

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

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March 11, 2019  
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HELD AT: Committee Rm - City Hall

B E F O R E: Deborah L. Rose, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Justin L. Brannan  
Margaret S. Chin  
Mathieu Eugene  
Andy L. King

## A P P E A R A N C E S

Bill Chong  
Commissioner of DYCD

Susan Haskell  
Deputy Commissioner for Youth Services

Andre White  
Deputy Commissioner for Youth Workforce  
Development

Jagdeen Phanor  
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Darryl Rattray  
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Melissa Diaz  
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Whitney Donhauser  
Ronay Menschel Director

Geoffrey Golia  
Getting Out and Staying Out (GOSO)

Gregory Brender  
United Neighborhood

Raysa Rodriguez  
Citizen's Committee for Children

Daniel Manbode  
CAMBA

Maureen Fonseca  
Sports and Arts in Schools Foundation

## A P P E A R A N C E S (CONT.)

Tatiana Arguello  
UAU

Scott Daly  
NYJTL

Maryam Olatunde  
Sadie Nash Leadership Project

Chitra Aiyar  
Sadie Nash Leadership Project

Michael Coughlin  
Big Brothers and Big Sisters of New York City

Elliot Berger  
Big Brothers and Big Sisters of New York City

Jamie Powlovich  
Coalition for Homeless Youth

John Sentigar  
Covenant House

Rita Finkel  
The Armory Foundation

John Connolly  
Green-Wood Cemetery

Vivian Santora  
Powerplay NYC

Arshay Cooper  
Row New York

Emmy Lam  
Chinese-American Planning Council

## A P P E A R A N C E S (CONT.)

Tasfia Rahman  
Coalition for Asian American Children and  
Families

Amy Wilkerson  
Sheltering Arms Children and Family Service

Faith Behum  
UJA Federation

David Calvert  
Youth Build NYC Collaborative

Dee Mandiyan  
Center for Court Innovation and Youth Justice  
Board

Shane Correia  
Center for Court Innovation and Youth Justice  
Board

Peter Gee  
The Door

Harriet Lessel  
JCCA City's First Readers CFR

Emily Rowland-Kain  
United Way NYC plus City's First Readers

Eliana Godoy  
LINC and CF

Leslie Brown  
Reach Out and Read and City's First Read

Ingrid Bentil  
City's First Readers

## A P P E A R A N C E S (CONT.)

Kathleen Ilacqua  
Jumpstart City's First Readers

Jennifer Schmidt  
CHCH/CFR

Gillian Miller  
Queens Public Brooklyn Public NYPL/ CFR

Erin Roby  
VIP and CFR

Andre Eaton  
CFR

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2 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: [Gavel] This is the Committee  
3 for Youth Service Fiscal Year 2020 Preliminary  
4 Budget. It has now been called to order.

5 Good afternoon everyone and welcome to the Fiscal  
6 2020 Preliminary Budget Oversight Hearing for the  
7 Department of Youth and Community Development. I am  
8 Council Member Deborah Rose. I am the Chair of the  
9 Committee on Youth services and I am proud and  
10 pleased to be joined by my fellow Council Members,  
11 Council Member Eugene and Council Member Chin and we  
12 will hear today from the DYCD Commissioner Bill  
13 Chong, Associate Commissioner Jagdeen Phanor, along  
14 with the Agency's team of program specific deputies  
15 and Associate Commissioners. Thank you all for  
16 joining us.

17 The wellbeing of New York City's Youth and the  
18 efficiency of the delivery of services has always  
19 been my primary concern as I've devoted most of my  
20 career to Youth Services.

21 And so first and foremost, we are here to discuss  
22 DYCD's \$755 million budget for Fiscal Year 2020. The  
23 Preliminary Budget includes only one new need for  
24 DYCD. Supporting programming for the summer youth  
25 employment program or SYEP.

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2 A change reflective from the new RFP issued in  
3 November 2018 what is just as thought provoking as  
4 recurrently is the case for DYCD is that the  
5 Preliminary Budget does not include.

6 Mainly as the new Chair for this Committee, I am  
7 concerned about the Administrations decision to  
8 discontinue support for middle school summer  
9 programming under Schools Out NYC or SONYC. Leaving  
10 22,800 children without services this summer. When  
11 this Administration began its first terms, we heard  
12 about the importance of protecting twelve-year old's  
13 to fourteen-year old's from negative influences  
14 outside of the homes and schools. It seems  
15 disingenuous to us as a City to continue the suggest  
16 that this is a nonessential program.

17 As a legislative body representing 8.5 million of  
18 our fellow New Yorkers, it is our responsibility as a  
19 Council to ensure that the City's budget is as fair,  
20 transparent, and accountable as it can possibly be.  
21 That is why this year beyond simply discussing  
22 funding levels, the Council is also taking a deep  
23 look into the structure of each agencies budget.

24 For DYCD this means continuing the conversation  
25 about the limited number of units of appropriation

1  
2 used to organize funding for ten different program  
3 areas. This Committee will also review DYCD's  
4 performance so far this year.

5 As reported in the Fiscal 2019 Preliminary  
6 Mayor's Management Report, here to, I believe we will  
7 have just as interesting a conversation about what is  
8 not included in the PMMR, the Mayor's Preliminary  
9 Report, as about what is. The Preliminary Mayor's  
10 Management Report does a poor job of contextualizing  
11 the data it provides.

12 When we look at programming and services for some  
13 of New York's Youth, like DYCD's Corner Stone and  
14 Beacon Program recipients, we want to have the  
15 clearest sense possible of why city services are  
16 seeing reductions in these two programs. Are these  
17 reductions the result from transitioning into the new  
18 passport system or are programmatic issues at play?

19 DYCD has been tasked with managing the  
20 preparation of the city's next generation of leaders  
21 to fulfill their potential. Programs like the  
22 comprehensive after school system compass and the  
23 summer youth employment program SYEP, are intended to  
24 help young New Yorkers rise to the next level.



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2 I am myself a product of SYEP and my experiences  
3 from that first job really helped to mold me and  
4 prepare me for the world of work. The Committee  
5 wants to ensure that these programs are serving as  
6 many young people as possible.

7

8 I look forward to a productive conversation and  
9 before we begin, I would like to thank Kristine  
10 Johnson my Chief of Staff and Christian Ravello, my  
11 Legislative Aides. Michele Peregrin, my Financial  
12 Analyst to this Committee, Eisha Wright who is the  
13 Unit Head of the Finance Division. Paul Senegal  
14 Counsel to the Committee, Kevin Kotalski [SP?] Policy  
15 Analyst to the Committee and Elizabeth Arts our  
16 Community Engagement Liaison.

16

17 Commissioner Chong and the Associate Commissioner  
18 Phanor, our Council will now swear you in and thank  
19 you for being here and actually all of you who are  
20 testifying.

20

21 CLERK: Please raise your right hands. Do you  
22 affirm to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing  
23 but the truth in your testimony and to respond  
24 honestly to Council Member questions?

24

PANEL: I do.

25

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2 CLERK: Could you please state your names for the  
3 record.

4 BILL CHONG: I'm Bill Chong, Commissioner of  
5 DYCD.

6 SUSAN HASKELL: Susan Haskell, Deputy  
7 Commissioner.

8 ANDRE WHITE: Andre White, Deputy Commissioner.

9 JAGDEEN PHANOR: Jagdeen Phanor, Associate  
10 Commissioner.

11 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thank you.

12 Good afternoon Chair Rose and Members of the  
13 Committee on Youth Services. I am Bill Chong,  
14 Commissioner of the Department of Youth and Community  
15 Development. I am joined by Jagdeen Phanor, DYCD's  
16 Chief Financial Officer, Susan Haskell, Deputy  
17 Commissioner for Youth Service, and Andre White,  
18 Deputy Commissioner for Youth Workforce Development.

19 Thank you for the opportunity to testify today on  
20 DYCD's Fiscal Year 2020 Preliminary Budget. Since  
21 coming into office, Mayor de Blasio has demonstrated  
22 an unwavering commitment to youth, families and  
23 communities. Through his efforts and the support of  
24 the City Council, DYCD's budget has more than doubled  
25 from \$408.6 million to \$902.9 million.

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2 DYCD's Fiscal 2020 Preliminary Budget stands at  
3 \$755.2 million. This budget continues to build on  
4 our progress serving young people and families, while  
5 being fiscally responsible and cautious during these  
6 times of financial uncertainty.

7 Despite these challenges, the past year has been  
8 one of remarkable growth for DYCD.

9 In 2018, with the strong support of the Council,  
10 the Summer Youth Employment Program set another  
11 record, serving nearly 75,000 young people at 13,701  
12 worksites. Working together, last summer the Mayor  
13 and the Council increased funding and the budget grew  
14 by 18 percent to a new high of \$150 million. We have  
15 achieved a 14 percent increase in worksite  
16 development exposing participants to a wider variety  
17 of opportunities. Forty four percent of the  
18 worksites were in the private sector, 41 percent in  
19 nonprofit organizations, and 15 percent in government  
20 agencies. SYEP participants worked in financial,  
21 cultural, media, entertainment and health care  
22 institutions. Examples of such placements include  
23 the Bank of America, A&E Networks, the Metropolitan  
24 Museum of Art and Maimonides Hospital.

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2 Building on these efforts, after years of  
3 thoughtful planning, two weeks ago, we released  
4 awards under the new Request for Proposal.

5 The program design builds on recommendations from  
6 the Youth Employment Task Force, commissioned in June  
7 2016 by Mayor de Blasio and the Council. That Task  
8 Force focused on how to bring relevant, innovative  
9 workforce experiences to youth through SYEP. The  
10 recommendations that were incorporated into the  
11 Request for Proposal include: Strengthening  
12 connections between SYEP providers and public high  
13 schools to improve in-school career development for  
14 young people; serving younger youth through a career  
15 exploration and project-based learning experiences;  
16 and enhancing support services, including pre-program  
17 orientation and counseling, to help meet the unique  
18 needs of vulnerable young people.

19 While we are still working with providers on  
20 their final awards, we are pleased that we announced  
21 195 awards to 67 providers including 23 new  
22 providers. This represents double the awards from  
23 the last RFP. In the most significant transformation  
24 in the program's 56-year history, we are meeting the  
25 next generation of talent, where they are by

1  
2 revolutionizing the way young people experience and  
3 connect to their interests and career options. By  
4 providing structured project and work-based  
5 opportunities, New York City's youth are better  
6 prepared for the careers of the future. SYEP  
7 enhancements include new school-based opportunities  
8 and outreach to young people who are homeless, in  
9 foster care, juvenile justice involved or living in  
10 select NYCHA developments. Employee can tap into the  
11 expanding pipeline of talent and hire job ready  
12 summer employees to increase workforce diversity and  
13 fill critical gaps in their organizations. With a  
14 budget of \$150 million, we estimate being able to  
15 serve 70,000 young people this summer.

16 While serving some of our city's most vulnerable  
17 youth, the Administration has made extraordinary  
18 investments of \$30 million in services for Runaway  
19 and Homeless Youth, for a total of \$43 million.  
20 Funding supports more beds in new residential  
21 programs, Drop in Centers, LGBTW services and  
22 increased mental health resources. We now fund eight  
23 drop-in centers, including one in each borough that  
24 is open 24/7 and a new program in the far Rockaways.

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2       The Administration has funded 500 new beds for  
3 Runaway and Homeless Youth ages 16-20, essentially  
4 tripling the resources for youth. In total, 23 new  
5 sites have been opened during this administration.  
6 Since I last testified in May, five new sites have  
7 opened including one last week operated by Edwin  
8 Gould Services for Children and Families. They are  
9 located in Brooklyn, Bronx and Queens, adding 68  
10 beds, for a total of 625. There are seven contracted  
11 sites pending for a total of 128 beds remaining to be  
12 open by June 30.

13       We would also like to report on our progress  
14 towards the goal of serving Homeless Youth ages 21-24  
15 in new Runaway and Homeless Youth residential  
16 programs. With the support of the City Council, \$3  
17 million in the FY 2019 Adopted Budget was allocated  
18 for residential beds. DYCD issued a request for  
19 proposals in August 2018 and awarded contract in late  
20 October to four experienced RHY providers in four  
21 boroughs. Providers have identified suitable  
22 residential sites and they are in the review process  
23 by the New York State Office of Children and Family  
24 Services. It is our goal to open 60 new beds for  
25 Runaway and Homeless Youth by the end of Fiscal 2019,

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2 or as soon as State certification is issued. DYCD is  
3 working closely with the provider and New York State  
4 to expedite the rigorous process.

5 We are pleased that our 91 Beacon community  
6 centers will be funded at \$67.2 million. Each Beacon  
7 budget grew to more than \$600,000, an increase of  
8 almost \$250,000 in the last three years. Based on  
9 youth programs and design to help participants  
10 acquire the skills and attitudes they need to succeed  
11 I their chosen career and give back to the community,  
12 and Beacon adult programs are designed to enhance  
13 skills and promote social interaction, community  
14 engagement, and physical activities. Together, these  
15 sites serve over 109,000 young people and families  
16 annually.

17 Cornerstone community centers provide youth with  
18 a safe place to grow with engaging activities  
19 including recreation, STEM, academic achievement,  
20 project-based learning and social-emotional support.  
21 They engage over 18,000 young people and adults  
22 annually at 94 NYCHA developments across the city and  
23 are budgeted at \$46.8 million next year. For the  
24 third year in a row, Cornerstone and Beacon programs  
25 will be sponsoring Spring into Health Fairs to offer

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2 wellness and activities and information and promote  
3 healthcare access. We expect there to be a total of  
4 70 health fairs in 5 boroughs during the week of May  
5 13<sup>th</sup> to May 19<sup>th</sup>. We invite you to join us at a  
6 program in your neighborhood.

7 DYCD's Compass and after school programs,  
8 including SONYC middle school programs, have served  
9 more than 115,000 young people this year in more than  
10 920 program sites. These programs are budgeted to  
11 receive \$334 million. Compass programs offer  
12 comprehensive programming five days a week, including  
13 recreation, enrichment and cultural activities to  
14 support and strengthen the overall development of  
15 young people.

16 In Fiscal 2019, thanks to the collaboration of  
17 the Mayor and the Council; the City invested in an  
18 additional \$12 million to increase adult literacy  
19 services. Approximately \$8 million have been spent  
20 to expand existing contracts and support new programs  
21 serving 8,356 more individuals. We continue to offer  
22 teacher training courses, professional development in  
23 instructional technology and a curriculum development  
24 as part of our efforts to provide sustained quality  
25 instructional services.



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2 As you have heard in my testimony today, despite  
3 budget uncertainties, the FY 2020 Preliminary Budget  
4 continues to place DYCD in a very strong position to  
5 fund quality programs that improve th lives and  
6 create opportunities to advance socioeconomically.  
7 We look forward to continuing the work with the City  
8 Council to support New York City's youth, families,  
9 and communities.

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

12 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thank you, thank you so much  
13 Commissioner. I just want to say, if anybody wants  
14 to testify please make sure you fill out a slip so  
15 that we can include you.

16 So, our expense budget DYCD has a total proposed  
17 budget of \$755 million for Fiscal Year 2020. The  
18 Fiscal 2020 Financial Plan includes one new need for  
19 DYCD and the Summer Youth Employment Program. The  
20 Fiscal 2020 Preliminary Plan adds \$32.7 million in  
21 Fiscal 2020 and it's going to grow to \$36.7 million  
22 in Fiscal Year 2023, the out years.

23 To support the new SYEP's what are the recent  
24 request for proposal? So, within the Fiscal 2020  
25 Preliminary Budget for DYCD, we see very little

1  
2 change from the previous years. So, how does DYCD  
3 prioritize this request for new or increased funding?

4 BILL CHONG: So, I think the difference between  
5 the adopted last year and the Preliminary this year  
6 is what's added on in the negotiation process with  
7 the Administration.

8 So, for us, my priority has always been to  
9 provide stable funding for core programs. So, for  
10 example, I asked this year as I have done in previous  
11 years to baseline the funding for the SONYC summer  
12 component because I think a core program needs to  
13 have stable funding unfortunately, I wasn't  
14 successful. I will continue to advocate for any core  
15 program that relies on one funding, we want to ensure  
16 stability. We will continue to advocate for that as  
17 well as for literacy because I think that's a core  
18 program of DYCD and it shouldn't have to rely on  
19 money that's added in the adopted budget. The rest,  
20 Jagdeen can give you the difference between the  
21 adopted last year and the Preliminary this year.

22 JAGDEEN PHANOR: So, the majority of the funding  
23 that falls off because of 2019, we have almost \$900  
24 million is Council funding, we get a large amount in  
25 youth and we get a large amount in the community

1  
2 development areas as well and like the Commissioner  
3 eluded to, we lose one time funding and again, I will  
4 mirror what the Commissioner said, we put in a major  
5 amount of the core programs that we want. We ask for  
6 them, we advocate for them and we were unsuccessful.

7 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: I would just like to add, you  
8 will continue to advocate for them, yes?

9 JAGDEEN PHANOR: Most definitely.

10 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay, and so, were there any  
11 other new needs that DYCD proposed that have not been  
12 included in the Fiscal 2019 Preliminary Budget.

13 BILL CHONG: I mean we were very aware as I'm  
14 sure you are aware that we are heading into a sort of  
15 new economic reality of uncertainty with the City's  
16 budget, so overall, if you saw in the Preliminary  
17 Budget there, we very few new needs across the board.  
18 So, my focus was stability in core programs because  
19 it wasn't that long ago and many of you were probably  
20 on the Council when half our budget relied on one-  
21 year restorations by the City Council. Fortunately,  
22 we're not in that situation, most of our core  
23 programs have stable funding for multiple years with  
24 one exception being SONYC summer and the additional  
25 support we get for literacy programs. You know, I

1  
2 would like to have those programs baselined in this  
3 difficult time, it's money that is spent anyway. So,  
4 I advocated in the Preliminary Budget, I will  
5 continue to advocate in the Executive Budget, and we  
6 welcome the support the Council has for those two  
7 programs because we think those are core programs  
8 that should have stable funding.

9 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: In the Mayor's briefing, the  
10 Administration called for programs to eliminate the  
11 gap or Peg. Of \$750 million to be reflected in the  
12 Executive Budget. DYCD has been called to fill this  
13 gap by \$11.5 million, where does the Department  
14 anticipate these funds coming from and will DYCD's  
15 gap impact programmatic services?

16 BILL CHONG: So, we don't have a proposal yet  
17 that I can share. We're still working through  
18 different options but let me make this clear for me.  
19 It's very personal, the Pegs, so perhaps in any other  
20 Commissioner because I served as a Deputy  
21 Commissioner at DYCD in the Bloomberg Administration  
22 for six and half years. So, I personally presided  
23 over ten Pegs.

24 And so, it's very painful. So, I will do  
25 everything within my power to make sure it doesn't

1  
2 impact the mission, our agency and that we minimize  
3 impact on current programs.

4 The proposal has not been submitted. I actually  
5 haven't reviewed options yet. So, I don't want to go  
6 into any hypothetical things, but once we have a  
7 final proposal, submit it to OMB, and it's approved.  
8 I would be happy to go into details in the Executive  
9 Budget process.

10 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: I appreciate that. You know,  
11 you also feel that the Peg might impact programs, but  
12 you haven't looked at any of your budget to - you  
13 have no idea where the cuts might come?

14 JAGDEEN PHANOR: We received our Peg in the midst  
15 of preparing for the budget hearings. As the  
16 Commissioner said, we will definitely at you guys  
17 details as we share some ideas with the Commissioner,  
18 and we finalize what kind of options we have. Again,  
19 we are committed to our youth, our adults, our core  
20 programs and we're going to do whatever or try to put  
21 up things that are minimal to programming as much as  
22 we can.

23 BILL CHONG: I mean, we're always committed to  
24 reducing our nonprogram expenses. I mean, in the  
25 Committee report it's pointed out, something that I

1  
2 have said repeatedly, 94 percent of our budget goes  
3 out the door. So, while we're not a direct service  
4 agency, 94 percent of our budget does go out the  
5 door.

6 So, we've always looked for ways to reduce our  
7 nonprogram expenses. So, in December of 2014,  
8 without much fan fair, we moved 60 percent of our  
9 agency to rent free space. So, we're always looking  
10 to be creative in how we become more lean and mean.  
11 I mean, we're not a big agency, we're 520 people but  
12 I think we have a huge impact on the communities  
13 because we work with our nonprofit partners to make  
14 sure they get the resources to deliver array of  
15 services.

16 So, in the Executive Budget, I'm sure this will  
17 be discussed, and I will be happy to go into  
18 specifics when I have specifics I can share.

19 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: In the past, have you sort of  
20 looked at taking it from PS or OTPS?

21 BILL CHONG: Yes, but it's only six percent of  
22 our budget. So, that kind of limits the field and  
23 then when you talk about PS, you talk about people.  
24 The Administration is not doing any layoffs. So,  
25 we're limited to like vacancies and are only so many

1  
2 vacancies in any given time. So again, it is a tough  
3 process. We hope to try to minimize impact on  
4 current services and once we have a plan that's  
5 approved by OMB, I will be glad to discuss them with  
6 you.

7 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay, so traditionally you  
8 usually look at taking it from -

9 BILL CHONG: Nonprogram areas if possible.

10 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay.

11 BILL CHONG: Again, six percent of our budget is  
12 nonprogram.

13 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay, and I want to thank you.  
14 You know, I appreciate your advocacy even though the  
15 Mayor has repeatedly stated that he doesn't sort of  
16 see the value in summer SONYC, so I appreciate that,  
17 and I hope you continue to advocate fiercely as we  
18 are.

19 This past November, after long negotiations with  
20 the Council, DYCD released a new RFP for SYEP. We  
21 have also just received a number of details since the  
22 contract has just been issued and we thank you, but  
23 we are having some difficulty getting the information  
24 when we request it. So, I'm sure you will work with  
25 us to sort of expedite the responses to our requests.

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BILL CHONG: Right Andre will.

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CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay, I'm talking about in other program areas also. Go ahead Andre.

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JAGDEEN PHANOR: So, I see Michele and I see Eisha. We have definitely prepared and we're in the process of working on getting the details. I think last week, Friday, if I'm not mistaken or Thursday, we shared some information on SYEP, but if there is anything outstanding, we're more than willing to continue to working with guys and getting you the information, you need, and I apologize if you haven't received it yet.

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CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thank you. We were trying to prepare our statement to, and we were experiencing some delay in response. The question is, does DYCD still anticipate rolling out WLG or Work, Learn, Grow in Fiscal Year 2020?

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BILL CHONG: So, Work, Learn, and Grow as you know has been a Council funded initiative for the last, I believe four years. So, if the Council is able to in the negotiations to the adopted budget, able to add that money, we would be glad to implement it. We just didn't have the funding to do the expanded SYEP model with the additional cost that



1  
2 model incurred as well as Work, Learn, and Grow. But  
3 if the money isn't identified, we would be happy to  
4 do the program again.

5 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So, you're looking for the  
6 Council to provide the funding for Work, Learn, and  
7 Grow?

8 BILL CHONG: It's been a Council led initiative  
9 for the last four years, so we had to make a choice  
10 between making sure that there was enough funding for  
11 the SYEP program with all the different new models  
12 that came out of the work group with the Council.  
13 So, we had to again, focus on the core program which  
14 is the Summer Youth Employment program. Work, Learn,  
15 and Grow is a supplement to SYEP, which we greatly  
16 appreciate and in the course of discussions for the  
17 adopted budget, the funding becomes available, we  
18 will work with our providers to make sure it happens.

19 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Does DYCD believe that the  
20 next RFP to be issued in the fall, will capture the  
21 new providers as the transition of the program  
22 services continue to change?

23 BILL CHONG: Are you talking about the SYEP RFP?

24 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: I'm talking about Work, Learn,  
25 and Grow, oh, SYEP, I'm sorry, I'm sorry, SYEP.

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BILL CHONG: Well, so, I'll have Andre go through. The changes to the RFP was released last fall and so the awards have been attentively announced. So, he can go through the highlights if you want.

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CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay.

