

# Annual Report

**2025**

Mayor Eric L. Adams  
Deputy Mayor Ana J. Almanzar  
DYCD Commissioner Keith S. Howard



## About DYCD

The New York City Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) supports New York City young people and their families by funding a wide range of high quality programs, including:

- After-school
- Beacon and Cornerstone Community Centers
- Discretionary Contracts
- Fatherhood
- Family Support
- Immigrant Services
- Literacy Services
- Neighborhood Development Areas
- Office of Neighborhood Safety
- Runaway and Homeless Youth
- Youth Workforce Development



## Vision Statement

DYCD strives to improve the quality of life of New Yorkers by collaborating with local organizations and investing in the talents and assets of our communities to help them develop, grow, and thrive.

## Mission Statement

DYCD invests in a network of community-based organizations and programs to alleviate the effects of poverty and to provide opportunities for New Yorkers and communities to flourish.

**Youth Served (FY25): 378,445**

**Adults Served (FY25): 113,503**



DYCD Community Connect (**1-800-246-4646** and **646-343-6800**) is a resource and referral service providing assistance to New Yorkers in more than 180 languages.

Follow DYCD on Facebook, Instagram, and X, (**@NYCYouth**), YouTube and LinkedIn (**@DYCDNYC**) or visit our website at [www.nyc.gov/dycd](http://www.nyc.gov/dycd)



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## NYC Mayor

### Eric L. Adams

"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. 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."



## Deputy Mayor for Strategic Initiatives

### Ana J. Almanzar

"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. 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."



## Message from **DYCD Commissioner** Keith Howard

Dear Friends:

I am proud to present the 2025 Annual Report of the New York City Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD).

DYCD broke our own record this year, with nearly half a million New Yorkers served, the highest in our agency's history. We did it with an unprecedented budget that supported expansions of COMPASS after-school, Fatherhood, Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) beds, and new Saturday Night Lights (SNL) locations.

This marked the fourth straight year of a record 100,000 young people getting jobs through the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP), and more than 110,000 K-8 students enjoying academics and recreation in Summer Rising. Our Office of Neighborhood Safety (ONS) and Crisis Management System (CMS) teams continue to help keep the city safe.

As we prepare to celebrate DYCD's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2026, I am extremely proud of the year gone by. A big thank you to our sister agencies, nonprofit partners, and all of our incredible community supporters for helping us provide free, high-quality programs to New Yorkers. In the words of General Colin Powell, "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."

I invite you to read on about DYCD's accomplishments this past year.

Keith Howard  
Commissioner  
NYC Department of Youth & Community Development (DYCD)



# A Record Reach!

**492,000 New Yorkers  
served this year**

up 111,689 (↑nearly 30 percent)  
since Fiscal Year 2022.

## Fiscal Year 2022

306,921 youth, 73,338 adults  
**380,259 total**

## Fiscal Year 2023

336,202 youth, 80,066 adults  
**416,268 total**

## Fiscal Year 2024

365,345 youth, 114,711 adults  
**480,056 total**

## Fiscal Year 2025

378,445 youth, 113,503 adults  
**491,948 total**

[Read the Press Release](#)





# An Expanding Universe of After-school

This year, DYCD joined Mayor Adams in unveiling an ambitious plan to achieve “After-School for All.” We also released two Requests for Proposals (RFPs), all part of the **largest expansion of after-school in more than a decade.**

[View Press Release](#)

- **Unprecedented \$331 Million New Investment** to Bring After-School to Over **20,000 More K-5 Students** by Fall of 2027
- Total of 184,000 K-8 Students to be Served Across All DYCD Programs

# Dollars for Dads

DYCD awarded 17 new contracts as part of the expansion of the Fatherhood Initiative. Made possible by the administration's unprecedented investment, the Fatherhood program helps fathers reconnect with their children, provide financial support, and develop parenting skills. The additional funding will **double the number of fathers served from 1,500 to 3,000** in all five boroughs. The announcement was made at Metropolitan College of New York (MCNY), one of the new contract awardees.



DYCD's 19th annual Dads Take Your Child to School Day took on special significance this year, thanks to the expansion of the Fatherhood Initiative. Dozens of young people gathered at the Lower East Side and Chinatown Family Enrichment Center (LESC FEC) for breakfast and fun, before walking with their dads, father figures, mentors—and moms, too—to P.S. 15 Roberto Clemente School for some "high fives." Other events took place throughout the five boroughs. Among those joining the marquee event in Manhattan were Real Dads Network CEO and Founder Derek Phillips, LESC FEC Director Cynthia Gardner-Brim, and P.S. 15 PTA President Saran Camara.



Other Fatherhood events included a Mets game at Citi Field, and a screening of the documentary, "When We Free the World," with producers Kevin Powell and Evangeline Lawson.



DYCD held a Fatherhood Initiative gathering at I.S. 339 in the Bronx. The MYDAD flagship event invited dads and father figures to meet their children at SCAN-Harbor after school, and attend fatherhood workshops, fun activities, and more. Events were also held in the other four boroughs.

DYCD, in partnership with the NYC Children's Cabinet, hosted the "Empowering Fathers, Thriving Children" symposium at John Jay College. Fatherhood Initiative leaders and graduates joined elected officials to celebrate the major investment to expand the program. Mayor Adams spoke about being a father; we also heard from former Deputy Mayor for Strategic Policy Initiatives and current Robin Hood CEO, Richard Buery, and many other partners who amplify this important work.



NY1 anchor Dean Meminger sat down with Deputy Commissioner of Community Development Mike Bobbitt and Fatherhood alumni Clarence McClain, who graduated from "Friends of Fathers" in 2009.





# Building More Beds

The **addition of 100 new beds** for older youth in DYCD's Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) program brings 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.





2025 DYCD NYC  
The Department of Youth & Community Development

2025  
*Youth Count*  
EVERYONE COUNTS!

# Youth Count

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The number of Youth Count surveys collected has 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.





# Workforce Gets CRED

DYCD announced the new Community Resources for Employment and Development (CRED) initiative, a \$15 million workforce program for participants, ages 18-40, involved in the criminal justice system who are at risk of involvement in community violence or residing in communities with the highest rates of gun violence.

