to protect tenants, landlords try to manipulate and raise rents in various ways in order to make rent unaffordable.¹³ Landlords are illegally raising rents, adding non-rent fees to monthly rent bills, tacking on Major Capital Improvements (see definition of Major Capital Improvements on p. 19), and offering preferential rents. These tactics are used to confuse and intimidate tenants, particularly in buildings where tenants have limited English proficiency and may be less likely to question these practices.



PREDATORY EQUITY LANDLORDS TRY TO PUSH LONG TERM TENANTS OUT BY RAISING RENTS.

Rent increases in rent-stabilized units are regulated by the Rent Guidelines Board, which is appointed by the Mayor.¹⁴ This board has implemented a rent freeze for rent-stabilized tenants for the past two years. Despite this, more than half of survey respondents have had their rent increase in the past two years. Over a quarter of respondents (27%) report being confused about how much rent they are supposed to pay.

Focus group participants describe how rents are raised and become unaffordable:

“They often raised the rent to kick you out of there. Oftentimes there is **no heat**. They don’t help repair. They make it hard to live there. Many of these are just ways to kick you out of there. They just want to **turn these housing into high-rent housing**.” MANHATTAN FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPANT, TRANSLATED FROM CHINESE

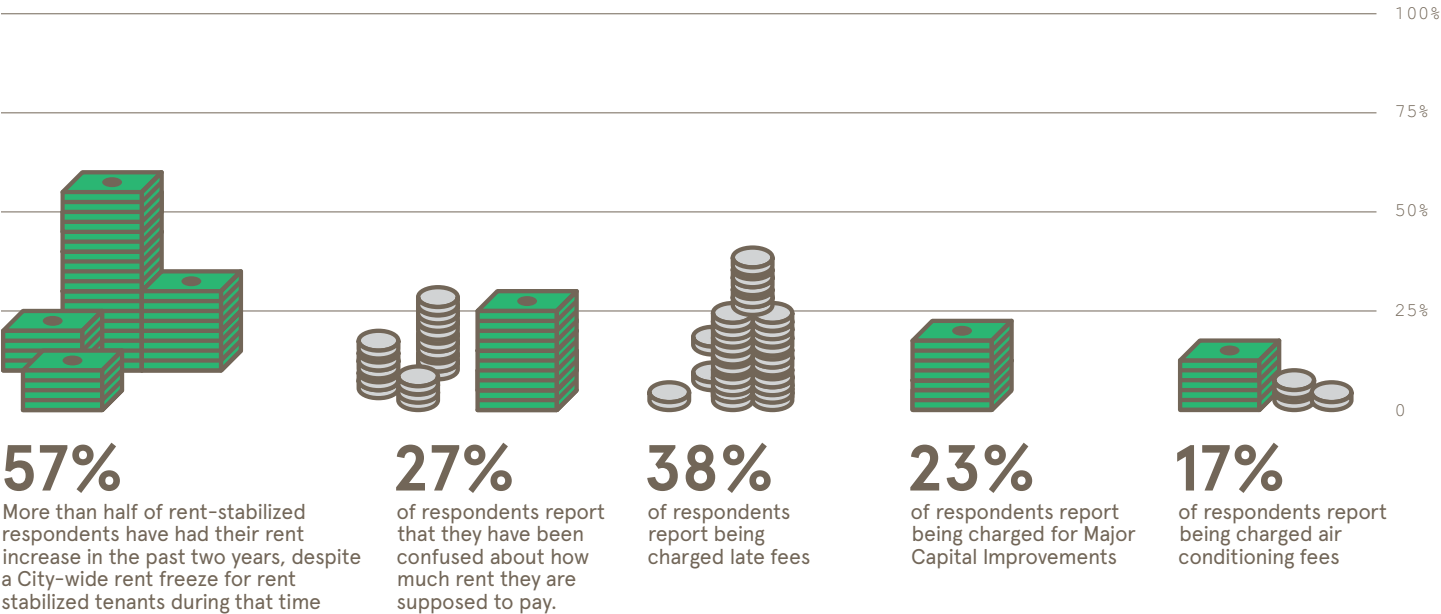
“We’ve discussed that if the rent continues to increase like this, we **won’t be able to live here anymore**.” QUEENS FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPANT, TRANSLATED FROM BANGLA

“The rent in our building is already the most expensive. **They still ask to raise**. I don’t know how is this going to work.” MANHATTAN FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPANT, TRANSLATED FROM CHINESE

PREDATORY EQUITY LANDLORDS TRY TO PUSH TENANTS OUT BY ADDING NON-RENT FEES TO MONTHLY RENT BILLS.

A study by the Fees are Fraud Coalition and CDP in 2015 found that non-rent fees such as air conditioning fees, MCIs, and late fees were pervasive throughout the city, and that tenants were often confused about whether they were actually supposed to pay these fees.¹⁵ These fees significantly increased the rent burden for these tenants. The findings in our study show that non-rent fees continue to be an issue for tenants, as 38% of respondents report being charged late fees, almost a quarter report being charged for Major Capital Improvements and almost one-fifth report being charged for installing air conditioners.

Our survey finds the following rent manipulation and rent fees:



Focus group participants describe the non-rent fees their landlords tacks onto their rent:

“Actually, in my building, my landlord... uses a trick. You send your rent the first or the second [of the month] and he knows that after the 15th they charge you late charges. So, what he does is, you send him the rent, and **he holds it**; he doesn’t cash the check, he doesn’t do anything, until after the past due, and then he just **tacks on the late fees**. And when you go to **court** with him, the judge says “Ok, take these charges off.” And his attorney says, “Ok, don’t worry, we’ll take it out.” You leave, and then you get the same thing the next month; over and over again.” QUEENS FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPANT

"I think it was last year that I did get a rent bill and it looked extremely high to me and I looked at it in detail and I realized there was a **\$200 charge on top of a late fee** and I inquired about it and when I finally got a hold of the landlord's office, what took me several...tries to get a hold of them, like several weeks... to find out why did my bill increase so much. Then, they told me it was because they put in the AC brackets and installed the AC for me and that's why... So, I did further investigation and I found out that I did not have to pay that \$200 because it's **the landlord's responsibility** to make sure that the AC is in securely and they took that \$200 off of my rent bill" MANHATTAN FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPANT

LANDLORDS ALSO TACK ON "MAJOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS" OR "MCIS" TO FURTHER INCREASE THE RENT.

Landlords often use **Major Capital Improvements (MCIs)** in order to increase rents. MCIs are permanent rent increases that landlords can tack on when they spend money on building-wide improvements. The cost of new windows, boilers, roofs, and other such projects can be passed off to tenants as a result.¹⁶ Landlords abuse the MCI system because despite being prohibited from imposing annual MCI increases that exceed 6% of a tenant's rent, they still tack on charges because enforcement of this rule depends on tenants reporting the violation.¹⁷ Tenants are often unaware of their rights regarding MCI increase or they are afraid to challenge the landlord. **Nearly a quarter of survey respondents (23%) report being charged for MCIs.**

This focus group participant explains how MCIs aren't improving the quality of life for tenants but tenants still have to pay the costs:

"The landlord is *raising rent for renovations* of things that have nothing to do with our daily life. **It's endless...** For us, the clogging is still there. The heat is still not enough. The ceiling is **still leaking**. Now he wants to raise the rent. It doesn't raise our living standard at all." MANHATTAN FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPANT, TRANSLATED FROM CHINESE

"It seems like every time every time [the landlord] needs an increase in rent, he uses a little trick **"Oh, MCI [major capital improvement], legal rental increase."** So that's one way he is jack-ing up our rents legally, you see. and as long as people don't get involved, nobody wants to fight MCI, guess what, the MCI goes in. QUEENS FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPANT

PREDATORY EQUITY LANDLORDS ALSO OFFER "PREFERENTIAL RENTS" AND THEN SUDDENLY REVOKE IT, EXPOSING TENANTS TO STEEP RENT INCREASES.

While rent-stabilized apartments have a maximum legal rent that landlords can charge, landlords often offer renters a lower amount of rent to pay, which is referred to as a preferential rent. Preferential rents work in various ways, but often, preferential rents can be revoked when leases are renewed, exposing tenants to the shock of the much higher legal rent, exerting pressure for them to move.¹⁸ **About one-fifth of respondents (21%) report that they are paying a preferential rent.**

Focus group participants describe the experience of having their preferential rent taken away:

"I had what is called preferential rent, and they raised it \$1000, in just one shot. And I tried to go to court and I tried to get help through the HCR and different places and I was told "No, you can't do anything because it's the landlord, **he can do whatever he wants."** ...How do you pay \$1000 extra, I don't know where. And if it wasn't because we managed to get the money and everything, we would have been out of the apartment." MANHATTAN FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPANT

"In my building, what has changed is economic. They want to get the old tenants out to repair the apartments and raise the rent. That is what I have seen in the building where I live. And it is in an extraordinary manner. Now I pay \$2,200. And before, I had preferential rent. And suddenly, he sent a letter - he said, "You lost ... you have no preference," and they raise your rent as they wish." - BROOKLYN FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPANT, TRANSLATED FROM SPANISH

LANDLORDS ALSO OFFER BUYOUTS TO RENT STABILIZED TENANTS AND PUT UNDUE PRESSURE ON THEM TO ACCEPT THE OFFER.

Landlords utilize buyouts as a method to drive rent stabilized tenants out of their apartments. Often these offers are accompanied with threats and harassment, such as excessive calls and text messages from the landlord, in order to pressure the tenant to take the buyout deal.¹⁹ Once the apartment is vacated, landlords renovate the unit and increase the rent exorbitantly in efforts to deregulate the unit. Focus group participants talk about the pressures of this type of harassment and the potential implications of taking on such a deal.

Focus group participants report that buyouts are often used to compel low-income tenants to leave their apartments:

"The old owner came one day and told us that we had to leave. He offered us money and put out his checkbook. He asked me if I wanted cash or if I wanted a bank card. Whatever I wanted, he was going to give it to me so we would leave the building. So then, I told him, "No. My kids were born here. I don't want to go. I like this area. I like my apartment."...So then, time passed and then they called and said, "You know what – you have to move from the apartment. **You have to find a new apartment. You only have one month.**" So then, I couldn't...I didn't want

to answer the phone because I knew it was him. Sometimes he called me from a **number I didn't know**. Sometimes he called me from private numbers to get me to answer. He **came to the house and knocked really loud**. And then my daughter... she said, "[The owner] is coming. **[The owner] scares me**. Mami, don't open the door, don't open it." BROOKLYN FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPANT, TRANSLATED FROM SPANISH

Another participant discusses why they would not take the buyout offer despite living in substandard conditions:

We suffered...there wasn't any heating. My kids were born there...the owners came and **offered us money to leave**...I always wanted to stay there, for my kids. BROOKLYN FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPANT, TRANSLATED FROM SPANISH

Another participant explains that buyouts wouldn't help as they had no place else to live:

"They used to say if you move out they can give you some money. I had nowhere to go. The money won't help." MANHATTAN FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPANT, TRANSLATED FROM CHINESE



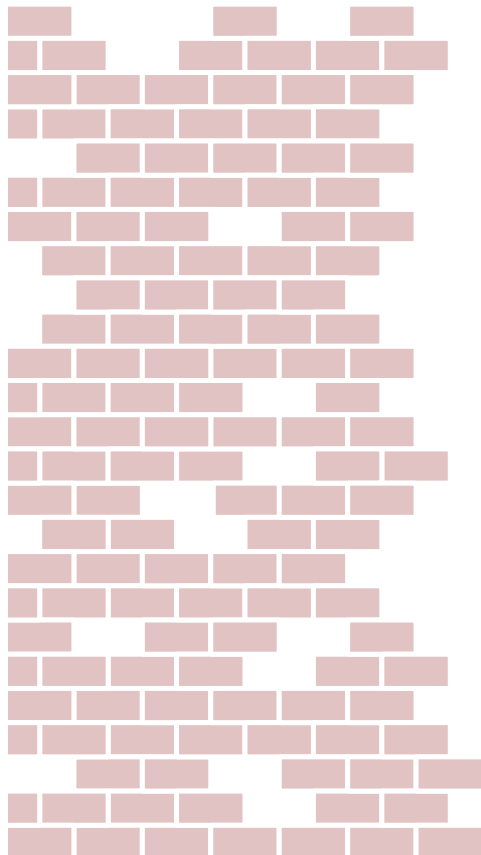
The landlord or management company also attempts to disrupt and intimidate organizing efforts by tenants.

Focus group participants report that landlords and, often their employees, attempt to disrupt tenant organizing efforts. 41% of survey respondents report feeling unsafe because they participated in their building's tenant association, participated in a legal action against their landlord, reported a problem with their landlord, or some other reason.

Focus group participants describe how supers, acting as agents of the landlord, attempt to disrupt the tenant association meetings in their buildings:

"During one of our meetings, we thought we weren't being watched/filmed, but apparently, they had put in a video camera at the site of our meeting. In the middle of our meeting, our super came out like a crazy person and yelled "What are you doing?" We responded, "None of your business!" He then put flyers up everywhere announcing that he would be arranging a meeting in the location and during the time we had agreed to meet. So we ended up cancelling our meeting." QUEENS FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPANT, TRANSLATED FROM SPANISH

"[The super] shows up at the meeting and walks around and shouts at people and takes down the pamphlets that are put up on the walls. And then I tell him that I have rights, that we have rights to organize and have the meeting and he starts saying that he'll take it away...he wants to interrupt it and disrupt the peace when we are all in the meeting. People get nervous and sometimes they leave early, because they are afraid of him, because he interrupts the order. That's what he does to us." BRONX FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPANT, TRANSLATED FROM SPANISH



41%

report that they have felt unsafe because they participated in their building's tenant association, participated in a legal action against their landlord, reported a problem with their landlord, or some other reason.

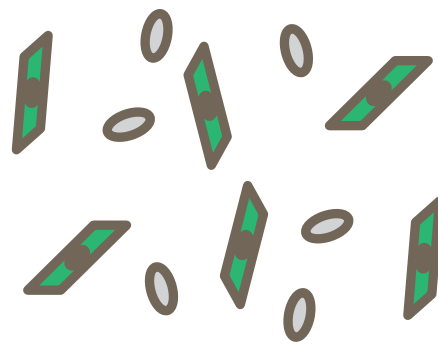
Tenants must make tradeoffs and pay money out of pocket in order to survive and stay in their homes.

Focus group and survey data show that tenants are spending money out of their own pockets in order to stay in their apartments. Although landlords are legally obligated to provide and pay for repair work, over a third of respondents have paid for repairs out of their own pockets. Landlords also take tenants to court, where they may have to cover attorney and court fees. Focus group participants report that while rent is more affordable, there are many “hidden costs” to living in rent stabilized housing: court fees, cutting off of services, and many other inconveniences.

Focus group participants describe the “hidden costs” of being rent stabilized:

“The hidden costs of being a rent stabilized tenant that people don’t seem to factor in, you’ve got reasonable rent, but then you have to factor in the inconveniences, the money you need to spend on extra heating, the court costs, constant disruptions and lost work, all of this is very expensive, but the problem is and I realize this after the fact, it would have been much better for me to get out in the beginning and pay a lot more for rent... at this point in time there’s nowhere to go.” MANHATTAN FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPANT

“My rent is a little over \$1,200 and with those increases, I’ve had to make some great adjustments in my life, such as cut back a little bit on food...I can’t afford to buy clothes like I normally would in order to try to look for a job, to go on job interviews where you need...up to date clothes. I can’t afford to do that... I have to cut back on a lot of things just to keep a roof over my head. Rent has gotten very, very high and I am not seeing why I’m paying this amount of money. Where is that money going? Why are my conditions so poor?.” BRONX FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPANT



37%

of respondents have spent money out of their own pocket to complete repairs in their apartment.

Predatory equity takes a substantial emotional toll on tenants.

Focus group findings show that the emotional toll of predatory equity on tenants and their families can leave them feeling powerless and in a state of emotional and physical distress. Participants report depression, fear, as well as physical and mental health impacts as communities are ripped apart.

A focus group participant describes that living in this way and trying to communicate with the landlord is extremely stressful:

“Well, I am sick as well, so this is very stressful for me. They want us to understand and comply with exactly what they are telling us, but they refuse to listen to us! It doesn’t make a difference how much you try to express your concerns to them...they treat you like you are nothing, and like they can take advantage of you. The individuals who work at the [landlord’s] office are so disrespectful, and ultimately, the landlords will believe their own employees over us, the tenants. It is very, very stressful.” QUEENS FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPANT, TRANSLATED FROM SPANISH

Another participant describes how the landlord's harassment tactics affected their family's emotional health:

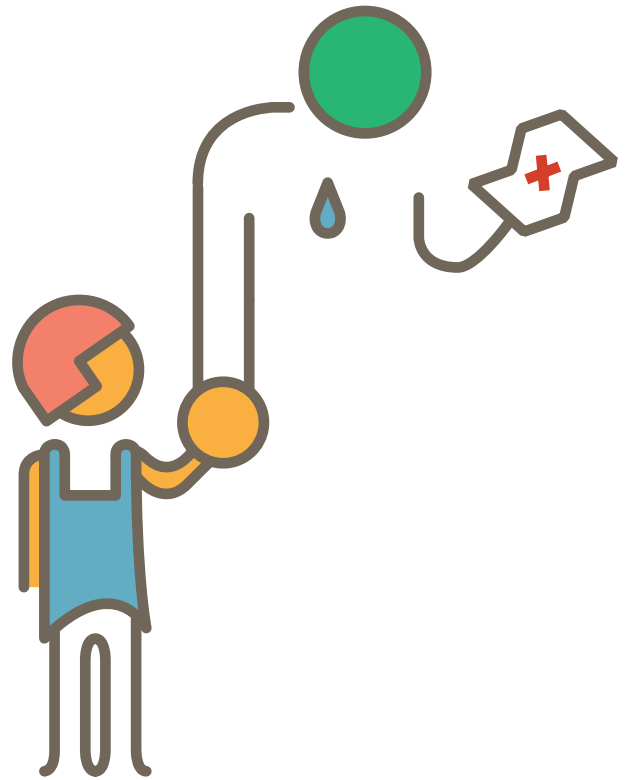
"The owner sent me an eviction notice to leave the apartment. For my daughter, it put her in a depression, because she thought we were going to a shelter. And yes, it affected me emotionally. Not just me, but my kids were suffering, they were depressed. It affected me...my emotions and my health. They called me, like she said, but from a private telephone and I answered and they said, "You have to go," that I had to go... that the police were coming." BROOKLYN FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPANT, TRANSLATED FROM SPANISH

Another participant describes how having limited English language abilities and being harassed makes them feel powerless against institutions that back the landlord:

"Harassment is something terrible. You feel so powerless to fight against something so powerful that you get filled with rage. Or also, that you don't know the language well and you see how the authorities form alliances with the owners and turn their backs on the community. That's how I see it – that they give priority to them, they are not right, and they throw you to the floor..." BROOKLYN FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPANT, TRANSLATED FROM SPANISH

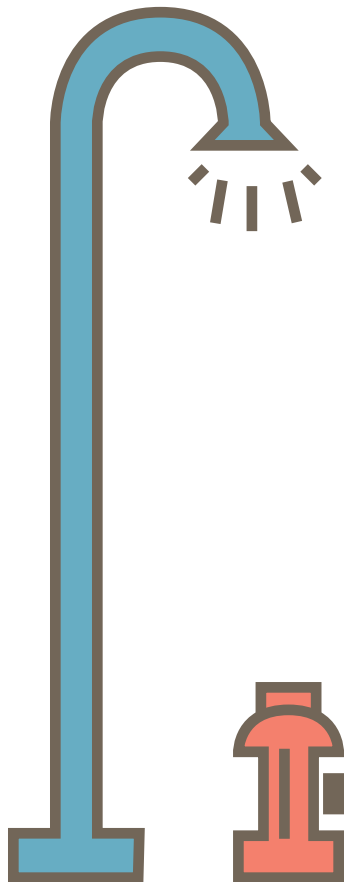
Another participant describes feeling degraded:

"It's the microaggressions that they're doing, it's the little things, like little bits of papercuts. It's like that death by a thousand cuts where you don't feel welcome, you don't feel that they value you as a tenant, even if you pay your rent on time, you're not creating a fuss..." BROOKLYN FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPANT



However, organizing with others allows tenants to make real changes to their building and quality of life.

Over half of respondents (60%) report that they are members of their building's tenant association. Focus group participants also describe how being in a tenant association and working with community organizations helps them fight for better conditions in their buildings.



Our survey finds that:



60%
of respondents
report that they are
members of their
building's tenant
association

A focus group
participant
describes how
attending tenant
association
helps combat
feelings of fear:

“There were times when I wanted to **cry**, because there were times when I **didn't even want to go out** onto the street because sometimes he [the super] was there walking. I said, if he finds me out there, he'll **grab me** and do something. So... I was afraid to go outside. But, like I said, **I got strong**. I got to know the association and now I feel like I have that strength, **I don't feel powerless** anymore. I feel strong because, thank God, I have someone who helps us, who **supports us**, because they make us strong.”

BROOKLYN FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPANT,
TRANSLATED FROM SPANISH

Another participant describes how they stood their ground to organize when the super tried to interfere during a tenant association meeting:

“I remember once, we organized and the super tried to interfere, telling us that we couldn't organize in the building and we couldn't have a meeting in the building...So, I actually had to step into his face and tell him, “...In the US we have the right to organize, it is our right and we are going to organize and if you don't let us organize and speak amongst ourselves here, this is what we're going to do: we're going to organize against you, and guess what, you're not going to have a job. Your manager is not going to back you up if all of us say, we don't want you here. There's nothing you can do about that...” BROOKLYN FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPANT, TRANSLATED FROM SPANISH

Another participant describes the positive impact that working and organizing with a community based organization has improved conditions in their building:

“[Organizer from community organization] came to my building and asked, “Who is the leader here that wants this building to start working and do things as they should be done?” “That's me, I'm the leader,” I said. And when this man arrived, I thought, here is my guardian angel, let's get to work! And we began the work, brother. Then you saw how they began fixing everything...and I just laughed inside because I have always said, when you do things by the law, and you are firmly stepping on the grounds of what is just, you need to fight.” BRONX FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPANT

THE SOLUTION: STABILIZING NYC LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

Our research has shown that predatory landlords across the city attempt to push out rent stabilized tenants by employing a variety of harassment tactics, raising rent burdens, offering buyouts, and suppressing organizing. Their goal is to displace these tenants, destabilize apartment units, and maximize the number of market rate units.

In order to address these findings, Stabilizing NYC has been working with the Coalition Against Predatory Equity (CAPE), a group of elected officials, to draft legislation that would increase scrutiny on predatory equity landlords, as well as lenders who finance predatory equity purchases. City Council should support and pass the following bills, and continue to fund Stabilizing NYC's work towards ending predatory equity and protecting tenants.



City Council should support and pass Intro 1210 — OWNER WATCH LISTS.

This bill would require the Department of Housing Preservation & Development (HPD) to create a watch list on their website for owners of multiple dwelling buildings (6 or more units) who are engaged in predatory equity practices. Owners would be categorized on "Moderate risk" or "High Risk" lists based on several factors:

- _ Capitalization Rate (CAP Rate);²⁰
- _ Number of open HPD/DOB violations per dwelling unit in the building;
- _ Number of open orders to correct underlying conditions;²¹
- _ Number of actions for harassment commenced (in housing court, Division of Homes and Community Renewal or other tribunal) within the past five years which have not been dismissed as frivolous;
- _ Number of times the building has been "flipped" in the past five years.²²

HPD would maintain the watch list by tracking capitalization rates of rent stabilized buildings sold quarterly. Additionally, HPD would establish a mechanism for members of the public to submit buildings they believe should be put on the watch list for HPD to review per the above factors. They would also establish procedures for removing landlords who no longer belong on the watch list, as well as for landlords applying to be taken off the watch list.

2

City Council should support and pass Intro 1212 — LENDER WATCH LIST.

This bill would require the Department of Housing Preservation & Development (HPD) to create and maintain a watch list on their website of lenders who provide financial support to owners engaged in predatory equity practices. The criteria for the watch list would be determined by a task force appointed by the Mayor that would include tenant advocates, lending institutions and public members. This task force would meet and hold annual hearings, then present their findings to HPD to create and implement the watch list. The lender watch list would contain information about which landlords and buildings the lender was financing, and this information would be shared with federal and state agencies overseeing banking rules and regulations.

3

City Council should support and pass Intro 1211 — CONSPIRACY TO HARASS.

This bill would create a rebuttable presumption (believed to be true until proven otherwise) regarding tenant harassment for certain buildings that meet the CAP Rate threshold defined in Intro 1210. The following allegations will be believed to be true and used to cause a tenant to vacate their apartment unless the landlord can prove otherwise:

- _ Use of force and/or making threats that force will be used against a tenant;
- _ Repeated and/or extended disruptions of essential services;
- _ Repeated (usually three or more) frivolous court proceedings against a tenant;
- _ Removal of a tenant's personal belongings from the apartment;
- _ Removal of the door to the tenant's apartment;
- _ The landlord unlawfully "offered" the tenant a buyout.



POLICY

RECOMMENDATIONS

In addition to the above legislative proposals, previous reports by New York City housing organizations and coalitions, many of which are members of SNYC, have put forward various recommendations to combat tenant harassment and prevent displacement of rent stabilized tenants. The following recommendations have been compiled from **The Burden of Fees** (2013), **Tipping the Scales** (2013), **NYC Tenants Call for the Prohibition of all Non-Rent Fees** (2015), **Stand for Tenant Safety** (2015), **Bronx Coalition for a Community Vision Policy Platform** (2015), and **Resisting Displacement in the Southwest Bronx** (2017). The full reports can be found on the Community Development Project at the Urban Justice Center website. Several organizations within SNYC coalition are also part of the Real Rent Reform Coalition and the Alliance for Tenant Power; we have included some recommendations from the joint legislative platform of these coalitions.²³ SNYC also recently came out in support of Attorney General Eric Schneiderman's Tenant Protection Act of 2017, and this is also included as a recommendation.²⁴

RECOMMENDATIONS KEY

More details of each recommendation can be found in the full reports they came from:

PREVIOUS HOUSING REPORTS AND POLICY PLATFORMS

<u>The Burden of Fees: How Affordable Housing is Made Unaffordable (2013)</u>	CASA1
<u>Tipping the Scales: A Report of Tenant Experiences in Bronx Housing Court (2013)</u>	CASA3
<u>NYC Tenants Call for the Prohibition of all Non-Rent Fees: Addendum to The Burden of Fees: How Affordable Housing is Made Unaffordable (2015)</u>	CASA2
<u>Stand for Tenant Safety: Construction as Harassment in Rent Stabilized Buildings and the STS Legislative Solution (2015)</u>	STS
<u>Bronx Coalition for a Community Vision Policy Platform (2015)</u>	BXC
<u>Resisting Displacement in the Southwest Bronx: Lessons from CASA's Tenant Organizing (2017)</u>	CASA4
<u>R3 and Alliance for Tenant Power: Legislative Program (2015)</u>	R3
<u>Tenant Protection Act of 2017</u>	AG

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ADDRESSING PHYSICAL CONDITIONS

Across New York City, landlords are conducting renovations in buildings where people continue to live. At the same time, they are neglecting repair needs and endangering the health and safety of tenants. For instance, in 2015, a gas explosion in the East Village due to substandard and unsafely installed gas systems resulted in the death of 2 people and the injury of 19 others.²⁵ The Stand for Tenant Safety (STS) coalition, of which many SNYC groups are a part, has been working to pass a package of legislation to address reckless construction. Recently, the New York City Council passed several of STS's legislative bills, an important victory for tenants, organizers, and City Council members who supported the bills. Other organizations have also developed policy recommendations to combat landlord neglect. The following recommendations would help keep tenants and communities safe:

- 1. Require building inspectors to respond to calls within 24 hours.** The City should implement policy that requires building inspectors to respond to tenant calls within 24 hours. (BXC)
- 2. Implement stronger emergency repair protocol.** The City and HPD should do this to ensure serious violations are handled in a timely manner. (BXC)
- 3. Create an Anti-Displacement Task Force with regular meetings between local community organizations and HPD to discuss strategies for housing preservation.** The task force should be able to utilize all of HPD's available tools, such as the Alternative Enforcement Program (AEP), and collaborate to maximize impact. This task force should also create a live map of distressed buildings to help community stakeholders and City officials identify buildings in distress. (CASA4)

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ADDRESSING ISSUES WITH RENT

Rent manipulation and non-rent fees continue to be a pervasive issue across boroughs. Much of this is due to the systematic weakening of the New York State Rent Laws. Predatory equity landlords exploit loopholes in the laws to increase rents. Below are recommendations for how the New York State Senate and Assembly could protect tenants in rent regulated buildings:

- 1. Eliminate the eviction bonus.** Currently the laws allow an automatic 20% rent increase when apartments turn over, which is a huge incentive for landlords to push residents out of their apartment. The State should immediately revoke this "bonus." (R3)
- 2. Make MCI's temporary surcharges.** MCI's or Major Capital Improvements are a significant contributor to rent increases for rent regulated tenants. These increases are justified by extensive repairs in a building, but are assumed into a tenant's rent permanently. The State should make these charges temporary, separate from rent, until they pay off the cost of the repairs. (R3)
- 3. Protect tenants who have preferential rents.** Preferential rents occur when a landlord offers a rent less than the legal regulated rent, which may be higher than the market will bear due to MCI's and other rent increases. In 2003, the State changed the laws regarding preferential rents, allowing landlords the ability to revoke preferential rents on any lease renewal. This has created a crisis where hundreds of thousands of tenants are at risk of huge rent increases on renewal. The State should revert the law to its pre-2003 form where if a tenant is offered a preferential rent, that rent is the base rent for their tenancy, and can only be revoked on vacating the apartment. (R3)

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ADDRESSING ISSUES WITH RENT FEES

Previous research from Community Action for Safe Apartments, as well as this report, suggest that fees are used as a harassment tactic to make rent unaffordable and contribute to pushing tenants out of their homes. The New York State Division of Homes and Community Renewal (DHCR) oversees rent stabilized housing and administered some non-rent fees, while DHCR and the Office of Court Administration (OCA) have joint jurisdiction to enforce regulations on non-rent fees. The following policies address non-rent fees:

1. **Prohibit all non-rent fees.** HCR should eliminate all non-rent fees on rent bills, such as fees for installing air conditioners, washing machine, or dishwashers. Tenants should also be able to continue to install washing machines, dryers, or dishwashers, and have air conditioners in their apartments. (CASA2)
2. **Prohibit landlords from including legal or late fees on a rent bill.** Landlords should be required to bill for legal or late fees separately, and should provide documentation of their basis for applying such fees. (CASA2)
3. **Mandate the Tenant Protection Unit (TPU) to enforce fee regulations and proactively investigate all landlords charging unauthorized fees.** TPU should work with tenants who are charged unauthorized fees by notifying them of their rights and assisting them in making overcharge complaints. (CASA2)
4. **Work with officials in housing court to eliminate the negotiation of non-rent fees.** OCA should educate all housing court officials, as well as court attorneys, clerks, and judges, on HCR laws and regulations regarding non-rent fees, and also require housing court staff to inform tenants about their right to object to these fees. (CASA1)

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COMBATTING HARASSMENT AND INTIMIDATION

The findings in this report show that tenants are being harassed and intimidated by predatory equity landlords, and the emotional toll on tenants is substantial. The City should work to protect tenants from landlords with a demonstrated history of harassment through the following recommendations:

1. **Create a Real Time Enforcement Unit to target buildings where landlords harass tenants.** This would address the lag time between when tenants report issues in the building and when DOB inspectors address those issues. (STS)
2. **Pass and implement citywide “Certificate of No Harassment” legislation.** As landlords continue to utilize renovations to raise rents and drive out tenants with disruptive and health hazardous construction work, the City should work to implement a Certificate of No Harassment (CONH) law, which would discourage tenant harassment by preventing landlords with a history of harassment from accessing permits required for construction from the Department of Buildings. (CASA4)
3. **New York State Senate and Assembly should pass the “Tenant Protection Act of 2017” introduced by Attorney General Eric Schneiderman.**²⁶ This legislation would expand and strengthen existing tenant harassment laws, making it easier to criminally prosecute landlords who harass and displace rent regulated tenants. (AG)
4. **Pass, Implement and Monitor Intro 214-B, the Right to Counsel.** In August of 2017, Mayor DeBlasio signed Intro 214-B into law, making New York City the first city in the county to establish a right to counsel. Guaranteeing counsel for tenants facing housing court proceedings has the potential to reduce evictions by as much as 77%. However, as plans for implementation move forward, careful monitoring and feedback from tenants is important in ensuring that access to counsel in housing court is a right, and not a program. (CASA4)

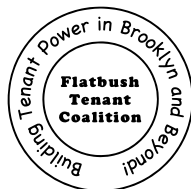
ENDNOTES

- ¹ Stabilizing NYC Coalition, "Banking on Gentrification," June 2016. http://www.uhab.org/sites/default/files/banking_on_gentrification.pdf
- ² Levy, Dina. "Fighting Predatory Equity." Shelterforce. March 30, 2011. Accessed August 7, 2017. https://shelterforce.org/2011/03/30/fighting_predatory_equity/
- ³ Ibid
- ⁴ Ibid
- ⁵ "New York City's Multi-family Rental Housing and the Market Downturn." State of New York City's Housing & Neighborhoods, 2010. The Furman Center for Real Estate & Urban Policy. Accessed August 7, 2017. http://furmancenter.org/files/sotc/Multifamily_Rental_Housing_2010.pdf
- ⁶ Levy, Dina. "Fighting Predatory Equity." Shelterforce. March 30, 2011. Accessed August 7, 2017. https://shelterforce.org/2011/03/30/fighting_predatory_equity/
- ⁷ Stabilizing NYC Coalition, "Banking on Gentrification," June 2016. http://www.uhab.org/sites/default/files/banking_on_gentrification.pdf
- ⁸ New Settlement Apartments' Community Action for Safe Apartments (CASA), "Resisting Displacement in the Southwest Bronx: Lessons from CASA's Tenant Organizing," May 2017. https://cdp.urbanjustice.org/sites/default/files/CDP.Web.doc_report_Jerome_White_Paper_5_11_Web.pdf
- ⁹ [2008 N.Y.C. Local Law No.7, NYC Admin Code § 27-2004\(a\)\(48\)](#)
- ¹⁰ Buildings surveyed in the Bronx were larger and had more units, which accounts for there being fewer addresses in that borough.
- ¹¹ This case data is accurate as of June 7, 2017. Open cases numbers may have changed since that time.
- ¹² New York State Unified Court System. NYC Housing Court – Resolution Part. Accessed October 11, 2017. <http://www.courts.state.ny.us/courts/nyc/housing/resolutionpart.shtml>
- ¹³ [N.Y.C. Admin Code §§ 26-501 -- 26-520](#)
- ¹⁴ [N.Y.C. Admin Code §§ 26-510\(a\)](#)
- ¹⁵ Fees are Fraud Coalition and Community Development Project (CDP) at the Urban Justice Center, "NYC Tenants Call for the Prohibition of All NonRent Fees. A Report Addendum to The Burden of Fees: How Affordable Housing is Made Unaffordable," April, 2015, https://cdp.urbanjustice.org/sites/default/files/CDP.WEB.doc_Report_CitywideNonrentFeesData_20150430.pdf
- ¹⁶ "MCIs: Major Capital Improvement rent increases." MCIs: Major Capital Improvement rent increases | Metropolitan Council on Housing. Accessed July 13, 2017.
- ¹⁷ New Settlement Apartments' Community Action for Safe Apartments (CASA), "Resisting Displacement in the Southwest Bronx: Lessons from CASA's Tenant Organizing," May 2017.
- ¹⁸ "Preferential Rents." Preferential Rents | Metropolitan Council on Housing. Accessed July 13, 2017. http://metcouncilonhousing.org/help_and_answers/preferential_rents.
- ¹⁹ Kaysen, Ronda. "Tenants Offered Buyouts Are Left in the Lurch." The New York Times. April 28, 2017. Accessed July 14, 2017. <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/04/28/realestate/tenants-offered-buyouts-are-left-in-the-lurch.html?mcubz=2&r=0>.
- ²⁰ Capitalization (CAP) Rate is the rate of investment return on a real estate property, calculated using the ratio of the net operating income that a property generates to the purchase price of the property. It can be used to determine the financial health of a property.
- ²¹ Orders to correct underlying conditions are issued to landlords in housing court to correct any recurring poor physical condition that is causing other repair issues.
- ²² Buildings are "flipped" when they are purchased for a lower price, renovated, and then sold for a higher price.
- ²³ Susman, Sue. "R3 and Alliance for Tenant Power: Legislative Program." Real Rent Reform. Accessed August 7, 2017, <http://www.realrentreform.org/2015/01/r3-and-alliance-for-tenant-power.html>
- ²⁴ "A.G. Schneiderman Introduces Legislation To Criminally Crack Down On Tenant Harassment." New York State Attorney General. Accessed August 09, 2017. <https://ag.ny.gov/press-release/ag-schneiderman-introduces-legislation-criminally-crack-down-tenant-harassment>.
- ²⁵ Santora, Marc and Al Baker. "East Village Explosion Ignites Fire, Fells Buildings and Injures at Least 19." The New York Times. March 26, 2015. Accessed July 7, 2017. <https://www.nytimes.com/2015/03/27/nyregion/reports-of-explosion-in-east-village.html>
- ²⁶ Ibid



Stabilizing NYC (SNYC) is a coalition comprised of fifteen grassroots neighborhood-based organizations, a citywide legal service provider and a citywide housing advocacy organization who have come together to combat tenant harassment and preserve affordable housing for the New Yorkers who need it most. The coalition combines legal, advocacy and organizing resources into a citywide network to help tenants take their predatory equity landlords to task for patchwork repairs, baseless eviction cases, and affirmative harassment.

STABILIZING NYC MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS:



The Community Development Project at the Urban Justice Center (CDP) partnered with SNYC to conduct this research. CDP provides legal, participatory research and policy support to strengthen the work of grassroots and community-based groups in New York City to dismantle racial, economic and social oppression. CDP's Research and Policy Initiative partners with and provides strategic support

to grassroots community organizations to build the power of their organizing and advocacy work. We utilize a "participatory action research" model in which low-income and excluded communities are central to the design and development of research and policy.



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Against Sexual Assault**

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**FY2019 BUDGET HEARING TESTIMONY
SEXUAL ASSAULT INITIATIVE**

My name is Mary Haviland. I am the Executive Director of the New York City Alliance Against Sexual Assault. On behalf of the Sexual Assault Initiative, we respectfully request the City Council **increase the level of funding from \$600,000 to \$1,000,000** to increase our number of service providers from four to five. They are: our organization, Kingsbridge Heights Community Center, Mount Sinai's Sexual Assault and Violence Intervention Program, the Crime Victims Treatment Center and the newly added North Brooklyn Coalition Against Family Violence. The increase is needed to provide rape crisis services in Brooklyn, which as a borough of over 2.6 million has only 3 certified programs (only one being a hospital). Rectifying this disparity would bring services to Brooklyn that include: rape crisis advocates at multiple Brooklyn hospitals, increased rape crisis staff targeting Brooklyn, greater community outreach, more education and training programs, and funding to respond to emergency needs. As the #MeToo movement has demonstrated, sexual violence cuts across boundaries of culture, class, education, income, ethnicity and age. In order to maintain the same level of service in a time of an increased interest in our offerings and anti-sexual violence, as well as increase engagement and outreach to Brooklyn residents, we kindly request the increased support in the amount **of \$1,000,000**.

In recent years, the rates of sexual assault in New York City have not decreased. New York City has experienced a **five-year upward trend**, with a total of **1617 rapes** reported to the New York Police Department in 2017 an 8% increase over 2015. Understanding anecdotally that Brooklyn possesses the lowest level of service capacity, the Alliance researched and sought data on the the incidence of sexual violence and the capacity of rape crisis programs to respond city-wide.

We surveyed the current RCP programs, requested data from the NYS Office on Victim Services and compiled CompStat police precinct data. We found waitlists for counseling, especially for Spanish-speaking survivors, limited ability to provide technical assistance and the lack of capacity for community outreach.

The Sexual Assault Initiative **served over 3,100 victims and survivors of sexual assault and conducted over 12,500 counseling/training sessions** in FY2017. The Crime Victim Treatment Center, who could not be here tonight, is providing the only free services for male survivors of sexual assault in New York City. In 2017, 20% of their clients were male or transgendered and they provided almost 6,000 counseling sessions. Also unable to be here tonight, Mount Sinai SAVI provides services to trafficking victims with their NYC Council funds. In FY2017, they saw over 1300 survivors and provided over 5,000 counseling sessions. Kingsbridge Heights Community Center and the North Brooklyn Coalition Against Family Violence will be presenting their own testimony this evening. (Kingsbridge Heights Community Center is the only free and full service facility serving victims of child sexual abuse. In FY2017, they conducted over 2,000 counseling sessions their Bronx offices.) The Initiative programs see survivors from all 5 boroughs and serve people from diverse communities in NYC. With the additional funds, the Sexual Assault Initiative anticipates serving an additional 400 Brooklyn clients, training 130 new volunteer advocates and serving a mojo hospital in the borough, Woodhull.

New York City Council Funding supports the Alliance's Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner Training Institute (SAFETI), the largest NYS Department of Health-certified training program for emergency department and medical professionals in New York State. SAFETI is the **only training program in New York City** that is open to all licensed doctors, registered nurses, nurse practitioners and physician assistants. SAFETI also trains staff of various organizations aiming to improve their services to survivors of sexual assault. In FY2018, we trained over 1,100 health and human service professionals thanks to City Council's support.

With the provision of increased services, survivors will receive follow-up services such as criminal justice advocacy through the investigative and prosecution process, increased compensation for their loss, supportive counseling and health services that will lead to an increased trust in these systems as well as less self-blame. Clinically, these are linked to better psychological outcomes post sexual assault.



New York City Alliance
Against Sexual Assault



Mount Sinai
Hospital



Crime
Victims
Treatment
Center

North Brooklyn Coalition
Against Family Violence



The New York City Sexual Assault Initiative Combined Stats FY2013 - FY2017 Report

FY2015-16 Funding Level: \$600,000

FY2016-17 Funding Level: \$600,000

FY2017-18 Funding Level: \$600,000

FY2018-19 Funding Request Amount: \$1,000,000

1. Number of Clients Served					
Fiscal Year	CVTC	SAVI	Alliance ¹	Kings Bridge ²	Total
FY2013	1,047	614	158	103	1,922
FY2014	992	859	331	200	2,382
FY2015	1,343	921	554	226	3,044
FY2016	1,307	1,229	974	204	3,714
FY2017 (July 1-June 30)	915	1,336	1,144	166	3,561
2. By Borough					
By Borough					
Borough	CVTC	SAVI	Alliance	Kings Bridge	
Brooklyn	-	-	24%	1%	
Bronx	-	-	9%	99%	
Manhattan	-	33%	51%	-	
Queens	-	67%	16%	-	

Staten Island	-	-	-	-	
Other	-	-	-	-	
3. Number of Counseling Sessions/Training Days Conducted					
Fiscal Year	CVTC	SAVI	Alliance	Kings Bridge ²	Total
FY2013	3,932	3,144	400	1,406	8,882
FY2014	4,933	3,773	337	1,538	10,581
FY2015	4,332	4,101	322	1,286	10,041
FY2016	5,951	4,831	325	3,375	14,482
FY2017 (July 1-June 30)	6,008	5,439	623	2,002	14,072
4. Number of Clinical/Training Staff					
Fiscal Year	CVTC	SAVI	Alliance	Kings Bridge	Total
FY2013	14	9	1	4	28
FY2014	14	9	1	3	27
FY2015	16	9	1	3	29
FY2016	17	11	2	4	34
FY2017 (July 1-June 30)	17	11	2	7	37
EoY2017 (June 30-Dec 31)	17	12	2	9	40
5. Gender Ratio					
	CVTC	SAVI	Alliance ³	Kings Bridge	
Female	80%	88%	-	77%	
Male	18%	7%	-	23%	
Transgender	2%	1%	-	0%	
Gender Non-Conforming	0%	4%	-	0%	
6. Ethnicity					
	Black or African American	Hispanic or Latino	White	Asian	Other
CVTC	27%	26%	32%	8%	7%

The Alliance ³	-	-	-	-	-
SAVI	18%	55%	13%	9%	5%
Kingsbridge	25%	71%	0%	0%	6%
7. Age					
	0-12	13-17	18-24	25-59	60+
CVTC	1%	3%	19%	71%	6%
The Alliance ³	-	-	-	-	-
SAVI	1%	1%	18%	79%	1%
Kingsbridge	16%	30%	6%	24%	1%
8. Brooklyn Expansion					
Estimated Impact of Brooklyn Expansion					
Fiscal Year	CVTC	SAVI	Alliance	NBC	Total
Estimate of Bklyn Clients Served	270	50	x	100	420
Est. of Bklyn Volunteers Trained	25	50	40	15	130
Which hospital you plan to partner with	-	-	-	Woodhull Hospital	-
Any projections on staffing patterns	-	-	-	Adding 2 additional FT staff and training 8 current staff members	-
Estimates on FTE	-	-	-	2	-
Notes					
¹ professionals trained					
² High staffing turnover resulted in a lower caseload for 2017.					
³ The Alliance does not ask training participants for demographic information.					

THE NEW YORK CITY SEXUAL ASSAULT INITIATIVE

FISCAL YEAR 2019 FUNDING REQUEST

The NYC Council provides critical support to 4 rape crisis programs in the **Sexual Assault Initiative** (SAI) and over 2,000 survivors from disenfranchised communities. To reach additional underrepresented victims, a fifth rape crisis program will join SAI in FY2019. To increase our level of services and community engagement/outreach, **we kindly request support in the amount of \$1,000,000**. Your support will help providers better respond to gaps in services and the growing need for a comprehensive sexual assault response across all five boroughs. **The increase is needed to provide rape crisis services to Brooklyn, which as a borough of over 2.6 million has only 3 certified programs (only one being a hospital).** Rectifying this disparity would bring services to Brooklyn that include: rape crisis advocates at multiple Brooklyn hospitals, increased rape crisis staff targeting Brooklyn, greater community outreach, more education and training programs, and funding to respond to emergency needs. The SAI served over 3,146 survivors and providers, and conducted over 12,500 counseling/training sessions in FY2017.

Child Sexual Assault	Sex Trafficking	Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner (SAFE) Training	Male Victim Services	Rape Crisis Services
BRONX	QUEENS	CITY-WIDE	MANHATTAN	BROOKLYN
Kingsbridge Heights Community Center (KHCC)	Mount Sinai's Sexual Assault and Violence Intervention (SAVI)	The New York City Alliance Against Sexual Assault (NYCAASA)	Crime Victims Treatment Center (CVTC)	North Brooklyn Coalition Against Family Violence (NBC)
Only <i>free</i> and <i>long-term</i> treatment for sexually abused children in the Bronx	Only <i>free</i> program to assist victims of commercial <i>sexual exploitation</i>	<i>Largest</i> training institute for medical professionals to become NYS certified SAFE's.	Only <i>free</i> and <i>long-term</i> program for male victims of sexual assault	Bilingual provider key to increasing rape crisis coverage to the borough of Brooklyn.
Served 166 children	Served 1,336 clients	Trained 1,144 medical and human service professionals	Served 915 clients	Joining SAI and expanding services for FY2018.
Conducted 2,002 counseling sessions	Conducted 5,439 counseling sessions	Conducted 620 training days	Conducted 6,008 counseling sessions	
Additional services to be provided with funds for Brooklyn Expansion:				
	Estimated 50 volunteers trained. Estimate additional 50 clients served in Brooklyn.	Provide assistance with hospital access and volunteer training. Estimate 30 Brooklyn medical professionals & others trained.	Estimated 25 volunteers trained. Estimate additional 270 clients served in Brooklyn.	Establish advocate program with Woodhull Hospital- 15 volunteers trained. Estimate additional 100 clients served in Brooklyn.



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THE NEW YORK CITY SEXUAL ASSAULT INITIATIVE

FISCAL YEAR 2019 FUNDING REQUEST



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**Testimony from Selfhelp Community Services
New York City Council
FY19 Executive Budget Public Testimony
May 24, 2018**

My name is Sandy Myers and I am the Vice President of External Affairs and Communications at Selfhelp Community Services. Thank you to Finance Chair Daniel Dromm and the members of the Finance Committee for the opportunity to testify today on the FY19 Executive Budget.

Selfhelp was founded in 1936 to help those fleeing Nazi Germany maintain their independence and dignity as they struggled to forge new lives in America. Today, Selfhelp has grown into one of the largest and most respected not-for-profit human service agencies in the New York metropolitan area, with 26 sites throughout Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens, the Bronx, and Nassau County. We provides a broad set of services to more than 20,000 elderly, frail, and vulnerable New Yorkers each year, while remaining the largest provider of comprehensive services to Holocaust survivors in North America. Selfhelp offers a complete network of community-based home care, social service, and senior housing programs with the overarching goal of helping clients to live with dignity and independence and avoid institutional care.

Our services are extensive and include: specialized programs for Holocaust Survivors; ten affordable senior housing complexes; four Naturally Occurring Retirement Community (NORC) programs; three intensive case management programs; five senior centers including one of New York City's first Innovative Senior Centers; home health care; client centered technology programs including the Virtual Senior Center; court-appointed guardianship; the Selfhelp Alzheimer's Resource Program (SHARP); and New York Connects, which provides seniors and people with disabilities with the information and support they need to remain living independently in their own homes.

We are grateful for the Council's long standing and ongoing support for so many important senior programs and for always emphasizing the needs of older adults in policy decisions and budget allocations. With strong community based programs, we are confident that older New Yorkers will be able to access the care and support they deserve and need to be able to age in their own homes and communities. In today's testimony, I will focus on our priorities as we go into the final weeks of the budget negotiations. Additional priorities are included in the testimony submitted by Selfhelp for the preliminary budget.



Claims Conference ועידת התביעות
The Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany

City Council Initiatives

While we commend the objectives of Fair Fares, we are concerned about the proposal to cut crucial City Council initiatives as the mechanism to fund this program. Both Fair Fares and programs that are funded through initiatives support some of New York City's most vulnerable residents.

Initiative funding is particularly critical for nonprofits and programs that support older New Yorkers. According to DFTA's own preliminary budget testimony from this year, they note that their FY19 budget is \$20.3 million less than its Adopted Budget for FY18. This overall decrease is largely due to the absence at this time of one-time Council funding that supports senior services. **The Council added \$31.6 million to DFTA's budget in the Fiscal 2018, which equates to more than nine percent of DFTA's total budget for the current fiscal year.**

Cutting any amount of DFTA's budget by eliminating initiatives would have a dramatic impact to the nonprofits who receive the funding and the clients served. For example, the Elie Wiesel Holocaust Survivor Initiative provides crucial case management services to the 50% of survivors living at or below the poverty line. Through Support Our Seniors and the Digital Inclusion Initiatives, socially isolated and homebound seniors are able to connect to the world outside through our Virtual Senior Center. At our four NORC programs, initiative funding keeps the doors open, and enables thousands of older adults to age in the communities they call home, in the City they built.

Holocaust Survivor Initiative:

For the past few years, the City Council, with the leadership and advocacy of Council Member Espinal, along with the Jewish Caucus started and expanded the Elie Wiesel Holocaust Survivor Initiative. We are urging the City Council to renew this initiative, with continued support for Selfhelp and our Holocaust Survivor Program. In FY19, Selfhelp is seeking \$350,000 to fund direct social services to frail, isolated, and financially needy Holocaust survivors. More than 50% of the survivors served by Selfhelp are living at or below the poverty line, while 80% of survivors from the former Soviet Union are living in poverty. As the largest provider of comprehensive services to survivors, Selfhelp is uniquely positioned to assist this last generation of survivors, especially as their needs grow more intense and more costly.

We have over 230 survivors on a waitlist in Brooklyn that we are working to address with the FY18 City Council initiative grant. Additional funds in FY19 will help not only continue to address this population of survivors in Brooklyn, but also will support direct social services to frail, isolated and financially needy Holocaust survivors. Services include case management to assist in assessing and developing a mutual agreed upon care plan that will be implemented to keep the client safe in the community with dignity and independence.

Model Budget

We commend the Department for the Aging (DFTA), Office of Management and Budget, and the City Council for the ongoing commitment to senior centers since the beginning of the model budget process. Funding for the City's senior centers is a critical step to stabilizing one of the core programs that



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supports older New Yorkers, including many immigrant seniors. Further, the investment in the model budget for staff helps address an ongoing issue related to salary parity that has been a concern for Selfhelp since the case management salaries were raised. We have now seen the impact of increased salaries in the aging network, and are grateful for this important step.

However, we remain concerned that other costs beyond salaries were not included in the model budget process, in particular for food, which is a significant cost for senior centers. We hope that the allocations in the subsequent years will focus on food, rent, OTPS, and other associated costs. Selfhelp is also requesting that the remaining \$10 million that has been committed to this process be allocated by FY20, instead of FY21.

Expediting the \$10 million in funding by FY20 as opposed to the proposed 3-year rollout will have a very positive impact on the operations of our programs. Allocating these funds is especially important with the projected next RFP for senior centers to be released in calendar year 2020.

Meals

Selfhelp also supports the request for \$12.1 million for congregate and home delivered meals to be baselined to increase the reimbursement rates. This funding is particularly important to increase the reimbursement rate for culturally-competent meals, such as kosher or halal, both of which currently result in a deficit to nonprofits upon each meal provided, despite cultural competency being mandated by DFTA

Senior Transportation Program

With support from Council Member Paul Vallone and the Queens Delegation, Selfhelp has been piloting a senior transportation program to provide free transportation to and from medical appointments. Due to the success of the program and high demand from individuals, we are seeking to expand access to this program. With funding provided by the Queens Delegation in FY18, Selfhelp provided 194 rides to 125 older adults in 12 City Council districts within Queens. As a result of the demand for accessible transportation and popularity of this program, the funding was utilized quickly, and we believe that with additional funding, Selfhelp will be able to establish a program that can serve additional individuals. In FY19, Selfhelp has requested \$25,000 from the Queens Delegation to continue and expand the borough-wide program.

Based on feedback received by individuals who benefitted from the program, as well as the demand for services, we know that the program improves quality of life for older New Yorkers, as it eliminates concerns about transportation costs, traveling alone, and navigating public transit. Further, in transportation deserts in parts of NYC and Queens in particular, this program removed a significant barrier for older adults in caring for their health.

Conclusion

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. On behalf of the 20,000 clients we serve, I am grateful for the Council's support on so many important programs.



Claims Conference ועידת התביעות
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Testimony prepared by

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for the

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on

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on behalf of

Food Bank For New York City

INTRODUCTION

Good afternoon Chair Dromm and members of the City Council's Finance Committee. My name is Triada Stampas and I am the Vice President of Research and Public Affairs at Food Bank For New York City. Food Bank appreciates the opportunity to present testimony today to the City Council about the Executive Budget for Fiscal Year 2019

First, Food Bank For New York City thanks the City Council for your continued commitment to addressing the issue of hunger and ensuring that all New Yorkers have access to affordable, nutritious food. The City Council has long played a leadership role in this arena, and we are pleased to see continued strong leadership on anti-hunger initiatives this past year. This City Council has been instrumental in securing three years of consecutive increases to emergency food funding, enabling the City's Emergency Food Assistance Program (EFAP) to reach a historic high-water mark, as well as investing additional discretionary funding for initiatives that help the network of emergency food providers on the front lines of hunger in our city. The City Council has been especially strategic in its funding strategy, supporting work that leverages the reach of the emergency food network

Disaggregated by borough, the Meal Gap for:

- the Bronx is 41.2 million;
- Brooklyn is 87.6 million;
- Manhattan is 40.6 million;
- Queens is 47.4 million; and
- Staten Island is 7.9 million.

As an attachment to my testimony, you will find a visual representation of the Meal Gap by City Council district. I look forward to meeting with individual Council Members to discuss the Meal Gap in your district and ways we can work together to ultimately eliminate it.

Consistent with trends in poverty and unemployment, the number of food-insecure New York City residents has been in decline in recent years. Since 2009, the number of food-insecure New Yorkers has dropped by seven percent.

While this trend would appear to be inconsistent with continued reports of elevated need at food pantries and soup kitchens, additional data from the Meal Gap analysis helps provide an explanation: the food budget shortfall of those struggling with food insecurity has increased by 29 percent, even as the number of food-insecure New York City residents has declined (see Table 1). This means that the financial resources of those experiencing food insecurity are increasingly insufficient to secure an adequate diet. These data suggest that emergency food providers have been seeing visitors with greater frequency than in times past.

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Weekly food budget shortfall per food-insecure NYC resident	\$16.02	\$16.68	\$15.85	\$18.18	\$19.03	\$19.70	\$20.67
% change from prior year		4%	-5%	15%	5%	4%	5%
% change from 2009		4%	-1%	13%	19%	23%	29%

Table 1. Food Bank For New York City analysis of Map the Meal Gap data, 2009-2015.

Emergency food, our last line of defense against hunger, is not sufficient to meet this need. When cash, benefits, and the generosity of family and friends have been exhausted, the emergency food network is the resource of last resort for those struggling to keep food on the table. Yet even before cuts to SNAP benefits, this network, which relies heavily on unpaid volunteers to do its work, was having a hard time meeting heightened levels of need that persisted past the end of the recession.⁸ For example, the average number of

⁸ By economists' definitions, the recession, which began in December 2007, ended in June 2009.

meals in a pantry bag (nearly six) remained largely unchanged after the recession, and continues to fall short of New York State's nine-meal standard.⁹

FACTS ABOUT EMERGENCY FOOD

As referenced earlier, in November of 2013, sweeping cuts were made to SNAP benefits. After three years, the effect of the cuts are still impacting New York City's emergency food network: nearly 80% of food pantries and soup kitchens continue to see increased visitor traffic, and food shortages continue to be widespread.¹⁰ This is despite other economic indicators, such as poverty and unemployment, which are closely associated with food insecurity, either having improved or remaining relatively unchanged over those years.

In September 2017:

- **Approximately half (56 percent) of food pantries and soup kitchens reported running out of food**, or particular types of food needed for complete pantry bags or meals;
- **More than one third (35 percent) of food pantries and soup kitchens reported having to turn people away** due to food shortages; and
- **Nearly half (46 percent) of food pantries reported reducing the number of meals provided in their pantry bags.**¹¹

It is critical to know who relies on emergency food programs:

- An estimated 1.4 million New York City **residents** rely on emergency food programs, including soup kitchens and food pantries, each year.
- Approximately 339,000 New York City **children** or approximately one out of every five, rely on soup kitchens and food pantries.
- Approximately 604,770 New York City adult **women**, or approximately one out of every six, rely on soup kitchens and food pantries.
- Approximately 204,000 New York City **seniors**, or approximately one out of every five, rely on soup kitchens and food pantries.
- Approximately 70,000 New York City **veterans**, or approximately three out of every ten, rely on soup kitchens and food pantries.¹²

⁹ *Serving Under Stress Post-Recession: The State of Food Pantries and Soup Kitchens Today*. Food Bank For New York City, 2012.

¹⁰ *Trade-offs at the Dinner Table*. Food Bank For New York City. November 2017.

¹¹ *Ibid.*

¹² *Hunger's New Normal: Redefining Emergency in Post-Recession New York City*. Food Bank For New York City. October 2013.

FEDERAL POLICY THREATENS ANTI-HUNGER SAFETY NET

While the November 2013 SNAP cuts continue to represent the biggest systemic factor reducing the food purchasing power of low-income people,¹³ the Farm Bill currently under consideration in the United States House of Representatives would trigger losses on a much broader scale. The Agriculture and Nutrition Act of 2018 (H.R. 2) would take an axe to SNAP: it cuts food assistance from working families and jobless individuals alike, from older adults as well as children. Some of the damaging proposals in the bill include:

- Extending work and work training requirements to individuals ages 16-59 and with children over the age of 6, which would increase the burden on families, seniors, and underemployed adults;
- Imposing a punitive one-month time limit for receipt of benefits while un- or under-employed;
- Eliminating state flexibility to waive work requirements and time limits during times of high unemployment and/or low job availability;
- Eliminating the state option for Broad Based Categorical Eligibility, which would affect working families and parents struggling with childcare costs;
- Eliminating simplified reporting of home energy expenses through the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, which will cause the significant loss of SNAP benefits for hundreds of thousands of public housing residents in our City and create new paperwork burdens for others; and
- Requiring USDA to collect and report regularly on food purchases made with EBT cards.

The work requirements in this bill are broader and more punitive than existing work requirements for SNAP – and there is no evidence that they would be any more effective. For individuals who would face new work requirements in this 2018 Farm Bill, **one month without a job or other qualifying activity will result in a loss of SNAP** – irrespective of their need for food, or their ability to afford it, in that time. This would include parents of young children, despite the fact that they may be working less than the hours deemed sufficient or may be unable to find work. For those who will lose their SNAP benefits, a food pantry or soup kitchen might be their only place to turn for the food they need for survival.

We were pleased to see that this Farm Bill did not pass last week on the House floor, yet it may be up for a re-vote within the next month. This proposal, if enacted, would only increase food insecurity, creating longer lines at emergency food programs already facing a growing population and food shortages. While this most recent attempt has failed, the intention is clear: this Congress intends to pass legislation that will hurt our neighbors struggling to afford food, and asking them to look to the emergency food network in order to fill the gap.

¹³ For example, local unemployment, a highly influential factor in seeking food assistance, has been in steady decline in New York City since then.

Even before the release of the 2018 Farm Bill, the state of hunger, particularly for immigrants, was fear. Emergency food providers identify policy changes, particularly at the federal level, as the greatest threat to their ability to deliver services effectively – more so than funding, staff or other operational concerns.¹⁴ This Farm Bill is the clearest indication of the direction in which the Administration and Congressional leadership intend to move federal anti-hunger policy. We must work together to fight these harmful proposals and help struggling New Yorkers.

BUDGET PRIORITIES TO ENSURE NO NEW YORKER GOES HUNGRY

No New Yorker should go hungry: access to adequate, nutritious food is a fundamental human right. Thankfully, the policies and programs to realize this core principle are already in existence, and with the collective commitment of leaders across sectors, we can make this happen. While cuts to SNAP have intensified the challenge, policy and budget options well within the authority and discretion of City government can considerably improve the lives of New Yorkers who struggle to afford food.

