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**NYC DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVES A RECORD
NUMBER OF NEW YORKERS THROUGH HISTORIC INVESTMENTS BY THE ADAMS
ADMINISTRATION**

Unprecedented expansion of after-school, summer jobs for youth, runaway and homeless beds, and support for fathers and families are among the free programs benefiting a half million New Yorkers

NEW YORK — The New York City Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) is closing out the administration with a record 492,000 New Yorkers served this year, up more than 27 percent since 2022. This was supported by a 46 percent budget increase under the Adams administration to \$1.5 billion, the highest in DYCD’s history. Over the past four years, DYCD advanced major initiatives focused on youth employment, public safety, family stability, and operational excellence, achieving unprecedented growth in participation, funding, and performance outcomes. These accomplishments demonstrate DYCD’s continued leadership in advancing equitable youth and community development across all five boroughs.

“We took office with a simple promise: to ‘Get Stuff Done,’ and, four years later, our administration can say we delivered that every day for working-class New Yorkers,” said **Mayor Adams**. “We drove shootings to record lows and pushed jobs and small businesses to record highs. We rewrote the playbook on homelessness and mental health to finally get New Yorkers living on our streets the help they need, and, after decades of half-measures, passed historic housing legislation to turn New York into a ‘City of Yes.’ We overhauled the way our students learn to read and do math, cut the cost of child care, and forgave medical debt. We eliminated taxes for low-income families, launched free universal after-school programming, and invested in a record 110,000 K-5 seats for a summer of fun, academics, and exploring with Summer Rising. We got scaffolding off our buildings, trash bags off our streets, and opened up new public spaces for New Yorkers to enjoy. The haters may have doubted us, but the results are clear. On issue after issue, we brought common-sense leadership to create a safer, more affordable city, and our work has changed our city for the better; it will stand the test of time because we made New York City the best place to live and raise a family.”

“Partnering with DYCD throughout these past years has been one of the true highlights of my time in this administration. Commissioner Howard and the entire DYCD team have shown what public service looks like at its best—delivering programs that truly improve the lives of New Yorkers,” said **Deputy Mayor for Strategic Initiatives Ana J. Almanzar**. “Together, we expanded opportunities across all five boroughs through the largest after-school growth in a decade, strengthened support for youth experiencing homelessness, and doubled our Fatherhood Initiative. I am grateful for the collaboration and dedication we have brought to every neighborhood in our city; the impact of this work will continue to benefit New York families well into the future.”

“General Colin Powell stated, ‘Leadership is all about people. It is not about organizations. It is not about plans. It is not about strategies. It is all about people—motivating people to get the job done. You have to be people centered.’ Thank you, Mayor Adams, and Deputy Mayor Almanzar, for your leadership and unwavering investments in DYCD programs. We are proud our agency reached more New Yorkers in this administration than in any other during DYCD’s three decades of service to the greatest city in the world,” said **DYCD Commissioner Keith Howard**. “I also want to shout out our community partners for their continued excellence in overseeing all of DYCD’s programs, and our sister agencies for supporting the important work we do in creating a safer, more affordable, and more equitable city for all. This administration’s profound legacy will enhance the lives of New Yorkers for generations to come.”

DYCD administration highlights include:

A Record Reach: The number of New Yorkers served by DYCD increased more than 105,000 since the start of the administration.

An Expanding Universe of After-School: In the largest growth of after-school in more than a decade, September saw the opening of the first 5,000 seats as part of Mayor Adams' ambitious vision for [universal after-school](#). An [additional 10,000 seats](#) will be available in September 2026, followed by 5,000 more in the 2027-28 school year. DYCD also issued two Requests for Proposals (RFPs) to enhance after-school programs for young people, and to give providers the financial support to run more effective organizations and programming.

Right on "Kew": DYCD cut the ribbon for a new community space in Kew Gardens, Queens, a "one-stop shop" for New Yorkers to receive and be referred to services, and to allow our agency and provider Commonpoint to work more closely with the community.

Sizzling SYEP Summers: For four consecutive years, the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) provided [a record 100,000 young people](#) with paid opportunities. Prior to this administration, SYEP served 75,000 youth. Mayor Adams also prioritized the inclusion of financial literacy education as part of SYEP and other DYCD-funded programming.