CRED offers work readiness training, occupational training, and internships for in-demand, emerging sectors as well as job placement within a three-month follow-up period. Additionally, it offers holistic support to participants, providing access to mental health counseling, housing, academic support, and health care access.



Participants receive up to 24 weeks or 600 hours of paid training and internships at \$20 per hour in high-demand career fields, including:

- Industrial and Infrastructure
- Service
- Media & Entertainment
- Health Care
- Technology
- Education/Nonprofit



# Right on “Kew”

DYCD cut the ribbon for a new community space in Kew Gardens, Queens, a “one-stop shop” to provide or connect visitors to services, with additional opportunities for programming and community events—a symbol of the administration’s investment in community development, accessibility, and support for residents of Kew Gardens and Queens. DYCD has selected Commonpoint to manage the space and oversee programming.

“The ribbon-cutting at the Kew Gardens Community Space marks an incredible accomplishment for Mayor Adams and DYCD: providing a welcoming ‘one-stop shop’ of resources, programming, and community events for our city’s largest borough. I am proud to say this community space is the first in the city owned by DYCD, and we selected Queens because of the leadership of Deputy Mayor Ana J. Almanzar, and the vision of our biggest champion, Borough President Donovan Richards. DYCD would also like to thank Council Member Lynn Schulman, as well as every New Yorker who partnered with our administration to make this community space a lasting legacy for the residents of Queens.” ~ Commissioner Howard



[Read Press Release](#)





# “SLAM” Dunk

As part of Women’s History Month in March, SLAM Magazine did a two-page spread on DYCD and our basketball league for girls and young women. The publication joined the first scrimmage at Wadleigh Secondary School in Harlem, where we also unveiled the league’s new branded uniforms.

This initiative supports Mayor Adams’ priorities of NYC Her Future, and making NYC the most women-forward city in the nation.





|||||

# 2025

## SATURDAY NIGHT LIGHTS

NEW YORK CITY

Saturday Night Lights  
expanded with

40

new sites across all five boroughs since 2022.

(There are now almost  
140 locations!)

Beacons, Cornerstones and Saturday Night  
Lights also provided expanded Summer  
Safety hours!

|||||

|||||||

The Saturday Night Lights (SNL) program grew even more in 2025, adding new locations in the Bronx, Brooklyn, and on Staten Island. Visit the SNL website

[\(https://saturdaynightlights.cityofnewyork.us/\)](https://saturdaynightlights.cityofnewyork.us/)

for more information.

CAMBA program at Eagle Academy for Young Men II in Brooklyn.

The City



One-of-a-kind tennis program at Cary Leeds Center for Tennis & Learning in the Bronx

New York Post



|||||||





# Summer Night Lights



Another amazing season of Summer Night Lights wrapped up at Elston Gene Howard Field in the Bronx. Capturing the baseball title for the second straight year was Grand Slam, with Belles winning the all-girl high school softball division, and Castle Hill Little League reigning supreme in co-ed middle school.

All championship and runner-up teams received free Yankees tickets, and youth from each team were nominated by their peers to participate in a special in-stadium batting experience. More than 500 young people from the Bronx and Manhattan made up 24 teams this summer, with girls comprising nearly two-thirds of the rosters.

[Bronx Times](#)



# DYCD: Getting More Social

DYCD's social media is reaching more users in more languages than ever: Instagram followers alone have nearly doubled.

In 2025, DYCD's instagram presence grew to over

**24K+**  
**followers**

a sizable increase from the previous year.

 **31%**

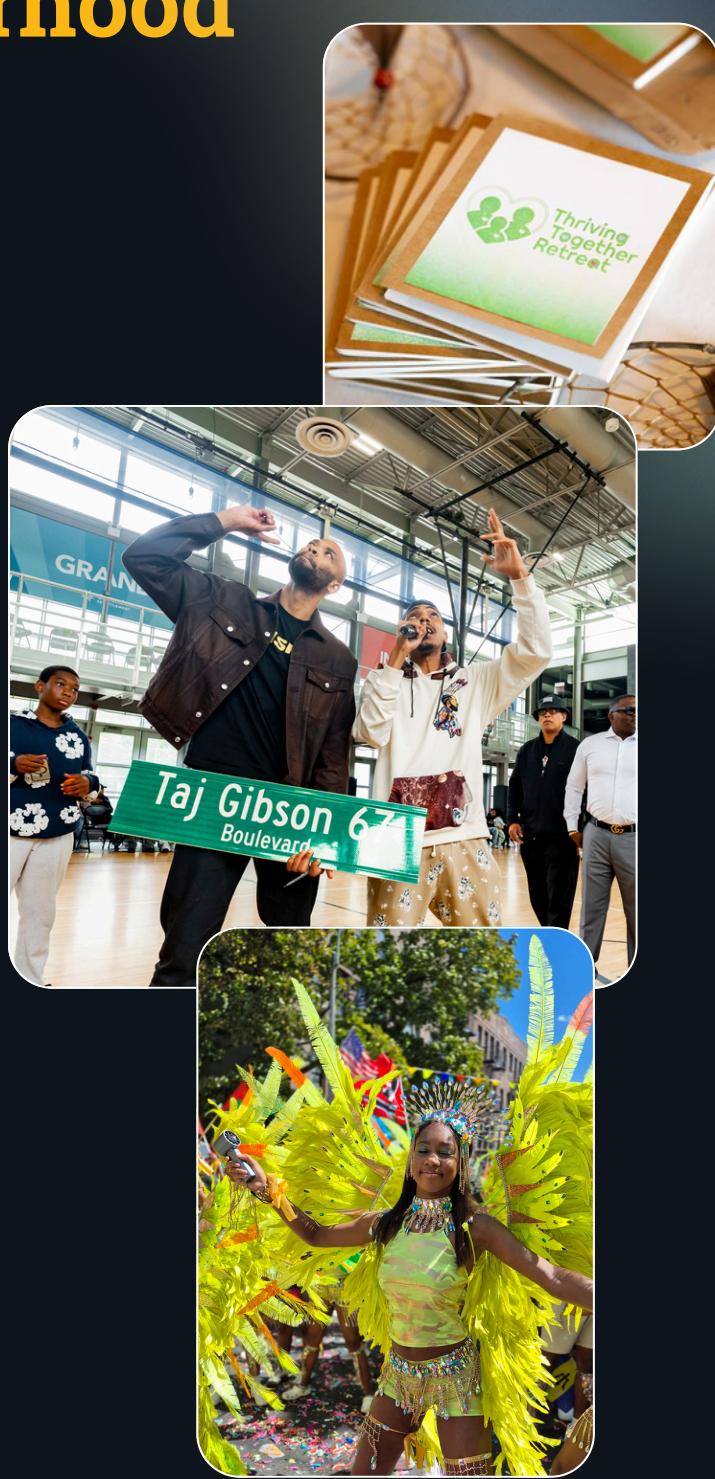
# Office of Neighborhood Safety (ONS)

