

## NYC DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT MARKS A YEAR OF EXPANSION, MORE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, AND NEW OPPORTUNITIES

*Record Number of Young People and Adults Served in 2023*

**NEW YORK** — As 2023 comes to a close, the New York City Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) is celebrating an unprecedented 423,000 New Yorkers served in Fiscal Year 2023, with participation increases in nearly every agency-funded program. In addition to adding the Office of Neighborhood Safety (ONS) to its portfolio, DYCD oversaw the expansion of the Saturday Night Lights initiative, as well as another record year of Summer Rising and the Summer Youth Employment Program.

“Thanks to outstanding teamwork, partnering with our sister agencies, and breaking down institutional silos, I am proud that DYCD has served more youth and adults under the leadership of Mayor Adams than during any other administration,” said **DYCD Commissioner Keith Howard**. “The Mayor’s forward-thinking vision to prioritize youth and families—and entrusting DYCD with supporting his laser focus on public safety—has raised our agency’s profile and our ability to better connect with the New Yorkers we serve. DYCD looks forward to a new year of providing exceptional service, engagement, enrichment, and opportunity.”

DYCD highlights for 2023 include:

**More New Yorkers Served:** The release of the [Mayor’s Management Report \(MMR\)](#) in September showed DYCD serving a record 343,673 young people and 80,066 adults in Fiscal Year 2023, along with participant increases in nearly every DYCD-funded program, including afterschool and other community programming.

**Another Record Summer:** The [Summer Youth Employment Program \(SYEP\)](#) provided 100,000 jobs and other paid opportunities to NYC young people aged 14-24 for the second straight summer. [Summer Rising](#), a partnership with NYC Public Schools, enrolled 115,000 young people from kindergarten through eighth grade with academic and enrichment activities.

**Bigger and Brighter Saturday Night Lights (SNL):** Seven new [SNL](#) sites opened in 2023 to offer even more programming on Saturdays, a day when young people are typically vulnerable to trouble. DYCD worked with our community partners to secure new volleyball equipment at the Staten Island Broadway YMCA, replacing buckets weighed down with cement to secure poles that held up the net. During Fiscal Year 2023, more than 156,000 meals were served to the community at SNL sites.

**New Summer Programming:** The inaugural year of Summer Night Lights, a partnership with the New York Yankees, NYC Department of Parks & Recreation, and NYPD Blue Chips, brought young people to Elston Gene Howard Field in the Bronx (the former site of the original Yankee Stadium) to compete in America’s pastime.

**More Jobs for Young People:** The expansion of the year-round [Work, Learn and Grow \(WLG\)](#) program to 7,000 slots maximizes opportunities for youth in six precincts noted in the Gun Violence Prevention Task Force as high crime areas. DYCD also launched SYEP Pride, which connected 3,500 young people who identify as LGBTQIA+ with paid supportive, welcoming summer jobs and career experiences. This year, we received a \$1.7 million grant from the U.S. Department of Labor to develop a workforce development training program for out-of-school and out-of-work young people. In partnership with the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA), an electrical pre-apprenticeship initiative for 50 young

adults will launch in summer 2024. The initiative is part of [\*Pathways to an Inclusive Economy: An Action Plan for Young Adult Career Success\*](#).

**Exposing Youth to Unique Career Paths:** DYCD partnered with the federal Naval Sea Cadet Corps and the NYC Department of Veterans' Services on the Sea Cadet initiative. As part of this pilot, middle and high school students learn about maritime/military service and gain valuable skills.

**Improving Public Safety:** DYCD added the Office of Neighborhood Safety (ONS) to its portfolio in 2023, with public safety activations in all five boroughs. Outreach included supporting hundreds of Staten Islanders in the wake of youth violence on the borough's North Shore, and Crisis Management System (CMS) teams helping to make J'ouvert and the West Indian Day Parade in Brooklyn the safest in recent memory. ONS plays a major role in carrying out "[A Blueprint for Community Safety](#)," announced by Mayor Adams in July.

**Keeping Young People Safe:** The "Subway Surfing Kills – Ride Inside, Stay Alive" multi-channel public information campaign was launched in partnership with DYCD, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, NYC Public Schools, and the New York City Police Department. The campaign was created by New York City teenagers in a peer-to-peer effort to deter this dangerous behavior among young people.

**Giving Youth Voice:** In collaboration with the First Deputy Mayor's Office and NYC Public Schools, DYCD hosted six youth townhalls to discuss strategies to stop violence in the precincts with the highest incidents of gun violence (the 40th, 42nd, 44th and 47th precincts in the Bronx and the 73rd and 75th precincts in Brooklyn ). More than 900 youth engaged in breakout group discussions on the Gun Violence Prevention Task Force strategies, and their collective ideas were shared with the administration in developing the Blueprint for Community Safety.