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ANDRE WHITE: So, as the Commissioner mentioned, we awarded 195 awards to six to seven unique providers. We are happy to report that 23 of those providers are new to the SYEP portfolios. We're very excited to have them onboard. When the mitts are off negotiating and talking to providers as we rule out the program for 2019, we have an orientation tomorrow, we're going to bring in all the new groups that DYCD to sort of run through all the requirements necessary to get the program up and running, so we're definitely moving full steam ahead.

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CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Will the slot allocation distribution continue to shift and what would that shift look like?

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ANDRE WHITE: Absolutely, so, as you know as I mentioned before, we're still negotiating with providers. For example, last week we had three calls with various executive directors from different

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2 programs as we're thinking through what is the best  
3 option for their agency and that process is going to  
4 continue maybe for another week or two so, yes, the  
5 slot allocations will continue to shift until all  
6 decisions have been made final.

7 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Over the past five years in  
8 particular, the Council has advocated for an  
9 expansion of SYEP to support 100,000 jobs, so as to  
10 better meet the demand.

11 Last year DYCD received over 164,000 applications  
12 and made 122,000 offers and enrolled 74,354  
13 participants. The record funded amount of slots to  
14 date has or will DYCD and the Administration expand  
15 the baseline allotment of slots from 70,000 to  
16 100,000 because there clearly is a demand.

17 ANDRE WHITE: At this point, there's no plans to  
18 expand the baseline funding but if in the course of  
19 the conversations to an adopted budget, if additional  
20 money is added this year, I think we're well  
21 positioned to take on many more additional jobs. One  
22 of the challenges over the years is that when we  
23 procured the Summer Youth Employment Program in 2012,  
24 seven years ago, the intention was to serve 30 to  
25 33,000 young people and so, we awarded money for 101

1  
2 programs and that limited our ability to absorb last  
3 minute money. So, in fact, one year, I think it was  
4 2015, we had 20,000 jobs added two weeks before the  
5 start of summer and it puts a big strain on the  
6 infrastructure. One of the great things about this  
7 request for proposal is we almost doubled the number  
8 of programs so if the Council decides to add  
9 additional funding, whether it's \$5,000, \$10,000,  
10 whatever the number is, we're in a better position to  
11 absorb additional funding.

12 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay, so, Work, Learn, Grow.  
13 Fiscal Year 2019 represents the fourth year of the  
14 Council's year around youth employment initiative,  
15 Work, Learn, and Grow and the first year the  
16 Administration picked up the cost in a one shot for  
17 \$19 million. Could you please confirm how many  
18 enrolled participants are currently in Work, Learn,  
19 and Grow. What does DYCD anticipate the total cost  
20 for Fiscal 2019's program to be on April 15<sup>th</sup>? And  
21 then I have a couple more questions.

22 ANDRE WHITE: Sure. For Work, Learn, and Grow we  
23 receive over 13,000 applications. We were able to  
24 enroll 4,350 young people. Within the portfolio we  
25 have 33 providers and we have 40 programs. As you

1  
2 know, Work, Learn, and Grow, is geared towards older  
3 youth. Young people ages 16-21 and they're engaged  
4 in work activities for an average of ten hours a week  
5 and I'll hand it over to Jagdeen to talk about the  
6 budget piece.

7 JAGDEEN PHANOR: So, generally we wait to find  
8 out what the allotment for Work, Learn, and Grow is  
9 going to be. The minimum wage began at \$15 million.  
10 It should be in the same range, it depends on you  
11 know, when the last time when the program started, we  
12 had older youth and younger youth and we've  
13 transitioned just to the older youth. So, it's  
14 collaboration with the Council and figuring out what  
15 exactly are the assumptions and the details that you  
16 guys wanted, and we work up the figures and so, if  
17 it's \$19 million, we're going to try to serve the  
18 same amount of youth given the funding that we  
19 receive. So, it's predicated on funding.

20 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So, what will it cost to  
21 continue supporting 5,000 participants at the same  
22 number of hours next year?

23 JAGDEEN PHANOR: So, again, I work with the  
24 program folks and it depends on how many hours they  
25 want the older youth to work.

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CHAIRPERSON ROSE: The same number of hours.

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JAGDEEN PHANOR: The same number of hours, so  
it's the \$19 million because we've already  
transitioned to the \$15 minimum wage. So, you know  
in the previous years, it was an incremental  
increases but we've kind of flatlined and so, it  
would be the same thing. Same cost, same \$19  
million.

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CHAIRPERSON ROSE: But you said the \$19 million  
served 4,000 youth I thought.

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JAGDEEN PHANOR: 4,500, It's around that range,  
yeah.

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CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay.

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JAGDEEN PHANOR: I mean if you wanted a little  
bit more than -

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CHAIRPERSON ROSE: 5,000?

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JAGDEEN PHANOR: Right.

19

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay, and how has the  
programming for Work, Learn, Grow changed over the  
past year?

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22

ANDRE WHITE: So, as Jagdeen mentioned, we moved  
towards serving older youth, young people age 16  
through 21 and the idea there is to ensure that they  
are placed in worksites or job placements where they

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1  
2 could develop the skills and competencies once they  
3 exit the program to prepare them not only for the  
4 future of work but to help them determine the career  
5 path that they want to pursue.

6 The good thing about working local that providers  
7 tend to like is that they get an opportunity to work  
8 with the young people for a long period of time and  
9 they're able to do a lot more deeper assessment  
10 around what they're needs and interests are and  
11 develop whatever supports they might need throughout  
12 the five months of work.

13 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: I have one more question  
14 because I know my colleagues have questions and we've  
15 been joined by the Majority Leader. DYCD has an  
16 estimated release for the new advance and earn  
17 program for April 2019. What services will this  
18 program provide? This RFP was supposed to be issued  
19 in February and then March and now April, why does  
20 this RFP keep being pushed back.

21 BILL CHONG: So, let me start. So, we're in  
22 collaboration with the Office of Economic Opportunity  
23 to come up with a strategy that serves the wide range  
24 of young people who are disconnected. Because you  
25 have a broad range of young people, some who have a

1  
2 fourth-grade reading level and some who have a high  
3 school diploma and we wanted to have a much more  
4 streamlined strategy to working with this universe of  
5 young people because one size does not fit all. So,  
6 the idea was to combine different programs that young  
7 adult internship program used to be called Intern  
8 Earn to do that. So, to do this because this is a  
9 significant change, we work with the nonprofit  
10 partners jobs first convene focus groups which led to  
11 more ideas of how to design this program. So, the  
12 reason why I think it was a delay is that we wanted  
13 as much input from the nonprofits that would be  
14 running this program, so it made sense to them. So,  
15 Andre, you want to give an update?

16       ANDRE WHITE: Yeah, absolutely. The Commissioner  
17 is absolutely right. A few months ago, we engaged a  
18 number of nonprofit partners and young people  
19 themselves and we ran that program modeled by them to  
20 sort of see they're feed back and what we learned is  
21 that there is a lot more rigorous programming that  
22 folks want to see for this population. After we  
23 released the report for the stakeholder engagement,  
24 we then released the concept paper. Once we released  
25 the concept paper, we received quite, I want to say



1  
2 eleven pages of feedback from the provider community  
3 and to the Commissioner's point, that is important to  
4 us because we don't want to implement and enroll  
5 other program that they're partners are not  
6 interested in or a program that their partners don't  
7 think is going to serve young people well. So,  
8 keeping that in mind, we had to go back to the  
9 drawing board and sweep the model and we are still in  
10 the process of talking to young people. We are still  
11 in the process of talking to our partners. We are  
12 bringing on **[Inaudible 48:35]** providers and run these  
13 ideas by them to make sure that we're developing a  
14 model that young people could benefit from. A model  
15 that is also tested and evaluated will show the  
16 impact that we want to see on the ground and also a  
17 model that will be sustainable over time.

18 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So, do you believe that you  
19 will be ready for your projected date of April or if  
20 not, when?

21 ANDRE WHITE: Yes, my team and myself actually  
22 saw a first draft of the RFP and we think by April in  
23 the next few weeks we will share with the  
24 Commissioner and I think by April we will be able to  
25 release.

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CHAIRPERSON ROSE: And how many youth will this program support and what is the budget for this new RFP?

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ANDRE WHITE: So, as you know, because the RFP is not public yet, unfortunately, I'm unable to share the budget or the number of young people that will be serving. What I can share is information from the concept paper which is around serving up to anywhere from 600 to 800 young people across three different areas. SO, to the Commissioners point, we're creating a program for young people who are low literacy readers right, hoping that they will make some gains and then they could transition into what we're calling a pre-HSC track which is attaining their formerly known as a GED. Once they attain their GED, they could then transition into what we're calling advanced training, which is industrial credential trainings.

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CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So, where you're looking at about roughly 600 to 800 students and are you then looking at sort of the per student rate?

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ANDRE WHITE: Absolutely.

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CHAIRPERSON ROSE: And so, is that the higher rate at \$800 per student?

1  
2           ANDRE WHITE: So, the rate for advanced and earn  
3 again, we solicit feedback from the provider  
4 community. We look at current models across the  
5 country to see exactly what those price per  
6 participants are. We talk to young people to figure  
7 out the number of support services that they will  
8 need, and we also take into consideration staffing  
9 plan. We take into consideration the internship  
10 component. We want to create a learning community  
11 for providers, which is a capacity ability and aspect  
12 of the program. So, taking all of those factors and  
13 elements into mind, we have landed on a PPP that I  
14 think providers would be okay with.

15           CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Will the RFP mirror the  
16 concept paper?

17           ANDRE WHITE: I'm sorry?

18           CHAIRPERSON ROSE: With the amount mirror the  
19 concept paper? With the RFP mirror the amount in the  
20 concept paper?

21           ANDRE WHITE: I think so, yes.

22           CHAIRPERSON ROSE: And so, I'm just wondering how  
23 DYCD can forward with a new program under the Mayor's  
24 Peg program. How is the Mayor's Peg going to impact  
25 this new program going forward?

1  
2 BILL CHONG: This was funding set aside by the  
3 office of Economic Opportunity. So, its actually  
4 money not in our budget yet but usually gets added in  
5 the Executive Budget. So, it's not even in the realm  
6 of consideration because it sits somewhere else, the  
7 money.

8 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: And it will be exempt from the  
9 Peg?

10 BILL CHONG: Well, we hope so but that's for the  
11 Office of Economic Opportunity to decide since this  
12 in their budget, it gets transferred to us each year  
13 in the Executive Budget and we're working closely  
14 with them in redesigning this program.

15 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So, I just want to make sure  
16 but if they decide it's a part of their Peg?

17 BILL CHONG: It's not in my budget to Peg, so I  
18 can't Peg it.

19 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: No, but you said from the  
20 Economic -

21 BILL CHONG: Right.

22 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Right.

23 BILL CHONG: So, I can't speak for them, but  
24 we've gotten no indication to not do this program.  
25 In fact, we've worked very closely with them for over

1  
2 a year, because they're very invested in doing this.  
3 They recognize that there needs to be innovative  
4 programming for young people, for those who start  
5 with a third or fourth grade reading level, how do we  
6 move the needle on the dial to get them to a high  
7 school equivalency so they can enter the workforce.

8 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So, you'll continue to  
9 advocate for our most vulnerable right?

10 BILL CHONG: Yes, I mean I think there's a lot of  
11 interest in doing this program, so I would be  
12 surprised if the Office of Economic Opportunity  
13 decided to Peg it, given the amount of work that's  
14 been invested in this.

15 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thank you. Council Member  
16 Eugene?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Thank you very much Madam  
18 Chair, thank you. Commissioner, I thank you very  
19 much for your testimony and also to all your staff  
20 members. Thank you for what you have been doing for  
21 our young people in New York City and you continue to  
22 do.

23 We on the City Council are very concerned and we  
24 work together, and we work a lot to ensure that our  
25 young people can benefit from the good services that

1  
2 are available through DYCD. What was the budget of  
3 DYCD for the previous year, that being 2019? What  
4 was the budget of DYCD?

5 JAGDEEN PHANOR: It's \$902.8 million.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: \$900?

7 JAGDEEN PHANOR: \$902.9 million.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: And what will it be for  
9 2020?

10 JAGDEEN PHANOR: \$755.2 million.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: So, that means there is a  
12 decrease, right?

13 JAGDEEN PHANOR: Right, and I expressed to Chair  
14 Rose that the largest majority is the Council funding  
15 that you add for discretionary -

16 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Oh, yeah, now I got it  
17 now. Yes, thank you very much. I'm sure it was  
18 mentioned that we have been advocating the City  
19 Council Members, the advocates, the cities providers,  
20 even the youth and other to reach 100,000 slots for  
21 summer jobs and we all know the importance of summer  
22 jobs for all young people. The difference and  
23 positive impact on the life of our young people and  
24 we all we weren't expecting to reach those 100,000  
25 slots but it seemed that we were able to reach 75,000

1  
2 jobs. That was remarkable, that was history, that  
3 was great, but it seems that we're going backward  
4 now. The expectation based on your testimony is  
5 about 70,000 jobs, right?

6 BILL CHONG: Well, let me say that you know,  
7 since I was at DYCD during the Bloomberg era that I  
8 don't think we would have ever expected to be at  
9 75,000 jobs.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: As I said, that was  
11 history.

12 BILL CHONG: And I want to thank you personally  
13 because I know when you Chaired the Committee, you  
14 were one of the biggest advocates for increasing the  
15 Summer Youth Employment program and I know at the end  
16 of the Bloomberg Administration it was about 33,000.  
17 Yeah, 30,000 jobs, so to go in the five years from  
18 30,000 to 70,000 baseline and the 5,000 added last  
19 year is truly a miracle that we appreciate the  
20 Councils advocacy and the biggest thing I always ask  
21 for and my wishes came true in 2016 was to get the  
22 funding baselined. Because you can't redesign a  
23 program unless you know how much money you have. I  
24 said this to David Jones when he came to meet with me  
25 about the Community Services Society Report on the

1  
2 Summer Youth Employment Program. He and I had many  
3 of the same ideas that also were reflected in the  
4 Council work group. But I said to David and you  
5 know, David may not know, he was Chair of the Youth  
6 Bureau in the **[Inaudible 59:59]** Administration which  
7 was the predecessor agency of DYCD. I said to David,  
8 we can't design a program unless I know how much  
9 money I have, and you can't run a program when more  
10 than half your budget doesn't come in until two weeks  
11 before the start of the program. So, thank you  
12 again, for advocating for the funding to get  
13 baselined. That has gotten us to this point, two and  
14 a half years of working and planning with the  
15 Council, with the advocates, with stakeholders. We  
16 like to call this SYEP 3.0 because for many years  
17 SYEP didn't change, it came to DYCD in 2005, we made  
18 changes and so, this is SYEP 3.0. We're always open  
19 to adding additional funding in the adopted budget  
20 and now we're in a position now to absorb more jobs  
21 because we have a 195 programs that can be in a  
22 position to better absorb money that comes in two  
23 weeks before the start of the program.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: When we reach 75,000  
25 slots or 75,000 jobs for the young people, the budget



1  
2 of New York City was less than what is projected to  
3 be in 2020. Now, we have a lot of money, we have  
4 more money than before, so that means that - I  
5 personally believe that the increase of the budget  
6 for New York City could benefit the Summer Youth  
7 Program, the young people. Because always we say  
8 that the young people are the future of the city, the  
9 future of the nation, the future leaders, but I think  
10 it is our responsibility. We have to do everything  
11 possible to make sure that we have more funding of  
12 necessary funding to this good program and other to  
13 have more young people to benefit from that because  
14 we all know that not only the young people benefit  
15 from that but from this good program. Because they  
16 come from very humble families, families that are  
17 facing financial difficulties.

18 So, my question is we were able to reach the  
19 history number because we were working together as  
20 you know, advocate youthful providers, community-  
21 based organization, City Council Members, but now we  
22 have more money in the budget of the City Council. I  
23 believe if we duplicate or if we continue to work  
24 together and join forces, we can even go higher than  
25 75,000 jobs. So, my question is can we continue to

1  
2 work together with DYCD and advocate and try to push  
3 the Administration to put more money from the big  
4 budget that we have for the Summer Youth jobs and  
5 allow to go a lit bit higher than 75,000.

6 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thank you, Council Member.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: You're welcome Madam  
8 Chair. I know that you had it in your mind also  
9 because we are a team.

10 BILL CHONG: I definitely look forward to working  
11 with you. We wouldn't have gotten to this point  
12 without the support of the City Council. I don't  
13 think any Commissioner would ever say, we don't  
14 welcome additional funding. It's a proven program,  
15 we know it works, it's an improved model, but I'm  
16 also mindful of the economic reality that the City is  
17 facing, and the federal government just released its  
18 budget and the headlines I saw were proposed cuts to  
19 domestic programs.

20 So, again, I'm mindful of the world we live in,  
21 who's in the White House and the softening of the  
22 economy so, we would welcome additional funding if it  
23 could be identified in the adopted budget. We're  
24 prepared to spend the additional money in the Summer  
25

1  
2 Youth Program, but you know, I'm just mindful of the  
3 challenges we face today as a City.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Okay, so we on the City  
5 Council and also in this community, we want to work  
6 under the leadership of Chair Rose to push that  
7 Administration and to make sure that we got enough  
8 funding for the summer jobs.

9 My last question is, no, before the last one.  
10 I'm going very quick, there will be ten new positions  
11 for some youth employment, six program managers,  
12 three deputy directors, and one senior program  
13 **[inaudible 1:06:08]**, is that correct?

14 BILL CHONG: Correct.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Yes, but now, DYCD will  
16 receive less funding. I don't have any issue with  
17 that. We need stuff to make sure that the program  
18 runs appropriately but DYCD would receive less  
19 program and we will serve less youth in 2020. Could  
20 you explain the reason why you increase the number of  
21 staff or were going to have ten more positions even  
22 with the cut of budget, even though we're going to  
23 serve less young people? I don't have any problem  
24 with that I just want to have an idea.  
25

1  
2 BILL CHONG: Alright, so I think there might be  
3 some confusion. Our plan is to serve 70,000 young  
4 people this summer with baseline funding. The 74,900  
5 and something last year was a result of additional  
6 money for 5,000 jobs added in the adopted budget.  
7 So, if the Council is able to negotiate with the  
8 Administration to add funding, we will get back to  
9 the 75,000.

10 As far as your question about staffing, you had a  
11 question about staffing, Andre can talk about that  
12 because we have increased the number of programs from  
13 101 to 195.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Okay.

15 Bill CHONG: We need more staff.

16 ANDRE WHITE: Yeah, so as you know we made the  
17 awards public for SYEP last the past couple of weeks.  
18 As the Commissioner mentioned, we grew the number  
19 from 101 to 195. That translates into needing  
20 additional staff across the portfolio.

21 As you know there are nine service options now,  
22 so we're moving from four to nine options, which  
23 means that you're going to need folks on your team  
24 that are more specialized for each of the service  
25 option.

1  
2           We're bringing on board three Deputy Directors  
3 that's going to provide leadership to our program  
4 managers who's essentially responsible for  
5 monitoring, providing TA to providers, ensuring that  
6 if there are any concerns or issues that providers  
7 are having around the new model, that those concerns  
8 are addressed. So, essentially in order to really  
9 have a high-quality program we make sure that we  
10 advocate it for additional staff, and we receive that  
11 number and we're happy about it.

12           COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Thank you very much. The  
13 last one, many service providers they came to me and  
14 I believe they went to the Chair, so talking about  
15 the stipend salary for the summer youth jobs. And we  
16 know that when the young people that apply for summer  
17 jobs, they expect getting some compensation, some  
18 money that they will use for themselves and for their  
19 families. What can you tell us about that because  
20 personally, I do believe that those young people  
21 should get paid. Not a stipend because they have  
22 been going through the school all these years. They  
23 deserve a salary.

24           Thank you, Madam Chair. I am sorry about that;  
25 this is the last one. I would like you to explain

1  
2 that a little bit. Why we don't give a salary and  
3 how we can give a salary to the young people?

4       ANDRE WHITE: Sure, back in 2017 as you know  
5 Council Member, you're a part of the task force for  
6 SYEP.

7       COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: And I disagree all the  
8 time with it.

9       ANDRE WHITE: I'm sorry.

10       COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: You know, I was not in  
11 agreement with that.

12       ANDRE WHITE: Okay, so that was one of the  
13 recommendations that came under the task force to  
14 transition to a stipend model for young people. I  
15 think it's important to understand what we're trying  
16 to achieve for the younger youth, right? They're  
17 going to be engaged in project-based learning  
18 opportunities and the idea is for them level out the  
19 competencies and skills to be successful once you  
20 place them with an employer and when you think about  
21 projects, they're going to be focusing on hands on  
22 sector-based learning. So, for example, last year we  
23 did a number pilots as you know for the past two  
24 years to test this model and we had some real  
25 innovative and creative projects that young people

1  
2 worked on. For example, last year Council Member  
3 Rose, you were with us in Staten Island where we  
4 visited youth program where the focus was on  
5 environmental justice and young people are actually  
6 in the garden planting and learning about urban  
7 farming and what that means for the community. There  
8 are guest speakers coming to the class room, talking  
9 to them about importance of community involvement.

10 So, we want to make sure that we spark those  
11 interests in young people in a very creative and  
12 innovative way. What we also need to understand that  
13 this has become a best practice across the country  
14 and New York City doesn't want to get left behind.

15 In Chicago, their launching the first ever  
16 project based learning opportunity for younger youth.  
17 This has been going on in San Francisco, in Seattle,  
18 and if you look at the evaluations that have come  
19 onto those programs, the impacts are great. So, I  
20 think this is an amazing time for young people to  
21 actually start developing the competencies that we  
22 want to see them develop to be successful once we  
23 place them with an employer.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Thank you Madam Chair,  
25 thank you.

1  
2 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thank you, Council Member  
3 Chin?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Thank you Chair. Thank  
5 you, Commissioner and your team. I am glad that we  
6 don't have to do the back and forth because you have  
7 been working on getting SONYC baselined and also  
8 adult literacy baselined, so we don't have to have  
9 that discussion, because we'll be working with you.

10 BILL CHONG: We still need your help.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Of course, of course, but  
12 we don't have to put you on the spot. I have two  
13 questions. One is in your testimony, you talk about  
14 the additional \$12 million to increase adult literacy  
15 services and you said right now, only approximately  
16 \$8 million has been spent. So, what happen to the \$4  
17 million? Are we going to be on target in terms of  
18 spending that? That's my first question.

19 And the second question is, on Runaway and  
20 homeless youth. In terms of the number of beds for  
21 FY 2019, I think the target of best support was 753.  
22 From our report we look why we have 606, so are we  
23 going to be on target in getting 753 beds certify?

24 BILL CHONG: So, let me do literacy first. So,  
25 the \$12 million was put in our budget, but \$8 million



1  
2 was dedicated for DYCD. The remaining \$4 million was  
3 for MOIA and Department of Education. So, Jagdeen,  
4 do you want to give?

5 JAGDEEN PHANOR: Yeah, the funding. Hi, the  
6 Commissioner is correct. I want to correct the  
7 record, it's \$11.4 million we received this year and  
8 \$3 million of that funding was moved, like the  
9 Commissioner said out of the budget. So, DYCD  
10 currently like you, stated previously, it's about  
11 \$8.2 million that we have.

12 BILL CHONG: And the money, the \$8 million was  
13 based — each year we survey the existing providers of  
14 adult literacy and ask them how many additional seats  
15 can they take on and then we work with the Council to  
16 designate groups as well that may not have a baseline  
17 contract and so, we try to maximize as much of the  
18 money that goes to services and then the remaining  
19 money is reallocated to both the Department of  
20 Education and to MOIA and then Susan will answer the  
21 question about Homeless Youth.

22 SUSAN HASSELL: Yeah, as the Commissioner  
23 testified, we actually brought on a new site as  
24 recently as last week. We opened 19 bed stand  
25 people, so we have 625 open now, 148 pending. Those

1  
2 contracts have been awarded; the providers have  
3 identified appropriate spaces. They are getting them  
4 suitable. I'm looking at the chart that Council  
5 shared with us and you can see back before Fiscal  
6 Year 2017, the Mayor made a commitment of 300  
7 additional beds on top of the 200 and it took DYCD  
8 goes right into action to do the RFP and issue the  
9 awards. But we do know that there is a lag time  
10 between when the site is identified and when it's  
11 prepared for safety for young people. So, although  
12 we have 148 pending, we're in the very last stages  
13 with each one of those seven sites that are  
14 remaining. The space is identified, they have made  
15 progress towards getting the safety and we do believe  
16 that we are on target for the end of – for June 30<sup>th</sup>.

