

DYCD, in collaboration with the Mayor's Center for Economic Opportunity (CEO), developed the Young Adult Literacy Program (YALP) - a program for disconnected youth who lack the reading, writing and/or mathematics skills to be enrolled in a General Educational Development (GED) Tests Preparation Program. YALP is designed for disconnected youth between the ages of 16-24 years old who are reading at the 4th to 8th grade reading equivalent level. Participants receive pre-GED basic skills instruction complemented by comprehensive support services. A paid internship component is integrated into the program for students who maintain a minimum 80% average attendance rate. Services are currently provided by eight community-based programs (CBOs) and nine public library program sites administered by the City's three public library systems. An outside consultant (the Youth Development Institute) has been retained to provide technical assistance geared to each program's needs.

Program Facts

- FY 2012 budget: \$2 million.
- A minimum of 20 students are enrolled at each program site at any given time.
- The programs have put together teams of instructional, counseling and career development staff.
- As with all CEO-funded projects, the YALP has been evaluated by an independent research firm (The evaluation is available at <http://www.nyc.gov/html/ceo/html/home/home.shtml>)
- The goal of the YALP is to improve students' literacy and mathematics skills required for enrollment in a GED Tests preparation class.
- Every provider has background experience working with disconnected youth.
- Programs often offer Metro Cards, and other small incentives to encourage and reward regular attendance and sustained participation.