New York City's anti-hunger resources – primarily those that bolster SNAP enrollment and fortify our emergency food system – are more vital than ever. Food Bank For New York City offers these recommendations on behalf of the emergency food network in a spirit of partnership. It is our hope this spirit will be met by constructive engagement by the City Council and the Administration as we take on hunger together. (Attached to the testimony you will also find a complete copy of Food Bank For New York City's 2018 Policy Priorities.)

Emergency Food Assistance Program (EFAP)

EFAP is a major source of food for our city's emergency food network. EFAP plays an especially important role because it provides a steady year-round supply of nutritious food for the approximately 500 food pantries and soup kitchens that participate. EFAP provides food from all five food groups, and all EFAP food meets the City's rigorous nutrition standards. In addition, EFAP is an important source of kosher food.

We are grateful that during the Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 New York City budget process, the City Council has continued to make EFAP funding a top priority. We are, however, extremely disappointed that the Mayor's FY 2019 Executive Budget *maintains a devastating cut to EFAP* food funding of \$7.8 million (reducing the baseline amount to the FY 2012 level of \$8.2 million for emergency food). At a time when New York City already faces a Meal Gap of 225 million meals, **this funding reduction would mean a loss of approximately 6.8 million vitally needed meals.** This pattern of eliminating past years' EFAP funding increases in the

¹⁴ "Unboxing the Reality of Hunger: Hidden Need, Threats and Resources of New York City's Emergency Food Network". Food Bank For New York City, February 2018.

Preliminary and Executive Budgets, with restoration of those funds (and potentially, increases) after negotiation with the City Council in the Adopted Budget introduces great uncertainty into an emergency food network already struggling to stretch resources as far as possible. This budget dance must stop. This Administration has the opportunity to expand access to one of the most valuable sources of food available to food pantries and soup kitchens. At a time when we are facing devastating proposals at the federal level, we need this Administration to support New Yorkers struggling with hunger.

- We urge the City Council to support increasing baseline food funding for EFAP to \$22 million, which would take into account rising poverty and food costs since the start of the Great Recession.
- It would allow pantries to adjust for the current inadequacy of the food supply, which only allows food pantries to provide 5.8 meals in a typical pantry bag – far short of New York State’s nine-meal standard.
- It would also allow the administration to evaluate the program and expand its reach to more pantries and soup kitchens in all corners of the city.

SNAP

While the November 2013 SNAP cuts have reduced the benefit amounts of those already participating, it remains of utmost importance to ensure that eligible New Yorkers who are not enrolled in the program avail themselves of the benefit – particularly emergency food participants. Even at the currently reduced benefit amounts, SNAP benefits provide our city about as many meals in *two months* as the entire emergency food system distributes in a year.

SNAP is our first line of defense against hunger, and we are extremely appreciative for the energy and resources that HRA has put into improving access to SNAP for all eligible New Yorkers. We have enthusiastically partnered in promoting HRA’s #SNAPHelps campaign to spread the word about the availability of SNAP. We are also pleased that HRA is working to lower barriers to benefits, and taking advantage of technology in new ways to expand access to SNAP.

- We encourage HRA to coordinate SNAP outreach and application with other benefits and services that reach low-income populations, like senior programs, emergency food programs and Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites.

We also applaud HRA for its work over the last several years in partnership with organizations that provide SNAP assistance to ensure as many New Yorkers who meet the ABAWD definition as possible are aware of the criteria for exemption from the time limit.

- We encourage HRA to prioritize those who are subject to employment-related time limits for placement in appropriate workforce development, training and education

programs in order to preserve their food benefits.

- We encourage HRA to continue to take advantage of all available federal waivers and options that increase benefit amounts and reduce the burden on applicants and HRA staff. We encourage the administration to continue efforts to simplify and fully implement online SNAP application and recertification processes.

City Council Initiatives

In previous years, the New York City Council has included vital increases to EFAP, as well as additional funding to food pantries and income support programs, including volunteer tax assistance. We urge the Council to continue to prioritize funding designed to help New Yorkers working to make ends meet by support the following initiatives during the FY 2019 budget negotiations:

- **Food Access and Benefits:** Vital funding will be provided in order to strengthen programming that increases access and connects low-income New Yorkers to a continuum of anti-hunger and anti-poverty services. This includes distribution of emergency food (including fresh produce), free tax preparation to low-income and workign poor individuals and families, and benefits enrollment (e.g. SNAP) year-round in all five boroughs. Funding will also support ongoing training, techincal assistance, and capacity building for nearly 1,000 network partners that serve low-income families, the working poor, seniors, immigrants, those with disabilities, and other struggling New York City residents. Food Bank's programs and resources are strategically focused in communities with high levels of poverty and food insecurity.
- **Campus Pantries:** Through a partnership with the City Council, Food Bank For New York City was able to support the creation of 25 campus pantries in New York City public schools in FY 2018. These 25 campus pantries offer a unique opportunity to provide low-income children in all five boroughs and their families access to a variety of necessities on a regular basis. Families receive access to a variety of healthy food options, as well as menstrual products, and essential personal hygiene and household cleaning items.

School Meals

Food Bank For New York City applauds the City Council for continuing to prioritize school meals each year – expansion would not have occurred without your support and leadership. We celebrated the expansion of universal school meals to all New York City public school students. We also strongly support Breakfast in the Classroom as it has helped reduce the stigma associated with participation and allows students to start the day with a healthy meal instead of an empty stomach.

Income Support & Poverty Reduction Programs

Approximately one in five adults on food pantry and soup kitchen lines is employed - that's almost 200,000 New Yorkers who are working but not earning enough to provide for themselves and their families. Recognizing that there is no surer way off a food pantry or soup kitchen line than a living wage job, there is much our city can do to support working New Yorkers who are earning too little to afford needed food.

We urge the City Council to work closely with the Department of Consumer Affairs to expand free tax preparation services available to low-income New Yorkers throughout our city. Approximately 20 percent of tax filers eligible for the EITC in New York fail to claim it, and the high-quality free tax assistance services available throughout our city can ensure low-income New Yorkers receive every refund and credit to which they are entitled.

We also encourage New York City to develop job creation, training and education strategies that are geared toward poverty reduction and to invest in economic development that both enhances the nutrition landscape and provides opportunities for employment in low-income communities.

CONCLUSIONS

New Yorkers turn to emergency food programs when they have no other options. The compassionate faces of the people serving meals at food pantries and soup kitchens are the same faces who must bear their neighbors' disappointment, desperation and fear when food has run out but their need has not. A reduction in funding to EFAP may force food pantries and soup kitchens to do just that because they will no longer have the nutritious food that they and their families need to survive. New York City can and must do better.

As federal cuts are proposed to our country's deepest investment in preventing hunger, local leadership has never been more important. New York City has the opportunity to lead by protecting New Yorkers – especially the most vulnerable – from harmful budget and policy proposals. This is our City's moment to come together as a united front to show its commitment to the principle that no New Yorker should lack access to an affordable, nutritious diet. We must increase baseline funding for EFAP so that this valuable resource can reach more food insecure New Yorkers in more parts of our city. We must be proactive and enact programs and appropriate funding levels that will help those New Yorkers struggling with hunger. Food Bank looks forward to working together with the City Council and the Administration to ensure no New Yorker goes hungry. Together we can do this.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify today.

New York City

Fortify the Emergency Food System

- Increase NYC's Emergency Food Assistance Program (EFAP) baseline food funding to \$22 million.
- Continue improvements to food quality by giving programs choice over food selection and by offering more minimally processed, fresh and frozen food.
- Enact a policy of cost-neutral preferencing of kosher and halal products.
- Increase funding for administrative and operational support.

Strengthen, Streamline and Simplify SNAP

- Maximize all federal options and waivers that lower barriers to participation and simplify program administration.
- Ensure employment and training opportunities for all Able-Bodied Adults without Dependents (ABAWDs) subject to work-related benefit termination.
- Develop a citywide SNAP outreach plan that utilizes all available sources of federal matching funds.
- Continue efforts to simplify and fully implement online SNAP application and recertification processes.
- Continue expansion of community-based sites for outreach and application submission, including emergency food programs and Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites.
- Continue improvements in SNAP administration, placing priority on the customer service experience.
- Use clear language for SNAP notices, avoiding messages that discourage participation.

Expand Access to School and Summer Meals

- Make Breakfast in the Classroom (BIC) an opt-out program for middle and high schools.
- Fund capital improvements for school cafeterias to ensure infrastructure and capacity for full implementation of Universal School Meals (USM) and BIC.
- Increase the number of Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) sites open for the entire summer.
- Ensure neighborhood access to open SFSP sites in all high-need areas of the city.
- Ensure that the Department of Education publicizes the SFSP program before the end of the school year.
- Engage the reach and capacity of the emergency food network in promoting school and summer meals.

Tackle Poverty to End Hunger

- Enhance the City's Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC).
- Expand funding for free tax service programs for low-income New Yorkers.
- Adopt policies that support a living wage with access to medical benefits and paid time off, and that make living-wage jobs more accessible to low-income people.
- Develop job creation, training and education strategies that are geared toward poverty reduction.
- Invest in economic development that both enhances the nutrition landscape and provides opportunities for employment in low-income communities.
- Expand initiatives to increase access to needed non-food items, such as menstrual hygiene products.

New York State

Fortify the Emergency Food System

- Increase funding for the Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program (HPNAP) in the Fiscal Year 2018-2019 State budget to \$51 million to adjust for rising food costs and increased need.
- Increase funding for administrative and operational support.

Strengthen, Streamline and Simplify SNAP

- Maximize all federal options and waivers that lower barriers to participation and simplify program administration.
- Allot annual Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) funding to "Heat & Eat" households to maintain SNAP benefits at higher levels.
- Ensure employment and training opportunities for all ABAWDs subject to work-related benefit termination.
- Restore eligibility for all documented immigrants.
- Develop a statewide SNAP outreach plan that utilizes all available sources of federal matching funds.
- Coordinate among multiple benefits so that New Yorkers can apply for several programs and services simultaneously.
- Leverage the health insurance exchange platform to enable screening for SNAP and other programs.
- Expand educational programs and job readiness opportunities covered under SNAP Education and Training.

Expand Access to School and Summer Meals

- Provide funding to help offset any startup costs associated with schools undertaking or expanding USM and/or BIC.

- Provide incentives for schools to increase the number of nutritious meals prepared on-site.
- Ensure that the Education Department publicizes SFSP before the end of the school year.
- Encourage participation in SFSP by New York State park sites.

Protect and Strengthen WIC

- Ensure access to a WIC site in every low-income neighborhood in New York.
- Reject any cuts to State WIC funds, and any proposals that would require WIC to compete with other nutrition assistance programs for funding.
- Promote referrals of eligible WIC participants to SNAP.
- Expedite the transition from WIC coupons to EBT.
- Promote deeper collaboration between the New York State Department of Health and county/municipal social service agencies to provide SNAP outreach and enrollment opportunities at all WIC sites.

Expand Access to Nutritious Food

- Increase farmers' markets and Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) projects in low-income communities.
- Adopt transportation policies that would facilitate access to local food and make nutritious local food more affordable.

Tackle Poverty to End Hunger

- Enhance the State's EITC.
- Eliminate the use of discriminatory auditing practices for low-income, cash-earning EITC claimants, and implement transparent documentation requirements and auditing practices for EITC claimants.
- Allow New Yorkers to designate all or part of their tax refunds to directly open and fund a 529 college savings account.
- Index scheduled State minimum wage increases to inflation.
- Adopt policies that support a living wage with access to medical benefits and paid time off, and that make living-wage jobs more accessible to low-income people.
- Develop job creation, training and education strategies that are geared toward poverty reduction.
- Invest in economic development that both enhances the nutrition landscape and provides opportunities for employment in low-income communities.

Federal

Support a Farm Bill that Protects and Strengthens the Anti-Hunger Safety Net.

- Reject any cuts to SNAP, or any changes to its entitlement status.
- Restore the ARRA benefit reduction that took effect in November 2013.
- Restore eligibility to all documented immigrants.
- Coordinate among multiple federal benefits to allow individuals to apply for all simultaneously.
- Increase authorized funding for the Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), including for Storage & Distribution expenses.
- Introduce a need-based trigger for federal commodities purchases.
- Expand farm-to-food bank initiatives to supply more nutritious food for food pantries and soup kitchens.
- Reauthorize the Commodity Supplemental Food Program for low-income seniors.

Expand Access to School and Summer Meals

- Reject any effort to pay for enhancements to child nutrition programs by cutting funding to SNAP or other anti-hunger/-poverty programs
- Promote federal incentives to provide universal, free school lunch in schools.
- Provide increased funding for meal reimbursements.

Protect and Strengthen WIC

- Reverse sequestration cuts to WIC.
- Provide USDA with more funding for WIC Farmers Market Nutrition Program coupons.

Tackle Poverty to End Hunger

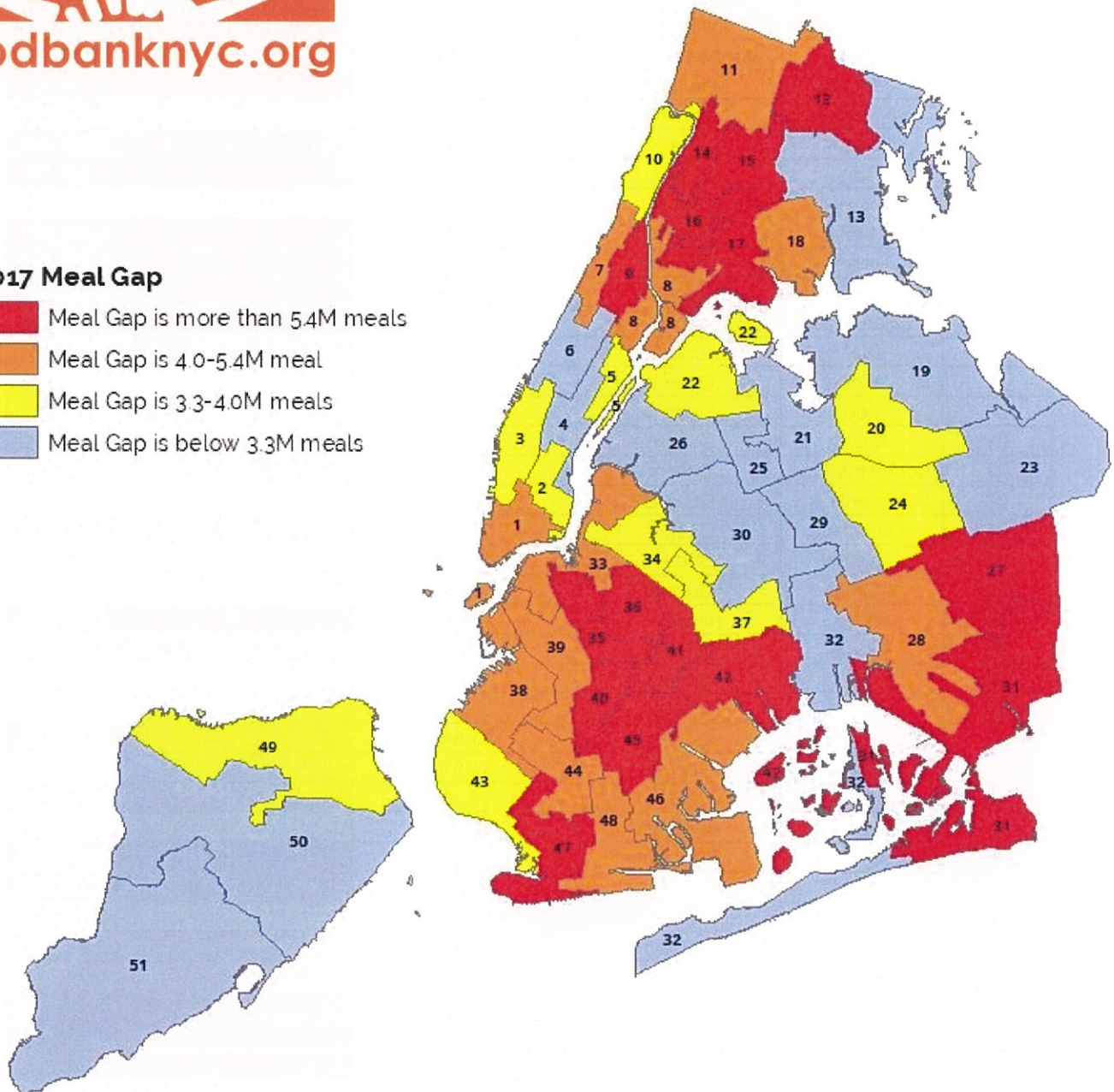
- Enhance the federal EITC.
- Expand funding of the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program.
- Reject proposals to increase filing requirements for VITA preparers and/or self-preparers claiming an EITC and/or Child Tax Credit.
- Raise the federal minimum wage, and index it to inflation.
- Adopt policies that support a living wage with access to medical benefits and paid time off, and that make living wage jobs more accessible to low-income people.
- Develop job creation, training and education strategies that are geared toward poverty reduction.



Meal Gap by City Council District

2017 Meal Gap

- Meal Gap is more than 5.4M meals
- Meal Gap is 4.0-5.4M meal
- Meal Gap is 3.3-4.0M meals
- Meal Gap is below 3.3M meals



The Meal Gap, New York City's official measure of food insecurity, represents the meals missing from the homes of families and individuals struggling with food insecurity - that is, when household food budgets fall too short to secure adequate, nutritious food year-round.

Food Bank For New York City analysis based on Gundersen, C., A. Dewey, A. Crumbaugh, M. Kato & E. Engelhard. Map the Meal Gap 2017: A Report on County and Congressional District Food Insecurity and County Food Cost in the United States in 2015. Feeding America, 2017.

District	Council Member	Borough	Food Insecurity	2017 Meal Gap
1	Chin	Manhattan	15.2%	3,923,310
2	Rivera	Manhattan	14.5%	3,742,632
3	Johnson	Manhattan	13.4%	3,458,708
4	Powers	Manhattan	10.8%	2,787,615
5	Kallos	Manhattan	14.0%	3,613,575
6	Rosenthal	Manhattan	10.3%	2,658,559
7	Levine	Manhattan	18.3%	4,723,459
8	Ayala	Manhattan/Bronx	19.8%	5,110,628
9	Perkins	Manhattan	28.3%	7,304,584
10	Rodriguez	Manhattan	12.7%	3,278,029
11	Cohen	Bronx	16.3%	4,381,457
12	King	Bronx	23.6%	6,343,705
13	Gjonaj	Bronx	9.9%	2,661,130
14	Cabrera	Bronx	20.1%	5,402,901
15	Torres	Bronx	21.4%	5,752,342
16	Gibson	Bronx	22.9%	6,155,544
17	Salamanca	Bronx	21.2%	5,698,582
18	Díaz	Bronx	17.9%	4,811,539
19	Vallone	Queens	8.8%	2,235,054
20	Koo	Queens	14.4%	3,657,361
21	Moya	Queens	7.5%	1,904,875
22	Constantinides	Queens	13.9%	3,530,369
23	Grodenschik	Queens	9.3%	2,362,046
24	Lancman	Queens	14.4%	3,657,361
25	Dromm	Queens	11.2%	2,844,614
26	Van Bramer	Queens	12.0%	3,047,801
27	Miller	Queens	23.2%	5,892,415
28	Adams	Queens	18.2%	4,622,498
29	Koslowitz	Queens	11.3%	2,870,012
30	Holden	Queens	9.5%	2,412,842
31	Richards	Queens	21.5%	5,460,643
32	Ulrich	Queens	11.5%	2,920,809
33	Levin	Brooklyn	18.1%	4,628,407
34	Reynoso	Brooklyn	15.0%	3,835,696
35	Cumbo	Brooklyn	26.9%	6,878,682
36	Cornegy	Brooklyn	32.3%	8,259,532
37	Espinal	Brooklyn	14.0%	3,579,983
38	Menchaca	Brooklyn	15.4%	3,937,981
39	Lander	Brooklyn	16.0%	4,091,409
40	Eugene	Brooklyn	29.4%	7,517,964
41	Ampry-Samuel	Brooklyn	30.9%	7,901,534
42	Barron	Brooklyn	30.9%	7,901,534
43	Brannan	Brooklyn	14.5%	3,707,840
44	Yeger	Brooklyn	18.0%	4,602,835
45	Williams	Brooklyn	23.4%	5,983,686
46	Maisel	Brooklyn	18.1%	4,628,407
47	Treyger	Brooklyn	22.8%	5,830,258
48	Deutch	Brooklyn	16.9%	4,321,551
49	Rose	Staten Island	12.4%	3,388,597
50	Matteo	Staten Island	9.4%	2,568,775
51	Borelli	Staten Island	7.4%	2,022,227



New York City Council
Committee on Finance, Chair, Council Member Dromm
May 24, 2018
Executive Budget Hearing – Public Hearing

LiveOn NY is a nonprofit membership organization representing 100 community-based organizations that serve over 300,000 older New Yorkers annually through senior centers, congregate and home-delivered meals, affordable senior housing, elder abuse prevention services, caregiver supports, transportation, NORCs and case management. Thank you Chair Dromm and members of the Committee for the opportunity to testify, and to Chair of the Aging Committee Margaret Chin for her leadership.

The city's budget reflects its priorities. For New York City to *truly* be the fairest big city, fairness must extend across the lifespan. The Department for the Aging (DFTA) budget accounts for less than ½ of 1% of the total city budget despite the fact that older adults are the fastest growing demographic. The proposed budget does not reflect fairness for New York's older adults.

Our full list of priorities are attached, and key areas are highlighted below.

Expedite “Model Senior Center Budget” Funding as Soon as Possible and Fully Fund Senior Center Contracts

\$10 million was baselined in FY18 for “model senior center” budgets. As of today, that funding is not yet registered into all contracts. We do acknowledge that DFTA fiscal staff has been working very hard to process this funding. There a June 11 Aging Committee hearing on model budgets and we will discuss “model senior center budgets” in more detail at that time, but want to highlight a few key areas.

It is our understanding that:

- 249 senior centers were included the “model senior center budget” analysis.
- 26 of those 249 received **no funding** because they were deemed at or above the “model” amount.
- 34 additional programs were not evaluated in the “model senior center” budget process, and thus received **no funding**. Among those 34 were centers are former discretionary funded sites (11 centers), former NYCHA (4 centers), social clubs (17) and other social service programs (6).

Aside from the fact that some center received no funding, the small amount that was distributed among 223 centers can be used only in two areas: direct staffing and consultants. “Direct staffing” does not include food or meal staff, which has caused more salary disparity among programs. **This also means that the entire DFTA portfolio of senior centers received no funding for meals/meal preparation, meal staff, rent, transportation, OTPS, technology, facility costs or other costs that are required to run a senior center.**

In addition to the FY18 baselined \$10 million, the city promised an additional \$10 million “by 2021.” That money should be allocated immediately in FY19. Senior centers have been grossly underfunded for decades and the city must fully fund nonprofits to cover the costs of the contracted services to meet current demand. Allocating these funds is extremely important with the projected next RFP for senior centers to be released in calendar year 2020. Further, while this initial funding is an important first step, the city must make a serious commitment going forward to add funds reflecting the full scope of what it takes to run a robust senior center today and in the future.

Add \$12.1 Million in Baselined New Funding for Congregate and Home Delivered Meals

Thank you to the Council for including a funding request to address senior hunger in the Council Response to the Executive Budget. Meals also offer socialization and improve lives, as isolation has been found to be a greater



predictor of morbidity than obesity and provide critical nutrition services for seniors of all backgrounds, language capacities, religions, and socioeconomic status. Lunch at a center or a home delivered meal is truly more than a meal.

This \$12.1 million in new funding request is incredibly important because as noted, the city failed to include funding for meals, meal preparation or meal staff in the “model senior center budgets” nor in its FY19 Executive Budget, despite the fact that meals are a core component of senior centers.

If the city wants to address senior hunger, the logical, not to mention incredible, resource is the network of senior service agencies that already exists through senior centers and home delivered meals providers. **Senior centers provided 7.6 million senior center meals last year and more than half of seniors report that meals eaten at the center equate to 50% or more of their daily food intake and nutrients for the day from these meals. This year, providers will distribute 4.5 million home delivered meals. The majority of seniors utilizing the program tend to be women, living alone, receiving meals that on average account for ½ or more of their total food for the day.**

However, the city must fully fund the nonprofits it contracts with who are providing these crucial services. Nonprofits should not be routinely operating at a loss to provide for the current need. New York City spends 20% below the national average on senior meals – that means they are only paying for 4 out of every 5 needed meals.

Further, almost 50% of older New Yorkers are foreign born, reflecting a significant need for meals that are culturally appropriate to an array of background, according to a recent Center for an Urban Future study. Providers are required, not to mention eager, to offer menus that culturally appropriate and nutritious. This requirement brings a fiscal implication: for example, in 2015, DFTA stated that, “in DFTA’s HDML network, each catered Kosher [meal] is on average \$1.38 more than non-Kosher catered meals.” Similar to Kosher meals, Halaal, gluten free, vegetarian, vegan, or other cultural or nutritional needs have an associated cost-increase.

We urge the Administration address this vital shortfall and to help address senior hunger adding \$12.1 million in new funding be baselined to increase the reimbursement rate for congregate and home-delivered meals.

Council Restorations and Investments in Senior Services Through Schedule C

City Council has long been a staunch supporter of systemic city and district wide senior services programs through allocations in Schedule C. **In fact, the Council added \$31.6 million to DFTA’s budget in FY18, which is more than 9% of DFTA’s total budget for the current fiscal year.** We thank you for your investments and advocate for full restoration for all Senior Service Programs funded in Schedule C. These include NORCs, Support our Seniors, SuCasa, Senior Centers for Immigrant Populations, Health Aging Initiative, Social Adult Day, and others. **Council funding is critical to sustain the existence of these programs.**

For example, in FY18, Sunnyside Community Services' Senior Center was partnered with Dance Entropy through the SU-CASA program. Through this partnership, they provided a dance movement class to 20 seniors for 15 weeks where seniors learned about modern dance and dance history as well as had the opportunity to attend performances at Green Space that would not have otherwise been possible. These older adults have enjoyed each other's company and are looking forward to the grand finale performance in June. Overall, this experience enhances physical and social well-being. Elimination of this funding would be detrimental to this program, as well as the over 200 SuCasa programs like this throughout the city and just one of the many Council supports through systemic Schedule C funding.

Continued Investments in Human Services Sector

Finally, LiveOn NY strongly supports the agency-wide investments in FY19 in the human services sector. Last



Making New York a better place to age

year saw an important investment in human services provider organizations that hold City contracts. With your help, we secured \$300m of our \$500m ask to help nonprofit provider organizations cover the cost of delivering essential services to New Yorkers.

In the upcoming year, there are several areas of human service nonprofit operations that need special attention:

- Include trend factor/cost escalation formulas in all new procurements for the duration of the contract;
- Provide \$200 million in additional baseline funding to:
 - Address implementation of the following allowable rates on all HHS contracts and all new procurements
 - 15% for indirect costs
 - 37% for fringe benefits
 - Fund key operating expense increases in all HHS contracts and new procurements by the following rates:
 - 10% increase to occupancy costs
 - 10% increase to casualty and liability insurance

LiveOn NY looks forward to working with City Council, the Department for the Aging, all city agencies and the Administration to make New York a better place to age through a strong network of community based services.

LiveOn NY's members provide the core, community-based services that allow older adults to thrive in their communities. With a base of more than 100 community-based organizations serving at least 300,000 older New Yorkers annually. Our members provide services ranging from senior centers, congregate and home-delivered meals, affordable senior housing with services, elder abuse prevention services, caregiver supports, case management, transportation, and NORCs. LiveOn NY advocates for increased funding for these vital services to improve both the solvency of the system and the overall capacity of community-based service providers.

LiveOn NY administers a citywide outreach program that supports seniors in communities where benefits are most underutilized. This program educates thousands of older adults, including those who are homebound, about food assistance options, as well as screens and enrolls those who are eligible for SNAP and SCRIE/DRIE.

LiveOn NY is also proud to administer the Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) program for the entire state, which works to prevent Medicare fraud and its associated healthcare expenses. SMP is modeled around recruiting and actively engaging senior volunteers to promote peer counseling, education and assistance on how to protect, detect, and report Medicare fraud. SMPs empower beneficiaries to reduce healthcare costs caused by errors, abuse, and fraud.

Solvency for Senior Services

Fair Funding for Senior Centers

FY19
New Needs

NYCHA Senior Center Improvements	\$5,000,000	Ensure the nearly 100 DFTA controlled NYCHA Sr. Centers/Clubs have proper facilities & supports
Congregate Meals	\$7,600,000	Increase reimbursement rate by need & ensure cultural competency flexibility

We request that the \$10,000,000 in funding promised through the "model budget process" be expedited to be fully allocated by FY20, as opposed to the proposed 3 year rollout. The "model budget" funding applies to personnel and programs.

As such, we will continue to monitor this funding and advocate for increased funding as needed to ensure senior center providers are adequately reimbursed for the full cost of providing services.



Keeping Seniors in their Communities

FY19
New Needs

Home-Delivered Meals	\$4,500,000	Increase reimbursement rate by need & ensure cultural competency flexibility
Case Management	\$2,000,000	Address waitlist & growing demand associated with a rising senior population
Transportation	\$1,000,000	Increase transportation support
Elder Abuse Prevention	\$500,000	Increase prevention & awareness of supports
Caregiver Supports	\$500,000	Continue outreach & expand services

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Restore Aging Discretionary Funding

We ask for continued investment in all Senior Services
Council Initiatives, found in Schedule C, in FY19

Here are just a few examples of Senior Service initiatives
funded by City Council:

LiveOn NY
supports
raising NORC
funding to
\$5 million

NORCs
\$3,850,000



Fosters aging in
place among areas
of dense senior
populations

Support Our Seniors
\$3,060,000



Supporting
Senior
Services
across the
City

SU-CASA
\$2,550,000



Creative Aging
art programs at
senior centers
throughout
NYC

Senior Centers for
Immigrant Populations
\$1,500,000



Supports NYC's
diverse older
adults in a
culturally
competent
manner

Healthy Aging Initiative
\$1,810,000



Support for
various
health-
promotion
programming

Social Adult Day
Enhancement
\$1,055,556



Additional
support for
seniors with
higher levels
of need

Thank you to the New York City Council for your consistent
support of these programs and all senior services

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Testimony of Maggie Andreoni, Manager of Research, Policy, and Advocacy, Hunger Free America

Hearing before the New York City Council Committee on General Welfare

May 24, 2018

My name is Maggie Andreoni, and I am the Manager of Research, Policy, and Advocacy at Hunger Free America, formerly called the New York City Coalition Against Hunger. I want to thank Chairman Levin and the rest of the Committee for your work fighting on behalf of the most vulnerable New Yorkers, as well as for the opportunity to testify. We support and want to reiterate the City Council's request to increase the Emergency Food Assistance Program Baseline Funding to \$22 million. Emergency food is crucial to support the social safety net of hungry New Yorkers. According to our 2017 report, "Working New York Still Hungry: New York City and State Hunger Report," New York City food pantries and soup kitchens faced an increased demand of six percent in 2017, on top of an increased demand of nine percent in 2016, five percent in 2015, and seven percent in 2014.¹ In response to these challenges, Hunger Free America is requesting that you support our request for citywide funds and Speaker funds in the total amount of \$200,000 to support benefits outreach (including to vulnerable immigrant communities), updating the Neighborhood Guides to Food & Assistance, expanding volunteer recruitment, strengthening the Food Action Board, and conducting summer meals outreach.

Hunger in New York City

Hunger is a significant problem in the United States, as 41.2 million Americans,² including 12.9 million children lived in households that struggles to afford enough food in 2016. 2.5 million New York State residents, including 1.2 million New York City residents, lived in such homes.³ In 2014-2016, one in every ten working adults in New York City and State were food insecure, approximately 388,671 New York City residents. Thirty-three percent of all food insecure adults in New York City were employed. Low-income communities face both income scarcity and time scarcity, compounding the challenges to overcome these barriers.

The top reasons for this food insecurity are low wages, too few jobs, the high costs of living, and an inadequate safety net programs. Unfortunately, these sustained levels were compounded by significant participation decreases in the city's main federal nutrition programs, the

¹ Hunger Free America. "Working New York Still Hungry." *New York City and State Hunger Report*, 2017.

<http://www.hungerfreeamerica.org/sites/default/files/atoms/files/2017%20NY%20City%20and%20State%20Annual%20Hunger%20Survey%20Report%20.pdf>

² United States Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service. *Household Food Security in the United States in 2016*. 2017.

<https://www.ers.usda.gov/webdocs/publications/84973/err-237.pdf?v=42979>

³ Ibid. 1

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) – formerly called the Food Stamp Program. New York City Human Resources Administration (HRA) data indicates roughly a 14 percent drop in SNAP recipient participation from 1,906,610 in December 2012 to 1,635,635 in December 2017. In addition, according to the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance, the average monthly SNAP benefit declined from \$162 in December of 2012 to \$138 in December of 2017. That means, as a result of federal cuts, the average SNAP benefit in NYC declined from a paltry \$1.80 per meal to an even paltrier \$1.53 per meal.

Combining the declining SNAP caseload with even lower average benefit allotments means that overall federal SNAP spending in New York City declined from an estimated \$3.5 billion in 2012 to an estimated \$2.9 billion in 2017, a \$600 million drop. Eligible low income New Yorkers are currently not receiving valuable benefits that would help them and to which they are entitled. The main barriers to claiming include stigma, confusion, concerns about the process, bureaucratic tangles, administrative delays, lack of awareness, and misinformation.

Average Numbers and Estimated Prevalence of Food Insecurity 2014-2016					
Category	NYC Citywide	Bronx	Brooklyn	Manhattan	Queens*
Overall	1,182,424 (13.9%)	375,629 (25.9%)	387,645 (14.7%)	157,710 (9.6%)	234,023 (10.0%)
Children	341,266 (19.1%)	147,945 (28.8%)	101,214 (11.2%)	18,853 (5.2%)	63,798 (10.3%)
Employed Adults	388,671 (9.8%)	509,426 (14.1%)	130,224 (10.7%)	67,856 (7.5%)	93,826 (8.2%)
Seniors	199,379 (12.5%)	52,178 (22.0%)	72,166 (15.6%)	34,773 (10.5%)	40,261 (8.8%)

*Lack of sampling results in low counts and errors for data in Queens and Staten Island, especially in smaller samples such as Children and Seniors. Because of this, data for Staten Island are not available.

** Because of rounding errors, sampling errors and non-responses, not all counts and percentages might equal 100%.

The Bronx continued to be the hungriest borough, with 26 percent of its residents overall, and 29 percent of its children, living in food insecure homes in 2014-2016.

Mitigated Changes and Solutions

The Emergency Food Assistance Program (EFAP) has chronically been underfunded, and yet need has not decreased. By providing the funds to this program, thousands of families in need would be able to rely on emergency food when their own resources run out. The Mayor's executive budget proposes cutting the EFAP budget in half, from 16 million dollars to a meager 8 million dollars. When funds from SNAP are decreased, people of low income often turn to emergency food providers to fill in the gap.

As a nation, state, and city, we must create more living wage jobs and raise minimum wages. We must also ensure adequate nutrition assistance safety net and boost upward mobility through strengthening the benefits of and expanding access to SNAP, school breakfast, school lunch, WIC, and summer meals. We must make these robust and effective programs available, free of stigma and hassle, for everyone in need.

We commend Commissioner Steven Banks and his staff at the Human Resources Administration on their efforts for not only treating low-income New Yorkers, and the advocates who represent

them, as trusted partners, but for significantly improving technical and service provision standards. The introduction and implementation of various outreach efforts, application processing units, and internal procedures have significantly increased access to and the retention of benefits, thus decreasing bureaucratic inefficiencies. Requesting waivers from the State to eliminate application and recertification barriers, streamlining methods of communication for claimants for phone interviews, and eliminating redundancies on both application and retention sides not only assists claimants but saves the city and state time and money. Their willingness to ensure quality assurance is also displayed through their direct discourse with community based efforts and efforts to analytically evaluate what barriers to benefits may or may not exist.

Hunger Free NYC receives support from a variety of public and private partners to help eligible New Yorkers access the SNAP program. In 2017 this resulted in approximately \$9 million in food purchasing power for low-income households struggling to put food on their tables.

We must ensure that these efforts on HRA's behalf continue. Senior staff at HRA have acknowledged this as a serious issue that is being internally address, we would just like to encourage that this process be expedited as soon as possible. Technological improvements can only be beneficial if they are being accessed and utilized in an effective and efficient manner

Unfortunately, while there are 1.69 million recipients of SNAP in New York City, there are still approximately 500,000 eligible New Yorkers not receiving SNAP. The public, corporate and non-profit sectors could strategically work together to unlock as much as \$500 million in mostly federal funds for struggling New Yorkers who are entitled to these benefits, but have not yet claimed them. Efforts could additionally be made to find administrative waivers to enable better access to SNAP for students pursuing higher education full time.

We also commend the Department of Education and School Food on their efforts in improving nutrition standards and the utilization of meals served to New York City school children. Access to in-classroom breakfast and universal school lunches at standalone elementary and middle school, respectively, has certainly improved the educational experience afforded to these children. Though many efforts have been made to increase access and strengthen outreach, there are still some actions that could be taken to make further improvements

Hunger Free America Budget Request:

Hunger Free America is already pre-qualified to receive Council funding. This funding will support Hunger Free America – one of the City's leading anti-hunger nonprofit organizations – in our work to increase participation in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly food stamps). Hunger Free America provides technical assistance to the over 1,100 soup kitchens and food pantries in Manhattan and throughout the City to benefit to nearly 1.2 million New Yorkers who live in homes that can't afford enough food to live healthy lives. We work directly with low-income families to help them access and retain nutrition assistance benefits as well as improve access to food through our Neighborhood Guides to Food and Assistance. In a new initiative, we are also connecting New Yorkers directly with their communities by redefining volunteerism to maximize the real impact on the problem of hunger through supporting food pantries and kitchens with skill-based assistance and outreach.

1) \$150,000 (\$100,000 of which was previously base-lined) for a comprehensive citywide initiative to provide technical assistance to low income New Yorkers with the electronic submission of SNAP applications and recertifications at food pantries, soup kitchens, and community based organizations, as well as support the following citywide activities to fight hunger.

Hunger Free America's Benefits Access team assists low-income New Yorkers access vital food benefits by aiding individuals and families through each step of the SNAP application process, everything from conducting pre-screenings and filing applications to serving as client advocates. By providing support with recertifications, we are ensuring that eligible families continue to receive benefits without interruption. Hunger Free America's technical assistance program provides effective, free of cost on-site benefits access, increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of emergency food providers and nutrition assistance efforts in your district. This work directly benefits your constituents by enabling local charitable food providers to connect the growing number of families in need to healthy, nutritious food to government benefits and encourage interested individuals to make a significant impact in their communities.

a) SNAP (food stamps) and other benefits outreach citywide. – Please note that if the Council provides \$150,000, the federal government will match \$112,500 of that amount.

- i) Expand SNAP / food stamps pre-screening. By the end of 2017, Hunger Free America will have pre-screened over 5,000 households for SNAP eligibility, both by phone and at more than 25 community-based locations. Those determined potentially eligible are offered several options for applying.
- ii) Increasingly, we are utilizing ACCESS HRA to submit SNAP applications and recertifications on behalf of clients, and encouraging them to create their own user accounts so they can easily check their case status and SNAP account balance as well as view upcoming appointments and due dates.
- iii) In 2017, we will have confirmed receipt of SNAP benefits for over 3,000 households. With the average monthly benefit per household at \$250, Hunger Free NYC's Benefits Access team will have generated approximately \$750,000 in benefits for households citywide each and every month, or \$9 million over the course of a year.

b) Update and distribute Hunger Free America's Neighborhood Guides to Food and Assistance.

- i) With eight versions covering every part of the five boroughs in addition to a citywide version, these Guides include lists of EFPs and information on benefits such as SNAP/food stamps, WIC, Summer Meals and Senior Meals. We strive to make the guides available and useful to everyone, and to that end every guide is available in English and Spanish, and three are available in Chinese, two in Russian, and one in Korean. As information on services changes it is necessary to update and reprint them annually.
- ii) In 2017, we have distributed more than 200,000 Neighborhood Guides to Food & Assistance to over 550 agencies and individuals around New York City. This is up from the 150,000 we distributed in 343 orders in 2016. Anyone can place an order for

the guides, so we provide them to everyone from individuals living in food insecurity to good samaritans who wish to pass them out on the street. Food pantries, soup kitchens, community based organizations HRA offices, public schools, hospitals, and libraries all order guides throughout the year to ensure people have access to food. Electronic versions are also available on the Hunger Free America website.

iii) Maintaining an accurate and comprehensive list of EFPs is at the core of this work, and we freely make this information available to anyone who would find it useful, including the NYC Office of Emergency Management.

2) Support our request for \$50,000 fund to be used to increase anti-hunger volunteerism (with a focus on high-impact and skills-based volunteers), engage low-income New Yorkers in hunger education, and bolster outreach to ensure more low-income city children received federally funded-summer meals. Here are some additional specifics:

a) Hunger Free NYC will perform outreach on all nutrition assistance benefits, as well as conduct pre-screening, and application/recertification assistance to improve access to the SNAP program. In addition, we will seek to increase volunteerism in the communities of your district. Hunger Free NYC works closely with the Speaker's office and many individual Council Member's offices on conducting outreach on these initiatives. This program improves the nutritional status of recipients and reduces their need for food from Emergency Food Providers (EFPs) while supporting EFPs in maximizing the impact of their work.

b) Increasing the impact of volunteerism by supporting the various elements of our anti-hunger strategy through a strategic use of volunteers - an effort with a recently expanded reach due to our new partnership with NYCSERVICE. This past year in New York City, we recruited and managed 851 unique volunteers who dedicated 3,395 hours to high-impact strategic activities, including SNAP and Child Nutrition outreach, political advocacy, and capacity-building at front-line agencies. In 2017, our volunteers distributed 13,756 outreach flyers, assisted in 250 SNAP enrollments, which resulted in helping low-income New Yorkers received \$764,755 in SNAP benefits. In addition, our web site www.hungervolunteer.org, is intended to be the go-to place for both volunteers and organizations looking to learn more about hunger, and effective volunteer strategies; to download resources and ideas for engaging in high-impact volunteer activities; and to find or post volunteer opportunities.

c) Our Food Action Boards (FABs) are groups of low-income individuals who desire the skills, training, and knowledge to become leaders in the anti-hunger movement. The ability to advocate on their own behalf and for their communities invigorates the grassroots movement, strengthening the core of the cause. City Council funds would be used exclusively for these educational aspects of our FAB program. Many FAB members are current clients/customers of soup kitchens or food pantries, and through a FAB framework and the participation of experts, knowledge-based speakers, and educational visits to historic sites we plan to provide a space for shared knowledge to confront the difficulties they know all too well on a unified front. Together we are stronger, amplifying the voices of the community to the change makers at the local, state and federal level.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

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**Testimony of Jane Li before the
New York City Council Committee on Finance**

Thursday, May 24, 2018

Good afternoon and thank you to Chairperson Dromm and the Committee on Finance for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Jane Li, and I am a Housing Staff Attorney and Transition Coordinator at the Community Development Project at the Urban Justice Center (CDP).

CDP was formed in 2001 to strengthen the impact of grassroots organizations in New York City's low-income and other excluded communities. For the last seventeen years, we have won legal cases, published community-driven research reports, assisted with the formation of new organizations, and provided technical and transactional assistance in support of their work towards social justice.

Our unique model of partnership with grassroots and community-based groups means that our partners, over 50 across New York City, take the lead in determining the priorities and goals for our work, and advance our understanding of justice. This upends the traditional power dynamics and builds leadership in our communities, particularly among immigrants, communities of color and others who are often excluded from policy-making. CDP has also been at the forefront of advancing legislative change in many arenas. We have been instrumental in community conversations around participatory budgeting, rezoning, construction as harassment, and bail bond reform.

I am here today because CDP requests \$200,000 from the City Council and the Speaker to fund the work and expenses we need to become our own, independent non-profit organization. This support will help create the infrastructure needed to become a new entity, increase CDP's capacity to maximize public support, and ensure we can continue the important work we've been doing for the past seventeen years continues.

Unlike most legal service providers, our partnerships give us deep roots in the communities we serve, which allows us to reach marginalized New Yorkers. We expand access to justice and open doors for smaller organizations to receive city funding. For example, our model of applying for funding in consortium with our community partners has led to the financing of

important grassroots work for immigration, anti-tenant harassment, and other areas of need. Our participation in the IOI program allows six smaller community partners to access City funding for immigration legal services. By convening Stabilizing NYC, we harness the power of sixteen community-based organizations to combat predatory equity in the housing market, facilitate resource exchange, and develop citywide strategies to address common problems. In total, CDP serves as a clearinghouse for over \$1.3 million dollars in Council funding and over \$2.5 million in City agency funding.

CDP's commitment to providing community-based legal and policy work has helped shape New York City for the last seventeen years. Our transition into becoming our own non-profit will allow us to become a more nimble, mission-driven organization, which in turn will help us to better serve our community partners and New York City's residents for many years to come.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



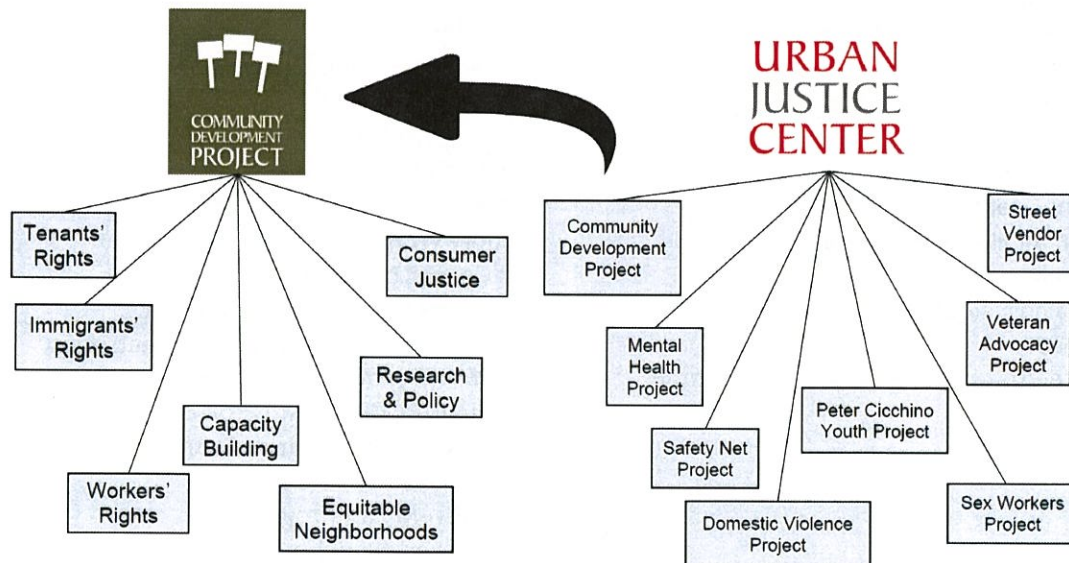
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Community Development Project

Advancing Racial, Social and Economic Justice in NYC Communities

The Community Development Project (CDP) provides legal, participatory research and policy support to strengthen the work of grassroots community-based organizations in New York City to dismantle racial, economic and social oppression. We partner with grassroots community-based organizations (see partial list on reverse) that build leadership and power within New York City's low-income communities, particularly immigrants, communities of color and others who are traditionally excluded from policy-making. Founded in 2001 as a project of the Urban Justice Center, CDP is in the earliest stages of spinning off to become an independent non-profit entity.

CDP requests \$200,000 from the City Council and the Speaker to become an independent organization. This support will help create the infrastructure needed for a new non-profit organization and increase CDP's capacity to maximize public support.



Our current areas of work include:

- Consumer Justice
- Equitable Neighborhood
- Immigrants' Rights
- Participatory Research and Policy
- Technical and Capacity Building Assistance
- Tenants' Rights
- Workers' Rights

Guided by our partnerships, CDP has provided legal assistance or representation to over 20,000 New Yorkers. We have also provided key capacity-building assistance to dozens of community organizations, supported efforts for equitable neighborhood development and collaborated with our community partners to release more than 60 reports using participatory action research.

CDP has played a crucial role in underserved NYC communities for more than 17 years, and with the Council's support we look forward to providing these services for many years to come as an independent nonprofit.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

CDP partners with grassroots community-based organizations to support their work toward racial, social and economic justice. We are proud to have partnered with the following organizations:

The Bronx

Banana Kelly Community Improvement Association
BronxPower
Community Action for Safe Apartments (CASA)
Green Worker Cooperatives*
Mary Mitchell Center
Nos Quedamos
Northwest Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition
Pan-African Community Development Initiative
Sapna NYC
Youth Ministries for Peace and Justice

Brooklyn

Atlas DIY
Brooklyn Movement Center
Brownsville Cultural Coalition
Center for Family Life in Sunset Park
Cypress Hills LDC
Families United for Racial and Economic Equality (FUREE)
Fifth Avenue Committee
Flatbush Tenant Coalition
Haitian Women for Haitian Refugees*
IMPACCT Brooklyn
Neighbors Helping Neighbors
St. Nicks Alliance
Worker's Justice Project/Proyecto Justicia Laboral*
596 Acres*

Queens

Adhikaar*
Brandworkers*
Chhaya Community Development Corporation
Cidadão Global
Desis Rising Up and Moving*
Flushing Workers Center
MinKwon Center for Community Action
New Immigrant Community Empowerment
Project Hajra
Queens Community House
Ugnayan Youth for Justice and Social Change
Woodside on the Move

Manhattan

African Communities Together*
Asian Americans For Equality*
CAAAY Organizing Asian Communities*
Chinese Staff and Workers' Association
Community Voices Heard
Cooper Square Committee
Good Old Lower East Side
Mirabal Sisters Cultural & Community Center
Movement for Justice in El Barrio
Picture the Homeless*
University Settlement

Staten Island

La Colmena

City-wide

Center for Frontline Retail
Damayan Migrant Workers Association
Domestic Workers United
Families for Freedom
FIERCE!
Laundry Workers Center
Met Council on Housing
National Domestic Workers Alliance
National Mobilization Against Sweatshops
New York Taxi Workers Alliance
Participatory Budgeting Project
Restaurant Opportunities Center
Right to the City Alliance
Sylvia Rivera Law Project
Tenants and Neighbors
VOCAL-NY

**These organizations also offer services to communities in other borough(s) in addition to the borough under which they are listed.*

Contact: Rini Fonseca-Sabune, Transition Coordinator & Staff Attorney

(646) 459-3010, rfonseca-sabune@urbanjustice.org

123 William Street, 16th Floor New York, NY 10038 cdp.urbanjustice.org 646-459-3017



Literacy Assistance Center

New York City Council Committee on Finance Honorable Daniel Dromm, Chair

Executive Budget Hearing May 24, 2018

Testimony of Ira Yankwitt, Executive Director, Literacy Assistance Center

Thank you Chairperson Dromm and members of the committee for giving me the opportunity to testify. My name is Ira Yankwitt and I am the Executive Director of the Literacy Assistance Center, a 35-year-old nonprofit organization dedicated to strengthening and expanding the adult education system, and to advancing adult literacy as a core value in our society and a foundation for equal opportunity and social justice. Since 1983, the Literacy Assistance Center has been working to build the capacity and improve the quality of the adult literacy programs that serve New York's most educationally disadvantaged and economically marginalized communities.

Today in New York City there are approximately 2.2 million adults who lack English language proficiency, a high school diploma, or both. Yet funding for adult literacy education is so limited that fewer than 4% of these adults are able to access basic education, high school equivalency, or English language classes in any given year. This is nothing short of a citywide crisis — and I wish to express great appreciation to the City Council for recognizing the urgency of this crisis and championing a \$12 million increase in funding for adult literacy education for each of the past two years.

New York City has historically been a national leader both in its vision for adult literacy education and in its level of investment. Unfortunately, the \$12 million increase still does not match the level of investment (in inflation-adjusted dollars) made by the Koch administration in

the mid-80s; and – astonishingly – the Mayor has, once again, omitted this \$12 million in his executive budget.

Failure to renew this funding will lead to over 7,000 adult literacy students losing their seats and classes. The contradictions between the administration's political rhetoric and this potential reality are striking. Over 75% of the students in city-funded adult literacy classes are immigrants, and over 90% are low income. While the Mayor talks of being a "sanctuary city" and a city of opportunity for all immigrants, his executive budget would cut the English language classes that are providing immigrants with critical information about their rights along with the language and literacy skills they need to support their children in school, navigate the healthcare system, speak out, and advocate for themselves and their communities. Furthermore, while the Mayor talks about economic opportunity for all New Yorkers, his executive budget would cut the basic education and high school equivalency classes that are enabling low-income New Yorkers to build critical academic and workforce skills, classes that are serving as a stepping stone to better jobs, higher education, and greater economic mobility.

The Literacy Assistance Center joins with our colleagues in the New York City Coalition for Adult Literacy (NYCCAL) and calls on the City Council to fight to both **restore and baseline the \$12 million**. Restoring the funding will enable community-based adult literacy providers to keep their classes open for the 7,000 students currently at risk of losing seats. Baselineing the funding will enable us to stop this dance every year and to focus our attention on providing the highest quality programming to the students that we serve. Moreover, baselineing the \$12 million will enable the Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) to design a new procurement based on more realistic funding rates. While publicly funded adult literacy programs currently receive between \$850 and \$1,200 per student, a DYCD-

commissioned report that my organization recently released calculated the true cost of high-quality, comprehensive programs to be approximately four times the current funding levels.

Finally, the Literacy Assistance Center joins with NYCCAL in calling on the City Council to work with the administration to **launch an Adult Literacy Task Force**, which would bring together multiple stakeholders to examine the current adult literacy delivery system and articulate a vision for a well-coordinated, unified system that is aligned with the city's broader economic and political priorities and integrated with other city agencies and services.

The city's increased investment over the past two years has reminded us that New York was once at the forefront of the movement for adult literacy education, and that it can be again. As immigrant communities – and, indeed, all New Yorkers – face a full-frontal assault from the federal government, let's show the nation that New York is a city that is committed to providing equal educational opportunity for all.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify. I am happy to take any questions or can be reached for follow up at iray@lacnyc.org or 212-803-3302.



Testimony to the Committee on Finance re: FY 2019 Budget, May 24, 2018

Good afternoon, my name is Eve Stotland and I'm the Director of Legal Services at The Door. For over 40 years, The Door has served as an invaluable resource for New York City youth, including those facing homelessness, unemployment, poverty, and deportation. *The Door's mission remains to empower young people to reach their potential by providing comprehensive youth services in a diverse and caring environment.* Each year, The Door engages nearly 10,000 youth, ages 12-24, most of whom are low-income youth of color. Our free, comprehensive services include: primary and behavioral health, education and workforce development, creative arts, food and nutrition, legal services, and supportive housing.

RHY Youth & Food Services

The Door has the largest drop-in program for runaway and homeless youth in the five boroughs. Last year, we served over 1,900 homeless youth through our drop-in program. We applaud and thank the Council for passing the three bills recently to: increase the age eligibility for homeless youth to access RHY programs from 21 to 25; extend the periods of time youth may remain in RHY shelters; and requiring the city to develop a capacity plan to address the needs of all homeless youth. We ask for the following from the Council in the upcoming year:

- **Continued funding from the Speaker's office to support outreach at Pier 45 and other places where RHY youth congregate.** The Council's support allows us to have extended hours and to hire outreach workers to provide referrals, mediation with residents or the police, free subway transportation, and basic needs items such as food and hygiene products. Last year we served 819 youth on-site and made 2,600 street outreach contacts.
- The Door served 30,000 meals to 7,000 young people including many RHY participants. Since The Door does not fall into traditional public funding streams for food pantries and soup kitchens, less than 10% of our \$400,000 budget is covered by public funding sources. **We ask the Council to**

consider our expense request and create a specific line item for youth development organizations in the Food Pantry Initiative.

Immigrant Youth

Every year, The Door provides immigration advice and representation to more than 1,500 young people across NYC. Our clients come from all over the world including Central America, China, West Africa, the Caribbean and South America. From Sunset Park, Brooklyn to Highbridge in The Bronx, The Door is one of the go-to agencies for low-income youth in search of immigration help.

No one has the right to a free attorney in immigration court—not even children. Four years ago, we came to the Council to plead on behalf of thousands of NYC children who had fled violence in Central America to begin new lives in NYC, and the Council responded by helping us launch the Immigrant Children's Advocate Relief Effort—ICARE. Other members include: The Legal Aid Society, Catholic Charities, Central American Legal Assistance, The Safe Passage Project, and KIND. Together, we have represented almost 1,900 children and families facing deportation in New York City. ICARE exists because of the vision of the City Council. In FY18, the Council provided ICARE with \$2 million to carry out our life-saving work. **We ask that you continue your support for this initiative. Our goal is to provide universal representation for unaccompanied minors and to increase representation for families through \$3.9 million in funding to support a caseload of 1,800 children and families.**

Thank you for your time.

**Unaccompanied Minor and Families Initiative
FY18 Q3 Report**

Cases Accepted for Representation
July 1, 2014 to March 31, 2018

Includes the following ICARE providers: The Door's Legal Services Center, Catholic Charities Community Services, Central American Legal Assistance, Safe Passage Project, The Legal Aid Society

Council Member	Council District	UMFI Cases
Margaret S. Chin	District 1	1
Corey Johnson	District 3	2
Ben Kallos	District 5	1
Helen Rosenthal	District 6	1
Mark Levine	District 7	7
Diana Ayala	District 8	57
Bill Perkins	District 9	15
Ydanis Rodriguez	District 10	17
Andrew Cohen	District 11	14
Andy King	District 12	5
Mark Gjonaj	District 13	17
Fernando Cabrera	District 14	39
Ritchie J. Torres	District 15	71
Vanessa L. Gibson	District 16	42
Rafael Salamanca Jr.	District 17	118
Ruben Diaz, Sr.	District 18	60
Paul Vallone	District 19	15
Peter Koo	District 20	42
Francisco Moya	District 21	69
Costa Constantinides	District 22	3
Barry Grodenchik	District 23	4
Rory I. Lancman	District 24	55
Daniel Dromm	District 25	25
Jimmy Van Bramer	District 26	5
I. Daneek Miller	District 27	44
Adrienne E. Adams	District 28	48
Karen Koslowitz	District 29	18
Robert Holden	District 30	8
Donovan J. Richards	District 31	48
Eric A. Ulrich	District 32	23
Stephen T. Levin	District 33	4

Antonio Reynoso	District 34	27
Laurie A. Cumbo	District 35	4
Robert E. Cornegy, Jr.	District 36	7
Rafael L. Espinal Jr.	District 37	29
Carlos Menchaca	District 38	50
Brad Lander	District 39	18
Mathieu Eugene	District 40	23
Alika Ampy-Samuel	District 41	1
Inez Barron	District 42	3
Justin Brannan	District 43	26
Kalman Yeger	District 44	18
Jumaane D. Williams	District 45	10
Alan N. Maisel	District 46	9
Mark Treyger	District 47	22
Chaim M. Deutsch	District 48	13
Deborah Rose	District 49	9
Joseph C. Borelli	District 51	2



Testimony by New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG)
before the New York City Council Committee on Finance regarding:
Executive Budget Hearing
May 24, 2018

Chair Dromm, Council Members, and staff, good afternoon and thank you for the opportunity to speak to the Finance Committee regarding the FY19 budget. My name is Lisa Rivera and I am the Director of Strategic Initiatives at the New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG). NYLAG uses the power of the law to help New Yorkers in need combat social and economic injustice. We address emerging and urgent legal needs with comprehensive, free civil legal services, impact litigation, policy advocacy, and community education. NYLAG serves immigrants, seniors, the homebound, families facing foreclosure, renters facing eviction, low-income consumers, those in need of government assistance, children in need of special education, domestic violence victims, persons with disabilities, patients with chronic illness or disease, low-wage workers, low-income members of the LGBTQ community, Holocaust survivors, veterans, as well as others in need of free legal services.

At last year's executive budget hearing, NYLAG and many of its colleague organizations testified about the uncertain future facing low-income New Yorkers due to the drastic policy changes threatened by the new federal Administration. Organizations that serve these New Yorkers could only speculate about what the new policies would be and how they would affect our clients. Today, more than a year into the new Administration, many of our worst fears have been realized, and the implications for the populations we serve are dire. The City of New York, however, has not been passive in the face of these challenges. On the contrary, it has committed extraordinary resources to protecting its most vulnerable citizens and the social safety net that so many of them rely upon.

As we work to navigate this new reality, it is more important than ever for New York City to stand strong for its low-income residents, ensuring that, despite policy and funding decisions on the federal level, they are adequately protected. We are grateful for the truly transformative steps that the New York City Council, in partnership with the Mayor's Office, have taken and hope that you will continue to build on these foundations to ensure that low-income New Yorkers have access to the legal services they need. Today I want to focus on some of the most important initiatives funded by the City Council, and encourage the Council to maintain these critical funding streams as challenges facing low-income New Yorkers continue to grow.

Immigration

The City Council has made a massive commitment to immigration legal services over the past several years. Given the increasing needs we see on the ground among undocumented immigrants under the Trump Administration, the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs has focused increased funding through the Immigrant Opportunities Initiative (IOI) on the provision of removal defense. This work is becoming more urgent as we have seen new federal policies that stripped away Immigration Customs & Enforcement (ICE) focus on individuals accused of serious crimes, and made every undocumented immigrant a priority for deportation, regardless of circumstances or community standing. Still, non-removal defense immigration work, such as affirmative applications for survivors of domestic violence, relatives of U.S. citizens, and those looking to become U.S. citizens, are just as important. We urge the City Council to maintain, and even increase, its own IOI funding stream, which is more flexible and allows organizations to provide a wide range of necessary immigration legal services. The increased Administration funding for IOI should be seen as a supplement to the Council's IOI funding, not as a replacement.