17 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Majority Leader Cumbo?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Thank you. I wanted to  
19 talk a bit about universal after school and  
20 throughout this country, we know that we are  
21 struggling. The vast majority of parents about 70  
22 percent work full time from 8am to 5pm, but the  
23 median closing time for a New York City public school  
24 is 2:30, which would mean that I should have left  
25 here two hours ago in order to pick up my son from

1  
2 school but thank God, he's still in daycare and that  
3 doesn't end until 6:00 but I'm quite worried when he  
4 reaches UPK age. Parents who work outside the home,  
5 especially mothers, single parents, low-income  
6 parents, parents of color and part time workers are  
7 extremely challenged by no or fee based after school.  
8 Many of these demographic overlap. Right now,  
9 schools are designed for families where one parent  
10 works outside the home and one parent stays home to  
11 care for the children. I personally might love that  
12 lifestyle, but that's not my reality. I would love  
13 for my husband to be at home waiting for the children  
14 while I'm at work. The day is coming.

15       The reality of the family unit and economic  
16 shifts has evolved greatly, and we need to invest in  
17 the type of after school policies and schedules to  
18 catch us up to the way people are actually living  
19 their lives. Has your agency taken on or thought  
20 about, or estimated, or done a cost analysis of what  
21 it would cost to actually expand the school day so  
22 that parents can actually live a real life?

23       BILL CHONG: So, let me start and then Jagdeen  
24 can get you the budget question. I agree with you on  
25 the merits of what you're saying. I've been to more

1  
2 than 50 townhall meetings including one or two in  
3 your district. I can't remember now, it's all a blur  
4 and by far, the most common question that the Mayor  
5 gets is, can we expand after school to all the  
6 elementary schools in the city and the question is,  
7 can we afford it and you know, if the money can be  
8 found, we're certainly prepared to do it but I know  
9 it's a difficult year and Jagdeen can give you some  
10 ball park estimates of what it would take to get a  
11 program in every elementary school.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: I hear you, if we can  
13 afford it, but the question really is we can't afford  
14 it. We can't afford to function in this way and to  
15 continue to move forward year after year, when we  
16 know that parent are working two full time jobs, many  
17 overtime, simply don't have enough time to get to and  
18 from and we know if we're expanding UPK and UPK3 and  
19 UPK4 and we know that our counterparts in other  
20 countries do have a longer school day. We're really  
21 lagging behind; we can't afford not to do this.

22 BILL CHONG: Well, you know, you're preaching to  
23 the choir. I mean, clearly, SONYC has been a big  
24 success and if we can extend it to elementary, I  
25 would certainly welcome it. I don't decide my budget

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2 obviously it's something that you with the  
3 Administration, will have to negotiate and somehow if  
4 the funds became available, we're certainly prepared  
5 to do it and if you want to know the ball park.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Hmm, hmm.

7 BILL CHONG: Jagdeen?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Thank you.

9 JAGDEEN PHANOR: Thanks Commissioner, so I'm a  
10 parent of three to, so I understand your concern.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Oh, God Bless You.

12 JAGDEEN PHANOR: But there are ongoing  
13 conversations and scaling conversations surrounding  
14 year-round elementary. I was told not to throw  
15 numbers out there but just so that you know, I want  
16 to put some things out there. Right now, we are in  
17 40 percent of the schools. We're definitely not  
18 where we want to be and that includes 21 century DOE  
19 funding in after school. Just rough, if I had to  
20 throw out a figure and it's very low ball. We're  
21 talking about \$250 million and that's at the low  
22 point. There is still like I said, a lot of scaling  
23 and conversations with OMB, DOE, a lot of partners  
24 and so, it's definitely under radar. It's something

25

1  
2 that the Administration is looking at. So, you know,  
3 we hear you.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: So, if it's 40 percent  
5 that your estimate is, let's just say, is it that  
6 you're in 40 percent of the schools, or that 40  
7 percent of the children are being served?

8 JAGDEEN PHANOR: So, we're in 40 percent of the  
9 schools. In total there are about 984 schools, DOE  
10 schools and we're in 40 percent of them.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: But we don't know if there  
12 is one after school program in that 40 percent or the  
13 entire school has after school programming.

14 BILL CHONG: If you are asking for an extended  
15 day for every student, the price tag would probably  
16 be much, much higher. We don't have an estimate but  
17 the 200 and some - you know, it's much lower. Just  
18 to get a program in every school will be costly. To  
19 get to a point where every young person who wants an  
20 afterschool seat is probably much, much, much higher.  
21 I don't even have a number for that. But you know,  
22 there is \$1.1 million young people, so the math would  
23 be very challenging.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: So, I just want to close  
25 on this because I know we're tight on time, but so,

1  
2 what you're saying basically is that there has never  
3 been an analysis done, a detailed analysis done to  
4 determine what exactly is the need. So, where there  
5 are after school programs that exist, where there are  
6 parents that do not need or want after school  
7 programming, where children may go to a Boys and  
8 Girls Center and they're school may not directly  
9 require it or we have CASA programs and those types  
10 of programs and the programs that you all run as  
11 well, but we've never really understood what the  
12 actual need is so we don't really understand the  
13 dollar amount at this time.

14 BILL CHONG: To my knowledge, we haven't done  
15 that because we don't have access to all 1.1 million  
16 students. So, that would require a much more deep  
17 dive working with the Department of Education to  
18 really ask every parent. I mean, to get to that  
19 level of detail, what we can look at is how many  
20 schools there are, how many have an after-school  
21 program either funded by us or by the 21<sup>st</sup> Century  
22 state funding. So, but that kind of deep dive which  
23 would require a great deal of effort. I'm sure we  
24 yield a much higher dollar amount than the amount  
25 we're talking about now which is just to get the

1  
2 remaining 60 percent of the schools that don't have  
3 an after-school program.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: I just want to say while  
5 we don't have this information and I obviously don't  
6 see this anywhere in the budget and you do agree that  
7 there is a necessity for this and you have three  
8 children, God Bless You. I don't even know how  
9 you're here today.

10 BILL CHONG: Wide age group.

11 JAGDEEN PHANOR: Yeah, wide age group.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Right, because my son is  
13 at home right now with my parents because he has an  
14 eye infection. So, it's all these different dynamics  
15 in terms of juggling and how to make it all happen,  
16 but if we don't really seriously take this  
17 conversation into our budget, I feel that we're  
18 operating in an antiquated system that's been  
19 outdated for more than thirty years that is really  
20 causing families an extreme amount of overburden,  
21 stress, and inability to be able to save for college  
22 because it's expensive. Child care is expensive,  
23 especially if you have to pay for after school  
24 programming and this is really not the way for us to  
25 build a 21<sup>st</sup> Century educational system that's going



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to benefit our schools and to keep our children competitive in this world.

So, this is certainly an issue that I want to continue to bring home. The parents are demanding it, the children need it, the Council is raising it's voice on it. We need universal after school now. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thank you so much Council Member Cumbo. Commissioner, what would it take for you to do a cost analysis for universal after school?

JAGDEEN PHANOR: So, I want to be clear. I think we have definitely, and I think that I definitely know we have started the conversation. It's definitely a conversation that has been started. As the Commissioner mentioned, whether or not we have the funding or not has not prohibited us from starting to dig. So, we're looking into it. It's not that it's in the pie in the sky and we haven't even thought about it and it's not on the radar. It's on the radar, we know what the scaling inputs are, we know who the partners are, and the stakeholders are, and it just takes collaboration and time to kind of pin down that number.

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2 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Could the scaling apply for  
3 universal SONYC be applied for universal Compass  
4 Elementary?

5 JAGDEEN PHANOR: I mean, the thing is like I  
6 said, there are several partners, right? DOE is the  
7 owner of the whole, the public-school system and so,  
8 it's a lot of collaboration, a lot of different  
9 components. Like the Commissioner said, in speaking  
10 with the parents, a lot of variables that are going  
11 into it and the conversation has started. It  
12 definitely has started and since I'm talking to you  
13 right now, I want to correct the record. So, yes,  
14 Work, Learn, and Grow traditionally has been added by  
15 the Council. In this last year, it was added through  
16 conversations at the Council by the Mayor, so I  
17 wanted to correct that one point. And then I  
18 crunched numbers as others were speaking and to get  
19 to \$5,000 would be about \$22.5. So, almost \$3.4  
20 million more than what we have now. So, I just  
21 wanted to correct the record on those two things.  
22 Thank you.

23 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thank you and to continue with  
24 the Compass conversation, in May of 2018, DYCD  
25 released a new RFP for Compass which was subsequently

1  
2 resented. Why was it resented? When was the RFP  
3 resented and what was the PPP under that resented  
4 RFP? And what were the programmatic changes to be  
5 rendered on the resented RFP?

6 SUSAN HASSELL: Well, when we issued the RFP in  
7 spring of 2018, we hadn't made significant changes to  
8 the model. It included some elementary programs and  
9 some middle school programs in the RFP. It accounted  
10 for about a third of the whole Compass portfolio and  
11 as we got it through the RFP process, the city was  
12 hearing a lot of input from not-for profit providers.  
13 A lot of questions about the cost models and some of  
14 the structural models and I think we extended, and we  
15 extended, and we had some conversations and at some  
16 point, I think the city just realized we need to step  
17 back. Let's cancel this RFP, we're going to take a  
18 step back, we're going to engage with the non-profit  
19 community. We've been doing focus groups, we've been  
20 asking budget questions and simultaneously, we've  
21 extended in all of those sites, we've extended the  
22 contracts through a full year, 2020. So, we're  
23 ensuring that there's no break in service, but we  
24 want to get this right and it maybe that we have to  
25 issue a concept paper. Something that we typically

1  
2 do when we are making changes in the model, but we  
3 realize that there were enough questions here. We're  
4 going to take that into consideration, so we might do  
5 that even before we rerelease the RFP.

6 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: And what was the PPP under the  
7 resented RFP?

8 JAGDEEN PHANOR: It was \$3738, exactly.

9 SUSAN HASKELL: Yeah, about \$3,500 for the  
10 elementary and \$3,700 for the middle. It was higher  
11 than the base RFP that had been issued previously and  
12 I think you know, that's part of the reason we just  
13 hadn't anticipated the amount of pushback that we  
14 got. So, we're resetting and we're listening to  
15 providers and we'll take our time to get it right.

16 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: And how are the negotiations  
17 going with the providers? Are they ongoing?

18 BILL CHONG: It's actually, let me just sort of  
19 clarify. So, the Mayor's Office of Contract Services  
20 is actually leading this listening process. So,  
21 we're part of it. So, we're waiting to get more  
22 feedback from them as to when the right time to  
23 either issue a concept paper or an RFP. So, we're  
24 waiting to guidance from the Mayor's Office of  
25

1  
2 Contract Services. They have convened these focus  
3 groups.

4 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: What is the timeline for that?

5 BILL CHONG: So, they've started meetings. I  
6 would have to get back to you because MOX is the one  
7 leading that process.

8 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So, we've asked – the Council  
9 has asked in the fall to be a part of the  
10 conversation about the shape of the new Compass RFP.  
11 So, when can we expect to be a part of that  
12 conversation? Because to date, we have not been.

13 BILL CHONG: We'll pass on your request to the  
14 Mayor's Office of Contract Services since they're  
15 leading this work effort and then they'll get back to  
16 you as to what role and what the timing might be.

17 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Because we want to be a part  
18 of the conversation and you're saying that it might  
19 result in a concept paper as opposed to RFP and we  
20 want to be there at the beginning of the  
21 conversation.

22 BILL CHONG: So, we'll pass on your request to  
23 the Mayor's Office of Contract Services since they're  
24 leading the effort of putting together the different  
25 stakeholders.

1  
2 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: At the OMB hearing last week,  
3 Melanie Hartzog, your Budget Director stated that  
4 \$325 million have been allocated for Fiscal 2020 for  
5 Compass programs. How many elementary slots will  
6 that support? What is the budget for the elementary  
7 slots? And how many middle school slots will that  
8 support and whats the budget and the same for high  
9 school?

10 JAGDEEN PHANOR: Let me just grab that quickly.  
11 So, yes, the Budget Director was correct, we're at  
12 \$325 million. For elementary we have approximately  
13 \$127.4 million to serve approximately 47,000 slots.  
14 For SONYC we have approximately \$166 million to serve  
15 approximately 11,900 slots and in high school, we  
16 have about \$4.4 million to serve 3,600 slots. All  
17 are proximations.

18 SUSAN HASKELL: But on top of that we have  
19 funding for closer to \$52,000 in total.

20 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: I'm sorry, the SONYC number  
21 seemed to be awful low.

22 SUSAN HASKELL: She was giving you like the part  
23 that related to the RFP we were talking about but  
24 with the Mayor's expansion, we're up to about 52,000  
25

1  
2 in seats and our targets are set even higher than  
3 that.

4 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay, and I just want to just  
5 kind of revisit the concept of universal Compass  
6 Elementary program and the need to do some sort of  
7 cost analysis so that we can at least start to have  
8 the budget conversation but if we don't even know how  
9 much that will be, it's hard to begin to have that  
10 conversation. So, we really need for you to do that.

11 On the Runaway and Homeless Youth, I know that  
12 you did the youth count this year and you did it  
13 differently, so can you tell me what was different  
14 and can you tell me how well it went and do you have  
15 a new count yet and if not when can we get that?

16 JAGDEEN PHANOR: We don't have the numbers yet;  
17 we do have a successful youth count this year and  
18 that I think we gathered - I don't have the final  
19 number of survey's. I'm going to get for you,  
20 approximately 1,500. I think we gained more surveys  
21 then we had in the previous year and the analysis of  
22 that will take several weeks from now, but we added  
23 more sites, we added more partnerships so that the  
24 count that happened citywide for street homelessness  
25 happens on a Monday night. Where we survey people in

1  
2 the streets in the middle of the night and the youth  
3 count as you probably know happens on Tuesday,  
4 Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday after those days and  
5 we find young people where they are because they  
6 don't tend to be on the streets in the same way that  
7 we may see street homelessness in older people and in  
8 those questions we learned were you homeless on a  
9 Monday night or were you unstably housed also. So,  
10 we get more data about young people and their  
11 homeless status and we look forward to sharing those  
12 results with you.

13 BILL CHONG: Just one thing, Jagdeen wanted to  
14 correct something but I think one of the big changes  
15 we did with the youth count this year, I think Randy  
16 Scott talked about it at one of the hearings, is that  
17 we really, for the first time engaged the school  
18 system because as you know, there are a number of  
19 young people who are either homeless or in temporary  
20 housing and so, we have for the first time a school,  
21 actual locations to do surveys of young people. So,  
22 I think expanding the partnership was very important  
23 in bringing in the school system because they have  
24 much broader reach than we do and then I think we  
25 fine tune some places were not good places to reach



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2 young people, because you're trying to reach young  
3 people who are making a point of not wanting to be  
4 noticed and it will take more than a few weeks. I  
5 think my experience has been it usually takes a few  
6 months because the data is crunched by the CIDI, the  
7 Center for Innovation Data Intelligence to the  
8 Mayor's Office, they crunch the numbers and the we'll  
9 be glad to share the report when it's available.

10 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Do we have a sense when that's  
11 going to happen?

12 BILL CHONG: A few months. It usually takes a  
13 while.

14 JAGDEEN PHANOR: So, so sorry, correcting the  
15 record again. For middle school specifically,  
16 because that number that I quoted in slots was  
17 definitely too low. So, budgeted we have over 97,000  
18 slots, elementary about 42,000, middle school about  
19 52,000, that's the record I'm correcting, and high  
20 school 3,642. So, that's the correct number. I'm  
21 sorry about that.

22 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay, thank you. In Fiscal  
23 2018 Preliminary Mayors Management Report, much of  
24 the performance around Runaway and Homeless Youth is  
25 measured in terms of the ability to transfer children

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2 from crisis shelters into what the document describes  
3 as a suitable environment. For the sake of the PMMR,  
4 how does DYCD define a suitable environment?

5 SUSAN HASKELL: I don't have a copy of the 2018  
6 PMMR with me today. In that, you will see that we  
7 had taken Council suggestions and yours in particular  
8 and modified the way that we define suitable  
9 environment and at that point there were sometimes  
10 one to five young people who had gone into  
11 incarceration and they had been counted in that. We  
12 corrected that not just for Fiscal Year 2018, but for  
13 the past many years before that taking that out. It  
14 didn't have any substantive change to our numbers  
15 overall because it was so small, but we've now  
16 defined that we're talking about young people who are  
17 going to a known environment. So, it might be a  
18 young person who has transferred from a crisis  
19 program to a TIL program or it could be that they got  
20 their own apartment or supportive housing, or they're  
21 reunited with the family and it's defined more  
22 transparently, and we appreciate your feedback on  
23 that. We're not done with that process. We are  
24 engaging with our providers; we're redefining those  
25

1  
2 definitions and we look forward to more input from  
3 you.

4 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: What is DYCD's current ratio  
5 of crisis beds to transitional independent living  
6 beds or TIL beds?

7 SUSAN HASKELL: I don't know if I know the ratio,  
8 but I believe it's 226 crisis, bear with me one sec.  
9 Yeah, give me two seconds. I believe it's 226  
10 crisis.

11 BILL CHONG: While she looks it up, is there  
12 another question?

13 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Sure, in the first four months  
14 of Fiscal 2018, the RHY providers successfully  
15 returned 73 percent of youth ages 16 to 20 either to  
16 their families or to a suitable environment which was  
17 slightly down from last year 74 percent. What plans  
18 do DYCD and the service providers have in place to  
19 improve performance particularly given the  
20 vulnerability of our youth population.

21 SUSAN HASKELL: Can you give me those numbers  
22 again.

23 The 73 percent successfully, providers have  
24 successfully returned 73 percent of youth ages 16 to  
25 20 either to their families or to a suitable

1  
2 environment which is slightly down from last year of  
3 74 percent.

4 SUSAN HASKELL: Yeah, well, I can get back to you  
5 on that change. We are serving many more young  
6 people as we continue to bring beds online. I don't  
7 know what impact that had but we would be happy to  
8 dig into that with you.

9 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay, this Committee had an  
10 impressive site visit this fall to Covenant House  
11 where young people we spoke with described their  
12 experiences upon arriving in a homeless shelter and  
13 none of them were informed of where they could  
14 receive age appropriate support. It was a big  
15 concern, many of them landed in adult shelters and  
16 being told that you know, they couldn't be served  
17 there but not with any direction to another facility.

18 Does DYCD believe that you're reaching this  
19 population and informing runaway youth where service  
20 is rendered and how does DYCD navigate through the  
21 bureaucratic tangles which prevent accurate  
22 communications to desperate youth needing these  
23 services.

24 BILL CHONG: So, one of the things we've really  
25 focused on is trying to make sure that different

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2 networks that we fund are connected. So, before the  
3 programs that funded employment, programs for young  
4 people who are disconnected did not work with the  
5 young people who are homeless and often times, it's  
6 the same type of young person. So, I'm surprised  
7 that Covenant House didn't know about all the  
8 workforce programs.

9 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: No, I'm not saying that  
10 Covenant House did not know. I am saying that the  
11 young people didn't know.

12 BILL CHONG: Okay, so we will follow up with  
13 Covenant House because we've made a great deal of  
14 effort to connect the groups that provide residential  
15 services for homeless young people with the groups  
16 that provide employment programs. So, it's the  
17 Queens for example, Sheltering Arms where the one big  
18 issue that always comes up when I meet with young  
19 people who are homeless, they want to know about jobs  
20 and so, many of the programs are very good at getting  
21 in people in the summer employment program and then  
22 this group, the Sheltering Arms which is based in  
23 Queens, started working with a group called,  
24 Opportunities for a Better Tomorrow which is based in  
25 Brooklyn because the more we work together has one

1  
2 system serving young people, the more impactful we  
3 can be. So, we'll follow up with Covenant House. I  
4 am a little surprised they didn't educate young  
5 people about the different options.

6 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Commissioner you're miss  
7 understanding the connection I'm trying to make.  
8 Because the young people, once they got the Covenant  
9 house, the services were there, they were very  
10 pleased with it. It's getting to Covenant House, how  
11 to find Covenant House when young people are out  
12 there, they don't know what services are available.  
13 What are we doing? We've talked about how to make  
14 that information more broadly available or we talked  
15 about the possibility of maybe having it at train  
16 stations and you know, the bus station and things  
17 where young people who are in crisis and in need of  
18 shelter, you know, might be, might congregate because  
19 they find there way somehow to an adult shelter and  
20 that's not an appropriate placement. They can't be  
21 there, and they are not being told where they can go.

22 So, it is very concerning to me that every young  
23 person that we talk to at Covenant House had a hard  
24 time finding that resource. It wasn't like a direct  
25 path.

1  
2 SUSAN HASKELL: I want to say first it's 246  
3 crisis beds and 379 TIL beds for a total of 625 beds  
4 online.

5 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: How many crisis service beds?

6 SUSAN HASKELL: 246 crisis beds.

7 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: 246.

8 SUSAN HASKELL: Yeah, we have heard feedback -

9 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Yeah, and then how would  
10 someone also know how to access those beds?

11 SUSAN HASKELL: Yes, we have heard feedback on  
12 this and from others and there was a Council bill  
13 passed that is requiring us to do more outreach. We  
14 right now, are revising Pom cards to hand out. I  
15 think we're printing like 10 or 15,000 Pom cards.  
16 They are going to show now that we have not just  
17 seven-day time drop in centers open but a 24-hour  
18 drop-in center in every borough. Eight drop in  
19 centers in total including as the Commissioner said  
20 in his testimony, we have a new one in Rockaway. We  
21 have many, many more sites and beds and services and  
22 so, we are again, the Pom card should be printed  
23 soon, and we will make sure to get a bunch to you. I  
24 know you love to get a resource of materials. Post  
25 Cards and educational posters and we've talked about

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2 when the text is final, using the link kiosks and  
3 that kind of thing. So, we hear you, we are going to  
4 do a lot of outreach this year for young people.

5 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Yeah, I really want to see  
6 that public outreach campaign include our transit  
7 hubs, our subways, points of entry into New York  
8 City.

9 BILL CHONG: Well, I mean the other point is that  
10 as you know, we have street outreach programs that  
11 work also with the adult street outreach program from  
12 DHS and so, it's our hope these Pom cards can be  
13 distributed to our program which go to places where  
14 young people who might be homeless congregate at  
15 night as well as the Department of Homeless Services  
16 Programs which are many more programs, so they may  
17 occasionally come across a young person who needs  
18 these services.

19 The other thing we've been doing consistently for  
20 five years and it's an ongoing process. We do  
21 regular trainings with the staff at the Department of  
22 Homeless Services path center which is their entry  
23 point into their system. So, that they know that  
24 they can be diverted instead of going into the adult  
25 system, they can come into our system. So, there is



1

2 always staff turnover. So, we're constantly doing  
3 training of the staff at the DHS path. So, when they  
4 show up at an adult shelter, they know they can  
5 contact an RHY program and there's usually a vacancy  
6 in any given night.

7

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So, you are working with the  
8 DHS outreach street teams and they're made aware even  
9 the ones that are a private outreach providers -

10

BILL CHONG: I believe Randy Scott at the last  
11 testimony said that he has done regular presentations  
12 to the DHS funded programs, so to make sure that they  
13 know about the services that are in the youth side.  
14 Because they may come across a young person that is a  
15 better fit for your system.

16

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: And so, they will be given  
17 these cards also, right?

18

BILL CHONG: Right, yes.

19

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay, we've been joined by  
20 Council Member Rosenthal and I'm going to relinquish  
21 the mic so that you can ask questions.

22

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Thank you so much  
23 Chair Rose and thank you for your leadership on  
24 behalf of the City's Youth. Great to see you  
25 Commissioner. A couple of just very quick questions.

1  
2 For the middle school students participating in  
3 summer programs, I know this has been asked already.  
4 It effects about 300 kids, most high need kids in my  
5 district. Do you expect the funding for those summer  
6 programs to continue?

