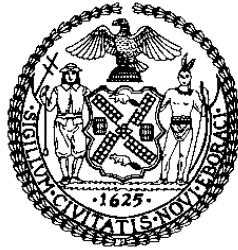


Committee on Youth Services  
Paul Sinegal, *Legislative Counsel*  
Kevin Kotowski, *Policy Analyst*  
Michele Peregrin, *Financial Analyst*



**The Council of the City of New York**

**BRIEFING PAPER OF THE HUMAN SERVICES DIVISION**

Jeffrey Baker, *Legislative Director*  
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**COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES**

Hon. Deborah Rose, *Chair*

**October 11, 2018**

**Oversight: DYCD Programs (SYEP, COMPASS NYC & SONYC)**

## **INTRODUCTION**

On October 11, 2018, the Committee on Youth Services, chaired by Council Member Rose, will conduct an oversight hearing titled “DYCD Programs (SYEP, COMPASS NYC & SONYC).” The hearing will look to gain more information on the specified DYCD programs- SYEP, COMPASS NYC and SONYC. Witnesses invited to testify include New York City’s Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD), youth advocates, program providers and other members of the public.

## **BACKGROUND**

DYCD contracts with a network of community-based organizations and programs to support New Yorkers, specifically focusing on alleviating the effects of poverty, and providing opportunities for New Yorkers and their communities to prosper.<sup>1</sup> DYCD specifically supports New York City youth and their families by providing a wide range of services, including: after-school programs, family support services, youth services, and youth employment programs.<sup>2</sup> DYCD is based on a certain set of principles, of which include: opportunities for all, stewardship, integrity, strategic relationships, and inclusiveness.<sup>3</sup> Ultimately, these principles are embodied through the services and programs DYCD funds in efforts to improve the quality of life for New Yorkers. Three of DYCD’s programs are SYEP (Summer Youth Employment Program), COMPASS NYC (Comprehensive After School System of New York City), and SONYC (School’s Out New York City), which is a sub-part of COMPASS NYC.

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<sup>1</sup> New York City. Department of Youth and Community Development. *About DYCD*. Retrieved from <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/dycd/about/about-dycd/about-dycd.page>.

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*

## *SYEP*

SYEP is a DYCD-funded program that offers New York City youth between the ages of 14 and 24 years old with paid summer employment for up to six weeks during the summer months of July and August.<sup>4</sup> DYCD contracts with providers in all five boroughs of New York City to offer youth the opportunity to work in entry-level jobs in a variety of industries, such as: education, finance, media/entertainment, retail, manufacturing, and marketing/public relations.<sup>5</sup> In 2018, there were more than 40 different providers for SYEP including: Aspira New York, Bronx Works, Catholic Charities, The Children's Aid Society, CAMBA, Chinese American Planning, St. Nick's Alliance Coalition, Police Athletic League, and Henry Street Settlement.<sup>6</sup> In addition to entry-level jobs, SYEP provides workshops on job readiness, career exploration, financial literacy, and opportunities for educational advancement and socio-economic growth.<sup>7</sup>

Notably, there has been some contention on the number of SYEP slots needed to adequately serve the youth within the city. This has highlighted the intricacies of funding and expansion. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2019, \$144,035,000 has been allotted for SYEP funding, with a target of 75,000 participant slots.<sup>8</sup> SYEP funding and participant slot numbers for the past three fiscal years are as follows:

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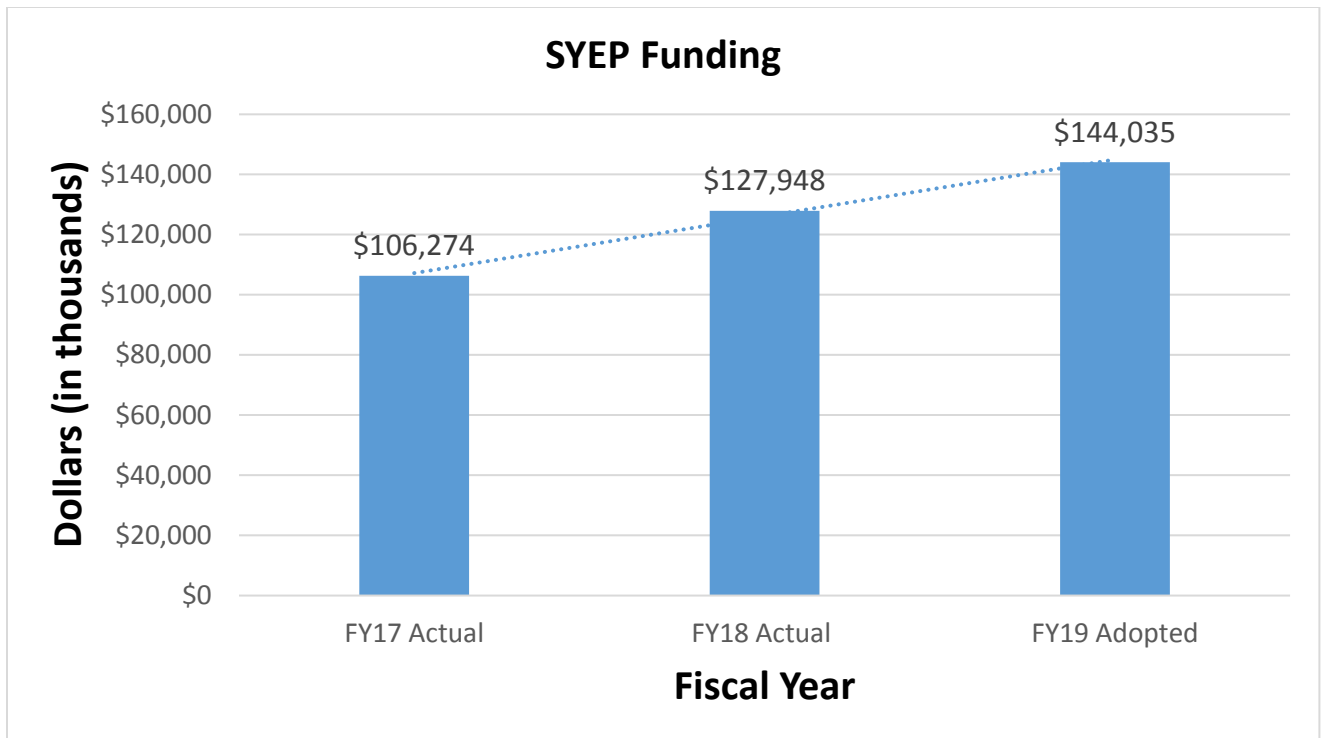
<sup>4</sup> New York City. Department of Youth and Community Development. *Jobs & Internships: Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP)*. Retrieved from <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/dycd/services/jobs-internships/summer-youth-employment-program-syep.page>.

<sup>5</sup> *Id.*

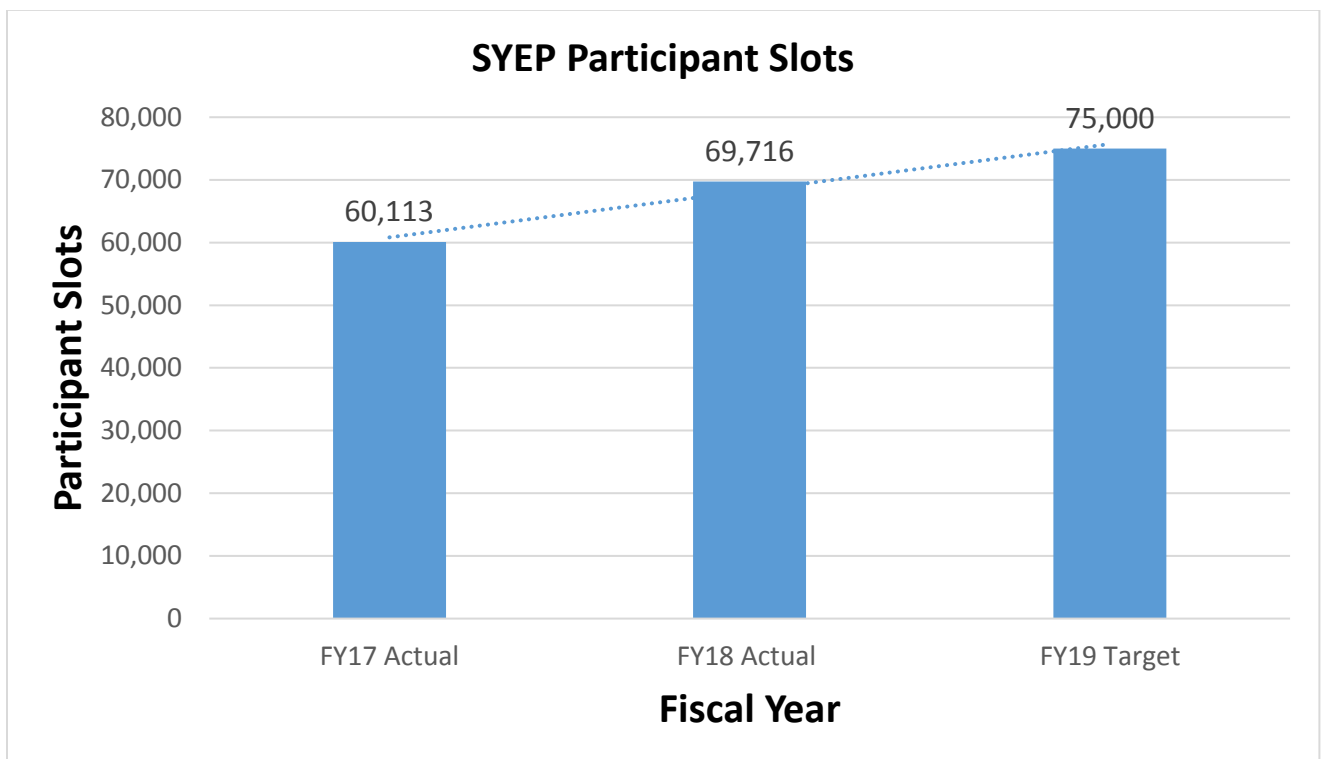
<sup>6</sup> New York City. Department of Youth and Community Development. *SYEP: List of Community Based Providers 2018*. Retrieved from [https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/dycd/downloads/pdf/SYEP\\_2018\\_List\\_Community\\_Based\\_Providers-Rev.2.13.18.pdf](https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/dycd/downloads/pdf/SYEP_2018_List_Community_Based_Providers-Rev.2.13.18.pdf).