Created in FY2016, the Immigrant Health Initiative (IHI) provides funding to organizations that assist immigrants facing health issues, which are often affected by immigration status. Low-income undocumented immigrants face an overwhelming array of challenges: illness, poverty, lack

of knowledge of their rights, and fundamental misconceptions about accessing health care. Many are unaware of the immigration measures that may qualify them for lifesaving Medicaid. NYLAG's LegalHealth Division has partnered with NYC Health + Hospitals for nearly two decades to ensure that H+H patients have the access to immigration legal services they need to improve their health. NYLAG was funded by the IHI for the first two years of its existence, opening three brand new clinics and providing immigration services to patients throughout the H+H system. We hope to be funded through this initiative again, and NYLAG has worked diligently over the past year to keep the clinics opened under the IHI grant afloat despite losing funding in FY18. We handled more than 320 immigration cases for H+H patients last year, but will be unable to do so in the future without restored funding from the Council. We ask that the Council expand the IHI to allow NYLAG to continue to provide this critical work in H+H facilities.

Veterans

NYLAG is grateful for the Council's continued support for services for veterans, including legal services, through the Veterans Services Initiative. Veterans are at high risk for physical and mental health issues, which often lead to difficulty in navigating the bureaucracy of the VA, securing benefits, maintaining housing, staying out of debt, and planning for end of life matters. NYLAG's comprehensive Veterans Legal Assistance Project model, spearheaded by a Coordinating Attorney who is a veteran herself, allows the agency to provide services to assist veterans and their family members with all these issues, and to provide clinics and intake events at organizations and agencies that cater to veterans, and in the communities in which veterans live. NYLAG works with social services and other organizations, many of which are funded through the Veterans Services Initiative, to ensure that clients receive wraparound services for all their needs. NYLAG strongly encourages the Council to continue funding the Veterans Service Initiative, and to expand funding to legal services for veterans. For many veterans, legal services in the areas of benefits, housing, consumer

protection, and advance planning mean the difference between a life of poverty and homelessness and one of stability and peace of mind.

Domestic/Intimate Partner Violence

The Domestic Violence and Empowerment (DoVE) Initiative has for many years provided key funding to organizations providing services for survivors of domestic and intimate partner violence. Studies have shown that legal services are vital to helping survivors permanently escape the physical, mental, and financial control of their abusers. Without legal services, survivors often must navigate complex family law proceedings alone; this can be disastrous when victims are unaware of their rights, intimidated by the system, culturally isolated, and sometimes unable to speak English. Under the Trump Administration, undocumented survivors are further intimidated by reports of ICE officers picking up immigrants in courtrooms. Given the uphill challenges facing them, many survivors drop their cases.

With DoVE funding, NYLAG is able to provide comprehensive legal services to survivors, and is one of the only agencies that provides full representation on complex contested divorces in addition to the uncontested. Attorneys also handle ancillary divorce issues (equitable distribution and maintenance), child/spousal support, custody/visitation, orders of protection, paternity, child protection, and immigration relief for victims of domestic violence. NYLAG applauds the City Council for recent expansions to the DoVE Initiative, and encourages the Council to continue this trajectory. The need for legal services for domestic violence survivors only grows each year, but the capacity of organizations to take on these cases has not increased in tandem. Expanded funding through DoVE will allow organizations providing both legal and non-legal services to increase the number of survivors they can serve.

Other Legal Needs

We are so proud to live and work in a City that has risen to myriad challenges facing low-income New Yorkers, and is addressing them in a serious way. We should not, however, forget that

poverty persists in our City and manifests in many ways that legal services can address and often remedy. For those areas of legal services that are not funded by specific Council initiatives, the Legal Services for Low-Income New Yorkers funding provided by the Council is essential. This funding is flexible, allowing NYLAG and other organizations to use it to fund work that is incredibly important, but may be difficult to fund through traditional government and private sources, such as special education services for children in need of Individualized Education Programs, consumer protection services for those targeted by debt collectors and student loan companies, and services for homeless New Yorkers who are denied emergency shelter. Without funding through Legal Services for Low-Income New Yorkers, NYLAG would not be able to sustain these projects.

Low-Wage Workers

Last, I want to bring your attention to an area that the City Council has highlighted as a priority for FY19, but that is unfunded in the executive budget. Low-wage workers are one of the most vulnerable populations in New York City, with issues that often intersect with immigration, housing, and other legal problems. These workers face persistent poverty, yet funding to provide assistance on wage and hour issues, unemployment insurance, and employment discrimination remains difficult to come by. For several years now, NYLAG's small Employment Law Project has had a special focus on discrimination, as low-income New Yorkers face discrimination based on a variety of issues, including age, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, race, national origin, pregnancy, disability, criminal background, military status, and status as a survivor of domestic violence, and need experienced attorneys to represent them. NYLAG has developed a special expertise in providing employment discrimination legal services to low-income transgender New Yorkers. NYLAG continues to pursue cases on behalf of transgender individuals at the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) and in federal court.

Some employers believe that they can get away with treating low-wage workers illegally because they will not know or be able to assert their rights, and because private employment lawyers

are out of reach for them. The private bar generally does not take cases for low-wage workers because a large part of any settlement reached for these clients is based on back pay and private attorneys are unable to recover fees. In the absence of a class action, it is not financially worthwhile for private attorneys to represent these individuals. NYLAG aims to fill the gap in services to ensure that income is not a barrier to victims of discrimination seeking compensation for lost wages, emotional distress, and other relief. This has not previously been a priority for the City, and it has proven difficult to find sustained private funding for this work. Given that reality, NYLAG is currently unable to provide representation on so many of the meritorious cases it sees. We know our colleague legal services providers face the same challenges in their employment practices, and we enthusiastically support the \$5 million Initiative proposed by the City Council to provide funding for organizations doing this work.

Thank you, once again, for the opportunity to testify today. I look forward to a strong continued partnership with the City Council to ensure access to justice for those in need.

Respectfully submitted,

New York Legal Assistance Group



Executive Budget Hearing
Committee on Finance

Testimony of
Christy Parque, President and CEO
The Coalition for Behavioral Health
May 24, 2018

My name is Doug Berman and I'm representing The Coalition for Behavioral Health. The Coalition is the umbrella advocacy and training organization of New York's behavioral health community, representing over 140 non-profit community-based agencies that serve more than 450,000 consumers. Our members serve the entire continuum of behavioral health care in every neighborhood of New York City.

We would like to thank the City Council for its support of the behavioral health community and especially for the Mental Health Services Initiatives that the City Council has supported with discretionary funds.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES INITIATIVE:

The health profession is increasingly understanding the relationship between good health and the Social Determinants of Health (SDoH). Broadly defined as the "conditions in the social, physical and economic environment in which people are born, live, work and age" (Healthy People 2020, July 11, 2010) they are "the complex, integrated and overlapping structures and economic system that are responsible for most health inequities" (Commission on Social Determinants of Health, World Health Organization, 2008). Examples include access to education and employment opportunities, housing, safety from exposure to crime and violence, and positive (or negative) social norms and attitudes. The intersection of behavioral health problems with poverty, race and ethnicity is indisputable.

The Mental Health Services Initiatives were conceived to help address these shortcomings. The initiatives provide a much needed system of services aimed to alleviate the behavioral health care gaps experienced by vulnerable populations, ranging from Children Under Five to Geriatric Mental Health. They include:

- Mental Health Services for Vulnerable Populations
- Court Involved Youth Mental Health Initiative
- Medicaid Redesign Transition
- Geriatric Mental Health
- Children Under Five
- Developmental, Psychological and Behavioral Health Services
- Autism Awareness

Each initiative targets a specific highly vulnerable segment of the population, spans life cycles and ages, or other identifying or defining characteristics. New Yorkers have come to rely on these trusted resources, culturally competent and linguistically appropriate, and an essential and integrated part of the scarce resources available in their communities.

Many of the programs that comprise the Mental Health Services Initiatives have been serving their community for more than a decade. Others, like the Court Involved Youth Mental Health Initiative is relatively new. The innovation and evolution of programs highlights an important and distinguishing aspect of the Initiatives. The initiatives are community focused, and long embedded in communities that have come to trust, respect and rely on the organization. It is the deep and enduring relationship with the community that allows these organizations to identify changes in community needs, adopt best practices and community driven solutions, and provide cost effective behavioral health services that other funding streams do not cover.

In FY2018, 90 agencies were awarded over 108 grants totaling \$13.2M. Leaving any program unfunded would disrupt the reliable support system for fragile individuals seeking security and wellbeing. It is essential that these vital initiatives continue as they serve very specific objectives for core populations as well as emerging needs.

Five organizations, including The Coalition, Citizens Committee for Children, United Neighborhood Houses, UJA Federation of New York, and the Mental Health Association -New York City, have endorsed this comprehensive, inclusive agenda.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH FUNDS

Thrive NYC and Healing NYC are welcome additions to help meet the pent-up demand for behavioral health services. Only a fraction of individuals needing services can access them. We support spending \$1.2M for an analysis of Thrive NYC and hope the data will be available to multiple researchers and other interested partners whose work would benefit from the information collected.

The Coalition agrees with the increased allocation of \$60M available under Healing NYC for treatment sites, naloxone kits and \$11.1M for a peer program for individuals who survive overdoses. We endorse the Council's

request to allocate \$4.3M for community based organizations to conduct opioid abuse prevention and treatment.

In a city where having a mental illness can be fatal we support \$1.9 million to deepen our commitment to the Cure Violence Program.

INVESTMENT IN THE HUMAN SERVICES SECTOR

We thank the City Council for its support of the investments made in the human services sector for the Fiscal Year 2018 budget and for your leadership this year in response to the Mayor's Preliminary Budget. The sector needs key investments on City contracts, and we – as a unified sector - are advocating for funding parameters that set a floor of 15% for indirect in all human services contracts and are requesting a 10% increase in the portions of human services contracts covering occupancy and casualty and liability insurance to cover escalating costs in these areas. Additionally, we are asking for consideration of a 37% fringe rate in all human services contracts to reflect a generally accepted industry standard. While these priorities were not in the Mayor's FY19 Preliminary and Executive Budgets, we hope the Council will continue to support our asks.

We would ask the Council to push for an accounting of FY2018 funds which were slow to get out and for immediate remedy for these contracting delays. We greatly appreciate your continued work with us to ensure the timely disbursement of these funds, and for further investment in our communities.

CONCLUSION

We cannot effectively address the needs of New Yorkers without addressing the mental health status of our community, its providers and its members. What's at stake makes it imperative that we use all possible resources and approaches. With the dramatic rise in opioid addiction and deaths, and the escalating stressors in our workplaces, schools and homes, we cannot afford to pull the rug out from under anyone already in care, and must increase access and services for those currently shut out.

Christy Parque
President and CEO
The Coalition for Behavioral Health



Asian American Federation

**New York City Council Committee on Finance
Executive Budget Hearing – Public Testimony
Testimony Submitted by Asian American Federation
May 24, 2018**

Thank you to the NYC Council Committee on Finance for providing us the opportunity to submit this testimony. My name is Jo-Ann Yoo and I am the Executive Director of the Asian American Federation (AAF). Our mission is to raise the influence and well-being of the pan-Asian American community through research, policy advocacy, public awareness, and organizational development. We also represent our network of over 60 member organizations who support our community through their work in health & human services, education, economic development, civic participation, and social justice.

The Asian population is the fastest-growing group in New York City, now representing at least 10 percent of the population in 26 out of 51 City Council districts. Despite this, our communities are too often left out of the conversations about how best to use city and state resources effectively to address the needs of our community. We are here to highlight these needs of Asian New Yorkers and how next year's budget should address them.

We urge you to fight for the six areas highlighted below in the budget for Fiscal Year 2019. We look to the Council's leadership to ensure our city is a place where all New Yorkers can thrive.

(1) Increasing Immigration and Integration Services for Asian New Yorkers

Given that 70 percent of Asians in New York City were born abroad, we must address the challenges of integrating into this city by providing accessible, culturally competent services.

Manhattan:
120 Wall Street, 9th Floor
New York, NY 10005

Flushing:
37-17 Union Street, 2nd Floor
Flushing, NY 11354

Through our work with the State on the Liberty Defense Project and operating our Office for New Americans Opportunity Center, we provide linguistically and culturally sensitive immigrant legal services within the Asian community. We need increased funding from the City to expand the capacity to offer these services.

We recommend the following areas be included in the adopted budget:

- Additional investment is needed to help build immigrant legal services in-house and in-language, particularly targeting underserved immigrant communities. The New York State Office of New Americans has made a \$600,000 investment in Asian-led organizations to provide basic immigration services including know your rights trainings and referrals to legal services.
- Ensure the City lives up to our immigrant sanctuary values by placing a moratorium on NYPD enforcement of e-bikes and funding a conversion program for delivery workers using e-bikes to convert them into pedal-assist bikes.
- Increase funding for community-based adult literacy programming to address the gap between community needs and education opportunities for all immigrants, not just young immigrants.

(2) Protecting Our Seniors

The growth of the Asian senior population continues unabated. Since 2000, the Asian senior population in New York City more than doubled in size, growing from 63,312 in 2000 to 150,455 in 2016. With this rapid growth exists great need. The most current Census Bureau data from 2016 showed that one in four Asian seniors in New York City lived in poverty, compared to 19 percent of all seniors citywide. Within certain Asian communities, the poverty rates for seniors were even higher, with poverty rates of 45 percent for Pakistanis, 34 percent for Bangladeshis, 32 percent for Vietnamese, and 28 percent for Chinese and Koreans.

Community-based organizations are best placed for getting Asian seniors the help they need, particularly recently arrived ones who are likely to need additional support acclimating to life in New York City. They are more likely to utilize services through culturally competent programs that reflect their traditional values, language and ethnic identities. Yet, our members doing this work struggle to keep up with increasing service needs while support from public and private

sources has declined. For instance, our analysis shows that between FY 2002 to 2014, the social service organizations serving the Asian American community received just 2.7% of total DFTA contract dollars and 3.7% of the total number of contracts.

To better protect our aging seniors, we urge the Committee and City Council to consider funding the following recommendations:

- Funding for DFTA to fully implement the new citywide languages covered in the new language access law.
- Increased funding for senior centers and senior housing, which serve as important community hubs and have not been adequately funded given the rapid growth in senior population.
- Sign direct contracts with Asian-led homebound meal providers to ensure that resources are fairly allocated to all seniors, eliminating the lack of accountability sometimes created by utilizing subcontractors.
- Support to conduct research to study the most effective programs, best practice models, and demographics changes of the senior population so we can work together to fill service gaps.

(3) Mental Health Services to Promote Healthy Communities

AAF was one of the first organizations to spotlight the urgent mental health issues facing the Asian American community. Our research has revealed troubling trends, including that Asians are the only racial group in New York City for whom suicide was among the top ten leading causes of death from 1997 to 2015. Additionally, we know that even though a higher percentage of Asian American youth report experiencing depressive symptoms compared to their White counterparts, Asian Americans are the least likely to report, seek, and receive medical help for depressive symptoms. This is due to a lack of knowledge, cultural stigma, insurance limits, and a dearth of linguistically and culturally competent service providers.

Based on these findings, AAF has prioritized working with our member agencies to address mental health issues through services and programs that Asian New Yorkers already utilize. For example, parenting skills workshops, leadership programs for youth, and art therapy classes are

all opportunities for trained staff to present preventive mental health skills and outreach to individuals who may benefit from additional support.

To strengthen our ability to address this escalating need, we recommend the Committee and City Council support the following initiatives:

- Invest \$1 million in pan-Asian nonprofit groups to develop community-wide capacity in mental health services.
- Invest in research projects that would serve to build mental health service capacity in the Asian community.

(4) Strengthening Asian American Nonprofits

A crucial pillar of AAF's work is to provide technical assistance and training for our member organizations as they expand their services to address the emerging needs of a rapidly growing community. This includes one-on-one consultations about strategic planning and other areas of need, fundraising workshops and funding opportunities, leadership development trainings, and fiscal support services. However, their tireless work can go only so far as the population they serve increases, unless they can access additional support to build their capacity.

We must address the fact that while 15 percent of New York City is Asian, only 1.4 percent of contract dollars from city social service agencies went to programs run by Asian-led community organizations or programs aimed at serving mostly Asian clientele.

These organizations are the bedrock of this community, and to support them we have the following recommendations for the Committee and City Council:

- Increase the program funding for the Communities of Color Nonprofit Stabilization Fund, from \$3.7 million to \$5 million to help build the capacity of community organizations that serve NYC's communities of color.
- Amend the contracting process in order to acknowledge that Asian-led agencies providing services directly to Asians are in the best position to use additional dollars cost effectively.

(5) Economic Development to Support Small Businesses

Asian-owned businesses provide jobs for new immigrants and cover industries as diverse as Internet tech firms, restaurants, taxi drivers and personal care services. In fact, Asian-owned businesses accounted for about half of net new economic activity in New York City and half of net new paid employment from 2002-2012.

Despite this impressive statistic, many of these entrepreneurs face challenges due to language difficulties, confusing regulations, and a dearth of programming to address their specific needs. These challenges may additionally be reflected in the fact that self-employed Asians have lower median wages and earnings than non-Asians, and are more likely to have LEP and be non-citizens. AAF supports this vibrant and essential part of New York City's economy through programming. Our new Flushing office, funded by EDC, is focused on providing marketing support for the Union Street small businesses negatively impacted by the construction of Flushing Commons.

To support New York City's economic engine, we request the Committee and City Council consider the following recommendations:

- Provide funding for new programs or to enhance and promote existing ones that support the expansion of small businesses, like adding field staff for small business assistance centers to reach business owners where they are.
- Fund programs like the Capital Access program as a way to incentivize loans to small businesses.
- Allocate resources to training programs like increasing the availability of adult ESOL programs to help both owners and workers gain language skills to help expand their economic opportunities.

(6) 2020 Census Participation Outreach

The upcoming 2020 Census will be held during what will likely be a contentious presidential election cycle. Vulnerable immigrant populations will particularly be reticent to participating in the Census. Partnering with community-based organizations that have built up trust in the communities they serve will allow the City to coordinate messaging to encourage people to be counted. We are encouraged that the Mayor has budgeted for a Census Outreach Coordinator and

look forward to working with the administration on ensuring New York City is fully represented in the Census.

To ensure a complete and accurate count in the Asian American community, we urge the Committee to advocate for the inclusion of the following recommendations:

- Fund pan-Asian organizations undertaking Census 2020 outreach. Tasks will include developing messaging on the importance and benefits of the Census and the confidentiality protections, building a network of partners and sharing resources, and working with national partners, the Census Bureau and businesses to ensure a complete and accurate Census.



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Testimony to the New York City Council
Committee on Finance

May 24, 2018

Good afternoon. My name is John Sentigar and I am a member of the advocacy team at Covenant House New York, where we serve runaway and homeless youth, ages 16 to 24. I would like to thank the Committee on Finance for the opportunity to testify today.

Covenant House New York (CHNY) is the nation's largest, non-profit adolescent care agency serving homeless, runaway and trafficked youth. During this past year, CHNY served over 1,900 young people in our residential programs, as well as through our drop-in center and street outreach efforts. On a nightly basis, we provide shelter to approximately 200 young people, including pregnant women and mothers with their children, LGBTQ youth, and commercially sexually exploited youth and trafficking survivors. Our youth are primarily people of color and over a third of our youth have spent time in the foster care system. Many of our youth have experienced abuse or neglect at the hands of parents or other caregivers, and a disproportionately high percentage of our youth struggle with the pervasive impacts of trauma, mental health issues, and substance abuse. We provide young people with food, shelter, clothing, medical care, mental health and substance abuse services, legal services, high school equivalency classes and other educational programs, and job-training programs. All of these services help young people overcome the trauma of abuse, homelessness, and exploitation and move toward stability.



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We strongly support and applaud the New York City Council's passage of Int. Nos. 1699 and 1706. The passage of these bills, when signed by Mayor de Blasio, will better serve the needs of runaway and homeless youth. These important bills address long-standing barriers that have prevented youth from fully accessing the help they desperately need and we are grateful to the City Council for passing these measures. The ability to serve more youth who desperately need services is an incredible opportunity for CHNY and many other providers across New York City. However, increasing available contract funding and bed capacity must go hand in hand with the passage of these bills.

CHNY applauds New York City for increasing funding to new DYCD contracts. While this will greatly improve our ability to continue to offer comprehensive and robust services to young people in need, we are asking that contract funding amounts continue to rise with the real cost of running a program. With a 7% general contract increase in funding, RHY providers will be able to improve programming, deliver service interventions in new and innovative ways, and foster an environment that inspires not only our young people, but also our dedicated staff members who work tirelessly to help those in need. Increased contract funding will provide a more livable wage, decrease staff turnover, and improve morale across our programs. This will naturally improve the services we offer to young people.

Specifically, CHNY is requesting increased funding for several items that will bolster our continued efforts to serve RHY to the best of our ability:



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Legal Services: Increased funding for our legal services department will enable us to hire a second attorney to provide on-site, direct representation and advice and counsel to help homeless young people address barriers to employment, housing, and long-term stability. This is especially important in today's uncertain political climate, as many of our youth, including immigrant youth who may be afraid of deportation, and youth of color and LGBTQ youth who feel especially marginalized, need crucial assistance and information about their legal rights and remedies. The new attorney would work on a wide array of legal issues affecting our young people, including immigration, domestic violence, broken adoptions (when adoptive parents continue to collect an adoption subsidy despite having kicked youth out of their home), consumer issues, public benefits, and more. With our main attorney often in court, it is essential we have a second attorney who can handle emergencies and client walk-ins.

The legal department at Covenant House New York is different from almost every other legal service provider in the state because we serve the legal needs of young people in the same location as they live. We work with transient youth who need assistance in their moment of crisis in an environment they are familiar with. Experience has shown us that youth in crisis staying with us for short periods of time might not be prepared to follow through with several legal appointments, especially when the appointments are off-site. We therefore attempt to meet youth where they are at and recognize that they might not come back for a follow-up appointment – we do as much same day advice, counsel and information-giving as possible. For youth in our long-term programs, we are more able to work on extensive long-term legal cases. With our main attorney often in court, it is essential that we have a second attorney who can handle emergencies



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and client walk-ins. With a second full-time attorney on staff, there is a higher likelihood that an attorney will be able to calm a young person who has received a ticket and let them know that a civil transit ticket will not lead to a warrant or arrest, that an employer cannot refuse to hire them for irrelevant things on their RAP sheet or that a client with a valid immigration case in progress has no need to fear immediate deportation.

Workforce Development: CHNY is seeking overall support for our workforce development program so that our young people can be prepared for today's highly competitive job market. This program includes high school equivalency classes, specialized training courses including janitorial, certified nursing and security guard training. It also offers scholarships to colleges and provides youth with practical job seeking skills. We have a dedicated team of employment specialists who help our young people not only find jobs but also maintain employment at those jobs. Almost all of our young people residing in shelter program attend a two-week class where they gain a foundation on how to apply for a job by learning to write a resume and practice interviewing as well as discuss professionalism and on-the-job decorum. Our team also works hard to develop relationships with employers so that our youth have a range of job choices and can be ready for the ever-changing job market.

Anti-Human Trafficking Transitional Living Program: CHNY is also requesting funding for the Anti-Human Trafficking Transitional Living Program, Aspire House, that would directly support our young trafficking survivors residing in our safe house. This requested funding would



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serve up to eight female-identified survivors of human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation. Since many people escape trafficking situations with only the clothes on their backs, they also need money for food and clothing. In many cases, the pimp or exploiter has controlled all of their finances, often leaving them with no financial knowledge or resources. Some of this funding request would be put toward an incentive program for survivors and also allow us to match a certain percentage of their own savings, thereby encouraging them to save money for when they are on their own. Finally, Aspire House is moving its location from Long Island to the Bronx. We believe the young women that we serve will be better connected to vital services by moving this program back into New York City. Because we are changing its location, we will be renting a non-furnished apartment and need funding for furniture. We hope to make this new environment look like a home where our young people can feel safe and comfortable, and additional funding will greatly enhance our ability to do this.

MetroCards: Additionally, we stand by the advocates working for the Fair Fares campaign in their request for equal access to our public transit system for low-income New Yorkers. We know that our young people have great difficulty affording \$2.75 for a MetroCard, and understand the importance of being able to access the same transit system that many of us are able to take for granted. As the young people of CHNY work to create better futures free from poverty, they cannot stay in our shelter all day. Instead, our youth are travelling to job interviews, doctor appointments offsite, high school and college classes, and places of employment. Whenever possible, CHNY gives youth MetroCards for these purposes, however,



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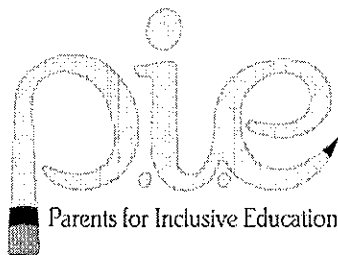
we receive no free or low cost MetroCards from New York City, and we serve close to 2,000 youth per year. Because of this, we are always running low on MetroCards. When a homeless youth does not have the \$2.75 to pay for a MetroCard, but needs to be somewhere, he or she often feels they have no choice but to jump the turnstile. In a random survey of 204 young people at CHNY, over half had received citations from the MTA. These citations result in heavy fines that can lead to problems later on with credit. Rather than saddling young people with fines they cannot pay, it makes more sense to ensure that they have the ability to pay the fare in the first place. For this reason, CHNY supports the requests of the Fair Fares campaign, and also requests \$50,000 to supply greatly needed MetroCard fare to all of the youth we serve, especially now that our programming needs are moving to other areas of the city.

Increased funding commitments from DYCD are vital to the continued success of RHY programming. A greater investment in the FY19 budget on behalf of runaway and homeless young people can help save a generation of vulnerable people from becoming chronically homeless adults, and we stand behind the Coalition for Homeless Youth's request of a \$10.2 million increase in contract investments in FY19. We appreciate that advocates, City Council, and DYCD are all in agreement that every runaway and homeless young person deserves a bed in a youth shelter and have worked to make this the law. However, it is imperative that sufficient funding is available to ensure every youth seeking help can be served in a DYCD shelter. We would like to thank the Speaker of the New York City Council, Corey Johnson, for urging the passage of recent legislation and for being a champion for our youth. We thank the entire New



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York City Council for their support in the fight against youth homelessness and hope that increased funding will support the recent passage of the bill package last month, making New York City a continued leader in supporting runaway and homeless youth.



PIE's Testimony to New York City Finance Committee

New York City Council Executive Budget

May 24, 2018

Good afternoon. My name is Jaclyn Okin Barney, and I speak today as the coordinator of Parents for Inclusive Education (known as "PIE"). PIE is a parent-led advocacy group of educational reformers that works to ensure that all students with disabilities in the NYC public schools have access to meaningful inclusive educational and community opportunities. PIE has been in existence for almost twenty years with members throughout the five boroughs. We are the only New York City group dedicated solely to advocating for the inclusion of students with disabilities.

We work in various ways to achieve our agenda, including collaborating with the Department of Education on different projects. Over the past year or so, we have been working with Department of Education administrators and other special education groups to advocate for students with physical disabilities to have equal opportunities in attending schools across our City by increasing the number of barrier-free school buildings and school programs available to students. We applaud the efforts the DOE officials have taken regarding this issue, however much more needs to be done and more money needs to be allocated in this regard.

We all agree that all students in our City deserve an equal education. But, this is not the case for students with physical disabilities. Their choices for high school in this City, is not equal because many high schools (middle and elementary schools too) are not fully accessible and compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act so that students with physical disabilities can access them. With data from the Department of Education's High School Directory, PIE believes that approximately 7%, or just 8 high schools, in Manhattan are fully accessible. For the Bronx, the number is approximately 19%, which is only 22 high schools out of 115 schools in the borough. In Queens, it is just 20% of high schools in the borough that are fully accessible. In Brooklyn, there is approximately 11% of high schools and 36% in Staten Island. These numbers are too low across all the boroughs.

In addition to fully accessible schools, students can consider schools designated by the Department of Education as "partially" or "functionally" accessible. However, the actual accessibility of these school varies significantly. Some of these schools may be accessible in a way that a student who uses a wheelchair can get to all areas of the school building, while other schools that are listed as "partially" or "functionally" accessible, are not actually accessible in a way that a student in a wheelchair can attend. For instance, we know of partially-accessible schools where students in wheelchairs cannot pass beyond the first floor or schools that may have elevators but have no bathrooms that can meet the needs of a student in a wheelchair. We also know of schools where a student may be able to get to some parts of the building, but are unable to access key areas such as the library, science labs, computer labs, auditorium, stages, or the lunchroom, making it difficult for students with physical disabilities to be fully included in the school's program. Finally, we know of schools where students need to use a separate entrance in order to enter the building.

Many of the schools that are partially accessible do not provide students with physical disabilities an equal opportunity to all the programs and activities of the school, unlike their nondisabled counterparts. The Americans with Disabilities Act is almost 28 years old. The law is too old for their still to be so few accessible schools in the school system.

I am here today to implore you to continue to fight for the additional \$125million of funding the City Council included in its Response to the Fiscal's 2019 Preliminary Budget to address accessibility issues. This money is key. It will enable the City to make another 15-17 schools fully accessible and to improve the accessibility of additional schools throughout the City through minor renovation projects. As a result, students will have more choices in the system.

Despite the Department of Education's efforts in this area, unless appropriate funds are allocated to this need, students with physical disabilities are not going to have the same opportunities or choices as their non-disabled peers. All students deserve an equal education and equal opportunities to that education; this includes students with physical disabilities. To do this, the City needs to start aggressively addressing this situation and improve the accessibility of our school system. We hope you will seriously consider allocating the appropriate funds needed to make substantial changes in this area.

I leave you with one final note today. In NYC where students are able and encouraged to apply to schools that peak their interest and where they can Hone their skills, it is ironic that among the high schools in Brooklyn that are inaccessible include: Franklin Delano Roosevelt High School, High School for Civil Rights and School for Human Rights.

Thank you for considering our testimony today.

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Advocates for Children of New York

Protecting every child's right to learn

GAPS IN SOCIAL WORKERS FOR STUDENTS LIVING IN SHELTERS

May 2018

During the 2016-2017 school year, more than 100,000 New York City students were identified as homeless,¹ 38,000 of whom lived in shelter.² Students living in shelter are more likely to be chronically absent,³ to be suspended,⁴ and to have lower literacy levels than their peers.⁵ Homelessness can create a chaotic living environment where students are exposed to high levels of stress. In addition to the trauma of housing loss, children may have been exposed to other traumatic experiences, such as domestic violence, which is currently the primary driver of homelessness in New York City.⁶ In recent years, the City has placed increasing numbers of children in commercial hotels, which do not have social services on site to address their needs.

Furthermore, the City places most families in shelters far outside their neighborhoods,⁷ forcing families to decide between long commutes to school and transferring schools. When students transfer schools mid-year to enroll in a school closer to their shelter, they have to adjust to unfamiliar peers and teachers, new schedules and routines, different curriculums and teaching styles, and varying school environments, in addition to adjusting to a new living situation.

When there are clusters of students living in shelter attending one school, it is vital for the school to have additional targeted support, as the needs of these students can easily exceed the capacity of existing school staff. Social workers are well positioned to impact the education and lives of students living in shelters by providing much-needed counseling to these students, connecting them to academic support and mental health services, and working to ensure they attend school

¹ New York State Technical and Education Assistance Center for Homeless Students, "Data on Homelessness in New York State," <http://nysteachs.org/info-topic/statistics.html#data>.

² See New York State Technical and Education Assistance Center for Homeless Students, 2016-17 Data, http://nysteachs.org/media/SED_SIRS2016_17x.xlsx.

³ Institute for Children, Poverty & Homelessness, "On the Map: The Atlas of Student Homelessness in New York City 2017" (August 2017) (hereinafter ICPH On the Map) at 32, available at http://www.icphusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/ICPH_StudentAtlas2017_Section2_HousingInstabilityUnderminesSchoolStability.pdf.

⁴ ICPH On the Map at 77, available at http://www.icphusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/ICPH_StudentAtlas2017_Section5_BehavioralChallengesandDisciplineofHomelessStudents.pdf.

⁵ ICPH On the Map at 61, available at http://www.icphusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/ICPH_StudentAtlas2017_Section4_EducationalAchievementofHomelessStudents.pdf.

⁶ See Nikita Stewart, "New York Adding Shelter Options for Homeless Victims of Domestic Abuse," *New York Times*, June 14, 2017, available at <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/06/14/nyregion/new-york-domestic-violence-homeless-shelters.html>.

⁷ See "New York City Preliminary Fiscal 2018 Mayor's Management Report – Homeless Services" at 189, available at <http://www1.nyc.gov/assets/operations/downloads/pdf/pmmr2018/dhs.pdf>.

on a consistent basis. They are trained to address the underlying stress and trauma that hold back students from thriving academically and socially and have the skillset to help families negotiate the overlapping systems that can pose barriers to regular school attendance.

Last year, the City took an important step by placing 33 Department of Education (DOE) “Bridging the Gap” social workers in schools with high populations of students living in shelters to focus on serving students living in shelters. This year, the City has funded 43 Bridging the Gap social workers.

Despite a push by elected officials and advocates to expand this program significantly, Mayor de Blasio’s Executive Budget proposal would add only 10 Bridging the Gap social workers, for a total of 53 DOE social workers to focus on students living in shelters throughout the City. Furthermore, the Mayor proposed only one year of funding for the 53 social workers, subjecting this program to the annual budget dance and putting the long-term continuity of the program in jeopardy.

We analyzed city data to assess the number of schools that have high populations of students living in shelters that do not yet have a Bridging the Gap social worker. Our findings show that the modest increase proposed by Mayor de Blasio will fall far short of meeting the need.

In New York City:

- » More than **125 schools** have 50 or more students living in shelter and no Bridging the Gap social worker. Together, these schools serve more than **9,800 students** living in shelter.
- » More than **375 schools** have 25 or more students living in shelter and no Bridging the Gap social worker. Together, these schools serve more than **18,200 students** living in shelter.

No child in New York City should be homeless. But while the City works to address the overwhelming problem of homelessness, the City must do more to mitigate the impact of homelessness on children, ensuring they get to school on a regular basis and get the academic and social-emotional support they need to succeed in school. If we want to break the cycle of homelessness, the City must focus more attention and resources on the education of students living in shelter, starting with increasing the number of DOE social workers at schools and at shelters focused on these students.

Sixteen education, child advocacy, and housing organizations and 33 New York City Council Members and the Progressive Caucus have called on the Mayor to expand the Bridging the Gap social worker program to 100 social workers at schools and to hire at least 50 DOE social workers to provide intensive supports at shelters to address education-related issues.⁸ Mayor de Blasio and the City Council should negotiate a final budget that includes these recommendations.

⁸ See Letter to Mayor de Blasio from Advocates, March 15, 2018, *available at* http://www.advocatesforchildren.org/sites/default/files/on_page/sign_on_letter_sth_31518.pdf; Letter to Mayor de Blasio from Council Members, April 16, 2018, *available at* http://www.advocatesforchildren.org/sites/default/files/on_page/council_letter_support_for_homeless_students_41618.pdf; Ben Chapman, “Pols, Activists Call for City Hall to Fund Homeless-Student Aid,” *New York Daily News*, April 18, 2018, <http://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/education/pols-activists-call-city-hall-fund-homeless-student-aid-article-1.3940115>.

IMPACT OF HOMELESSNESS ON EDUCATION

During the 2016-2017 school year, more than 100,000 New York City students were identified as homeless,⁹ 38,000 of whom lived in shelter.¹⁰ Homelessness can create a chaotic living environment where students are exposed to high levels of stress. In addition to the trauma of housing loss, children may have been exposed to other traumatic experiences, such as domestic violence, which is now the primary driver of homelessness in New York City.¹¹ Homelessness uproots children from their systems of support and care, which may include relatives, friends, teachers, service providers, medical providers, and mental health providers. Families who are homeless must balance competing priorities including juggling multiple social services appointments and the search for permanent housing. These stressors exacerbate the challenges that children living in poverty already face. Teachers report that students in shelters require more emotional support than their housed peers, and this need often takes precedence over academics.¹²

While school can serve as a key source of stability for students, the City places most families in shelters far outside their neighborhoods. Last year, only 50% of families were placed in the same borough, let alone school district, where their youngest child had been attending school prior to the family entering shelter.¹³ As a result, families must decide between long commutes to school and transferring schools. When students transfer schools, they have to adjust to unfamiliar peers and teachers, new schedules and routines, different curriculums and teaching styles, and varying school environments, in addition to adjusting to a new living situation. As such, school transfers can lead to additional stress for students who are homeless. The chronic stress or trauma that many students experiencing homelessness face must be addressed in order for them to thrive academically and socially.

Students living in shelters are currently missing a substantial amount of school. During the 2015-16 school year, 53% of NYC students living in shelters were absent on 20 or more school days—missing the equivalent of *one month* of school.¹⁴ A number of environmental factors contribute to students missing school, including transportation hurdles, mandatory social services appointments that conflict with school drop off or pick up times, lack of access to clean clothing or school uniforms, and lack of child care arrangements that can make it hard for parents to meet the demands of both work and their children's school, particularly when

⁹ New York State Technical and Education Assistance Center for Homeless Students, "Data on Homelessness in New York State," <http://nysteachs.org/info-topic/statistics.html#data>.

¹⁰ See New York State Technical and Education Assistance Center for Homeless Students, 2016-17 Data, http://nysteachs.org/media/SED_SIRS2016_17x.xlsx.

¹¹ See Nikita Stewart, "New York Adding Shelter Options for Homeless Victims of Domestic Abuse," *New York Times*, June 14, 2017, available at <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/06/14/nyregion/new-york-domestic-violence-homeless-shelters.html>.

¹² New York City Independent Budget Office, "Not Reaching the Door: Homeless Students Face Many Hurdles on the Way to School" (October 2016) (hereinafter IBO Report) at 20, available at <http://www.ibo.nyc.ny.us/iboreports/not-reaching-the-door-homeless-students-face-many-hurdles-on-the-way-to-school.pdf>.

¹³ "New York City Preliminary Fiscal 2018 Mayor's Management Report – Homeless Services" at 189, available at <http://www1.nyc.gov/assets/operations/downloads/pdf/pmmr2018/dhs.pdf>.

¹⁴ ICPH On the Map at 32, available at http://www.icphusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/ICPH_StudentAtlas2017_Section2_HousingInstabilityUnderminesSchoolStability.pdf.

families are placed in shelters far away from their networks of care that had assisted with getting children to school.¹⁵

The stressors that students living in shelter experience can also cause students to exhibit behavioral challenges in school and can lead to school suspensions. In fact, during the 2015-16 school year, one out of every ten middle and high school students living in shelter was suspended from school.¹⁶ Suspensions compound the problem of students who are homeless missing school and often cause students to miss six weeks of instruction in a single school year between absences and suspensions.¹⁷ Furthermore, four out of ten students who are homeless who are suspended will likely drop out of school.¹⁸

When students are out of school, they miss critical instructional time, leading to poor educational outcomes. Only 15 percent of third through eighth grade students living in shelters scored proficiently in reading,¹⁹ and only 12 percent of third through eighth grade students living in shelters scored proficiently in math.²⁰

Education can mitigate the impact of homelessness, giving students a stable, safe, supportive place to be during the day and preparing students to overcome barriers and move on to college and careers. However, schools with high populations of students living in shelter need additional, targeted resources to address the barriers these students face and help ensure they get to school every day and receive the academic and social-emotional support they need.

BRIDGING THE GAP SOCIAL WORKERS

Last year, the City took an important step by placing 33 DOE “Bridging the Gap” social workers in schools with high populations of students living in shelters to focus on supporting the students living in shelters enrolled in those schools. This year, the City has funded 43 Bridging the Gap social workers.

Social workers are well positioned to impact the education and lives of students living in shelters by providing much-needed counseling to these students, connecting them to academic support and mental health services, and working to ensure they attend school on a consistent basis. They are trained to address the underlying stress and trauma that hold back students from thriving academically and socially and have the skillset to help families negotiate the overlapping systems that can pose barriers to regular school attendance.

¹⁵ IBO Report at 17-26.

¹⁶ ICPH On the Map, page 77, available at http://www.icphusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/ICPH_StudentAtlas2017_Section5_BehavioralChallengesandDisciplineofHomelessStudents.pdf.

¹⁷ Institute for Children, Poverty & Homelessness, “Suspension Hubs: The Rise in Suspensions Among Homeless Students,” (April 2018) at 2, available at http://www.icphusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/ICPH_Suspensions_FINAL.pdf.

¹⁸ *Id.*

¹⁹ ICPH On the Map, page 61, available at http://www.icphusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/ICPH_StudentAtlas2017_Section4_EducationalAchievementofHomeless-Students.pdf.

²⁰ *Id.* at 69.

For example, if a student is out of school because of a transportation challenge, a social worker can navigate the DOE's various offices to secure busing; if a student is not getting to school because of competing appointments, a social worker can help advocate for the family with the Department of Homeless Services (DHS) and the Human Resources Administration (HRA); or if the trauma the parent has experienced is interfering with the parent's ability to get the student to school in the morning, a social worker can meet with the family, coordinate with other staff at the shelter and the school, and connect the family to appropriate resources.

For children who are experiencing behavioral challenges, a social worker can assess the situation and connect the student to appropriate resources. The social worker can provide counseling directly, can spearhead the development of a Behavioral Intervention Plan, can connect the student to mental health services outside of school, and can provide the child's teacher with effective strategies for preventing and addressing a student's behaviors.

Moreover, experience has borne out the effectiveness of the Bridging the Gap social workers. As one school administrator noted: "To support families, [the Bridging the Gap social worker] does whatever is necessary to get the job done! She collaborates with families, school staff, outside caseworkers, doctors, counselors, shelter school liaisons, attendance personnel—you name it! When a family [who is homeless] comes to the school, she meets with them, truly listens to their story, and does her best to empower them with resources."

BRIDGING THE GAP SOCIAL WORKERS IN ACTION

Adam*, an elementary school student living in shelter, had low self-esteem and was often getting into trouble. He would stop doing his work, walk out of class, and wander the halls. As a result, his academic performance was suffering.

The Bridging the Gap social worker began to meet with Adam on a regular basis, working to help him address the stress he was experiencing.

With ongoing individual and group counseling, Adam's self-esteem improved, he began staying in class, and his academic performance flourished.

*All names have been changed.

BUDGET DANCE FOR BRIDGING THE GAP SOCIAL WORKERS

Mayor de Blasio deserves credit for initiating the Bridging the Gap social worker program two years ago. Unfortunately, however, for the third year in a row, the Mayor included this funding in the Executive Budget for one year only, rather than including long-term funding. By failing to baseline the funding, the Mayor has subjected this funding to the annual budget dance. Schools want to know that they will be able to keep their Bridging the Gap social workers as long as the need exists and do not want to wait in suspense each year to find out whether or not the City will extend the funding for another year.

THE GAP IN SOCIAL WORKERS FOR STUDENTS LIVING IN SHELTERS

Over the past five years, the number of NYC students living in shelters has increased by 11,000 students.²¹ During this time period, the only increase in DOE staffing targeted to serving this population was the addition of the 43 Bridging the Gap social workers.

Mayor de Blasio's Executive Budget proposal would add 10 Bridging the Gap social workers, for a total of 53 DOE social workers to focus on students living in shelters. This modest increase falls far short of meeting the need.

In New York City:

- » More than **125 schools** have 50 or more students living in shelter and no Bridging the Gap social worker. Together, these schools serve more than **9,800 students** living in shelter.²²
- » More than **375 schools** have 25 or more students living in shelter and no Bridging the Gap social worker. Together, these schools serve more than **18,200 students** living in shelter.

While it is important for schools with high populations of students living in shelter to have social workers focused on serving these students,²³ it is worth noting that many schools with high populations of students living in shelter have no DOE social worker.

- » More than **20 schools** serve 50 or more students living in shelter and have no DOE social worker (no Bridging the Gap social worker or other DOE social worker).²⁴ Together, these schools serve more than **1,300 students** living in shelter.
- » More than **95 schools** serve 25 or more students living in shelter and have no DOE social worker (no Bridging the Gap social worker or other DOE social worker). Together, these schools serve more than **3,700 students** living in shelter.

The Mayor's Executive Budget proposal includes \$125 million in additional funding for Fair Student Funding for schools. Because the City is distributing this funding only to schools that currently receive less than 90 percent of Fair Student Funding, nearly half of the schools with

²¹ See New York State Technical and Education Assistance Center for Homeless Students, "Data on Homelessness in New York State," <http://nysteachs.org/info-topic/statistics.html#data>.

²² The analysis in this report relies on school enrollment data of students living in shelter from the 2015-2016 school year. Given the growth in the total number of New York City students living in shelter (an increase of 2,000 students living in shelter between the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 school years), the number of schools with high concentrations of students living in shelter and the number of students living in shelter attending these schools have likely increased.

²³ Only Bridging the Gap social workers focus on students living in shelter. DOE social workers other than Bridging the Gap social workers are required to spend their time conducting social history intakes with families of children referred for special education evaluations, scheduling and participating in IEP meetings, and providing counseling as mandated by students' Individualized Education Programs (IEPs). Indeed, they are contractually obligated to prioritize responsibilities related to completing assessments and IEPs for students with disabilities. See *2009-2018 School Psychologists & School Social Workers Contract*, pages 94-95, available at http://www.uft.org/files/attachments/social_worker_school_psychologist_2009-2018.pdf. Therefore, even schools that have DOE social workers other than Bridging the Gap social workers may not be meeting the needs of students living in shelters attending their schools.

²⁴ For school-level data regarding DOE social workers, see DOE Data Pursuant to Reporting Requirements in Local Law 56 of 2014 (February 2018), at http://schools.nyc.gov/NR/rdonlyres/A3D1BF48-4ABC-496C-88CC-AB250639DD3B/0/CopyofGuidance_Bill_Reporting_as_of_020918FINAL.xlsx.

BRIDGING THE GAP SOCIAL WORKERS IN ACTION

One Bridging the Gap social worker worked with a set of siblings who transferred to her school from another school in the middle of the school year.

At their previous school, the siblings had missed more than 60 days of school. After enrolling in their new school, they were absent for multiple days. The Bridging the Gap social worker worked to understand why the students were not showing up for school. First, the family told the social worker that the absences were due to a health concern. The social worker connected the family to a health clinic and continued to follow up with the family.

When the absences continued, the social worker worked tirelessly with the family and the shelter staff to develop a plan to ensure the students would attend school. As a result of persistent family engagement by the social worker, the siblings began attending school consistently.

high populations of students living in shelter and no Bridging the Gap social worker will not receive any portion of the \$125 million.²⁵

- » More than **55 schools** have 50 or more students living in shelter enrolled, have no Bridging the Gap social worker, and will not receive any additional funding through the \$125 million increase in Fair Student Funding. Together, these schools serve more than **4,400 students** living in shelter.
- » More than **165 schools** have 25 or more students living in shelter enrolled, have no Bridging the Gap social worker, and will not receive any additional funding through the \$125 million increase in Fair Student Funding. Together, these schools serve more than **8,000 students** living in shelter.

Students living in shelter also do not have DOE social workers at their shelters. Given the number of students who attend schools without a Bridging the Gap social worker, it is important to have qualified, trained professionals on the ground at the City's shelters who can address barriers to school access and school success. Currently, there are approximately 117 DOE Family Assistants who work in shelters and are primarily responsible for conducting intakes with families, giving basic information about education, and distributing MetroCards. The Family Assistants are not required to have a college degree or any formal training in social work or education. They are not a substitute for trained social workers who could provide the social-emotional support and advocacy that this population needs. Furthermore, as the number of family shelters, cluster sites, and commercial hotels has grown, the number of Family Assistants has not kept pace, leaving many students and families in shelters without access to shelter-based DOE staff.

²⁵ Each school that receives a portion of the increased Fair Student Funding can decide how to use this much-needed additional funding, and most schools will receive only enough money to fund one additional position. As such, there is no guarantee that any school that receives an increase in Fair Student Funding will use the funding to hire a Bridging the Gap social worker.

BRIDGING THE GAP SOCIAL WORKERS IN ACTION

A teacher noticed that Isaiah was exhibiting problematic behaviors in class. The teacher alerted the Bridging the Gap social worker, who discovered that the student and his mother were living in a car. The Bridging the Gap social worker helped the family enter the shelter system and supported them throughout the process.

Due to the stress the student had experienced, the Bridging the Gap social worker began providing counseling to the student and connected him to a therapist outside of school, coordinating with the outside therapist to ensure they were supporting the student in a consistent manner. With these supports in place, the student's behavior began to improve.

In addition to increasing the number of school-based DOE Bridging the Gap social workers, the DOE should hire shelter-based social workers to provide intensive supports focused on children's education. At a minimum, as Family Assistants leave their positions, the DOE should replace them with social workers and, as new shelters open, the DOE should hire social workers instead of Family Assistants to work there. Using a strengths-based, family-centered, trauma-informed approach, these social workers should help students and families address barriers to education and navigate the school system, including enrollment, attendance, transportation, school applications, special education services, school suspensions, after-school and summer programs, and early childhood education.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Far too many students in shelters do not have access to a Department of Education social worker in their schools or shelters. While the City has taken a positive step by proposing to increase the number of Bridging the Gap social workers from 43 to 53 next year, this modest increase falls far short of meeting the need. The City should significantly increase the number of DOE social workers at schools and shelters focused on serving students living in shelters. In addition, the City should appoint a senior-level leader to coordinate the efforts of the DOE Bridging the Gap social workers and to work across agencies and DOE divisions to develop and implement policies to better serve highly mobile students, including students who are homeless and students in foster care.

The City should:

- » Establish a Deputy Chancellor's Office for Highly Mobile Students (\$1 million)
- » Increase the number of DOE Bridging the Gap school-based social workers for students in shelters from 53 to 100 and hire additional supervisory staff (\$7 million)
- » Hire 50 DOE social workers to provide intensive supports at shelters to address education-related issues (\$6.5 million)
- » Baseline the funding for DOE support for students living in shelter to ensure its continuity.



Advocates for Children of New York

Protecting every child's right to learn

Testimony to be delivered to the New York City Council Committee on Finance

Re: Fiscal Year 2019 Executive Budget

May 24, 2018

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify about the Fiscal Year 2019 Executive Budget. My name is Randi Levine, and I am the Policy Director of Advocates for Children of New York (AFC). For more than 45 years, Advocates for Children has worked with the City's low-income families to ensure a high-quality education for children who face a variety of barriers to academic success. We speak out for students whose needs are often forgotten, such as students with disabilities, immigrant students, students who are homeless, and students with behavioral challenges.

We are pleased that the FY 19 Executive Budget includes an additional \$125 million increase in Fair Student Funding for 854 schools. This much-needed funding will help schools pay for an extra staff member or a variety of programs to meet needs identified by each individual school. At the same time, there are important citywide needs that must be addressed through targeted investments and cannot be left to the discretion of individual schools. To this end, we are encouraged that the Executive Budget includes increased funding to provide anti-bias training and to help improve literacy for students, including students with disabilities, English Language Learners (ELLs), and students living in shelters. We will focus our testimony on several issues that were not adequately addressed in the Executive Budget and that we urge you to prioritize as you negotiate the final budget.

1. Increase and Baseline Funding for DOE Social Workers and Other Supports for Students Who Are Homeless

We ask you to work with the Administration to increase and baseline funding for DOE social workers and other supports for students who are homeless.

In 2016-2017, more than 100,000 NYC students were identified as homeless, including 38,000 students living in shelters, reflecting a 50 percent increase from just five years ago. Students living in shelter are more likely to be chronically absent, to be suspended, and to have lower literacy levels than their peers.



The City has taken a positive step by placing 43 “Bridging the Gap” social workers in schools with high populations of students living in shelters to focus on serving this population. These social workers have provided counseling to students, connected them to academic support and mental health services, and worked to improve attendance. Social workers are trained to address the underlying stress and trauma that hold back students from thriving academically and socially and have the skillset to help families negotiate the overlapping systems that can pose barriers to regular school attendance. For example, at one school, the Bridging the Gap social worker worked tirelessly with a family and shelter staff to ensure the consistent attendance of a group of siblings living in shelter who had missed more than 60 days of school at their previous school. Only after the Bridging the Gap social worker’s intervention did the siblings begin regularly attending school.

The FY 19 Executive Budget includes the \$10.3 million for these social workers and other supports for students living in shelter included in the FY 18 budget and adds \$1.6 million for additional support for students living in shelter.

However, despite a push from more than 30 Council Members, shelter providers, and advocates to increase the number of Bridging the Gap social workers from 43 to 100 social workers, the Executive Budget includes funding for only 10 additional Bridging the Gap social workers (for a total of 53 social workers). Furthermore, for the third year in a row, the Executive Budget fails to baseline the funding to support students living in shelters, putting the continuity of the program in jeopardy.

We released a new report today showing that the Executive Budget falls far short of meeting the need for Bridging the Gap social workers.

Our analysis, attached to this testimony, shows that in New York City:

- **More than 125 schools** have 50 or more students living in shelter and no Bridging the Gap social worker. Together, these schools serve more than **9,800 students** living in shelter.
- **More than 375 schools** have 25 or more students living in shelter and no Bridging the Gap social worker. Together, these schools serve more than **18,200 students** living in shelter.

No child in New York City should be homeless. But while the City works to address the overwhelming problem of homelessness, the City must do more to mitigate the impact of homelessness on children, ensuring they get to school on a regular basis



and get the academic and social-emotional support they need to succeed in school. If we want to break the cycle of homelessness, the City must focus more attention and resources on the education of students living in shelter, starting with increasing the number of DOE social workers at schools and at shelters focused on these students.

The City should significantly increase the number of DOE social workers at schools and shelters focused on serving students living in shelters. In addition, the City should appoint a senior-level leader to coordinate the efforts of the DOE Bridging the Gap social workers and to work across agencies and DOE divisions to develop and implement policies to better serve highly mobile students, including students who are homeless and students in foster care.

We urge you to work with the Administration to ensure that the final budget baselines the \$11.9 million for support for students living in shelter included in the FY 19 Executive Budget and adds and baselines funding for the following additional supports for students who are homeless:

- **Increase the number of DOE Bridging the Gap school-based social workers for students in shelters from 53 to 100 and hire additional supervisory staff (\$7 million)**
- **Hire 50 DOE social workers to provide intensive supports at shelters to address education-related issues (\$6.5 million)**
- **Establish a Deputy Chancellor's Office for Highly Mobile Students (\$1 million)**
- **Hiring Field Support Center Directors for Highly Mobile Students (\$4.5M)**

2. Increase Funding to Improve the Accessibility of NYC Schools

We stand with the ARISE Coalition, which AFC leads, and Parents for Inclusive Education (PIE) in calling for a significant increase in funding to make more schools accessible to students, families, teachers, and staff members with physical disabilities. In December 2015, the U.S. Department of Justice found that only 17% of the City's elementary schools were fully accessible. Two years later, the numbers are still unacceptably low. Three of the 32 community school districts have no fully accessible elementary school buildings (Districts 12, 16 and 21), 4 districts have no fully accessible middle schools (7, 14, 16, and 32), and 6 districts have no fully accessible high schools (14, 16, 18, 20, 21 and 32). As a result, families have limited



options, and students often must travel longer distances to attend schools that can meet their needs. Additionally, families are required to make difficult compromises regarding curriculum and programming for their students.

Because full accessibility is so limited, the DOE places many students with accessibility needs in schools that are only “partially accessible.” Unfortunately, families find significant variation in these partially accessible schools. Students who use wheelchairs or walkers may be required to enter their buildings through separate entrances and may not have access to key spaces within the building.

We are pleased that the DOE’s Office of Space Planning is working to complete surveys of the accessibility of public school buildings. These surveys, known as Building Accessibility Profiles, confirm the need for the City to improve the accessibility of partially accessible buildings and can help the City identify the most effective, efficient, and necessary projects to improve accessibility for students, families, and staff with mobility, hearing, and vision needs.

The 2015-2019 Capital Plan allocates \$100 million for improving school accessibility and \$28 million for ensuring that a number of schools can serve as accessible emergency shelters. Together, that represents *less than one percent* of the total funding in the Plan. Furthermore, the City has already spent the vast majority of this funding, leaving little, if any, funding for accessibility projects in the coming year. **Unless the City increases funding for accessibility projects in this year’s budget, we will not see additional progress over the next year.**

We are very pleased that the City Council’s Response to the FY 2019 Preliminary Budget recommends an allocation of an additional \$125 million for school accessibility projects. If adopted, this funding would allow the City to make another 15-17 schools fully accessible and to improve the accessibility of additional schools throughout the City through minor renovation projects. Unfortunately, the Executive Budget, once again, omits this critical funding.

We urge you to stand firm on the City Council’s recommendation and negotiate a final budget that includes at least an additional \$125 million for school accessibility. New York City cannot be the fairest big city in America until students, families, and teachers with physical disabilities have equitable access to the City’s schools.



3. Increase Funding for Evidence-Based Practices to Improve School Climate in High-Needs Schools

Every child deserves to attend a safe, high-quality school where students, teachers, and staff are treated with dignity and respect. Yet, we know from ample research and our work with numerous AFC clients that exclusionary, punitive discipline and school policing do nothing to create school environments that reduce violence in our communities and address the mental health and social-emotional needs of NYC students.

Although we have seen a positive decrease in the numbers of NYC student suspensions and school-based summonses and arrests, too many students are unnecessarily excluded from school instead of properly supported in school. And citywide data show that Black students and students with disabilities are still disproportionately impacted. Indeed, last year Black students comprised about 61.8% of students handcuffed by the NYPD during child in crisis interventions —incidents where the police became involved when a student showed signs of emotional distress and was then sent to a hospital for psychiatric evaluation. Schools desperately need more tools and resources to implement effective, systemic solutions for addressing the most challenging behaviors, or we may see a back-slide from the progress so far. Unfortunately, the FY 19 Executive Budget does not contain the funding needed for such solutions.

We urge the City Council to negotiate a final budget that includes and baselines funding for the following recommendations of the Mayoral Leadership Team on School Climate and Discipline:

a. Mental Health Support Continuum Pilot (\$2.875 million per year)

This pilot program uses a medical model to help ensure that students in 20 high-needs schools in Brooklyn and the Bronx have access to direct mental health services when needed. It would include school partnerships with hospital-based mental health clinics and call-in centers to assist schools with students in crisis, school response teams that help students get direct mental health services, school-based behavioral health consultants, whole-school training in the evidence-based model of Collaborative Problem Solving, and program evaluation.

b. Whole-School Collaborative Problem Solving (\$1 million per year)

Collaborative Problem Solving (“CPS”) is an evidence-based model that has demonstrated effectiveness with children and adolescents who have a wide range of social, emotional, and behavioral challenges. Use of CPS helps schools move away from an exclusionary, punitive model to a problem-solving, skill building approach in



which students take responsibility for long-term behavioral change in an environment where the adults are trained to support them. This funding would allow the City to systematically implement CPS in 25 high-needs schools and develop a cadre of CPS-Certified Trainers to build capacity by training other schools in this evidence-based approach to transforming school climate and discipline to keep students and staff safe.

We also urge you to ensure that the final FY 2019 Budget includes \$2.6 million to continue the City Council Restorative Justice Program pilot in 25 schools. The Administration and City Council split the \$2.6M cost in FY 18, but the FY 19 Executive Budget does not include any funding for this program. In addition, we support the \$3 million included in the FY 19 Preliminary Budget to expand the DOE's Restorative Practices whole-district model to three additional school districts.

4. Increase Funding for Busing for Students in Foster Care

When students are removed from their homes and families and placed into foster care, school is often the only source of stability in their lives. However, 3 out of 10 students in NYC have to change schools upon their initial placement in foster care.

The federal Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act and the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) require the DOE and ACS to provide, arrange, and fund transportation so that students can remain in their original school when they enter foster care, unless it is in their best interests to transfer to a new school. However, the City does not guarantee bus service to students in foster care. The City only provides bus service to students in foster care whose Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) require special transportation and those who may be easily added to existing bus routes. As a result, students who cannot travel to school on their own are often forced to transfer schools.

Having to transfer schools mid-year means that students must adjust to unfamiliar peers, teachers, routines, and curriculum, while experiencing the trauma of being separated from their parents, and sometimes from their siblings and communities as well. Research shows that students who change schools frequently have lower test scores, earn fewer credits, are more likely to be retained, and are less likely to complete high school than students whose school placements are stable.

The City has already extended yellow bus service to more than 5,000 kindergarten through sixth grade *students living in shelters*, paving the way for the City to provide yellow bus service to the significantly smaller number of kindergarten through sixth



grade students in foster care who may need bus service and currently cannot access it. No student in foster care should be forced to change schools due to lack of transportation. **We urge the City Council to ensure that the final FY 19 budget includes \$5 million for bus service for kindergarten through sixth grade students in foster care.**

5. Restore and Increase Funding for Early Childhood Education, After-School Programs, and Summer Programs

We also support the budget requests of the Campaign for Children including:

- Making all children who are homeless eligible for subsidized child care.
- Investing in the workforce by establishing salary parity for teachers, staff, and directors between DOE schools and community-based organizations.
- Increasing the capacity of the subsidized early childhood system to serve more infants and toddlers.
- Restoring \$9.855 million for discretionary child care programs.
- Ending the budget dance and anxiety for families by restoring at least \$20.35 million for summer programs for at least 34,000 middle school students.
- Restoring \$16 million to maintain current levels of elementary after-school capacity.

6. Restore and Increase Funding for AFC's Jill Chaifetz Education Helpline

We note that we are deeply grateful for the City Council's ongoing support of Advocates for Children's Jill Chaifetz Education Helpline, which has allowed us to help thousands of families navigate the education system each year. We ask the Council to continue to fund this important Citywide Initiative and to restore funding to its pre-recession funding level of \$250,000, as the Helpline provides assistance to parents who have nowhere else to turn.

We appreciate the City Council's work to ensure that the budget invests in programs that help children get a high-quality education and look forward to working with the Administration and City Council as the budget process concludes. Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you. I would be happy to answer any questions.



**Testimony to be delivered to the New York City Council Finance Committee
on the 2018 Budget**

May 24, 2018

Good evening. I am Maggie Moroff, the Coordinator of the ARISE Coalition. We are a group of parents, advocates, educators, academics and other stakeholders who have been working together for more than 10 years. We aim to provide a collective and powerful voice in support of students with disabilities and learning differences in New York City public schools. Our goal is to bring about systemwide changes that improve day-to-day experiences and long-term outcomes for these students. Today, we are here to urge you to ensure much-needed funding for improving school accessibility is included in the City's final FY 2019 budget.

We are gravely concerned about the dearth of accessible public schools in New York City, severely limiting the choices available to students, families, and teachers with physical disabilities. Three of the City's 32 community school districts have no fully accessible elementary schools (Districts 12, 16, and 21), four school districts have no fully accessible middle schools (Districts 7, 14, 16, and 32), and six districts have no fully accessible high schools (Districts 14, 16, 18, 20, 21, and 32). District 16 has no fully accessible schools at all.