7 BILL CHONG: As I said in my earlier question and  
8 answer, we asked for the funding for the SONYC summer  
9 programs to be baselined in the Preliminary Budget, I  
10 wasn't successful. I will continue to ask for it to  
11 be baselined, because it's a priority for me to have  
12 stable funding for core programs, SONYC program being  
13 one of the core programs of DYCD. I know it's a  
14 challenge for young people, it's a challenge for  
15 working families. They need to know sooner rather  
16 than later. So, I will continue to advocate, and I  
17 would welcome any support the Council can assist in  
18 that effort, but it is tough to run a program when  
19 you don't know whether you have funding until two  
20 weeks before the start of the program, so I'm very  
21 mindful of that.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: I appreciate that. I  
23 forgot which side of the table we were on for a  
24 second. I really appreciate yeah, we're all on the  
25 same side, I appreciate your advocacy. I've got 300

1  
2 kids around all of our NYCHA developments who are at  
3 risk of losing a summer program that's a real concern  
4 to me.

5 DYCD for your shelters, do you provide the  
6 menstrual hygiene products in those shelters?

7 SUSAN HASKELL: Yes, yes.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: And do you find that  
9 they are used, is there a demand?

10 SUSAN HASKELL: Yes.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Do you have any  
12 problems with funding or anything for those.

13 SUSAN HASKELL: No.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Okay, and for DYCD as  
15 a whole, do you have one of the gender equity  
16 liaisons?

17 BILL CHONG: Yes, we have someone whose been on  
18 board for I think two or three years. We have an  
19 equity statement; we have a plan that's rolling out.  
20 So, we're actually on target with the work of the  
21 gender equity initiative.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: What were some of the  
23 bigger findings?

24 BILL CHONG: Well, you know, one of the things  
25 that we're always trying to do is trying to make sure

1  
2 that young women have access to the same services and  
3 so, a success story is the Summer Youth Employment  
4 Program. We actually have more young women employed  
5 in the Summer Youth Employment program than young  
6 men.

7 So, we're trying to strike the right balance but  
8 it's an open process and we're trying to look for  
9 where appropriate, we can do gender specific  
10 activities. I think we throughout our programs we  
11 are looking for ways to highlight the roles of woman  
12 so, our community development program, I think for  
13 the second or third years has a community Mom  
14 Imitative, where we ask the non-profits to nominate  
15 women in their communities who are heroines. Some  
16 unsung, some well known that we can honor during  
17 Mother's Day, so we are always looking for ways to  
18 integrate this into the day to day work of our  
19 programs.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: You're always looking  
21 for ways or this is a new thing that the gender  
22 equity liaison-

23 BILL CHONG: I think it's a commitment we've had  
24 even before the initiative and I think the initiative  
25 has helped focus it. You know, this year the focus

1  
2 of the Step It Up Campaign is really fighting to  
3 LGBTQ rights. It's the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Step  
4 It Up dance competition, it's the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of  
5 the Stonewall uprising and, so we want to again, use  
6 this as opportunity to educate young people and  
7 community members about the importance of LGBTQ  
8 rights, so we're constantly looking for ways to  
9 elevate this in all our programs.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: So, you mentioned a  
11 plan, this is my last question Chair. You're rolling  
12 out a plan after two years or you have some analysis?

13 BILL CHONG: We had a plan and pieces unfold each  
14 year.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Great, could you send  
16 a copy of that plan over to the Committee?

17 BILL CHONG: Sure.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Okay, and it's already  
19 been requested, and it was sent over yesterday.  
20 Okay, thank you very much.

21 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thank you, Council Member  
22 Rosenthal. Just one last question before we get to  
23 the public who have been so patiently waiting.  
24 Referencing the PMMR performance measures, can you  
25 explain why there was a decline of 13 percent or

1  
2 9,722 adults in Beacon programs and can you explain  
3 the decline of 23 percent or 6,156 youth in the  
4 Cornerstone programs?

5 Yes, we're going to swear you in again. I saw  
6 you put your hand up when they were sworn in. We're  
7 going to do it officially okay.

8 CLERK: Yes, do you affirm to tell the truth the  
9 whole truth and nothing but the truth in your  
10 testimony and to respond honestly to Council Members  
11 questions.

12 DARRYL RATTRAY: Yes, I do.

13 CLERK: Please state your name for the record.

14 DARRYL RATTRAY: My name is Darryl Rattray. I am  
15 the Associate Commissioner for Youth Services at  
16 DYCD.

17 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay.

18 DARRYL RATTRAY: I serve for the Beacon member  
19 which is the drop-in adults.

20 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: The drop-in adults 13 percent  
21 or 9,723.

22 DARRYL RATTRAY: We'll definitely start with  
23 historically; Beacon programs have served beyond and  
24 above their target minimum. That's the case here as  
25

1  
2 well but in FY 2018, when those numbers were taken,  
3 there actually was a brand-new RFP released.

4 In the development of that RFP, we had several  
5 meetings, several focus groups, feedback sessions,  
6 with stakeholders, providers, parents, young people,  
7 to reform the concept paper for that RFP. Once it  
8 was created, we had rolled it out, the concept paper,  
9 received feedback and then had another of just  
10 feedback sessions with stakeholders and then that  
11 informed the RFP that released. In the RFP, it  
12 actually provides additional and more flexibility for  
13 programs to define which young people they are  
14 serving, how they're serving them and to the  
15 intensiveness of the services being provided.

16 What that saw was a reduction in the minimum  
17 target for adults in that RFP but again, with that  
18 being said, we are serving higher than the minimum  
19 target for adults.

20 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So, by the metrics of the RFP  
21 required serving less adults?

22 DARRYL RATTRAY: Less adults, more young adults,  
23 more youth providing flexibility for programs to  
24 decide which population's in their neighborhoods

1  
2 should be concentrated on, should be provided  
3 intensive services.

4 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So, that was a function of the  
5 RFP?

6 DARRYL RATTRAY: A function of the RFP but again,  
7 those numbers are still higher than the minimum.

8 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: And the decline of 23 percent  
9 or 6,156 young people in the Cornerstone programs?

10 DARRYL RATTRAY: So, as you know, Cornerstone  
11 programs are high in demand and historically similar  
12 to Beacons, we serve over the minimal target. With  
13 that being said we do see the PMMR number is lower  
14 than usual. We are meeting with providers to figure  
15 out what went on, what's happening so we can get to  
16 the detail. So, we've already met with providers. I  
17 anticipate that number increasing but I don't want to  
18 give you sort of their Preliminary information.

19 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Were there programmatic  
20 changes? Were there budgetary changes?

21 DARRYL RATTRAY: It's a combination of things but  
22 again, I want us to fully vet that out before I  
23 publicly say, hey this is the issue. So, there's no  
24 speculation. So, it's like they said this, we took a  
25 look at, we dive deep and yes, we confirm.



1  
2 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So, we have a list of things  
3 that we're going to ask you for to provide after  
4 this. That will be included.

5 DARRYL RATTRAY: Absolutely.

6 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: And can you explain the  
7 decline of 35 percent or 2,872 youth in the  
8 Cornerstone programs?

9 DARRYL RATTRAY: The same. We are looking at  
10 those numbers.

11 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay, so I want to thank you  
12 all for being here. Don't go so fast Commissioner,  
13 calm down, you know I have to say something, right.

14 I just want to again say I appreciate your  
15 advocacy on behalf of Summer SONYC. Again, this  
16 Committee is going to push that. I am really looking  
17 forward to DYCD looking at the metrics and a cost  
18 analysis of what it would take to do universal after  
19 school. I want to make sure that we're on the record  
20 that the Peg to DYCD does not negatively impact  
21 programming of service delivery to our ten program  
22 areas and we'll be looking for information that we're  
23 going to send you a letter requesting and reiterating  
24 many of the questions that we asked that we want  
25 follow-up. Like to our Compass questions, with

1  
2 details, the Compass RFP, MOX timeline, you know, I  
3 can't reiterate how important it is that Council is  
4 there at the beginning of those conversations with  
5 the RFP, the youth count, you know, what's happening  
6 with our 74 percent to 73 percent of our RHY and you  
7 know, our Cornerstone youth information. So, we will  
8 put all of that in a document and I want to ask that  
9 the response be timely. I really don't want the  
10 staff to come back and say, we're having difficulty  
11 getting the answers. So, I want to thank you for  
12 your testimony. I want to thank the Committee  
13 Members also.

14 So, did you want to say something Commissioner?

15 BILL CHONG: Thank you for your support of DYCD.

16 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Always, always, we have the  
17 same goal. We might not have the same idea of how to  
18 get there but we have the same goal and that is to  
19 serve as many and all of our youth in New York City  
20 and I don't want them to be the throw away group in  
21 New York City. They are our most vulnerable and they  
22 have issues that we have to address and that spans  
23 the gamut. I know the Mayor is interested in early  
24 elementary childhood ed and programming, but it spans  
25 that entire gamut, so I thank you.

1  
2 Oh, and someone will stay behind, right, to hear  
3 the questions from the public?

4 BILL CHONG: Yes.

5 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Alright.

6 BILL CHONG: Thank you.

7 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thank you. I just need to  
8 clarify because Commissioner Phanor was very good  
9 about clarifying. You have been very good about the  
10 SYEP information. Thank you.

11 Could we have our next panel? Our next panel is  
12 Melissa Diaz, American Museum of Natural History,  
13 Whitney Donhauser, Geoffrey Golia, Gregory Brender,  
14 Raysa Rodriquez and Daniel Manbode.

15 When you get to the panel could you identify  
16 yourself, your name and your organization? And we're  
17 going to put you on the clock, so we'll give them  
18 three minutes. We need two more chairs.

19 Yes, you can start.

20 GEOFFREY GOLIA: Geoffrey Golia Associated  
21 Executive Director of Getting Out and Staying Out.

22 WHITNEY DONHAUSER: Whitney Donhauser President  
23 and Director of the Museum in the City of New York.

24

25

1  
2 MELISSA DIAZ: Melissa Diaz, Director of  
3 Government Affairs at the American Museum of Natural  
4 History. I assume I projected but -

5 DANIEL MANBODE: Daniel Manbode I am with CAMBA,  
6 Program Director for SYEP program.

7 RAYSA RODRIQUEZ: Hi, good afternoon. Raysa  
8 Rodriquez with Citizens Committee for Children.

9 GREGORY BRENDER: Good afternoon. I am Gregory  
10 Brender from United Neighborhood Houses.

11 RAYSA RODRIQUEZ: Hi, good afternoon. Once  
12 again, I am Raysa Rodriquez with Citizens Committee  
13 for Children. I am the Associate Executive Director  
14 for Policy and Advocacy. Thank you so much for  
15 holding this very important hearing. We at CCC have  
16 analyzed the impact that the Administrations  
17 Preliminary Budget and have attached to the testimony  
18 our analysis of the impact of the budget on children  
19 and youth throughout the city. There are elements in  
20 the budget that we strongly support, expansion of 3-  
21 K, Summer Youth Employment investments, more  
22 equitable policy for transportation and so all those  
23 things we stand behind and are fully supportive.

24 Sadly, however, the Budget fails to make  
25 significant investments in areas that we know are

1  
2 necessary. Salary parity to make sure there is  
3 equity across both CBO's and schools; bridging the  
4 gap social workers to ensure that there are social  
5 workers in schools with high concentration of  
6 homeless and transitional students and other areas  
7 that we continue to have as priorities.

8 We also are fully aware of the challenges of the  
9 economic situation. I know that city agencies are  
10 being asked to make tough decisions as part of the  
11 Peg and so, we recognize all those things as we push  
12 for our priorities in the budget. I want to  
13 definitely point you to three areas as it relates to  
14 the Committee that we strongly urge the  
15 Administration to include in their Executive Budget.  
16 Summer programming for middle school, after school  
17 programs. Really significant investments to make  
18 after school for elementary school universal and  
19 continued commitment to the City Council initiatives  
20 that have been quite successful throughout the city  
21 and that children in youth continue to rely on.

22 So, let's start with some programming for middle  
23 school students. We are incredibly supportive and  
24 continue to recognize the great investments that have  
25 been made by this Administration. With SONYC, it has

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been implemented pretty well throughout the city, but for one element and that's summer, right? We cannot have after school programming that does not include summer programming. Most parents are not teachers, right and work continues to be a significant element in most families lives in New York City. But not only families, kids themselves need the programming during summer. We know and the research is clear, I am sure I am preaching to the choir as they say, summer learning is quite important and so, ensuring that every slot has a summer component, something that we support. Does that mean that's time.

So, I know I am preaching to the choir, I will also just definitely again, reiterate the need to make after school programming in the elementary level universal and thank the Council for their continued support for these issues and Council initiatives that we hope continue. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thank you.

GEOFFREY GOLIA: Thanks for the opportunity to speak. Geoffrey Golia at Getting Out and Staying Out. Founding in 2004, Getting Out and Staying Out also known as GOSO, is a comprehensive reentry

1  
2 program serving 16 to 24-year-old young men who have  
3 been involved in the criminal justice system.

4 We work with these young men in the jails in  
5 Rikers Island as well in prisons upstate and of  
6 course when they come home into the community. Our  
7 community program located in East Harlem gets  
8 referrals from all kinds of folks including City  
9 Council Members.

10 Our recidivism rate is approximately 15 percent  
11 which is well below the average national average of  
12 67 percent.

13 We currently have over 700 participants in our  
14 community program. At GOSO, we focus on the three  
15 E's, employment, education, and emotional wellbeing.  
16 Our program is tailored to address these core  
17 concerns, while also providing the individual  
18 attention to each participant's individual needs and  
19 goals. All participants work with a licensed social  
20 worker, who all of whom are equipped to provide  
21 psychotherapy as well reentry planning and every week  
22 we run a comprehensive job readiness curriculum that  
23 all participants must pass in order to move forward  
24 in the program. After that they are eligible for a  
25 number of other programmatic opportunities.

1  
2 Much of the core anti-recidivism programming at  
3 GOSO, is funding through New York City's Department  
4 of Youth and Community Development DYCD. While it is  
5 clear that our participants, young men who have made  
6 that commitment to change their lives and avoid  
7 reinvolvement in the criminal justice system are the  
8 ones who put in the hard work. We would not be able  
9 to provide this programming without funding from  
10 Departments like DYCD. GOSO is known for the work we  
11 do with court-involved youth, and we often get  
12 referrals from other agencies and non-profits because  
13 of that work, again funded by DYCD.

14 GOSO is one of the few programs that works with  
15 all court-involved young people, 16- and 17-year  
16 old's included, no matter the charges.

17 Our program has an on-site TASC program run in  
18 collaboration with the DOE. This year, we have  
19 enrolled 32 participants in our school who are  
20 working towards their high school equivalency  
21 diplomas. We also provide support to our  
22 participants who are in college and trade school,  
23 including Metro Cards and books.

24 We provide monthly vocational trainings, and we  
25 also know that employment is a huge goal for our



1  
2 participants. Since 2013, GOSOWorks, our employment  
3 development program, has placed nearly 500  
4 participants in the internship-to-employment  
5 opportunities with local businesses. Approximately  
6 65 percent of these participants complete their  
7 placements, many of whom go on to full-time work  
8 afterwards. Recently, we've also had a number of  
9 participants accepted into the Local 79 Mason Tenders  
10 Union.

11 As a staff of mental health professionals, we  
12 seek to address the biopsychosocial issues of our  
13 participants even before their first interactions  
14 with the justice system, our participants faced  
15 poverty, racism, trauma, and a number of broken  
16 systems and often, these issues are exacerbated by  
17 the trauma of incarceration. Successful reentry  
18 cannot happen without robust emphasis on mental  
19 health and emotional well-being. Through individual  
20 and group therapy, trauma-informed interventions,  
21 psychoeducation, and referrals to more intensive  
22 psychiatric services, the staff at GOSO seeks to  
23 destigmatize mental health treatment and encourage  
24 our participants to prioritize their emotional well-  
25

1  
2 being and I appreciate this opportunity to speak to  
3 you today.

4 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thank you. Do you take  
5 referrals from all five boroughs?

6 GEOFFREY GOLIA: Absolutely, from all five  
7 boroughs, yeah.

8 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay, thank you.

9 WHITNEY DONHAUSER: Hi, thank you so much for  
10 this opportunity to testify. I am Whitney Donhauser  
11 from the Museum of the City of New York.

12 The Museum is one of 33 organizations within the  
13 CIGs. The CIGs are located on with city owned land  
14 or in city owned buildings and we work in concert  
15 with many partners to provide cultural education and  
16 community service in a wide variety of ways. We work  
17 with all ages and all demographics, all over the city  
18 and today I want to provide you with some exciting  
19 work that we're doing in engaging with the city's  
20 youth and to advocate for funding for the FY 2020  
21 Budget.

22 The Museum of the City of New York presents each  
23 year more than a dozen exhibitions and hundreds of  
24 adults, family, educator, school fieldtrips, tots,  
25 and youth programs such as our LGBTQ Teen summit and

1  
2 free SAT prep classes. One program I would like to  
3 highlight is our Internship program that we've been  
4 operating since 2012.

5 The program engages 8 to 10 youths ages 18 to 24  
6 who are at a turning point in their lives. They have  
7 had barriers in their education and careers, but who  
8 have demonstrated a desire to grow professionally and  
9 to work with children. The interns are recruited in  
10 collaboration with local partners like the Stanley  
11 Isaac Center, Mount Sinai Adolescent Health Center,  
12 the Door and Exalt. The interns are paid and  
13 participate in a three-month long training on  
14 education pedagogies, object inquiry, public speaking  
15 and more. And the interns explore the city, the  
16 museum, and learn how to teach. Then they lead the  
17 summer programs for thousands of young learners.

18 Their training includes offsite visits to observe  
19 and learn from others working in cultural  
20 institutions and organizations such as the Innocence  
21 Project at the Brooklyn Museum, Weeksville Heritage  
22 Center, the Intrepid Museum and during the New York  
23 City Museum Education Roundtable Conference. On  
24 their final days, the interns present their works to  
25 local partners and leaders and we are thrilled to

1  
2 have our East Harlem Council Member, Diana Ayala,  
3 speak with the students in the last session.

4 Alumnae's go on to college or they complete their  
5 high school equivalency program. Some have continued  
6 to work in the Museum shop as IT interns and  
7 assisting with family and community development  
8 programs such as the Africa Center's neighborhood  
9 celebration, and some return as mentors to the newest  
10 cohort of interns in the following year.

11 Some of our other CIG colleagues provide equally  
12 important programs including the Brooklyn Children's  
13 Museum free after school program at PS 189, a Title 1  
14 public school program in Brownsville, Queens  
15 Botanical Summer Youth Employment Program host of 38  
16 or 45 young people for six weeks working with  
17 horticulture, maintenance, and visitor services  
18 staff.

19 In 2017, the CIGs with many others partnered with  
20 the City to produce CreateNYC, the City's first  
21 cultural plan. The plan is ambitious and focused  
22 with areas seeking to have an impact on equitable  
23 access to and participation in arts and culture. The  
24 plan aligns with existing programming at museums,  
25

1  
2 botanical gardens, and zoos all over the five  
3 boroughs.

4 So, we have continued city funding these programs  
5 can be counted on and with additional funding, they  
6 can be expanded. So, the CIG request \$30 million in  
7 the City Budget in order to reach our equivalent  
8 funding in FY 2009.

9 So, we hope that we will be able to keep that  
10 same level of funding. Thank you.

11 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thank you. Are you also  
12 referring to CASA money?

13 WHITNEY DONHAUSER: Am I referring to what?

14 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Are you also referring to CASA  
15 money? Afterschool funding.

16 WHITNEY DONHAUSER: No, we don't receive any, I  
17 don't have anything on after school funding, no.

18 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay, thank you.

19 MELISSA DIAZ: Good afternoon. My name is Melissa  
20 Diaz on behalf of the American Museum of Natural  
21 History. I would like to thank you Chairwoman and  
22 the Committee for welcoming us to discuss the museums  
23 role in shaping the lives to New York City youth  
24 particularly through our science education programs.  
25

1  
2 Many of you may already know the American Museum  
3 of Natural History as a place where youth gravitate.  
4 Maybe it is a place where you visited as a child or  
5 where you brought your children, grandchildren to  
6 learn and explore.

7 Here in the middle of New York City, our youth  
8 can explore everything from the elements of a cell to  
9 the expanses of the universe. They can travel to the  
10 past, to see prehistoric mammals and they can see and  
11 learn about the future of the planet that they will  
12 inherit. We welcome half a million New York City  
13 school children to our halls every year through  
14 school and camp groups, and they get to experience  
15 all of this for free. Free time travel imagine that.

16 This year, the Museum is celebrating 150 years of  
17 being a beacon for science education in this city.  
18 Since our founding our mission has been to impart  
19 knowledge about human cultures, the natural world,  
20 and the universe. The Museum continues to uphold  
21 this commitment to education through the rich arrays  
22 of programs that we offer to the public, from  
23 toddlers to PhD students. All of these programs are  
24 structured to align City and State educational  
25 standards and benchmarks so that we can increase

1  
2 scientific literacy and encourage students to pursue  
3 science related careers.

4 I think we all know that now more than ever we  
5 live in an era of constant scientific discovery and  
6 technological change, which directly affects our  
7 students. Ss our economy increasingly depends on  
8 revolutionary new advance; thousands of STEM jobs  
9 remain unfilled here in New York City. We believe  
10 our students should have the scientific career  
11 training to be able to obtain those jobs, right here  
12 at home. If we want to stay competitive as a nation  
13 and a city, we need to build a scientifically  
14 literate citizenry and a bank of highly skilled, STEM  
15 literate young adults from all backgrounds.

16 The City has begun responding to this need by  
17 making unprecedented investment in STEM learning. At  
18 the Museum, we are doing our part every day, by  
19 providing accessible, affordable, science education  
20 programs to over 2,400 New York City students, so  
21 that they can access rigorous science education and  
22 meet the demands for the jobs of the future. Through  
23 our BridgeUp Stem program, young women and high  
24 school are learning how to code in Python. They are  
25 working on real scientific data sets, and they learn

1  
2 how data science and data visualization are important  
3 tools for scientists in all fields. In our summer  
4 camps, elementary and middle school students are  
5 introduced to a wide variety of scientific  
6 disciplines through thought provoking, hands on  
7 investigations, and the use of digital program and  
8 skill building. And in our Discovery Days program,  
9 1,200 NYCHA residents are joining us for Saturdays  
10 throughout the year to explore the Museum, engage in  
11 scientific conversations, and use scientific tools  
12 together to learn as a family and interact in a  
13 hands-on fashion with the many fascinating objects on  
14 display. We are asking for the Council's support  
15 this year for our Museum's educational programs and  
16 STEM workforce development training specifically for  
17 our after school program which provides high school  
18 students with free advanced science education, our  
19 Saltz Internship Program, which introduces high  
20 school students to careers through science and paid  
21 internships and our Museum education and Employment  
22 Program which gives college student on the job  
23 experience alongside scientists through paid  
24 internships.  
25



1  
2 Last but not least, my time is up, so I will  
3 leave you with a few words from MEEP alumna who said  
4 she know very little about STEM as a whole before  
5 starting the program. It was never really on my  
6 radar. At school there is very little exposure to  
7 such careers. At the internship, it felt like the  
8 gates opened to this new world of careers that exist.  
9 It was at the internship where I truly learned what  
10 STEM has to offer and where it could take me.

11 I ask for your support this year to help us  
12 continue creating a place where we can offer science  
13 education for another 150 years.

14 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thank you.

15 MELISSA DIAZ: Thank you.

16 DANIEL MANBODE: Council Member Rose and Members  
17 of the Committee, my name is Daniel Manbode. I am  
18 the Program Director for CAMBA's Summer Youth  
19 Employment Program. I want to thank you for holding  
20 today's hearing and affording us the opportunity to  
21 testify. CAMBA is one of New York's largest and most  
22 trusted community-based organization and is unique  
23 among peer agencies in scale, quality, and  
24 responsiveness. CAMA was founding in 1977 as a  
25 merchant's block association, the agency has grown in

1  
2 direct response to the need of Brooklyn community and  
3 beyond. Today, CAMBA provides services to 45,000  
4 individuals and families annually through an  
5 integrated set of six program areas: Economic  
6 Development; Education and Youth Development; Family  
7 Support; Health; Housing; and Legal Services.  
8 Through our comprehensive continuum of services,  
9 CAMBA provides people with the tools and resources  
10 they need to achieve their full potential.