Throughout the year, DYCD's Office of Neighborhood Safety (ONS) rapidly responded to support New Yorkers and communities in need, following violence, fire, and other critical incidents. Services include Mobile Trauma Units, crime victim support, therapeutic counseling, critical social resources, and stopping potential escalations.

ONS and DYCD Strategic Partnerships hosted the second annual DYCD Thriving Together Retreat at Camp Mariah in upstate New York, for over 65 individuals affected by gun violence. Healing activities over three days included workshops, arts and crafts, and nature-based experiences.

The Crisis Management System (CMS) Ballin' Upstream Championship game was held at Brooklyn College, emceed by rapper Phresher with a special guest appearance from NBA star Taj Gibson of Brooklyn, who was honored for his philanthropic work. S.A.V.E. became the first Ballin' Upstream champions, outscoring Project Echo, 69-50.

Hundreds of ONS and CMS teams were on the streets of Brooklyn for the annual J'ouvert and West Indian Day Parade festivities, helping to keep New Yorkers safe. Commissioner Howard joined Mayor Adams and NYPD Commissioner Tisch at Grand Army Plaza for a press conference on the preparations, which included the largest police deployment for any event in the city this year.





ONS and the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) hosted the 13th annual CMS Staff Retreat through the Strong Messenger Project. The initiative provides therapeutic support for Cure Violence (CV) staff who are exposed to increased stress and traumatic events as a part of their violence reduction work. Approximately 200 staff attended the retreat at Staten Island's Snug Harbor Botanical and Cultural Garden.

ONS convened the CMS providers meeting at the Johnson Community Center in East Harlem, bringing together more than 65 attendees from across the network. The session focused on FY25 data trends and performance reflections, featuring in-depth analysis of shootings, mediations, de-escalations, and participant outcomes across all boroughs. Partners also received program updates, and explored new capacity-building opportunities to strengthen service delivery and enhance community impact.

ONS hosted a Resource Fair at the ACS Crossroads Detention Center in Brownsville, Brooklyn, bringing together ten CMS providers to offer essential resources, guidance, and direct engagement to the young people in custody. We reached five dorms, and connected with more than 45 youth, creating a vibrant and supportive atmosphere with music, food, and opportunities for meaningful interaction.

Mayor Adams presented 29 Crisis Management System providers with Keys to the City to honor their service, and for keeping New York City safe.

## Gun Violence Prevention Task Force

The Gun Violence Prevention Task Force (GVPTF), established by Mayor Adams in June 2022, set out to stop the rise in violence by using a public health and community development approach to address upstream causes and long-term disinvestment in the programs and services that we all want and need to make and keep our neighborhoods safe. From housing to jobs, mental health, policing, vibrant public spaces and opportunities for the youngest New Yorkers to thrive, the goal of GVPTF is to prevent gun violence now, and into the future.

Since its inception, the Task Force has operated under the belief that gun violence is a symptom of a lack of opportunities to access economic, social, educational, and healthcare resources.



In 2022, one-in-four shootings (25%) and 39% of confirmed shots fired citywide occurred in just six precincts, which comprise the neighborhoods of initial focus for the Task Force:

- Precinct 40 – Port Morris, Mott Haven, Melrose
- Precinct 42 – Morrisania, Claremont, and Crotona Park
- Precinct 44 – Grand Concourse, Bronx Terminal Market, Yankee Stadium
- Precinct 47 – Wakefield, Woodlawn, Baychester, Williamsbridge
- Precinct 73 – Brownsville and Ocean Hill
- Precinct 75 – East New York and Cypress Hill

These neighborhoods, mostly Black and Brown communities, reflect the historic disinvestment and quality of life challenges that the Task Force seeks to address. These compounding disparities make addressing gun violence a key racial equity imperative.

Since the [Blueprint for Community Safety](#) was released, there has been an overall downward trend in gun violence, which is an accomplishment to be celebrated. Brooklyn, for example, has experienced the lowest number of shootings in over 30 years. However, we know this downward trend is not felt equally across NYC. Despite these important achievements, there is still work to be done.

In February 2025, the GVPTF moved from the office of the First Deputy Mayor to DYCD, under the co-chair leadership of Deputy Mayor for Strategic Initiatives Ana J. Almanzar. The move to DYCD demonstrates a continued commitment to a community-based approach to gun violence reduction and public safety improvements across New York City communities experiencing the highest levels of gun violence, as we continue to leverage our partnership with over 20 city agencies and mayoral offices.



## Neighborhood Safety Councils (NSC)

GVPTF launched the Neighborhood Safety Councils (NSCs) in August 2025, to act as the community voice of the Blueprint for Community Safety in the Bronx and Brooklyn (40, 42, 44, 47, 67, 73, 75 Precincts). NSCs create regular opportunities for collaboration, mutual trust building, and relationship building among community residents, other CBOs, elected officials, and local NYPD precincts on community-led public safety strategies.



## Summer Safety Plan

GVPTF led project management and internal and external stakeholder coordination of DYCD's Summer Safety Plan (SSP). It provided additional hours of safe programming for young people at Beacon, Cornerstone, and Saturday Night Lights between July 7 and August 24. Twenty-eight sites activated expanded hours, with 13 CMS partners supporting the initiative. There were approximately 3,852 unique registrants, with over 45,000 Beacon hours and more than 50,000 Cornerstone hours attended.

## Youth Focus Groups

In May 2025, GVPTF conducted youth focus groups across the 46, 32, 23, 77, 67, and 120 precincts. These precincts were selected based on 2024 NYPD Compstat data which revealed high levels of gun violence in these areas, and neighbored GVPTF precincts. These sessions aimed to elevate youth perspectives on public safety, housing, mental health, and access to opportunity, while informing future citywide engagement strategies. Approximately 90 youth participated in the six focus groups.