As such, there is no equity in the admissions process for students with physical disabilities. Every time a student with physical differences applies to public school, the accessibility of school buildings becomes a primary concern in their decision-making process, often over and above the student's interests and talents.

While the Department of Education has categorized a number of schools across the City as "partially" accessible, individuals using wheelchairs often cannot access key spaces in many partially accessible schools. Some lack accessible bathrooms. Others require students using wheelchairs to use separate entrances than their peers. And at others, students using wheelchairs cannot access key rooms in the school, including libraries, science rooms, cafeterias, and music and art studios.

In 1990, long before most of today's students were born, the Americans with Disabilities Act ("ADA") was enacted. Two years ago, the U.S. Department of Justice issued findings that NYC was out of compliance with the ADA and lacked sufficient accessible school options for elementary students. Quite simply, the City must now provide individuals with disabilities access to a wider range of public schools.

2015-2019 Capital Plan allocates \$100 million over five years for improving school accessibility and \$28 million for ensuring that a number of schools can serve as accessible emergency shelters, that represents less than one percent of the total funding in the Plan. More importantly, the City has already spent most of that money, leaving the City without funds for significant work on accessibility this year.

The work can't wait while the City develops the next 5-year Capital Plan, which will not be done for more than a year. There needs to be a sufficient allocation of funds for renovation and construction to increase the number of accessible schools this year as well.

We are very pleased that the City Council's Response to the FY 2019 Preliminary Budget recommended allocating an additional \$125 million for school accessibility projects and want to thank you again today for doing so.

We urge you to stand steadfast and negotiate a final budget that includes at least an additional \$125 million for school accessibility. New York City will never become "the fairest big city in America" until all individuals with physical disabilities have equitable access to the City's schools.

Thank you for your time today.

**Testimony for the Healthy Food Financing Initiative
Central Brooklyn Food Coop
May 24, 2018**

FOR THE RECORD

Dear Councilmembers,

The Brooklyn Movement Center—a Black-led, multi-issue community organizing group that is building power for and among the residents of Central Brooklyn—and the Central Brooklyn Food Coop, a Black-led, member-owned and run consumer food coop that is looking to open its doors for retail business in 2019—are proud to support the American Heart Association’s efforts to secure \$10 million for local food retail through the Healthy Food Financing Initiative.

Central Brooklyn, my neighborhood and community, needs a food intervention. For years, the conversation in Central Brooklyn was about how food retailers had abandoned the Black and low to moderate income areas of Brooklyn. I, along with many of the leaders and organizers of the Central Brooklyn Food Co-op, was born in Central Brooklyn and have lived here most of my life. I have watched chains like A & P, Pathmark and others either go out of business or leave Central Brooklyn for the suburbs. This is documented fact.

It’s also well known that Central Brooklyn has seen a resurgence of food retailers opening up storefronts, particularly artisanal shops selling organic and high priced items. These retailers come and go, failing to get to know the community in which they occupy space and failing to meet the tangible food needs of Central Brooklyn residents. The Whole Food-ization of Central Brooklyn is a response to changing demographics and dietary tastes in the area that is skewing younger, whiter and more affluent. Food is helping to define and enforce the new color line in our communities.

The Central Brooklyn Food Coop, like many other food cooperatives in NYC, is a bulwark against the idea that long term, moderate income, Black and Brown people are not worthy of affordable, healthy, sustainable food options. As an institution committed to centering and empowering Black food consumers and families, it is a potential engine for a self-determining food economy. As a coop that enables members to own the grocery store and leverages member volunteer labor, it will offer food at highly competitive price points. And as we build partnerships with local unions, food based worker cooperatives and community chefs, Central Brooklyn Food Coop has the potential to serve as the nerve center for a food supply chain and the creation of a new healthy food culture for the people of Central Brooklyn. In short, it’s a game changer.

Such a legitimate and logical effort to solve a food (and housing) problem ought to speak to philanthropists and the community development world, especially with the

emergence and widespread understanding of terms like 'food justice' and the recognition of 'food apartheid.' However, Central Brooklyn Food Coop, and cooperatives in general, falls into a dead zone of capitalization. Neither charitable or 'non-profit' enough for foundations, yet too grounded in social justice and democracy for those looking to support food retail enterprise and healthy grocery stores, Central Brooklyn Food Coop has been largely overlooked. Especially painful, we were denied a discretionary council grant because OMB determined that our membership model meant that we weren't open to the public. We support the HFFI and cooperation as a tactic towards genuinely affordable food for those New Yorkers most marginalized among us because in the middle of this blind spot is an opportunity to redefine food self determination and sovereignty in neighborhoods where, with every new zoning variance, coop conversion, slick new coffee shop, eviction and fifteen dollar avocado toast, long term residents are losing their control of their livable environment.

Not only does the Central Brooklyn Food Coop strongly encourage the funding of the Healthy Food Financing Initiative, but we also challenge you to broaden your definition of what a viable food provider looks like and put a premium on home grown, non extractive, and truly community-owned pathways to building not just a food oasis, but a functioning food-based economic democracy.

Thank you for supporting these efforts and we look forward to working with you in the future to strengthen and grow the capacity of food cooperatives across our city.

Testimony of Park Slope Food Coop
In Support of a New York City Healthy Food Financing Initiative
May 22, 2018

The Park Slope Food Coop (PSFC) heartily supports the effort by the American Heart Association and New York City citizens to secure \$10 million to create a Healthy Food Financing Initiative (HFFI) to help local food retail to open, expand, and improve in neighborhoods that need food and jobs. We encourage the New York City Council to approve this initiative.

The (PSFC) was founded in 1973 by a small group of committed neighbors who wanted to make healthy, affordable food available to everyone who wanted it. The goal of the Coop's founders was economic access to healthy foods. The problem in 1973 was not physical access to healthy food, but economic access. The member-labor participation model of food coop was the answer to providing healthy food at an affordable price. Shared ownership and member work commitment are the ways the Coop achieves that goal. In addition, a member-owner participation model of cooperation builds community through shared initiative, commitment and ownership.

PSFC has grown to more than 17,000 members, most of whom work 2.75 hours once every four weeks, to help operate and manage the Coop. The members do everything from running a checkout lane to receiving deliveries to answering the phones. Prices are low because of the reduction in paid staff labor made possible by member participation in the work. We estimate that the members contribute 70-75% of the labor needed to operate a food coop with 6,000 square feet of shopping space and almost \$57 million in sales. Member participation at all levels of the coop is the heart of our model of food coop.

In addition, the PSFC employs 75+ people which helps to strengthen our local and regional economy. We provide our employees with a full range of benefits including a defined benefit pension plan, up to five weeks of vacation, and a health plan with no payroll deduction and very low out-of-pocket costs to employees and their families. As our employees are also members of the Coop, they share in the ownership of their place of employment and the benefits that accrue from that ownership.

The international principles of cooperation call for cooperatives to have concern for community and to practice cooperation among cooperatives. Helping to start new cooperatives is part of the PSFC mission, and we are actively supporting six start-up food coops in Brooklyn with technical assistance, member labor, and low-cost loans administered through our Revolving Loan Program. We also speak with and provide advice to many neighborhood groups throughout NYC interested in learning about food coops and in particular our model of food coop. From our perspective, New York City residents are interested in the opportunities and benefits starting and growing a food coop can bring to their neighborhoods.

But the greatest barrier for all these projects is capitalization. Opening a food coop – especially one that aims to be a “one-stop shopping” experience for its members – is a costly endeavor. Given the high costs of real estate acquisition and development in Brooklyn, start-up food coop organizations are unable to secure the funds needed through their own member-loan programs to open a coop that would widely serve its members and neighborhood. Plus, commercial financial institutions have historically been reluctant to extend loans to small food coop organizations. One reason that the Park Slope Food Coop started a revolving loan program was the recognition that barriers exist for start-up groups to access financial resources. But our program is limited in scope and funds and is no substitute for the level of financing that could be available through the HFFI.

Over the past five years, the PSFC has worked closely with a group in Paris, France, to open the first member-labor participation food coop in France. La Louve opened its doors to member-shoppers in November 2016. In its first year of operation, La Louve grew to 3500 active members and had \$5 million in sales. La Louve members, like PSFC members, work 2.75 hours every four weeks to operate and manage the coop.

La Louve was able to achieve this phenomenal success in large part because of the financial support they received from the city of Paris and the coop’s local neighborhood (arrondissement) government. Public financing in terms of low-cost loans and direct grants were used to develop a 15,650 sq foot retail store in a mixed-income neighborhood. They were able to leverage the public financial support to secure additional commercial loans and foundation grants. With the opening of the coop, healthy, affordable food was made available to a wide variety of Parisians, some of whom, like many New Yorkers, struggle to make ends meet in a city of sky-rocketing rents and limited access. We believe that the HFFI could make more food coops a reality in NYC, just like public financing helped to bring the first member-labor food coop to Paris.

In conclusion, the PSFC supports the development and expansion of a cooperative economy in NYC. Food coops, like ours, are community-based, neighbors-helping-neighbors initiatives to address the problems of affordable, healthy food access. The HFFI is a concrete way the City of New York can help its residents live healthier lives, engage in their communities, and revitalize local economies.

FOR THE RECORD



-Testimony-

**Cooperative Economics Alliance of New York City
In support of the Healthy Food Financing Initiative**

5/24/18

Gocoopnyc.com

To the Honorable Councilmembers-

The Cooperative Economics Alliance of New York City (CEANYC) is proud and eager to support the American Heart Association in its effort to secure \$10 million for a Healthy Food Financing Initiative, which will help open and expand local food retail, improving neighborhoods across our city.

The Cooperative Economics Alliance of New York City (CEANYC) strengthens and expands community-led, democratically-controlled initiatives — from worker, financial and consumer co-ops to community land trusts and gardens, mutual housing, and low-income housing co-ops. Our goal is to build an economy based on values of social and racial justice, ecological sustainability, cooperation, mutualism, and democracy. Our membership, which includes over 85 different cooperatives and solidarity economy enterprises, includes dozens of groups making healthy food accessible and sustainable through community gardens, CSA programs, and food cooperatives.

In New York City, there are currently 9 operational food cooperatives across the city: Park Slope, Flatbush, Bay Ridge, Crown Heights, Bed-Stuy, Bushwick, Prospect Lefferts, Windsor Terrace, and the East Village. Each of these businesses is mission-driven, with a commitment to providing genuinely affordable, locally sourced, and ethically produced food to their communities. Many of them are explicitly devoted to serving those most marginalized among us, utilizing sweat equity and cooperation as a tool to support low income communities of color throughout New York who are disproportionately burdened by distant grocery stores lacking (affordable) produce.

Food cooperatives are uniquely positioned to provide affordable and culturally-appropriate food to low income New Yorkers of color. This is so because of a member-owner model that:

- 1) Requires or encourages sweat equity of its shoppers, reducing labor costs significantly. Park Slope Food Cooperative, for example, offers a 30% markup as opposed to the 70%-100% markup of conventional grocery stores

- 2) Affords ownership rights to its members, which not only increases investment in local business, but also ensures that the products being offered actually meet the needs of the shoppers.

However, food cooperatives are too often left out of mainstream funding distribution. As a result, they struggle.

- In Bay Ridge, member-owners have been operating out of a church basement for over a decade, putting in countless hours of volunteer labor to make sure their community is getting the quality produce it deserves.
- In Central Brooklyn, food cooperative organizers are passing their days talking to their neighbors and actually doing the work of asking what they want to see stocked and what they need to make a grocery store accessible to them, all before even opening up a storefront.
- At Greene Hill Food Coop, member-owners are launching crowdfunding campaigns when they lose their space due to significant rent hikes, raising tens of thousands of dollars from a community eager for cooperation. Bushwick Food Coop's lease is up in January.

While cooperatives are enshrined in NY State Law, they often are misunderstood and underserved by lending and technical assistance providers. As part of HFFI's commitment to increasing access through CDFIs, it would behoove New York City to improve upon the program by piloting mandates or set-asides for food cooperative lending, and to set aside funds for training by food cooperative and cooperative development experts from the Northeastern US to equip the CDFI's who participate in the NYC HFFI program with the knowledge necessary to serve these vital neighborhood institutions. This will ensure that funding is directed where it is most needed: to the neighborhood-based, grassroots efforts like those described above who have been laboring without critical financial and technical support for too long.

Despite these hardships, food cooperatives serve over 50,000 New Yorkers, and often serve as anchors for commercial corridors.¹ The Healthy Food Financing Initiative can help support these businesses, which provide good paying jobs as well as affordable produce.

Thank you for supporting these efforts and we look forward to working with you in the future to strengthen and grow the capacity of food cooperatives and Community Supported Agriculture efforts across our city.

¹ Zitcer, et al, Drexel Policy Notes Brief 2014 pp 3-14 ([Urban Cooperatives and Economic Development - Drexel University](https://drexel.edu/~media/Files/coas2/pub_pol/DPN_Vol1_no2.ashx?la=en) <https://drexel.edu/~media/Files/coas2/pub_pol/DPN_Vol1_no2.ashx?la=en>)

New York City Council Fiscal Year 2019 Executive Budget Hearings

May 24, 2018

We would like to thank the New York City Council's Committee on Finance for holding this important hearing on the Fiscal Year 2019 Executive Budget.

We testify today to highlight the significant lack of accessible schools in New York City, severely limiting the choices and experiences available to students, families, and teachers with physical disabilities. Three of the City's 32 community school districts have no fully accessible elementary schools (Districts 12, 16, and 21), four school districts have no fully accessible middle schools (Districts 7, 14, 16, and 32), and six districts have no fully accessible high schools (Districts 14, 16, 18, 20, 21, and 32).

INCLUDEnyc (formerly Resources for Children with Special Needs) has worked with hundreds of thousands of individuals since our founding 35 years ago helping them navigate the complex special education service and support systems, so that young people with disabilities can be included in all aspects of New York City life.

Over the years, we have helped many young people who use wheelchairs identify alternative school placements due to lack of available accessible schools. Examples of the ways in which schools are inaccessible to students include: related services being delivered in bathrooms because there are no alternative accessible rooms available; students missing instructional time traveling to and from limited accessible restrooms; and segregation from peers as the result of inaccessible cafeterias, science rooms, libraries, and music rooms. Families and students report that being placed in these compromising environments can lead to social anxiety and students not wanting to attend school. None of us wants this for our New York City students.

We commend Mayor de Blasio and the New York City Department of Education (NYCDOE) on their efforts to increase the number of schools that are partially and fully accessible to students with mobility impairments. Yet we are in full agreement with the Council's response to the Mayor's Preliminary Budget that it requires the NYCDOE to reallocate \$125 million within the Five-Year Capital Plan to do so. If adopted, this funding would allow the City to make another 15-17 schools fully

accessible and to improve the accessibility of additional schools thought the City through minor renovation projects. Unfortunately, the Executive Budget omits this critical funding. As a result, we urge you negotiate a final budget that includes at least an additional \$125 million for school accessibility.

Thank you for taking the time today to consider this important matter. We look forward to partnering with you to improve equity and access for all young people with disabilities in New York City.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barbara A. Glassman", followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Barbara A. Glassman
Executive Director



Project Reach's two significant city-wide and interconnected initiatives:

TRANS Satellite Safe Spaces
in all 5 boroughs

The **TRANS Satellite Safe Spaces** initiative will provide cultural competency training in our partner organizations/schools at every level (Board members, executive directors, principals to line staff, parents and young people), raise the awareness about the needs of transgender, gender nonconforming and intersex youth and institutionalize policy, facility and programmatic changes, resulting in a safer space for these young people particularly those who are immigrant, undocumented and in-the-closet.

Youth-led
"Give Back the Night" Campaigns

The **"Give Back The Night" Campaign** will provide young people the opportunity to learn about the women-led "Take Back The Night" movement and create a campaign of their own that interrupts sexual harassment, sexism, misogyny and other forms of violence against women. Where historically women have taken the lead, these campaigns seek to place the burden on boys and young men to identify sexism, misogyny and homophobia and develop concrete ways to challenge and end all forms of violence against women and, ultimately, all people.

SPEAKER FUNDING REQUEST FY18: \$200,000

"Making NYC Safe Again...ending Islamophobia, Transphobia and Sexual Harassment"
- Project Reach 2017

In FY16, Project Reach provided crisis intervention, workshops, trainings and technical assistance to over 5,500 individuals, including 3,127 young people and 2,380 adults who work with them, (3,132 unduplicated youth and adults).

In addition to our two city-wide initiatives outlined above, funding will support one and two-day city-wide, borough and district-specific **"Unpacking Racism"/Anti-Discrimination Clinics** for community organizations and schools; Youth-planned, city-wide **Winternships**, 5-borough, **Traveling LGBTQIA Youth Dinners** and **Catskill Farm Retreats**; and **multiple requests** we receive every week. More specifically, fund will cover salaries, youth/intern stipends, space rental, utilities, food, transportation, supplies, fringes and miscellaneous program expenses.





Our Community Partners and Where We Work

Organizations

Harlem Youth Court
 YA-YA Network
 Min Kwon Center
 Global Potential
 Chinatown Youth Initiative
 VAYLA - New Orleans
 Educational Video Center
 CPC-Brooklyn Yth Services
 Empire State Pride Agenda
 Jewish Comm Relat'n Coun
 LES Harm Reduction Ctr
 Public Allies New York
 Tyler Clementi Foundation
 Gay API Men NY
 JCRC Youth Bridge
 Robin Hood Foundation
 Muwani Proj - LGBT Parolees
 Destination Tomorrow
 Grand St Settlement/PSOL
 CORO Foundation
 Arab American Fam Supp Ctr
 Staten Island LGBT Center
 Brotherhood Sister Sol
 TYSA Tackling Yth Substance Ab
 OutRight Action Int'l
 New York Women's Fdn
 Pride Center of Staten Is.
 The POINT
 People Bar and Lounge
 Q-WAVE
 The Task Force (NGLTF)
 United Neighborhd Houses
 SCAN-NY GLASS
 Hispanic AIDS Forum
 Global Potential
 Island Voice
 Hetrick Martin Institute
 Queer Detainee Empower Project
 Young People's Chorus of NYC
 Marble Collegiate Church
 The LGBT Community Center
 NYS Health & Human Svce Network
 Brooklyn Community Pride Center
 CPC HIV/AIDS Services
 Generation Q/Queens Comm House
 Project Hospitality/EyeOpeners Youth
 San Francisco Film Festival
 Habitat for Humanity
 BronxWorks
 Charles B Wang/Teen Resource Ctr
 Choices Women's Medical Center
 American Indian Community House
 Westchester Medical Center
 Cortland LGBT Resource Center
 Steelcase, Inc.

Schools

George Jackson Academy
 NYU Stern School of Busn
 NEST+m High School
 CUNY-Physician Assistants
 Brooklyn Tech HS
 A Place for Kids
 Pike Street Day Care Center
 Chrystie Street Day Care Ctr
 The Lang & Laughter Studio
 Central Park East HS
 Heritage High School
 Edward R Murrow HS
 Fort Hamilton High School
 Columbia University Asian
 Townsend Harris HS
 PACE High School
 CUNY Graduate Center
 Esperanza Prep Academy
 Berkeley Carroll School
 Port Richmond High School
 Alfred E. Smith HS/YABC
 Yng Women's Leadership Scho
 Leaders HS - Brooklyn
 NYC LAB School
 Seton Hall University
 Flushing International HS
 MS 8 Brooklyn
 Brooklyn Collaborative
 New York University
 Brooklyn Friends
 Block Island School
 MS 131/Museum of the Chinese in America
 SUNY Bronx Ed Opport Center
 Staten Island Technical HS
 KAPPA V
 Brooklyn Ascend HS
 Jonathan Katz - Historian

Agencies/Public Office

NYS Dept of Health
 U.S. State Dept/Int'l Visitors
 Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito
 5th Precinct LGBT Officers
 CM Carlos Menchaca
 CM Maria del Carmen Arroyo
 CM Ritchie Torres
 Mayor's Office
 Youth Peace March
 LGBTQ Winternship
 CM Corey Johnson
 Man Boro Pres Gale Brewer
 CM Debi Rose
 CM Danny Dromm
 NYC Youth Council
 CM Peter Koo
 CM Rosie Mendez
 NYC Comm on Human Rights
 CM Mark Treyger
 DOE - Affinity Student Services
 DSRIP DownState & Upstate
 DOE Chancellor's Office
 CM Jimmy van Bramer
 CM Margaret Chin
 CM Julissa Ferreras-Copeland
 Capalino+Company
 The Wright Group

In-House/City-wide Trainings

Social Justice Boot Camp
 Family Crisis
 Housing/Drug Intervention
 Transgender/Intersex services
 Manhattan Traveling LGBT Youth Dinner
 Bronx LGBT Youth Summit
 Speak Summit
 Brooklyn LGBT Youth Summit
 LGBTQAI Youth Winternship
 Food run for Bx family
 Staten Island Youth Empowerment Summit
 2-day Anti-Discrim Manhattan Adult Clinic
 2-day Anti-Discrim Manhattan Youth Clinic
 Queens LGBT Youth Summit
 Manhattan LGBT Youth Summit
 LGBTQAI Youth Retreat
 Staten Island LGBT Youth Summit
 1-day Bronx Anti-Discrim Adult Clinic
 1-day Bronx Anti-Discrim Youth Clinic
 Staten Island Traveling LGBT Youth Dinner
 1-day Brooklyn Anti-Discrim Adult Clinic
 1-day Brooklyn Anti-Discrim Youth Clinic
 1-day Staten Island Anti-Discrim Adult Clinic
 1-day Staten Island Anti-Discrim Youth Clinic
 1-day Queens Anti-Discrimination Adult Clinic
 1-day Queens Anti-Discrim Youth Clinic
 NYC Heritage of Pride March

Fiscal Year 2016 Census

Total Sessions (90 mins)	Youth Sessions	Unduplicated Youth	Total Youth Participants
227	145	1732	3127
Total Participants	Adult Sessions	Unduplicated Adults	Total Adult Participants
5507	82	1400	2380

*"Making NYC Safe Again...ending Islamophobia,
 Transphobia and Sexual Harassment"*

- Project Reach 2017

NYC Department of Education
Summary Report and Overview
Zuri Jackson-Woods

Project Reach - Chinese American Planning Council has been conducting anti-discrimination professional development within classrooms and organizations all across the five boroughs for the past 32 years.

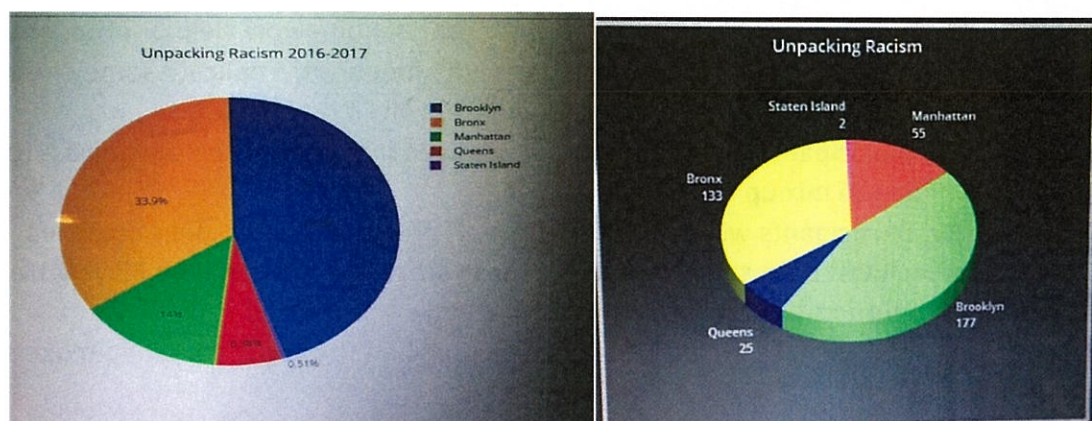
What makes this program unique is that Project Reach addresses issues that schools and community organizations avoid or are ill-equipped to handle, including intergroup tensions (racism, sexism, homophobia, immigrant discrimination, ability bias, etc.) and the absence of prevention education strategies. Since the need for this conversation is so critical, Project Reach has expanded beyond the core, implementing in-school intergenerational anti-discrimination teams throughout the city. Each Anti-Discrimination Team consists of a core community of students and school staff who are trained in Project Reach's anti-discrimination curriculum. These teams are equipped to address intergroup tensions and discrimination in schools through peer interventions, awareness-building workshops, and youth and adult trainings. Furthermore, Project Reach's unique "self-discovery" approach, has proven far more transformative than those PD's that are more informational, skills and terminology-building

The benefits of the "Unpacking Racism" Professional Development series is that it creates opportunities for adults to collaborate with all school & community constituents to incubate new approaches and strategies and to build institutions that address discrimination and injustice and place social control in their own hands.

Major services provided to develop intervention skills and cultural competency include:

- workshops and trainings
- teacher and staff development
- technical assistance
- train-the-trainer series for young people and adults.

Below is a pie graph of the total number **(392)** of school personnel trained during the 2016-2017 school year. The data is organized by borough. This data clearly indicates that more work need to be done as well as more focus/outreach is needed to empower all boroughs with this critical information.



[over for page 2]



Anti-Discrimination Winternship

Why

Do you know young people who have been harassed because they are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or intersex?

Do you get harassed on the street because of your race, sex, gender or sexual orientation?

Do you want to learn how to stop and interrupt discrimination when it happens in your school and community?

This is your chance...

MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

What

A significant, 20-hour, interactive, participant-centered, city-wide, cross-community, Anti-Discrimination Training and Internship designed to train young people to identify, examine, and understand discrimination – personal, institutional, systemic, and global – and develop interventions which proactively challenge bias, bullying, and discrimination in their schools and communities.

Who

10-15 Interns, ages 14-21,
2-3 young people per borough

When

Mondays and Wednesdays
From March 12, 2018 - May 9, 2018

Where

Project Reach, 39 Eldridge Street,
4th Floor, NYC 10009, (917) 749-6116

The Winternship will include interactive workshops, use of film and visual media, and cultural work activities with topics covering discrimination (race, class, gender, age, sexual orientation, immigrant and ability bias, etc.), bullying and a range of social justice issues.

If you are interested, please fill out the Anti-Discrimination Winternship Application by

Friday, March 9, 2018 at <http://bit.ly/Winternship18>

To learn more about Project Reach go to www.projectreachnyc.org.



May 24, 2018

Lynn Kim

Community Food Advocates

Hello, my name is Lynn Kim, I'm fifteen years old, and a freshman at Hunter College High School. I'm with the New York City Community Youth Food Advocates (NYCYFA), a project of Community Food Advocates that gives students like myself opportunities to learn ways to solve problems that arise in the current school food system.

Before my testimonial, I would like to take a moment to thank former and current members of the Council for helping to bring Free School Lunch for All to take place in our public schools. The act changed the lives of my peers and friends and helped many students access a convenient meal quickly during the hectic school day. It was a bold and revolutionary step towards achieving an ideal school food system that I believe will continue to positively affect generations to come. The success of Community Food Advocates and the Lunch 4 Learning campaign in winning this is, personally, what inspired me to delve into the food justice community and want to continue making much-needed changes in the school food system that impacts countless students within New York City.

This exact success and its consequent effects in public schools is what brings me here today. Free School Lunch for All school lunch has been in place for under one year, yet school lunch still lacks appeal among my peers. I know more students are eating as a result. But from a strictly economic and logical standpoint, the lunch being free in cost should cause almost all students to eat lunch in the cafeteria, but several factors including the environment of the cafeteria get in the way for kids to fully take advantage of the t. Free School Lunch for All.

Movies and TV shows have never represented cafeterias to be warm and welcoming areas for students, and as much as I hate to admit it, in my school the cliches of grimy tables and gloomy floors are true. Many of my peers hate to go down to the cafeteria, get on a long line, receive a tray of food they don't find appealing, find a clean table, and sit down for lunch. Lunchtime is supposed to be a time for socialization and relaxation, but it's rather stress-inducing to be packed into a dim room for 40 minutes. I've never had a pleasant experience in cafeterias due to the poor fluorescent lighting and dark furniture, and it doesn't make sense not to change the environment of our cafeterias if it takes up much of our public school space and are possible to be redesigned as bright and appealing for students. Students are already stressed due to schoolwork and exams, and the time spent in cafeterias should be used to destress from the workload, not provide additional gloom with the strict layouts and colors.

At NYCYFA, we think the redesigned cafeterias that the Office of School Food did in some high schools and middle schools -- that to create deli-style cafeteria food pickups in all middle and high schools, in which students could simply pick out items onto a dish individually, similar to the cafeteria in an IKEA food court.

This would allow students to have more choice in the foods they would like for lunch and could kill long lines that waste students' precious lunch time. They would be efficient improvements to our current serving system, where the lines are longer and proceed rather slowly. Another improvement to cafeterias is the more casual furniture styles that have diner booths and round tables that are in the redesigned schools would make a big difference. The changes and brighter lighting, would help to eliminate the idea that school cafeterias are dark and rigid areas that lack freedom. Having dining areas that feel more open and like actual restaurants rather than an extension of gloomy classrooms would help to dispel the idea that all cafeterias must be miserable areas that aren't decent places to dine during the school day. I am asking you to please include funding in the budget for more schools to get the cafeteria redesign because this would help students utilize the space provided by the school more, instead of avoiding it.

Additionally, creating menu options that are more inclusive to various dietary restrictions such as , kosher, halal meals, and vegetarian that aren't just bland PB&J sandwiches could become progressive ideas to look to for the future.

Thank you so much for listening, and I hope my personal input could help create a better cafeteria environment for students like myself.



Testimony of

Stephanie Gendell
Associate Executive Director
Policy and Advocacy
Citizens' Committee for Children

Before the
New York City Council
Committee on Finance

Public Testimony
Fiscal Year 2019 Executive Budget

May 24, 2018

Good afternoon. My name is Stephanie Gendell and I am the Associate Executive Director for Policy and Advocacy at Citizens' Committee for Children of New York (CCC). CCC is an over 70 year-old independent, multi-issue child advocacy organization dedicated to ensuring every New York child is healthy, housed, educated and safe.

I would first like to thank Chair Dromm and the members of the City Council Finance Committee for holding today's hearing on the Fiscal Year 2019 Executive Budget and for the opportunity for public testimony. CCC greatly appreciates our longstanding partnership with the City Council.

CCC appreciates the de Blasio Administration's efforts to make New York City a more fair and equitable City to all who live in the five boroughs. While the Executive Budget takes some steps toward these ends, we believe that the administration and the City budget must go further to achieve these goals, and should include additional investments in reducing and preventing family homelessness, promoting the well-being of homeless children and their families, creating salary parity for early education teachers, creating universal after-school for elementary school students and ensuring all children participating in after-school programs can participate in summer camp programming.

We are pleased to see the investment of \$125 million in fair student funding, \$30.55 million to expand early literacy programs, and \$1.2 million to evaluate the effectiveness of Thrive mental health initiatives. We also greatly appreciate the City stepping in to fill the budget gap created by the State shirking its previously shared commitment to youth in the juvenile justice system and thank the Mayor for both offsetting the state cut to Close to Home Juvenile Justice placement system and investing funds to implement Raise the Age. That said, we are disappointed that the budget proposes to include funding for Department of Corrections staff to temporarily provide security for the children in secure detention.

While we appreciate the Mayor's plan to restore \$10.3 million for the Bridging the Gap program, which includes 43 social workers in schools with high numbers of homeless students and additional one-year funding for 10 additional social workers in schools, for a total of \$11.9 million of one-year funding), the homelessness crisis demands that the City go further. We once again urge the City to invest in 100 social workers in schools and 50 social workers in shelters and to baseline this funding so that it is not subject to the annual budget dance. Similarly, we want the City to ensure safe and supportive care for homeless New Yorkers and while we understand the need for another \$158 million shelter re-estimate, we continue to urge the City to do more to prevent family homelessness, expand permanent affordable housing options for these families and do more to promote the well-being of homeless children and their families, particularly those living in commercial hotel rooms.

We are extremely disappointed that this proposed budget not only fails to invest but actually cuts programming- for some of the most vulnerable New Yorkers, particularly children. This includes failing to invest \$5 million to ensure foster children can be bused to their home schools, cutting \$16 million of elementary after-school programming for 9,000 children, and once again cutting \$20.35 million of summer camp for 34,000 middle school children.

While the administration may perceive the annual summer camp funding as part of a budget dance with the City Council, leaving this funding uncertain until the budget adoption in June when the program starts in July, is once again leaving low-income working parents uncertain about how their children will be safe this summer. We hope to see this funding not only restored but baselined so that families and providers are not subjected to this anxiety next year.

We are also disappointed that the budget fails to create salary parity between early childhood teachers in community based organizations and DOE schools, who are doing the same job, but for more hours. Teachers in CBOs continue to earn significantly less than their DOE peers and the salary disparity grows over time. We thank the City Council for making salary parity a priority in their Preliminary Budget response and urge the Administration to work with the Council to address this inequity.

Finally, as will be discussed in more detail, the City Council has a long history of investing its limited resources in invaluable City Council initiatives, such as mental health services for children under 5, emergency food programs, machines that allow the use of food stamps/SNAP at farmers' markets and funding for lawyers for immigrant children (ICARE). We urge the Council to maintain your commitment to these important programs as you negotiate the budget as well as the also critical Fair Fares initiative to offer reduced price MetroCards to low-income New Yorkers.

While we appreciate the need to be fiscally prudent, the ongoing threats from Washington and Albany are exactly why New York City must step in now to better protect and support vulnerable New Yorkers.

CCC is so grateful to the City Council for your steadfast commitment to better supporting children and families and for your advocacy throughout the year and notably throughout the budget process. We do not take this partnership lightly and we thank you in advance for your efforts to ensure the Fiscal Year 2019 adopted budget makes New York City a better place to be a child.

This testimony will focus on the key areas where CCC supports the administration's proposals and the areas where we are urging the City Council to negotiate an adopted budget that goes further for children and families. Following this testimony is the full list of proposals CCC supports and the full list of City Council initiatives CCC is asking be restored and baselined where appropriate.

Administration for Children's Services-Child Welfare

CCC is grateful that together with advocates, providers, family members and the support of the City Council, we were able to stave off the horrific state budget proposal to cap and cut state child welfare services reimbursement, which would have amounted to an over \$130 million cut.

CCC appreciates the new strides and investments ACS has made over the past year, but hoped to see new investments to strengthen the system. We urge the Mayor to go further as the budget is adopted to address the following three additional child welfare investments:

1) Add \$5 million to ensure all foster children in need of busing to school can have access.

Two federal laws, the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act (2008) and the Every Student Succeeds Act (2015), require local school districts and child welfare agencies to collaborate on a plan to provide, arrange, and fund transportation so that students can remain in their school of origin when they enter foster care or change foster homes, if it is in their best interests to do so. For a number of foster children who are not placed near their school of origin, this requires busing.

For some children in foster care, New York City is fulfilling its obligation. Students in foster care who have special transportation recommended on their Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) typically get door-to-door busing between their foster placement and their school. For other students in foster care, the Department of Education (DOE) will only provide bus service if the student is in kindergarten through sixth grade and can easily be added to an existing bus route. We have been informed that the Office of Pupil Transportation only approves approximately 50% of the requests it receives for foster student transportation.

If no existing bus route is available, transportation is left up to the foster parent or foster care agency. Often, foster parents and foster care case planners are unable to transport children to and from school every day. Without bus service, many young children in foster care are forced to transfer schools even though such a transfer is not in their best interests. When students are removed from their homes and families, school is often the only source of stability in their lives.

We urge the administration to meet the legal requirements and do what is best for these students by adding \$5 million to ensure busing is available to every foster child in need of busing to and from school.

2) Ensure all children and youth have been discharged from foster care through KinGAP (Kinship Guardianship Assistance Program) receive subsidy until age 21 when they meet statutory requirements

Last year, CCC along with many of our child welfare colleagues, advocated for a state law to strengthen and expand KinGAP. This law passed in June and became effective on March 12, 2018.

KinGAP is a permanency arrangement whereby children and youth in foster care can live permanently with a relative who obtains legal guardianship and still receives a subsidy, like adoptive parents and foster parents do. This is a beneficial arrangement for families where

reunification and adoption are not options. Relatives and youth sometimes prefer guardianship to adoption because it does not require termination of parental rights.

The law passed last year expanded the definition of kin to include close family friends and neighbors—people who are like kin but are not related by blood, marriage or adoption. In addition, the law now enables the subsidy be provided until the child turns 21, regardless of the age at which the guardianship proceeding was concluded. Under the prior law, those whose KinGAP agreement was finalized before age 16 only received the subsidy until age 18.

While the state law only requires the subsidy to continue until age 21 for all youth after the effective date of March 12, 2018, the statute regulations give localities the discretion to amend the agreements to continue the subsidy until age 21 for those who entered an agreement under age 16 before the new law went into effect. **We urge New York City to take this option and provide KinGAP until age 21 for all eligible youth.**

3) Implement Additional Recommendations of the Foster Care Task Force

CCC is grateful to the City Council, ACS, and all of the members of the Interagency Foster Care Task Force, especially the youth and parents, who worked collaboratively to develop critical and important recommendations to improve the well-being of children in foster care. CCC stands ready to help at the City level and advocate at the State level to ensure all 16 recommendations are implemented. This will include continuing to advocate for statutory enhancements to the child welfare housing subsidy bill, for ACS and DHS to collaboratively find ways for foster children to visit their parents living in homeless shelters, and to expand foster youth and former foster youth access to behavioral health services.

Early Childhood Education (ACS and Department of Education)

Access to high-quality early childhood education is critical for all parents, and especially for low-income families so that parents can work and young children can receive the developmentally stimulating well-known success that has been a proven return on investment. CCC appreciates the commitment from the de Blasio administration to ensure every four-year old has access to full day Pre-K and to begin to expand this to three-year olds.

In addition to the roll-out of 3K, the early childhood system in New York City is in the process of undergoing a large transition, with the EarlyLearn contracted subsidized child care system, serving approximately 33,000 children ages 0-4 in center-based and family-based care due to transfer from ACS to DOE in February 2019. For this transition to be successful, there are a number of issues the administration must address either in the adopted budget or no later than the FY20 Preliminary Budget.

These include:

- Establish salary parity for the teachers in DOE schools and community-based organizations. This is critical for CBOs to keep their qualified staff and to hire certified teachers.

- Expand capacity to serve infants and toddlers and ensure DOE is prepared to serve children under age 3.
- Ensure children in pre-k and 3K have access to full day (meaning work day not school day) and summer care.
- Make all homeless children living in shelter categorically eligible for child care. Ensure homeless children are not only enrolled in pre-k, but also child care programs.
- Resolve direct lease site issues by negotiating leases and maintaining capacity in communities.
- Address facility issues, including maintenance and repairs at all EarlyLearn sites, including NYCHA.

Juvenile Justice and Raise the Age (ACS, Probation, NYPD and Corrections)

CCC greatly appreciates the Administration's Executive Budget proposals to invest in the City's juvenile justice system despite the lack of support and commitment from the State. CCC was deeply disappointed that the state cut all of its support (\$30.5 million) for the Close to Home juvenile justice placement program and failed to invest any funding in the City's efforts to implement raise the age legislation. We will continue to advocate for state support for New York City's youth.

CCC is therefore pleased that the City is investing significant resources to implement raise the age including \$46.38 million for ACS (growing to \$81.75 in FY2021), \$18.2 million for Probation and \$1.67 million for the NYPD. We were extremely pleased to hear that ACS has received needed approval for a new job title series to staff its detention facilities and will begin recruiting for those positions in the coming weeks.

On the other hand, CCC remains deeply disappointed that the Administration is still planning to use staff from the Department of Corrections in ACS's specialized secure detention facility for two years. The Executive Budget includes \$9.85 million in FY19 (\$13.14 million in FY2020, \$3.29 million in FY2021 and \$0 in the outyears) for the Department of Corrections to provide security at the Horizons juvenile detention center for two years.

While CCC appreciates that ACS will have case-planning responsibilities and that ACS and DOC are jointly creating a vision for the operation of the facility with the intent of a youth-centered model, these measures cannot mitigate the risks of using DOC staff to oversee 16 and 17 year olds. CCC is concerned that even if ACS transitions to primary staffing after 24 months, the negative culture that dominates at Rikers will be replicated in the new facilities, a damage that will be extremely difficult to undo and which risks contaminating the culture at ACS and the youth they serve, including the younger children.

The mistreatment of adolescents in DOC facilities is well documented and has not changed. In October 2017, the independent court-appointed monitor for *Nunez vs. City of New York* documented continued appalling conditions for youth at the hands of DOC staff, including the observation that "serious and problematic issues involving Staff use of force continue in an

unabated fashion.”¹ The monitor report notes that “[t]he cultural dynamic that permeates so many encounters between Staff and inmates in DOC is quite simply a consequence of Staff actions and behaviors that too often engender, nurture, and encourage confrontation.”² Such encounters involved leadership noting a “disturbing” number of captains who were involved “frequently” and “repeatedly” in concerning use of force incidents.³

One of the core purposes of Raise the Age was to give youth the benefit of a juvenile experience instead of the Rikers experience. All of the great work ACS has done in its detention facilities, is exactly why it is so concerning to bring DOC staff to ACS detention facilities. Removing youth from Rikers Island but failing to remove youth from the direct control of Rikers Island staff would be a terrible misstep. In short, we do not want to simply move Rikers to Horizons.

CCC believes that if the City truly wants to ensure that ACS has juvenile justice counselors employed by ACS by the October deadline, hiring this staff is entirely possible if it is a priority. The City was able to find and train staff in an expedited manner for its prekindergarten classes. In this instance, the City could either put out an emergency test and list or contract out the services to a juvenile justice provider with this type of experience.⁴

CCC once again urges the City in the strongest terms to reconsider its decision to have DOC staff in juvenile detention facilities. As the Council negotiates a budget with the Administration, that is due to include funding to Corrections to staff Horizons, we urge you to both resist this plan and ensure that if it goes forward tight hiring, training and reporting demands are met through Terms and Conditions so that the Council can help us to monitor the situation.

Children’s Health and Mental Health (DOHMH)

Mental Health

CCC appreciates the First Lady’s and DOHMH’s ongoing commitment to initiatives to help reduce stigma and assess the mental health needs of New Yorkers. We also laud the Administration’s inclusion in the Executive Budget of \$75,000 for a Cure Violence Training Coordinator and \$1.2 million to evaluate the effectiveness of Thrive mental health initiatives (in the DSS budget), as well as \$1.15 million in the Preliminary Budget for enhanced services for LGBTQ youth through the Unity Project.

We urge the Administration to further enhance coordination among the city’s mental health initiatives, and increase capacity to better meet the mental health needs of New York City’s children and their families.

¹ *Fourth Report of the Nunez Independent Monitor, January 1, 2017 through June 30, 2017*. The Nunez Monitoring Team. October 10, 2017. Available at <https://www.npr.org/2017/11/30/559846083/despise-scrutiny-rikers-islands-culture-of-violence-persists-report-says>.

² Id.

³ Id.

⁴ Westchester County contracts out secure detention to Leake and Watts (and soon Children’s Village.)

Though ThriveNYC plays an important role in destigmatizing mental illness and reshaping the way the city approaches mental health, it cannot replace the critical services currently provided through a number of the City Council's mental health initiatives. For years, these programs have used non-traditional, community-based settings to help identify children and families in need and offer developmentally appropriate services and supports.

We thank the City Council for your commitment to these initiatives and urge you to not only restore funding for these initiatives this year, but to invest additional funding. Investment in these initiatives is essential for addressing the city's substantial unmet behavioral health needs, and for intervening early to ensure positive, long-term impacts for some of New York's most vulnerable children and families.

Specifically, we urge the City Council to:

- Restore \$1 million and add \$1 million (total of \$2 million) for Mental Health Services for Children Under Five Initiative;
- Restore \$2.05 million and add \$450,000 (total of \$2.5 million) for Court-Involved Youth Services Initiative;
- Restore \$1.218 million and add \$782,000 (total of \$2.0 million) for Mental Health Services for Vulnerable Populations;
- Restore \$3.237 million and add \$763,000 (total of \$4.0 million) for the Autism Awareness initiative; and
- Restore \$2.179 million and add \$321,000 (total of \$2.5 million) for the Developmental, Psychological, and Behavioral Health initiative.

Infant and Maternal Health

CCC also appreciates the Administration's commitment to programs supporting healthy mothers and babies, including home visiting, screening for maternal depression, and Safe Sleep campaigns. We also support the City Council's request to expand Health Action Centers to three new locations. The city's historically low infant mortality rate is a testament to the importance of investing in a targeted strategy to improve infant and maternal health outcomes.

That said, racial/ethnic and geographic disparities in early prenatal care, infant mortality, and maternal mortality and morbidity remain stark. The mortality rate for black infants is three times higher than that of white infants, and black women account for over 40% of deaths due to complications from pregnancy or childbirth. The city still has substantial work to do in combatting inequities in the healthcare system and ensuring all moms receive the care they need before, during, and after pregnancy.

Improving maternal and infant health in New York requires greater coordination among providers to ensure that high-risk women receive timely screenings and referrals. CCC therefore urges the City Council to not only restore \$1.193 million for the Maternal and Child Health Services initiative but to add \$1.5 million, for a total of \$2.7 million for the initiative. This additional funding could be used to create a regional maternal child health coordination project. This would enable coordinated outreach, screening, and referrals for pregnant,

parenting, and postpartum women at risk of poor birth and health outcomes. By reducing fragmentation of care and strengthening coordination of services, the city can make significant strides in improving health outcomes for moms and babies.

Department of Education

CCC was pleased to see a number of Executive Budget proposals to strengthen education for New York City's 1.1 million public school students. These include \$30.55 million for literacy enhancements (a portion of which is targeted to homeless students), \$125.3 million for fair student funding increases, the continued implementation of 3K for All and \$4.77 million for anti-bias training.

That said, we are disappointed that the budget did not proposed to do more for students in temporary housing, given the magnitude of the homelessness crisis whereby 1 in 10 NYC public school children identify as homeless (including doubled up), 38,000 students spent a portion of the 2016-2017 school year in shelter, and more than half of students in shelter miss at least a month of school each year.

CCC does appreciate that the Executive Budget includes \$11.9 million to restore \$10.3 million for the Bridging the Gap program and adds \$1.6 million in FY19 for 10 additional social workers (for a total of 53 social workers), two additional students in temporary housing experts (for a total of 10) and additional enrollment support. Unfortunately, this funding is for one year only again.

While this is a step in the right direction, CCC urges the Council to negotiate a budget that goes further to better meet the needs of homeless students. Specifically, we urge the administration and the City Council to negotiate a budget that baselines the \$11.9 million and adds (and baselines) \$19 million for the following:

- Increase the number of Bridging the Gap social workers for students in shelters from 53 to 100 and adds supervisory staff (\$7.0 million).
- Establish a Deputy Chancellor for Highly Mobile Students to provide leadership and accountability to work across agencies to improve educational stability, attendance and outcomes for students in temporary housing and foster care (\$1.0 million).
- Hire Field Support Center Directors for Highly Mobile Students (\$4.5 million).
- Hire 50 DOE social workers to provide intensive supports at shelters to address education-related issues (\$6.5 million)>

In addition, CCC believes that the City could save money by providing parents of homeless elementary school students and pre-kindergarten students with monthly MetroCards rather than weekly MetroCards. Currently, while transportation is being arranged for homeless elementary school students to attend their home schools, their parents can receive weekly MetroCards while waiting. Homeless pre-kindergarten students are entitled to transportation by law, which is currently addressed via MetroCard only (no busing). In both instances, parents must go to a DOE office or find a Family Assistant at the shelter or hotel to provide them with a

new MetroCard every week. This task is overwhelming at the DOE offices and often a challenge for parents. In addition, 4 weekly MetroCards is more expensive than 1 monthly. We therefore strongly urge the City to alleviate some of the transportation challenges (while saving money) by providing monthly MetroCards to the parents. This could be addressed as part of the Fair Fares initiative.

Family Homelessness (DHS and HRA/DSS)

CCC appreciates the efforts the administration has made to try to prevent homelessness, create rental assistance programs, and increase affordable housing options. CCC also appreciates the administration's commitment to increasing purpose-built shelters and moving to a borough-based placement system. CCC also pleased that the Mayor signed into law the City Council bill to ensure all low-income New Yorkers have access to counsel in Housing Court.

With all of these efforts, there are nearly 23,000 children in DHS shelters, with an average length of stay of 413 days. Only half of the homeless families with children are in Tier II shelters, with the other half in cluster sites and hotels/motels. We urge the administration and the City Council to negotiate a budget that includes additional supports for homeless children and their families.

Hotel rooms are often far from transportation, far from communities of origin, and lacking in services provided by Tier II shelters. Hotel rooms typically lack kitchens, and some hotels lack cooking facilities completely, meaning only microwavable meals are provided. Hotel sites often lack laundry facilities for family use, play areas for children, and communal space for visitors. Due to the hotels' attempt to prevent homeless families from claiming tenancy rights, families are forced to move rooms in the hotel every 29 days—removing any potential stability a family in crisis could try to create. Furthermore, hotels have not been designed or funded to have appropriate shelter staff, such as housing specialists, educational specialists, recreational specialists, etc.

The administration has committed to eliminating the cluster sites by 2021 and the hotels by 2023, but these deadlines are years from now. In the meantime, children are growing up in shelters that are not appropriate places for them to live. The trauma and stress of homelessness, coupled with educational instability and/or long commutes to school, has also been proven to negatively impact educational outcomes.

To begin to better address the needs of homeless families CCC makes the following suggestions:

- Prevent homelessness for domestic violence survivors who are homeless or at risk of homelessness by implementing an alternative to shelter model that assists survivors to remain safely in place by providing supports such as financial assistance and safety planning.
- Develop Service-Enriched Affordable Housing Models Targeted to Homeless Families
- Create a 15-year project-based rental voucher for homeless families with children, with the possibility of renewal at the end of the 15 year-term.

- Invest in trauma-informed care and training for all staff at homeless shelters and intake sites.
- Intentionally connect homeless children to Early Intervention, Early Childhood Education, and After-school and summer programs.
- While we seek to reduce the use of hotels, we must address conditions in them to make them more humane while children and families continue to reside there by:
 - Eliminating the practice of requiring families in hotels to move rooms every 29 days.
 - Ensuring families in hotels have access to laundry.
 - Ensuring families in hotels have access to high quality, palatable food that meets the needs of clients with special dietary restrictions. Note that homeless families in hotels do not have kitchens and are unable to store food in their hotel rooms. Creative ways to bring food to families in hotels, such as vans, must be explored.
 - Creating space in the hotels for children to play and for families to have visitors during specified hours.
 - Bringing in cubicle partitions so families have private places to meet with case managers and other service providers.

Access to Healthy Affordable Food (HRA)

CCC was extremely disappointed to see that the Executive Budget failed to maintain the \$7.23 million added in the FY18 budget for emergency food assistance programs (EFAP), leaving only \$8.2 million City funds in the baseline. Like all Council Members who signed the letter to the Mayor (besides the Speaker and Finance Chair who do not sign budget letters) CCC supports the request for \$22 million of baselined funds for emergency food (which would require restoring \$7.23 million and adding \$6.57 million.)

EFAP provides food and technical assistance to approximately 500 food pantries and soup kitchens throughout New York City. An astonishing 16% of NYC residents rely on food pantries or soup kitchens. This number is likely to grow as New Yorkers with immigration fears shun from participating in the SNAP program. In addition, if the Trump administration is successful in any of its efforts to cut or curtail SNAP, emergency food needs will grow even further.

In addition, we urge the City Council and the Administration to adopt a budget that increases health food retail options by adding \$15 million for SNAP incentives such as Health Bucks; investing \$10 million to launch the Healthy Food Financing Initiative for food establishments; and adding \$3 million to support healthy corner store initiatives.

Youth Services: Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD)

CCC appreciates the City Council's longstanding commitment to strengthening and expanding services available for youth. On the other hand, we are deeply disappointed that the Executive Budget did not include any additional funding for youth services (beyond one year funding for the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) minimum wage increase, which should actually be baselined.)

CCC strongly urges the Administration and the City Council to negotiate an adopted budget that restores and baselines \$20.35 million for summer camp programs for 34,000 middle school students; restores and baselines \$16 million for elementary after-school programs for 9,000 children; baselines the \$20 million for the SYEP minimum wage increase; and adds \$10.2 million to expand runaway and homeless youth programs. It is critical that the administration baseline funding for these youth services programs, as it is not fair for families to annually face stress and anxiety not knowing whether their children will have a safe program to be at while they are at work.

1) Restore and Baseline \$20.35 million for Summer Camp Programs for 34,000 Middle School Children

The Mayor's 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 funding be baselined so that next year parents can be relieved of the anxiety while providers can adequately plan for the summer and screen and hire staff.

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"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

⁵ "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>.

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>.

2) Restore and baseline at least \$16 million for elementary after-school programs for 9,000 children

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 Council and the administration to adopt a budget, which at a minimum restores and baselines 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.

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.

We urge the City to not only maintain capacity by restoring and baselining these 9,000 elementary after-school slots but to go further and continue to expand after-school programming to more elementary school age children.

3) Baseline \$20.0 million for the SYEP minimum wage increase.

CCC appreciates the Executive Budget proposal to add \$20 million for the SYEP minimum wage increase, but we do not understand why this funding is not baselined. The minimum wage will not be declining next year and thus this funding should be baselined.

4) Add \$10.2 million for Runaway and Homeless Youth Services

This past year, 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. 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.

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, so as to prevent displacing younger RHY.

CCC urges the Council to negotiate a budget with the Administration that 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%.

Immigrant Children Advocates' Relief Efforts (ICARE)

This past year, the City Council included \$2.0 million in the budget to fund five non-profits to represent children and families in immigration court. ICARE currently represents 1,250 children and parents-without this program these children and their parents would be in immigration court without a lawyer. Most would then lose their cases and receive deportation orders.

Unfortunately, Trump policies have increased the need and there are more and more children facing immigration court proceedings. No child should have to face immigration court alone. We urge the City Council to not only restore funding for this initiative but to add \$2 million (for a total of \$4 million in City Council funding) to protect NYC's children in deportation proceedings.

Additional City Council Initiatives that CCC Urges the City Council to Restore

CCC supports the City Council's ambitious Fair Fares initiative and agrees that reduced price MetroCards would be a tremendous value for low-income New Yorkers. As the Council negotiates this exciting new initiative, CCC urges you to ensure the following City Council initiatives, which support the most vulnerable New Yorkers, are also restored:

Criminal Justice Services/Juvenile Justice

- \$1.71 for the Center for Court Innovation
- \$1.35 million for the Initiative to Combat Sexual Assault, which includes child advocacy centers
- \$600,000 for video visitation for incarcerated persons' families in public libraries

Early Childhood Education/Child Care:

- \$9.855 million for Discretionary child care programs
- \$4.242 million for the City's First Readers Initiative (DYCD)

Education:

- \$500,000 for Child Mind Institute
- \$2.25 million for community schools
- \$1.585 million for the Dropout Prevention and Intervention Initiative
- \$3.89 million for Educational Programs for Students, which includes programs such as Chess in the Schools, Expanded Schools and the Middle School Quality Initiative
- \$200,000 for LGBTQ Inclusive Curriculum
- \$1.925 million for Physical Education and Fitness, which includes C.H.A.M.P.S, New York Junior Tennis League, and Small Schools Athletic League
- \$1.3 million for the Restorative Justice Program (the administration also funded this program with an additional \$1.1 million in FY18 only for a total of \$2.4 million)
- \$20.805 million for Support for Educators, which includes Teacher's Choice school supplies and STEM Teacher's College

Food Initiatives

- \$930,000 for Access to Healthy Food and Nutritional Education, which includes restorations for EBTs in Farmers' Markets
- \$725,000 for the Food Access and Benefits Initiative
- \$4.0 million for food pantries

Homeless and Housing Services

- \$1.0 million for Children and Families in the NYC Homeless System Initiative
- \$820,000 total for the Citywide Homeless Prevention Fund
- \$2.5 million for Stabilizing NYC, a citywide coalition to prevent the loss of affordable housing

Legal Services

- \$5.0 million for Legal Services for Low-income New Yorkers, which includes citywide civil legal services and the SSI advocacy project
- \$485,000 for Legal Information for Families Today (LIFT)

Health Services

- \$1.187 million for Access Health NYC
- \$350,000 for Beating Hearts (automated external defibrillators for non-profits serving youth and the elderly)
- \$646,000 for Child Health and Wellness, which includes various programs such as obesity prevention, asthma programs and oral health services
- \$1.193 million for Maternal and Child Health Services initiative
- \$2.0 million for Nurse Family Partnership
- \$344,788 for Reproductive and Sexual Health Services

Mental Health Services

- \$3.237 million for the Autism Awareness Initiative
- \$1.0 million for the Mental Health Services for Children Under 5 initiative
- \$2.05 million for the Court-Involved Youth Mental Health Initiative
- \$2.179 million for Developmental, Psychological and Behavioral Health Services
- \$1.2 million for the LGBTQ Youth All-Borough Mental Health Initiative
- \$500,000 for Medicaid Redesign Transition
- \$1.218 million for Mental Health Services for Vulnerable Populations, which includes the Samaritans Suicide Prevention hotline

Young Women's Initiative (YWI)- \$5 million



FOR THE RECORD

Founders Affiliate

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Testimony of the American Heart Association

Before the New York City Council Committee on Finance

May 24, 2018

Robin Vitale, Vice President, Health Strategies
American Heart Association | American Stroke Association
New York City

Good afternoon. Thank you, Chair Dromm and members of the Council Committee on Finance for this opportunity to testify in support of several proposals the American Heart Association | American Stroke Association believes would improve health outcomes for the most vulnerable New Yorkers, particularly those in greatest danger of being diagnosed with cardiovascular diseases and stroke. These diseases remain our city's leading cause of mortality and morbidity, though they don't have to be. According to the AHA's Heart Disease and Stroke Statistics – 2018 Update, 80% of these diagnoses are preventable.¹ However, we must do more to make healthy lifestyles and proper disease management more attainable for all New Yorkers if we are going to optimize health for our city.

Access to Affordable Healthy Food

Every family should have access to the foods that help support a balanced diet and a healthier life. In the Fiscal Year 2019 budget, the American Heart Association asks the City to invest in three key programs that will increase access to healthy food and boost the economy, especially for neighborhoods that need it most.

First, the City should commit an additional \$15 million to help New Yorkers afford fresh fruits and vegetables by expanding SNAP incentives such as Health Bucks. 1 in 5 New Yorkers receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits², which reduce food insecurity and help households rise out of poverty. It also benefits the economy;

¹ <http://circ.ahajournals.org/content/early/2018/01/30/CIR.0000000000000558>

² <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/hra/downloads/pdf/facts/snap/2002.2015NYCSNAPParticipation.pdf>

every \$5 in new SNAP benefits generate \$9 for the local economy³. Since more food is being purchased through SNAP, it increases the economic activity for both the producers and the systems that deliver the food, including retailers, wholesalers, and transportation. Farmers' markets that offered Health Bucks saw higher daily Electronic Benefits Transfer sales than farmers' markets that did not offer the incentive⁴. Demand and use of Health Bucks has increased over time, and we applaud the city for continuing to innovate in this area. The city should increase funding for SNAP incentives by \$15 million and continue to explore avenues for expanding access not only at farmer's markets but also bodegas and supermarkets, online markets, or other retail venues that allow families to access these resources where they live and shop.

Second, the city should launch a \$10 million Healthy Food Financing Initiative, which will help local grocers to open, expand, and improve grocery stores in neighborhoods that need healthy food and jobs the most. 1.2 million residents of New York City live in lower income communities with limited access to healthy food retail⁵. These same neighborhoods often struggle with high rates of unemployment and diet-related chronic diseases like diabetes and heart disease. While FRESH provides zoning and tax incentives for grocery stores to open or expand in underserved communities, an HFFI leverages both public and private funding to provide low-interest loans and grants specifically tailored for food establishments that may otherwise struggle to secure needed traditional capital. These low-interest loans and grants support the establishment, renovation, and expansion of permanent facilities for the sale of healthy foods in underserved communities, including supermarkets, farmer's markets, mobile markets, and bodegas. Given the success of HFFI in New York State⁶ and in other regions across the country, New York City should invest \$10 million to launch a local program to support healthy food access and strengthen local economies.

Third, the city should increase funding for healthy corner store initiatives to \$3 million as a means to increase the amount of healthy food that is offered in our neighborhoods. Groceries and corner stores are anchors for development in communities; they attract foot traffic and can engage in community development through local programs. Shop Healthy NYC, operated by the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, is doing important work across the city⁷. And \$3 million would allow the program to expand or be supplemented by community-led initiatives in order to provide grants and free equipment to corner stores as well as support community-led initiatives that will meet the need in neighborhoods across the city.

All three of these programs should use the best available science to set public health-driven goals and involve an evaluation partner identified from the academic research

³ <https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-nutrition-assistance/supplemental-nutrition-assistance-program-snap/economic-linkages/>

⁴ https://www.cdc.gov/pcd/issues/2013/13_0113.htm

⁵ <http://www1.nyc.gov/assets/foodpolicy/downloads/pdf/2017-Food-Metrics-Report-Corrected.pdf>

⁶ http://thefoodtrust.org/uploads/media_items/hfhc-final-impacts.original.pdf

⁷ <http://www1.nyc.gov/site/foodpolicy/help/shop-healthy.page>

community who is responsible for the collection and annual public reporting of data for evaluation. Healthy food financing and healthy corner store initiatives should be dedicated for projects that will economically benefit low or moderate-income communities that are also identified as most in need of healthy food access.

Tobacco Control

Another key aspect to the AHA's goal to prevent heart disease and stroke is centered on a well-funded and highly effective tobacco control program. While the City has achieved much-heralded success in addressing tobacco addiction, continued inequity in the smoking rates persist among the most vulnerable New Yorkers. Public housing residents have some of the highest smoking rates in the City (20 percent) compared to the citywide average of 13.1 percent⁸. By the end of July 2018, a new U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) rule will require that all the nation's public housing properties be entirely smoke-free⁹. With over 400,000 New Yorkers living in over 2,500 HUD regulated residential buildings in New York City, the new HUD rule will have a significant impact on the lives of New Yorkers. The City should allocate at least \$2 million in FY 2019-20 to the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and the New York City Housing Authority to fund an aggressive tobacco cessation program focused on New York City's public housing population. The investment will provide for necessary staff and cessation resources that must go above and beyond the current funding level for the Bureau of Tobacco Control.