11 Today, I would like to address the Committee  
12 regarding the needs for adequate resources for the  
13 new SYEP model. CAMBA has been an SYEP provider  
14 since 1995. Last year, through SYEP, we served over  
15 1,400 youth, who worked a collective total of over  
16 200,000 hours and earned over 2.6 million in wages.  
17 CAMBA has established deep and effective relationship  
18 with diverse numbers of worksites to provide our  
19 youth with meaningful employment experiences,  
20 including 59 worksites for younger youth and 106 for  
21 older youth, totaling 165 worksite altogether. We  
22 are grateful to have a SYEP provider for nearly 25  
23 years, and we greatly appreciate having been awarded  
24 new contracts to serve younger youth and older youth.

1  
2 However, CAMBA has concerns related to both of the  
3 contracts we received.

4 For our Younger Youth contract, we are concerned  
5 about the project-based learning model required for  
6 this population. We are troubled about the new  
7 responsibilities that are required by the contract  
8 without significant increases in funding. For  
9 example, Younger Youth providers are tasked with an  
10 increase of staffing time, from five to fifteen hours  
11 per week, to account for the project-based learning.  
12 Moreover, staff will now be responsible for  
13 curriculum development for the project-based learning  
14 activities. Providers are also tasked with finding  
15 more space to accommodate the project-based learning  
16 activities, which will result in an increase in total  
17 rent.

18 In addition, providers will be responsible for  
19 attracting Younger Youth participants without the  
20 incentive of a summer job. The Younger Youth model  
21 provides participants with stipends at a rate of 51  
22 percent less than if they had had last year's minimum  
23 wage. Finally, we are concerned that the option for  
24 actual work experience, the hard skills that come  
25 with summer jobs is not included as a program element

1  
2 under this contract, depriving participants of  
3 valuable learning opportunities.

4 With regards to the Older Youth contract, CAMBA  
5 served over a thousand Older Youth.

6 In closing, I would like, two key  
7 recommendations. First we urge DYCD to increase the  
8 rate which Younger Youth are paid. In my opinion,  
9 Younger Youth would be paid the minimum wage, as they  
10 would receive in the previous years.

11 Secondly, providers will require a higher unit  
12 cost for Younger Youth, \$600 per month is not  
13 adequate for such a service rich labor-intensive  
14 model. I thank you for your time.

15 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thank you and do you have a  
16 copy of your testimony?

17 DANIEL MANBODE: Yes, Ma'am.

18 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay, Gregory.

19 GREGORY BRENDER: Good afternoon and thank you  
20 for the opportunity to testify and Council Member  
21 Rose, Council Member Chin, Council Member Rosenthal,  
22 and some of the members of the Committee who aren't  
23 here. Thank you all for being such passionate  
24 champions of free Youth over the years. You know,  
25 being there, fighting for the summer camps, fighting

1  
2 for SYEP, the services for youth in New York City  
3 have really improved thanks to your leadership.

4 So, I have long testimony that I'm not going to  
5 read, but I am really glad that most of these things  
6 were actually asked about in the hearing. So, I'm  
7 just going to add a little on several areas.

8 So, starting with the COMPASS rates and thank you  
9 for asking questions about those. The COMPASS rates,  
10 we really appreciate MOX and DYCD actually taking  
11 time to do an engagement with the community on this.

12 A few of the things that we want to make sure  
13 that they into account when addressing these rates  
14 are a disparity in funding levels based on whether a  
15 program was originally in an RFP back in the days of  
16 OST in the Bloomberg Administration or whether it was  
17 once Council funded. There is not a \$400  
18 differential for programs that are either currently  
19 or formerly Council funded and baselined ensuring the  
20 full implementation of indirect rates and the COLA  
21 increases, ensuring that the cost of an increase in  
22 minimum wage are covered and lastly, ensuring that  
23 the cost of an increase threshold for employees being  
24 exempt from overtime is covered.

1  
2           On January 1<sup>st</sup> of this year, State Labor Law  
3 changed increasing the threshold to which an employee  
4 can be exempt from overtime, many of the directors of  
5 after school programs which particularly in the  
6 summer do run longer than a traditional work day are  
7 actually currently at salaries lower than the  
8 exemption rate. So, we want to see funding coming in  
9 to ensure that those salaries do get up to the rate  
10 for exempt since these are actually director level  
11 staff.

12           With regard to SONYC, we really appreciate all  
13 the Council's leadership and advocacy. I just want  
14 to put in a push that we hope this funding can come  
15 in the Executive Budget, so that providers have time  
16 to get the programs running, make sure that the staff  
17 are cleared, make sure the youth are enrolled and  
18 make sure parents actually know before the summer  
19 starts that summer programs are going to be  
20 available.

21           With regard to expanding COMPASS, it was really  
22 great to hear those questions and to see our DYCD  
23 also thinking about it. One other metric that I  
24 think they should consider is not just the schools  
25 that don't have it but also, how many schools do have

1  
2 COMPASS but have waitlists in their programs or that  
3 have actually other programs that are often fee for  
4 service in the same school to cover the gap in  
5 service.

6 And lastly, with regard to SYEP, well not lastly,  
7 second to lastly, with regard to SYEP, one thing  
8 we've been hearing a lot of that's pretty concerning  
9 is that in the awards, a lot of programs actually got  
10 significantly less older youth slots and  
11 significantly more younger youth slots than they  
12 applied for and therefore, actually significantly  
13 fewer older youth slots than they have served in the  
14 summer of 2018. There is a lot of concern as you  
15 heard from Daniel about the implementation of the  
16 Younger Youth model, which becomes harder if you're  
17 actually doing at a greater level than you applied  
18 for then what you thought you could do and then  
19 there's incredible need for 16, 17 year old's to  
20 participate in the SYEP and lastly, we strongly  
21 support the restoration and the continued expansion  
22 of Work, Learn, and Grow. Thank you so much.

23 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thank you so much. Council  
24 Member Rosenthal has a question.

1  
2 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Thank you. Thank you  
3 all for coming into today. Thank you for the work  
4 that you do on behalf of our kids. Gregory, I think  
5 this is mostly to you because you have this sort of  
6 umbrella point of view, could you talk a little bit  
7 more about the exempt employee overtime issue and how  
8 many human service providers you think it could  
9 effect?

10 GREGORY BRENDER: Sure, and I just have to look  
11 at the numbers on here. So, for organizations of  
12 more than 11 employees, it rose to \$1,125 per week or  
13 \$58,500 annually to hit the level of exempt. So,  
14 there are a lot of areas, senior centers, after  
15 school programs, NORCs, where very often the  
16 directors are actually at rates lower than that and  
17 so they are reasonably expected to be working more  
18 than a 35 hour week and therefore eligible for  
19 overtime but right now the contracts don't account  
20 for either increasing the salaries to that \$58,500  
21 level or ensuring that there is funding for overtime.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: And that's the state,  
23 a new state—  
24  
25



1  
2 GREGORY BRENDER: It's a state law or I think  
3 it's a state regulation that went into effect January  
4 1, 2019.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: And did the state put  
6 in an additional funds for there portion?

7 GREGORY BRENDER: For their contracts? No, no  
8 they haven't.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Shocker.

10 GREGORY BRENDER: That something I will be  
11 talking about.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: So, it's a none funded  
13 mandate?

14 GREGORY BRENDER: It is a none funded mandate  
15 yes.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Okay, and we'll ask at  
17 the Human Service Council if anyone's putting  
18 together numbers of how much that might cost the City  
19 or State if we were sharing the cost.

20 GREGORY BRENDER: Yeah, I don't have that number  
21 and I imagine it probably even goes beyond Human  
22 Services, but it's something that's really present in  
23 Human Services.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Similarly, I heard you  
25 talk about indirect costs and the increase in wages.

1

2 Have all of those increases been modified now into  
3 the agency, the non-profit budgets do you think?

4

GREGORY BRENDER: We last did a survey of this  
5 over the summer and we had found, I think there was  
6 still somewhere over 40 percent just in SONYC and  
7 COMPASS, because we were just looking at SONYC and  
8 COMPASS had actually not been implemented yet.

9

That was actually part of the problems with the  
10 SONYC, COMPASS RFP because it based the total amount  
11 of money not on what the indirect rates would be if  
12 it were fully implemented but what the indirect rates  
13 were at the point it was issued which was in late  
14 June of 2018.

15

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: That doesn't make any  
16 sense.

17

GREGORY BRENDER: Yeah.

18

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Did you notice that?  
19 That's really bad, so just because they weren't able  
20 to technically get the indirect rates amended into  
21 the contracts, they issued new RFPs with the previous  
22 years -

23

GREGORY BRENDER: Yeah, so what it looks like  
24 they did was essentially take the amount of money  
25 being spent which included indirect rates for a lot

1  
2 of organizations but not all of them added all  
3 together and then divide by the number of slots. So,  
4 since that didn't account for programs that didn't  
5 get their rates yet and it ended up being lower and  
6 it was those organizations that had already received  
7 their indirect rates who really noticed this because  
8 when they looked at their numbers, essentially the  
9 lower averages caused their numbers to go down and  
10 they would be looking at a cut and as you know, it's  
11 really the process of implementing the indirect rate  
12 increases. It is very challenging; it requires a lot  
13 of Administrative work that some agencies are slow at  
14 and then it requires a lot of work on the city's side  
15 and it wasn't always completed by the time the city  
16 issued that RFP.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Are you part of the  
18 city's, the Mayor's Resiliency Committee?

19 GREGORY BRENDER: Yes.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Are they talking about  
21 this issue in the working group?

22 GREGORY BRENDER: Yes, this issue is in I think  
23 all the work groups, yes.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Have they made an  
25 offer to fix this problem?

1  
2 GREGORY BRENDER: No, no, there hasn't been to my  
3 knowledge a budget move from that.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Okay, thank you very  
5 much.

6 GREGORY BRENDER: Thank you.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Thank you all.

8 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thank you Council Member,  
9 really great questions. Thank you all for the work  
10 that you're doing. Please make sure that we get your  
11 testimony because we want to incorporate it in our  
12 budget response. So, thank you again.

13 Maureen Fonseca Sports and Arts in Schools  
14 Foundation, Tatiana Arguello UAU, Scott Daly NYJTL,  
15 Maryam Olatunde Sadie Nash Leadership Project, Chitra  
16 Aiyar Sadie Nash Leadership Project and Michael  
17 Coughlin Big Brothers and Big Sisters of New York  
18 City.

19 Okay, state your name and your organizations and  
20 you can begin your testimony. Which way you want to  
21 start, we started from that end before, you want to  
22 start this end? Or should we do ladies first, ladies  
23 first, we'll do ladies first.

24 This is Women in History month and the other day  
25 was International Woman and you have two women caucus

1  
2 members here. So, we'll defer to the ladies. Okay,  
3 state your name and your organization please.

4 MARYAM OLATUNDE: Maryam Olatunde, I am from  
5 Sadie Nash Leadership Project.

6 Good afternoon, my name is Maryam Olatunde and I  
7 am a high school senior and proud Nasher. That means  
8 a participant in Sadie Nash.

9 Thank you to the Committee, particularly  
10 Chairwoman Rose for being willing to listen to the  
11 voices of young people like me. Chairwoman Rose  
12 comes from the best borough of New York City and went  
13 unknown a lot of times, Staten Island and I am so  
14 proud that you represent our community. You  
15 definitely are a role model for me.

16 Also, I am excited because it is 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.

17 MEMBERS: Oh, happy birthday.

18 MARYAM OLATUNDE: Thank you.

19 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: (Singing) Happy Birthday to ya,  
20 Happy Birthday to ya.

21 (EVERYONE JOINING IN) Happy Birthday to ya, Happy  
22 Birthday, Happy Birthday to ya.

23 MARYAM OLATUNDE: Thank you.  
24  
25

1  
2 Sadie Nash Leadership Project provides young  
3 women with leadership programming so that we can make  
4 change in our lives and in the world.

5 Three years ago, I moved to Staten Island from  
6 Nigeria. Everything was new to me. When I opened my  
7 mouth, I felt like people couldn't understand me and  
8 were making fun of my accent. So, I tried to speak  
9 as little as possible. My cousin told me that I  
10 should do this thing called Sadie Nash. So, I signed  
11 up for the Summer Institute.

12 It was really far to travel to the New School  
13 from Staten Island, and it was the first place that I  
14 felt welcomed. I learned about feminism, power, and  
15 race and gentrification and leadership. I was  
16 excited to speak and proud of my accent.

17 Since then, I have gotten to do a paid internship  
18 and learn career skills and get support with the  
19 college application process, not just the paperwork,  
20 but the emotional journey as well as I have learned  
21 about mental health and tools to manage stress.

22 Sadie Nash receives funding from the City Council  
23 through an initiative called STARS CGI. Because of  
24 STARS, Sadie Nash now has a summer institute not just  
25

1  
2 at the new school in Manhattan but also in Brooklyn  
3 and Queens. I hope very soon in Staten Island.

4 Because of STARS, Sadie Nash offers partnership  
5 classes all over the city to young people who can't  
6 come to regular programming, like court involved  
7 youth, pregnant and parenting teens, English language  
8 learners. I even connected them with my high school,  
9 Curtis High School, they will do a class there  
10 because a lot of young people can't come to the city,  
11 Manhattan.

12 I feel really lucky I found Sadie Nash. I don't  
13 know what I would do otherwise. I definitely think I  
14 wouldn't be accepted to college and I don't think I  
15 would be comfortable speaking out about my  
16 immigration right as a new immigrant myself.

17 In a city like New York that has so many  
18 resources, I don't think you should have to be lucky  
19 to get a spot in a program like Sadie Nash. Every  
20 young women, particularly low-income younger women  
21 and gender expansive youth of color deserves an  
22 opportunity to be in a place where we are valued and  
23 loved. Sadie Nash didn't prepare me to become a  
24 leader, it told me that I am a leader and it' made me  
25 believe in the message on this T-shirt, that says

1  
2 this is what a leader looks like. And I think it  
3 would be good for New York city to have more young  
4 women who recognize and act on their leadership. So,  
5 I am asking you to support the request of Sadie Nash  
6 in eight other great girl serving nonprofits to  
7 increase this year's STAR CGI funding to \$1.65  
8 million so that each organization can do even more  
9 for young women like me.

10 Thank you for listening to my testimony and for  
11 spending part of my birthday with me.

12 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thank you for testifying and I  
13 gave you additional time because I took some of your  
14 time singing Happy Birthday. So, Happy Birthday.

15 MARYAM OLATUNDE: Thank you.

16 TATIANA ARGUELLO: Hello, my name is Tatiana  
17 Arguello. I am with United Activities Unlimited.  
18 First, I want to thank the Committee on Youth  
19 Services particularly Council Member Rose who is my  
20 Councilwoman and a little bit about UAU.

21 For the last 15 years, yes, we're in the house.  
22 So, for the last 15 years, UAU has been running the  
23 Summer Youth Employment Program and I wanted to thank  
24 you guys for all the support that you've done to  
25 advocate on our behalf's and a lot of the issues that



1  
2 we have seen in the models. Particularly today, I  
3 think there is two agenda items that we can work on  
4 together. The first is the Work, Learn and Grow  
5 program and the second is the Community-based  
6 initiative. So, I'll start with the Work, Learn and  
7 Grow program.

8 We actually just finished the Work, Learn and  
9 Grow program for this year on March 1<sup>st</sup> and it has  
10 been my third Work, Learn, and Grow program that I  
11 have been a part of, and I would say honestly it is  
12 one of the best programs in the portfolio. It allows  
13 our youth to have 22 weeks of paid internship  
14 experience and it also allows my staff to also have  
15 more in depth conversations with the youth that we  
16 serve and to better provide them with opportunities.

17 Not only does the Work, Learn, and Grow program  
18 provide our interns with much needed experiences  
19 because as we know, the Summer Youth Improvement  
20 program is very imperative to have but its not a long  
21 time period to really get in depth skills and for  
22 employers to really have the experience to get to  
23 know who their interns are. So, over the course of  
24 22 weeks, we actually see that a lot of our interns  
25 are getting hired in these worksites because there is

1  
2 that actual connection, right? And also, with our  
3 actual interns we notice that they are more  
4 responsive to the commitment that they are making in  
5 this internship because it is more than just a six-  
6 week program. So, it is not only just something that  
7 keeps the money in their pocket for the 22 weeks. It  
8 is something that they actually are engaging with.

9       There are some testimonies that I have provided  
10 on the back of my testimony, just kind of giving some  
11 feedback that we have from our actual participants.

12       The Second thing that I would like to bring up is  
13 also under the RFP, we have the traditional  
14 community-based model, the YY and the OY model. And  
15 in this, it outlines that the slots for these two  
16 programs are going to be dwindling down over time and  
17 going to be replaced with the school-based models.  
18 While I do agree with the school-based model, I do  
19 see it very problematic that we are cutting down on  
20 the funding for YY and traditional OY slots, as not  
21 everyone is a DOE student and not everyone would have  
22 the opportunities to gain access to the Summer Youth  
23 Improvement Program. I am a Summer Youth Improvement  
24 Program participant myself and I have seen the impact  
25 that it gives especially to those who are immigrants

1  
2 and low-income communities because it allows us to  
3 get some experience for the first time.

4 So, thank you and I hope that you continue to  
5 read.

6 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thank you.

7 MAUREEN FONSECA: Thank you so much Madam Chair  
8 and our Committee Members here for the long-standing  
9 support of Sports and Arts in Schools Foundation,  
10 SASF.

11 My name is Maureen Fonseca and I am the CEO of  
12 SASF which is now known as New York Edge and we'll  
13 officially roll into that name after this budget  
14 cycle.

15 So, we are seeking \$1.5 million in citywide  
16 funding under the Council's After School Enrichment  
17 initiative. This request does represent an increase  
18 of \$500,000 over what we received in the Fiscal Year  
19 2019 budget. Now in our 27<sup>th</sup> year, SASF was founding  
20 in 1992 but at the suggestion of the Council itself,  
21 the Council Speaker at the time in order to provide  
22 free summer sports, arts, and academic programming to  
23 the youth in the city. Since then, the Council is  
24 our partner SASF has become the largest school-based  
25 provider of free after school and summer programming

1  
2 in New York City. Annually serving over 35,000  
3 students citywide.

4 We provide programming in 42 of the 51 Council  
5 Districts operating 317 programs last year in Fiscal  
6 2018. So, we are seeking this increase in order to  
7 extend and bring SASF programming which the parents  
8 love, and the principals give us high marks for to  
9 every Council District in the city. We also need to  
10 meet the rising costs that have been discussed today  
11 of existing summer camp programs and other programs  
12 throughout the year and increase our budgets to  
13 reflect actual operating costs to increase the hours  
14 of services because parents need a full day and we  
15 would like to be able to provide every City Council  
16 an increase of 20 percent in terms of the hours  
17 served, as well as to introduce new STEAM programs to  
18 every city council camp. We do have some of these  
19 and they're doing amazing work and we are part of the  
20 Grow empowerment movements as well but also engaging  
21 every child so that they can see themselves as  
22 technologically engaged and doing exciting projects.

23 Our mission is to help bridge the opportunity gap  
24 for New York City students by extending the school  
25 day and year with activities designed to improve New

1  
2 York City children academic performance, health and  
3 wellness, attitude towards school, self-confidence  
4 and opportunity for lifelong employment. And so, the  
5 majority of our youth are Black, Hispanic, Asian, and  
6 new immigrant populations, also homeless children  
7 from the highest poverty neighborhoods in the city  
8 and we are studying the correlation of our programs  
9 with improved academic results and we've really  
10 become known for very high quality programming and we  
11 share with other CBO's what we have been learning and  
12 studying and documenting. So, in order for us to  
13 keep innovating, I ask you on behalf of the 35,000  
14 young people that we serve citywide, to support our  
15 FY 2020 funding request of \$1.5 million.

16 Thank you so much for advocating for us.

17 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thank you.

18 SCOTT DALY: Good afternoon Madam Chair, Council  
19 Member Rosenthal and staff. Thank you for giving me  
20 this opportunity to speak on behalf of the New York  
21 Junior Tennis and Learning, NYJTL. My names is Scott  
22 Daly and I am the Director of our citywide free  
23 community tennis programs.  
24  
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I have handed in my testimony and I would rather not read it if you don't mind, just speak to you from what I know and what I feel about our program.

4

5

New York Junior Tennis League currently serves every single Council Member district in the City of New York. We are in all 51 Council districts. We dove into the stats a little bit more into the data. We serve 174 of the 178 zip codes in the city. Two that we don't serve are Forts, there are not residents in them and two are just totally self-contained.

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Right now, we have programming all twelve months of the year. We are now in the indoor season, we go spring, summer, and fall outdoors. Those programs run on average seven to nine weeks. Right now, we serve 85,000 kids through two separate branches. One is a free community tennis program, which I will get into and the other is something called school time tennis. We teach teachers how to bring tennis into the schools during the school day. We provide them with all the training, the curriculums, all lesson plans, the equipment, the balls the nets, the rackets.

1  
2           What we hope for is to put a tennis racket into  
3 hands of kids who would otherwise never be exposed to  
4 tennis. From there, we want to get them into our  
5 free programs outdoors.

6           We are not restricted; we are open to all five to  
7 eighteen years of age. Our demographics when you  
8 look our testimony it's broken down almost equally  
9 between Blacks, Latin, and Hispanics about 25 in  
10 Latino then Asians, about 25 percent each. 75  
11 percent of our population comes from there, 70  
12 percent are 10 and under. These are the kids that we  
13 need to serve. We are offering tennis because of the  
14 Councils continuing to support to groups of kids who  
15 otherwise would never have this change. Tennis as  
16 some people know, as we all know, is something that  
17 would be associated with the kids of money. We are  
18 bringing it to everybody through every corner.

19           Let me get right down to the numbers. So, the  
20 past 11 years, we have received, our budgets have  
21 been constant throughout. We have stayed flat. It  
22 is challenging, it is almost impossible for us to  
23 continue to keep on doing it at that current funding  
24 as in the last 11 years. We are seeking this year  
25 \$1.2 million. This will allow us to meet number one,

1  
2 the new minimum wage of \$15.00. Eleven years ago,  
3 the minimum wage was less than \$7.00 an hour and yet  
4 we have remained flat throughout. We want to  
5 continue to serve every Council district, we want to  
6 increase the hours, we want to increase the number of  
7 kids.

8 On behalf of all the kids in the City of New  
9 York, I want to thank you very much for your  
10 continued support and I look forward to answering any  
11 questions you may have.

12 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thank you.

13 SCOTT DALY: Thank you.

14 ELLIOT BERGER: My name is Elliot Berger and I am  
15 the Chief Development Officer for Big Brothers Big  
16 Sisters of New York City. I am humbled to be here  
17 and thank you Council Member Rose and the Youth  
18 Service Committee for having me to testify and for  
19 your past support of our efforts.

20 Big Brothers Big Sisters of New York City  
21 provides a suite of mentoring in youth development  
22 services throughout the five boroughs for ages seven  
23 and up. Our mission is to ensure that all youth have  
24 access to mentors, and we have been doing this since  
25 1904, matching youth in New York city with carefully



1  
2 screened to professionally trained adult mentors who  
3 we call BIGS to help them reach their full potential.

4 For the 2020 City Budget, we request a \$1.2  
5 million in discretionary funds for Big Brothers Big  
6 Sisters of New York City's initiative which will  
7 serve 1,400 youth. That's 600 through our one to one  
8 mentoring programs and 800 youth through our college  
9 and career programming. Last year, we served nearly  
10 6,000 youth citywide and the past five years on  
11 average 98 percent of our youth graduate high school.  
12 Of which 92 percent are admitted and enrolled into  
13 college. Almost three quarters of them are the first  
14 in their families to attend college.

15 To ensure that all New York City youth have  
16 access to our programs, we have satellite offices in  
17 the Bronx, Queens and Staten Island for our community  
18 outreach and recruitment efforts. More than three  
19 quarters of the youth we serve come from low to  
20 moderate income families and more than half come from  
21 single parent guardian households. More than one  
22 third come from new American families and they are  
23 supported by our staff in Spanish, Cantonese,  
24 Mandarin and Korean.