## Everytown Capacity Building

In the spring of 2025, GVPTF, in partnership with the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) and Everytown for Gun Safety, launched a short-term capacity-building initiative aimed at strengthening six Bronx-based Community Violence Intervention (CVI) organizations. These groups—Neighborhood Benches, Lead By Example, S.O.S. Bronx, Stand Up to Violence (SUV), Guns Down Life Up (GDLU), and Release the Grip (BronxConnect)—received tailored support focused on leadership development, organizational growth, and sustainability.

## Interagency Coordination

The Task Force held regular cross-agency action spotlight meetings and quarterly taskforce meetings, as well as supported special projects across agencies (e.g. Jobs NYC, Reentry Housing Pilot, Justic Learning Collaborative). GVPTF also continued to manage the logistics of the Riker's Community Reinvestment Commission.



Check Out the Mobile Trauma Unit (MTU) Response Documentary



# Summer Rising

In 2025, Summer Rising enrolled **113,400 young people**, with increases in overall attendance, youth in temporary housing, shelter and foster care, and students with IEPs.

[Press Release](#)



[YouTube](#)



# SYEP 2025

# SYEP 2025

# SYEP 2025

# SYEP 2025



**DYCD**

The Department of Youth  
& Community Development

**NYC**

Delivering for you.  
Every day. Everywhere.

# When We Invest in Youth Jobs, The Whole City Wins

This summer marked the completion of the 62nd NYC **Summer Youth Employment Program** (SYEP), the nation's **largest** and **oldest** youth employment initiative.

SYEP serves as a crucial early-career pathway, enabling young people to **explore career interests, earn money, and build valuable skills** for both academic and professional growth.

**100K**

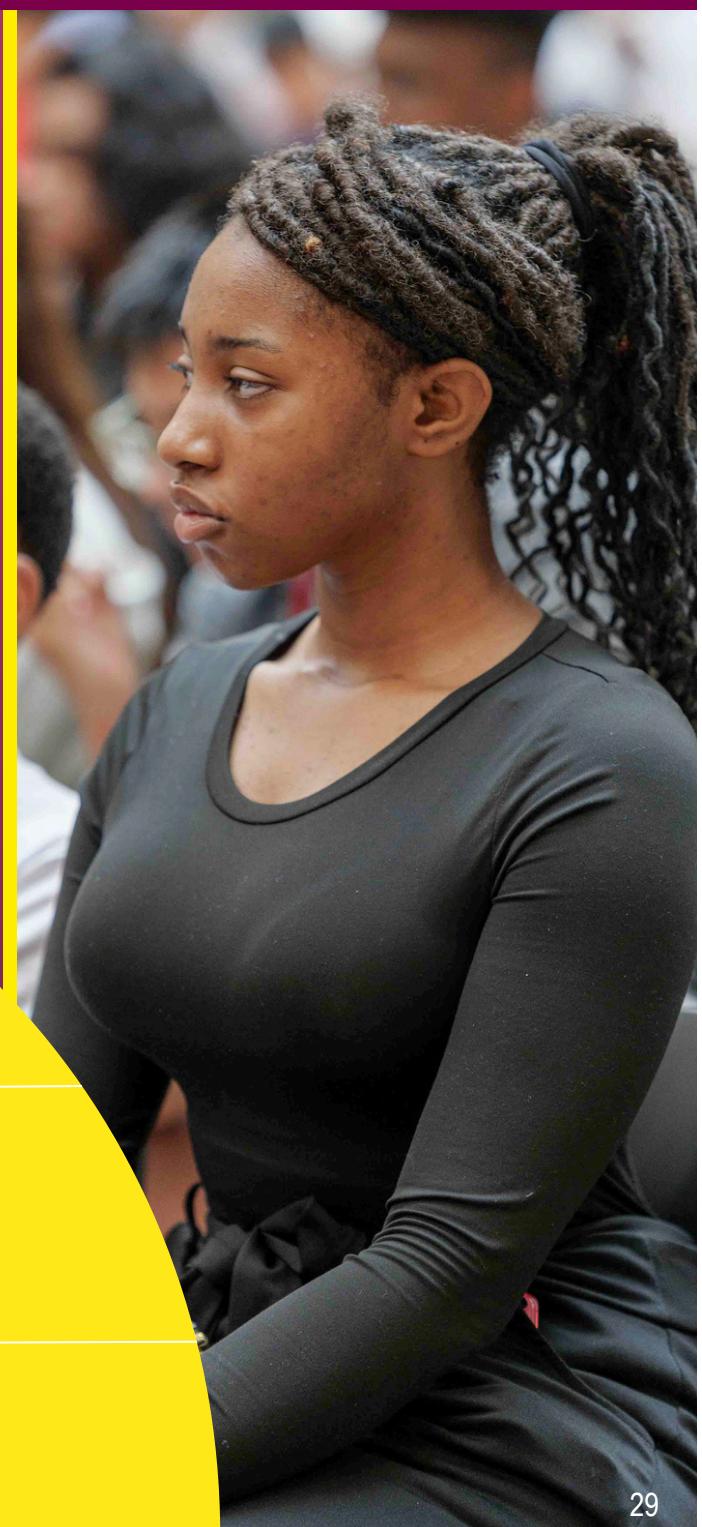
participants served for the fourth year in a row

**95%**

of participants say they would recommend SYEP to a friend

**12,000+**

worksites hosted participants



# Five Boroughs, One Mission

The New York City Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) invests in a network of community-based organizations and programs to alleviate the effects of poverty and to provide opportunities for New Yorkers and communities to flourish.



DYCD partners with

**65** community-based organizations

across the city to serve a **growing number of young people** each year.

## Youth Served

SYEP 2021  
**74,800+**

SYEP 2022  
**100,000+**

SYEP 2023  
**100,000+**

SYEP 2024  
**100,000+**

SYEP 2025  
**100,000+**

# Youth Employment as a Catalyst for Economic Development

DYCD and its nonprofit network partnered with **12,000+ worksites across the city** from small businesses and city agencies to private corporations and neighborhood daycares.