Workforce Gets Cred: The [launch of Community Resources for Employment and Development \(CRED\)](#) means much-needed workforce support for young adults in violence-impacted communities. It marked the first time that DYCD workforce programming expanded to include New Yorkers up to the age of 40.

Dollars for Dads: For the first time in its more than twenty-year history, [DYCD's Fatherhood program is doubling](#) to serve 3,000 fathers annually. It is also expanding to include custodial and non-custodial dads in programming that supports family stability, teaches parenting skills, and promotes effective co-parenting.

Building More Beds: The [addition of 100 new beds](#) for older youth in DYCD's Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) program brought the total of beds citywide (ages 16-24) to 913. Young people looking for a safe place to get help also benefited from increased crisis and drop-in supports.

Counting More Youth: Under the Adams administration, the number of Youth Count surveys collected increased 460 percent. The 2023 count marked the largest increase (334 percent), followed by two consecutive years of continued growth (16 percent in 2024, and 11 percent for 2025). With support from our community partners, collecting more responses enables DYCD to reach more runaway and homeless youth who need critical services..

Summer Still Rising: More than 110,000 K-5 youth enjoy a summer of fun, academics, and exploring New York City. The DYCD/New York City Public Schools (NYCPS) partnership was expanded under the Adams administration to provide more opportunities in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Keeping New York the Safest Big City: The Office of Neighborhood Safety (ONS) was moved to DYCD to better incorporate the work of the Crisis Management System (CMS) into our existing network of community partners. The administration also released ["A Blueprint for Community Safety" with the Gun Violence Prevention Task Force](#). J'ouvert celebrations were among the safest in recent memory, with

staff and volunteers keeping a watchful eye on the festivities. The vital work of violence interrupters was featured in the DYCD documentary, [Narratives Rewritten](#).

Beacons and Cornerstones of Safety: Thousands of New Yorkers benefited from the [Summer Safety initiative](#), which provided extended hours and safe spaces at select Beacon, Cornerstone, and Saturday Nights Lights locations.

More Lights on Saturday Nights: Since the beginning of the administration, the number of free Saturday Night Lights locations has grown from 100 to nearly 140, with several new sites opening in 2025. DYCD and our partners also launched a [new website](#) to make it easier for families to find their nearest program.

Amazing Athletes: A record 500+ boys and girls hit the diamond at Elston Gene Howard Field in the Bronx for the Summer Night Lights baseball and softball tournament, in collaboration with NYC Parks, NYPD, and the New York Yankees. DYCD also hosted the Crisis Management System (CMS) Ballin' Upstream basketball leagues, and used team sports grants to engage community-based organizations, including first-time city contractors.

We Hear You: The [2025 Community Needs Assessment](#) is underway, as DYCD collects surveys from New Yorkers on the programs and services they would like to see in their neighborhoods. In 2025 alone, DYCD attended more than 30 community town halls with Mayor Adams, promoted agency services and programs at 185 community tabling events, hosted 40 focus groups, collected 19,440 surveys from youth, and created community outreach teams to speak to even more New Yorkers. Our agency's 14-day response rate to written correspondence from constituents is a perfect 100 percent.

Leveraging "New Media": The number of followers to DYCD's Instagram has nearly doubled under this administration. Our very first podcast, [DYCD Next Gen](#), was launched in December 2024 to amplify youth voices and promote agency programs and services.

Speaking Your Language: DYCD's social media, website, and public materials are reaching New Yorkers in more languages than ever. The DYCD Community Connect hotline (1-800-246-4646) provides a direct way of communicating with our agency in more than 200 languages.

Clearing Contracts: DYCD has improved contracting timeliness and transparency, with more on-time contract registration and cash advances to help stabilize our provider network.

Swimming in Success: Nearly 100 NYCHA Swim Safety Corps participants from SYEP receive training in swimming, water rescue, and CPR/AED certification. This partnership with the Public Housing Community Fund, Rising Tide Effect, and our sister agencies has grown from just 17 participants in the inaugural year of 2023.

Millions of Meals: DYCD staff and programs have distributed over 20 million pounds of food through the Discretionary Food Pantries Initiative and increased outreach at Beacon and Cornerstone centers.

Transforming Tech: To better serve DYCD's provider network, we implemented major upgrades to [DYCD Connect](#) for an improved user experience, enhanced data tracking, and streamlined reporting.

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