1  
2       Additionally, in addition to the college success  
3 program which allows access and persistence in  
4 college, we have launched our big pride initiative to  
5 provide mentoring for our city's LGBTQ plus youth and  
6 we've also launched a BIGS in BLUE program, which  
7 engages New York police officers as mentors for  
8 middle school youth.

9       Our work has been valuable to the youth,  
10 families, schools, and organization we serve.  
11 Restoring funding from the City Council will enable  
12 us to build and support mentoring relationships that  
13 ignite the potential futures for our youth.

14       Thank you for your time and consideration.

15       CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thank you.

16       I want to thank you all for the work that you're  
17 doing. It's documented that when we make an  
18 investment in our young people, it does have a  
19 significant on their lives academically, socially,  
20 all of the psychosocial areas and so, I want to thank  
21 you for the time that you invest and that it's not  
22 lost on us, how important the work is that you do and  
23 how important the money is to. Thank you, thank you  
24 all.

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Okay, the next panel. Jamie Powlovich Coalition for Homeless Youth, John Sentigar Covenant House, Rita Finkel The Armory Foundation, John Connolly Green-Wood Cemetery, Vivian Santora Powerplay NYC, Arshay Cooper, Row New York.

As soon as you get there, identify yourself and your organization and jump right in.

JOHN CONNOLLY: Thank you for allowing me here to speak today. My name is John Connolly. Good afternoon Chairwoman Rose and Members of the Committee. I am the Director of Public Engagement and Development at Green-Wood Cemetery in Brooklyn.

Of all the cultural institutions you'll hear about today, I feel pretty certain this is the first and only time you'll hear about a cemetery.

But the cemetery is a National Historic Landmark. Green-Wood Cemetery in Brooklyn spans 478 acres and borders Sunset Park, Windsor Terrace, Boro Park, Kensington, Park Slope, Prospect Park South, and Ditmas Park.

Green-Wood Cemetery has been in Brooklyn since 1838, and you know it as the final resting place for hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers.

1  
2 But what you may not know is that we present over  
3 200 public programs, tours, and events every year.  
4 Last year alone, over 280,000 people came to Green-  
5 Wood to attend a program, to visit or just stroll the  
6 historic landscape to get away from the urban grind.

7 To serve New York City youth, we have developed a  
8 strong line up of programs. One of which is in  
9 workforce development; we train young people from low  
10 income communities in masonry restoration for jobs in  
11 restoring historic buildings, with a direct path to  
12 union apprenticeships and union jobs. We run an  
13 environmental justice program for school age students  
14 in Sunset Park, which involves street trees and  
15 Green-Wood's horticulture staff.

16 We give school tours for over 4,000 elementary  
17 and middle school students a year. In 2019, under  
18 the direction of a new Director of Education, we're  
19 developing new curricula hiring a team of part time  
20 educators and developing a Title 1 partner school  
21 program and more to expand and deepen our school  
22 offerings.

23 Our renowned high school summer internship  
24 program in research and restoration has been in the  
25 press recently for its work on Green-Wood's Freedom

1  
2 Lots which are seven public burial lots, which we now  
3 know make up the largest original 19<sup>th</sup> Century Black  
4 burial ground in the five boroughs.

5 At Green-Wood we have a bold vision that is to  
6 establish the Cemetery as a major cultural and  
7 educational institution in New York City within the  
8 next ten years and we're well on our way.

9 We are a huge resource to the Community. We want  
10 to serve more New Yorkers with public programs, serve  
11 more schools, more students and more young people.

12 Our planned Education and Welcome Center is the  
13 key.

14 This is a capital project directly across the  
15 street from the Cemetery's main entrance at the  
16 corner of 25<sup>th</sup> Street and Fifth Avenue between Sunset  
17 Park and South Slope.

18 This new center will house research archives, as  
19 well as classroom space and mixed-use space to  
20 further enhance and expand our programming.

21 Its budget is \$34 million. One third of the  
22 funding will come from private philanthropy, one  
23 third from the Cemetery itself, and we are targeting  
24 city and state funding for the last third.

1  
2 Our FY 2020 ask of the Brooklyn Delegation is \$1  
3 million.

4 Green-Wood has been in Brooklyn for 181 years,  
5 but it is an entirely new cultural and education  
6 asset as part of the borough that is significantly  
7 underserved.

8 We hope very much to work with the City Council  
9 on this important initiative.

10 Thank you for your time.

11 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: I just want to say I am  
12 probably the only one here that can appreciate a  
13 cemetery.

14 JOHN CONNOLLY: Okay.

15 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: My grandparents are  
16 undertakers.

17 JOHN CONNOLLY: Very nice. Thank you.

18 RITA FINKEL: Good afternoon and deepest thanks  
19 to the City Council's Youth Services Committee for  
20 your attention today. My name is Rita Finkel and I  
21 am the co-President of the Armory Foundation.

22 I am delighted and honored to have this  
23 opportunity for those of you who are not familiar  
24 with the Armory, to introduce you to the home of the  
25 national track and field hall of fame and the fastest

1  
2 track in the world. I wanted to take a few moments  
3 to highlight some of the things that happened at the  
4 Armory.

5 Our mission is Keeping Kids on Track and we are  
6 wild about track and field. Track and field  
7 accommodates all body types and temperaments and  
8 running is not only the basis of many sports, but it  
9 is a sport you can do for the rest of your life with  
10 only a pair of sneakers. Through it we are able to  
11 touch so many lives in a meaningful way.

12 Thousands of New York city high school students  
13 call the Armory home for both training and  
14 competitions. ON a Tuesday or Thursday night from  
15 mid-November through the end of March we will welcome  
16 up to 1,500 athletes that come to train with their  
17 coaches and teams from over 80 public, independent  
18 and parochial schools.

19 One hundred meets happen in those months with  
20 some of our larger high school meets involving up to  
21 6,000 athletes.

22 In 2017, we piloted Little Feet, a new program  
23 that attracted over 200 elementary school children  
24 from Washington Heights, Inwood and Harlem to run,  
25 jump, throw and giggle twice a week from October

1  
2 through the middle of May. This year it continued  
3 and expanded to include children in grades 2 through  
4 5.

5 In addition to Little Feet, we have a long  
6 running program for middle school children. The city  
7 track program has been offered at the Armory for  
8 almost 17 years, imparting the joy of moving and  
9 promoting healthy habits for children in grades 6-8.  
10 Both City Tack and Little Feet are offered at no cost  
11 to the families of our participants.

12 So, you do not get the idea that all we do is fun  
13 and games, we also work with our track and field  
14 athletes to help them gain acceptances into great  
15 high schools and four-year colleges, with the funding  
16 to make a college degree a reality. Armory College  
17 Prep is an unscreened dynamic after school program  
18 that puts students on track for lifelong success by  
19 helping them to and through college. College choice  
20 exploration, test prep, college visits, personal  
21 statement creation, financial aid counseling,  
22 application and testing fees are all covered by our  
23 sponsors of Armory College Prep. For both of the  
24 last two years 100 percent of our seniors were  
25 admitted to four-year colleges. Williams, Amherst,



1  
2 Cornell, Haverford, and Dickenson are just a few of  
3 the colleges that have admitted the students of  
4 Armory College Prep.

5 In the 1980's the Armory was a homeless shelter.  
6 1000 homeless men lived on the space that is  
7 currently the track. The film, The Saint of Fort  
8 Washington, with Matt Dillon and Danny Glover was  
9 filmed at the Armory. A few years ago, I was doing a  
10 tour with a scout for Cirque du Soleil and I looked  
11 over at her and tears were streaming down her face.  
12 I paused to ask her if she was Okay. She looked at  
13 me and said, I was on the crew that filmed the Saint  
14 of Fort Washington and cannot believe the  
15 transformation.

16 Let me finish. The New York City Council has  
17 historically been tremendously instrumental in  
18 supporting our growth. I am here today asking for  
19 your continued support to help keep the Armory  
20 running.

21 And let me finish with an invitation to come  
22 visit. We have 100 track meets per season showcasing  
23 the entire range of track and field participants.  
24 Our educational programs run year-round, and we also  
25 have a list of special events outside track season.

1

Many, many thanks for your attention.

2

3

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thank you.

4

5

JOHN SENTIGAR: Good afternoon. My name is John Sentigar and I am on the advocacy team at Covenant

6

House New York. I want to thank the Committee on

7

Youth Service, Council Member Rose, I know you

8

recently came for a visit. We were really happy to

9

see you.

10

In 2018 Covenant House served over 2,000 young

11

people in our residential programs and through our

12

drop-in center and street outreach efforts. We

13

provide shelter every night to approximately 120

14

young people including pregnant woman and mothers

15

with their children, LGBTQ youth, and commercially

16

sexually exploited youth and trafficking survivors.

17

Many of our youth have experienced abuse or neglect

18

at the hands of parents or caregivers and a

19

disproportionately high percentage of our youth

20

struggle with the pervasive impacts of trauma, mental

21

health issues and substance use.

22

We provide young people with food, shelter,

23

clothing, medical care, mental health and substance

24

use service, legal services, high school equivalency

25

1  
2 classes and other educational programs and job  
3 training programs as well.

4 All of these services help young people overcome  
5 the trauma of abuse, homelessness, and exploitation,  
6 and move toward stability.

7 We are requesting assistance through the City  
8 Council for FY 2020 on a range of initiatives. I  
9 just wanted to make you aware of those and they  
10 include LGBTQ youth mental health, we are requesting  
11 money from the City Council to support the  
12 enhancement of our mental health programs that are  
13 specifically tailored to the needs of LGBTQ youth.  
14 It is critical that we provide the safe space for  
15 those youth that are made to feel unwanted or unloved  
16 because of who they are. Funding will assist these  
17 youth to gain access to vital clinical treatment in  
18 our mental health treatment program.

19 We are also asking for support for homeless  
20 students initiative and through the job training and  
21 placement initiative. This would expand funding in  
22 our CovWorks Education and Workforce Programs both of  
23 which are offered to young people who stay with us  
24 and help them obtain high school diplomas,  
25 equivalency certificates and employment as well.

1  
2           The need for this is extreme. We have found that  
3 of the 1,600 young adults we served last year, nearly  
4 60 percent of the youth 18 and older did not have a  
5 diploma or equivalency certificate and a similar  
6 number entered our shelter last year with math skills  
7 at a sixth grade or lower level and reading skills at  
8 eighth grade or lower level.

9           So, we know the need for this is great and we ask  
10 for your continued support in expanded funding for  
11 those services and finally, we did want to talk about  
12 getting support for Metro Cards as well. In a study  
13 we have done with our legal department, we found last  
14 year that 55 percent of youth who stayed with us had  
15 been cited by the MTA or the NYPD for violation of  
16 transit policy, meaning obviously fare evasion and we  
17 believe and I'm sure that you do as well that using  
18 our public transit system is a vital and fundamental  
19 need for all New Yorkers especially our most  
20 vulnerable and our young adults are no different.

21           In order to facilitate positive outcomes, amount  
22 our young people ensuring they can attend job  
23 interviews, medical appointment, housing surges and  
24 much more, it is in our best interest and New York  
25

1  
2 City's to provide them the ability to get where they  
3 need to go.

4 I just wanted to highlight some of those  
5 initiatives that we are requesting funding for and I  
6 want to thank the New York City Council for their  
7 consideration and support of Covenant House. Thank  
8 you so much.

9 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thank you.

10 JAMIE POWLOVICH: Good afternoon. My name is  
11 Jamie Powlovich, I am the Executive Director of the  
12 Coalition for Homeless Youth. Thank you to Chair  
13 Rose and the entire Youth Services Committee for  
14 allowing me to testify today. I also would just like  
15 to add how appreciative the coalition is for the  
16 ongoing support of the needs of runaway and homeless  
17 youth that you, Chair have shown as well as Speaker  
18 Johnson. It is much appreciated.

19 I won't read my full testimony, it gets a little  
20 lengthy, so I just want to highlight what we need  
21 your help with.

22 So, for the Preliminary Budget, the Coalition for  
23 Homeless Youth is requesting an additional \$3.3  
24 million in funding for the Department of Youth and  
25 Community Development Runaway and Homeless in the

1  
2 Department of Youth and Community Development Runaway  
3 and Homeless Youth Budget. This increase would  
4 address two main gaps that we think are important and  
5 need to be filled. The first one would allow for  
6 funding for 40 additional Runaway and Homeless youth  
7 beds for older youth ages 21-24 years old. In Fiscal  
8 Year 19 through the Councils advocacy as well as the  
9 support of the Unity Project, we were able to get 60  
10 beds funded. They aren't up and available to young  
11 people but we know that once they are, they are not  
12 going to meet the need of the countless older youth  
13 that are seeking shelter services, so we are asking  
14 for an additional \$2 million for 40 more beds and  
15 then the second, is for \$1.3 million in funding for  
16 20 runaway and homeless youth housing specialists.

17 Unlike some of the other city agencies that  
18 support various populations with the residential need  
19 such as ACS and DHS, DYCD is one of the only systems  
20 that doesn't have specific positions funded to  
21 support people with housing placement permanency,  
22 whatever you want to call it and it's very much  
23 needed.

24 Case workers at a lot of our agencies are more  
25 than at capacity meeting the needs of runaway and

1  
2 homeless youth and filling out housing applications,  
3 looking for apartments, negotiating with landlords,  
4 is just something that they don't always have the  
5 time to do and it's also quite frankly a different  
6 skill set than many of them are trained in. So, the  
7 additional \$1.3 million would fund 20 position for  
8 housing specialists that would hopefully be housed at  
9 all of the runaway and homeless youth providers that  
10 serve the most youth in the city.

11 The last thing that I want to talk about is the  
12 Mayor's Management Report. I know that Council has  
13 heard me speak about this before. So, I won't bore  
14 you with all the details, they are in my report but  
15 as DYCD testified to they are making changes slowly  
16 but surely to the way that they are defining their  
17 outcomes as they relate to runaway and homeless youth  
18 but we still think that there is a lot of work that  
19 needs to be done.

20 We think that if DYCD is continuing to leave  
21 their outcome regarding Runaway and Homeless Youth as  
22 young people that are exiting crisis and tell  
23 programs to be reunited with family or in another  
24 suitable living environment, that the definition for  
25 that outcome can't be returning to their family or

1  
2 independent living and them still including discharge  
3 placements that are not either of those things.

4 I know that Ms. Haskell testified that they are  
5 no longer counting things like jail, but they are  
6 still counting things like transitioning homeless  
7 young people to adult homelessness and we don't think  
8 that is an accurate portrayal of what that definition  
9 is meant to represent and I go into more detail in my  
10 testimony about all the numbers and also some of our  
11 recommendations that take a little bit of a deeper  
12 dive into exactly how that could be reworded to  
13 better represent one, the work that the providers are  
14 doing to meet the needs of the young people and also  
15 to make sure that the public who reads the MMR gets a  
16 really transparent look at the data that DYCD is  
17 presenting. Thank you.

18 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thank you and thank you for  
19 all the information you have given us, so that we can  
20 fight back with them, thank you.

21 JAMIE POWLOVICH: I'm always happy to provide  
22 information.

23 VIVIAN SANTORA: Good afternoon. My name is  
24 Vivian Santora and I have the honor of servicing as  
25 President and CEO of PowerPlay NYC. I want to thank



1  
2 the Chairwoman and the Committee for allowing us to  
3 testify today. PowerPlay serves as the lead agency  
4 for the Sports Training and Role-models for Success  
5 Citywide Girls Initiative acronym, STARS CGI, a  
6 collaboration of nine leading nonprofits helping  
7 girls and young women of color overcome barriers to  
8 success, gain access to high-quality out of school  
9 activities, and develop as leaders in their  
10 communities. The nine partners include, PowerPlay,  
11 Girls Write Now, Groundswell, Lower Eastside Girls  
12 Club, Row New York, which you will be hearing from,  
13 Sadie Nash, you heard from earlier, the Armory  
14 Foundation, Figure Skating in Harlem and Girls for  
15 Gender Equity.

16 It has been said that the unfinished business of  
17 the 21<sup>st</sup> century is advancing the rights and  
18 opportunities of women and girls, full equality for  
19 women, but girls today face very real and very  
20 profound challenges.

21 One in ten girls is catcalled before her 11<sup>th</sup>  
22 birthday. Black girls in the U.S. are suspended six  
23 times more likely than their White peers. Girls of  
24 color also face very specific factors that push them  
25 out of school entirely, like sexual assault,

1  
2 criminalization and teacher stereotyping. Emotional  
3 health is at risk for our girls today, one in five  
4 teen girls report experiencing a mental disorder.  
5 More girls are living in poverty and low-income  
6 households today than ten years ago. Obesity is also  
7 on the rise but thankfully statistics are not  
8 destiny.

9 The City Council has often discussed the need for  
10 more programming for the city's most vulnerable youth  
11 population and we could not agree more.

12 New York City's young women represent a valuable  
13 source of talent and leadership and in order to  
14 thrive, they need safe spaces to be active, think  
15 creatively, and talk about issues that impact them  
16 and research reaffirms that girls as you indicated  
17 earlier, once we know we invest in them, they  
18 reinvest in their communities and their families.

19 So, we are so grateful to the City Council that  
20 you acknowledge the importance and prioritize these  
21 opportunities and Fiscal 2019 has been remarkable for  
22 our initiative.

23 As of December 31<sup>st</sup>, the STARS partners had  
24 already served over 3,500 youth in all 51 City  
25 Council Districts. Through various programming

1  
2 sports, academic enrichment, STEM college prep and  
3 the Arts, we hosted our second annual college fair  
4 back in October, we had nearly 300 girls attend, and  
5 40 colleges were represented.

6 This April, STARS will be hosing our culminating  
7 event, our Fifth Annual Leadership Summit. We  
8 anticipate 600 participants and today, the STARS  
9 partners respectfully request renewal and in  
10 enhancement totaling \$1.65 million increasing \$50,000  
11 per organization. I will end there, thank you so  
12 much.

13 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thank you.

14 ARSHAY COOPER: Thank you. My name is Arshay  
15 Cooper. I'm sorry.

16 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Do you have recent testimony.

17 VIVIAN SANTORA: We do, yes.

18 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay, thank you, make sure  
19 that the sergeant of arms gets that, thank you.

20 ARSHAY COOPER: Thank you, thank you Councilwoman  
21 for having me. I am Arshay Cooper from Row New York.  
22 I am the Chief Community Engagement Officer and I  
23 just want to thank all of these lovely people for  
24 being here and you know, I'm a product of after  
25 school program and if it wasn't for after school, my

1  
2 mom would have had to quite one of her jobs, so I  
3 want to thank you guys for being here and testifying  
4 about the power of nonprofit.

5 I am from Row New York and it is National Women  
6 History Month, so I want to talk about the young  
7 ladies in our program at Row New York. We have close  
8 to 300 young ladies that we serve every year at Row  
9 New York. We recruit them in schools, we teach them  
10 how to swim and they come and they Row and they are  
11 with us six days a week and we have a 100 percent  
12 high school graduation rate and 96 percent go to  
13 college and the 4 percent that don't it's military  
14 gap year or AmeriCorps and there's the Olympic  
15 threaten the sport of rowing that if there is no  
16 diversity, there's a big chance that it won't be an  
17 Olympic sport and it is the oldest Olympic sport.  
18 And so, U.S. Rowing came down on all of these  
19 colleges saying what do we do about this and that's  
20 where we come in at. We recruit kids from Canarsie,  
21 from ever under resourced community in New York and  
22 we give them a shot of rowing and we work so hard to  
23 make sure that they go to college, they have academic  
24 support. We do panels, we work closely with STARS.

1  
2 STARS has been so supportive in our work and what we  
3 do.

4 One of the things we started this year was an  
5 entrepreneurship program where we teach our young  
6 people about entrepreneurship. They take classes  
7 every week and then they work with the communities  
8 and the goal is that they come back to their  
9 community and work in the same school, which ties  
10 into our alumni corps program. Every young person  
11 that graduated from our Row New York program with the  
12 college, come back, we give them their first job and  
13 put them back in the community that they grew up in.

14 And we believe that's Dr. King's visions of a  
15 beloved community and we are just so excited about  
16 the sport of rowing and what's coming next and what  
17 we do with our young girls and we also work 120 girls  
18 a year with physical disabilities, teaching them how  
19 to row, putting them on the water, giving them the  
20 experience of this great sport that changed my life  
21 many, many years ago. So, that's my time, but I want  
22 to thank you guys and I appreciate all the love and  
23 support again from everyone and you know, if you ever  
24 want to get on the water, come row with us and come  
25

1  
2 row with our girls. We would love to have you. So,  
3 I appreciate it. Thank you.

4 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thank you. Thank you for  
5 testifying. I am going to take you up on that.

6 ARSHAY COOPER: Alright, I will give you my card.  
7 I want you to come row with the girls, they will love  
8 it.

9 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: I need the cardio. Do you  
10 have your testimony?

11 ARSHAY COOPER: You know what, it was emailed.  
12 Yeah, yeah, it's going to be emailed. Thank you.

13 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay, well thank you all. I  
14 want to say this about all of the people who  
15 testified today. Thank you for the comprehensive  
16 reports and testimony. It gives us a lot to work  
17 with and it gives us some meat to have when the  
18 Administration gives us the glossy version, we have  
19 the real gritty one. So, I want to thank you and our  
20 next panel will be, Emmy Lam Chinese-American  
21 Planning Council, Tasfia Rahman Coalition for Asian  
22 American Children and Families, Amy Wilkerson  
23 Sheltering Arms Children and Family Service, Faith  
24 Behum UJA Federation, David Calvert Youth Build NYC

1  
2 Collaborative, and Dee Mandiyan and Shane Correia  
3 Center for Court Innovation and Youth Justice Board.

4 Hi, as soon as you get your seat, identify  
5 yourself. Tell us your organization so we can get  
6 started.

7 Okay, please identify yourself, give us your  
8 name, organization and you may begin.

9 AMY WILKERSON: Good afternoon. My name is Amy  
10 Wilkerson, I am the Director of Youth Services at  
11 Sheltering Arms Children and Family Service. I want  
12 to thank you Chair Rose and members of the Youth  
13 Services Committee for the opportunity to speak  
14 before you today.

15 Sheltering Arms is one of the largest providers  
16 of education, youth development, and community and  
17 family wellbeing programs in Bronx, Manhattan,  
18 Brooklyn, and Queens. We serve more than 15,000 low  
19 income children, youth, and families each year  
20 through more than 50 programs. We are one of the  
21 providers citywide that provide a full continuum of  
22 care for youth experiencing homelessness and serve  
23 more than 3,000 homeless and at-risk youth each year  
24 through tow Drop-In Centers, one Crisis Shelter, tow  
25 Transitional Independent Living residences, and soon,

1  
2 a HUD funded Rapid Re Housing Program which we were  
3 awarded this year. We have provided service for  
4 youth who are homeless or at risk of homelessness for  
5 more than 20 years.

6 As a member of the New York City Association of  
7 Homeless and Street Involved Youth Organizations, we  
8 echo the request for an investment of \$3.3 million in  
9 the FY 2020 budget to support DYCD programming for  
10 Runaway and Homeless Youth. This increase reflects  
11 needed investment of \$2 million for 40 additional  
12 beds for homeless youth age 21 to 24 and \$1.3 million  
13 for 20 Housing Specialists to focus on permanency  
14 planning with youth. As New York City faces budget  
15 cuts for FY 2020, these investment are crucial to  
16 supporting the long-term stability of youth, and to  
17 follow through on DYCD's commitment to helping youth  
18 get off the streets and stabilize their lives.

19 The inclusion of the 20-24-year old's in RHY  
20 services was a huge step forward and we appreciate  
21 the 60 beds that were added to the system in FY 2019,  
22 However, 60 beds citywide is just not enough. On any  
23 given night, Sheltering Arms has 10-15 youth in this  
24 age range who stay overnight in our Jamaica Drop-In  
25 Center because they are afraid of entering the adult



1  
2 homeless system. This does not count our Drop-In  
3 Center in Far Rockaway, which just opened in January  
4 or the other Drop-In Center providers across the  
5 city. We are glad that regulations now reflect the  
6 need for 21-24 years old's to be included in the RHY  
7 system rather than the adult system, but that change  
8 means little if we don't have the capacity to serve  
9 this particular vulnerable population. Youth who are  
10 between the ages of 21-24 often have aged out of  
11 every other support system, and with only 60 beds,  
12 many are still being left to fend for themselves. I  
13 have more if you could read. Thank you so much for  
14 allowing me to speak.