**SYEP 2025 distributed \$150 million in wages directly to NYC's young people.**

These wages in turn are then spent and reinvested in the local community.



**43%**

**Private Sector  
Wksites**

**19%**

**Public Sector  
Wksites**

**38%**

**Non-profit Sector  
Wksites**

# Making Participation Easier Than Ever

**This summer, DYCD made participation easier by:**

- ✓ Supporting employer and participants thru DYCD Connect
- ✓ Extending worksite application deadline to provide greater flexibility to employers
- ✓ Expanding training opportunities for community and employer partners
- ✓ Producing informative materials to help first time supervisors craft internships
- ✓ Partnering with NYC SBS to recruit MWBEs, BIDS, and small businesses throughout the five boroughs



## Thank you, Lyft!

For another summer, our partners at Lyft offered SYEP participants a free 2-month Citi Bike® membership.

DYCD also increased its activity and engagement on social media platforms. **Visit eNYCYouth on Instagram** to hear participants share their stories and to find updates on our programs and other services offered by the agency.



# Powerful Partnerships Make it Possible

The journey from potential to success accelerates when young people meet the right opportunities. Our powerful partnerships make that possible, offering dynamic exposure to diverse industries and real work environments that ignite young New Yorker's confidence and career curiosity.

## Partnership Highlights



### Tech & Science

- Bandana
- Google Code Next Lab
- Information Lab
- NY Stem Cell Foundation



### Hospitality

- Hilton
- One World Observatory
- SL Green SUMMIT
- Luna Park



### Healthcare

- Columbia University- Irving Medical Center
- Downstate Health Sciences University Hospital of Brooklyn
- NYC Health & Hospitals
- Maimonides Medical Center



### Business & Finance

- 125 Ventures Management
- Blackrock
- NYC Department of Finance
- Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce



Click here to read about Kevin's experience at a new partnering employer for 2025!



# Focused Investments That Drive Real Impact

SYEP connects young people to career exploration opportunities through **flexible program models and innovative approaches**.

Dedicated spots are set aside for youth facing employment barriers or living in public housing, ensuring they have direct access to career pathways and opportunities for growth.



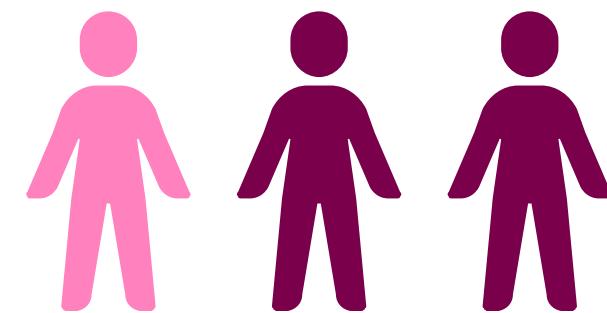
**Over 15,000**  
participants are  
NYCHA residents

Read Natalie's story here! 

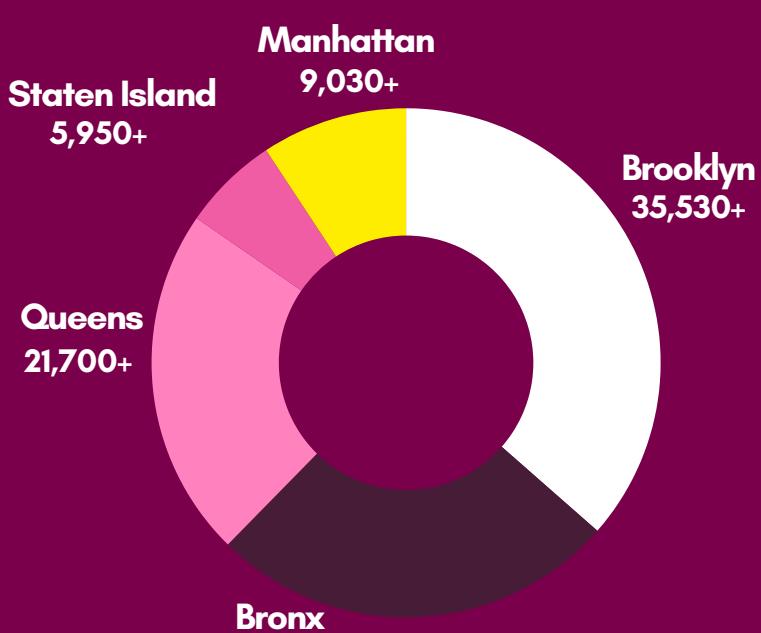
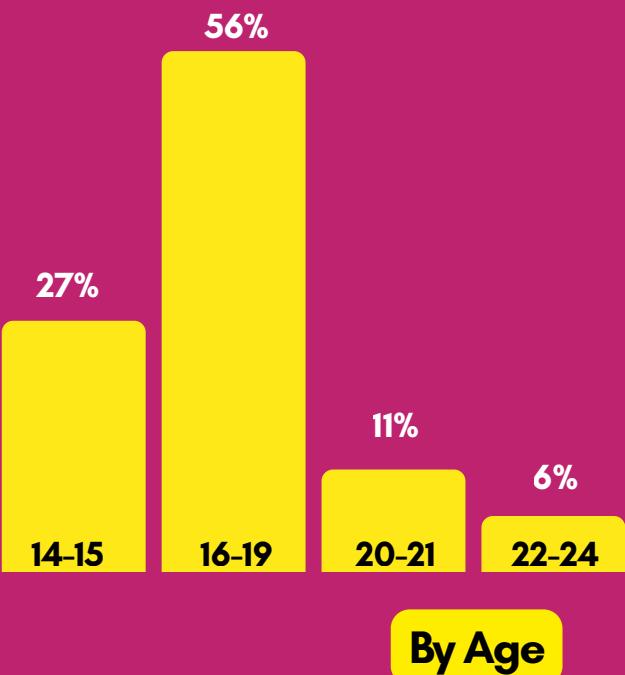
**SYEP Emerging Leaders program served 4,500+ young people**, providing individualized support for youth who are justice-involved, experiencing homelessness, in foster care, living with disabilities, or enrolled in DOE District 75 schools.