<sup>7</sup> New York City. Department of Youth and Community Development. *Jobs & Internships: Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP)*. Retrieved from <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/dycd/services/jobs-internships/summer-youth-employment-program-syep.page>.

<sup>8</sup> See "SYEP Funding" and "SYEP Participant Slots" on page 4.



Sources: FY2018 Mayor's Management Report-DYCD; FY2019 Adopted Budget-Budget Function Analysis Report



Sources: FY2018 Mayor's Management Report-DYCD; DYCD

## COMPASS NYC

Although previously named Out-of-School Time (OST), since 2005, COMPASS NYC has offered high quality programs with an emphasis on academics, recreation, enrichment and cultural activities to improve the overall development of the youth.<sup>9</sup> COMPASS NYC is made up of more than 900 programs that serve youth enrolled in grades Kindergarten to 12<sup>th</sup> to ensure that all New York City youth have access to quality after school programming.<sup>10</sup> In efforts to increase participation and impact, COMPASS NYC is offered at no cost to the youth who choose to participate, with programs being strategically placed in public and private schools, community centers, religious institutions, public housing, and recreational facilities throughout the City.<sup>11</sup>

COMPASS NYC has numerous different program models, of which are:

- COMPASS Elementary, which provides programming three hours a day, five days a week and on 13 school holidays, to children from Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade focusing on STEM,<sup>12</sup> literacy, basic arts, physical activity, and nutritional education;<sup>13</sup>
- COMPASS Explore, a single-focused project-based model for elementary, middle, and high school age youth designed to encourage exploration of interests and skill building through projects and creativity;<sup>14</sup> and
- COMPASS High, a project-based learning experience for 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade students that encourages skill building activities, civic engagement and student choice, as well as

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<sup>9</sup> New York City. Department of Youth and Community Development. *After School: COMPASS NYC*. Retrieved from <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/dycd/services/after-school/comprehensive-after-school-system-of-new-york-city-compass.page>.

<sup>10</sup> *Id.*

<sup>11</sup> *Id.*

<sup>12</sup> STEM refers to the types of skills that students learn by studying science, technology, engineering and math, subjects collectively known as STEM. Retrieved from <https://www.ed.gov/stem>.

<sup>13</sup> New York City. Department of Youth and Community Development. *After School: COMPASS Program Models*. Retrieved from [https://www1.nyc.gov/site/dycd/services/after-school/COMPASS\\_program\\_model.page](https://www1.nyc.gov/site/dycd/services/after-school/COMPASS_program_model.page).