15 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: I want to thank you. What  
16 would you say would be an adequate number of beds  
17 based on the need you see?

18 AMY WILKERSON: I think that the amount of beds  
19 needed is very close to the amount needed for the  
20 youth younger than that age range. 60 is very  
21 little, I think 120 would be a much better starting  
22 place and then we can see from there if we need more,  
23 but the most youth that we serve in our 24-hour drop-  
24 in are 21-24-year old's who are afraid to enter into  
25 the DHS system. And then we have a lot of young

1  
2 people that age out of our TILS and crisis shelters  
3 in the same situation, where they don't want to go  
4 into an adult homeless system and we don't have the  
5 proper avenues for them once they age out to be in  
6 supportive housing, permanent housing, we don't have  
7 enough permanent housing resources, so those young  
8 people end up cycling back into the system utilizing  
9 24 hour drop-ins.

10 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So, there should be continuity  
11 to the pipeline, where they age out of the TIL, or  
12 the crisis beds. There should be a continuum of  
13 services. They shouldn't have to leave.

14 AMY WILKERSON: Right, and that there is a large  
15 percentage of young people, I mean, if we could just  
16 think about ourselves as adults, how hard it is to  
17 afford rent in New York City, how do we expect young  
18 people, some of them have never had jobs before.  
19 Many of the young people about 70 percent that come  
20 into our programs have not completed high school to  
21 be able to get jobs that can earn enough income to be  
22 able to completely support themselves on their own.  
23 Some of them have never had their own jobs in the  
24 past, they have no work history and they have to rely  
25 on other DYCD funded programs to get like SYEP and

1  
2 programs like that to build their resume. How can  
3 you spend two years in a system and expect that at  
4 the end of the two years you're able to fend for  
5 yourself. We just need more beds for that age range  
6 so that where those young people can have a continuum  
7 of care or if their point of entry into the system is  
8 at 21 or 22 years old, that we have the capacity for  
9 those individuals as well.

10 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: And the adult homeless  
11 services are just not supportive enough for that age  
12 group or it's just too scary?

13 AMY WILKERSON: I think that the biggest problem  
14 is the intake process is what they are really afraid  
15 of because in order to intake into the system, you  
16 have to go through one of the Armories and that can  
17 be a really scary experience for someone who's 21 or  
18 22 years old. Where you have many adults that are  
19 recently released from incarceration, you have those  
20 substance using. Those with persistent mental health  
21 issues, and a lot of them are victimized in  
22 situations like that. They just can't navigate that  
23 system, so you know, a few of them try and one or two  
24 bad experiences and then they won't try again. They  
25 would rather do anything else besides go through that

1  
2 system again, even if it means having to survive by  
3 sleeping on peoples sofas or even engaging in  
4 survival sex and survival crimes. So, it is just  
5 important that we're able to not neglect the 21 to  
6 24-year old's because they are still very vulnerable  
7 and we know that most adolescents are not fully  
8 developed until the age of 25 or 26 anyway and so, we  
9 want to just be able to continue to support them  
10 because they need it.

11 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thank you.

12 DAVID CALVERT: Hi, I am David Calvert from Youth  
13 Build representing the collaborative, the Youth Build  
14 NYC Collaborative. It's a delight to be here and  
15 Chairman Debbie you are so aware of Youth Build  
16 already, I am not going to go into details about the  
17 program, but I will say that since the city starting  
18 supporting Youth Build, of course we're 40 years old  
19 as a program. It's a New York City Program that has  
20 spread around the world. Now we're in 23 countries  
21 and we're in 260 Youth Builds across the United  
22 States but it's really a New York City program that  
23 is now in nine renditions here in the five boroughs  
24 and in the last five years, the Council has been a  
25 really strong supporter of Youth Build spreading it

1  
2 to more programs and nine programs including all five  
3 boroughs is not what we used to have and we really  
4 appreciate the support of the Council for that.

5       The reason I am here today is well, it's to say  
6 thank you and to be appreciative not just of Youth  
7 Build and the Council but really everyone who has  
8 been here today because this is just such and awesome  
9 feeling of love I get to hear how much great stuff is  
10 going on in the city and everybody should do this  
11 kind of thing as part of their school education I  
12 think, coming to these kinds of hearing and just hear  
13 all the great work going on in our city. But my  
14 reason to be here today is to express the urgency we  
15 have at the Youth Build movement because we did get  
16 two new federal grants and we usually rely on the  
17 federal grants to supplement the City funds and make  
18 sure we are having all our programs be funded but  
19 this year the federal grants came in only to support  
20 two new programs. So, the existing Youth Build  
21 Programs are left kind of in trouble and so we're  
22 asking for an increase this year. Typically, it has  
23 been \$2.1 million for Youth Build Citywide and we're  
24 asking for \$3.4 million and we will submit a full  
25 proposal laying out the basis for those numbers to

1  
2 the Council but we are asking for this increase to  
3 make sure that services are kept at the optimum level  
4 and that you know, there are always follow-up  
5 services for young people who have been through the  
6 program in the past that we don't just flat drop them  
7 when they leave.

8 One of the Youth Build principles is once a Youth  
9 Build, always a Youth Build and you will get that  
10 support for the rest of your life. The important  
11 thing is that the program is not left scantily funded  
12 but really supported to be able to that maximum job.  
13 As you know, Youth Build students are getting their  
14 GED's in the program. They are getting their  
15 leadership development, they are getting their  
16 counseling, they are getting vocational training,  
17 they are building housing for the community. That  
18 comprehensive approach needs to be embraced and  
19 pushed forward.

20 Thank you, Debbie.

21 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: And how much was the amount  
22 that you didn't get from the Federal Government?

23 DAVID CALVERT: The Federal Government supported  
24 two new programs but did not fund any of the existing  
25 programs this year.

1  
2 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So, previously you got how  
3 much federal money?

4 DAVID CALVERT: Typically, we get about \$3.3  
5 million a year coming in from the Feds and then city  
6 typically gives \$2.1 million and then every program  
7 pulls in other resources.

8 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: And this year, the Feds only  
9 gave you what?

10 DAVID CALVERT: \$2.2 million but those two grants  
11 went to programs that were not operative.

12 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay, thank you.

13 DAVID CALVERT: So, it's a bit of an emergency  
14 but you know, we're plugging along like always.

15 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thank you, David.

16 DAVID CALVERT: Thanks.

17 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Next.

18 TASFIA RAHMAN: Hi. My name is Tasfia Rahman and  
19 I am a Policy Coordinator at the Coalition for Asian  
20 American Children and Families, CACF. I would just  
21 like to thank Council Member Chair for chairing the  
22 Youth Committee and for holding this oversight  
23 hearing.

24 Since 1986, CACF is the nation's only pan-Asian  
25 children and families' advocacy organization and

1  
2 leads to fight for improved and equitable policies,  
3 systems, funding, and services to support those in  
4 need. The APA population comprises over 15 percent  
5 of New York City, over 1.3 million people. Yet, the  
6 needs of the APA community are consistently  
7 overlooked, misunderstood, and uncounted. We are  
8 constantly fighting the harmful impacts of the model  
9 minority myth, which prevents our needs from being  
10 recognized and understood.

11 We also lead the 15 percent in Growing Campaign,  
12 a group of over 45 Asian led and serving  
13 organizations that work together to ensure that New  
14 York City's budget protects the most vulnerable  
15 APA's. Campaign members employ thousands of New  
16 Yorkers and serve hundreds of thousands of New York  
17 City APA families and children and also outside the  
18 community as well. We are particularly concerned  
19 about any gap in investment of youth services  
20 especially services that help immigrant youth.

21 Youth services are critical to immigrant youth  
22 who struggle with English language proficiency, the  
23 acculturation process, and inadequate academic  
24 preparation. Immigrant youth come from families that  
25 face high rates of poverty, live in linguistic



1  
2 isolation, and lack of knowledge of available systems  
3 and resources. Despite the model minority  
4 stereotype, APA youth must also overcome the  
5 following challenges: In the New York City  
6 Department of Education schools, one of every five  
7 APA students do not graduate from high school in time  
8 or at all; nearly two-thirds of APA students in New  
9 York City come from homes where languages other than  
10 English is spoken; one in four EL learner students  
11 are APA. We also have the highest linguistic  
12 isolation at 42 percent. APA's also have the highest  
13 poverty rate across all ethnic racial groups in New  
14 York City.

15       So, without youth services, many immigrant youths  
16 can find themselves isolated and marginalized, and  
17 without the support to navigate systems and access to  
18 critical services that will put them on the path to  
19 become competent and responsible adults.

20       So, two recommendations that I would like to  
21 highlight are restoring funds for the summer  
22 component for SONYC and also the \$8 million for  
23 COMPASS Elementary School afterschool programs.

24       While we appreciate the expansion of sites for  
25 COMPASS programs, we still hear from providers that

1  
2 it's not accessible to families in particular  
3 neighborhoods in parts of boroughs that have highly  
4 immigrant population such as Southeastern Queens,  
5 Southern Bronx, Eastern parts of Brooklyn, so we want  
6 to urge City Council to continue pushing for  
7 investment in those programs.

8 Thank you, thank you for giving me this  
9 opportunity to testify and we look forward to working  
10 with City Council to ensure that all of New York  
11 young people have access to services and support they  
12 need.

13 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thank you.

14 EMMY LAM: Hi, good afternoon. My name is Emmy  
15 Lam and I am a Program Assistant and a Worksite  
16 Liaison for the Education and Career Services  
17 Division of the Chinese-American Planning Council.  
18 Thank you, Chair Rose and the members of the Youth  
19 Services Committee for this opportunity to testify.

20 Founded in 1965, CPC is a social services  
21 organization to create positive social change. We  
22 empower Asian Americans, immigrants, and low-income  
23 communities in New York City by ensuring that they  
24 have access to resources and opportunities needed to  
25 thrive.

1  
2 We are actually a trusted partner for more than  
3 60,000 individuals and families striving to achieve  
4 goals through their education, family, community and  
5 career. We are located 33 sites all over Manhattan,  
6 Brooklyn and Queens.

7 As a community provider of the Summer Youth  
8 Employment Program and the Work, Learn, and Grow  
9 Program, we appreciate that the City Council have on  
10 the New York City's Young Youth Employment and the  
11 positive impact to both the program and in New York,  
12 the youth people.

13 However, we are deeply concerned this this Fiscal  
14 Year of 2020 Preliminary Budget does not include the  
15 Work, Learn, and Grow program. The program that's  
16 previously funded as \$19 million for the city's  
17 Fiscal 2019 adopted budget.

18 Through my personal experience that I have seen  
19 first hand that the WLG bridges the success of SYEP  
20 and the WLG program basically gives an opportunity  
21 for young participants to better understand their  
22 balance of academics and employment responsibilities  
23 while cultivating self-empowerment and continuing to  
24 develop strong and supportive foundations for their  
25 future.

1  
2 A few examples of our partners that we  
3 collaborate includes accounting firms, hospitals,  
4 real estate agencies, retailers and education  
5 centers. The diversity of these industries not only  
6 ensures that our youth has different opportunities to  
7 explore and to allow them to build healthy, long-term  
8 professional relationships with their mentors  
9 throughout the school year while further developing  
10 their skills.

11 This recent WLG program that recently ended, we  
12 had records of over 70 percent of our youth that  
13 worked over at least 90 percent of their maximum 250  
14 hours allocated to each participant in WLG throughout  
15 the year and additionally, over 20 percent of our  
16 youth were given part-time offers after employment  
17 after the WLG program completion. So, our data  
18 basically clearly shows that the Youth withhold  
19 themselves accountable and are committed to this  
20 program and that the worksites are equally as  
21 committed to investing in each year youth's success.

22 I have an example of where we had a feedback of  
23 one of our worksite supervisors that of a large  
24 retail basically finds us as a very appreciative and  
25 that this allow them to actually kind of screen these

1  
2 potential participants and they go to where they have  
3 colleagues that actually came through these programs  
4 from SYEP and WLG program where they got promoted  
5 into becoming a store manager because of this.

6 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thank you.

7 EMMY LAM: So, I firmly believe that this a vital  
8 program for the New York City Youth and Young adults  
9 as a work base learning experience that allows them  
10 to explore their careers and options in an  
11 intentional way of acting a critical sources of  
12 income for themselves and their families allowing  
13 them to begin establishing growing their professional  
14 network.

15 So, again, therefore we urge that you restore the  
16 \$19 million to the Work, Learn, and Grow program and  
17 strongly consider expanding the program to serve more  
18 New York youth.

19 Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

20 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thank you so much. I don't  
21 believe we have your testimony. Thank you. Yes,  
22 next.

23 DEE MANDIYAN: Good afternoon Chair Rose, and  
24 esteemed members of the City Council. My name is Dee  
25 Mandiyan pronounced they and them and I am the

1  
2 Program Manager of the Center for Court Innovation's  
3 Youth Justice Board. I am here with Shane Correia,  
4 who is the Associate Director of Strategic  
5 Partnerships at the Center and we thank you for the  
6 opportunity to speak today.

7 I am here to request that the Council Support  
8 the Center for Court Innovation as it seeks to renew  
9 and strengthen the work that we do with over 75,000  
10 New Yorkers annually, many of whom are children and  
11 young people. Researchers have documented that our  
12 operating programs throughout the city have decreased  
13 violence, aided victims, reduced th use of jail, and  
14 transformed neighborhoods through such projects as  
15 the Staten Island Justice Center. To continue to  
16 accomplish this work, we seek continuation funding  
17 for our core Citywide Speaker request, or youth-  
18 focused supervised release programming operating out  
19 of Brooklyn Justice Initiatives, and our Bronx pre-  
20 arraignment diversion programming known as Project  
21 Reset.

22 We also request Council to expand funding  
23 available under the Mental Health Initiatives for  
24 Vulnerable Population, and for Court Involved Youth.  
25 We have submitted several applications to permit us

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to increase mental health access in the outer boroughs where demand outstrips our current capacity. For example, our Strong Starts Initiative operating in Staten Island, Queens and the Bronx has resolved neglect cases and as few as six months compared to seventeen on average in the traditional system. That's the difference between a child returning to their family from ACS custody as an infant instead of as a toddler. But currently, as I said, demand outstrips capacity. We only have four Strong Starts case workers citywide, and there are over 3,000 qualified neglect positions filed annually.

Through Council support, we could provide enhanced mental health services and community supervision to diverted youth and their families.

A summary of our applications has been submitted with our testimony.

SHANE CORREIA: For the record, my name is Shane Correia. I am the Associate Director of Strategic Partnerships. Sixteen years ago, I was actually also a youth in the program that Dee currently manages at the Center for Court Innovation. I was a high-risk truant with family that was convicted for violent offences and at one point homeless. During that time

1  
2 the Center for Court Innovation and their program  
3 staff continued to provide services as well as  
4 emotional support. With that said, in addition to  
5 believing strongly in the work that the Center does  
6 from my own personal experience. They have a  
7 research arm that demonstrates the impact that they  
8 have for cases such as myself for over the 75,000 New  
9 Yorkers that they do serve. Accordingly, we'd like  
10 to request that those applications be further  
11 invested in specifically the Schedule C initiatives  
12 for vulnerable populations in court involved youth.

13 Thank you for this opportunity to speak.

14 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thank you.

15 FAITH BEHUM: Good evening Chairperson Rose. My  
16 name is Faith Behum. I am an Advocacy and Policy  
17 Advisor at UJA Federation of New York. On behalf of  
18 UJA, our network of nonprofit partners and those we  
19 serve, thank you for this opportunity to testify on  
20 the importance of maintaining and expanding services  
21 for the youth of New York City.

22 UJA's network of nonprofit partners oversee a  
23 number of DYCD funded youth focused programs,  
24 including but not exclusive to Summer Youth  
25 Employment Programs, Work, Learn, and Grow, COMPASS



1  
2 and SONYC programs. UJA is also an active member of  
3 the Campaign for Children. We recognize the support  
4 the City Council has provided to all the DYCD  
5 programs in the past and hope to maintain this moving  
6 forward. We have a number of recommendations for the  
7 Fiscal 2020 Budget including that \$20.35 million be  
8 included in the Executive Budget for SONYC Summer  
9 programs for middle school students. We're asking  
10 that we baseline \$8 million to maintain current  
11 capacity in the COMPASS Elementary after school  
12 program ensuring that all after school COMPASS  
13 programs are funded at the same rate and then we're  
14 asking to restore in baseline \$19 million for the  
15 Work, Learn, and Grow program.

16 We also want to share a number of our concerns  
17 with the recent SYEP awards. Once providers received  
18 their SYEP awards at the end of February 2019, they  
19 still had to grapple with the inadequate rate per  
20 participant to cover the true cost of maintaining  
21 high quality programs. Since 2018, providers have  
22 been compensated for younger youth and older youth  
23 programs at a rate of \$325 per participant. In 2019,  
24 providers were awarded community based younger youth  
25 slots will receive \$600 per participant while

1  
2 community based older youth providers will receive  
3 \$450 per slot. While the price per participant were  
4 increased in the final 2019 SYEP awards, the  
5 increases are not enough to continue to provide high  
6 quality programs while meeting new requirements and  
7 staffing ratios.

8 Older youth community-based program staffing  
9 requirements include maintaining a full-time program  
10 director for twelve months, a full-time job developer  
11 for six months and a full-time education coordinator  
12 for six months. Providers were also encouraged in  
13 include a full-time or part-time counselor or social  
14 worker for a minimum of six months. Programs also  
15 need to offer competitive salaries for all these  
16 positions in order to attract high quality  
17 candidates.

18 One of the ways programs can meet the staffing  
19 requirements is by serving a larger number of older  
20 youth. In their proposals programs requested to serve  
21 larger numbers of older youth in order to make their  
22 budgets work. Unfortunately, many awardees were  
23 promised significantly less older youth slots, in  
24 many cases hundreds less than they proposed. Some  
25 were even awarded less slots than they were awarded

1  
2 in the last RFP. These providers are aiming for  
3 additional slots to make their budgets work with the  
4 hope of being notified before June in order to be  
5 prepared to serve additional youth in July.

6 So, mainly, providers are open with DYCD about  
7 their concerns. I have more information in my  
8 testimony. The bottom line is that we're urging the  
9 Administration to increase the community-based  
10 younger youth and older youth per participant rates.  
11 So, this additional funding will be used by providers  
12 to meet the increased staffing demands of the new  
13 program models.

14 Thank you for your time and once again, thank you  
15 for your support of all of these programs.

16 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thank you so much. From the  
17 Center for Court Innovation, many of your requests  
18 seem to be borough based. Is there a request that is  
19 citywide?

20 SHANE CORREIA: So, we've submitted several  
21 applications since we have over 22 programs that  
22 operate throughout the five boroughs for citywide  
23 Center for Court Innovation applications. There's a  
24 list of those in the back of our attachment. It  
25 includes the core ask of \$500,000 that goes to

1  
2 programming throughout all five boroughs as well as  
3 some through the specific initiatives that we listed,  
4 such as Strong Starts which currently operates in  
5 three of the outer boroughs.

6 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay, thank you. I want to  
7 again, thank you all for your comprehensive  
8 statements and for your time here today, thank you.

9 And I think this is our last panel, now, two  
10 more. Two more panels? Okay, wow, I really, really  
11 thank you for your patience. You've been sitting in  
12 those terrible chairs all this time.

13 Okay, next panel Peter Gee, The Door, Harriet  
14 Lessel JCCA City's First Readers CFR, Emily Rowland-  
15 Kain United Way NYC plus City's First Readers Eliana  
16 Godoy LINC and CF and Leslie Brown Reach Out and Read  
17 and City's First Read.

18 As soon as you get there whoever gets there, say  
19 your name, your organization and jump right in okay.

20 PETER GEE: Thank you Chair Rose, my name is  
21 Peter Gee, I am Chief of Staff at the Door. So, for  
22 over 45 years, the Door serves as a valuable resource  
23 for New York City youth including those facing  
24 homeless, unemployment, poverty and deportation. The  
25 Doors mission remains to empower young people to

1  
2 reach their full potential by providing comprehensive  
3 youth services in a diverse and caring environment.  
4 Chair, we work with 11,000 young people ages 12-24.  
5 Many of whom who have one or more barriers impacting  
6 their ability to thrive, so our services are all free  
7 of charge to young people including primary and  
8 behavioral health, education and career, creative  
9 arts, nutrition, legal immigration and supportive  
10 housing. We just want to echo some of the comments  
11 made by the Coalition for Homeless Youth. We are one  
12 of the largest Drop-In Centers in New York City and  
13 echo all the additional restrictions for RHY DYCD  
14 programming.

15 I am specifically here today to talk a little bit  
16 about the redesign of the City's young adult  
17 internship program and the young adult literacy  
18 program reflected in the December release of the  
19 city's Advanced and Earned concept paper. There are  
20 more than 136,000 opportunity youth between the ages  
21 of 18 to 24 in New York City. According to a recent  
22 report by Community Services Society. Community  
23 Services Society's report highlighted that although  
24 the population has shrunk, they face a greater  
25 challenge to reconnection because the easiest to

1  
2 serve youth have already been connected to school or  
3 work. The remaining pull on the additional support,  
4 the city's RFP does not take this into account  
5 because it serves less youth with fewer resources.

6 So just to give you context, the last time they  
7 did the RFP, the young adult internship program and  
8 the young adult literacy program served 2,435 young  
9 people with nearly \$16 million in funding and the  
10 Advanced and Earned program that the city released,  
11 the concept paper will serve only 800 young people  
12 citywide with less than half of the previous budget  
13 of \$7.2 million. So, we along with some of the other  
14 out of school youth, workforce providers have a lot  
15 of concerns with this, not only because the RFP is  
16 going to be released in April, which leaves little  
17 time for us to put together a program, a completely  
18 new program by July 1<sup>st</sup> but in general, high school  
19 equivalency participants may not want to earn a  
20 credential with they want to pursue college or enter  
21 the workforce immediately.

22 The cost per participant is not sufficient to  
23 provide instructional supports for low literacy  
24 participants, many whom have an IEP. There are many  
25 opportunity youth that test below the fourth-grade

1  
2 literacy level and stipends in our experience, have  
3 been more effective than paid internships for youth  
4 that are in pre-high school equivalency services.  
5 The recruitment cycles are just really challenging,  
6 and the program design doesn't really cover the needs  
7 of young adults that are parents and young people  
8 that are involved with foster care and juvenile  
9 justice systems. So, we don't have our testimony  
10 fully, like copies for you, because we are working  
11 with some of the out of school youth providers to put  
12 together like a letter highlighting some of these  
13 shared concerns around the Advanced Center and  
14 concept paper that we hopefully will get to you later  
15 this week. Thank you.

16 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thank you. Hi, you have to put  
17 your microphone -

18 ELIANA GODAY: I am the Project Manager for  
19 City's First Readers. In New York City Early  
20 Childhood Initiative and it's called City's First  
21 Readers.

22 City's First Readers is a collaboration between  
23 11 nonprofit organizations that foster literacy  
24 development in New York City for children from birth  
25 through five. The expertise of each is multiplied by

1  
2 our work together. Reading to infants and toddlers,  
3 naming objects that they see and touch and talking  
4 directly to them contribute to the development of  
5 their growing brains and it gives them the essential  
6 start being ready for school and ready to read.

7 Did you know that families where parents identify  
8 as professional, those children enter school having  
9 experience being read to 1,000 to 1,700 hours on  
10 average. Compared to children living in poverty less  
11 than 25. City's First Readers is attacking this  
12 issue collaboratively with our partners.

13 Right now, nearly two out of three New York City  
14 children living in poverty are not reading on grade  
15 level when they are tested in the third grade. A  
16 student living in poverty who can't read at grade  
17 level by third grade is thirteen times less likely to  
18 graduate from high school on time and to become a  
19 proficient reader.

20 In 2015, over half the poor Black and Hispanic  
21 children in New York City lived in high or extreme  
22 poverty neighborhoods. Schools alone can't do this  
23 by themselves and the solution is a prevention,  
24 working collaboratively with these partners.



