THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10007

EXECUTIVE ORDER No. 117

CENTER FOR ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

June 13, 2008

WHEREAS, New York City government has studied the nature of poverty in the City and devised a blueprint to reduce it and increase access to opportunity for the poor; and

WHEREAS, the City is pinpointing concrete ways in which it can act to ensure the poor have the protections and resources they need to help themselves move ahead; and

WHEREAS, it is critical that the City's policies, programs and public/private partnerships in the areas of education, health and human services, housing and community development, workforce development, economic development, consumer protection, and criminal justice are well-coordinated and embrace common principles designed to create opportunities to advance the poor; and

WHEREAS, the City is committed to a continuous and well-coordinated inter-agency strategy to achieve these goals and is developing new policies, programs and public/private partnerships; and

WHEREAS, the Center for Economic Opportunity was initially established in the Office of the Mayor in 2006 to further develop and implement this strategy and has already launched anti-poverty pilot programs, including Opportunity NYC which is the nation's first conditional cash transfer program; and

WHEREAS, the need for the continuation of the Center for Economic Opportunity is necessary to ensure full communication, cooperation, ownership and success in the development, implementation and evaluation of new policies, programs and public/private partnerships;

NOW, THEREFORE, by the power vested in me as Mayor of the City of New York, it is hereby ordered that:

Section 1. The Center for Economic Opportunity ("CEO") is continued in the Office of the Mayor and shall be headed by an Executive Director.

§ 2. CEO shall undertake the following activities:

a. Poverty Research. CEO shall research poverty in terms of its measure and impacts on certain populations as appropriate.

b. Innovation Fund. CEO shall manage an Innovation Fund of City resources dedicated to developing and supporting new anti-poverty programs with City Agencies. City funds may be augmented by other government and private resources.

c. Developing and evaluating anti-poverty strategies. CEO shall develop and evaluate the City's new anti-poverty programs, ensuring that City funds are targeted and programs are evaluated for impact. Programs will be closely monitored and independently evaluated. If programs do not achieve their intended results, resources will be dedicated to more promising strategies. CEO shall manage external consultants in evaluating all City agency programs funded through the Innovation Fund

d. Opportunity NYC. CEO shall be responsible for identifying private funding for anti-poverty pilot programs, including Opportunity NYC. CEO shall work to develop, fund and evaluate these programs. The funds shall be deposited with the Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City. CEO shall have oversight of, and responsibility for, all external contracts for design, operation and evaluation of Opportunity NYC and will act as the designee of the Mayor's Fund for Opportunity NYC funds held by the Mayor's Fund as per the agreements of July 16, 2007 and November 16, 2007 and contracts with each private foundation.

e. Findings and Evaluation of Results. CEO shall publish findings, where appropriate, on program results and poverty in the City.

§ 3. The heads of all agencies shall provide such assistance and cooperation as deemed appropriate by the Mayor and the Executive Director.

§ 4. This order shall take effect immediately.

Michael R. Bloomberg
Mayor