**Improving Youth Literacy:** DYCD Reads connected afterschool providers with NYC Public Schools to the City's NYC Reads initiative. In partnership with ExpandedED, we will share new tools to strengthen literacy in afterschool and community center programs.

**Beautifying the Public Realm:** DYCD led the renovation of the Van Dyke Playground Basketball Courts in Brownsville, Brooklyn. The court is in the 73rd Precinct, one of the six priority precincts identified by the Gun Violence Prevention Task Force. The renovation included resurfacing, repainting, and new rims and backboards. In a few short weeks, DYCD worked with the NYC Parks Department and the Department of Transportation to ensure improved lighting was installed in and around Dr. Green Playground in Brownsville, Brooklyn—addressing years of concerns locals had about inadequate lighting and feeling unsafe walking around at night.

**More Outreach to Runaway and Homeless Youth:** DYCD collected a record number of responses for the 2023 NYC Youth Count, a point-in-time census of sheltered and unsheltered young people. The 3,422 surveys represent a 334 percent increase since the 2022 Youth Count, and a 157 percent increase from 2019, the previous high prior to the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Finding Homes for Young Adults:** Housing Navigators at DYCD-funded [Runaway and Homeless Youth \(RHY\)](#) Drop-in Centers helped more than 550 young people sign leases for their own apartments.

**Addressing Mental Health:** RHY Drop-in Centers provided mental health support for 1,019 youth and young adults in Fiscal Year 2023. As part of National Mental Health Awareness Month, DYCD and Vibrant Emotional Health co-hosted the eighth annual Healing the Hurt Conference, focusing on strengthening communities amid challenges with trauma, violence, and mental health.

**Listening to the Needs of New Yorkers:** DYCD collected a record 28,491 Community Needs Assessments (CNA), a 119 percent increase over the previous CNA in 2020. The surveys help inform service and funding priorities in the city’s neighborhoods most in need.

**Building Community Outreach:** DYCD is using Cornerstone centers and other convenient locations in all five boroughs to create “satellite” offices. The first one opened at Johnson Community Center in East Harlem, and Ingersoll Houses and the High School for Civil Rights in Brooklyn followed.

**Supporting Immigrants:** DYCD and our funded community-based organizations, in collaboration with NYC Health + Hospitals, launched English language classes for asylum seekers at five Humanitarian Emergency Response and Relief Centers (HERRCs).

**Engaging Youth through Sports:** DYCD launched partnerships with three renowned city sports teams. The New York Mets connected young people to career panels, gave a tour of the Major League Baseball Commissioner’s Office, provided an afterschool trip to Citibank headquarters, and threw a scavenger hunt at the Jackie Robinson Museum. The First Pitch partnership with the New York Yankees provided an opportunity for young people to create social messaging murals that were featured at Yankee Stadium. The New York Knicks hosted basketball clinics at Saturday Night Lights programs with franchise legends interacting with young people. Leading up to the 2026 FIFA World Cup, the DYCD Soccer League engages youth with international-style tournament play,

**Growing Future Leaders:** The “We Trending” event was a powerful and energized gathering highlighting youth resources and financial empowerment. DYCD, NYC Service, and Young Future Leaders joined Mayor Adams and Commissioner Howard to address nearly 300 young people on hand in search of support, connecting with their peers, and picking up pointers from an esteemed panel of influencers.

**Timely Contract Registration:** DYCD has registered 99 percent of Fiscal Year 2024 contracts, helping community-based organizations fund their programs and provide high-quality services.

**Connecting to Faith-Based Organizations:** DYCD hosted networking events to make faith-based organizations aware of contracting opportunities with the city, and promote the application period for City Council discretionary contracts. Workshops included a Fundraising Symposium, Cash Flow for Small Nonprofits, Becoming a Faith-Based Nonprofit, and Recruiting Board Members to Small Nonprofits.

**Supporting Parents:** The first-ever Community Moms and Dads event was held at Gracie Mansion to celebrate 27 parents, as well as caregivers who provide inspiration and support to families and communities while also dedicating their time and energy to the physical, social, and emotional well-being of New York City. Meanwhile, Dads Take Your Child to School Day Fatherhood events took place at more than 70 locations throughout the five boroughs, with an additional 200+ activations at PIVOT schools.

**Celebrating Hip Hop 50:** The Step it Up finale was held at the Apollo Theater, featuring young people sharing social messages through dance performances. This year’s theme was Stop the Violence/Honoring the 50th Anniversary of Hip Hop. For the first time, Step It Up was a marquee event under the Mayor’s Cup, managed by the NYC Mayor’s Office of Sports, Wellness and Recreation.

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