<sup>14</sup> *Id.*

offers counseling and case management services to ensure those participants stay on track to be successful throughout high school.<sup>15</sup>

In addition to these three program models, COMPASS NYC also offers a middle school model named SONYC, discussed separately below. All COMPASS NYC's models have key elements that include: opportunities for youth to explore their interests and creativity; integration of STEM into traditional programming to increase elementary and middle school participants' interests within these fields; hands-on, project-based learning activities; and strategies to support youth and families during educational transitions that are critical to youth development, among others.<sup>16</sup>

### SONYC

In 2014, Mayor Bill de Blasio and DYCD Commissioner Bill Chong launched SONYC in efforts to reduce inequality across communities and provide middle school students with safe, high-quality learning and recreational opportunities.<sup>17</sup> SONYC is structured like a club, which offers youth in 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grades a choice in how they spend their time; provides instruction in sports and arts; and requires youth leadership through service.<sup>18</sup> The program offers youth learning experiences through trips and opportunities that go beyond traditional learning settings, essentially using the City as a classroom.<sup>19</sup> SONYC is offered after school for three hours a day, five days a week.<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>15</sup> *Id.*

<sup>16</sup> New York City. Department of Youth and Community Development. *After School: COMPASS NYC*. Retrieved from <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/dycd/services/after-school/comprehensive-after-school-system-of-new-york-city-compass.page>.

<sup>17</sup> New York City. Department of Youth and Community Development. *About DYCD: History*. Retrieved from <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/dycd/about/about-dycd/history.page>.

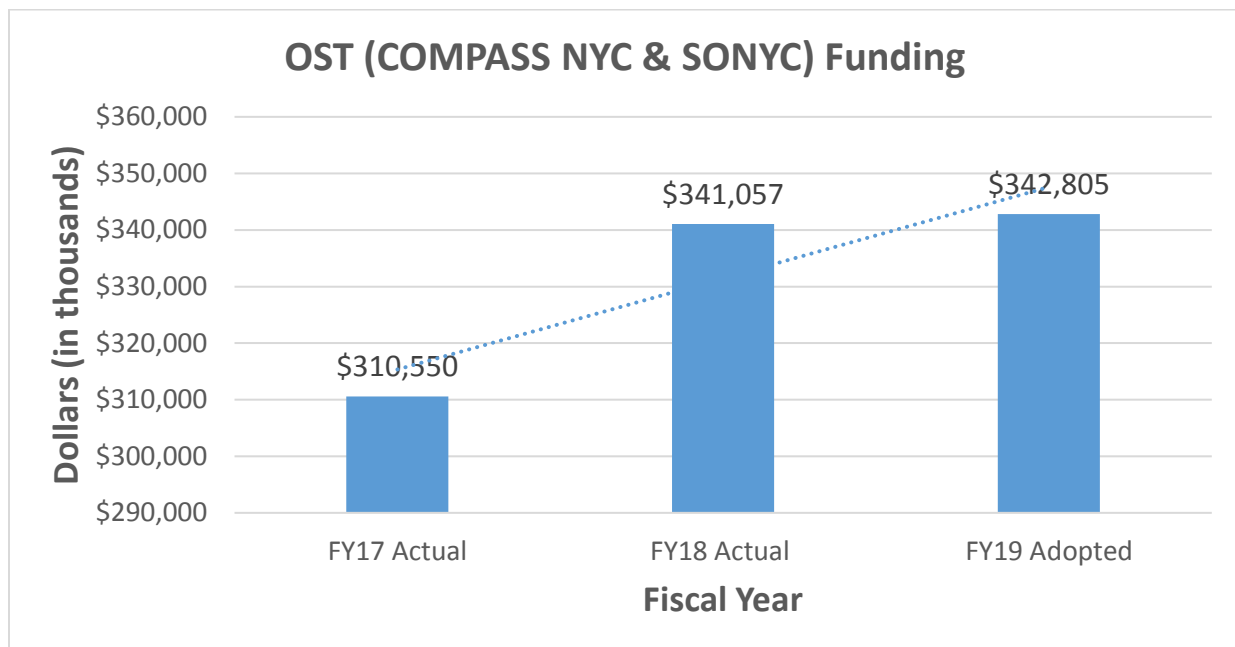
<sup>18</sup> New York City. Department of Youth and Community Development. *After School: School's Out New York City (SONYC)*. Retrieved from <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/dycd/services/after-school/schools-out-new-york-city-sonyc.page>.