Hypertension Management Program

While our focus remains steadfast on the prevention of heart disease and stroke, unfortunately far too many New Yorkers are already struggling with these illnesses. A key concern shared by the American Heart Association and our Department of Health and Mental Hygiene is the silent burden of hypertension on New Yorkers. 1 in 4 city residents has been diagnosed with high blood pressure¹⁰. This doesn't include the likely majority who have not yet been made aware of their uncontrolled hypertension. As the city undertakes a significant effort to promote awareness, clinical guidelines and treatment adherence, it would be appropriate for the City to devote funding to support this necessary initiative. An investment of \$1 million would help bolster the City's plans with this outreach and provide appropriate incentives for community partners to participate.

Manhattan Greenway Completion

New Yorkers get a significant amount of the recommended daily physical activity from participating in active transportation¹¹. Manhattan's Hudson River Greenway is the most heavily

⁸ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/28656541>

⁹ https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/healthy_homes/smokefree

¹⁰ <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/health/health-topics/heart-disease-blood-pressure.page>

¹¹ NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. Health Benefits of Active Transportation in New York City. May 2011. www1.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/survey/survey-2011active-transport.pdf

used bikeway in the United States—nearly 7,000 people ride a bike there every day¹². While the West Side of Manhattan enjoys this popular, well-maintained space for safe walking, running, and bicycling; residents on the East Side are not as fortunate.

The waterfront of the East Side of Manhattan is a patchwork of pathways and esplanades of varying widths and quality with several significant gaps – between 53rd and 61st Streets, between 125th Street and 135th Streets, and between 145th Street and 162nd Streets. Mayor de Blasio recently dedicated \$100 million in capital construction funds to close the Upper East Side gap between 53rd and 61st Streets, and another \$101 million in funds to close the East Harlem gap 125th Street and 135th Streets. This is great progress towards a complete Greenway that connects the entire Manhattan waterfront.

Closing these gaps and turning the esplanades into an accessible, continuous, and well-maintained Greenway would turn this passive open space into active open space¹³ and give residents of the East Side of Manhattan much needed access to active living opportunities. Despite its proximity to Central Park, East Harlem is isolated from parks and open space by busy roads and other barriers¹⁴ and is among the neighborhoods with the poorest outcomes when it comes to children's health risk as well as premature death rate.

The New York City Council should ensure every New Yorker has access to quality outdoor recreation and safe active transportation by supporting the funding to close the Greenway gaps in East Harlem and Central Harlem, where families need it most.

Effective Physical Education

The American Heart Association applauds the significant efforts undertaken by City Council and Mayor de Blasio related to improving physical education in our schools. A quality PE program, offered to every student, can serve to equalize opportunities for physical activity now and inspire a lifetime of healthier behaviors for children in all communities. As part of the NYC Phys Ed 4 All Coalition, the American Heart Association is thrilled with the progress made as a result of the PE Works initiative which aims to ensure all schools have at least one certified PE teacher. Approximately \$39.8 M is dedicated for this cause in FY 19, with additional funds through FY 20. We remain concerned, however, that these physical education positions will not be sustainable in the years to come. We recommend baselining these dollars moving forward so that the city's PE programs can be maintained at an appropriate level.

Additionally, thanks to the first two reports from Local Law 102,¹⁵ the city's PE reporting law, we know that our schools struggle with PE compliance in areas outside of just the need for accredited teachers. Too many schools lack the necessary infrastructure to provide effective instruction. Our coalition is very interested in the progress underway as a result of the Universal PE initiative. Thank you for including an examination of adequate gym space as part of the Council's report, *"Planning to Learn: The School*

¹² NYC Dept. of Transportation. "About Greenways," NYC.gov. <http://a841-tfpweb.nyc.gov/greenway/background/>

¹³ NYC Mayor's Office of Environmental Coordination. City Environmental Quality Review Technical Manual. April 2016. www.nyc.gov/html/oec/downloads/pdf/2014_ceqr_tm/2014_ceqr_technical_manual_rev_04_27_2016.pdf

¹⁴ New Yorkers for Parks. East Harlem Open Space Index. 2012. www.ny4p.org/research/osi/EastHarlemOSI.pdf

¹⁵ <http://schools.nyc.gov/community/city/publicaffairs/Physical+Education+Reporting.htm>

Building Challenge.¹⁶ While last year's capital investment was a welcome step toward our goal for all schools to have safe, appropriate space for physical education, we understand the funding is only impacting 76 schools. We ask our city leaders to expand on this funding in the FY19 budget to continue the progress being made.

CPR in Schools Implementation

Another overarching concern with Health or PE curriculum requirements is the implementation of the NY State Chancellor's regulation which requires all New York high schools to train their students in Hands Only CPR and the use of an automated external defibrillator (AED).¹⁷ In order to assist schools who wish to provide a more robust training program, or are otherwise limited to available resources, the American Heart Association encourages the New York City Council to establish and administer a \$1 million fund to support schools implementing CPR/AED training programs.

From a clinical perspective, sudden cardiac arrest is exactly as it sounds. It's abrupt and halting and it happens in the matter of a few seconds. The heart stops beating. Blood stops circulating. Oxygen stops flowing to the brain. The victim stops breathing. Sadly, nearly 9 out of 10 victims die because they do not receive timely CPR. The state's graduation requirement will create the next generation of lifesavers by providing CPR and AED instruction and this can be significantly enhanced by your support to help schools implement CPR/AED instruction programs.

While there are free and low-cost resources available to schools, students will receive higher quality training if funding is available for equipment and supplies. In a city as diverse as New York City, it would be beneficial to obtain CPR/AED training materials in other languages to better serve our high school students. For these reasons, we recommend the city dedicated \$1M to establish a grant program within the NYC Department of Education for schools to seek support and resources in order to comply with this curriculum requirement.

The American Heart Association appreciates the City's continued efforts to prioritize health and wellness for all New Yorkers. We believe the proposals outlined above will greatly enhance the work of city agencies supporting this mission. As heart disease and stroke remain the leading cause of preventable death and disability in New York City, we hope the city will prioritize these investments in the Fiscal Year 2019 budget. We look forward to your support.

¹⁶ <https://council.nyc.gov/land-use/wp-content/uploads/sites/53/2018/03/Planning-to-Learn-3.16.2018-high-resolution.pdf>

¹⁷ <https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/meetings/Sep%202015/915brca8.pdf>



Testimony of Ms. Liz Accles, Executive Director of the Community Food Advocates, on the Mayor's Fiscal Year 2019 Executive Budget before the NYC Council Committees on Finance and Education

Thursday, May 24th, 2018

Good afternoon Chairs Dromm and Treyger, and members of the Finance and Education Committees. My name is Liz Accles, Executive Director of the Community Food Advocates (CFA). It is a pleasure to testify on Mayor de Blasio's Fiscal Year 2019 Executive Expense Budget for NYC public schools, and to inform this distinguished body of our Lunch 4 Learning 2018-19 budget priorities, which is aimed at ensuring the successful implementation of the "Free School Lunch for All" program and to build on its foundation. Joining me today are Lynn Kim and Durga Sreenivasan, both are freshmen from Hunter College High School and are members of CFA's New York City Youth Food Advocates (NYCYFA) program.

Before I begin, I would like to take this moment to thank Speaker Corey Johnson, Chairs Dromm and Treyger, and the entire Council for your past support and advocacy of our Lunch 4 Learning campaign.

The announcement of the "Free School Lunch for All" program on September 6th, 2017 made a historic change to New York City's school lunch program by eliminating a decades-long policy that has separated children by income in school cafeterias. Under the prior system, poverty stigma plagued the program and led to various forms of "lunch shaming," and consequently, tainted student views of the program and negatively impacted participation, especially among older students.

Universal School Lunch (USL) increases student participation in cities and schools throughout the country where it is implemented. In NYC, we have already seen a significant increase in participation in the first few months of citywide implementation with 30,000 additional students eating daily. While this is very important, it is only just a beginning.

Baselining \$3.1 Million for Marketing/Promoting USL & School Food Initiatives

Although the USL announcement at the beginning of last year's school cycle was notable, it fell far short of the sustained marketing and promotional efforts that should accompany such a significant change by the Department of Education (DOE), such as Universal Pre-K. Besides a well-attended press conference and recent subway and bus ads (April/May 2018), there has been little consistent, sustained communication efforts to maximize this transformative program. In fact, many parents, students and some elected officials still are unaware of the "Free School Lunch for All" program. For this reason, I am here to request that \$3.1 million be baselined in the city's budget for marketing USL and other school lunch initiatives. This funding will provide dedicated resources to ensure that DOE has funds for promoting USL and other school food initiative in a comprehensive, sustained and creative marketing campaign. Any message development should include engaging students and parents to identify the most effective messaging possible.

The marketing campaign should encompass print: subway and bus ads, community newspapers, including different languages; digital: social media with geo-targeted banner ads; and radio. In addition, these funds should be used to create a comprehensive citywide school-based publicity campaign to ensure consistent message distribution to all students and parents through superintendents, principals, assistant principals, parent coordinators, school food staff and other key staff throughout all school communities. Moreover, the focus on parents should include quarterly robocalls, test messages, emails and backpack notices. There should be a push at Parent Teacher conferences, Parent Association/Parent Teacher Association (PTA/PA), Community Education Council (CEC), Chancellor's Parent Advisory Council (CPAC), ECC, District Leadership Team and School Leadership Team meetings.

It is important to note that in switching from the traditional reimbursement model to USL through the USDA's National School Lunch Program Community Eligibility Provision, NYC is bringing in an additional \$38 million in federal and state reimbursements. The \$38 million does not account for the increased reimbursements for the additional 30,000 lunches being served daily. Therefore, the City is leaving money on table by not maximizing USL through a creative and enthusiastic marketing campaign.

We are asking the City Council to correct this oversight by baselining \$3.1 million for marketing USL and other school food initiatives.

Master Plan for Cafeteria Redesign for All NYC High Schools & Middle Schools

Presentation of school lunch and the environment in which it is served has a direct impact on school lunch participation rates. NYC Office of School Food initiated an exciting cafeteria redesign model that implemented new Food Court style (deli-style) serving lines, smaller diner style booth and round tables seating for a less institutional, more welcoming environment for students. In twenty-seven public schools that have been redesigned to date, we have seen a significant increase in student participation. The new serving line essentially presents the same

nutritious school lunch in much more appealing ways. In all of the schools we have visited, the school food staff have consistently reported that there is considerable increase in salad consumption while peanut butter and jelly sandwiches consumption decreased. Similarly, in a Brooklyn high school that have both USL and the Food Court style serving lines, participation has gone from 20% to 40%. Additionally, the Food Court style serving lines have significantly reduced the time student(s) stand on line to obtain their lunch, allowing for more time to eat and socialize.

As a result, we propose that New York City Department of Education adopt a Master Plan to phase-in redesign of all of its high school and middle school cafeterias to better benefit all members of the school community. We believe this master plan should be equitably distributed across School Districts, phased-in by priority: High need/Low participation rate; High need regardless of participation rates; and low participation rates/mixed income. Prioritization should also include a new policy for closed campus (No out lunch). The onetime cost is approximately \$500,000 per school, so the redesign is not a major renovation, but adds meaningful benefits. Even though the food is largely the same, the presentation looks very appealing. With diner-style booths and round tables, the cafeterias are more comfortable and inviting, replacing the institutional rectangular tables with attached benches.

Making halal and kosher school meals accessible to NYC public school students

We have heard throughout communities that NYC public school students with dietary restrictions based on religious observance cannot fully participate in the school lunch program. Parents and students throughout NYC have raised this as a major concern. For many students and families, the inability to access school meals has a negative impact on student well-being and creates an added strain on family budgets.

We believe that providing halal and kosher meals for students in NYC public schools is an essential service and a basic access issue. New York City should make sure all students have full access to the benefits of school food.

Final Thoughts

As you know, our public school children face many challenges; however, school lunch should not be one. Baselineing \$3.1 million for school lunch marketing in the budget will provide resources to ensure the DOE has funds dedicated to promoting universal and other school food initiative in a comprehensive, sustained and creative marketing campaign. And combining universal and the Food Court style serving lines have net positive impact on participation rates. The Community Food Advocates stand ready to work with the City Council, which was very influential in advancing "Free School Lunch for All," to continue our partnership on this matter.

The Impact of “Enhanced” Cafeterias

On High School Student School Lunch Participation



- The Department of Education redesigned seven high school cafeterias from 2016 to 2017.
- Four of the seven redesigned cafeterias are shared by multiple schools.
- The redesign affected 16 high schools.
- The astounding changes in participation between November 2016 and November 2017 demonstrate the strong impact of “enhanced” cafeterias.

	Nov 2016	Nov 2017	% of Increase
Edward R. Murrow H.S.	20%	41%	105%
Hillcrest H.S.	32%	54%	69%
Richmond Hill H.S.	38%	57%	50%
Boys & Girls H.S.	38%	56%	47%
Research & Service H.S.	20%	50%	150%
Mandela H.S.	27%	50%	85%
H.S. for Innovation	33%	78%	136%
Med. Professionals H.S.	46%	58%	26%
Urban Action Academy	40%	87%	118%
H.S. for Civil Rights	28%	47%	68%
Performing Arts H.S.	20%	32%	60%
World Academy	28%	32%	14%
FDNY H.S.	30%	48%	60%
Pan American Int'l	65%	73%	12%
Metropolitan Soundview	39%	44%	13%
H.S. of World Culture	75%	70%	-7%

Notes:

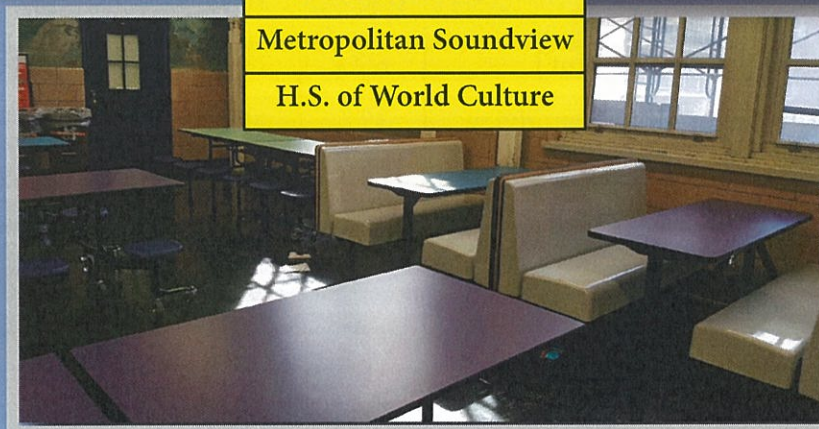
1. Percentages are calculated by dividing Average Daily Participation (ADP) by Average Daily Attendance (ADA).
2. All but one redesign was completed in September 2017. E.R. Murrow H.S. was completed in 2016.
3. Schools sharing a cafeteria on a single campus are grouped by color. Standalone schools are at the top of the list.

“Enhanced” Cafeterias

2016 to 2017



E.R. Murrow H.S.
Hillcrest H.S.
Richmond Hill H.S.
Boys & Girls H.S.
Research & Service H.S.
Mandela H.S.
H.S. for Innovation
Med. Professionals H.S.
Urban Action Academy
H.S. for Civil Rights
Performing Arts H.S.
World Academy
FDNY H.S.
Pan American Int'l
Metropolitan Soundview
H.S. of World Culture



FOR THE RECORD

**Testimony of Judi Kende
Vice President, New York Market
Enterprise Community Partners, Inc.**

**To the New York City Council
Final Executive Budget Hearing**

May 23, 2018

Good Morning, my name is Judi Kende and I am the Vice President for Enterprise Community Partner's New York Market. I am pleased to join you today to discuss how the proposed city budget creates opportunity for low-income and vulnerable New Yorkers. I would like to start by thanking City Council Speaker Johnson, Chair Chin, Chair Levin, Chair Cornegy, and Chair Ampry-Samuel for their continued advocacy for all New Yorkers in their respective committees.

Enterprise has provided testimony in prior committee budget hearings and would like to give an overview of our recommendations and concerns today.

Enterprise is a national non-profit organization dedicated to ending housing insecurity by investing capital to create or preserve quality affordable homes for low- and moderate-income people, develop programmatic solutions in coordination with public and private partners and scale these solutions by advocating for policy change. Since our New York office opened in 1987, we have committed nearly \$3.4 billion in equity, loans, and grants to help create or preserve over 60,000 affordable homes for nearly 160,000 residents in the region.

Seniors

I will start by discussing our advocacy for seniors. The City has taken several steps to improve the lives of New York City's senior population. In the past few years they have enrolled over 10,000 seniors in the Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE) program, following a 2016 Enterprise Report "Reducing Rent burden for Elderly New Yorkers" calling for expanded outreach for the underutilized program. Furthermore, HPD recently implemented a new 'Seniors First' program modeled in part, off Enterprise's

Healthy Aging in Affordable Housing Demonstration. Both of these programs not only meet a critical and growing need, but are smart investments for the City.

However, I would be remiss if I didn't take this opportunity to speak about seniors with high rent burdens. Our 2016 report shows that more than a third of SCRIE participants pay **MORE than 70 percent** of their income on rent, leaving very little for these seniors to pay for food, medical expenses or other bills. We urge the city council to support the SCRIE & DRIE Rollback Act in the state legislature (S5881B/A8424), which would roll back and freeze rents at one-third of income for eligible households.

General Welfare/ Family Homelessness

Next, I would like to acknowledge the City for their commitment of resources and funding to end the family homelessness crisis. Providing access to counsel, the expansion of HomeBase, and the increase in the Family Homelessness and Eviction Prevention Supplement rental subsidy all ensure that families and their children can remain in their homes. The new *Housing New York 2.0* plan, the breadth of rental assistance programs, and the NYC 15/15 Supportive Housing Program all ensure housing and services exist for homeless families with children.

Despite these significant efforts and investments, there remains an overwhelming number of families with children that live in the shelter system. Over 23,000 children, coming from nearly 15,000 families across the City's shelter system, will sleep in a shelter on any given night. We urgently need more permanent housing and service solutions that are appropriate for *families with children* who are at risk of and are experiencing homelessness.

Our work in this space has also revealed the need for intentional aftercare services for families moving into independent, non-supportive affordable housing. Approximately twenty-five to thirty percent of the families in Enterprise's Come Home NYC program, which connects homeless families to affordable housing units, require greater advocacy and/or assistance as they transition out of shelter. One solution that we ask the city to consider is a **service-enriched housing model**, which integrates service coordination into

the operation and management of affordable rental housing for special-needs and/or low-income residents.

I'd also like to share that Enterprise developed and is testing a neighborhood-based housing and service coordination model called **Enterprise Communities Plus (EC Plus)**. **With the gracious support of** the City Council for its 2017 discretionary funding support, we were able to develop a proof of concept for this program. EC Plus connects residents of affordable housing to an EC Plus service coordinator who helps address a family's issues through service linkages, which can include workforce development, financial counseling, child care and/or adult education. Some residents are also offered the opportunity to participate in a savings match program and/or a "rent to build credit" program. It is our hope that this is one model that can help strengthen the social safety nets of New York City neighborhoods.

We also encourage City Council members to maintain or increase the number of homeless set-asides built in their districts. It is common practice for City Council members to negotiate this amount down from 10% with developers, but as stated by Chair Levin, if we're going to address the homeless crisis in this city we need to keep at least 10% and even push for 15% of all units to be set-aside for formerly homeless families and individuals. We need the entire City Council to assist in solving this crisis and we are supportive of measures that reduce negotiations with developers that ultimately minimize the number of homeless units built.

Housing and Buildings

As I've mentioned, we commend HPD on introducing an array of new programs as part of its *Housing New York 2.0* plan to ensure long-term affordability and provide resources for residents and homeowners.

However, New York City's affordable housing crisis requires innovation and a large-scale response. Enterprise's new Community Land Trusts Capacity Building Initiative provided a \$1.65 million grant to HPD to assist in the development, expansion, and education of community land trusts in NYC. CLTs preserve and strengthen community

ownership so that homes can remain affordable over the long term. We look forward to working with HPD as they continue to develop this innovative solution and encourage city council members to consider the use of land trusts in their districts as an opportunity to maintain long term community control of affordable housing.

Public Housing

Lastly, I'd like to speak to important juncture for the city's public housing agency, NYCHA. As you know, NYCHA is New York City's largest landlord of affordable housing and is the largest public housing agency in the country. NYCHA employs over 11,000 individuals, has over 400,000 residents, 300 locations and over 180,000 individual apartments. The top three employers of public housing residents are public systems that keep New York running: the city Department of Education, NYCHA and the NYPD. Public housing is the lifeblood of New York City, and continues to be a stabilizing force and a connector to opportunity for all who live there.

We commend both the city and state in their unprecedented commitments to fund public housing, a combined \$500 million. Due to years of federal disinvestment, it has become clear to both the city and the state that NYCHA needs financial investment and support. However, we urge the city council to continue this **support by equipping NYCHA with access to resources, human capital, and the funding it needs.** While NYCHA is in a season of transition, the city should continue to look at this time as an opportunity to build a 'NextGen NYCHA' for the future. I urge Chair Ampry-Samuel and all city council members to continue both their advocacy and oversight of NYCHA by pushing for more funding and resources, while building up an organization that has long been embattled.

Enterprise commends the City Council for its commitment to connecting all residents to opportunity, affordable housing, and for providing vital social safety nets to our city's vulnerable populations. Thank you to for allowing me to speak with you today, we look forward to working with the city on the topics I outlined today.

Testimony of Andrea Bowen before the Committee on Finance
Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming (TGNC) funding needs in FY19
May 24, 2018

Good afternoon, Chair Dromm. My name is Andrea Bowen, and I'm a consultant working on behalf of the Anti-Violence Project, and in coalition with 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 presented versions of these proposals to staff in City agencies, as well as Mayoral staff, but the recommendations were not included in either the Preliminary or Executive Budgets. We seek the support of City Council to put these items in the budget. Given that some of these asks will require procurements, we want TGNC community members assisting in crafting and reviewing procurements.

TGNC Immigration Lawyer Training

Proposed Agencies: HRA and MOIA

Proposed Cost: \$140,000

Initiative that this could exist under: Immigrant Opportunities Initiative

TGNC Immigration Lawyer Staffing

Proposed Agencies: HRA and MOIA

Proposed Cost: \$758,520

Initiative that this could exist under: Immigrant Opportunities Initiative

Under the Trump Administration, immigrant communities, including TGNC people, face increased amounts of both state violence and private violence. Even in 2015, the U.S. Trans Survey showed that 45% of respondents held in immigration detention reported mistreatment (e.g., physical or sexual assault).¹

While there are several organizations funded to provide immigration legal services, only a few of those organizations have deep experience with the TGNC population and its specialized needs. Organizations that exist at the intersection of immigration law and TGNC cultural competency are at capacity in being able to provide services.

Thus, we seek funding for a pilot number of 7 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

¹ James, S. E., Herman, J. L., Rankin, S., Keisling, M., Mottet, L., & Anafi, M. (2016).

helping undocumented TGNC people maintain safe residence in the US. This would build the overall capacity of the legal system for serving TGNC immigrants.

For the same reasoning as above, we seek funding for 7 non-profits (each receiving \$108,360 to cover wage, fringe, and overhead costs of hiring one attorney) to cover the costs of hiring lawyers that are knowledgeable of both the visas that TGNC undocumented people need, and TGNC community needs.

The organizations that are able to receive these two types of immigration-related funding, and have submitted discretionary applications (albeit for other asks), are:

- o Anti-Violence Project
- o Make the Road NY
- o Sylvia Rivera Law Project
- o Urban Justice Center – Peter Cicchino Youth Project
- o Urban Justice Center – Sex Worker Project
- o Brooklyn Legal Services
- o New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG)

TGNC Healthcare Liaison Program

Proposed Agency: H+H

Proposed Cost: \$300,000 for one year, preferably \$600,000 baselined for 2 years

Initiative that this could exist under: Young Women's Initiatives – Expand Transgender Specific Healthcare Training

TGNC New Yorkers experience significant barriers when accessing quality, affirming, and affordable healthcare. In the 2015 health and human services survey, 15.8% of TGNC NYC respondents reported fair or poor health compared with 9.6% of cisgender LGB respondents, and 25% of TGNC NYC respondents reported probable depression compared to 15.7% of cisgender LGB respondents. While insurance carriers are required to cover transition-related care in New York State, TGNC people can still experience unjust denials, restrictions, and discrimination when seeking care. In other words, TGNC people are still having trouble attaining full coverage for transition-related care.

Thus, we seek funding for staff overseen by H+H that can act as case managers and advocates for TGNC patients at city hospitals, 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 would ultimately fund both 3 navigators and also training for H+H staff around TGNC issues.

This funding proposal builds logically on last year's Expand Transgender Specific Healthcare Training initiative. However, it will take time to hire, on-board, and acclimate staff to their work. Accordingly, the proposed program would best be served by multi-year funding, and we ask that Council work with the Mayor to make multi-year funding a possibility.

TGNC Employment Program

Proposed Agencies: DYCD and HRA

Proposed Cost: \$6.43m

Initiative that this could exist under: Small Business Services and Workforce Development: Job Training and Placement Initiative

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.² 16.2% of TGNC NYC respondents were neither employed nor in school, compared to 9.9% of cisgender (non-transgender) LGB respondents. Nationwide, transgender people of color report five times the unemployment rate of the general US population.³

Thus, we seek funding for a program that can work with TGNC youth and adults in separate cohorts (with DYCD running the youth cohort and HRA running the adult cohort), 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 \$1.86m 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), \$185,000 for evaluation, and \$20,000 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.

Council could provide the funding to DYCD and HRA, and those agencies could procure post-adoption.

TGNC Rental Assistance Program Pilot

Proposed Agency: HRA

Proposed Cost: \$3.8m

Proposed initiative that this could exist under: Financial Empowerment for NYC's Renters

Housing insecurity and injustice affects TGNC people in a myriad of ways, from TGNC youth being thrown out of their homes, to inability to afford housing. TGNC people, as with many New Yorkers, are priced out of rapidly gentrifying neighborhoods. The 2015 health and human services survey showed that 29.4% of TGNC NYC respondents reported ever having been homeless, compared to 16.2% of cisgender LGB respondents.

Therefore, we request funding for 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.

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

Proposed Agency: CCRB

Proposed Cost: \$47,900

Proposed initiative that this could exist under: Young Women's Initiatives – Step In and Stop It to Address Bystander Intervention

² 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.

³ 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>

TGNC people endure both interpersonal and systemic violence, *and* experience negative relations with police. A 2012 national survey from Lambda Legal about discrimination by various criminal justice institutions against LGBT and HIV-affected people in the US reported, "Transgender survey respondents who sought out police when they were the victims of crimes disproportionately reported that police did not adequately respond."⁴ A recent report from the NYPD Inspector General's office outlined how the NYPD is not adequately training officers in TGNC-sensitivity provisions of the NYPD Patrol Guide.

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 \$22,900 should be provided to community organizations to inform the TGNC community about their rights in interactions with police. This would be slightly different from other work done in the Step In and Stop It Initiative, but is similar in that there are components in our proposed funding whereby the TGNC community would be working with law enforcement and the community to stop violence, and as regards community training, that training would partially be bystander intervention training.

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

⁴ Lambda Legal. (2012). Protected and Served? Available at <https://www.lambdalegal.org/protected-and-served/summary/reports>

NYC Council Committee on Higher Education Hearing

Subject: CUNY Budget Priorities

Testimony of Hercules E. Reid, Legislative Director of the CUNY University Student Senate & CUNY Alum

May 24, 2018

Greetings Councilmembers and Committee members,

My name is Hercules E. Reid, and I serve as the Legislative Director for the City University of New York University Student Senate, also known as CUNY USS. USS is the student governance organization responsible for representing the interests of the nearly 500,000 students that attend CUNY each academic year. These students live in your districts or go to college in your districts, and many of them voted for you. I am an alum from New York City College of Technology where I studied Architectural Technology. I'm also a proud member voting member of City Council District 41 represented by Councilmember Alicka Ampry-Samuel.

I'm here today to remind you of the priorities of CUNY students, who are the future of this great city. Many students in CUNY receive financial aid, however, with the ever-rising cost of college, students are finding it challenging to cover additional costs such as books, food, and transportation.

Expand the New York City Council Merit-Based Scholarship. Since 2015, Council's investment in this scholarship program has been supporting academic achievement for up to 36,000 students at CUNY coming from high school. Expanding this program to \$400 per student will help more CUNY students persist and complete their degree. We are requesting that this scholarship is maintained and \$19.7 million be allocated in this budget.

Support of the Fair Fares campaign that would provide low income New Yorkers, many of whom attend CUNY, reduced fare to go to and from classes. Very often students have to decide between pursuing their education, eating, or missing class because they can not afford a train ride. Many are also arrested for jumping turnstiles.

Support Citizenship Now! Immigration Opportunity Initiative (IOI) As the federal government attacks immigrant communities, the Council and the Mayor should stand with New York's immigrants and undocumented residents. Investing in the CUNY Citizenship Now! The program will ensure more NYC residents enter the path to U.S. citizenship. This initiative has protected and provided legal assistance to thousands of immigrant New Yorkers. Allowing them to continue their education or remain with their loved ones. We are requesting \$2 million to keep having these legal services in the five boroughs that provide consultation and application assistance.

Increase investment in the University's Campus Children's centers and services. 10% of all CUNY students and 20% of CUNY community college students are parents. These services support student

parents, which in turn directly aids in raising retention and graduation rates. \$500,000 in funding would support expanding enrollment capacity; extending hours; additional staff and teachers; competitive salaries; and materials and equipment for children activities.

We are also asking to continue funding CUNY's Project for Return and Opportunity in Veterans Education (PROVE). There is a population of underserved individuals who have protected and served this country for people like you and I. They often need assistance in transitioning from military life to college and beyond. This initiative is geared to raise graduation rates and improve retention. \$250,000 will restore services to campuses like Bronx Community College, Kingsborough Community College, Laguardia community college, New York City College of Technology, Baruch College, and Queens College.

I am also here in my capacity as the co-chair of City Councils CUNY Task Force. This Task Force was sponsored by Inez D. Barron, Margaret S. Chin, Inez E. Dickens, Daniel Dromm, Deborah L. Rose, Andrew Cohen, Jumaane D. Williams, Robert E. Cornegy, Jr., Ben Kallos, Ydanis A. Rodriguez, Helen K. Rosenthal, Donovan J. Richards, Annabel Palma, Brad S. Lander, Stephen T. Levin, Paul A. Vallone, Rory I. Lancman, Vincent J. Gentile, and The Public Advocate (Ms. James).

The Task Force has worked diligently and created a recommendation report that researched historical and current data on CUNY and reviewed best practices. The Task Force decided to offer recommendations in three areas:

1. What the real costs of attendance are for CUNY students and how addressing these costs would improve access and graduation rates;
2. How to ensure that CUNY faculty are adequately supported academically and financially so that they are entirely able to help their students achieve academic success; and
3. What needs to be done to ensure that the physical environment on CUNY's 24 campuses is conducive to the teaching and learning are necessary to make possible student success?

There will be a press conference at 9 am on the steps of City Hall. We will be calling on the city and state to review this report and invest more funding and resources in CUNY. If you are a supporter of CUNY, I hope to see you there. After the Press Conference, there will be holding a public hearing.

I have added my contact information to this testimony in case you have any other questions, comments or concerns.

I want to thank you all for your leadership and service.

Hercules E. Reid
City Council CUNY Task Force Co-Chair
Legislative Director University Student Senate - USS
The City University of New York - CUNY
555 West 57th Street New York, NY 10019
Cell: 917-828-5016
Email: herculesreid.uss@gmail.com

Testimony by Samara Henry
Student at Bronx Academy of Letters

May 24, 2018

New York City Council Education Committee Executive Budget Hearing

Good afternoon. Thank you for the opportunity to testify at today's hearing. My name is Samara Henry and I am currently a senior at the Urban Assembly Bronx Academy of Letters. I am also an alumna of Generation Citizen's Action Civics program. I've had the pleasure of participating in this amazing program my junior and senior year.

Generation Citizen is an education program designed to get civics education back into middle and high school classrooms in an action oriented way. Through this, young leaders are empowered to use their voices in order to exercise their civic duties. Throughout the semester-long program, GC partners with schools to implement a twice weekly Action Civics curriculum during in-class time to educate middle and high school students about how to confront and take effective action to address community issues by engaging directly with politics.

Students start by debating what they would change if they were decision makers in their school, their city, or their state. Then students build consensus to choose one issue impacting their community to focus on addressing collectively. The students analyze the underlying root cause(s) of the agreed upon issue and then collaborate to develop and execute an action plan, which may involve lobbying elected officials to advance budgetary, legislative and/or policy solutions, or building a coalition. The program culminates with Civics Day, the end-of-semester student finale where students present their action projects at a science fair style exhibition event.

Attending a smaller school has many positive advantages. Our principal, Mr. Brandon Cardet-Hernandez, amongst others, empathizes the importance of self-advocating. Without it no impact or change can be made. It is made clear and especially stressed that our generation and future generations have an amazing platform and it is certain that we can bring about change, if the right incentives are put in place. GC can be seen as a stepping stone and is only the start of something brilliant. Serving as my debate teams chapter president I have

acquired the much needed public speaking skills. Since the season is over, Generation Citizen has given me another opportunity to use my voice and speak up on behalf of not only my school but the community as well. As a mnenelinal, my generation faces a number of problems, and who else rather than my own peers and hundreds of others across the states would be more fit to discuss and handle it than us?

The democracy coaches that assist us in our community issues are choosing to be alongside us in the classroom. I had the pleasure of asking my coach, Louie, why did he join Generation Citizen? He explained to me that it gave him a great sense of community issues and that it gave him hope for the future. Helping youth to further themselves and thinking outside the box is the key to ultimate change. These democracy coaches takeover the classroom and instructional time every Tuesdays and Thursdays for a semester, this gives our familiar teachers the chance to see how their students are becoming civically engaged. It's a proud moment across the board. Generation citizen is necessary in our schools.

As I conclude this speech, I would like you all to keep in mind how important it is to encourage our youth to be civically engaged. We are the future, and we need to ensure that they have the knowledge and skills about how our democracy works, and ways in which they can participate in it.

Thank you all so much for this incredible opportunity to speak to you today. A special thank you to Generation Citizen for allowing me to voice my concerns and sentiments on this matter. Thank you so much to the Council Members and the community for listening to me. And as GC says, "Don't talk about change. Lead it."



Treatment Action Group

**City Council Fiscal Year 2019 Executive Budget Hearing:
Testimony on TB's impact on New York City
May 24, 2018**

Thank you to Chairman Dromm and all the Finance Committee members for your commitment to prioritizing funds for the wellbeing of all New Yorkers, and thank you to Councilmember Levine for your leadership to restore funding cuts to combat the growing threat of tuberculosis (TB) in New York City.

My name is Erica Lessem, and I'm from Treatment Action Group (TAG). TAG is an independent, activist and community-based research and policy think tank fighting for better treatment, prevention, a vaccine, and a cure for HIV, TB, and hepatitis C.

We at TAG, and our partners representing immigrant communities, housing rights, and public health expertise, are alarmed by TB's largest increase in 25 years. TB is airborne and infectious, meaning anyone who breathes is at risk of contracting this potentially deadly disease. The New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) Bureau of TB Control (BTBC) reported a 10% rise in TB cases in 2017. This includes an increase of drug-resistant cases, which are more difficult and costly to treat: a single average case of drug-resistant TB costs \$294,000. Without urgent action, we are putting all New Yorkers at great risk, especially the most vulnerable: those with weakened immune systems, people living in crowded settings, and our immigrant communities.

Despite being preventable and curable, **TB is on the rise in New York City** for the first time in over twenty-five years. Also increasing at a rapid pace are cases of drug-resistant TB, which are more difficult and costly to treat: a single average case of drug-resistant TB costs \$294,000. This resurgence of TB is a direct result of years of underinvestment in New York City's TB response. While in recent years the City, thanks to your leadership, has steadily funded TB, a history of cuts since 2007 have reduced the City's TB funding from \$16.43M in 2007 (adjusted for inflation) to just \$8.59 million this year. Ongoing reductions at the state and federal levels over the past decade, and dramatic cuts in recent years, have exacerbated this situation. Total funding for the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) Bureau of TB Control (BTBC) has been reduced by half in the last ten years. Several of the City's TB clinics have closed, and the few that are still open have much more limited hours and staffing.

Community groups and clinicians are protesting at City Hall to call attention to this unacceptable increase in cases, and the Chair of the City Council Health Committee is warning us of repeating dangerous history when an outbreak of TB cost New York City over \$1 billion to control. The Daily News, Huffington Post, and New York Post, and other outlets have all recently called attention to the rise of TB in New York City.

90 Broad St., Suite 2503, New York, N.Y. 10004 Tel 1.212.253.7922 Fax 1.212.253.7923
www.treatmentactiongroup.org



Treatment Action Group

We were disappointed to hear in Commissioner Bassett's testimony at the Executive Budget Hearing on Health on May 18th that despite Councilmember Levine's leadership and the push from community groups, there is still no increase either from the Mayor's Office or from the City Council budget to DOHMH for TB. The modest increase to TB that is self-funded from DOHMH only allows BTBC to restore baseline staffing levels and potentially stop clinics from further reduction of evening and weekend hours, which is not guaranteed. These resources only maintain the TB program, which has never been enough to make progress against TB.

We can end TB in NYC and it is appalling that this preventable, curable disease is still sickening people in the greatest city. Our community organizations that provide essential testing and prevention services lack funding to conduct community outreach to immigrants, who bear the largest burden of TB and are in the midst of a challenging political climate.

We need real political will and funding to create a resilient response to outpace the epidemic by investing a measly \$6.3 million increase for community organizations to prevent and identify TB early, and begin to end TB in NYC. As host to the United Nations High-Level Meeting on TB, New York City has a great opportunity to showcase New York's commitment and leadership on ending TB to the rest of the world.

I enclose the letters from dozens of your constituents appealing for a restoration of New York City funding to the DOHMH BTBC to \$14.89 **million** (a \$6.3 million increase over the current year); articles from the media coverage; the BTBC's Annual Summary for TB in New York City; and, a brief that discusses the impact of the funding cuts. We look forward to your leadership.

Erica Lessem, MPH
Deputy Executive Director – TB
Treatment Action Group
erica.lessem@treatmentactiongroup.org

To: Mayor Bill de Blasio
Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services Herminia Palacio Commissioner
Commissioner Nisha Agarwal, Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs

May 22, 2018

Open letter: Urgent meeting request to discuss New York's TB crisis

Dear Mayor de Blasio, Deputy Mayor Dr. Palacio, and Commissioner Agarwal,

As your constituents, we write you again to follow up on our letter dated March 12th and urge your leadership in combatting the growing threat of tuberculosis (TB) in New York City.

New York City's TB program leads the world in adopting cutting-edge, cost-effective ways to prevent, detect, and treat TB. But the City has the third highest TB case rate in the U.S, and while TB is on the decline throughout most of the country, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) Bureau of TB Control (BTBC) reported a 10% increase in TB cases. This includes rising drug-resistant TB, which is even more difficult and costly to treat. Our city's immigrants are unduly affected, carrying 86% of cases.

Such trends are a direct result of the scant resources to address TB. Prior to this administration, budget cuts to the BTBC halved the City's contribution to TB control, from \$16.43M in 2007 (adjusted for inflation) to just \$8.59 million last year. With similar cuts at the state and federal level, the BTBC's funding per case has decreased by 56%. We are in danger of repeating history: budget cuts in the 1970s-1980s dismantled the TB response, contributing to a drug-resistant TB outbreak that cost \$1 billion to control.

We are disappointed in your lack of leadership regarding the growing TB crisis. We understand from the City Council Executive Budget Hearing on Health last week that your administration has not committed any new funding to DOHMH for TB, and that while DOHMH has identified modest internal resources to restore key staff positions, support is lacking to mount a robust response to outpace the epidemic, which would require funding community organizations to conduct, prevent and identify TB early.

We reiterate our unanswered requests to ensure a TB response commensurate to burden by increasing the DOHMH BTBC budget by \$6.3 million to \$14.89 million.

We request you to meet urgently with community groups to address this issue, prior to the City budget completion. We will be happy to convene relevant community partners. Please indicate your earliest availability to Safiqa.Khimani@treatmentactiongroup.org.

We look forward to your response and your leadership,



Erica Lessem, Deputy Executive Director – TB
Treatment Action Group

To: Mayor Bill de Blasio, New York City
Speaker Corey Johnson, New York City Council
Council Member Alicka Ampry-Samuel
Council Member Inez Barron, Member of the Committee on Health
Council Member Margaret Chin, co-Vice Chair of the Black, Latino/a, and Asian Caucus
Council Member Robert E. Cornegy Jr.
Council Member Laurie Cumbo
Council Member Daniel Dromm
Council Member Rafael L. Espinal Jr.
Council Member Mathieu Eugene, Member of the Committee on Health
Council Member Vanessa Gibson
Council Member Rory I. Lancman
Council Member Mark Levine, Chair of the Committee on Health
Council Member Carlos Menchaca, Chair of the Committee on Immigration
Council Member Francisco Moya
Council Member Keith Powers, Member of the Committee on Health
Council Member Carlina Rivera, Chair of Committee on Hospitals
Council Member Ydanis Rodriguez
Council Member Deborah Rose
Comptroller Scott Stringer
Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz
Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams
Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer
Queens Borough President Melinda Katz
Public Advocate Letitia James

CC: Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services Herminia Palacio Commissioner
Nisha Agarwal, Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs
Louis Cholden-Brown, Deputy Chief of Staff for Legislation, Planning & Budget, New
York City Council

March 19, 2018

Open letter re: Urgent need to restore and increase funding for New York's TB response

Dear Mayor de Blasio, City Council Speaker and Members, Borough Presidents, Comptroller, and Public Advocate,

As your constituents, we write to thank you for this administration's preservation of funding for New York's response to tuberculosis (TB), and to appeal urgently for your support for increased resources to combat this growing infectious public health threat.

When it comes to TB, New York City is a leader—in the best and worst ways. The New York City TB program leads the rest of the country in adopting cutting-edge, cost-

effective ways to prevent, detect, and treat TB. But the City has the third highest TB case rate of all U.S. reporting areas, according to 2016 CDC data. Preliminary 2017 trend data indicate not only an increase in TB incidence, but a rise in drug-resistant TB, which is even more difficult and costly to diagnose and treat.

Such figures are unfortunately unsurprising when one considers the paucity of resources committed to the TB response in New York City. Prior to this administration's tenure, a history of budget cuts to the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) Bureau of TB Control (BTBC) more than halved the City's contribution to TB control, from \$16.43M in 2007 (adjusted for inflation) to just \$8.59 million last year.

Because of similar cuts at the state and federal level, the BTBC's total funding has been reduced by half in the last ten years. And because of increasing case rates, funding per case of TB has decreased by over 56%. As a result, clinics have been shuttered, those that are open are in disrepair, and critical positions remain understaffed. The immigrant communities that many of us represent are disproportionately affected.

Similarly short-sighted budget reductions in the late 1980s dismantled the public health response to TB, contributing to a massive outbreak of drug-resistant TB in New York City that cost over \$1 billion to control. Let's not repeat history.

We ask you to ensure that the TB response is adequately funded and critical services restored by increasing New York City funding to the DOHMH BTBC in this year's budget to \$14.89 million (a \$6.3 million dollar increase over last year). We appreciate that—while ultimately the obligation of the locality—addressing TB is a shared responsibility, and we are making similar (but proportionally higher) requests at the state and federal levels.

We look forward to your leadership in ensuring an appropriate budget for a robust TB response in New York City. Please direct any questions and your response to Safiqa Khimani at Safiqa.Khimani@treatmentactiongroup.org.

Organizational endorsements

Academy of Medical & Public Health Services, Brooklyn, NY

African Services Committee, New York, NY

Apicha Community Health Center, New York, NY

Boom! Health, Bronx, NY

Callen-Lorde Community Health Center, New York, NY

Care for the Homeless, New York

End AIDS Now, New York, NY

Exponents Inc., New York

Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies, New York, NY

GMHC, New York, NY

(continued)

Hispanic Federation, U.S.
Housing Works, New York
Latino Commission on AIDS, New York
Legal Action Center, New York City, State, and U.S.
Mexican Coalition, Bronx, NY
National TB Controllers Association, U.S.
New York-Presbyterian Lower Manhattan Hospital, New York, NY
The New York Immigration Coalition, New York
Treatment Action Group, New York, NY
Unity Fellowship of Christ Church NYC, Harlem, NY

Individual endorsements *institutions noted for affiliation purposes only*

Maha Attieh, Arab American Family Support Center, Brooklyn, NY
Nicole Blonder, Health Coach, Brooklyn, NY
Joy Episalla, Treatment Action Group, New York, NY
Joel D. Ernst, MD, New York University School of Medicine, Bellevue Hospital Center,
New York, NY
Mike Frick, Treatment Action Group, Brooklyn NY
Gerald Friedland, Professor of Medicine, Epidemiology and Public Health, Yale School
of Medicine, New Haven, CT
Annette Gaudino, Treatment Action Group – HCV advocate, Bronx, NY
Jill F. Greenberg, MPH, Health Advocate, New York, NY
Mark Harrington, Treatment Action Group, New York, NY
Yael Hirsch-Moverman, ICAP, Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University,
New York, NY
Tiffany Hsu, Health Advocate, New York, NY
Safiq Khimani, Treatment Action Group, Brooklyn, NY
Eunhye Kim, Korean Community Services, New York, NY
Erica Lessem, Treatment Action Group, Brooklyn, NY
Timothy Lunceford-Stevens, Healthcare advocate, New York, NY
Suraj Madoori, Treatment Action Group, New York, NY
Luis Mares, Latino Commission on AIDS, Astoria, Queens, NY
Barun Mathema, TB researcher, New York, NY
Lindsay McKenna, Treatment Action Group, Brooklyn, NY
Robert Monteleone, AIDS activist, New York, NY
Laura Moya, HIV tester and counselor, Iris House, New York, NY
Ann E. Rubin, Rise & Resist, Brooklyn, NY
Marco Salerno, Columbia University, New York, NY
Eric Sawyer, Cofounder of Act up New York and Housing Works, New York, NY
Sangey Tashi, Tibetan Community Health Network, New York, NY
Donna Hope Wegener, National Tuberculosis Controllers Association (NTCA)

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Panic as TB is on the rise in New York for the first time since the early 1990s

- There was a 6.3% increase in tuberculosis in New York between 2016 and 2017
- It's the first time the state has seen an increase in over 25 years
- Nearly three-quarters of the state's TB cases are in New York City
- The city's funding for TB has been cut by more than half since 2007
- TB is the number one infectious killer in the world, claiming the lives of more than 1.7 million people each year

By MEGAN SHEETS FOR DAILYMAL.COM 






PUBLISHED: 17:24 EDT, 22 March 2018 | UPDATED: 22:18 EDT, 22 March 2018







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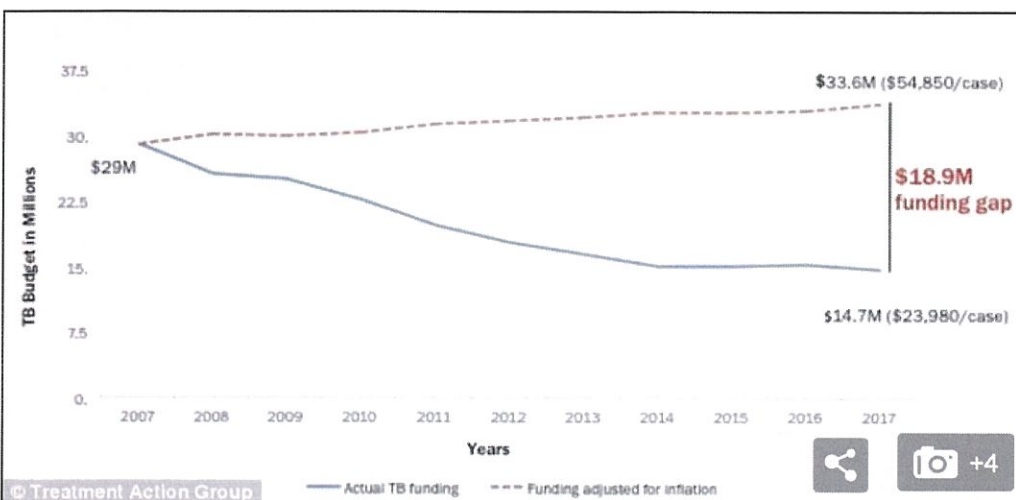





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Tuberculosis is on the rise in the state of New York for the first time since the early 1990s

The six percent increase comes after more than a decade of funding cuts that reduce the number of available resources for detecting, treating and preventing the disease that claims the lives of 1.7 million people worldwide each year.

Similar cuts in the 1970s and 80s caused an outbreak in the 90s that cost more than \$1 billion to fix.

Community leaders issued a statement Wednesday warning public officials including **New York City** Mayor Bill de Blasio and Governor Andrew Cuomo that if funding isn't restored soon, history is doomed to repeat itself.


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▶ Kim Kardashian shares never-seen-before photo from wedding to Kanye West to mark four-year anniversary Perfect pair



▶ Ariana Grande reveals tiny bee tattoo in tribute to victims of Manchester terror attack... after spending one-year anniversary at family vigil



▶ Lily Allen discusses her past alcohol and drug battle, her relationship with her children and the time a stalker tried to 'kill her'



▶ Danniella Westbrook reveals she felt suicidal after her son Kai saw her naked leaked video in the sauna Emotional



There was a 6.3 percent increase in tuberculosis in New York between 2016 and 2017, which community leaders say is a result of drastic cuts to TB funding in the last decade

From 2016 to 2017 there was a 1.8 percent decrease in TB diagnoses across the US, but 20 out of the 50 states saw an increase in number of cases.

In New York that increase was 6.3 percent from 758 cases in 2016 to 806 cases in 2017.

National funding for TB has stayed relatively steady across the past decade, but in New York, funding has been cut almost in half.

'When it comes to TB, New York is a leader — in the best and worst ways,' Erica Lessem, deputy executive director for Treatment Action Group's TB/HIV project, told Daily Mail Online.

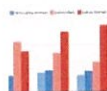
'The New York state and city public TB programs have led the country in adopting cutting-edge, cost-effective ways to prevent, detect, and treat TB.

'But funding from the both the New York State and New York City levels for TB have declined dramatically over the last decade, meaning public health reach is much more limited than it could or should be,' Lessem said.

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TB rates have been on the decline worldwide since the 1950s, but it is still the world's number one infectious killer, affecting one third of the global population.

It is easily contracted via airborne fluids when an infected person talks, sneezes or talks.

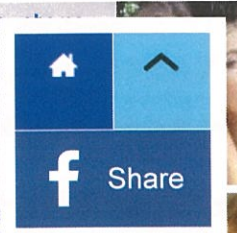
It mainly effects the lungs and symptoms include coughing up blood, weight loss, fever, fatigue and chest pain.

More than three-quarters of the New York's TB cases come from New York City, where funding on the local level has been cut in half from \$16.5 million in 2007 to \$8.6 million in 2018.

Federal funding to the city declined 75 percent in that same time span, which state funding was reduced 20 percent during the current fiscal year.

The results of more than a decade of cuts are just now being seen because the disease is known for its slow growth.

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▶ Nicola Rob Cheryl admir Normani's Billboard performance in the studio together... amid Girls Aloud 'anniversary reunion rumours'



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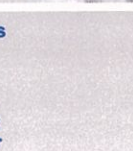
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Holly Willoughby sends fans WILD as she shares incredible throwback snap of lookalike mum Lynne's bikini body to mark her




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 The 24-year-old often gushes about his son

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Jason Bateman apologizes for appearing to defend Jeffrey Tambor while **Arrested Development** co-star cried about being harassed by him

Katie Price DUMPED by Shane Duffy: Footballer, 26, 'got cold feet after his romance with the star, 40, was revealed' It's over

Beyonce's daughter Blue Ivy, six, reminds grandma Tina Lawson she's breaking the rules by taking pictures at the Paris Ballet Sassy

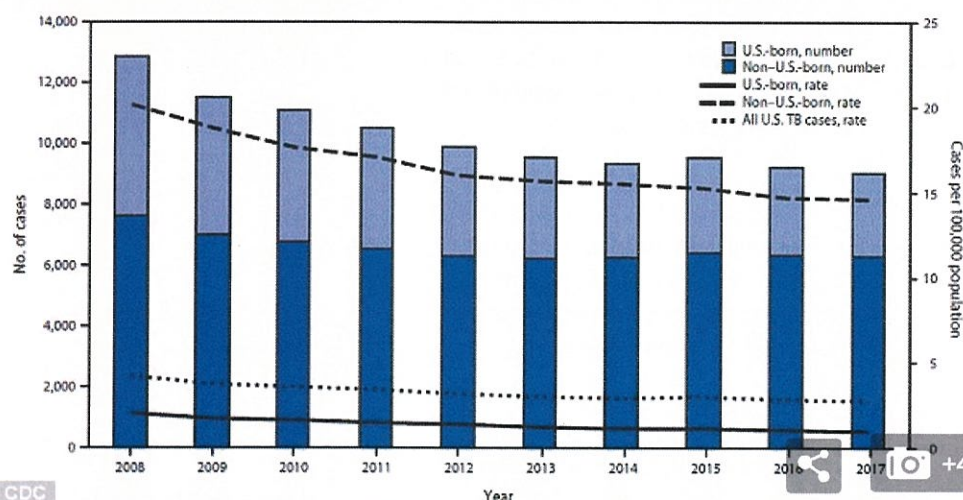
Love Island's Tyla Carr displays her phenomenal figure in sparkling sequined bikini during Mallorca getaway Tanned and toned

Nadia Sawalha, 53, reveals she will get plastic surgery to remove her 'muffin top' and jowls after **DECADES** of body insecurities

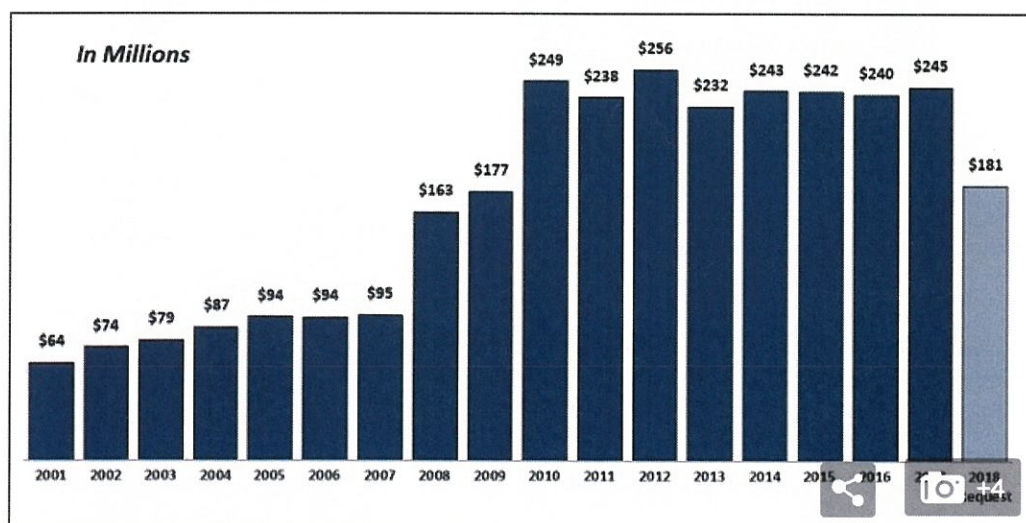
Jacqueline Jossa and **Dan Osborne** split: Pregnant actress looks glum as she steps out after revealing ex **WILL** be present at the birth Not long to go

Irina Shayk looks oh so chic in black frock on outing with baby **Lea De Seine** Beauty

FIGURE. Number of tuberculosis (TB) cases and rate, by national origin – United States, 2008–2017



The national rates for TB have been falling steadily across the past decade, including a 1.8 percent decrease from 2016 to 2017



The graph above shows the amount of funding the US has allocated to fighting TB globally from 2001 up to the amount requested in 2018

'We know from decades of past experience that unless we change course quickly, this pattern of years of devastating cuts followed by a predictable subsequent rise in TB cases are a harbinger of much worse to come,' Housing Works President and CEO Charles King said.

Since the cuts began in 2007, all but four of New York City's chest clinics for TB treatment have been closed, and the city's TB response staff has been reduced by nearly half.

Additionally, funding per case of TB, which can cost as much as \$300,000, has been reduced by 56 percent.

'It is no surprise with such scant resources compared to the need, that TB is on the rise,' Lessem said.

TB rates have historically been higher in immigrant communities, and more than 86 percent of people diagnosed in 2017 were born outside the country.

Steve Choi, executive director of the New York Immigration Coalition, pointed out that the majority of those people had been in the US for more than five years 'leaving ample time for outreach and prevention that's simply not being done'.

Choi added: 'Our city and state governments have promised to make New York a safe haven for all—to do so, they must address TB.'

People living with HIV are also at a significantly higher risk for being infected with TB, and TB is the leading cause of death for people with HIV.

'If New York is serious about being the healthiest state, we must address TB. If New York is to honor its commitment to end the HIV epidemic, we cannot forget about TB, its most deadly—but preventable, curable—coinfection,' Guillermo Chacon, President of the Latino Commission on Aids and President of the Hispanic Health Network, said.

A collection of eight health, housing, community and immigration groups issued a statement Wednesday calling on government officials on each of the three levels to restore funding.

They asked that it be brought back up to \$14.89 million at the city level, \$7.83 million at the state level, and \$10.9 million at the federal level.

'We have the tools we need to end TB as a public health threat in New York City—what's missing is funding and political will to do so,' said Erica Lessem.

Lessem added: 'That TB is on the rise in our city in this state and country, with their wealth of resources, is inexcusable.'

WHAT IS TUBERCULOSIS (TB)?

Tuberculosis (TB) is a potentially serious infectious disease that mainly affects your lungs.

The bacteria that cause tuberculosis are spread from one person to another through tiny droplets released into the air via coughs and sneezes.

Although your body may harbor the bacteria that cause tuberculosis, your immune system usually can prevent you from becoming sick. For this reason, doctors make a distinction between Latent and Active TB

Symptoms of active TB include coughing up blood, weight loss, fatigue, and chest pain, and fever.

Tuberculosis can also affect other parts of your body, including your kidneys, spine or brain.