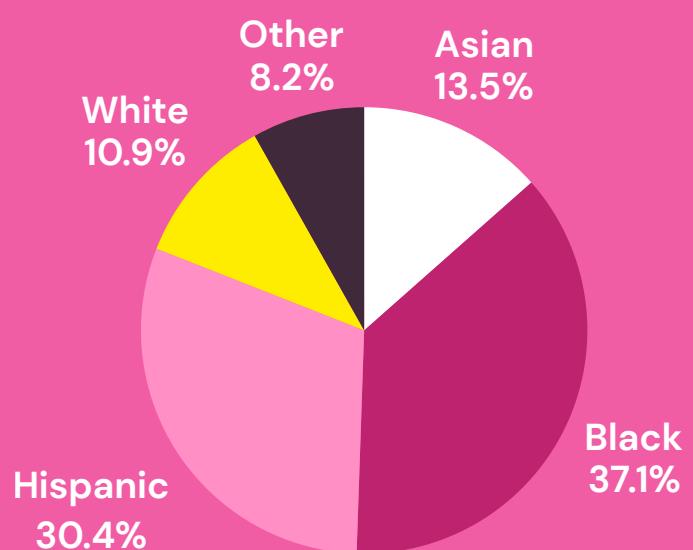
# Participant Demographics



**> 1/3** of SYEP participants receive public assistance



By Borough



By Race/ Ethnicity

# Supporting Youth with Disabilities



This summer, SYEP supported **4,400+\*** youth with disabilities through meaningful work opportunities.

\*Self-reported data



## SYEP Youth with Disabilities

Santander partnered with SYEP to host a series of **engaging financial literacy workshops** designed to build confidence and practical money-management skills.

The sessions covered budgeting, saving, banking basics, and planning for the future. Santander's team created an inclusive and supportive learning environment where participants could ask questions, practice real-world scenarios, and gain the tools they need to strengthen their financial independence.

## Opportunities via NYU Langone

This summer, NYU Langone's Rusk Rehabilitation Center hosted four interns through a partnership with the NYC Public Schools' Transition and College Access Centers (TCAC), which prepare students with disabilities for postsecondary opportunities. The interns supported medical researchers in their day-to-day lab work.

Additionally, more than 150 participants attended a career panel led by leading physicians, Dr. JR Rizzo, and professionals from across the disability community, with SYEP participants from D75, D79, and students with IEPs joining Summer Rising Exploring Futures classrooms.

## Continued commitment to supporting communities who have traditionally faced barriers to work.

# SYEP Pride

SYEP continued its commitment to serving LGBTQ+ youth, a community that has been historically underrepresented in the workforce.

This year, DYCD strengthened its support by hosting a Pride Month Kick-Off Event, launching a monthly newsletter to share resources and celebrate community voices, and providing specialized trainings for employer partners to foster safer and more inclusive workplaces.

In addition, DYCD expanded partnerships with businesses and organizations dedicated to promoting equity and inclusion, ensuring that LGBTQ+ participants could access welcoming career pathways and supportive professional environments.



**3,000+**

LGBTQ+ participants and allies were placed at worksites that support and advance employer diversity goals.

**350+**

attended youth and employer-focused events and trainings

## Advancing Opportunities for Women

### X Con Edison

SYEP's key employer partners continued their commitment to expanding opportunities for women, offering internships and career exploration events in nontraditional fields and industries.

Check out our YouTube video with Khadedra Hall, Sharia Stallings, and Valeria Mendoza to see how Con Edison is supporting SYEP in closing gender gaps and empowering women through mentorships and career-building opportunities.





[Check out their game here!](#)

Participants from the Chinese American Planning Council explored **game design** while incorporating Social Emotional Learning (SEL). They developed game rules and mechanics that connect to self-awareness and social awareness, gaining insights to support their personal and professional growth.



Participants from the Young Men's and Young Women's Hebrew Association of Washington Heights and Inwood explored **careers in cosmetology**. They gained insights into industry trends in skincare, hairstyling, and professional makeup, as well as the art of conducting client consultations. They also examined the connection between beauty and wellness and how it uniquely differs for each individual.

# Aligning Youth Interests with Placements

By participating in project-based learning, 14 to 15-year-old participants engaged in enriching summer projects that supported both **passion exploration** and **early career planning**.



Participants from Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation contributed to the "Books and Beyond" project, weaving together creativity, literacy, and community engagement. They built **My Little Libraries** and curated resource guides, helping to reimagine what it means to share knowledge and give back to their community.

# Promoting Financial Literacy

From project-based learning and career exploration to workshops and work-readiness training, SYEP ensures that youth not only earn money, but also develop the financial skills to manage it confidently and responsibly.



176 minutes of financial literacy content on the platform



96% of SYEP participants completed at least one financial literacy course



+9.4% increase in direct deposit signups!



# Exploring Careers in Public Service

Thanks to the continued support of fellow city agencies, over **10,000** young people throughout the five boroughs gained firsthand exposure to public service.



NYC Office of Small Business Services (SBS) promoted the SYEP application to small businesses and Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) across the city, helping expand opportunities for youth. They also hosted a **weekly workshop for participants placed at Business Improvement Districts**, offering guidance, resources, and professional development throughout the summer.



Placements at NYC Health & Hospitals increased over **15%** compared to SYEP 2024.



**NYC Parks**

hosted a record of **900+** participants this summer.

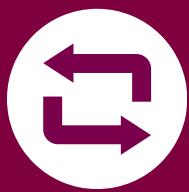
**NYPD hosted 1,000+ participants,**

including 58 youth with disabilities, providing meaningful job opportunities for participants with visual and hearing impairments.



# Elevating Opportunities Through Ladders for Leaders

Recap



Ladders for Leaders (LFL) is the capstone program of SYEP that offers professional internship opportunities to high-achieving, local youth. LFL focuses on developing internships in competitive industries with top companies across New York City. DYCD equips nonprofit and employer partners with the resources needed to create **high-impact** and **meaningful** internships.

**1,216**  
**participants served**

**140K+**  
**total hours worked**

**REBNY**  
Real Estate Board of New York  
**x DYCD**

Over the past four years, REBNY has provided internship opportunities with leading real estate companies to **350 SYEP participants**.

This summer, **100 youth** interned with top firms, including CBRE, Rudin Management, SL Green Realty, and Tishman Speyer, among others.