<sup>19</sup> *Id.*

<sup>20</sup> *Id.*

Notably, in 2015, DYCD, in collaboration with the Administration for Children Services (ACS), the Department of Homeless Services (DHS), and numerous community based organizations, launched a SONYC pilot program to serve middle school youth in ACS and homeless facilities.<sup>21</sup> The program offered focused programming in efforts to cultivate supportive relationships, ensure adolescents remain on a good path, and foster optimism, while looking to: encourage curiosity; identify and strengthen talents; create pathways to success; and encourage youth to believe in their futures.<sup>22</sup> In addition to this program, DYCD also launched a SONYC pilot program for justice-involved youth.<sup>23</sup>

In the budget, COMPASS NYC and SONYC are funded through the title of “OST.” In FY 2019, \$342,805,000 has been allotted for OST funding, with a target of 110,000 participant slots. OST funding and participant slot numbers for the past three fiscal years are as follows:

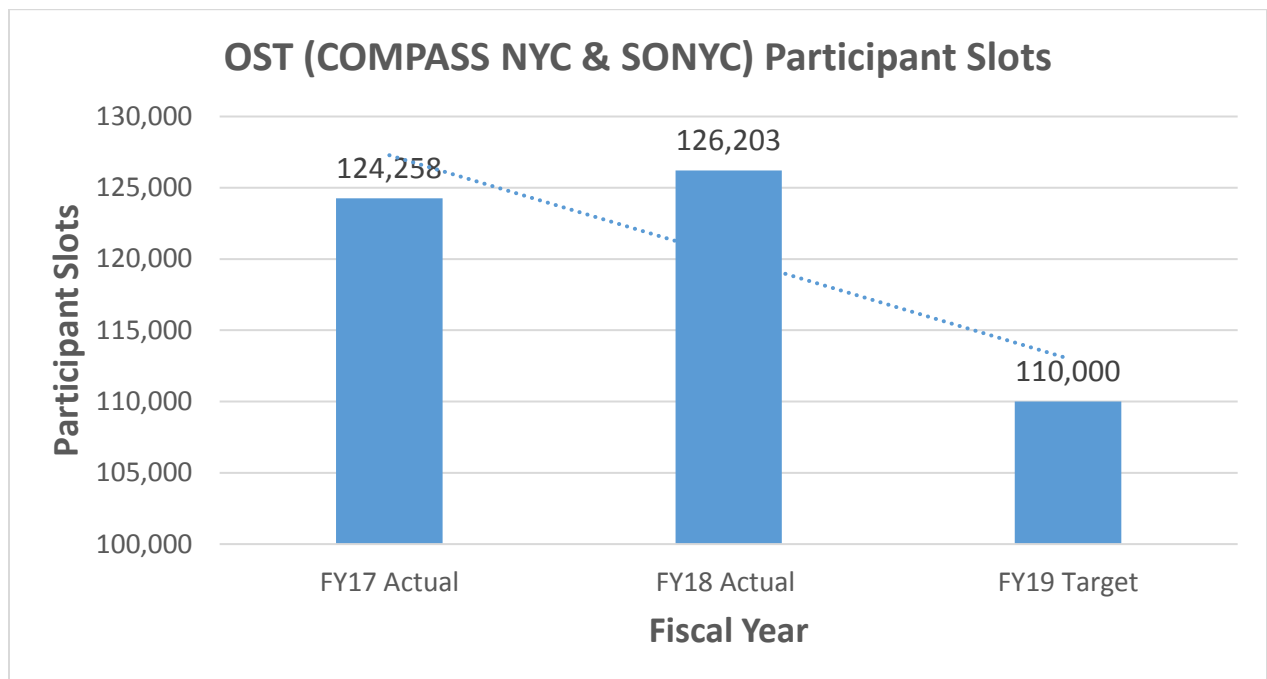


<sup>21</sup> New York City. Department of Youth and Community Development. *After School: School's Out New York City (SONYC)*. Retrieved from <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/dycd/services/after-school/schools-out-new-york-city-sonyc.page>.

<sup>22</sup> *Id.*

<sup>23</sup> New York City. Department of Youth and Community Development. *About DYCD: History*. Retrieved from <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/dycd/about/about-dycd/history.page>.

Sources: FY2018 Mayor’s Management Report-DYCD; FY2019 Adopted Budget-Budget Function Analysis Report



Sources: FY2018 Mayor’s Management Report-DYCD; DYCD

## **CONCLUSION**

At this hearing, the Committee will gain a more detailed understanding of each program discussed, as well as follow-up on important issues raised by providers and DYCD relating to expansion, funding, service gaps and provider readiness.