Source: Mayo Clinic



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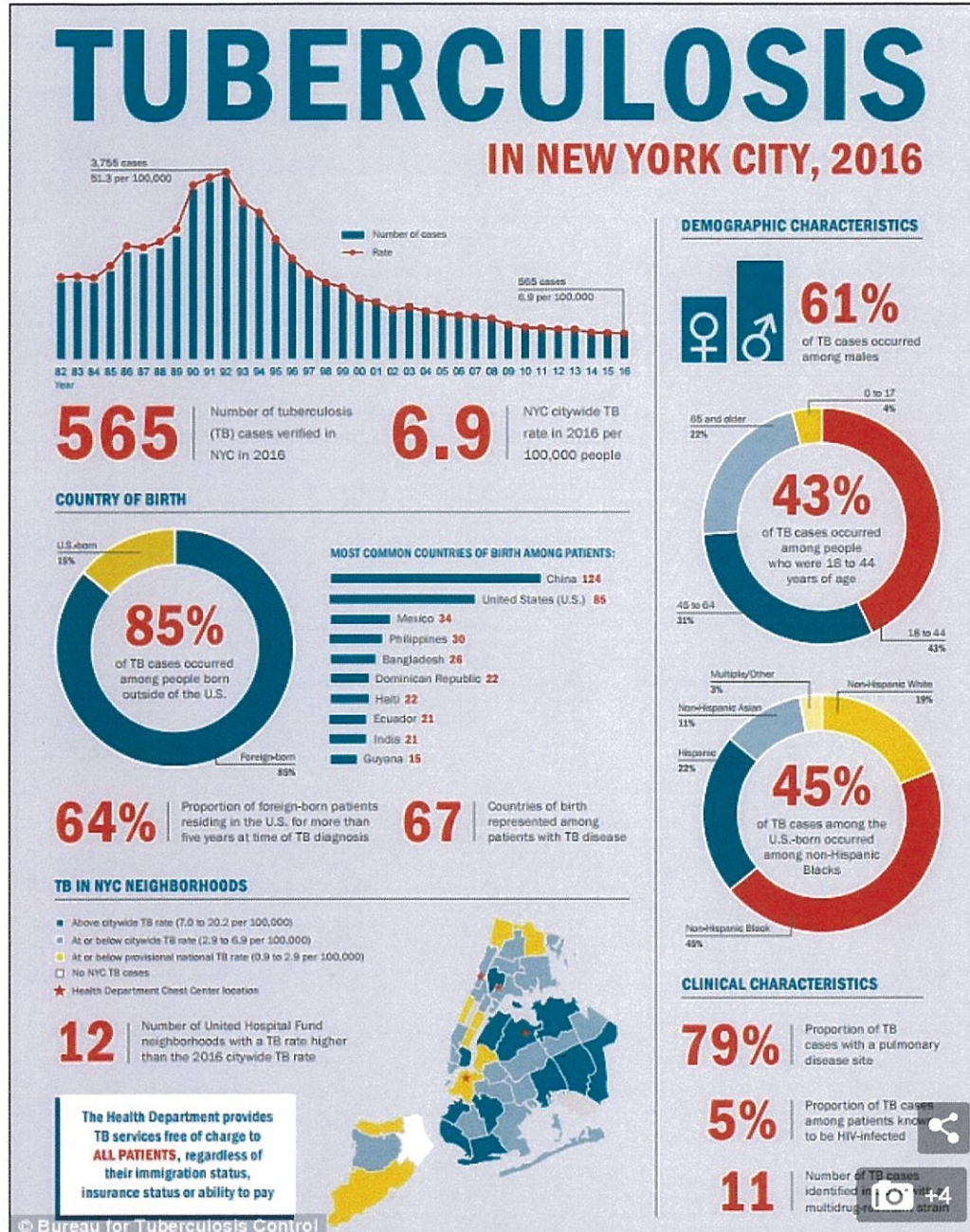
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The graphic above shows a variety of TB statistics from New York City in 2016

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**HEALTH** 03/22/2018 03:59 pm ET | Updated Mar 23, 2018

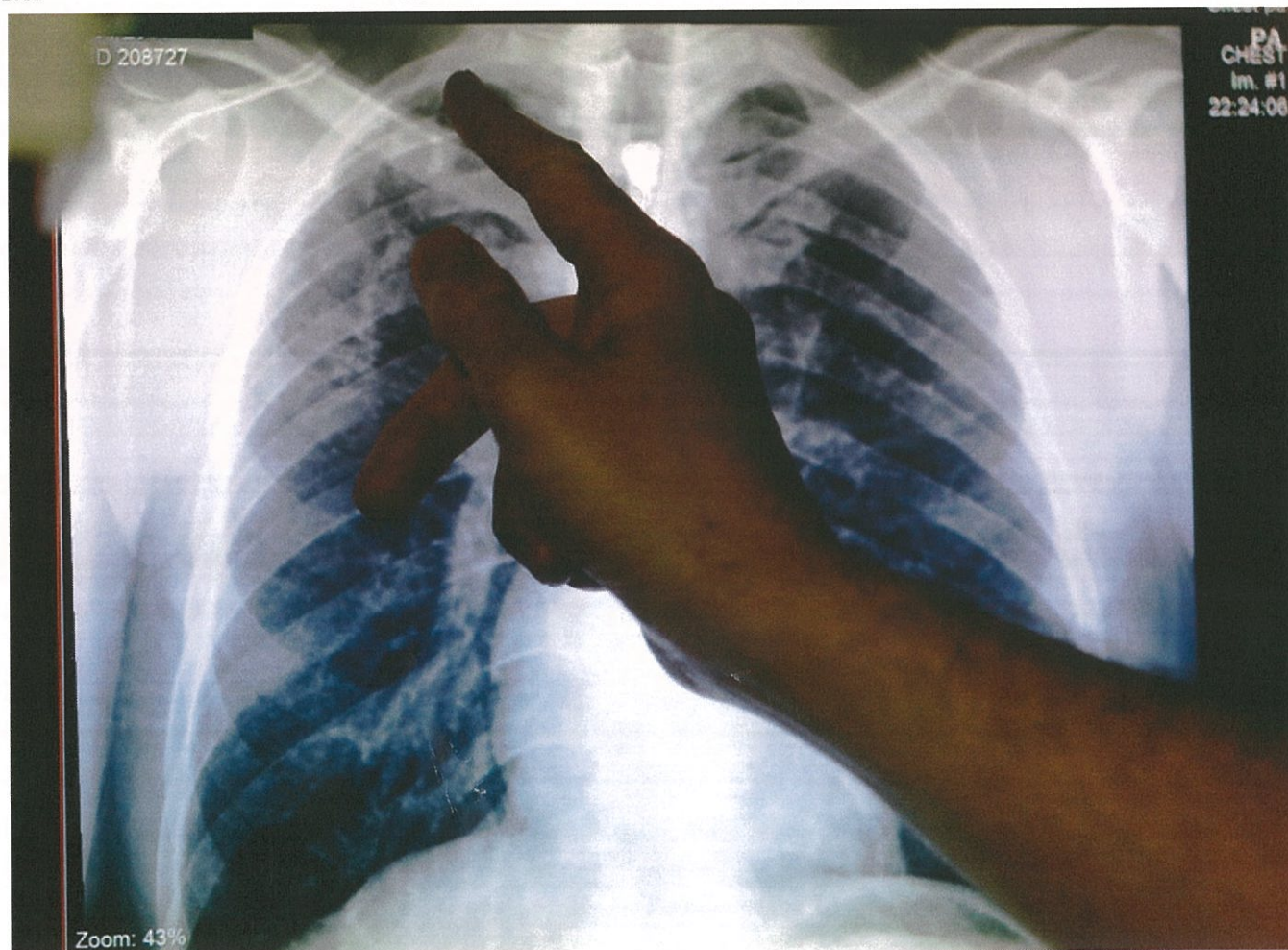
U.S. Tuberculosis Cases Are The Lowest In Years, But It's Still A Threat

The treatable and curable disease is on the rise in New York City, and an alarming number of latent cases are lurking.



By Lauren Weber





LUKE MACGREGOR / REUTERS

The number of tuberculosis cases is at its lowest point since the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention began reporting it in 1953. But the decline is far from enough to eliminate the treatable and curable disease in the U.S. during this century, the agency stressed.

A further dramatic drop in cases will be needed to accelerate efforts to wipe out the disease, and that won't be possible without marked investment in programs to control TB and tackle latent infections, experts said.

"With better diagnostic tests, shorter treatments, and new guidelines to assist physicians in testing, the United States has a greater opportunity than ever before to eliminate TB in this country," Dr. Philip LoBue, director of CDC's Division of Tuberculosis Elimination, told HuffPost in an email. "Though we've come a long way, these data are a reminder that we must intensify our efforts and expand a dual approach to put an end to this disease."



U.S. Tuberculosis Cases Are The Lowest In Years, ...



However, Donna Wegener, executive director of the [National TB Controllers Association](#), a group of public health officials, said she worries the surveillance data doesn't tell the full story of TB in the U.S.

"Despite the lower cases reported for 2017, we still have a lot of work to do as any significant number of cases in the U.S. of a disease that is totally preventable and curable should not be tolerated," Wegener said.

She pointed to the rising number of cases in New York City as particularly alarming, considering the city is recognized for expertise and best practices for fighting TB.

Erica Lessem, deputy executive director of the TB project at advocacy organization Treatment Action Group, said last time cases jumped in New York was the horrific TB outbreak of '80s and early '90s that cost the city [over \\$1 billion](#) to control.

Data collected by the group shows that overall federal, state and local funding for New York's TB efforts has dropped by more than half in inflation-adjusted numbers, to \$14.7 million, from \$34.3 million in 2007.

"We're seeing a similar pattern of TB cuts at the federal, state and local levels, and we're very concerned this is a harbinger of what's to come," Lessem said.

Treatment of one case of tuberculosis can cost from \$18,000, to over \$500,000 for drug-resistant forms of the disease.

The federal omnibus spending deal expected to pass this week contains an [added \\$20 million](#) for U.S. Agency for International Development efforts against TB. It also includes [language from Congress](#) asking the Department of Health and Human Services to prioritize the [2016 national action plan for combatting multidrug-resistant TB](#). However, it fails to include [extra funding](#) for CDC efforts against TB.

That flat funding sends a mixed message on fighting TB, Wegener said.

“

We've really exhausted what we can do given the current resources.



While half of all reported TB cases are in New York, California, Florida and Texas, 19 states saw an uptick in the latest data. Connecticut, Tennessee and Colorado show significant rises.

According to the CDC's LoBue, reactivation of latent TB infection is the "primary driver of TB cases in the United States."

About 13 million people in the U.S. have latent tuberculosis, the nonactive form of the disease. The CDC has called the number of infectious TB cases in the U.S. the "[tip of the iceberg](#)," as some 5 percent to 10 percent of people with latent TB will progress to active tuberculosis. That means as many as 1.3 million cases of infectious tuberculosis could become activate in the U.S. over the lifetimes of people with latent TB.

Wegener warned that without more proactive treatment of TB — screening through local health care providers, increased education and other outreach — that reservoir of lurking TB could cause future case numbers to increase.

"We have the ability to be one of the first countries to eliminate TB," Wegener said. "But we've really exhausted what we can do given the current resources."

CORRECTIONS: This article previously misstated the percentage decrease in TB cases last year, due to an error on the CDC's fact sheet, and misspelled Erica Lessem's last name.

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Lauren Weber 
Reporter, HuffPost

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NEW YORK

NEWS

U.S.

Pol calls for increase in city spending for tuberculosis tests as disease spikes



By JILLIAN JORGENSEN

NEW YORK DAILY NEWS | MAY 14, 2018



Feedback



Councilman Mark Levine is proposing adding \$6.7 million to the budget to help increase staffing and hours at the city's four remaining Chest Center clinics, which provide evaluation and treatment for TB. (Angus Mordant/for New York Daily News)



The city should hike its spending on tuberculosis tests and treatments as it sees a spike in the

disease, Councilman Mark Levine said Monday.

Last year, there were 613 new cases of TB in the city, a 10% increase — and multi-drug-resistant TB, which can cost about \$300,000 a case to treat — is also on the rise. Levine said that's come as funding for the illness from the city, state and federal government has dropped to about half of what it was 10 years ago.

He's proposing adding \$6.7 million to the budget to help increase staffing and hours at the city's four remaining Chest Center clinics, which provide evaluation and treatment for TB.

"In the context of our broader public health budget, the health department has a \$1.6 billion budget and in the context of the overall city budget now proposed to be \$89 billion, with a b, this is less than one-tenth of one per cent of the total budget to address a looming public health crisis," he said. "We think this is a good investment."

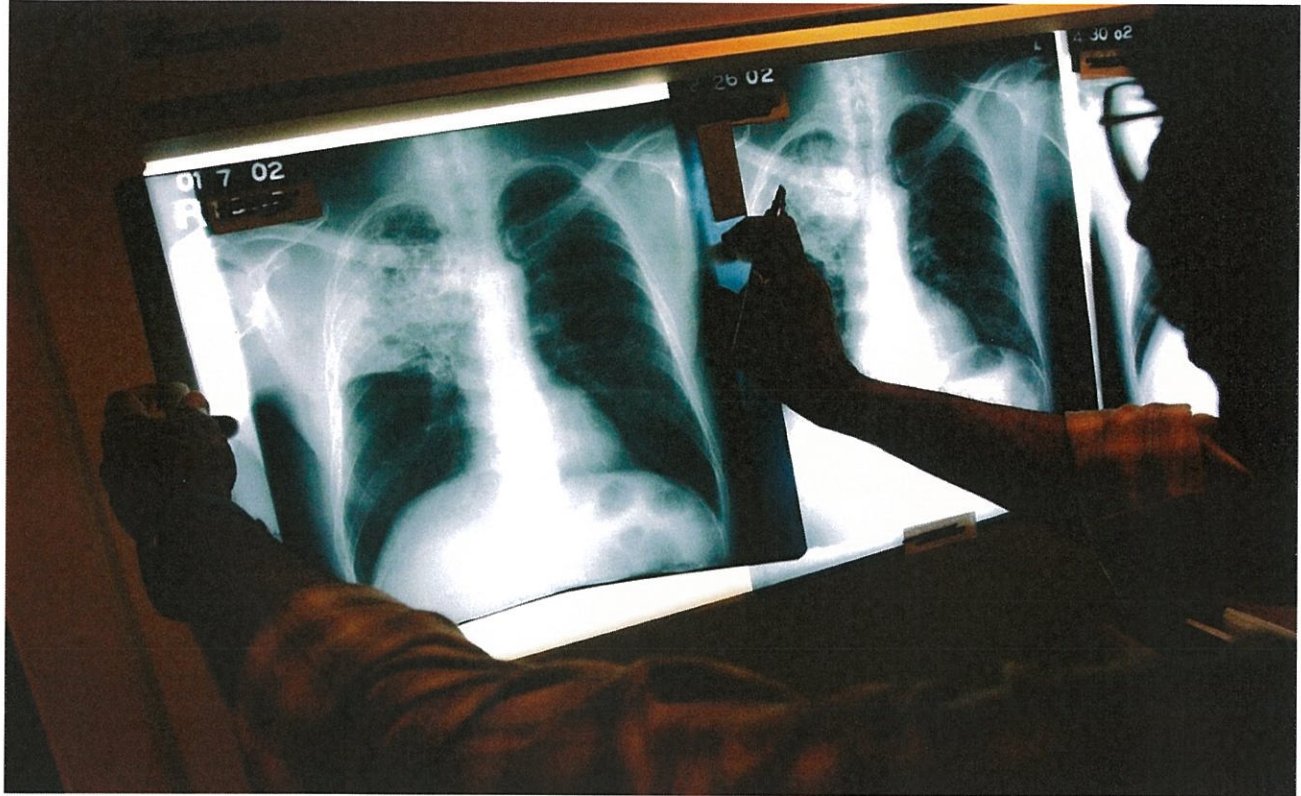
Feedback

The illness affects marginalized communities like those living in tight quarters, new immigrants and people with HIV and AIDS, Levine said, warning against a repeat of TB epidemics that plagued the city in the '80s and '90s.

Amanda Lugg of the African Services Committee said the funding cuts have real consequences.

"In a regular month African Services tests over 300 people with free HIV tests," she said, thanks to subsidies. "We are only testing 10 people for TB tests — because they cost, because we have to charge to cover the cost of the test."

She called it a "missed opportunity."



Feedback

The illness affects marginalized communities like those living in tight quarters, new immigrants and people with HIV and AIDS. (Spencer Platt/Getty Images)



"As a result we're finding TB too late," she said. "It's spreading. The vast majority of TB cases are diagnosed in city hospitals costing both the city and New York families dearly."

A skin test for TB runs about \$30, she said.

"Thirty dollars is a lot of money," Lugg said.

"For someone who is low income," Levine added. "But for the city of New York, it's not a lot of money for us. This should be an investment in public health."

A health department spokesman said the department was planning to increase funding, though not at the level Levine has sought.

"We have invested \$14.7 million annually to combat tuberculosis, and are committing an additional \$1.4 million this year to address the recent 10% increase in cases," spokesman

additional \$1.1 million this year to address the recent 10% increase in cases, spokesman

Christopher Miller said. "These additional resources will be used build capacity for critical services identifying and treating newly infected New Yorkers, monitoring patients currently on treatment and investigating all reported TB cases."

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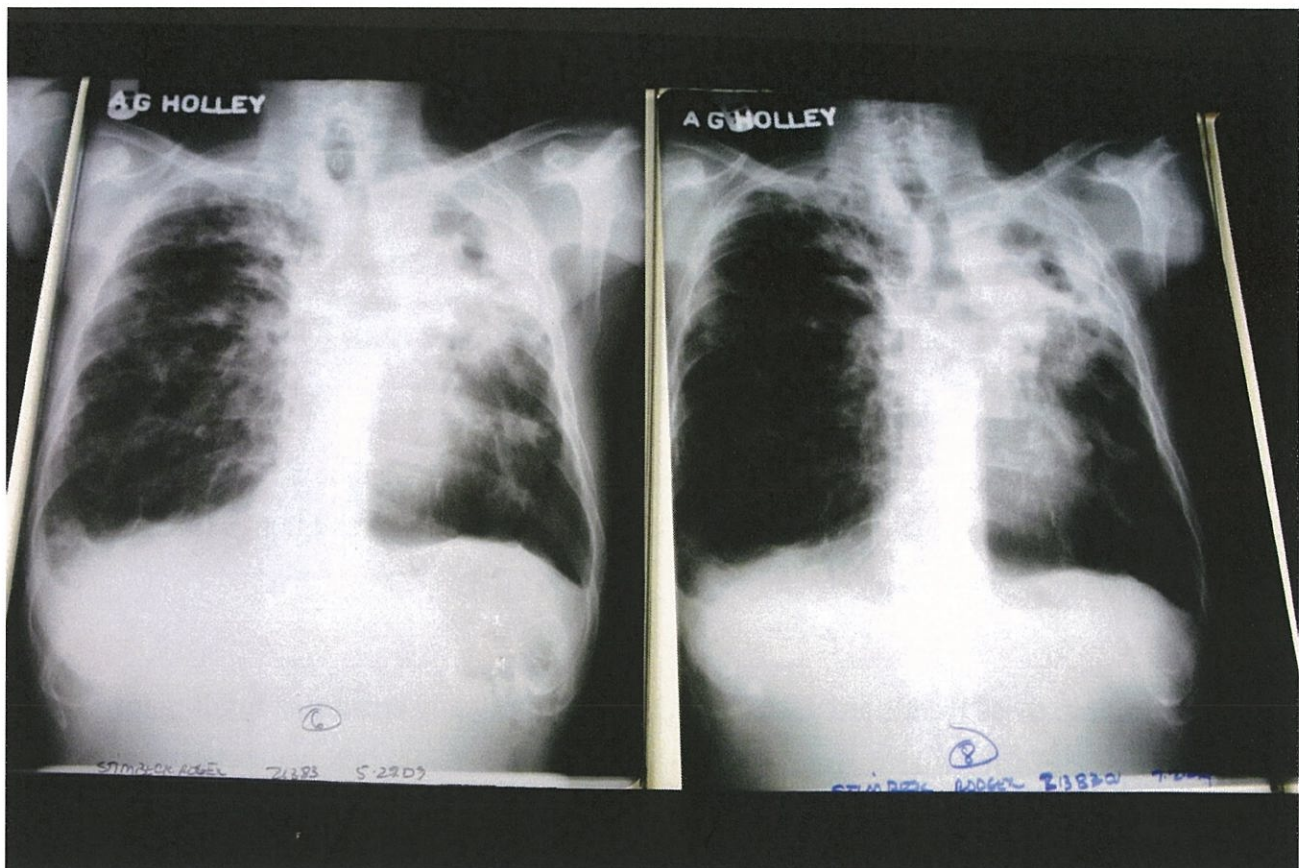
Tuberculosis could come back



By Yael Hirsch-Moverman, Joel Ernst, Max O'Donnell and Gerald Friedland
MAR 23, 2018 | 5:00 AM



Feedback



Preventable (Lynne Sladky/AP)



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who breathes is at risk.

The threat is not imaginary, or even new. Tuberculosis, though often forgotten — particularly by those controlling public budgets — is the oldest known infectious disease. Yet despite being preventable and curable, TB has recently had a resurgence, surpassing HIV as the leading infectious killer worldwide.

Around the world, more people are diagnosed with TB now than at any time in history. Drug-resistant TB, which is even more difficult and costly to treat, and has only about a 50% treatment success rate, is on the rise.

Though the U.S. has recently been spared from the dramatic global trends, it is not exempt. Indeed, while TB is decreasing countrywide, New York City, which has had one of the most advanced and successful TB programs in the country, is reporting an increase in cases for the first time in 26 years. A 10% increase in TB cases from 2016 to 2017 includes an uptick in drug-resistant cases, from just five in 2015 to 14 cases in 2017.

While those numbers may sound small, when each case of drug-resistant TB costs \$294,000 on average, and even more resistant cases of drug-resistant TB average \$694,000, a few additional cases can blow the city's TB budget.

Though alarming, these trends are unsurprising, given the steady erosion of funding for TB control in New York City. Addressing TB requires a well-funded and highly functioning TB program with an experienced professional staff.

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half that (\$14.72) in 2017.

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The city's TB workforce has been reduced by half, and six of its 10 chest clinics where TB treatment is focused have closed. The remaining clinics operate much more limited hours to see patients, and are in disrepair.

Limited facilities and decreased staffing seriously jeopardize effective prevention and treatment strategies. They mean fewer opportunities for patients with TB to access care, and less capacity for actively identifying unrecognized cases of TB in close contacts of people with known TB to find them and provide treatment and to prevent the disease's spread.

This is a frightening recapitulation of past disasters. Years of underfunding in the 1970s and 80s essentially disassembled New York's TB program. TB rates then rose dramatically and highly lethal, drug-resistant TB became prevalent, and in the absence of an effective TB program, spread uncontrolled. It took over \$1 billion from 1974 to 1994 (in 1990 dollars) to reverse the resulting crisis.

We must not repeat history. In the absence of an effective vaccine, TB is a disease potentially affecting anyone in a crowded global city like New York. More vulnerable populations are at greatest risk, and this risk will likely rise in association with growing income inequality, and documented increasing rates of homelessness in New York.

But TB is not only a disease of perceived vulnerable populations: It has affected diplomats, writers, professional athletes, teachers and students and health care workers among others.

Feedback

With adequate funding, this could be a time of great hope. We have better tools than ever to control TB: new drugs for drug-resistant TB, new tests for rapid diagnosis and new preventive

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Preventing and controlling TB, and in particular drug-resistant TB — whether in New York, the U.S. or other parts of the world — requires rapid diagnosis, expert treatment and proactive prevention. These, in turn, require a strong, expert and well-funded control program.

Investing just a few million dollars more per year in TB control from city and state budgets could prevent disease and having to spend billions down the road. Our city and state leaders have professed that New York should be a safe and equitable place to live.

They cannot claim to achieve that goal by neglecting and not adequately controlling tuberculosis.

Feedback

Hirsch-Moverman is an assistant professor of epidemiology at ICAP at Columbia University, Mailman School of Public Health. Ernst is a professor at NYU School of Medicine. O'Donnell is an assistant professor of medicine and epidemiology at the Columbia University Medical Center. Friedland is professor emeritus at Yale School of Medicine.

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Piden más fondos para combatir tuberculosis en Nueva York

Concejales, activistas y organizaciones exigieron a la Ciudad que incremente el presupuesto destinado a prevenir y controlar esta peligrosa enfermedad



FOTO: ARCHIVO

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**POR: PEDRO F. FRISNEDA**

(HTTPS://ELDIARIONY.COM/AUTHOR/IMDPEDROFRISNEDA/) 14 MAYO 2018

Los **casos de tuberculosis (TB)** aumentaron un 10% en la **ciudad de Nueva York** en un período de un año, y la mayoría de personas infectadas son **inmigrantes** provenientes de países como **Ecuador, México y República Dominicana**.

Por esta razón, miembros del **Concejo Municipal de Nueva York**, junto a organizaciones y activistas defensores de la Salud, hicieron un llamado este lunes a las autoridades neoyorquinas para que incrementen los fondos para el **Departamento de Salud de la Ciudad (DOHMH)**, con el fin de hacerle frente al avance de esta **peligrosa infección respiratoria**.

Encabezados por **el concejal Mark Levine, presidente del comité de Salud del Concejo Municipal**, y organizaciones como la **Comisión Latina sobre el SIDA**, manifestantes se reunieron en las escalinatas de la **Alcaldía de Nueva York** para exigir este lunes que se destinen más fondos a la **Oficina de Control de Tuberculosis (BTBC)**, que depende del DOHMH.

Según un reporte dado a conocer en marzo pasado por el DOHMH, en el 2017 se registraron **613 nuevos casos de TB en la Gran Manzana**, lo que significa un aumento de más del 10% con respecto a los 556 diagnósticos del 2016. Esto marcó el primer aumento en la Ciudad desde 2003 y el más grande desde 1993.

A pesar de este aumento, los manifestantes denunciaron que en los últimos 10 años, los **fondos federales, estatales y municipales** para combatir la TB se han reducido en más de la mitad –incluida una reducción del 65% en los fondos federales–, pasando de \$29 millones en 2007 a \$14.7 millones en 2017, de los cuales solo \$8.6 millones provienen de la Ciudad.

“Debemos garantizar que todos los neoyorquinos, especialmente los más vulnerables, tengan acceso a pruebas de detección, atención médica y tratamiento. Hemos visto una disminución en el financiamiento en los últimos once años.

Necesitamos ver fondos destinados a garantizar un plan sólido por parte del Departamento de Salud y los proveedores comunitarios (de salud) para prevenir, detectar y tratar la tuberculosis en Nueva York”, dijo Guillermo Chacón, presidente de la Comisión Latina sobre el SIDA y fundador de Hispanic Health Network.



Mark Levine, presidente del Comité de Salud del Consejo Municipal, y Guillermo Chacón, presidente de la Comisión Latina sobre el SIDA y fundador de Hispanic Health Network, en la protesta.

Preocupa la TB 'multi-resistente'

Una de las mayores preocupaciones es que el DOHMH también informó en marzo pasado sobre un aumento en la cantidad de personas a las que se les diagnosticó **tuberculosis multi-resistente** a dos de los **antibióticos** más importantes y que es más difícil y más costosa de tratar.

De acuerdo a los manifestantes, la TB resistente a múltiples medicamentos, que tiene un costo de aproximadamente \$300,000 por caso, también está en aumento.

Lo más preocupante es que según los **Centros para el Control y la Prevención de Enfermedades (CDC)**, la ciudad de Nueva York tiene la tercera tasa más alta de casos de TB en la nación y, según los reportes del DOHMH, esta enfermedad está

golpeando desproporcionadamente a las **comunidades de inmigrantes**, ya que el 86% de los neoyorquinos con TB nacieron en el extranjero.

Los países de origen más comunes fueron **China, República Dominicana, Ecuador, India y México**. También se informó que **Queens** se mantiene como el condado con la tasa más alta de TB (10.6 por 100,000 personas). La tasa promedio en toda la ciudad es de 7.5 por cada 100,000 personas. Y los vecindarios de **Sunset Park (en Brooklyn), Western Queens y Flushing (en Queens)** fueron los que tuvieron las tasas más altas entre todos barrios de la ciudad. El 41% de los afectados tiene entre 18 y 44 años de edad.

Según las denuncias, los recortes de fondos para la TB han resultado en menos servicios clínicos, disminución de las actividades de salud pública y una reducción significativa en la dotación de personal.

Sin embargo, el DOHMH mantiene servicios en cuatro clínicas de TB en la Gran Manzana que brindan pruebas confidenciales, tratamientos y atención sin costo para los pacientes, independientemente de su estado de inmigración o de si tienen seguro médico o no. En 2017, estas clínicas trataron a más de la mitad (54%) de las personas diagnosticadas con TB.

En un comunicado el DOHMH dijo: "Hemos invertido \$14.7 millones anuales para combatir la tuberculosis, y estamos comprometiendo \$1.4 millones adicionales este año para hacer frente al reciente aumento del 10% en los casos. Estos recursos adicionales se utilizarán para desarrollar la capacidad de los servicios críticos que identifican y tratan a los neoyorquinos recién infectados, monitoreando a los pacientes que actualmente están bajo tratamiento e investigando todos los casos de tuberculosis notificados".



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U.S. Tuberculosis cases drop, but still far exceed numbers set to reach elimination goals

BY [ANTIGONE BARTON](#) ON [MARCH 22, 2018](#).

Two years after noting [the first increase](#) in domestic tuberculosis incidence in more than 20 years, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [reported today](#) that new cases in this country are once again continuing to decline — but not nearly enough to reach goals of eliminating the disease and its impacts here in this century. In addition, while reflecting a less than 2 percent drop in the number of new cases overall, the data show increases in tuberculosis incidence in states that include New York, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, West Virginia, Washington, Mississippi, Louisiana, Colorado — across every region of the United States.

Those increases, as well as a slowing in reductions of incidence rates overall reflect disparities in risks and access to screening, preventive care, testing, and treatment, disproportionately affecting foreign-born, incarcerated, homeless, and indigenous and black Americans. The resulting gaps put the United States far off track from achieving the goal of eliminating the disease in the United States — which would require reducing the rate of new tuberculosis cases by nearly 4 percent each year.

While the CDC notes that the data show both the the lowest number of new TB cases — 9093 — and TB incidence rates since national tuberculosis surveillance began, the

numbers also reflect a continued slowing in the rate of incidence and case decline — from an average drop 5.3 percent from 2010 to 2013, to an average decline of 2 percent over the last three years. They also reflect a continued concentration of cases in New York, Florida, Texas, and California, which together reported half of the total of TB cases in the United States in 2017.

That, in turn includes [the first increase in tuberculosis case numbers in New York City](#) in 25 years, noted community and advocacy organizations there, that include Treatment Action Group, Housing Works, African Services Committee, [highlighting](#) impacts of cuts in funding for health programs and services.

THIS ENTRY WAS POSTED IN TB ON MARCH 22, 2018

[[HTTP://SCIENCESPEAKSBLOG.ORG/2018/03/22/U-S-TUBERCULOSIS-CASES-DROP-BUT-STILL-FAR-EXCEED-NUMBERS-SET-TO-REACH-ELIMINATION-GOALS/](http://sciencespeaksblog.org/2018/03/22/u-s-tuberculosis-cases-drop-but-still-far-exceed-numbers-set-to-reach-elimination-goals/)] .

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Say 10% Rise in Cases is 'Looming Health Crisis'

Council Steps Up Pressure on Mayor To Boost Funding to Test for TB (Free Article)

By BOB HENNELLY May 21, 2018 Updated 17 hrs ago



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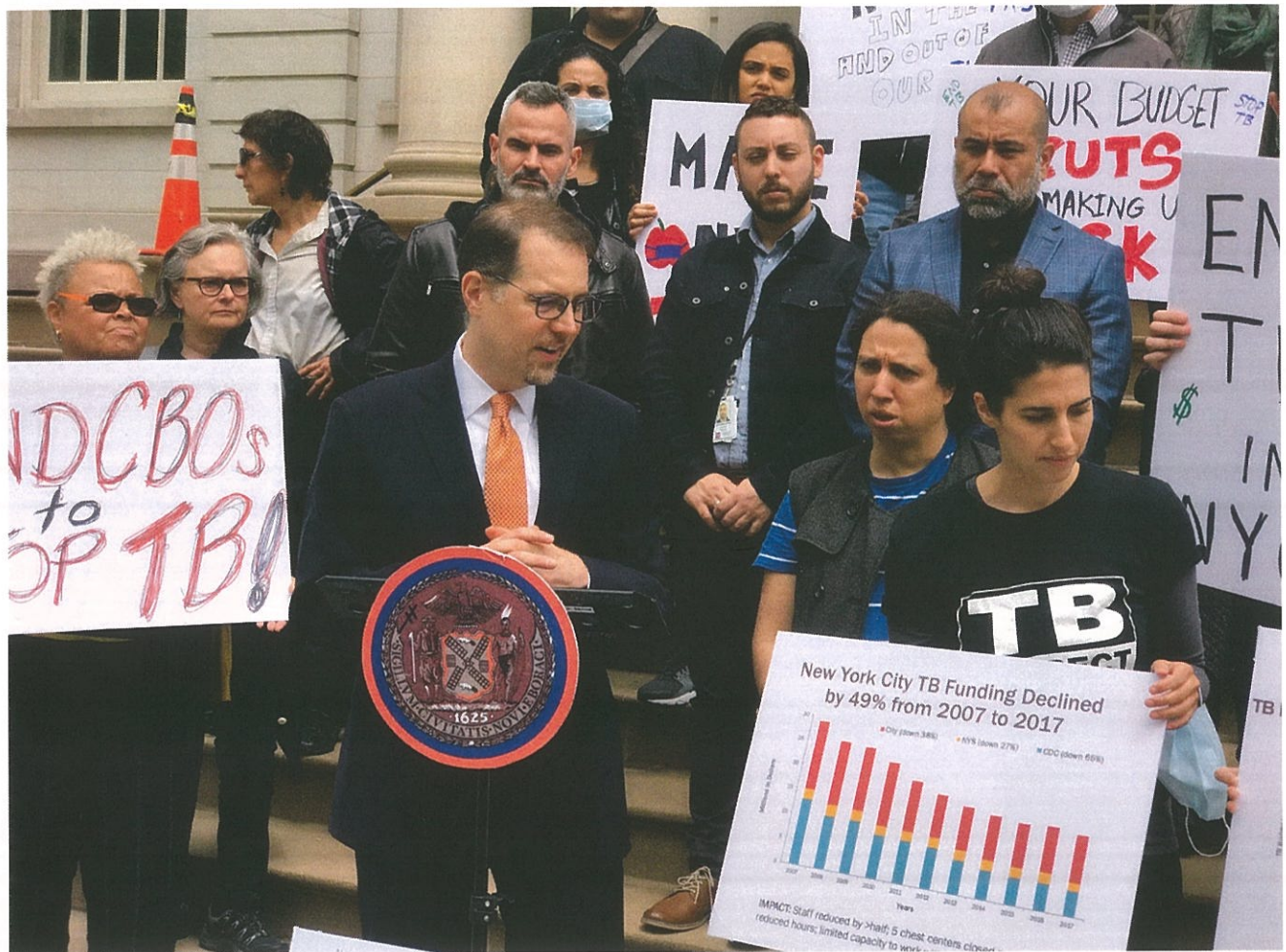


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critically
important.'



'A GOOD INVESTMENT': In the aftermath of a more-than 10-percent rise in tuberculosis cases in the city last year, and a jump in the incident of a multi-drug-resistant form of the disease, City Council Member Mark Levine said at City Hall that providing an extra \$6.7 million to subsidize testing, in the context of an \$89-billion city budget, was 'a good investment.'

The Chief-Leader/Bob Hennelly

City Council Members, immigrant-rights groups and public-health non-profits are warning the de Blasio administration that in the wake of a 10-percent spike in tuberculosis cases, additional money is needed to subsidize testing.

The TB increase in 2017 was the first significant uptick for the city in 25 years, according to the city's Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. TB is contagious, potentially deadly, but very treatable once identified. It is most common among non-US born populations.

Areas With Most Cases

Eighty-six percent of the city's tuberculosis patients were born outside the United States, according to data provided by the Health Department. The areas with the highest prevalence of it are Sunset Park, Brooklyn, western Queens, and Flushing. The leading countries of origin were China, the United States, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, India, and Mexico.

In 2017, 613 cases were reported, compared to 556 the year before. At the same time, the Department of Health reported a rise in the incidence of multi-drug-resistant TB that is not cured by two of the most important antibiotics, and as a consequence is harder and more expensive to treat.

Council Member Mark Levine, chair of the Health Committee, and Council Member Carlos Menchaca, who heads the Immigration Committee, held a rally on the steps of City Hall May 14 to turn up the heat on the Mayor before the July 1 budget deadline. At stake is an additional \$6.7 million, according to the Council Members.

“In the context of the overall city budget, now proposed to be \$89 billion—billion with a b—this is less than one tenth of one percent of the total budget to address a looming public-health crisis,” said Mr. Levine. “We think it is a good investment.”

Complicating Factor

Mr. Menchaca told the crowd that 11 years of Federal and state budget cuts to TB-detection programs had left the city with little choice but to step up its commitment. Further complicating the city’s response, he said, was concern that because of the anti-immigrant tone set by President Trump, the immigrant or foreign-born persons would avoid the agencies that do the TB health screening for fear of being deported.

“What today really represents is a lack and a gap, a real gap, over the last 11 years that has exacerbated the issue around tuberculosis in our neighborhoods, and now we have to say ‘basta’—enough,” Mr. Menchaca said. “Right now we are living in a time when there is so much fear. We tried so hard this weekend to bring families down here, and people are afraid to even come out and ask for resources for their own families, so that’s what we are here to do.”

“TB disproportionately affects black New Yorkers,” said Amanda Lugg of the Harlem-based African Services Committee. “The impact of funding cuts to groups like African Services that try to find, prevent and treat TB is glaringly clear.”

She continued, “In a regular month, African Services tests over 300 people with free HIV tests. But we are only testing 10 people for TB because they cost money and we have to cover the cost of the test.”

‘Finding TB Too Late’

She continued, “As a result, we are finding TB too late and it is spreading. TB is preventable. TB is curable. It is 2018. This is New York City. This is unacceptable. We need our leaders to commit the political will and the funding to once and for all end TB in New York City.”

The initial TB test costs \$30.

For decades the city’s efforts in reducing the incidence of tuberculosis were part of a national public-health success story. According to the city’s Bureau of Tuberculosis Control, from 1992 through 2016 the city had an 85-percent decline in TB. But over the last 10 years, the rate of annual decline slowed significantly and then plateaued.

“In the epidemic in the '90s, the estimated cost to New York City was in the billions...because of hospital services, lost work, and all the strain on first-responders and other people on the front lines in treating this epidemic,”

said Mr. Levine. "So it is simply foolish to forgo investing now, and it is an investment, in relatively modest expenses, like staffing clinics and subsidizing tests."

'Should All Be Scared'

He continued, "It is terrifying when we have multi-drug-resistant strains of TB and we see a rise in those cases and that then accelerates the risk of infection to the broader population. We should all be scared by that possibility, and acting early could prevent it from getting out of control."

In a statement, the Department of Health said the de Blasio administration had set aside sufficient funds to deal with the spike in TB cases. "We have invested \$14.7 million annually to combat tuberculosis, and are committing an additional \$1.4 million this year to address the recent 10-percent increase in cases. These additional resources will be used to build capacity for critical services identifying and treating newly infected New Yorkers, monitoring patients currently on treatment and investigating all reported TB cases," it said.

"Tuberculosis is a deadly, yet curable disease. The Health Department is the leading provider of tuberculosis care in New York City, and we are concerned about these new data that show TB rates have increased among New Yorkers," Health Commissioner Dr. Mary T. Bassett said in an earlier statement. "We're committed to ensuring equitable access to rapid and quality diagnosis and treatment for all New Yorkers."

'65% Cut by Feds'

“While the current city administration has maintained funding for TB-control efforts, over the last decade, New York City’s TB budget has been halved, including a staggering 65-percent reduction in Federal funds,” according to the Department of Health. “These funding cuts have resulted in reduced clinical services, decreased public-health activities, and significantly reduced staffing.”

“In densely populated cities with large numbers of international travelers, tuberculosis is an ongoing concern, made worse by evolving drug resistance,” said Dr. Mitchell Katz, President and Chief Executive Officer of NYC Health + Hospitals. “Identifying the disease and starting treatment early are critically important, especially in medically underserved communities, where the potential for rapid spread is greatest.”

The symptoms of an active TB infection include weight loss, a persistent cough lasting longer than three weeks, chest pain, coughing up blood or phlegm, loss of appetite, chills, fever, and night sweats.

Whenever a person who is sick with an active TB infection coughs, sneezes, speaks, sings, or engages in other activities that expose others to respiratory secretions, it puts TB germs in the air.

How It Isn’t Spread

Health officials say TB is not spread by shaking hands, sharing food, or through sexual activity. “Most people do not know they have TB until they become sick,” according to the Department of Health. “That is why it is critical for people at high risk for TB to get tested. People who are at risk

include individuals who have traveled to or lived in a country with high rates of TB or who have spent a long time around someone with active TB disease.”

The increase of the incidence of TB is on the radar of the city’s Emergency Medical Service unions, which warn that officials need to be proactive in response.

“While our members are trained to be aware, EMS personnel are in the front lines of this deadly airborne disease, which puts our members at higher risks to exposures of contracting TB than the average person,” said Oren Barzilay, president of EMS Local 2507 of DC 37.

“An airborne infectious disease increases the risks we face because it’s harder to control as opposed to a blood-borne infection,” said Vincent Variale, president of EMS Officers Local 3621 of DC 37.

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Facing Rise in Tuberculosis, Health Chair Levine and Advocates Call on City to Restore Funding

City Hall, NY, NY. May 14, 2018 – Today, City Council Health Chair Mark Levine was joined by colleagues and advocates to call on the City to increase Tuberculosis (TB) funding for the City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) Bureau of Tuberculosis Control (BTBC).

TB is a communicable airborne disease and the leading infectious killer worldwide. In 2017, there were 613 new TB cases in NYC, a 10 percent increase. This marked the city's first increase since 2003 and its largest since 1993.

Multidrug-resistant TB, which is more difficult to treat-- costing about \$300,000 per case--is also on the rise. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), New York has the 3rd highest TB case rate in the nation, disproportionately hitting immigrant communities the hardest, as 85% of New Yorkers with TB are foreign born.

Over the past 10 years, federal, state and city funding for TB has been cut by more than half, dropping from \$29 million in 2007 to \$14.7 million in 2017, with only \$8.6M of that coming from the City.

DOHMH currently operates four Chest Center clinics to provide free evaluation and treatment for Tuberculosis (TB), down from nine clinics prior to the funding cuts over the past ten years. The clinics offer free TB testing, chest x-rays, medical evaluations, and treatment for both active TB disease and for TB infection.

Restored funding would help reverse the increase in TB cases in New York City by returning clinics to full-time operating hours, restoring vital staff to the clinics and hiring additional staff to conduct outreach and care in the most needed communities.

"I stand with NYC Council Health Committee Chair Mark Levine in calling on the city to increase funding for the DOHMH's Bureau of Tuberculosis Control," said **NYC Council Finance Chair Daniel Dromm**. "The TB infection rate in NYC is climbing rapidly, yet funding to fight back against the disease is at a record low. This is a recipe for disaster. NYC needs to take immediate action to address what is fast becoming a public health emergency."

"We are in grave danger of repeating history. Similar budget cuts to TB during the 1970s and 1980s led to a disastrous TB outbreak that cost over \$1 billion to fix. That TB-- a preventable, curable disease-- is on the rise again in our city, with its wealth of resources, is inexcusable. We can't afford to underfund the TB response," said **Erica Lessem, Deputy Executive Director, TB from Treatment Action Group**.

"TB is the leading killer of people with HIV worldwide, and Americans are not immune, especially in our communities of color and immigrant communities," stated **Guillermo Chacon, President of the Latino Commission on AIDS and President of the Hispanic Health Network**. "If New York is serious about being the healthiest state, we must address TB. If New York is to honor its commitment to end the HIV epidemic, we cannot forget about TB, its most deadly—but preventable, curable—coinfection."

"Budget cuts reduce community groups' ability to provide the free services necessary to find TB early and prevent it from spreading or developing," said **African Services Committee Director of Advocacy, Amanda Lugg**. "Members of the immigrant community are suffering unnecessarily from this preventable, curable disease."

Council Member Peter Koo said, "With NYC seeing its first rise in new TB cases since 1993, there is absolutely no reason to cut the funding that is necessary to fight the prevalence of this disease. As a global city, we be sure to always stay one step ahead of communicable airborne diseases like TB. Thank you to Council Health Chair Mark Levine for urging the city to restore this important funding."

###



NEW YORK COMMUNITY GROUPS CALL ON CITY, STATE, FEDERAL ACTORS TO INCREASE FUNDING FOR TUBERCULOSIS

Advocates alarmed that budget cuts led to first rise in TB cases in New York City in over 25 years

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NEW YORK, March 22, 2018—African Services Committee, FFWA, Hispanic Federation, Hispanic Health Network, Housing Works, Latino Commission on AIDS, the New York Immigration Coalition, and Treatment Action Group call on New York City, New York State, and federal officials to restore funding for tuberculosis (TB). This follows news that there has been a rise in cases of TB, the first such increase since 1992. Drug-resistant TB, which is more difficult and costly to treat—averaging \$296,000 per case, is also increasing.

"TB is the leading killer of people with HIV worldwide, and Americans are not immune, especially in our communities of color and immigrant communities," stated Guillermo Chacon, President of the Latino Commission on AIDS and President of the Hispanic Health Network. "If New York is serious about being the healthiest state, we must address TB. If New York is to honor its commitment to end the HIV epidemic, we cannot forget about TB, its most deadly—but preventable, curable—coinfection."

"TB is on the rise, affecting the most vulnerable populations, including New York City immigrant communities," said Steve Choi, executive director of the New York Immigration Coalition. "Among New Yorkers diagnosed with TB in 2017, 86% were foreign born. The majority of them have been in the U.S. for over five years, leaving ample time for outreach and prevention that's simply not being done. Our city and state governments have promised to make New York a safe haven for all—to do so, they must address TB."

"Budget cuts reduce community groups' ability to provide the free services necessary to find TB early and prevent it from spreading or developing," said African Services Committee Director of Advocacy, Amanda Lugg. "Members of the immigrant community are suffering unnecessarily from this preventable, curable disease."

The increase in cases from 2016 to 2017 follows years of progressively reduced funding from the city, state, and federal levels. Though New York City funding has been maintained under the current administration, plummeting support between 2007 and 2012 reduced city funding from \$16.43M in 2007 (adjusted for inflation) to just \$8.59 million in the current fiscal year. State budget cuts in the current fiscal year reduced support to New York City services by 20%. Federal funding for TB in New York City has shrunk by nearly three-quarters from 2007 to 2017.

"We know from decades of past experience that unless we change course quickly, this pattern of years of devastating cuts followed by a predictable subsequent rise in TB cases are a harbinger of much worse to come," said Housing Works President and CEO Charles King. "Similar cuts dismantling the public health response to TB during the 1970s and 1980s led to a TB outbreak and drug-resistant TB in New York City—and we spent over \$1 billion in the 1990s to fix those disastrous mistakes. Let's not repeat history."

As a result of budget cuts and increasing case rates, funding per case of TB has decreased by over 56%. All but four of the city's chest clinics have been shuttered, and the City's TB response staff has been reduced by nearly half. Health, housing, and immigrant advocate and community groups are asking for a restoration of funding for New York City's TB response to \$14.89 million at the city level, \$7.83 million at the state level, and \$10.9 million at the federal level.

"We have the tools we need to end TB as a public health threat in New York City—what's missing is funding and political will to do so," noted Erica Lessem, Deputy Executive Director – TB from Treatment Action Group. "That TB is on the rise in our city in this state and country, with their wealth of resources, is inexcusable."

###

About African Services Committee (ASC): African Services is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the health and self-sufficiency of the African community. We provide health, housing, legal, educational, and social services to thousands of newcomers each year in New York City with a focus on health promotion and disease prevention, care and support. We also work on the frontlines of the global AIDS epidemic; operating five clinics in Ethiopia and through advocacy and policy work in the U.S. and abroad.

About FPWA: FPWA is an anti-poverty, policy, and advocacy nonprofit with a membership network of 170 human service and faith-based organizations. For nearly a century, FPWA has been a prominent force in New York City's social services system, advocating for fair public policies, collaborating with partner agencies, and growing its community-based membership and coalition networks to meet the needs of all New Yorkers. Each year, through our network of member agencies, FPWA serves thousands of New Yorkers of all ages, ethnicities, and denominations.

About Hispanic Federation (HF): Hispanic Federation is the nation's premier Latino nonprofit membership organization. Founded in 1990, HF seeks to support Hispanic families and strengthen Latino institutions through work in the areas of education, health, immigration, civic engagement, economic empowerment, & the environment.

About Housing Works: Housing Works is a vibrant, healing community of people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS. Our mission is to end the dual crises of homelessness and AIDS through relentless advocacy, the provision of lifesaving services, and entrepreneurial businesses that sustain our efforts. As the largest grassroots AIDS organization in the U.S., we are committed to the use of non-violent civil disobedience to further our mission. Through our advocacy offices in New York City, Albany, D.C., Haiti, and Puerto Rico, we fight for funding and legislation to ensure that all PLWHAs have access to quality housing, healthcare, HIV prevention information, legal protections from stigma and discrimination, and other essential services.

About the Latino Commission on AIDS: The Latino Commission on AIDS (Commission) is a nonprofit membership organization founded in 1990 dedicated to meet the health challenges and addressing the impact of HIV/AIDS. The Commission is the leading organization coordinating National Hispanic Hepatitis Awareness Day (May 15), National Latino AIDS Awareness Day (October 15), Latinos and the Deep South, and other prevention, research, capacity building, and advocacy programs across the United States and its territories. The Latino Commission is the founder of the Hispanic Health Network, dedicated to eliminate health disparities in our communities.

About the New York Immigration Coalition (NYIC): The New York Immigration Coalition is an umbrella policy and advocacy organization for more than 200 groups in New York State that work with immigrants and refugees. The NYIC aims to achieve a fairer and more just society that values the contributions of immigrants and extends opportunity to all by promoting immigrants' full civic participation, fostering their leadership, and providing a unified voice and a vehicle for collective action for New York's diverse immigrant communities.

About Treatment Action Group (TAG): Treatment Action Group is an independent, activist, and community-based research and policy think tank fighting for better treatment and prevention, a vaccine, and a cure for HIV, TB, and hepatitis C virus (HCV). TAG works to ensure that all people with HIV, TB, and HCV receive lifesaving treatment, care, and information. We are science-based treatment activists working to expand and accelerate vital research and effective community engagement with research and policy institutions.

Tuberculosis in New York City: A Growing Threat

Tuberculosis (TB) is the leading infectious killer worldwide, and New York City is not immune. TB is an airborne, communicable disease—if we don't prevent and treat it properly today, TB will spread, taking many more lives and costing much more to treat.

The New York City TB program leads the rest of the country in its cutting-edge, cost-effective programming to prevent, detect, and treat TB. However, New York has the 3rd highest TB case rate in the country, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). **TB is on the rise in New York City, as is multidrug-resistant TB (MDR-TB)**, which is even costlier and more difficult to treat. The CDC estimates that a single case of MDR-TB in the U.S. averages costs of \$294,000 in direct costs and productivity losses, and even more resistant cases known as extensively drug-resistant TB (XDR-TB) average \$694,000. These costs are likely even higher in New York City. The financial and human toll of TB on New York is immense.

Since 2015, Multidrug-Resistant TB is on the Rise



Immigrant communities disproportionately bear the burden of TB in New York City. Among New Yorkers with TB, 85% are foreign-born, from over 67 different countries. The majority of New Yorkers with TB have been in the U.S. for five years or more, meaning they are likely entering the country with TB infection but not yet active disease, and there is ample time to intervene and prevent active TB disease from developing if resources are available to do so. Proactively addressing TB in linguistically and culturally appropriate ways is essential.

Funding crisis

The capacity for a robust TB response has been weakened over the years through eroding funding for TB from the city, state, and federal funding levels. The impact of these cuts has been grave, especially at a time when cases of TB and MDR-TB are

List of Chest Centers Full-time (losing Saturday hours):

- Fort Green
- Corona

Part-time:

- Morrisania
- Washington Heights

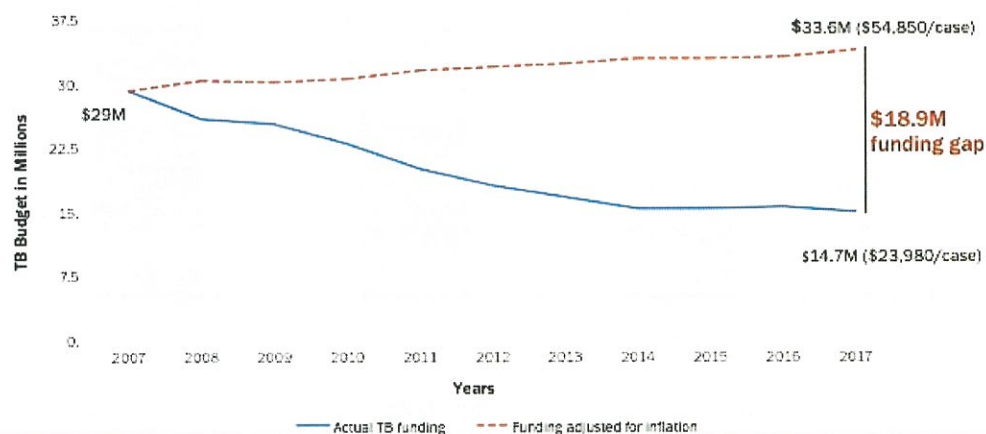
Closed:

- Brownsville
- Bushwick
- Jamaica
- Bedford
- Chelsea
- Richmond

on the rise, and as new treatment and prevention options offer great hope but require more resources. Many TB clinics have been closed. The remaining TB clinics are in disrepair, and have either been reduced to part-time, or are having to cut their convenient, patient- and community-friendly hours. The TB response workforce has been cut nearly in half, with key positions unfilled, limiting capacity for culturally-sensitive outreach. Funding available per case has shrunk from \$54,850 in 2007 (after adjusting for inflation) to just \$23,980 per case.

With these persistent cuts, New York City is repeating history. Similarly short-sighted underfunding of the public health response to TB in the 1980s contributed to a massive outbreak of drug-resistant TB in the early 1990s. Undoing that damage that took over \$1 billion and years of work. By investing more in the TB response now, we can save orders of magnitude more work and resources, and avoid further suffering from TB.

New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene TB Funding and Funding Adjusted for Inflation, 2007-2017



Inflation adjustment reflects the Consumer Price Index (CPI), <https://www.bls.gov/tables/historical/cpi-u-201711.pdf>

To do its part in closing this perilous funding gap, **we request an increase to New York City funding to \$14.89 million to the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) Bureau of Tuberculosis Control (BTBC)**. This represents a \$6.3 million increase over last year. We are making similar requests (though proportionally higher) at the state and federal levels. Restored funding would allow for reversing the increase in TB cases and accelerating the decline of TB in New York City through:

- Reinstating key staff positions;
- Hiring additional staff to conduct culturally-sensitive outreach and care;
- Restoring part-time clinics to full-time, and allowing for patient-friendly clinic hours;
- Collaborating with community providers to test and treat for TB infection and active disease for all high-risk New Yorkers.

UNITE



STOP TB

NYC

>> MISSION: The Bureau of Tuberculosis Control (BTBC) aims to prevent the spread of tuberculosis (TB) and eliminate it as a public health problem in New York City (NYC)

GOALS

1

Identify all individuals with suspected and confirmed TB disease and ensure their appropriate treatment, ideally on directly observed therapy (DOT)

2

Ensure that individuals at high risk for progression from latent TB infection to TB disease complete treatment and do not develop disease

ACTIVITIES

- Maintain a surveillance system for all TB cases and their contacts, all people suspected of having TB disease and children younger than 5 years of age with latent TB infection
- Ensure that providers and laboratories report suspected and confirmed TB cases to the New York City Health Department
- Conduct intensive case management to ensure that TB patients remain under medical supervision until treatment completion, with DOT as the standard of care
- Conduct contact investigations to identify individuals with TB disease or latent TB infection and ensure appropriate treatment
- Detect and respond to outbreaks to prevent the spread of TB
- Set standards and guidelines and consult on all aspects of TB control, including prevention, diagnosis and treatment of TB disease and latent TB infection
- Provide medical consultation and perform timely reviews of discharge plans submitted by hospitals and providers
- Operate state-of-the-art chest clinics for TB screening, diagnosis and treatment at no cost to the patient
- Ensure that all positive cultures for *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* are sent to the NYC Public Health Laboratory for drug susceptibility testing and genotyping analysis
- Use data to monitor trends, inform programmatic decision-making and conduct research and evaluation
- Align funding allocations with program priorities
- Collaborate with community-based organizations and health care providers to improve TB prevention and management
- Support advocacy to maintain and improve the TB public health infrastructure
- Ensure data confidentiality

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ABOUT THIS REPORT: This report covers calendar year 2017 and provides robust surveillance data, summaries of core program activities and highlights. The data reflect the most complete information available as of January 22, 2018. For additional details on the use of denominators and definitions in this report, please see Technical Notes (page 32).

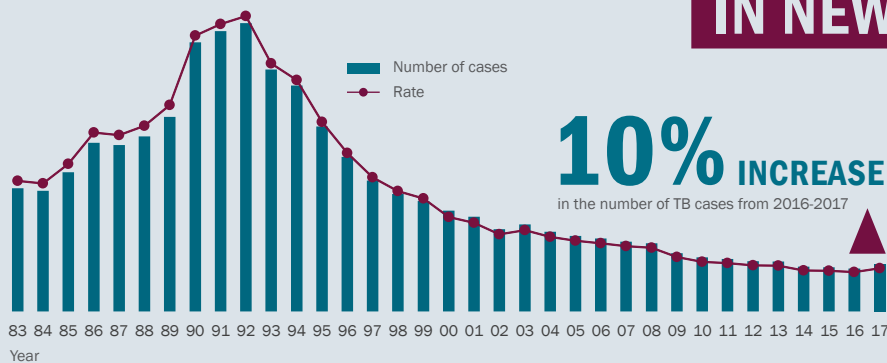
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TUBERCULOSIS

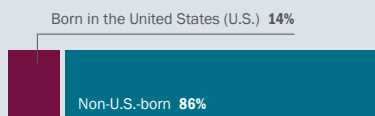
IN NEW YORK CITY, 2017



613 Number of TB cases verified in NYC in 2017

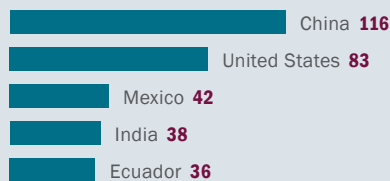
7.5 NYC citywide TB rate per 100,000 people

COUNTRY OF BIRTH



75 Number of countries of birth represented among patients with TB disease

MOST COMMON COUNTRIES OF BIRTH AMONG PATIENTS:



TB IN NYC NEIGHBORHOODS

- Above citywide TB rate (7.6 to 20.2 per 100,000)
- At or below citywide TB rate (2.9 to 7.5 per 100,000)
- At or below provisional national TB rate (0.9 to 2.8 per 100,000)
- No NYC TB cases
- Health Department chest clinic location

12 Number of United Hospital Fund neighborhoods with a TB rate higher than the 2017 citywide rate

The Health Department provides TB services free of charge to **ALL PATIENTS**, regardless of their immigration status, insurance status or ability to pay

MULTIDRUG RESISTANCE

14 Number of patients diagnosed in 2017 who had multidrug-resistant (MDR) TB, defined as a TB strain resistant to isoniazid and rifampin, the two most important and effective drugs in the TB treatment regimen

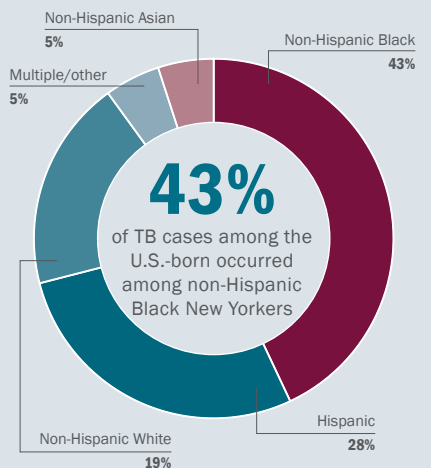
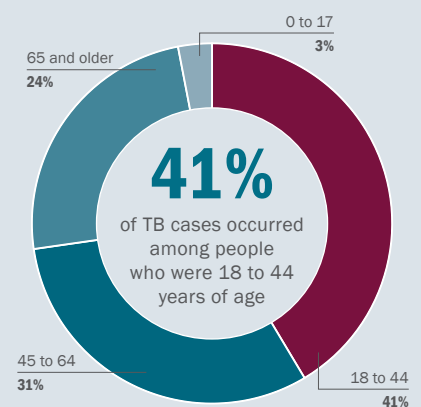
1 Number of patients diagnosed in 2017 who had extensively drug resistant (XDR) TB; five patients had a resistance pattern only one drug away from XDR TB

7 Median number of drugs to which there was known drug resistance among MDR TB cases (Range 3-12)



DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

63% of TB cases occurred among males

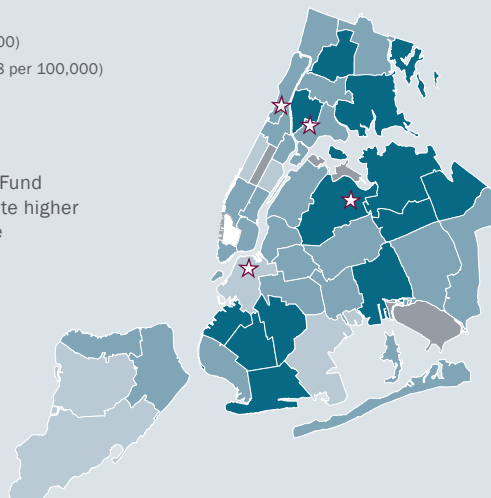


CLINICAL CHARACTERISTICS

5% Proportion of TB cases among patients known to be HIV-infected

80% Proportion of TB cases with a pulmonary site of disease

83% Proportion of TB cases with a positive culture



March 24, 2018

Dear Colleagues,

This year, we are reminded of the challenges we face in controlling tuberculosis (TB). In last year's report, the Health Department highlighted the slowing decline of TB cases and incidence rates in New York City (NYC). In 2017, the number of new TB cases in NYC rose 10%, from 556 to 613, with incidence rates increasing from 6.8 per 100,000 to 7.5 per 100,000. This is the first increase in NYC since 2003* and the largest increase in the last 25 years.


TB cases were identified in almost every neighborhood in NYC in 2017 and the disease continues to affect patients across races, nationalities, ages and income levels. Fourteen patients had multidrug-resistant (MDR) TB, including one patient who had extensively drug-resistant (XDR) TB and five patients who had a resistance pattern only one drug away from XDR TB. These patients come from countries around the world—including the United States—reminding us that TB is not just a global crisis but a local one.

As local, national and global conversations turn to the possibility of TB elimination, we must remain fully committed to combatting this curable and preventable disease. To do so, we must continue to work alongside communities to increase access to quality care, maintain our critical public health infrastructure in the face of funding challenges, invest in research and strengthen our collaborations with key partners including health care providers, laboratories and patients.

We have innovative tools at our disposal that can help us make further headway against TB. The Health Department's TB chest clinics offer state-of-the-art diagnostic, treatment and care modalities regardless of patient immigration status or ability to pay. Our efforts to diagnose, treat and prevent TB have been improved with new rapid diagnostics, shortened preventive therapies and remote video-enabled directly observed therapy. Our dedicated staff and partners work tirelessly to ensure that patients and their contacts receive high-quality care and successfully complete treatment.

United, we can continue to reduce TB transmission and infection, cut rates of disease and deliver compassionate, high-quality care to our patients and communities. Thank you for joining our efforts and for your ongoing commitment to fighting TB.

Sincerely,



Joseph N. Burzynski, MD, MPH
Assistant Commissioner, Bureau of Tuberculosis Control

* NYC reported a 5.7% increase in the number of TB cases from 2002-2003, partially attributable to a change in surveillance practices.

CORE ACTIVITIES

STOP 1B

REPORTING AND SURVEILLANCE

Health care providers and laboratories are required to report to the New York City Health Department:

1. All patients with confirmed TB disease
2. Anyone suspected of having TB disease
3. Children younger than 5 years of age with a positive test for TB infection

Staff of the Health Department's Bureau of TB Control (BTBC) review all submitted reports for completeness and timeliness and determine whether patients are eligible for case management. The Health Department maintains an electronic registry and case management system (Maven version 5.4.3.1, Conduent Public Health Solutions, Florham Park, NJ) that includes information for all reported patients and people exposed to infectious TB patients (contacts). This data is used to conduct case management activities, ensure TB treatment completion, monitor epidemiologic trends, detect and respond to TB outbreaks, prepare surveillance reports, report aggregated data to the State health department and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and identify data quality and reporting issues. BTBC also coordinates with health departments in other jurisdictions to ensure continuity of care for TB patients working or living outside of NYC.

>> For additional information about NYC TB reporting requirements, see pages 28-29.

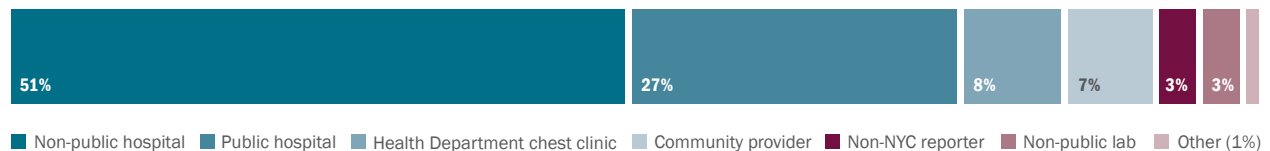
>> **HEALTH CODE CHANGE: CHILDREN YOUNGER THAN 5 WITH A POSITIVE TEST FOR TB INFECTION:** The NYC Health Code now requires health care providers to report the following for any child younger than 5 years of age with a positive test for TB infection (e.g., tuberculin skin test [TST] or blood-based interferon-gamma release assay [IGRA]):

- Quantitative and qualitative test results
- Chest radiograph results
- Name and dose of any medication that has been initiated for the treatment of latent TB infection

REPORTING AND SURVEILLANCE HIGHLIGHTS, 2017:

- **613** cases of confirmed TB disease were verified by the Health Department.
- **3,449** individuals with suspected TB disease and **72** children younger than 5 years of age with latent TB infection were reported to the Health Department.
- **106** facilities reported at least one TB case; nearly half (**49%**) of all cases were reported by **14** facilities.