At National Grid, we believe that empowering young people with real-world experience today will power the skilled, diverse workforce our communities need tomorrow. We are proud to invest in programs like Ladders for Leaders that reflect our commitment to equitable and sustainable job opportunities across the regions we serve.

*Sally Librera, President of National Grid NY*

# Connecting School-Year Learning to Summer Jobs

CareerReady SYEP integrates **directly** with participating schools, giving school leaders and CBO staff the ability to align students' work-based learning experiences with their high school curriculum, academic goals, and postsecondary pathways.



## Excelling through Accenture

**22,900+**  
participants  
served through  
CareerReady SYEP

**230**  
NYC Public High  
Schools offering  
CareerReady SYEP

**6,000+**  
participants took the  
opportunity to **earn**  
**college credit**  
through CUNY Reach

This year, Accenture hosted close to 30 interns, including CareerReady participants, this summer welcoming them into the *Learning to Lead* program.

Through a tailored professional development curriculum, high school seniors built essential workplace skills and gained insight into a business environment. They supported their supervisors on a range of tech-related projects and helped manage attendance at company workshops, giving them direct, hands-on exposure to the field.



# More Than 6 Weeks

For many students, SYEP doesn't end when summer does. For select participants, DYCD offers year-round programming: **Work, Learn & Grow** (WLG). WLG offers extended work readiness training, opportunities to earn college credit, and school-year internships. This program **connects summer experiences with year-round learning**.



It is extremely important to partner with Work, Learn, and Grow and DYCD for the reasons that it gives young people the opportunity, the exposure to work with organizations that are mission driven, and to get that real time experience. So when they are in a position to enter the workforce, they have the reference. They know what it looks like in real time.

*Senior People Experience Director,  
City Year New York*

Invaluable mentorship opportunities

**97%**

of worksites would **recommend** hosting SYEP participants

Participants served year-round

**7,000+**

participants enrolled in Work, Learn & Grow following SYEP 2025.



**July - August**

**October**

**Nov - Dec**

**January**

**March - June**

Summer Internships

Enrollment

Work-readiness training

CUNY Classes

Spring Internships



Special thanks to our employer partners for providing valuable worksites for our participants.



Special thanks to our community partners for supporting our participants at every stage.



# \$239.7 Million Total Budget

**City: \$205.3 Million**

**State: \$28.5 Million**

**Federal: \$5.9 Million**

# Join us for SYEP 2026!

**SYEP Participant Applicants:**

<https://application.nycsyep.com/>

**SYEP Employer Partner Applicants:**

<https://worksitelpreapp.nycsyep.com/>



Check out other DYCD Workforce programs [here](#).



Check out other DYCD services [here](#).



# Out-of-School, Out-of-Work Youth Programs

DYCD Workforce Connect invests in advanced training and career readiness for youth and adults who are not in school and unemployed or under-employed. DYCD partners with

**29** unique  
community-based  
organizations

to provide free industry-recognized credentials and full-time, unsubsidized job placement in fast growing and high-demand industries.



## Trainings Offered in Industries:



**Infrastructure**



**Healthcare**



**Technology**



**Government\***



**Media\***



**Culinary Arts\*\***

\* only available through Train & Earn

\*\* only available through Advance & Earn

# DYCD and NYC Thrive in '25!

## Age is Just a Number

DYCD joined NYC Department for the Aging (DFTA) Commissioner Lorraine Cortés-Vázquez to kick off our Anti-Ageism Campaign partnership.



## Agency All-Stars

DYCD's Shakina Shaw and Markida Murrell-Owens were the only two city employees honored with the Excellence in Human Service Delivery Awards at Gracie Mansion.



## Amazing Athletes

In addition to the Summer Night Lights baseball and softball tournament, DYCD hosted youth sports leagues, the Crisis Management System (CMS) Ballin' Upstream basketball leagues, and used team sports grants to engage community-based organizations, including first-time city contractors.



## Artist Stage

In partnership with Success In The Arts (SITA), we were excited to kick off another season of The Artist Stage, a dynamic, monthly live conversation series featuring accomplished artists mentoring young people. Special guests included Staten Island native Tristan Mack Wilds (*The Wire*, *90210*), and Bronx-born rapper and producer Cash Cobain, who returned to M.S. 301 Paul L. Dunbar—his middle school.





# DYCD and NYC Thrive in '25!

## **Battle of the Bands**

The music showcase at Murry Bergtraum High School featured youth drumlines, majorettes, and marching bands performing for a chance to be crowned the best in NYC. First place went to High Tide Percussion, runner-up was New York Alliance Drumline, and third place was Bed-Stuy Bangers.

## **Borough Sports Day!**

In celebration of Cornerstone's 15th Anniversary, DYCD's Community Centers hosted Sports Borough Days featuring Olympic-inspired games and fitness activities for Cornerstone youth participants this summer. The events were open to the original 25 Cornerstone sites launched in 2010.

## **Celebrating CBOs**

DYCD celebrated Nonprofit Week, a chance to step out of our offices, connect directly with the organizations that make NYC run, and show DYCD's appreciation for their essential work. Kudos to everyone who fanned out across the five boroughs, and delivered Certificates of Appreciation to our integral nonprofit partners.

## **Clearing Contracts**

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

# DYCD and NYC Thrive in '25!

## Commissioner Chats

Commissioner Howard was honored to sit alongside Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs (MOIA) Commissioner Miguel Castro, New York City Public Schools (NYCPS) Chancellor Melissa Aviles-Ramos, and Administration for Children's Services (ACS) Commissioner Jess Dannhauser at City Hall. We spoke with ethnic/community press outlets about the administration's priorities, DYCD's summer programming, and back-to-school plans for the city's diverse communities. The Commissioner also joined Commissioner Castro, Commissioner Dannhauser, and Chancellor Aviles-Ramos for a "fireside chat" with providers on Immigrant Families and Children. We promoted DYCD services, and heard from colleagues about everything the administration is doing to empower our immigrant communities.



## Creativity, Curiosity, Collaboration

The Adolescent Literacy event "Verses, Arts and Vibes Volume 2: Connections" explored everything from cooking and science to debate and theater, uniting through shared creativity. Events at DYCD included a Teen Battle Chef, Planet Exploration, How to Debate, and a spoken word performance about exploring the future.