1  
2           In 2014, New York City Council took the decisive  
3 action to address the literacy crisis facing New York  
4 City by investing in the City's First Readers  
5 Initiative. With the Council's leadership, City's  
6 First Readers expanded its effective community-based  
7 programs to help parents and young children in New  
8 York City be prepared to read and succeed in school.

9           City's First Readers is making this a reality.  
10 In the FY 2018 program year, the initiative served  
11 approximately 700,000 children and families  
12 throughout all five boroughs and in all 51 Council  
13 districts. We need your renewed support and we  
14 respectfully are requesting a budget enhancement of  
15 \$6 million. We are currently funded at \$4.44 million  
16 among the eleven partners.

17           The renewed support will support increased direct  
18 services to reach more families. It will strengthen  
19 outreach to connect families and caregivers directly  
20 to programs and services and will provide families  
21 and caregivers with developmentally appropriate  
22 books. It will strengthen the collaboration and the  
23 infrastructure of this initiative and our evaluation  
24 capacity and it will also expand our initiative  
25 public awareness messaging, Read the City.

1  
2 Science is clear and a robust investment in early  
3 childhood programming can break the cycles of poverty  
4 and we ask that you continue to support the  
5 initiative. Thank you.

6 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thank you.

7 HARRIET LESSEL: Good afternoon. My name is  
8 Harriet Lessel, I am the Director of Government  
9 Contracts and Advocacy at JCCA. I want to thank  
10 Chairperson Rose and Staff for the opportunity to  
11 testify today.

12 JCCA is very appreciative of the Council's  
13 interest in early literacy and funding of the City's  
14 First Readers and we are here today in support of the  
15 request for \$6 million in funding for 2020.

16 I'm not going to read my testimony; I'll just  
17 give some highlights.

18 One of the distinctive things about this is the  
19 partnerships. So, all of the partners are asking for  
20 the entire request, not just for our own programs.  
21 We have had literacy Inc. come and read to our  
22 children. We have had folks from the Bronx library  
23 come and read to our children and give out library  
24 cards so that parents and children can continue this  
25 work when they get home. We have participated in a

1  
2 resource fair in Woodhull Hospital giving out books  
3 to children who are visiting at the Pediatric clinic  
4 along with other partners and having this partnership  
5 really helps us look at how we can increase early  
6 literacy throughout our programming. So, we have to  
7 transfer high schools for overaged under credited  
8 youth. There is a lot of young parents there and  
9 being able to focus on early literacy and thinking  
10 about how we can expand is something that's complete,  
11 that's a very high value as has been recognized I  
12 think by the Council.

13 JCCA is very fortunate to be in our second year  
14 of funding this year. We are the only child welfare  
15 agency to participate in the initiative serving the  
16 youngest children in foster care in our Brooklyn and  
17 Bronx offices. Foster youth are at an even greater  
18 advantage because they experience trauma, frequently  
19 changed homes and changed schools and childcare and  
20 through City's First Readers, we have been able to  
21 create literacy rich spaces in our offices and have a  
22 special place for families to come. Children have  
23 access to books, and we've distributed over 860 books  
24 just this year to 120 families. Reading is modeled  
25

1  
2 and the youngest children can start the building  
3 blocks that they need to become life long learners.

4 In one of our groups, there is a young woman a  
5 17-year-old parent of two almost three-year-old, was  
6 having problems relating to her at home, said that  
7 she watched too much TV, that she was hyperactive.  
8 By participating in our group was really able to  
9 understand the value of literacy and when this child  
10 went for her 3K admission hearing, she was found to  
11 have a much higher literacy rate then a lot of the  
12 other children as a result of this young mom coming  
13 to the groups.

14 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thank you.

15 HARRIET LESSEL: So, I want to again, encourage  
16 or ask for \$6 million and thank you.

17 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thank you, thank you.

18 EMILY ROWLAND-KAIN: Good evening. My name is  
19 Emily Rowland-Kain. I am the Manager of Community  
20 Building for United Wary of New York City and we  
21 thank the Council for your continued support and  
22 investment in City's First Readers and urge the  
23 Administration to support an increase in the Fiscal  
24 Year 2020 initiative funding to expand the impact of  
25 this critical investment in early childhood literacy.

1  
2           At United Way we have a read NYC program and it's  
3 a dual generation initiative designed to provide  
4 coordinated interventions and needed resources for  
5 children, families, schools, and community partners.  
6 Our aim is to improve grade level reading by third  
7 grade for children in some of the most challenged  
8 communities in New York City.

9           Since 2016 we have collaborated with City's First  
10 Readers to strengthen our work in Mott Haven. As you  
11 know Mott Haven is one of the poorest congressional  
12 districts in the United States and when we started  
13 ReadNYC in Mott Haven five years ago, less than one  
14 in ten children were reading on grade level and last  
15 year 43 percent of third graders at our ReadNYC  
16 schools are reading proficiently by third grade.

17           In the past year, with the collaboration and  
18 support of City's First Readers, we have been able to  
19 distribute books through our partnership with  
20 Imagination Library, which delivers free books for  
21 children below the age of five to build at home  
22 libraries. We have partnered at the events that  
23 Harriet mentioned as well with the Woodhull Hospital,  
24 the Brooklyn Public Library event, and we host events  
25

1  
2 with Linc at the Mott Haven Public Library and do  
3 read alouds and sing alongs.

4 We have increased reading opportunities by  
5 supporting access to digital reading programs, we've  
6 provided parents access to resources in our parent  
7 engagement empowerment work and professional  
8 development through instructional leadership to  
9 principals and teachers in Mott Haven and  
10 Brownsville. And with enhanced funding we would hope  
11 to expand the Imagination Library program beyond Mott  
12 Haven to serve the wider Bronx. With more funding we  
13 could expand our reach to over 8,000 children in a  
14 ramp up period of 16 months. We would magnify our  
15 parent engagement work to further engage parents in  
16 creating more language and literacy rich home life  
17 for children and build out ReadNYC. So, we would  
18 build on lessons learned from the ReadNYC initiative  
19 in Mott Haven and develop an expanded network of  
20 success in other neighborhoods starting with an  
21 expansion to the greater Bronx.

22 So, in conclusion, we urge further investment in  
23 the City's First Readers initiatives. So,  
24 organizations like United Way, can continue to  
25 provide the resources and services to ensure our

1  
2 children enter school, school ready to read and  
3 achieve at educational success. Thank you again for  
4 your continued partnership.

5 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thank you.

6 LESLIE BROWN: Hello Committee and Madam Chair,  
7 my name is Leslie Brown. I am the Intern Executive  
8 Director for Reach Out and Read of greater New York.  
9 I want to thank the opportunity to thank the City  
10 Council for their commitment to ensure that New York  
11 children who participate in our program will begin  
12 school with the literacy skills that will enable them  
13 to succeed.

14 I am also representing City's First Readers,  
15 where we are asking for \$6 million. More than half  
16 and I have heard everyone say this, but I need to say  
17 it again. More than half of New York City public  
18 school third graders read below grade level. The  
19 problem is even bigger in low income communities  
20 where one age appropriate book exists for every 300  
21 children. Often times caregivers in these  
22 communities lack resources to read to their children  
23 on a regular basis. Without a consistent reading  
24 ritual, young children will enter kindergarten at a  
25 tremendous disadvantage and spend elementary school

1  
2 catching up. Children who do not read proficiently  
3 by third grade are four times more likely to drop out  
4 of school.

5 As a national program, our mission is to make  
6 literacy promotion an integral component of pediatric  
7 primary care, which makes us unique. No one else is  
8 doing this. In hospitals and clinics at each Well  
9 Child pediatric visit from six months to five years  
10 of age, families are provided with a free childrens  
11 book.

12 Pediatricians and other medical staff members  
13 provide guidance and support to parents to promote  
14 reading and other literacy activities at each of  
15 these well child visits. Volunteers read aloud to  
16 children in the waiting room modeling book sharing  
17 behavior for parents and providing literacy  
18 experiences for children and I will say that when I  
19 came on as Intern Executive Director, I had an  
20 opportunity to go out to our sites to witness our  
21 program which was absolutely incredible to see. Even  
22 with technology the gleeful smiles and excitement in  
23 a child's eye when they receive a book was amazing to  
24 see.



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We also have our program in the Floating Hospital, it sees on average 700 to 1000 homeless children every six months and I had an opportunity to witness our program in action and we had something that truly warmed my heart, was I was there talking with our volunteers and a little one came in, knocked on the door and he asked for a book. So, he knew where to go and we gave him a book and he left happy and then a minute later, he came back with another homeless child to get a book. So, we know our program is working.

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Since 1989, clinical studies have demonstrated the positive impact and effect we have on the home literacy environment due to increases in book sharing, other language and literacy rich activities. Positive attitudes about reading among parents has also increased and just in the interest of time to let you know we have currently 233 sites in the greater and upstate New York areas and of the 233 sites 170 are in all five boroughs.

22

23

In 2018, we served 207,000 New York City children and distributed 355,000 books.

24

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay, can you wrap up?

25

LESLIE BROWN: I'm sorry.

1

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Can you wrap up?

2

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LESLIE BROWN: Yes, I will wrap up really quickly.

4

5

All I need to say is that at this point 50 percent of our sites, only 50 percent are getting books, meaning that they are getting only 50 percent and we want to make sure that they get 100 percent but that's based on funding that we need.

9

10

So, with that said, thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

11

12

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay, thank you. I have to say; I love to read. I have participated in all of the literacy programs. I read to the kids all the time in the hospital and the schools. I love literacy programs. Thank you for what you're doing because I really do believe this is the passport out of poverty, so thank you.

18

19

And, this is the last panel and thank you so much for your patience. Ingrid Bentil City's First Readers, Kathleen Ilacqua Jumpstart City's First Readers, Jennifer Schmidt CHCH/CFR, Gillian Miller Queens Public Brooklyn Public NYPL/ CFR, Erin Roby VIP and CFR, Andre Eaton CFR.

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25

Please identify yourself, your group, and start.

1  
2 JENNIFER SCHMIDT: Good evening. My name is  
3 Jennifer Schmidt and I am the Director of Early Care  
4 and Education Institute.

5 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Please put the microphone on.

6 JENNIFER SCHMIDT: Oh, sorry. Good evening. My  
7 name is Jennifer Schmidt and I am the Director of the  
8 Early Care and Education Institute at the Committee  
9 for Hispanic Children and Families, known its  
10 acronym, CHCF. CHCF is a non-profit organization  
11 with a 35-year-history of combining education,  
12 capacity-building and advocacy to strengthen the  
13 support system and continuum of learning for children  
14 and youth. I will be speaking to two key pieces of  
15 CHCF's work in strengthening the support system and  
16 continuum of learning for New York City's children  
17 and youth early care literacy programming and K-12  
18 after school programming.

19 As part of CHCF's commitment to strengthening the  
20 continuum of learning in birth through school age,  
21 our programming and supports begin in the early  
22 education sector. CHCF works directly with  
23 registered and licensed home-based childcare  
24 providers who are primarily Spanish speaking to  
25 enhance the quality of literacy programming to our

1  
2 youngest learners. CHCF has been part of the City's  
3 First Readers initiative for the past four years. We  
4 have discovered that many childcare provider programs  
5 often do not have age appropriate books, books in  
6 quality condition or books in the first language of  
7 the childcare educator or children in care. We use  
8 our CFR funding to purchase a variety of English,  
9 Spanish, and bilingual childrens books and develop  
10 accompanying materials for our coaching model.

11 CHCF coaches model a read aloud and facilitate  
12 activities for the child care educator and children  
13 in care. Activities can include art, music and  
14 movement and dramatic play. The book and  
15 accompanying materials are then left in the program  
16 with the child care provider for future use. After  
17 each session, children in the program also get to  
18 take home an age appropriate book in their first  
19 language. Upon completion, programs receive a  
20 personalized literacy kit which includes books,  
21 literacy related games and various educational  
22 materials.

23 In FY 2018, CHCF was able to serve 175 child care  
24 programs, distributing over 1,500 books and 322  
25 literacy kits to families. As part of our first

1  
2 portion of FY 2019, we have served 312 children in 28  
3 different child care programs distributing over 1,000  
4 books and we join our City's First Readers partners  
5 in calling for an increase in funding to \$6 million,  
6 which would allow us to continue to further expand  
7 and enhance our reach in this work.

8       And then just very briefly speaking to our after-  
9 school program request, CHCF has been providing after  
10 school services in the Bronx for over 20 years. We  
11 currently have two programs funded primarily through  
12 the state, serving 350 elementary school students and  
13 through this funding we are able to bring much needed  
14 child care for working families, engage students in  
15 high quality extended learning, time programming and  
16 provide a positive environment that mentors and  
17 supports our youth for three additional hours every  
18 day after school.

19       We know that these programs are severely  
20 underfunded throughout the state and given the  
21 tremendous impact that having access to high quality  
22 out of school time programming has for students and  
23 families. We urge the city to develop a plan for  
24 universal access to those after school programs.

25       CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thank you.

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JENNIFER SCHMIDT: Thank you.

Thank you. Literacy Inc appreciates the opportunity to testify about the important work we are doing as part of the New York City Councils Early Literacy Initiative, City's First Readers.

ELIANA GODOY: LINC programs around children from the earliest days with increased opportunities to read and be read to. Our model includes both direct services to children and equally important services for adults in their life so that parents and caregivers can support their children in all important prereading experiences that lead to a love of offering and literacy. My name is Eliana Godoy. I am the Director of Strategic Initiatives at LINC. I can speak to the effectiveness of LINC's programs, as a parent of a daughter in the public-school system, as an immigrant and a previous ELL student myself and as someone who finds real joy in empowering parents to support their children.

LINC understands that a community's greatest resource is its people and that parents all want for their children to succeed. We provide the strategies and the age appropriate books, that help parents make reading with their children part of their daily

1  
2 routing. Whether or not they speak English, whether  
3 or not they are literate.

4 We serve about 15,000 families; we distribute  
5 about 12,000 books and from the parents that we serve  
6 95 percent understand the importance of reading with  
7 their child. 85 percent read more often with their  
8 children, 89 percent have more books at home, 90  
9 percent of the parents with children five years and  
10 younger, reported that LINC taught them the  
11 importance of reading to their child from birth.

12 I am going to go a little off script here to say  
13 to you that 80 percent of our early childhood  
14 programs are run by women who were participants  
15 themselves in our programs. So, we trained families  
16 particularly mothers and lately we have had a lot of  
17 fathers to become their child's first teacher and  
18 main advocate and the proof is in the staff who have  
19 received complete transformation. They themselves  
20 are able to support their own community. So, we're  
21 really building a sustainable culture of literacy at  
22 the neighborhood level by empowering parents to  
23 believe, to know, that they can in fact be leaders in  
24 their own communities in the 80 percent of our early  
25 childhood programming being run by women who were

1  
2 previous participants of our programs are at  
3 testament of the transformation that literacy has.  
4 Thank you.

5 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thank you. Do you have your  
6 testimony.

7 ELIANA GODAY: Yeah.

8 KATHLEEN ILACQUA: Hi, my name is Katie Ilacqua  
9 and I am the Director of Community Impact for  
10 Jumpstart. Thank you for the opportunity to testify  
11 on behalf of City's First Readers and an increase in  
12 funding to \$6 million. Jumpstart is a national  
13 service non-profit celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> year. Over  
14 the course of its 25 years, Jumpstart has trained  
15 more than 45,000 college students and community  
16 volunteers preparing nearly 100,000 children for  
17 kindergarten success. We leverage partnerships with  
18 higher education institutions, community  
19 organizations, head start programs, community-based  
20 preschools in school districts to create sustainable  
21 solutions in order to close the kindergarten  
22 readiness gap.

23 For a little more than 20 of those years, we have  
24 proudly served in New York City. It is here that our  
25 mission of closing the kindergarten readiness gap is



1  
2 joined by a collective impact initiative with so many  
3 partners city's first readers. It is here that  
4 jumpstart reaches over 600 volunteers each year who  
5 provide direct service in 90 classrooms across the  
6 city, serving a bit over 2,000 three to four-year  
7 children every year including our ever expanding  
8 after school program.

9 It is here that we have served nearly 4,000  
10 families through community-based programming. It is  
11 here those 4,000 families are provided some of the  
12 tools and resources needed to create a literacy rich  
13 home. It is here that our staff, the children we  
14 serve, our families, are able to thrive with the  
15 support of City's First Readers Initiative and the  
16 support of the City Council. It is here we have the  
17 absolute honor to work with the City's First Readers  
18 Partners, all of whom share a vital component of  
19 reaching our collective mission.

20 We thank the City Council for its support and its  
21 continued support for this vital effort and  
22 initiative. Thank you.

23 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thank you. I want to thank  
24 you for your patience because I know you were one of  
25 the first people I saw here. So, I really want to

1  
2 thank you. You came in the door with me, thank you  
3 or you were here before me. Thank you.

4 GILLIAN MILLER: Good evening. My name is  
5 Gillian Miller and I am the Coordinator of Early  
6 Learning Services for the Queens Public Library. I  
7 am here today representing the three library systems  
8 of New York City. We are truly grateful for the City  
9 Council's generous support of City's First Readers.

10 Each year, Brooklyn Public Library, New York  
11 Public Library and Queens Library offer neighborhood  
12 early literacy programs with an annual attendance  
13 this year exceeding 600,000 people.

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

17 Brooklyn Public Library is rolling out 12 new  
18 Play Nooks in children's areas of their libraries.  
19 They are refreshing with 44 branches where they have  
20 already established these nooks; New York Public  
21 Library updated and provided new early literacy  
22 corners and play materials in 87 neighborhood  
23 branches; Queens Public Library was able to offer a  
24 large-scale pilot of hands on programs to early  
25 learners in all of our library branches. This

1  
2 focused on higher ordered thinking and problem  
3 solving through creation.

4 A few examples of how this initiative has allowed  
5 us to collaborate with the program partners in unique  
6 ways. Literacy Inc. has worked with the libraries to  
7 provide programs to families citywide and has helped  
8 to coordinate this effort.

9 BPL hosted the very first City's First Readers  
10 Playdate last summer. Each of the City's First  
11 Readers partners brought a developmentally  
12 appropriate, literacy boosting play activity to this  
13 event to model for families how to support literacy  
14 at home.

15 Jumpstart has provided volunteers for NYPL's  
16 programs throughout the year and has participated in  
17 four Reach the Record events. PCHP has been a strong  
18 partner specifically with Queens Library encouraging  
19 families to get library cards and bringing their  
20 families to City's First Readers sponsored library  
21 programs. Reach Out and Read medical providers are  
22 prescribing reading and are prescribing library cards  
23 to their families.

24 It the City Council authorizes \$6 million in  
25 Fiscal Year 2020 for the City's First Readers

1  
2 Initiative; this vitally important work will only  
3 grow in New York City's libraries. We could expand  
4 specialized family learning opportunities, grow  
5 school readiness activities and provide more training  
6 which is necessary for our staffs, in working with  
7 families with very young children.

8 Public libraries play a critical role in our  
9 society. We are the last open democratic institution  
10 that seeks to transform people's lives by providing  
11 free access to knowledge and information, and by  
12 creating opportunities for growth and empowerment to  
13 all. Libraries are for everyone, regardless of  
14 people's background or identity.

15 We are proud of all we have accomplished this  
16 year and are optimistic about the future. While  
17 deeply appreciative of the Council's and Mayor's  
18 efforts, we cannot rest on our laurels because there  
19 is still a great deal of work to do. Demand for our  
20 programs and services are at an all time high, and we  
21 are providing six-day service at all of our libraries  
22 with an operating budget that cannot sustain it.  
23 Faced with increased demand and rising costs, we  
24 continue to need your help.

25 Thank you for the opportunity to speak today.

1

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay, thank you.

2

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ANDRE EATON: Good evening Madam Chair and to staff and also to the entire City Council. Good evening, my name is Andre Eaton, I am the New York State Director for the Parent-Child Home Program.

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Let me first start by saying thank you for your past support and we hope your continuing support of the City's First Readers Initiative.

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The Parent-Child Home Program is just one part of the City's First Readers Initiative with our unique focuses on providing parents with the skills, knowledge and materials they need to support school readiness. Skill in the home and helping to build home environments that build childrens language, literacy, cognitive, and social-emotional development skills. In doing this work, we are also helping parents learn what to look for in a child care setting, how to identify and access their children's next educational steps, and how to support the children continued academic progress. Our partners in this work in New York City and elsewhere in the state include school districts, public libraries, social service agencies, literacy programs, and other community-based organizations. Focusing on school

1  
2 readiness and early literacy support for families  
3 challenged by poverty, isolation, limited education,  
4 and language and literacy barriers, PCHP has provided  
5 over 46,000 home visits and distributed over 23,000  
6 books and educational toys in New York City alone.

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

21       PCHP provides critical learning tools, books and  
22 other educational and language-stimulating materials  
23 to families with two- and three-year old's. This is  
24 an age group that often has very limited access to  
25 literacy supports.

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The Program helps families build literacy enrich environments in their homes. They are visited twice a week in their homes by an early learning specialist or home visitor who introduces the materials to the family, and models for the parents how to read, talk, and play with children to build language and critical early literacy skills. PCHP staff also connects families to other social service supports when necessary and assists parents with registering their children for a pre-k or head start program.

This year we have added to the initiative by working with family child care providers in Sunset Park, Brooklyn, South Jamaica in Astoria and Queens to enhance their skills as well when taking care of children when parents were not able to be a part of our core model inside PCHP.

So, PCHP continues to be pleased to be part of the City's Readers Initiative working with our partners in this initiative, we are able to not only provide early support to 100 additional families challenged by poverty, isolates in language and literacy barriers in communities such as Astoria, Washington Heights, Sunset Park, Brownsville, East New York, and also South Jamaica.

1  
2           So, we hope and continue to urge the Council to  
3 please support us at the \$6 million level to continue  
4 to expand our services citywide. Thank you so much.

5           CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thank you.

6           ERIN ROBY: Thank you. I am honored to be the  
7 last one. My name is Dr. Erin Roby from New York  
8 University, NYU Langone Health, and the Video  
9 Interaction Project or VIP.

10           VIP uses pediatric health care to enhance  
11 children's early development and school readiness.  
12 Pediatric check-ups are a unique way to reach low-  
13 income families, since all parents have to bring  
14 their children to the doctor, allowing programs like  
15 VIP and Reach Out and Read to achieve high impacts at  
16 a low cost. During their pediatric checkups,  
17 families in VIP meet with a facilitator who provides  
18 a book or a toy, videotapes the parent and child as  
19 they read or play together and then reviews the video  
20 to point out strengths that every parent has.  
21 Through City's First Readers, these parents are also  
22 connected with other literacy programs in their  
23 communities. VIP not only promotes early literacy  
24 but also empowers parents to be their child's first  
25 teacher. Rigorous studies show that children in VIP



1  
2 have improvement in skills like language, problem  
3 solving and behavior that will help them to succeed  
4 in school.

5 This vital funding from City's First Readers has  
6 allowed us to bring VIP to more locations and more  
7 children. For example, in this past year, CFR  
8 allowed us to expand VIP to a pediatric clinic in  
9 Harlem.

10 In addition, last year we conducted a scientific  
11 study of aspects of City's First Readers and our  
12 findings demonstrated that using health care to  
13 promote literacy through CFR is associated with  
14 increased use of library and other community literacy  
15 services and together this is association with  
16 parents reading more with their children at home.  
17 These findings demonstrate that the potential for  
18 large impacts across New York City if City's First  
19 Readers is expanded.

20 Impressively, CFR has been endorsed by the  
21 American Academy of Pediatrics and was highlighted  
22 this February at the meeting of the prestigious  
23 American Association for the Advancement of Science.  
24 Colleagues from across the country have been inspired  
25 by CFR and want to model it in their regions. If is

1  
2 vital that City's First Readers continues to grow.  
3 Increased funding next year will allow us to reach  
4 more children and more families, showing that New  
5 York City is a forward-thinking city with a priority  
6 to help its youngest residents succeed.

7 Thank you very much.

8 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thank you. I want to again  
9 thank you. Thank you for your patience and for your  
10 advocacy and your efforts on behalf of New York  
11 City's children and with that, this hearing is  
12 adjourned. [GAVEL]. Adjourned at 6:23 p.m.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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



Date April 1, 2018