FIGURE 1: Initial reporter of confirmed tuberculosis cases verified in 2017 by reporter type, New York City (NYC)



CLINICAL SERVICES

The Health Department is the leading provider of TB care in NYC. TB-related services are provided at four chest clinics located in the Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan and Queens. Health Department physicians working at the chest clinics are specialists in internal medicine, preventive medicine, pulmonary medicine, infectious diseases, pediatrics and

occupational health. Anyone with symptoms of TB disease or a positive test for latent TB infection is eligible for medical evaluation and treatment at a Health Department chest clinic at no cost to the individual.

The Health Department provides TB diagnostic services, including testing for latent TB infection (using blood-based QuantiFERON®-TB Gold In-Tube [QFT] test and TST), sputum induction, chest radiographs, medical evaluation, treatment for TB disease and latent TB infection, and DOT services.

The majority of patients evaluated and treated at Health Department chest clinics are referred by NYC health care providers, other health departments and social service providers. Chest clinic staff also refer patients to other medical professionals for further evaluation and treatment of non-TB related conditions as indicated.

EVALUATION OF NEWLY ARRIVED IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES: People applying for permanent U.S. immigration status and refugee status are screened for TB as part of their overseas medical examination. If the pre-immigration examination finds clinical suspicion of TB, a Class A designation is given and the applicant is not allowed to travel until treatment is completed or the patient is no longer infectious. If findings suggest non-infectious TB (i.e., latent TB infection or old TB), the applicant is given a Class B designation and travel clearance, and the applicant's destination is notified by the CDC. The destination city must notify the individual of the need for TB re-evaluation. BTBC follows up with all immigrants and refugees arriving in NYC with Class A or B status. The majority come to a Health Department chest clinic for re-evaluation.

HIV TESTING AND COUNSELING SERVICES: BTBC staff provide rapid HIV testing and HIV counseling services at Health Department chest clinics and refer patients with HIV infection to health care providers who specialize in HIV treatment. Anonymous HIV testing and counseling are also available at chest clinics independent of need for TB services.

» For additional information about chest clinic locations and services, see page 33.

CLINICAL SERVICES HIGHLIGHTS, 2017:

- Health Department chest clinics provided TB-related services to **8,653** unique patients during **34,665** encounters.
- **337** (55%) patients with TB disease received some or all of their TB care at a Health Department chest clinic.
- **3,631** individuals were referred to Health Department chest clinics for TB evaluation (i.e., TB testing, chest radiograph and medical exam) by community health care providers, social service providers, hospitals and other jurisdictions.
- BTBC was notified of **1,942** Class A and B immigrants arriving in NYC; of those, **1,735** were eligible for TB evaluation. As of January 22, 2018, **1,082** (62%) had received initial evaluation for TB disease or latent TB infection.

CASE MANAGEMENT

TB case management activities include patient education, comprehensive patient interviews, medical chart reviews, contact identification, contact evaluation and DOT. BTBC staff conduct home assessments to determine whether infectious TB patients can be isolated at home, provide general patient support, transfer patient care between NYC and other jurisdictions and work with community providers and City, State and federal programs. Case managers also perform monthly monitoring for adherence to medical appointments and treatment and locate patients who are non-adherent to treatment and help them return to medical supervision. The Health Department provides TB case management for NYC residents diagnosed with or suspected of having TB disease and their associated contacts, regardless of where they are receiving their TB care.

CONTACT INVESTIGATION: The Health Department routinely conducts contact investigations among household and social contacts and in congregate settings (e.g., worksites, schools, health care-associated settings). The Health Department identifies and evaluates individuals exposed to infectious TB patients, ensures appropriate treatment among contacts diagnosed with TB disease or latent TB infection, and determines if transmission has occurred to assess whether further testing is needed.

DIRECTLY OBSERVED THERAPY (DOT): DOT is the standard of care for managing patients with suspected or confirmed TB disease in NYC, regardless of where they are treated. During DOT, a patient is observed by a health care worker while ingesting anti-TB medications. The Health Department provides DOT services at all chest clinics and at homes, worksites and other locations as requested by the patient. The Health Department also provides video DOT (vDOT) for many patients. VDOT is convenient for patients and enables continuity of DOT services outside of traditional business hours and when patients travel. DOT is also available through three NYC Health+Hospitals facilities: Elmhurst Hospital, Kings County Hospital and Bellevue Hospital Center.

» To learn more about the DOT program or to enroll a patient, call **311**.

REGULATORY ACTION: For patients with infectious TB who may pose a danger to the public's health, the Health Department has the authority under the NYC Health Code to legally mandate compliance with TB treatment. This may include compulsory evaluation, mandatory DOT and/or involuntary hospitalization to complete TB therapy.

MEDICAL CONSULTATION: Health Department physicians conduct reviews for all patients with suspected or confirmed TB disease and consult with community providers on TB treatment and patient management. This includes consultation for patients with drug-resistant TB and review of hospital discharge plans.

» To obtain expert medical consultation regarding TB, call the TB hotline at **844-713-0559** or call **311**.

CASE MANAGEMENT HIGHLIGHTS, 2017:

- Case management was initiated for **613** newly confirmed TB cases and **1,455** patients suspected of having TB disease. Case management activities were continued for **414** previously diagnosed cases and were also conducted for **99** patients with TB verified outside of NYC.
- **3,294** contacts were identified for **447** potentially infectious TB cases; **2,380** (72%) contacts were evaluated as of January 22, 2018, and **539** (23%) had a new positive TB test result.
- **400** eligible patients with confirmed TB disease were enrolled in DOT through the Health Department or another health care provider. **179** were enrolled exclusively in face-to-face DOT; **221** received some or all of their DOT through vDOT. Health Department staff provided approximately **39,237** DOT observations for **753** patients with suspected or confirmed TB disease or latent TB infection.

DRUG SUSCEPTIBILITY TESTING AND GENOTYPING

The NYC Health Code mandates that a portion of the initial isolate from all culture-positive TB patients be sent to the NYC Public Health Laboratory for drug susceptibility testing (DST) and genotyping.

DST results identify drug resistance profiles for TB strains and inform treatment regimens and the clinical management of patients with TB disease. Molecular-based laboratory diagnostics (e.g., nucleic-acid amplification tests) are now being routinely used in acute care hospitals, commercial laboratories and public health reference laboratories. These tests can rapidly confirm the presence of *M. tuberculosis* and provide information on the presence of mutations in specific genes that are known to predict drug resistance. Though results from these tests do not replace phenotypic data obtained through conventional methods, mutation results from tests obtained on the specimen are typically available first and should be used by the patient's provider to customize empirical TB treatment. When there is discordance between phenotypic and mutation results, providers should consult with the Health Department.

Genotype results identify whether TB strains are genetically related (i.e., clustered), which helps the Health Department identify false positive laboratory results, detect outbreaks and identify where TB transmission may be occurring. Potential false positive culture results and possible instances of contamination are promptly investigated to ensure that patients are not placed on anti-TB medications unnecessarily.

In 2017, BTBC changed its cluster definition from "cases having isolates with matching restriction fragment length polymorphism analysis (RFLP) and spacer oligonucleotide typing (spoligotype) results" to "cases with matching spoligotype and 24-loci mycobacterial interspersed repetitive unit–variable number tandem repeat (MIRU) results."

» **UNIVERSAL WHOLE GENOME SEQUENCING:** In 2017, BTBC collaborated with New York State (NYS) Wadsworth Center and the NYC public health laboratory to conduct whole genome sequencing (WGS) for all patients with culture-positive *M. tuberculosis*. WGS detects mutations associated with drug resistance and allows staff to characterize and compare TB strains to inform outbreak detection and investigation activities.

DRUG SUSCEPTIBILITY TESTING AND GENOTYPING HIGHLIGHTS, 2017:

- Isolates were submitted to NYC and NYS public health laboratories for **496** (98%) of 506 culture-confirmed TB cases; of these, phenotypic DST results were available for **496** (100%) cases and molecular DST results were available for **487** (98%) cases.
- Genotype results were available for **486** (96%) culture-positive TB cases; WGS results were available for **467** (92%) culture-positive TB cases.
- **45** false positive investigations were initiated, of which **9** investigations confirmed a false positive result. **21** were closed as unlikely false positive and **12** were inconclusive. **3** investigations were ongoing as of January 22, 2018.

TRAINING, OUTREACH AND COLLABORATION

BTBC engages various stakeholders to advance efforts to detect, treat and prevent TB throughout NYC.

BTBC STAFF support patients through treatment completion, provide guidance to physicians based on BTBC guidelines and educate communities about TB. Educational materials developed by the CDC and BTBC are used to supplement staff training, which is delivered by experts from BTBC and the Northeastern TB Center of Excellence for Training, Education and Medical Consultation. All staff are trained on the basics of TB and TB control. Supplemental training, job aids and electronic resources support the development of skills in case management, infection control, cultural competency, health equity and other topics.

COMMUNITIES WITH HIGH TB BURDEN are engaged as partners in efforts to increase TB knowledge and encourage community members to seek care when needed. Community-based organizations, elected representatives and other partners help deliver culturally and linguistically appropriate educational messaging through community events and via print and electronic media. They also support TB screening efforts at health fairs and mobile van-based testing events.

INDIVIDUALS AT HIGH RISK FOR TB are the focus of targeted community-based testing events and efforts to increase TB screening and reduce barriers to accessing health care services. BTBC staff link individuals with latent TB infection who are identified at community events to medical evaluation and treatment. Educational materials developed for individuals at high risk for TB are used in the community and in Health Department chest clinics.

HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS collaborate with BTBC in many capacities and are offered opportunities to discuss and learn about TB testing, diagnosis, and treatment. BTBC experts provide TB presentations, case management conferences, and clinical consultation at hospitals and outpatient facilities throughout the city. BTBC also co-sponsors an annual medical conference in honor of World TB Day to discuss best practices and update providers on the latest TB care guidelines and recommendations. For updated TB care guidelines, visit nyc.gov/health and search for "tuberculosis."

» To order educational materials (see page 30), call 311 or visit nyc.gov/health and search "tuberculosis." To request a lecture or Grand Rounds presentation, or for more information about TB conferences, please email TBtraining@health.nyc.gov.

OUTREACH AND TRAINING HIGHLIGHTS, 2017:

- BTBC staff presented **12** medical talks at various hospitals and outpatient facilities throughout the city.
- BTBC hosted **11** community-based events in collaboration with community partners, including the Office of Assemblyman Felix Ortiz, Charles B. Wang Community Health Center, Academy of Medical and Public Health Services, Mixteca, YWCA Flushing, Philippine Nurses Association, MetroPlus, Chinese Planning Council, Ascension Church in Queens and St. Sebastian Church in Queens.
- BTBC tested **313** individuals during community-based events, mobile van testing sessions and community health fairs; **89** (28%) had a positive result and were referred for follow-up medical evaluation and care.

» **BTBC PARTICIPATION IN ADVISORY GROUPS AND CONSORTIA IN 2017:** Advisory Council for the Elimination of TB • CDC/Infectious Disease Society of America/American Thoracic Society National Multidrug Resistant TB Guidelines Writing Committee • CDC RVCT Revision Workgroup • CDC TB Education and Training Network • CDC TB Epidemiologic Studies Consortium Board of Advisors • CDC TB Program Evaluation Network • CDC TB Outbreak Detection Workgroup • CDC TB Trials Consortium • National TB Controllers Association (Board of Directors, Latent TB Infection Reporting Workgroup, National Society of TB Clinicians, Survey Committee, Society for Epidemiology in TB Control) • Northeastern TB Center of Excellence for Training, Education and Medical Consultation Training and Medical Consultation Center Medical Advisory Board

PROGRAM EVALUATION

The Health Department uses a series of performance indicators to compare BTBC's performance to national standards and ensure that program objectives are being met. These indicators help identify programmatic issues and areas for improvement in case management and contact investigation and inform program planning and policy decisions. Indicators include goals for culture conversion, contact evaluation and treatment completion. Performance indicators and targets are developed in coordination with Health Department partners and funders, including the NYS Department of Health (NYS DOH) and the CDC. Certain performance indicators must be reported to the NYS DOH and the CDC.

COHORT REVIEW: One of the Health Department's primary tools for evaluating its TB control program is the quarterly cohort review process. Four to six months after a patient's TB diagnosis, BTBC's Assistant Commissioner and other BTBC staff review case management activities, treatment status and data quality for all NYC patients with confirmed TB disease and their contacts. Successes and challenges in patient care and case management are used to inform programmatic changes and identify training needs. *(For the most recent performance indicators, see page 26.)*

RESEARCH

The Health Department actively participates in TB research, including observational studies on TB epidemiology in NYC and clinical research through the CDC TB Trials Consortium (TBTC), which conducts national and international studies to develop new treatment regimens for TB disease and latent TB infection. NYC TB data are presented at meetings and conferences locally, nationally and internationally.

NYC TB RESEARCH CONSORTIUM: The Health Department leads the NYC TB Research Consortium, which brings together health department, academic, laboratory and other researchers to collaborate on projects focusing on TB in NYC. The group's activities include research to inform TB prevention, care and management policy and practice; epidemiologic and clinical studies; pursuing funding opportunities; and mentoring researchers and students to develop research skills for future public health careers. To date, NYC TB Research Consortium participants have included Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Columbia University, Drexel University, Johns Hopkins University, Public Health Research Institute at Rutgers University, the Treatment Action Group (TAG) and Yale University.

BTBC STAFF PUBLICATIONS IN PEER-REVIEWED JOURNALS, 2017:

- Burzynski J. The Use of Modeling to Compare Tuberculosis Dynamics in Four U.S. States. *Am J Respir Crit Care Med*. 2017 Oct 15;196(8):953-954.
- Fojo AT, Stennis N, Azman A, Kendall EA, Shrestha S, Ahuja SD, Dowdy DW. Current and future trends of tuberculosis in New York City: a dynamic model. *Lancet Public Health*. 2017 Jul 2: e323–30
- Fox GJ, Benedetti A, Cox H, Koh WJ, Viiklepp P, Ahuja S, Pasvol G, Menzies D; Collaborative Group for Meta-Analysis of Individual Patient Data in MDR-TB. Group 5 drugs for multidrug-resistant tuberculosis: individual patient data meta-analysis. *Eur Respir J*. 2017 Jan 3;49(1)
- Levanon Seligson A, Parvez FM, Lim SW, Singh T, Mavinkurve M, Harris TG, Kerker B. Public Health and Vulnerable Populations: Morbidity and mortality among people ever-incarcerated in NYC jails, 2001–2005. *J Correct Health Care*. 2017 Oct;23(4):421-436.
- Macaraig M, Lobato MN, McGinnis Pilote K, Wegener D. A National Survey on the Use of Electronic Directly Observed Therapy for Treatment of Tuberculosis. *J Public Health Manag Pract*. 2017 Jul 7. [Epub ahead of print]
- Slutsker JS, Trieu L, Crossa A, Ahuja SD. Using Reports of Latent Tuberculosis Infection among Young Children to Identify Tuberculosis Transmission in New York City, 2006–2012. *Am J Epidemiol*. 2017 Nov 8. [Epub ahead of print]
- Smith SE, Pratt R, Trieu L, Barry PM, Thai DT, Ahuja SD, Shah S. Epidemiology of Pediatric Multidrug-Resistant Tuberculosis in the United States, 1993-2014. *Clin Infect Dis*. 2017 Oct 16;65(9):1437-1443..
- Stennis NL, Sullivan Meissner J, Bhavnani D, Kreiswirth B, Ahuja SD, Tuberculosis disease among Mexico-born individuals living in New York City, 2001-2014. *Int J Tuberc Lung Dis* 21(6):657–663.

» For more information about research at BTBC or to join the NYC TB Research Consortium, contact TB-epi@health.nyc.gov

FUNDING AND ADMINISTRATION

BTBC receives City, State and federal funding. The operating budget for the fiscal period of July 1, 2017, through June 30, 2018 was approximately \$14.8 million. Of this budget, 13% supported other-than-personnel services (OTPS), 84% supported personnel services and 3% went toward indirect costs. These funds support all TB prevention and control activities, from hiring staff to operating Health Department chest clinics. BTBC staff work to ensure that funds are allocated, monitored and utilized efficiently.

BTBC FUNDING AND STAFFING, JULY 1, 2017 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2018

FIGURE 2: Bureau of Tuberculosis Control (BTBC) funding distribution for other-than-personnel services (OTPS) by type

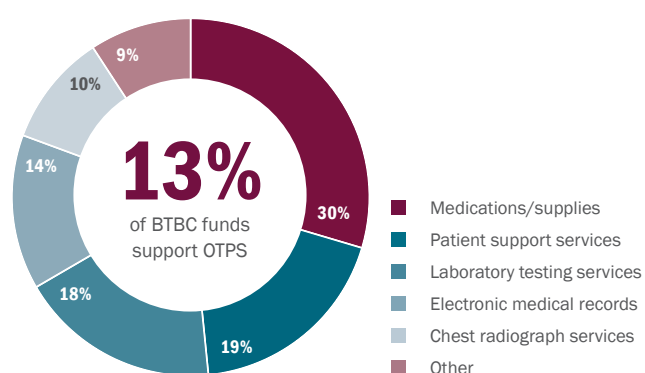
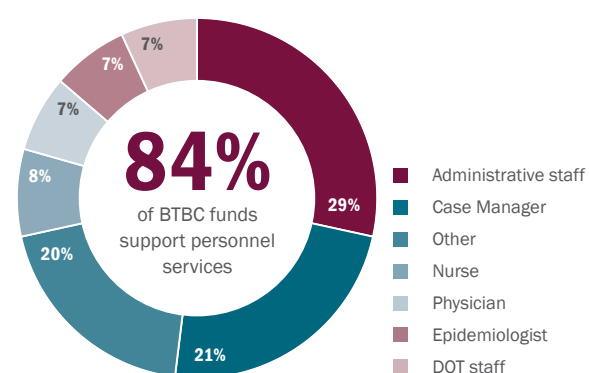


FIGURE 3: Bureau of Tuberculosis Control (BTBC) staff¹ by job function (n=174)



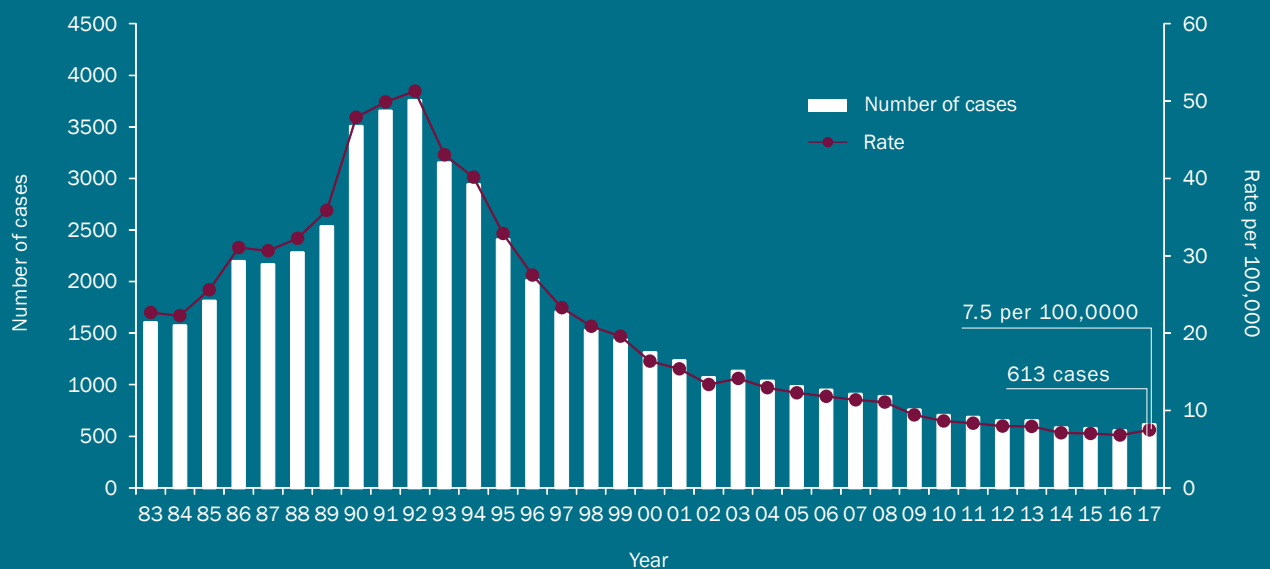
1. Excludes 36 non-Health Department personnel assigned to BTBC

PROFILE OF TB CASES

STOP TB

In 2017, the number of confirmed tuberculosis (TB) cases in New York City increased to 613, a **10% increase** from 2016. This is the largest increase in the number of TB cases since 1992.

FIGURE 4: Tuberculosis cases and rates,¹ New York City, 1983-2017



1983-1992:

Overall increase: **134%**
Average annual increase: **11%**

1992-2003:

Overall decrease: **70%**
Average annual decrease, 1992-2002: **10%**
One-year increase, 2002-2003: **6%**

2003-2017:

Overall decrease: **46%**
Average annual decrease, 2004-2016: **5%**
One-year increase, 2016-2017: **10%**

1. Rates are based on decennial census data

TB EPIDEMIOLOGY IN NYC, 1983-2017

1983-1992: From 1983 to the peak of the NYC TB epidemic in 1992, the number of TB cases increased 134%, from 1,603 to 3,755 cases. This drastic increase was attributed to multiple factors including the emergence of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, poor infection control practices in health care facilities, increases in poverty and homelessness, increases in immigration from TB-endemic countries and the reduction in public health infrastructure to control TB.

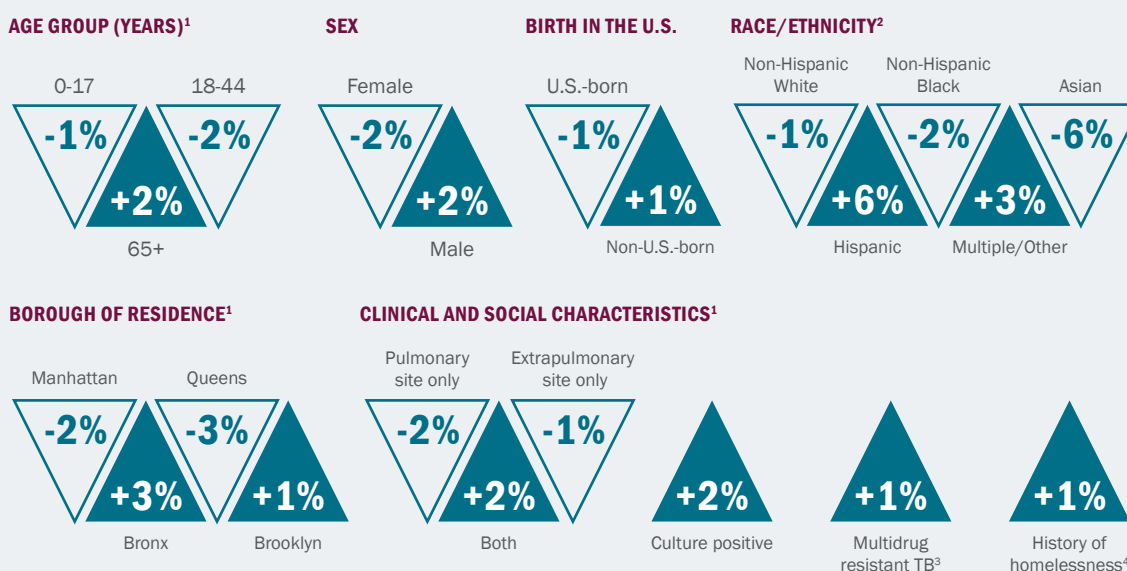
1992-2003: With renewed investment in TB control and the advent of anti-retroviral therapies, TB cases declined 72% overall between 1992 and 2002, with an average annual decrease of 10%. In 2003, NYC experienced a 6% increase in cases, which was attributed to a change in case counting methods and increased transmission of TB among homeless individuals.

2003-2017: From 2003 to 2016, the decline in cases slowed, with an average 5% decrease each year. Overall, the number of cases fell 51%, from 1,132 in 2003 to a record low of 556 cases in 2016. Resources for TB control also decreased during this period. In 2017, NYC again saw growth in the number of cases to 613. This 10% increase is the largest increase in the number of TB cases in NYC since 1992.

>> A CLOSER LOOK AT THE INCREASE, 2017

In 2017, there were no changes in surveillance definitions or TB case counting criteria and there were no large outbreaks identified. Analyses of demographic characteristics indicate increases among patients 65 and older, males, non-U.S. born patients, U.S.-born Hispanic patients and patients residing in the Bronx and Brooklyn. Analyses of clinical and social characteristics show an increase in patients with culture-positive TB disease, patients with both pulmonary and extrapulmonary disease sites, and patients experiencing homelessness. The number of multidrug-resistant TB cases also increased from 11 in 2016 to 14 in 2017.

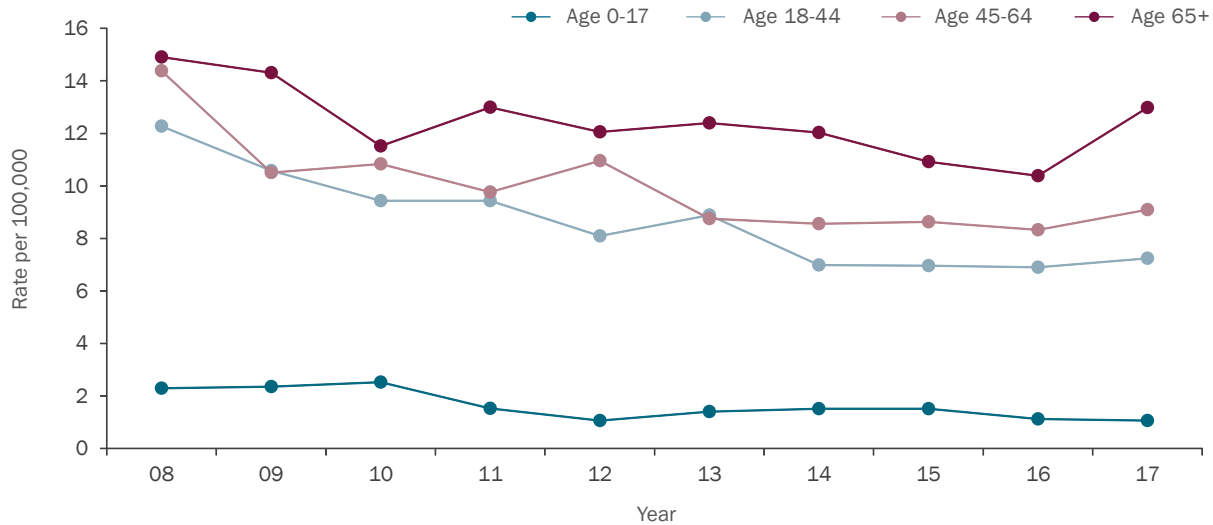
FIGURE 5: Percent change in proportion for select characteristics among tuberculosis cases, 2016 to 2017, New York City



1. There was no change between 2016 and 2017 in the proportion of cases among patients 45-64 years of age, patients living in Staten Island at time of TB diagnosis or patients with HIV infection. Change in clustering proportion could not be assessed due to a change in genotyping and clustering methods.
 2. Race/ethnicity is among patients born in the U.S. 3. MDR TB is defined as resistance to at least isoniazid and rifampin. 4. In the 12 months before TB diagnosis.

AGE AND SEX

FIGURE 6: Tuberculosis rates¹ by age group in years, New York City, 2008-2017



1. Rates are based on New York City Health Department population estimates, modified from U.S. Census Bureau interpolated intercensal population estimates, 2000-2016. Updated September 2017.

FIGURE 7: Tuberculosis cases by sex, New York City, 2017

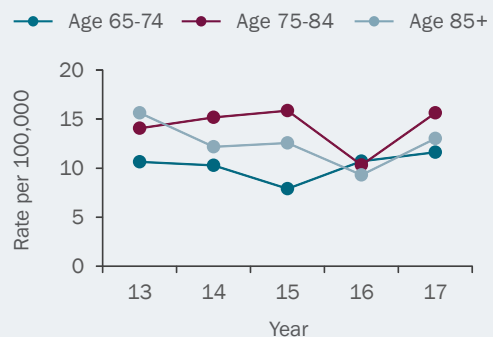


>> TB AMONG PEOPLE OLDER THAN 65 YEARS OF AGE IN NYC

Every year, the highest rates of TB in NYC are seen among patients 65 years of age and older. In 2017, there were 150 TB cases in this age group for an incidence rate of 13.0 per 100,000, which is more than twice the TB rate among those under 65 years of age (6.3 per 100,000).

This also represents a 25% increase in the number of cases among patients 65 of age and older compared to 2016, which may be attributable to growth in this segment of the NYC population. Within this group, people 75-84 years of age experienced a 51% increase in the number of TB cases between 2016 and 2017 and had the highest rate of TB in 2017 (15.6 per 100,000) when compared to those 65-74 years of age (11.6 per 100,000) and those older than 85 (13.0 per 100,000).

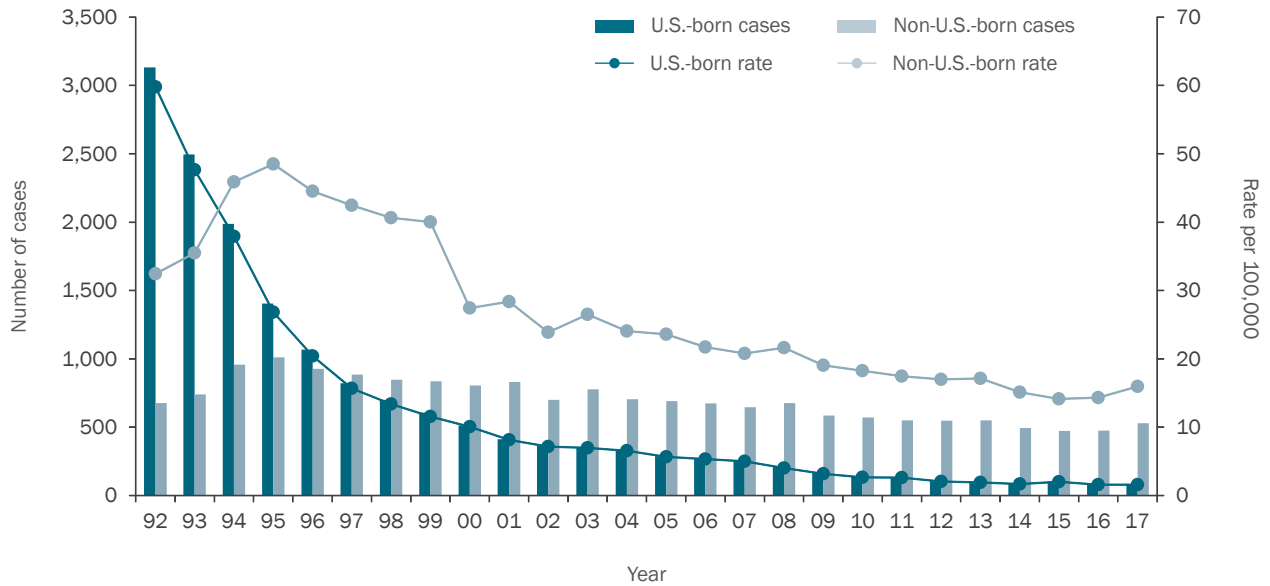
FIGURE 8: Tuberculosis rates¹ among adults older than 65 by age group in years, New York City, 2013-2017



1. Rates are based on New York City Health Department population estimates, modified from U.S. Census Bureau interpolated intercensal population estimates, 2000-2016. Updated September 2017.

BIRTH IN THE UNITED STATES

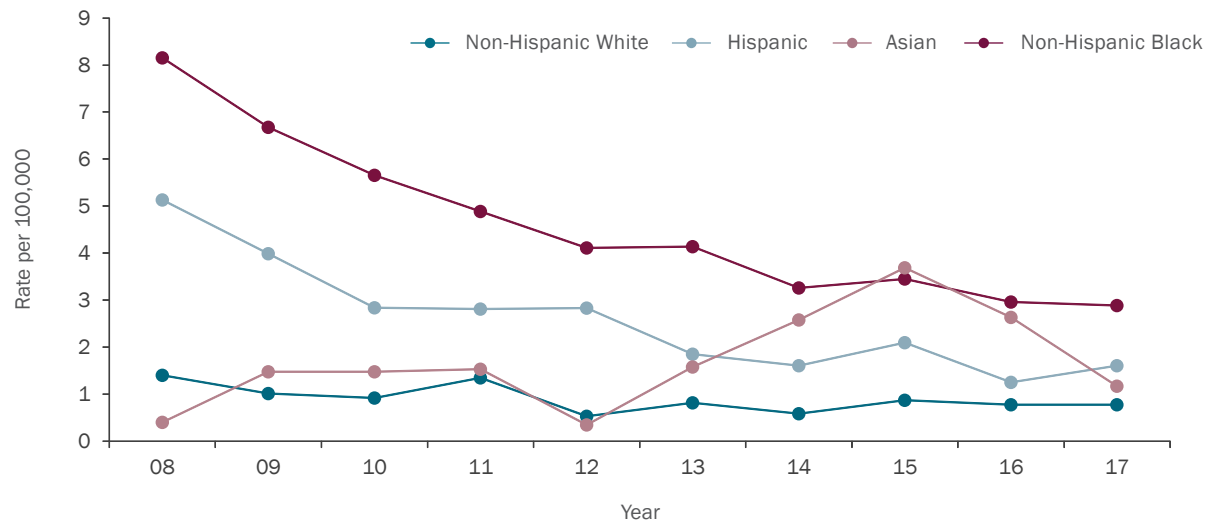
FIGURE 9: Tuberculosis cases and rates¹ by birth in the United States (U.S.),^{2,3} New York City, 1992-2017



1. Rates prior to 2000 are based on 1990 U.S. Census data. Rates for 2000-2005 are based on 2000 U.S. Census data. Rates after 2005 are based on one-year American Community Survey data for the given year or the most recent available data. 2. U.S.-born includes individuals born in the U.S. and U.S. territories. 3. Excludes cases with unknown country of birth.

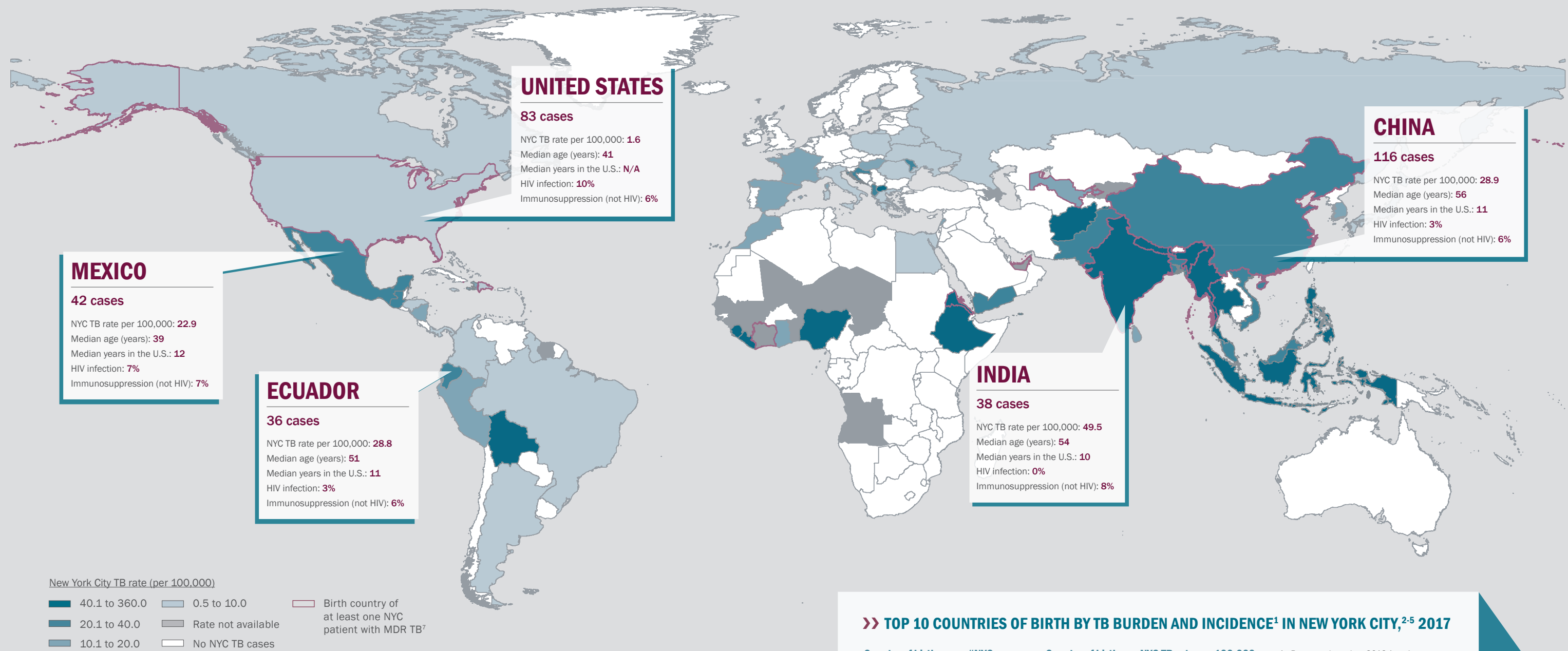
86% | Proportion of cases among patients born outside of the U.S. **7** | Median number of years in the U.S. at time of TB diagnosis among non-U.S.-born patients **43%** | Proportion of cases among U.S.-born patients that occurred in non-Hispanic Black individuals

FIGURE 10: Tuberculosis rates¹ by race/ethnicity² among patients born in the United States (U.S.),^{3,4} New York City, 2008-2017



1. Rates are based on one-year American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Sample data for the given year or the most recent available data. 2. Data shown does not include patients with multiple, other, or unknown race/ethnicity. 3. U.S.-born includes individuals born in the U.S. and U.S. territories. 4. Excludes cases with unknown country of birth.

FIGURE 11: Tuberculosis cases, rates¹ and select characteristics by patient country of birth,²⁻⁶ New York City, 2017



COUNTRY OF BIRTH

NYC TB incidence, TB burden, patient characteristics and TB risk factors differ substantially across patient country of birth. As a result, addressing TB in NYC requires identifying and understanding these differences and designing tailored, sustainable interventions in partnership with the communities most affected by TB.

1.6

TB rate per 100,000 among people born in the U.S.

15.9

TB rate per 100,000 among people born in a country other than the U.S.

75

Number of countries of birth represented among patients with TB disease in 2017

>> TOP 10 COUNTRIES OF BIRTH BY TB BURDEN AND INCIDENCE¹ IN NEW YORK CITY,²⁻⁵ 2017

Country of birth	#NYC cases	Country of birth	NYC TB rate per 100,000
China ⁴	116	Eritrea (1 case).....	360
United States (U.S.) ⁵	83	Sierra Leone (4 cases).....	225
Mexico.....	42	Bolivia (3 cases).....	130
India.....	38	Burma (8 cases).....	118
Ecuador.....	36	Indonesia (4 cases).....	112
Dominican Republic.....	31	Ethiopia (3 cases).....	93
Bangladesh.....	27	Nepal (10 cases).....	86
Philippines.....	25	Liberia (3 cases).....	78
Haiti.....	19	Afghanistan (3 cases).....	66
Nigeria.....	15	Nigeria (15 cases).....	57

1. Rates are based on 2016 American Community Survey one-year sample data.
2. Two cases in 2017 were among patients with unknown country of birth.
3. There were 16 countries for which rate could not be calculated due to insufficient population data
4. China includes individuals born in mainland China, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Macau.
5. U.S.-born includes individuals born in the U.S. and U.S. territories.
6. Immunosuppression due to having a medical condition, not including HIV/AIDS, or use of immunosuppressive therapy
7. MDR TB is defined as resistance to at least isoniazid and rifampin.

TB IN NYC NEIGHBORHOODS

Queens continued to have the highest TB burden in 2017 with 247 cases and a rate of 10.6 per 100,000. The United Hospital Fund (UHF) neighborhood with the highest TB rate was Sunset Park, Brooklyn, with a rate of 23.2 per 100,000, more than triple the citywide rate. Twelve (29%) UHF neighborhoods had TB rates that exceeded the overall NYC rate and 35 (83%) exceeded the national rate. Fifty-one percent of TB patients lived in a neighborhood with high or very high area-based poverty.

FIGURE 12: Tuberculosis rates¹ by United Hospital Fund neighborhood, New York City, 2017

Rate per 100,000

- Above citywide rate (7.6 to 23.2)
- At or below citywide rate (2.9 to 7.5)
- At or below provisional national rate (0.0 to 2.8)
- No NYC TB cases

1. Rates are based on New York City Health Department population estimates, modified from U.S. Census Bureau interpolated intercensal population estimates, 2000-2016. Updated September 2017.

12

Number of UHF neighborhoods with TB rates higher than the 2017 citywide rate

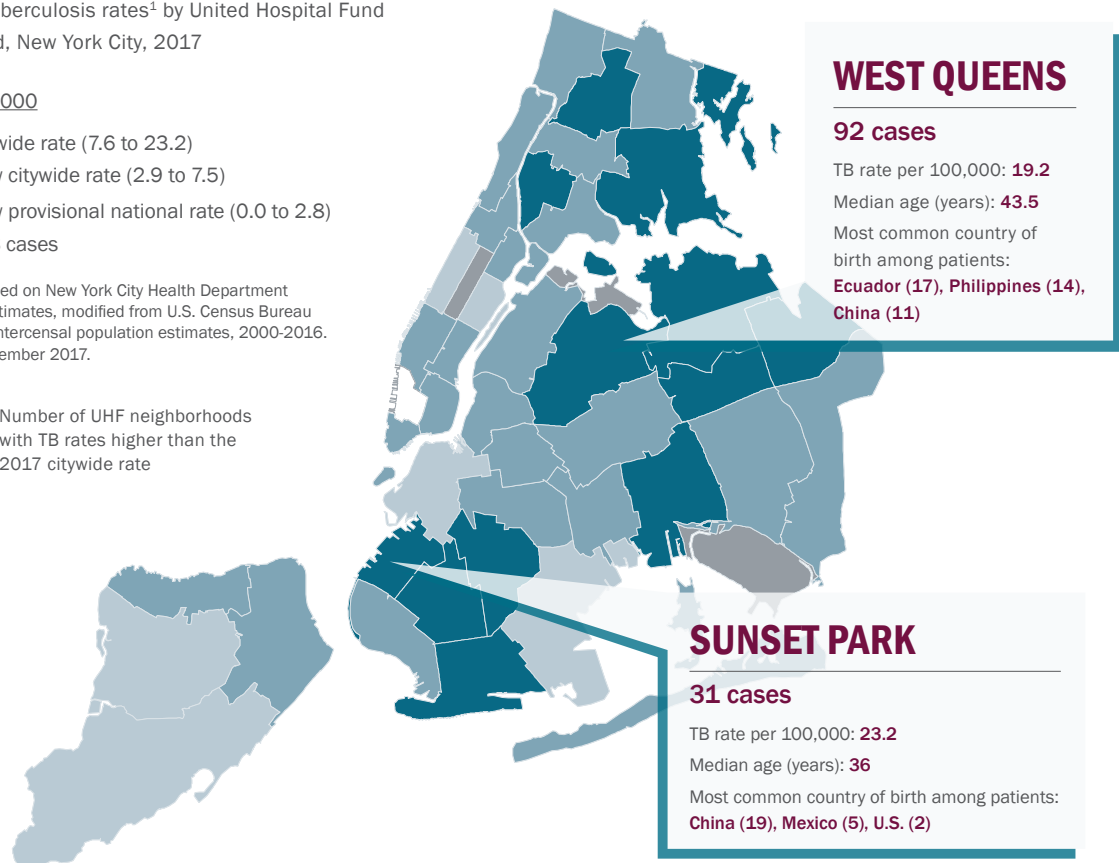
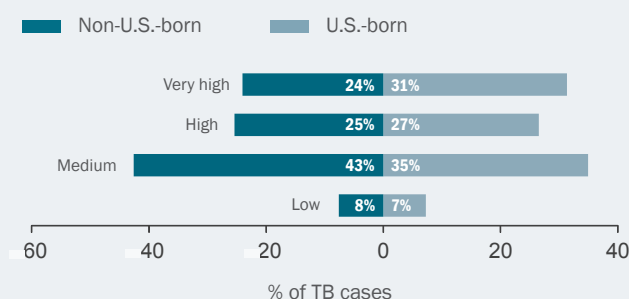


FIGURE 13: Proportion of tuberculosis (TB) cases and TB rates¹ by area-based poverty level²⁻³ and birth in the United States (U.S.),^{4,5} New York City, 2017



Area-based poverty level ²	U.S.-born rate	Non-U.S.-born rate	Total NYC rate
Very high (30 to 100%)	2.1	18.7	8.2
High (20 to < 30%)	2.1	16.3	8.3
Medium (10 to < 20%)	1.6	17.4	8.3
Low (< 10%)	0.5	8.4	2.8

1. Rates are based on 2012-2016 American Community Survey data. 2. Area-based poverty level is based on 2011-2015 American Community Survey data on the proportion of ZIP code residents living below the federal poverty level. 3. Cases were assigned to a ZIP code based on their residence at TB diagnosis. 4. U.S.-born includes individuals born in the U.S. and U.S. territories. 5. Two cases in 2017 were among patients with unknown country of birth.

FIGURE 14: Tuberculosis cases¹ and rates² by borough and United Hospital Fund (UHF) neighborhood, New York City, 2017

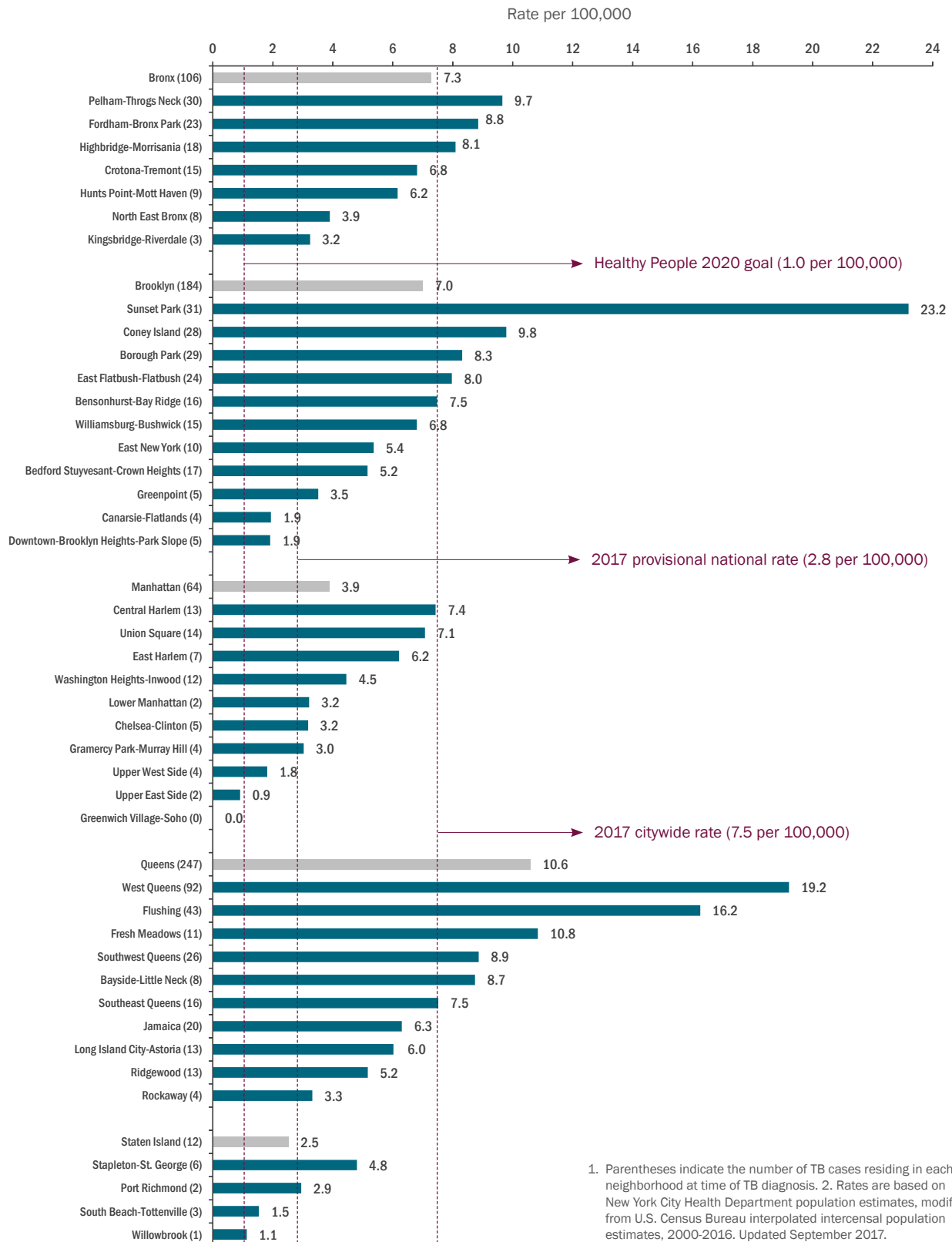


TABLE 1: Select demographic, social and geographic characteristics of tuberculosis cases by birth in the United States (U.S.),^{1,2}
New York City, 2016-2017

Characteristics	2016						2017					
	U.S.-born ¹		Non-U.S.-born		Total		U.S.-born ¹		Non-U.S.-born		Total	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Age group												
0-17	12	15	8	2	20	4	16	19	3	1	19	3
18-44	30	37	211	45	241	43	28	34	224	42	253	41
45-64	28	34	147	31	175	31	22	27	169	32	191	31
65+	12	15	108	23	120	22	17	20	132	25	150	24
Sex												
Female	28	34	189	40	217	39	27	33	197	37	225	37
Male	54	66	285	60	339	61	56	67	331	63	388	63
Race/ethnicity												
White non-Hispanic	16	20	31	7	47	8	16	19	31	6	47	8
Black non-Hispanic	37	45	70	15	107	19	36	43	81	15	117	19
Hispanic	18	22	104	22	122	22	23	28	132	25	157	26
Asian non-Hispanic	9	11	248	52	257	46	4	5	259	49	263	43
Multiple/other	2	2	21	4	23	4	4	5	23	4	27	4
Time in the U.S. (at reporting)												
< 1 year	n/a	n/a	60	13	60	13	n/a	n/a	68	13	68	13
1-5 years	n/a	n/a	109	23	109	23	n/a	n/a	121	23	121	23
> 5 years	n/a	n/a	304	64	304	64	n/a	n/a	326	63	326	63
Borough of residence												
Manhattan	16	20	51	11	67	12	9	11	55	10	64	10
Bronx	20	24	59	12	79	14	21	25	84	16	106	17
Brooklyn	30	37	132	28	162	29	35	42	148	28	184	30
Queens	14	17	225	47	239	43	16	19	231	44	247	40
Staten Island	2	2	7	1	9	2	2	2	10	2	12	2
Homeless ³	10	12	6	1	16	3	9	11	14	3	23	4
Employed ^{3,4}	25	36	233	50	258	48	31	46	223	42	254	43
Health care worker ^{3,4}	0	0	22	9	22	9	2	6	14	6	16	6
Drug use ^{3,4}	18	22	17	4	35	6	16	19	12	2	28	5
Excessive alcohol use ^{3,4}	4	5	13	3	17	3	2	2	23	4	25	4
Neighborhood poverty ⁵												
Very high (30 to 100%)	36	44	95	20	131	24	26	31	127	24	155	25
High (20 to < 30%)	11	13	121	26	132	24	22	27	134	25	156	25
Medium (10 to < 20%)	25	30	226	48	251	45	29	35	225	43	254	41
Low (< 10%)	10	12	32	7	42	8	6	7	40	8	46	8
Total	82	15	474	85	556	-	83	14	528	86	613	-

1. U.S.-born includes individuals born in the U.S. and U.S. territories. 2. Column sums may not equal applicable totals due to missing country of birth data. 3. In the 12 months before TB diagnosis. 4. Among patients 18 years of age and older. 5. Area-based poverty level is based on 2011-2015 American Community Survey data on the proportion of ZIP code residents living below the federal poverty level. Cases were assigned to a ZIP code based on their residence at TB diagnosis.

CLINICAL CHARACTERISTICS

FIGURE 15: Tuberculosis cases by disease site, New York City, 2017

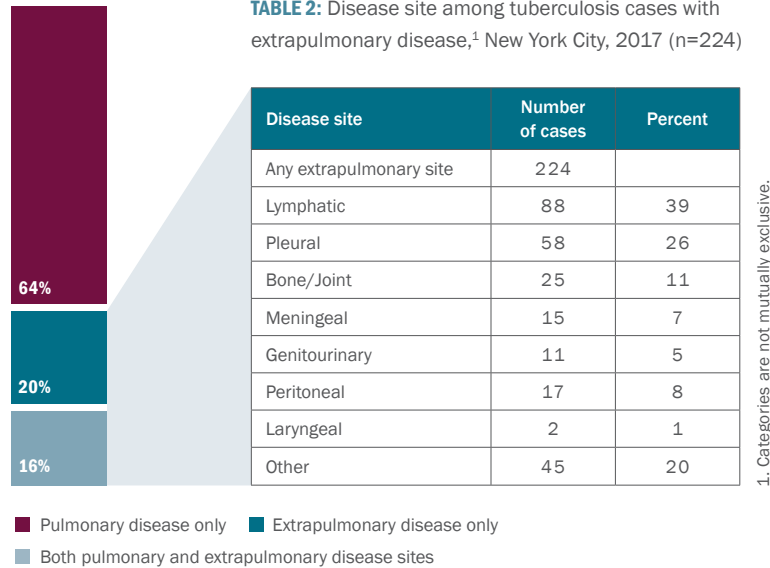
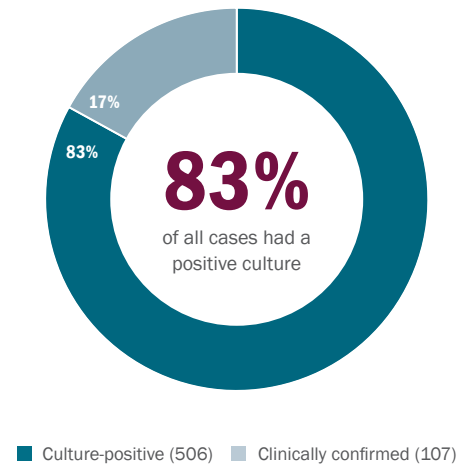


FIGURE 16: Proportion of culture-confirmed tuberculosis cases among all tuberculosis cases, New York City, 2017



80%

Proportion of cases with a pulmonary site of disease

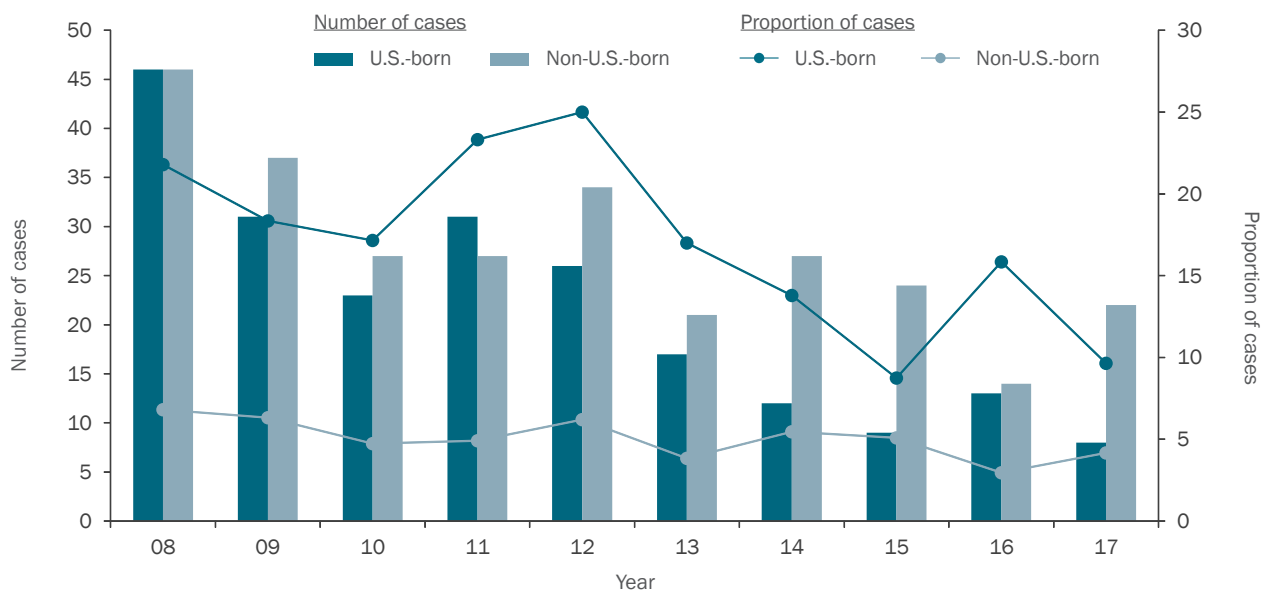
8

Number of patients who previously had at least one other documented episode of TB disease in NYC

5%

Proportion of TB cases among patients known to have HIV infection

FIGURE 17: HIV infection among tuberculosis cases¹ by birth in the United States (U.S.),^{2,3} New York City, 2008-2017

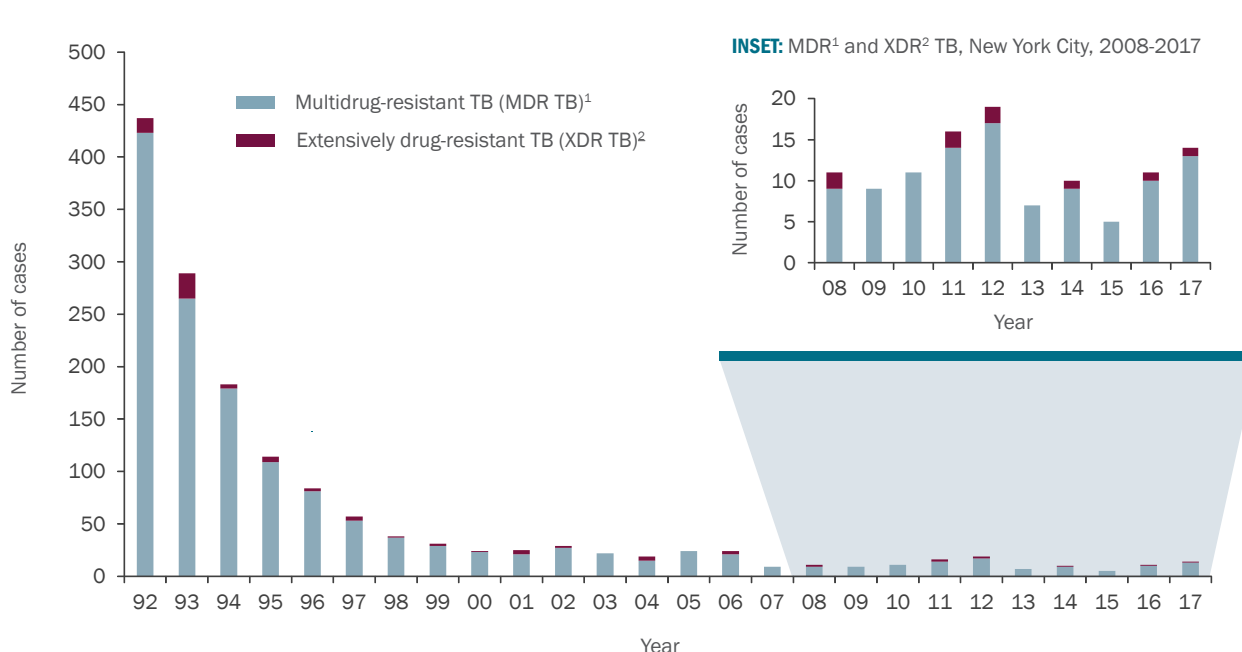


1. Excludes cases with unknown country of birth. 2. U.S.-born includes individuals born in the U.S. and U.S. territories. 3. 110 patients in 2017 had an unknown HIV status.

DRUG RESISTANCE

Drug resistance continues to be a challenge to TB prevention and care efforts. Fourteen patients diagnosed in 2017 had MDR TB, defined as a TB strain resistant to isoniazid and rifampin, the two most important and effective drugs in the TB treatment regimen. Of these, one patient had an XDR TB strain, characterized by additional resistance to a second-line injectable medication and a fluoroquinolone. Five patients had a resistance pattern only one drug away from XDR TB.

FIGURE 18: Multidrug resistance¹ among tuberculosis cases, New York City, 1992-2017



1. MDR TB is defined as resistance to at least isoniazid and rifampin. 2. XDR TB is defined as resistance to at least isoniazid and rifampin plus a fluoroquinolone and a second-line injectable anti-TB medication.

» USING MOLECULAR-BASED TESTING TO DETECT DRUG RESISTANCE

Molecular-based tests (e.g. pyrosequencing, WGS, Hain Lifescience GenoType MTBDRplus) are now being used routinely in acute care hospitals, commercial laboratories and public health reference laboratories. These tests can rapidly detect mutations associated with drug resistance, which helps health care providers ensure that patients are placed on effective regimens sooner. In 2017, the median time in days from TB case verification to identification of an MDR TB strain was 26 (range: 0 to 102).

FIGURE 19: Laboratory method used to first identify resistance to both isoniazid and rifampin among cases with a multidrug-resistant tuberculosis strain, New York City, 2017 (n=14)

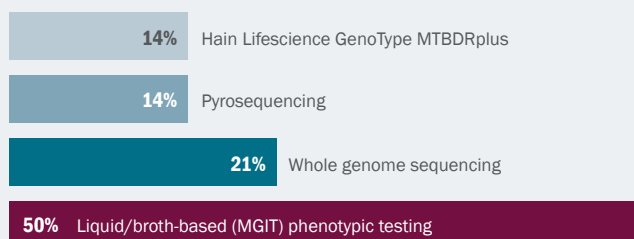
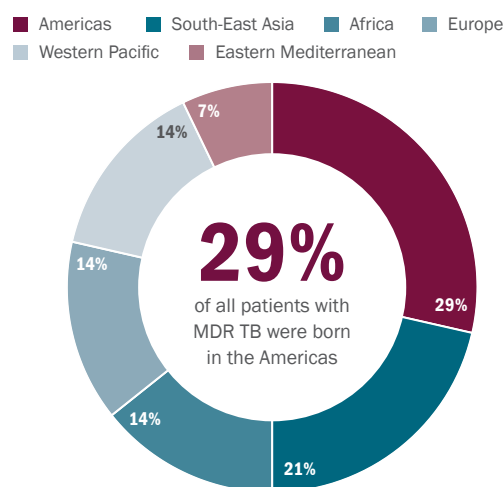


TABLE 3: Select characteristics among patients diagnosed with multidrug-resistant (MDR) tuberculosis,¹ New York City, 2017 (n=14)

Characteristics	
Median age (range)	41 (19-80)
Number born outside of the United States (U.S.) (%)	12 (86%)
Years in the U.S. among non-U.S.-born patients (%)	
< 5 years	5 (42%)
5-10 years	4 (33%)
> 10 years	3 (25%)
Pulmonary site of disease (%)	12 (86%)
Median number of drugs to which there was known resistance among MDR TB cases ² (range)	7 (3-12)
Median number of contacts identified around patients with MDR TB (range)	3 (0-155)

1. MDR TB is defined as resistance to at least isoniazid and rifampin.
2. Resistance to any fluoroquinolone was counted once

FIGURE 20: Region of birth¹ among patients diagnosed with multidrug-resistant tuberculosis, New York City, 2017 (n=14)



1. Based on World Health Organization regional definitions

TABLE 4: Select clinical characteristics of tuberculosis cases by birth in the United States (U.S.),^{1,2} New York City, 2016-2017

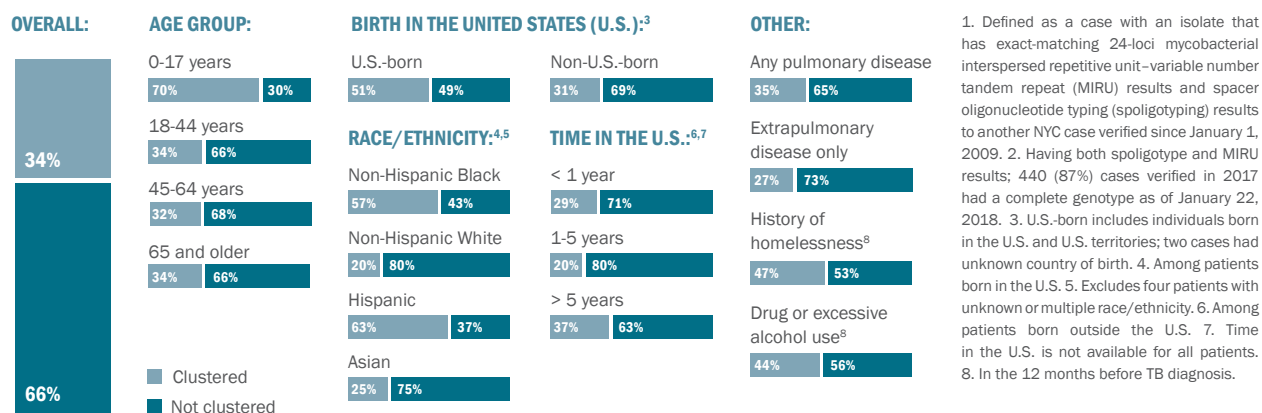
Characteristics	2016						2017					
	U.S.-born ¹		Non-U.S.-born		Total		U.S.-born ¹		Non-U.S.-born		Total	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Ever respiratory smear positive	36	52	194	52	230	52	29	46	239	56	269	55
Sputum smear positive	29	81	196	99	225	96	26	90	225	93	251	93
Nucleic amplification assay positive ³	3	60	3	14	6	23	2	20	4	27	6	24
Culture positive	62	76	386	81	448	81	58	70	446	84	506	83
Pulmonary only site of disease	53	65	308	65	361	65	53	64	334	63	389	63
Extra-pulmonary only site of disease	13	16	103	22	116	21	20	24	103	20	123	20
Both pulmonary and extra-pulmonary	16	20	63	13	79	14	10	12	91	17	101	16
Cavities present on chest x-ray ever ⁴	23	33	81	22	104	24	17	27	92	22	109	22
Multidrug (MDR) resistance ⁵	1	2	10	3	11	2	2	4	12	3	14	3
Extensive drug resistance (XDR) ⁶	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	2	0	0	1	0
Non-MDR isoniazid resistance ⁵	3	5	32	8	35	8	3	5	36	8	39	8
Non-MDR rifampin resistance ⁵	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	0	2	0
History of TB disease	7	9	33	7	40	7	4	5	29	5	33	5
HIV status												
Infected	13	16	14	3	27	5	8	10	22	4	31	5
Not infected	50	61	400	84	450	81	58	70	414	78	472	77
Refused testing	16	20	52	11	68	12	9	11	62	12	71	12
Not offered/done or unknown	3	4	8	2	11	2	8	10	30	6	39	6
Non-HIV related immunosuppression	5	6	25	5	30	5	5	6	30	6	35	6
TNF-alpha antagonist therapy ⁷	2	2	9	2	11	2	2	2	8	2	10	2
Diabetes	10	12	94	20	104	19	9	11	107	20	116	19
Total	82	15	474	85	556	-	83	14	528	86	613	-

1. U.S.-born includes individuals born in the U.S. and U.S. territories. 2. Column sums may not equal applicable totals due to missing country of birth data.
3. Among patients with negative culture and nucleic amplification assay performed. 4. Percent is among patients with a pulmonary site of disease. 5. MDR TB is defined as resistance to at least isoniazid and rifampin. Percent is among patients with susceptibility testing performed for isoniazid and rifampin. 6. XDR TB is defined as resistance to at least isoniazid and rifampin plus a fluoroquinolone and a second-line injectable anti-TB medication. Percent is among patients with susceptibility testing performed for isoniazid, rifampin, any fluoroquinolone and any second-line injectable anti-TB medication. 7. Use within 24 months before TB diagnosis

GENOTYPING AND NYC CLUSTERS

The Health Department changed its TB genotyping methods in 2017 and now uses spacer oligonucleotide typing analysis and 24-loci mycobacterial interspersed repetitive unit-variable number tandem repeat analysis to characterize TB strains and define TB clusters. Clustered cases are reviewed, prioritized and assigned for epidemiologic investigation based on factors including cluster growth, patient characteristics and evidence of recent, local TB transmission. The availability of whole genome sequencing (WGS) has enabled further differentiation of strains and informs cluster detection, prioritization and investigation activities.

FIGURE 21: Proportion clustered¹ among tuberculosis cases with a complete genotype² by select patient characteristics, New York City, 2017 (n=440)



34% | Proportion of culture positive cases with a clustered isolate

47% | Proportion of cases among patients younger than 18 with no obtainable genotype

92% | Proportion of culture positive cases with WGS results available

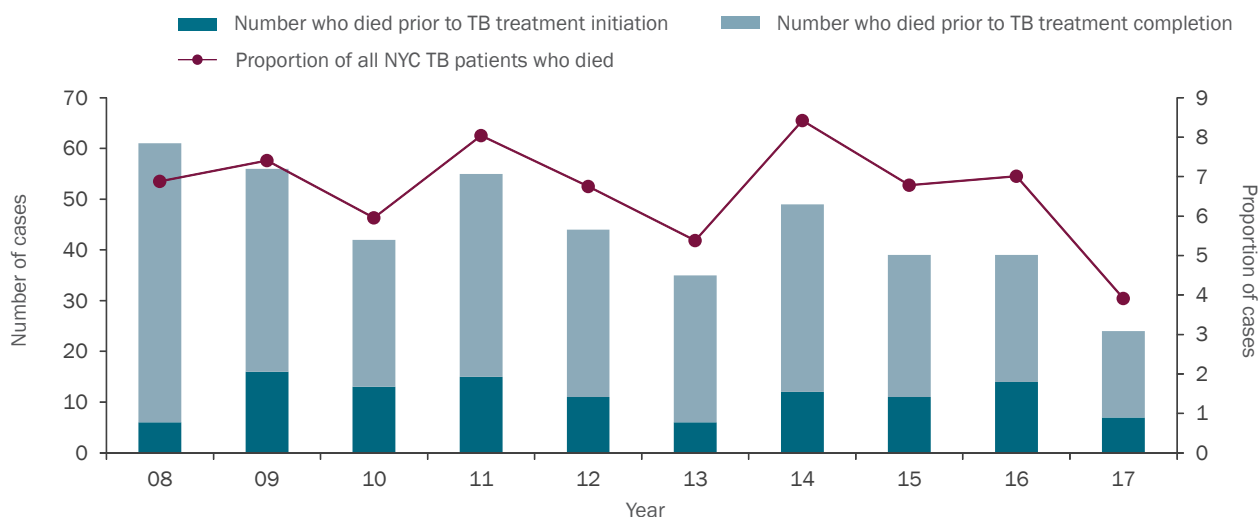
TABLE 5: Characteristics of select high-priority¹ tuberculosis (TB) clusters,² New York City, 2017

	Cluster A	Cluster B ³	Cluster C	Cluster D	Cluster E	Cluster F
Number of cases identified from January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2017	11	8	7	6	6	5
Proportion of cases among males ⁴	64%	75%	71%	83%	83%	80%
Proportion of patients born in the United States (U.S.) ^{4,5}	27%	88%	14%	17%	100%	60%
Median patient age in years (range) ⁴	30 (20-70)	31 (16-59)	27 (17-40)	29 (19-38)	35 (24-65)	40 (18-53)
Most common borough of residence at time of TB diagnosis (%) ⁴	Queens (55%)	Manhattan (63%)	Brooklyn (86%)	Brooklyn (100%)	Bronx (100%)	Manhattan (40%) Brooklyn (40%)
Proportion of patients reporting history of homelessness ^{4,6}	9%	0%	0%	0%	0%	20%
Proportion of patients reporting history of drug use or excessive alcohol use ^{4,6}	18%	50%	14%	17%	83%	20%
Proportion of patients with pulmonary disease ⁴	82%	88%	100%	83%	100%	60%
Clusters in which patients reported history of transient work ^{4,6}			✓	✓		✓
Clusters in which social network links were identified among patients ⁴	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Clusters in which patients were linked to the same geographically-concentrated area ^{4,7}		✓	✓	✓		

1. Includes clusters with five or more cases identified in three years and evidence of recent, local TB transmission. 2. Clusters include cases whose isolate has exact-match or similar spacer oligonucleotide typing and 24-loci mycobacterial interspersed repetitive unit-variable number tandem repeat results. 3. Includes one case counted outside of NYC with matching genotype results and epidemiologic links to other patients in the cluster. 4. Among cluster cases identified between January 1, 2015 and December 31, 2017. 5. U.S.-born includes individuals born in the U.S. and U.S. territories. 6. In the 12 months before TB diagnosis. 7. Within a 10-block radius or less.

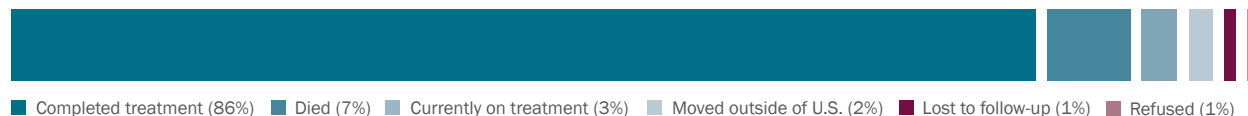
MORTALITY AND TREATMENT COMPLETION

FIGURE 22: Number and proportion of patients with tuberculosis (TB) who died¹ before or during treatment, New York City (NYC), 2008-2017



1. A death is defined as any patient who died prior to or during TB treatment, regardless of the cause of death. This excludes any patient who died after the completion of TB treatment.

FIGURE 23: Treatment outcomes for tuberculosis (TB) cases counted in 2016,¹ New York City (n=556)



1. Treatment outcomes are not reported for the current year to allow sufficient time for follow-up.

TABLE 6: Select performance measures, national targets¹ and New York City performance outcomes, 2015-2016²

Indicator	2015	2016	2020 target
Treatment and case management for persons with active tuberculosis (TB)			
Initiated TB treatment within seven days of specimen collection ³	89%	91%	97%
Sputum culture conversion within 60 days of treatment initiation ⁴	77%	75%	73%
Completed treatment within 365 days of initiation ⁵	94%	93%	95%
Contact investigation			
Eligible cases with contacts elicited ⁶	94%	96%	100%
Eligible contacts evaluated ⁷	81%	81%	93%
Eligible contacts who initiated treatment for TB infection ⁸	82%	83%	91%
Eligible contacts who completed treatment for TB infection ⁹	78%	66%	81%

1. Definitions for performance measures and national indicators are established by the CDC. The 2020 targets were set in 2015. For additional information, visit: cdc.gov. 2. Performance measures are not reported for the current year to allow sufficient time for follow-up. 3. Of TB patients with positive acid-fast bacilli (AFB) sputum-smear results who are alive at diagnosis. 4. Of TB patients with positive sputum culture results who were alive at diagnosis and have initiated treatment. Excludes patients who died within 60 days of initiating treatment. 5. Excludes patients who never started on anti-TB medications, those who died or moved outside of the U.S. within 365 days of treatment initiation, those with any rifampin resistance, those with meningial TB and children 14 years of age or younger with disseminated TB. 6. Of AFB sputum smear-positive TB cases. 7. Of contacts to AFB sputum smear-positive TB cases counted in the year of interest. 8. Of contacts to AFB sputum smear-positive TB cases who have newly diagnosed TB infection. 9. Of contacts to sputum AFB smear-positive TB cases with newly diagnosed TB infection and started treatment.

CONTACT INVESTIGATION IN NON-HOUSEHOLD SETTINGS

The Health Department uses multiple methods to identify and interrupt TB transmission, including contact investigations in non-household settings (e.g., worksites, schools and health care facilities). The Health Department investigates TB exposures at these sites to identify and evaluate contacts, to ensure appropriate treatment for contacts with TB disease or latent TB infection and to determine if transmission has occurred and assess whether testing of additional contacts may be warranted.

FIGURE 24: Contact investigations in non-household settings¹ by site type, New York City, 2017 (n=69)

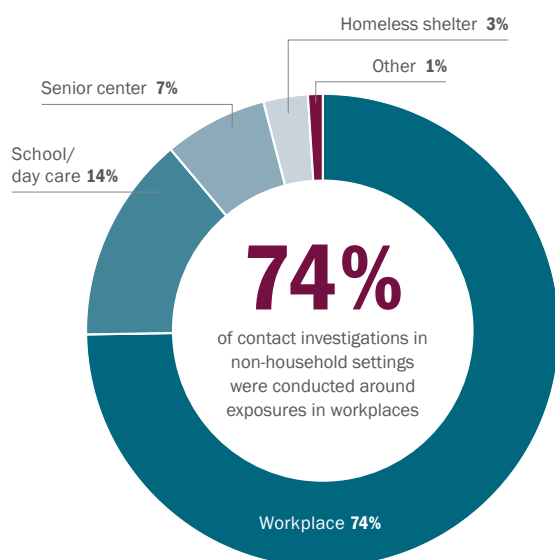


TABLE 7: Contact investigation outcomes in non-household settings¹ by number of exposed contacts, New York City, 2017 (n=69)

	≥ 15 exposed contacts	< 15 exposed contacts	Total
	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)
Number of sites	28	41	69
Likely transmission ²	8 (31%)	7 (19%)	15 (24%)
Transmission could not be assessed	2 (7%)	5 (12%)	7 (10%)
Total number of contacts	849	249	1,098
Median contacts per site (range)	25 (15-89)	6 (1-14)	10 (1-89)
Contacts eligible for testing ³	810 (95%)	233 (94%)	1,043 (95%)
Contacts tested	709 (88%)	207 (89%)	916 (88%)
Contacts with a positive TB test result	75 (11%)	28 (14%)	103 (11%)

1. Excludes health care-associated investigations (n=153)

2. Proportion calculated among investigations where transmission could be assessed

3. Contacts eligible for testing are defined as contacts without a known history of TB disease or documented positive test for TB infection who were alive subsequent to the diagnosis of the infectious TB case to whom they were exposed

>> TB EXPOSURES IN HEALTH CARE-ASSOCIATED SETTINGS IN NYC, 2017

TB exposures in health care-associated settings remain an important concern in NYC, as most individuals with TB disease are diagnosed in acute care facilities. In 2017, the Health Department conducted contact investigations around exposures in **153** health care-associated sites for **125** patients with infectious TB disease. Of these, 71% of investigations occurred in a hospital or acute care clinic.

FIGURE 25: Contact investigations in health care-associated settings by site type, New York City, 2017 (n=153)



1. Includes hospitals and acute care clinics

APPENDICES

STOP1B

TB REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Medical, dental, osteopathic and other health care providers and administrators of hospitals or other institutions providing care and treatment—or their designees, including infection control practitioners—are required by the NYC Health Code §§11.03 and 11.05 to report all patients, alive or deceased, with suspected or confirmed TB disease to the New York City Health Department within 24 hours of diagnosis or clinical suspicion. Medical providers must report these patients even though microbiologists and pathologists are also required to report findings consistent with TB. Note that the reports must be submitted using the Universal Reporting Form (URF) and must be received by the Health Department within 24 hours of diagnosis or clinical suspicion, whether sent electronically, by express or overnight mail, by fax or by telephone.

HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS

Health care providers in NYC are encouraged to submit reports electronically through a NYCMED account. Alternatively, providers may fax a completed URF to BTBC at **844-713-0557**. Information reported on the URF should be as complete as possible. The following essential information must be included when the report is submitted to the Health Department:

- Information needed to identify and locate the individual (e.g., name, telephone, address, date of birth)
 - Provider information (e.g., physician's name, reporting facility, phone number, email)
 - Results of acid-fast bacilli (AFB) smear (including specimen source, date specimen obtained and accession number)
 - Results of radiologic exams (X-ray or imaging)
 - Any treatment information
 - Quantitative and qualitative results from tuberculin skin test (TST) or blood-based test (IGRA) for children younger than 5 years of age with latent TB infection
- **Reporting should never be delayed pending identification of *M. tuberculosis* with an NAA test or culture. Patients should be reported whenever TB is suspected, even if bacteriologic evidence of disease is lacking or treatment has not been initiated. If TB treatment is initiated after submitting the initial disease report, the provider is required to submit a corrected report.**
- **For more information and to download related forms, call 311 and ask for the BTBC Surveillance Unit or go to nyc.gov and search "TB reporting requirements." To download a URF, go to nyc.gov and search "URF." To create a NYCMED account, go to nyc.gov and search for "NYCMED."**

>> IT IS MANDATORY TO REPORT PATIENTS WHO MEET ANY OF THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

- Positive NAA test result (e.g., Roche's COBRAS® AMPLICOR, Gen-Probe® Amplified™ *Mycobacterium Tuberculosis* [MTD] test, GeneXpert®, Hain Lifescience GenoType MTBDRplus) for *M. tuberculosis* complex
- Positive culture for *M. tuberculosis* complex, including: *M. tuberculosis*, *M. africanum*, *M. bovis-BCG*, *M. caprae*, *M. canetti*, *M. microti*, *M. pinnipedii*, *M. bovis*, *M. dassie*, *M. mungi*, *M. orygis*
- Biopsy, pathology or autopsy findings consistent with TB disease, including caseating or necrotizing granulomas in biopsy of lung, lymph nodes or other specimens
- Positive smear (from any anatomical site) for AFB
- Clinical suspicion of pulmonary or extrapulmonary TB such that the health care provider has initiated or intends to initiate isolation or treatment for TB disease with two or more anti-TB medications
- Any child younger than 5 years of age (on the day of specimen collection up to the day of the fifth birthday), with a positive TST or IGRA result, regardless of whether the child has received a bacille Calmette-Guerin (BCG) vaccination. For these patients, providers must also report chest imaging results and any preventive medication initiated for latent TB infection

MICROBIOLOGY AND PATHOLOGY LABORATORIES

Laboratories are required to report via the NYS Electronic Clinical Laboratory Reporting System (ECLRS). Per the NYC Health Code sections §§13.03 and 13.05, the following results must be reported to the Health Department, whether confirmed or presumptive, for patients alive or deceased, within 24 hours of obtaining test results:

- AFB-positive smears (regardless of anatomic site)
- NAA test results and cultures positive for *M. tuberculosis* complex
- Results of susceptibility tests performed on *M. tuberculosis* complex cultures
- Biopsy, pathology or autopsy findings consistent with TB disease, including but not limited to presence of AFB on smear and caseating and/or necrotizing granulomas that are consistent with TB in the lung, lymph nodes or other specimens
- Any culture or NAA result associated with an AFB-positive smear (even if negative for *M. tuberculosis* complex)
- For patients with a positive TB diagnostic laboratory result, all subsequent TB diagnostic laboratory results (negative or positive) from specimens collected within one year of the most recent positive result

» Health Code §13.05(a) also mandates that a portion of the initial culture be sent for DNA analysis to the NYC Public Health Laboratory (455 First Avenue, Room 236; New York, NY 10016) within 24 hours of observing growth of *M. tuberculosis* complex in a culture from any specimen. A specimen submitted to the Health Department for drug susceptibility testing meets this requirement unless the Health Department notifies otherwise.

REPORTING PATIENT FOLLOW-UP AND SUBMITTING HOSPITAL DISCHARGE AND TREATMENT PLANS

Health Code §11.21(a)(3) requires the treating physician to report whether the patient completed treatment and the outcome of the patient's treatment (i.e., cured, failed, relapsed, lost, moved, refused), or whether treatment was discontinued if the patient was found not to have TB or for another reason.

Physicians must assist the Health Department to evaluate persons suspected of having TB and to follow up with patients. Case managers will contact the treating physicians to request updates and ensure that appropriate treatment and monitoring is being conducted. Health care providers must provide access to necessary paper and electronic medical records to authorized Health Department staff as requested. [Health Code §11.03(e)]

Additionally, as per Health Code §11.21(a)(1), the treating physicians or persons in charge of facilities must submit monthly clinical status reports for patients with TB disease, which must include at least:

- Name, address and telephone number(s) of the patient
- Whether treatment is still ongoing
- The clinical status and treatment being provided
- Dates and results of sputum and X-ray exams
- Any other information required by the Health Department

► To download forms related to hospital discharge plans and reporting patient services, go to nyc.gov and search for "TB reporting requirements."

To facilitate mandatory monthly patient status reports, the Health Department created the "Report of Patient Services" form (TB 65). This form, or a report containing the same information, must be submitted to the patient's case manager.

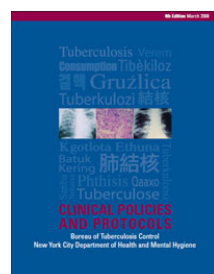
Per Health Code §11.21(b), when requested by the Health Department, medical providers are also required to report all information on the evaluation, testing and treatment of individuals who have been in contact with a person with TB disease.

Health Code §11.21(a)(4) requires health care providers to submit a discharge plan to the Health Department for review and approval prior to discharging infectious TB patients from the hospital. The Hospital Discharge Approval Request Form (TB354) must be submitted 72 hours before the planned discharge date and must be approved by the Health Department prior to discharge.

EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES FOR PROVIDERS AND THE PUBLIC

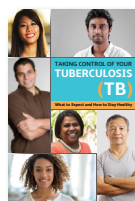
The Health Department has a selection of culturally, technically and linguistically tailored TB education materials that are available to patients, the general public and health care providers. To access materials, visit nyc.gov and search for "tuberculosis" or call **311**.

CLINICAL POLICIES AND PROTOCOLS



4th Edition.
Describes policies, protocols and recommendations for the prevention, treatment and management of TB. The 5th Edition will be available in 2018.

PATIENT BROCHURE



Taking Control of Your Tuberculosis (TB): What to Expect and How to Stay Healthy
General information for patients starting treatment for latent TB infection or active TB disease. Available in 18 languages.

POCKET-SIZED REFERENCE GUIDE FOR PROVIDERS



Treatment and monitoring of drug-susceptible pulmonary tuberculosis

Provides concise information about treatment and monitoring for pulmonary TB.

"YOU CAN STOP TB" EDUCATIONAL POSTERS



Provides basic TB information and includes illustrations with captions. Available in English, Spanish, French,

Haitian Creole, Hindi, Urdu, Bengali, Tibetan, Tagalog and Chinese; available in hard copy or digital formats.

"GET TESTED" / "GET TREATED" POSTERS



These 11x17 posters highlight the benefits of TB testing and encourage evaluation and treatment for symptoms of TB disease. These posters are only available in Chinese.

NYC HEALTH EPI DATA BRIEFS



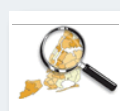
Epi Data Briefs are short publications that highlight data from Health

Department programs and projects. For more information and to access recently published reports, go to nyc.gov and search for "epi data."



HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS AND OTHERS CAN CALL THE TB PROVIDER HOTLINE AT 844-713-0559 FOR EXPERT MEDICAL CONSULTATION AND TO REPORT AND REFER TB CASES

>> NEW YORK CITY INTERACTIVE HEALTH DATA IS AVAILABLE ONLINE



EPIQUERY is an interactive, user-friendly system designed to guide users through basic data analyses. Reported TB cases and case rates are available by select demographic and geographic characteristics. On a citywide level, select characteristics that are important to TB epidemiology are also available, including country of birth and HIV infection. To access TB EpiQuery, go to: <https://a816-healthpsi.nyc.gov/epiquery/>



NEW YORK CITY NEIGHBORHOOD HEALTH ATLAS provides data on about 100 measures related to social factors and health, including TB, for 188 neighborhoods. The data provide a comprehensive and granular view of neighborhood health and its potential determinants, serving as a useful resource for the promotion of health and health equity in our neighborhoods, visit nyc.gov and search for "health atlas."

TABLE 8: Tuberculosis cases and rates¹ by select characteristics, New York City, 1900-2017

Year	Number of TB cases	Rate per 100,000	Cases with positive culture	Cases with positive sputum smear	Sputum smear positive rate per 100,000	Multidrug-resistant cases ²	Deaths attributable to TB ³	Death rate per 100,000
1900	11997	349.0					9630	280.2
1910	32065	672.7					10074	211.3
1920	14035	249.7					7915	140.8
1930	11821	170.6					4574	66.0
1940	9005	120.8					3680	49.4
1950	7717	97.8					2173	27.5
1960	4699	60.4					824	10.6
1970	2590	32.8					432	5.5
1971	2572	32.6					316	4.0
1972	2275	28.8					335	4.2
1973	2101	26.6					259	3.3
1974	2022	25.6					215	2.7
1975	2151	27.2					208	2.6
1976	2151	27.2					187	2.4
1977	1605	20.3					175	2.2
1978	1307	16.6					188	2.4
1979	1530	19.4					121	1.5
1980	1514	21.4					143	2.0
1981	1582	22.4					155	2.2
1982	1583	22.4					168	2.4
1983	1603	22.7					151	2.1
1984	1573	22.2	1485				168	2.4
1985	1811	25.6	1756				155	2.2
1986	2197	31.1	2156				186	2.6
1987	2166	30.6	2129				219	3.1
1988	2281	32.3	2205				246	3.5
1989	2535	35.8	2404				236	3.3
1990	3506	47.9	3384				256	3.5
1991	3653	49.9	3462	1826	24.9	385	245	3.3
1992	3755	51.3	3401	1855	25.3	437	200	2.7
1993	3151	43.0	2784	1529	20.9	287	166	2.3
1994	2941	40.2	2433	1280	17.5	183	133	1.8
1995	2408	32.9	1996	1001	13.7	114	94	1.3
1996	2013	27.5	1693	873	11.9	84	67	0.9
1997	1705	23.3	1383	708	9.7	57	55	0.8
1998	1528	20.9	1232	611	8.3	38	52	0.7
1999	1436	19.6	1124	571	7.8	31	49	0.7
2000	1311	16.4	1043	516	6.4	24	44	0.5
2001	1232	15.4	938	454	5.7	24	33	0.4
2002	1071	13.4	819	436	5.4	29	30	0.4
2003	1132	14.1	865	428	5.3	22	34	0.4
2004	1036	12.9	793	395	4.9	19	31	0.4
2005	983	12.3	745	378	4.7	24	21	0.3
2006	947	11.8	705	354	4.4	23	18	0.2
2007	909	11.4	707	379	4.7	9	16	0.2
2008	886	11.1	685	339	4.2	11	18	0.2
2009	757	9.5	539	281	3.5	9	25	0.3
2010	705	8.6	511	265	3.2	11	26	0.3
2011	684	8.4	501	264	3.2	16	32	0.4
2012	652	8.0	495	271	3.3	19	15	0.2
2013	650	8.0	473	258	3.2	7	17	0.2
2014	582	7.1	454	243	3.0	10	31	0.4
2015	575	7.0	444	240	2.9	5	20	0.2
2016	556	6.8	447	225	2.8	11	Not available	Not available
2017	613	7.5	506	251	3.1	14	Not available	Not available

1. Rates are based on decennial census data. 2. Multidrug-resistant (MDR) TB is defined as resistance to at least isoniazid and rifampin. 3. Data on TB deaths are obtained from the Health Department's Office of Vital Statistics. Deaths recorded in a given year may include cases diagnosed in a previous year.

TECHNICAL NOTES

- Data for 2017 are preliminary and reflect the most complete information available as of January 22, 2018.
- Data prior to 2017 have been updated since the release of the 2016 report. Data for these years reflect the final numbers and may differ from official estimates presented in previous reports.
- TB became a reportable disease on January 19, 1897. From 1920-1940, only cases of pulmonary TB were reportable. Beginning in 1978 the TB case definition was amended to consider people who had verified TB disease 12 or more months before their current diagnosis as incident cases of TB disease.
- Age groupings have been changed from previous reports; as a result, count data for earlier years may differ from previous reports.
- In all tables presenting data by birth in the U.S., column sums may not equal applicable totals due to missing or unknown data.
- In all tables where data is presented by geography, column sums may not equal applicable totals due to missing or unknown data.
- Reported rates for earlier years may differ from previous reports due to corrected data and changes in the denominators used to calculate rates. The sources of denominator data are indicated throughout the report.
- The Health Department calculates population estimates based on modified U.S. Census Bureau interpolated intercensal estimates. Data are modified to account for population undercounts in northwest Queens and southern Brooklyn because of erroneously deleted housing units and housing units mislabeled as vacant. Population estimates are updated as new data become available. Therefore, rates may differ from previously reported rates.
- U.S.-born refers to patients born in the 50 states, District of Columbia or other U.S. territories and outlying areas, including American Samoa, Baker Island, Guam, Howland Island, Jarvis Island, Johnston Atoll, Kingman Reef, Midway Island, Navassa Island, Northern Mariana Islands, Palmyra Atoll, Puerto Rico, U.S. Minor Outlying Islands, U.S. Pacific Islands, Virgin Islands and Wake Island. All others with a known country of birth are considered non-U.S.-born.
- Area-based poverty is defined using patients' ZIP code of residence at the time of TB diagnosis. Poverty level by ZIP code is based on the most recent American Community Survey five-year sample data on the proportion of census tract residents living below the federal poverty level. Patients with addresses outside of NYC, addresses unable to be geocoded to a ZIP code or located in ZIP codes where poverty level could not be determined were not assigned to a poverty level.
- The definition of excessive alcohol use has been changed from previous reports. The current definition of excessive alcohol use, used in this report, is based on national definitions of binge drinking and heavy alcohol use from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.
- The geographic distribution of cases is presented by the 42 United Hospital Fund neighborhoods. These neighborhoods consist of adjoining ZIP codes that approximate NYC Community Planning Districts and contain an average of 200,000 individuals.
- Data presented on HIV status reflect information as collected by BTBC. Misclassification of HIV status may occur if a patient refused to disclose known status and/or refused to be tested for HIV while under care for TB disease.
- The definition of a genotype cluster has been changed from previous reports due to a change in genotyping methods used by BTBC. The current definition of a clustered case, used in this report, is a case whose isolate has exact-matching spacer oligonucleotide typing (spoligotyping) and 24-loci mycobacterial interspersed repetitive unit–variable number tandem repeat (MIRU) results.
- Data on TB deaths are obtained from the NYC Office of Vital Statistics. Deaths recorded in a given year may include cases diagnosed in a previous year.
- Product names are provided for identification purposes only; their use does not imply endorsement by the Health Department.

NEW YORK CITY HEALTH DEPARTMENT CHEST CLINICS

Eligible patients can be referred to one of four Health Department chest clinics located throughout NYC for TB testing, radiography, sputum induction and treatment as needed. All chest clinic services, including medication, are provided at no cost to the patient and regardless of immigration status or insurance status.

WASHINGTON HEIGHTS

600 W. 168th St.,
Third Floor
New York, NY 10032

212-368-4500 or 212-690-1348

MORRISANIA

1309 Fulton Ave.,
First Floor
Bronx, NY 10456

718-579-4157

FORT GREENE

295 Flatbush Ave. Ext.,
Fourth Floor
Brooklyn, NY 11201

**718-643-8357 or
718-643-6551/4808**

CORONA

34-33 Junction Blvd.,
Second Floor
Queens, NY 11372

**718-476-7635 or
718-476-7636**

THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT PROVIDES A VARIETY OF TB DIAGNOSTIC SERVICES, INCLUDING:

- Testing for latent TB infection using the latest generation blood-based QuantiFERON®-TB Gold test and tuberculin skin tests
- Sputum induction
- Chest radiographs
- Medical evaluation
- Treatment for TB disease and latent TB infection
- DOT services, including vDOT

ADDITIONAL CLINICAL SERVICES PROVIDED AT EACH CHEST CLINIC INCLUDE:

- Outpatient medical and nursing care
- Phlebotomy services
- Social services referrals
- HIV education and testing regardless of person's need for TB care
- TB evaluation for newly arrived immigrants and refugees referred by the CDC

>> TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT OR TO REFER A PATIENT, CALL THE INDIVIDUAL CHEST CLINIC OR CALL 311



Testimony of Vanessa Dell, Make the Road New York Before the New York City Council Thursday May 24, 2018

Good morning. I am Vanessa Dell, an attorney at Make the Road New York. Thank you to the City Council for the opportunity to testify today on behalf of Make the Road New York and its 22,000 members.

Based on the experiences of our staff and the New Yorkers we serve, we are making the following eight recommendations for the fiscal year 2019 budget.

1. To start, we thank the City Council for its funding of citywide initiatives. As a provider of services across a range of issues, **Make the Road New York urges the City Council to maintain overall funding for its initiatives.** These initiatives sustain important work at our organization in the areas of legal services (Legal Services for the Working Poor Initiative and Immigrant Opportunity Initiative), health (Immigrant Health Initiative, Access Health Initiative, and Ending the HIV Epidemic Initiative), youth development and arts (Dropout Prevention and Intervention Initiative, Cultural Immigrant Initiative, and Coalition of Theaters of Color Initiative), and adult education (Adult Literacy Initiative). We also urge the City Council to maintain funding for valuable programs serving immigrant families, such as the ICARE initiative for unaccompanied minors and NYIFUP, which provides universal representation for detained immigrants. Together, these initiatives and programs serve thousands of immigrant and low-income New Yorkers.
2. We thank the City Council for making possible generous funding for immigrant legal services, especially in the past year of unprecedented federal attacks on the immigrant community. However, the need today is greater than ever, as it has become the new normal for previously straightforward cases to become more and more complicated and resource-intensive. Immigrant clients are more fearful than ever, demand for our services has skyrocketed and sadly, it is becoming more and more common to hear about the detention of our community members.

We need your leadership to address contracting delays and requirements, which have escalated to pose egregious hardships on the nonprofits doing this vital work. Organizations are either doing the work, meeting our anticipated contract goals by floating hundreds of thousands or even millions of dollars to cover expenses at great risk, or taking the safer

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route of waiting for the contracts to come before hiring and beginning services that were intended to begin 9 months ago. This is wreaking havoc on organizations' health. It poses unsustainable cash flow problems. And it puts us in jeopardy even if we can somehow float the cash; our auditors are understandably demanding explanations for how we could possibly claim to have millions of dollars coming to cover last year's work, when we have no contracts to cover that work at all. Cash flow and contract delays are a long-standing problem with city funding and other government streams; but the situation has recently become far worse than in past years.

Agencies are also allocating funding to coalitions, which has its benefits but also causes major problems because (1) the contract is delayed until contracting details are resolved for the entire coalition; (2) even once the contract is registered, we can't access loans designed to help with cash flow issues because the contract with the city is not OUR contract; and (3) administrative burdens become untenable because the direct contracting agency needs to maintain their own complete files of fiscal records and back-up for each agency or risk not having them available for future audits; where if we were contracting directly with the city, it would be sufficient for us to maintain one copy of everything in our own files to make available when city auditors come pull samples.

We also urge the City to increase flexibility so that legal services providers like MRNY can be nimble in responding to ever-evolving community needs and crises. The City has been moving away from flexibility in contracts at a time when we need maximum flexibility to meet the increased and varied attacks on our communities. As our cases become more and more complex because of ICE's determination to deport as many people as possible, legal persistence and creativity require our attorneys to engage in more appeals, federal court litigation, and rapid raids response to protect our clients' lives and families. The recent increase in restrictions and requirements on our services reduce our ability to respond quickly and as needed at a time when we need the most flexibility. These restrictions also create a disincentive to take the complex cases that need our help the most (e.g., the detained client with convictions who needs post-conviction relief and a motion to reopen an old deportation order).

We ask the City Council to fight back against the Mayor's proposed carve-out that would create an unjust barrier to legal services for immigrant New Yorkers with certain criminal convictions. Limiting legal representation in this way stands in conflict to everything that we, as a legal services community, believe in. The City must stand with immigrant communities and families who are facing separation, not prevent them from accessing services that could actually protect them. A carve-out for criminal convictions is an attack on due process, which is already grossly lacking in the immigration context and precisely why New York City has fought for access to counsel in immigration proceedings. This restriction means families will be separated, children will lose parents, and breadwinners will be detained and deported.

- The City Council should allocate \$2.5 million for the Access Health NYC Initiative and continue allocating \$1.5 million for the Immigrant Health Initiative, programs that allow organizations to reach out to immigrant families with information about their rights**

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and available health resources and address health care disparities. **Additionally, the City should increase funding to \$22 million for the Emergency Food Assistance Program (EFAP)** to support this critical source of food for more than 500 pantries and soup kitchens in the City and **re-start Action Health NYC**, a demonstration program that aimed to increase health access to healthcare for low-income uninsured New Yorkers who are ineligible for public health insurance and insurance offered through the Affordable Care Act.

4. **We ask that the City Council restore and baseline \$12 million in adult literacy funding** so that thousands of immigrants can continue to learn English and access economic opportunity. NYC only meets 3% of the need for English and high school equivalency classes, and without the restoration of \$12 million in funding, nearly 6,000 students will lose their classes this year. We further ask that the City commit to a new procurement that adequately reflects the true cost of providing high quality, comprehensive adult literacy classes so that programs can retain quality staff and prevent interruptions to students' classes. Community-based providers are playing a critical role in this environment: immigrant New Yorkers not only need English instruction more urgently than ever to ameliorate and push back against discrimination and to stay on a career path to opportunity. Community-based adult literacy providers are also where many immigrant families go for trusted advice and support when confused by terrifying rumors or actual legal changes and enforcement crack-downs by the federal government. This network of providers was decimated by budget cuts before Hurricane Sandy, resulting in many immigrant community members impacted by the superstorms having nowhere to go for trusted help. The network is only just beginning to rebuild and needs a serious investment this year to help immigrant families survive the brutality facing them at this time.

5. **We ask that the City Council allocate \$5 million towards the Low Wage Worker Initiative** to provide critical legal services for exploited workers, especially vulnerable in the age of Trump. Demand for employment legal services has escalated dramatically over the past year, as low-wage and especially immigrant workers find themselves even more vulnerable than before to abuse by exploitative employers using the Trump presidency as an excuse to ramp up pressure on workers to accept illegally low wages and brutal working conditions. While legal protections for workers in New York City are among the strongest in the country, they are insufficient if not backed up by strong enforcement and access to legal services to hold violators accountable. Additionally, *responsible* employers need advice and guidance and are facing an unfair playing field when competing with law-breaking competitors. The state has almost completely abdicated its responsibility to enforce the law through the Department of Labor; and needless to say immigrant workers cannot trust the federal Department of Labor to step into the breach with any real support. But the City can help in a major way by investing in trusted community-based organizations and legal service providers to support low wage workers in New York. This initiative will allow us to build on our collaboration with other providers on the Low Wage Worker Task Force as well as with local agencies like the Office of Labor Policy and Standards and the New York City Commission on Human Rights to strengthen workers' rights enforcement in low-wage industries throughout the City.

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6. **The City Council should allocate \$5.3 million for Jobs to Build On and \$2.2 million for the Worker Service Centers at the Consortium for Worker Education (CWE).** The City Council's commitment to community-based workforce development has resulted in tens of thousands of New Yorkers gaining meaningful employment with family-sustaining wages. These allocations are crucial to the nearly 40 workforce development providers throughout the five boroughs, including Make the Road New York, who partner with CWE.
7. **We ask that the City Council create and allocate \$2 million to support the Trans Equity Initiative.** As part of the Transgender Equity Coalition, MRNY is advocating for the creation of a new Funding Initiative to promote and achieve equity for the transgender and gender non-conforming (TGNC) community. While the city has made strides in supporting TGNC people, greater work needs to be done to support economic, educational, and social work building inclusion and equality for the community. This work includes providing legal services for TGNC immigrants, building leadership skills with trans youth, providing safe trans-specific shelters and affordable housing, and creating awareness campaigns around healthcare options for TGNC individuals.
8. **Lastly, we ask that the City Council invest \$5 million to expand the City Council Restorative Practices Citywide Initiative to 50 schools; \$1.4 million to expand the DOE Restorative Practices Program to roughly 180 schools in 4 high-needs school districts; and \$2.6 million for each of the next three years to pilot a Mental Health Support Continuum Initiative at 20 high-needs schools.** These programs investments would ensure adequate staffing and training for restorative justice practices and create a mental health network to supplement existing supports for students. Together they are critical pieces of addressing the school-to-prison pipeline and creating healthy and inclusive school communities.

Thank you again to the City Council for your time and ongoing leadership. MRNY appreciates our partnership with each of you to ensure the respect and dignity of immigrant and low-income New Yorkers. I hope you will consider the requests we have made today, and we look forward to working together in fiscal year 2019.

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**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Scott Stringer

Address: 1 Centre

I represent: _____

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: Preston Niblack

Address: 1 Centre

I represent: Comptroller Scott Stringer

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: Mitchell Katz, M.D.

Address: New York City Health + Hospital

I represent: F.Y. 19 Executive Budget

Address: _____

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

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Matthew Siegal
Address: New York City Health + Hospitals
I represent: Mitchell A. A. Executive Budget
Address: New York City

**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: Frederick Connors
Address: F4.19 Executive Budget
I represent: New York City Health + Hospitals
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: ~~Samuel~~ Ronnie Lowenstein
Address: 130
I represent: _____
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: George Sweeting

Address: 1300

I represent: _____

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: Melanie Hartzog, Budget Director

Address: 255 Greenwich

I represent: OMB (Budget Director)

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: Kenneth J. Bodiner, First Deputy Director

Address: 255 Greenwich

I represent: OMB (First Deputy Director)

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: Charles Briskly, Deputy Director

Address: 255 Greenwich

I represent: OMB (Deputy Director)

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: Budget Director Hartzog

Address: 255 Greenwich

I represent: OMB

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

BUDGET
UTILITY
RIGHTS

Appearance Card

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

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: RACHEL BURD

Address: 25 BWAY 9th FL

I represent: PUBLIC UTILITY LAW PROJECT

Address: _____

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

Senior

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Finance

Appearance Card

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

☐ in favor ☒ in opposition

Date: 05-24-2018

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Rue Zalia Watkins

Address: 50 Broadway, New York

I represent: Mental Health Assoc of NY

Address: 850 Longwood, Bx

**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: 5/24/18

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Dian Dong

Address: 70 Mulberry St NYC 10013

I represent: Chen Dance Center

Address: 70 mulberry st 10013

**THE COUNCIL FINANCE
THE CITY OF NEW YORK FIRE/EMS**

SENIOR

Appearance Card

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

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 5/24/18

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: JOSEFINA SANFELIU

Address: 229 E 3rd ST B/NY 11215

I represent: LATINAS AGAINST FDMY CUTS

Address: _____

HOUSING
CHILD WITH
LEAD POISONING

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: ALEJANDRO OTERO

Address: 295 OCEAN PARKWAY APT A10

I represent: STAR HORIZON ORGANIZATION

Address: _____

Public

↳
Courts
Justice
Access

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: 5/24/18

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Dipal (Dee-pull) Shah

Address: 520 8th Ave

I represent: Center for Court Innovation

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: Jackie Del Valle

Address: 123 William St. 16th floor NYC NY 10038

I represent: Stabilizing NYC - housing initiative

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

public

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

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 5/24/18

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: ANNETTE BAUDINO Health / Hosp.

Address: _____

I represent: Treatment Action Group

Address: 90 Broad St. #203

**THE COUNCIL EFAP -
THE CITY OF NEW YORK hunger**

Appearance Card

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

PUBLIC ☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: TRIADA STAMPAS

Address: _____

I represent: FOOD BANK FOR NYC

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

public

Appearance Card

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

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Sandy Myers

Address: _____

I represent: Selfhelp Community Services

Address: re: Aging Services

Public
Accessibility Funds
for Public Schools

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: Rebecca Koshvchenko

Address: _____

I represent: Students w/ disabilities & ARISE

Address: _____

PUBLIC THE COUNCIL Access Health NYC
THE CITY OF NEW YORK Immigrant Health Initiative

Appearance Card

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

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Claudia Calhoun

Address: _____

I represent: New York Immigration Coalition

Address: 131 West 33rd NY NY 10001

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: Lisa Rivera * after 5pm

Address: _____

I represent: New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG)

Address: re. Immigrant Health Initiative

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

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: MARK WINSTON GRIFFITH

Address: central Brooklyn Food coop/BROOKLYN
movement center

I represent: _____

Address: Healthy Food Financing Initiative

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

public

Appearance Card

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

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: John Sentigar

Address: _____

I represent: Covenant House New York

Address: Increase funding for homeless youth
programs.

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

Public

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

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Harriet Blank

Address: Ohel Children's Home & Family

I represent: grants - on older adults, senior

Address: Autism & Trauma

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Public

Appearance Card

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

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 5/24/18

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Hercules E. Reid

Address: 342 Kingsboro 3rd Walk Brooklyn NY

I represent: CUNY University Student Senate

Address: Executive Budget

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

public

Appearance Card

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

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: EVIE ZANDON - COOPERATIVE ECONOMICS ALLIANCE OF NYC

Address: _____

I represent: COOPERATIVE ECONOMICS ALLIANCE OF NYC

Address: Healthy Food Financing Initiative

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Public -
Homeless Svs
DHS

Appearance Card

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

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Catherine Trapani

Address: Homeless Services United 1446 W 33rd

I represent: _____

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: Claudia Calhoun

Address: NYIC

I represent: Health Access 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: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Zaira Hernandez-Cinto

Address: The Institute for Family Health

I represent: Immigrant Health Initiative / Access health 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: 5/11/19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Dr. Scott Katz

Address: 111 E. 9th St. NYC

I represent: Access NYC

Address: _____

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

Public.

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: Michelle Norris

Address: 21-37

I represent: Accessibility of Public Schools

Address: _____

Public

THE COUNCIL THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Topic:
Libraries

Appearance Card

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

☒ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 5/24/2018

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Veronika Conant

Address: 45 W 54 St, 7C, New York, NY 10019

I represent: self

Address: _____

THE COUNCIL THE CITY OF NEW YORK

public

Appearance Card

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

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: KEVIN DOUGLAS

Address: NYCCAL (COALITION FOR ADULT

I represent: LITERACY)

Address: ADULT LITERACY)

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

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

public

Appearance Card

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

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: VANESSA DELL (MAKE THE ROAD NY)

Address: _____

I represent: FY2019 CITY COUNCIL INITIATIVES

Address: BUDGET

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Public
TB

Appearance Card

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

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 5/24/18

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: SAFIQA YAHMANI

Address: 90 Broad St Suite 2503, New York, NY 10004

I represent: TREATMENT ACTION GROUP

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Public
Asian
Panel

Appearance Card

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

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Jo-Ann Yoo

Address: _____

I represent: Asian American Generation

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Public

Appearance Card

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

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

Name:

Ysabel Abreu (PLEASE PRINT)

Address:

I represent:

Northern Manhattan Improvement Corp
Access Health NYC

Address:

school
lunch

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Lunch
Leaving

Appearance Card

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

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name:

Lynn Kim

Address:

NYC Youth Food Advocates

Address:

school
lunch

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Lunch
Leaving

Appearance Card

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

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name:

Liz Accles

Address:

110 Wall St

I represent:

Community Food Advocates

Address:

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

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

public

Appearance Card

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

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Rachel Sherron

Address: _____

I represent: Citymeals on

Address: wheels

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Public Budget
(Accessibility
of Schools)

Appearance Card

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

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 5/24/18

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Kim Madden

Address: 37 W 93rd St #16 NY NY 10025

I represent: my hr.

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Public

Appearance Card

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

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Lemuel Boyd

Address: _____

I represent: Access Health NYCC

Address: _____

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

THE COUNCIL PUBLIC / FINANCE
THE CITY OF NEW YORK FIRE/EMS

Appearance Card

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

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 5/24/2018

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: JOSEFINA SANFELIU

Address: 229 13th ST. B/NY 11215

I represent: LATINAS AGAINST FBNY CUTS

Address: SAME

THE COUNCIL public
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

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

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 5/24/2018

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: JERRY WESLEY

Address: 10947 172nd Street JAMAICA, NY 11433

I represent: GET HEALTHIER CARE TOGETHER INC

Address: 127 EAST 38th Street BROOKLYN, NY 11203

Public
mental health
early childhood
adult literacy
summer school
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: Peter Gee

Address: 121 Ave. of Americas

I represent: University Settlement

Address: _____

PUBLIC

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: Eve Stotland

Address: 121 Ave of the Americas

I represent: The Door / ICARE

Address: Immigration initiatives

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: 5/24/18

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Ira Yankwitt

Address: _____

I represent: The Literacy Assistance Center

Address: testifying about adult literacy funding

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: Greg Michalovich

Address: _____

I represent: American Heart Association

Address: healthy food access

Education
Accessibility
In Schools

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: JUDY N. OKIN Barney

Address: _____

I represent: Parent for inclusive education

Address: _____

Child Care

THE COUNCIL THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Public

Appearance Card

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

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: LISA CASWELL

Address: 2082 Lexington Ave. Suite 204, NY, NY 10035

I represent: DAY CARE Council of NY

Address: _____

Health

THE COUNCIL THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Public

Appearance Card

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

Date: 05/24/18

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Juan C. Pinzon

Address: 633 Third Ave, 10th FL NY, NY 10017

I represent: Community Service Society

Address: _____

Public
Human
Services

**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: Gregory Bender

Address: _____

I represent: United Neighborhood Houses

Address: _____

Public

**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: Brekeil Sanders (student) 12th grade

Address: on behalf of

I represent: Childrens Defense Fund - Restorative

Address: Justice practices

Trans movement
lens support to
community efforts to ensure the BBO is FREE for ALL

**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: 5/24/18

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Mariah Lopez

Address: Homeless (433 LaFayette Ave, Brooklyn 11258)

I represent: STARIR

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

*education,
importance its
neighborhood +
families*

Appearance Card

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

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 5/24/2018

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: LINDA STROUD

Address: 961 WASHINGTON AVE. 11225

I represent: COMMITTEE OF 100 TO MAKE BBG free again

Address: 4521 CHURCH AVE. BKLYN, NY 11203

Public

**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: Mary Haviland

Address: 32 Broadway Suite 1101, NY, NY 10004

I represent: NYC Alliance Against Sexual Assault

Address: (Sexual Assault Initiative)

Public

**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: Saswati Saukar

Address: 32 Broadway Suite 1101, NY, NY 10004

I represent: NYC Alliance Against Sexual Assault

Address: (Young Women's Initiative)

Public

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: Noris De Jesus Petrone

Address: Kingsbridge Heights CC

I represent: _____

Address: Sexual Assault Initiative

Public

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: Marisa Caiola

Address: North Brooklyn Coalition Against

I represent: Family Violence

Address: (Sexual Assault Initiative)

C.L.

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: 5/24/18

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Constance Lesold

Address: 4521 CHURCH AVE, BKLYN NY 11203

I represent: Committee of 100 to make BROOKLYN BOTANIC GARDEN FREE AGAIN

Address: Same as above

Public:
workforce devel.
Health
Seniors

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: SARAH TATAROW

Address: 40 BROAD STREET, NY, NY 10007

I represent: FPWA - Federation of Protestant Welfare

Address: same as above Agencies

THE COUNCIL THE CITY OF NEW YORK

PUBLIC

Mental
Health

Appearance Card

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

☒ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 5/29/18

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Matthew Doug BERMAN

Address: 123 WILLIAM ST

I represent: Coalition for Behavioral Health

Address: _____

THE COUNCIL THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Public

Park

Appearance Card

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

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Marlene Giga

Address: 125 Barclay Street NY NY 10007

I represent: Treasurer, Local 983, DC 37

Address: _____

Parks

THE COUNCIL THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Public

Appearance Card

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

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 5/24/18

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Joe Puleo

Address: 125 Barday Buit NY NY 10007

I represent: President, Local 983, DC 37

Address: _____

THE COUNCIL THE CITY OF NEW YORK

public

Appearance Card

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

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: John Williams

Address: _____

I represent: Peel Works Inc

Address: Supporting Org

THE COUNCIL THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Public

Appearance Card

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

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 5/24/18

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Dipal Shah, Director of Strategic Partnerships

Address: 520 8th Avenue, Suite 1800 New York NY

I represent: Center for Court & Innovation

Address: 520 8th Avenue, Suite 1800 New York

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

children's
issues

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

public

Appearance Card

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

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Stephanie Gendell

Address: _____

I represent: Citizens' Committee for Children

Address: _____

EFAP:
Budget

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

public

Appearance Card

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

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Maggie Andreoni

Address: _____

I represent: Hunger Free America

Address: 50 Broad St, Ste 1103 NY, NY 10004

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

public

Appearance Card

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

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Amir Sultan

Address: Sports & Arts In Schools Foundation

I represent: After School Enrichment Initiative

Address: _____

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK Public

Appearance Card

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

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Maggie Moroff

Address: _____

I represent: ARISE Coalition

Address: school accessibility

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK PUBLIC

Appearance Card

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

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 5/24/18

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: LUCY SEXTON

Address: 160 Sixth Ave 10013

I represent: New Yorkers for Culture & Arts

Address: speaking in support of cultural funding
cultural

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK PUBLIC

Appearance Card

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

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Randi Levine

Address: _____

I represent: Advocates for Children of New York

Address: education (students who are homeless,
school accessibility)

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

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

PUBLIC

Appearance Card

1:39pm

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

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Katherine Chambers

Address: 39 Eldridge St NY 10002

I represent: CPC - Project Reach

Address: LGBT Anti Discrimination / Education
Youth Training Soc Services

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

PUBLIC

Appearance Card

1:39pm

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

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: DON KAO

Address: 39 Eldridge St / NY 10002

I represent: CPC - Project Reach

Address: Youth / Anti Discrimination / Education
LGBT Civil Rights Soc Services

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

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: Mei Fung

Address: 39 Eldridge St NYC 10002

I represent: CPC - Project Reach

Address: Youth / Anti Discrimination / Education
LGBT Civil Rights Soc Services

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

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

PUBLIC

Appearance Card

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

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: SHELDON RAYMORE

Address: 39 Eldridge St NY 10002

I represent: CPC - Project Reach

Address: Youth / Anti Discrimination / Education

LGBT / Civil Rights / Soc. Services

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

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: SAMIA Uddin

Address: 39 Eldridge St NY 10002

I represent: CPC - Project Reach

Address: LGBT / Anti Discrimination / Education

Youth / Civil Rights / Soc. Services

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

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

PUBLIC

Appearance Card

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

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: SHELDON RAYMORE

Address: 39 Eldridge St NY 10002

I represent: CPC - Project Reach

Address: Youth / Anti Discrimination / Education

LGBT / Civil Rights / Soc. Services

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

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

PUBLIC

Appearance Card

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

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Frances Grumbly

Address: 39 Eldridge St

I represent: American Indian Community House

Address: LGBT Two Spirit / HIV/AIDS

Indigenous Native American Social
Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

PUBLIC

Appearance Card

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

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Melissa Oakes

Address: 39 Eldridge St 10002

I represent: American Indian Community House

Address: LGBT / HIV/AIDS / Indigenous

Two Spirit / Social Services
Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

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: Arac Apaza

Address: 39 Eldridge St NY 10002

I represent: American Indian Community House

Address: LGBT / HIV/AIDS / Indigenous

Two Spirit / Native Am Social
Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

1168

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

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: SCOTT DALY

Address: 58-12 QUEENS BLVD

I represent: NEW YORK JUNIOR TENNIS & LEARNING

Address: SIAIA

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

PUBLIC

Appearance Card

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

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Shawnee Rice

Address: 39 Eldridge St, NY 10002

I represent: American Indian Community House

Address: LGBT / HIV/AIDS / Indigenous / Native
Two Spirit / American Soc. Services

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Public

Appearance Card

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

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Connor Liang

Address: 39 Eldridge St

I represent: CPC - Project Reach

Address: LGBT / Anti-Discrimination / Education
Youth / Civil Rights / Soc Services

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

Public THE COUNCIL Asian American
THE CITY OF NEW YORK Advocacy

Appearance Card

11:00PM

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

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 5/24/18

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Aya Tasaki

Address: _____

I represent: WOMANKIND

Address: _____

Public THE COUNCIL Asian American
THE CITY OF NEW YORK Advocacy

Appearance Card

11:00PM

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

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Kevin Tse

Address: _____

I represent: Chinese-American Planning Council

Address: _____

Public THE COUNCIL Asian American
THE CITY OF NEW YORK Advocacy

Appearance Card

1:00P

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

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 5/24/18

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Jo-Ann Yoo

Address: _____

I represent: Asian American Federation

Address: 120 W 611 St., 9th Fl, NY, NY 10005

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

Public

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Asian American

Advocacy

Appearance Card

1:00P

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

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 5/24/18

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Hioko Hatanaka

Address: _____

I represent: Japanese American Social Service

Address: _____

12:00 pm

**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: STUDENTS FROM IS 230

Address: RE FUNDING FOR ACADEMY OR OTHER PROGRAMS

I represent: RE CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Address: _____

12:00 pm

**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: JOHN SENTIGAR

Address: _____

I represent: COVENANT HOUSE

Address: RE: FUNDING FOR HOMELESS YOUTH PROGRAMS

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

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK Public

Appearance Card

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

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Faith Behum

Address: Nonprofit infrastructure, senior

I represent: services, youth services

Address: UJA - Federation of NY

THE COUNCIL Public
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

10:43

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

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Michelle Jackson

Address: _____

I represent: Human Services Council

Address: - Human services sector funding issues

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: Jane Li

Address: _____

I represent: Community Development Project, formerly

Address: Urban Justice Center

Public
THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

10/18A

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

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Andrea Cianfrani

Address: _____

I represent: Live ON NY - SENIOR ISSUES

Address: SENIOR FUNDING

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

7/19A

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

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 5/24/18

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: JOANNA UNDERWOOD

Address: 138 E. 13th ST.

I represent: ENERGY VISION

Address: 138 E. 13th ST.

RE: PHASING
OUT PROCUREMENT
OF DIESEL
VEHICLES FOR
CITY FLEETS

Dept. of Finance
THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK Public

Appearance Card

7:52A

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

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: May 24, 2018

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Fran Schloss

Address: 125 Barclay Street NY NY 10007

I represent: President, Local 1757, DC 37

Address: (Assessors)

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

Parks

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Public

Appearance Card

PSA

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

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: May 24, 2018

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Diley Benn

Address: 125 Barclay Street NY NY 10007

I represent: President, Local 1505, DC37

Address: (City Parks Workers)

Libraries

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Public

Appearance Card

PSA

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

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: May 24, 2018

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Leonard Paul

Address: 125 Barclay Street NY NY 10007

I represent: President, Local 374 DC37

Address: (NYPL - security and custodians)

City

Libraries

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Public

Appearance Card

PSA

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

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: May 24, 2018

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Ronaldo Barber

Address: 125 Barclay Street, NY NY 10007

I represent: President, Local 1482, DC37

Address: (Brooklyn Public Library Guild)



Libraries

THE COUNCIL THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

9:20

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

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: May 24, 2018

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: John Hyslop

Address: 125 Barclay Street NY NY 10007

I represent: President, Local 1321, DC 37

Address: (Queens Public Library)

THE COUNCIL THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

5:00

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. FY2019 Budget Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 5/24/19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Vanessa Leung

Address: 237 Chester Ave. ST, NY 10306

I represent: Coalition for Asian American Children

Address: 50 Broad St, 18th Fl NY NY 10004

Courts &

Justice

THE COUNCIL THE CITY OF NEW YORK

(Repping w/)

Co-worker

Appearance Card

521

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

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Shane Correia "Core-Ryo-ah"

Address: 520 8th Ave

I represent: Center for Courts Innovation

Address: _____

Asian
American
Advocacy

THE COUNCIL THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

5:20PM

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

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 5/24/18

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: SELVIA SIKDER

Address: Care Coordinator

I represent: India Home Inc.

Address: 178-36 Wexford Terrace, Jamaica, NY-11432

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

Sonic
Summer
Camp.

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: 5/24/18.

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Erika Sarmiento

Address: 172 Milford ST, 1st FL, BK, NY 11208.

I represent: _____

Address: _____

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