## "Fab" NAB

Commissioner Howard joined colleagues, City Council Children and Youth Committee Chair Althea Stevens, NYC Service, and our network of volunteers at the Neighborhood Advisory Board (NAB) Appreciation Event hosted by Trinity Wall Street Commons. NABs have been longtime advocates for their respective neighborhoods, and the gathering was a chance for members to meet colleagues from other communities and collectively celebrate their love for New York City and volunteerism.



# DYCD and NYC Thrive in '25!



## Fun on the Rock

More than 200 young people from the Rockaways enjoyed field day events and recreational activities.

## Hail HBCUs!

Young people took part in DYCD's 2025 Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Tour. More than 220 students explored 19 HBCUs during spring break, along with our outstanding providers. The contingent included 24 youth from Grand Street's Marcy Cornerstone (many of whom have never traveled outside their neighborhood), along with 13 students from Children's Aid Beacon at I.S. 219 in the Bronx. They visited the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C., and Virginia Union University (VUU). The other participants visited an array of HCBUs in the south, including North Carolina Central University, Howard University, Spelman College, Morehouse College, and Hampton University. We are thrilled to report that several young people received automatic acceptance from universities they visited.

## Happy Anniversaries

The Cornerstone Community Center program observed its 15th anniversary in 2025. COMPASS marked 20 years of providing free programming to young people.

## Hip-Hop Holiday

For a third straight year, DYCD hosted an end-of-year holiday event of music, gifts, and fun for youth at Surrogate's Court.

# DYCD and NYC Thrive in '25!

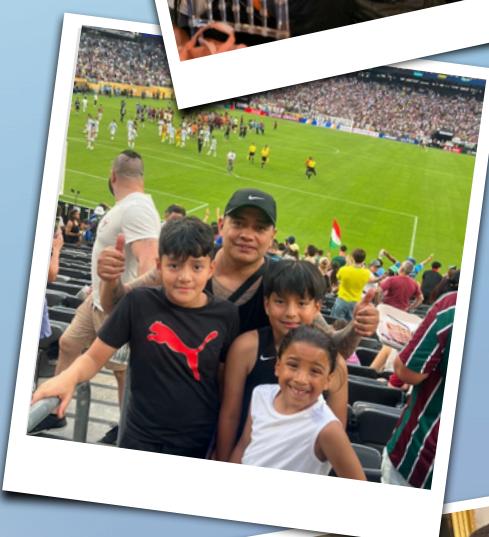
## Girl Power

Youth from Beacon, Cornerstone, and COMPASS High programs presented their arguments to Kings County Supreme Court Justice Joanne Quinones on the United States v. Vaello Madero case as part of the Girls Rule the Law program. Two groups had the opportunity to return and appeal the case, implementing feedback and tips they learned from the mock trial. Meanwhile, the Day of the Girl Summit with NYC Her Future was dedicated to empowering, inspiring, and motivating young women.



## Goooooal!

DYCD received 1,600 tickets to the FIFA Club World Cup game in New Jersey featuring Fluminense vs. Chelsea. We worked with our networks to get all the tickets out. We continue talks with FIFA and the NY/NJ Host Committee on our partnership leading up to next year's World Cup.



## Global Get-Togethers

Brazil's Instituto Calderia visited City Hall and gave DYCD an update on its summer job initiative, modeled after New York City's own Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP). Commissioner Howard had a unique opportunity to visit the Swedish Residence to participate in "Transforming Youth Identities: From Conflict to Social Action." He spoke from a New York City perspective, discussing credible messengers, in which former gang members enter communities of at-risk youth to deter them from crime and violence.

DYCD staff attended a meeting with the Ministry of Youth Development and National Services of Trinidad & Tobago, to give the organization a deeper understanding of DYCD and our significant role across New York City.





# DYCD and NYC Thrive in '25!

## Lifting Up Leaders

The 28th Annual Family Development Credential (FDC) Program Recognition Ceremony was held to cap off professional development training providing frontline staff with the skills and competencies they need to empower families. Commissioner Howard received the Heart of the Community Award. Additionally, the DYCD Leadership Academy equips nonprofit leaders with the tools, strategies, and peer networks to strengthen their organizations and enhance their impact.

## Listening with La La

Commissioner Howard and DYCD staff visited Rikers Island, where we engaged with young men participating in La La Anthony's ThreeSixty Initiative. The program offers a safe space for participants to share their perspectives on current events and social issues. DYCD aims to strengthen this relationship and identify resources for both the young men and their families.

## "Lit" Fit

DYCD provided New Yorkers with opportunities to improve their English literacy skills through Adult Basic Education/High School Equivalency (ABE/HSE), Basic Education in the Native Language/English for Speakers of Other Languages (BENL/ESOL), and Adolescent Literacy programs. In Fiscal 2025, ABE/HSE, BENL/ESOL, and Adolescent Literacy programs served 13,429 participants.

# DYCD and NYC Thrive in '25!

## Mental Wealth

In partnership with the Young Men's Initiative (YMI), the Mayor's Office, and I WILL GRADUATE, DYCD hosted Mental Wealth Day 2025 at Eagle Academy High School in Brooklyn. This transformative day of mental health and wellness awareness was dedicated to uplifting young men of color through a holistic focus on mental wealth that prioritizes leadership with emotional intelligence.



## Mighty Moms

DYCD hosted the Community Moms and Dads Gala at Trinity Wall Street Commons. This was an incredible event to honor dozens of New Yorkers who make a significant contribution to their communities through time, actions, and talent. The honorees demonstrate compassion, service, strength, innovation, volunteerism, and uplifting New York City. Our emcee was NY1's Cheryl Wills.



## 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.



## A New "PAL"

Commissioner Howard joined Mayor Adams and Deputy Mayor Ana Almanzar at the grand opening of the Washington Heights PAL Saturday Night Lights indoor baseball gym. The 4,500-square-foot facility features a fully turfed versatile gym space, batting cages, and state-of-the-art equipment, including baseball and golf simulators. Equipment for the center was funded by The DICK's Sporting Goods Foundation, and Local Initiatives Support Corporation's "Game On-Community Places to Play" initiative.



# DYCD and NYC Thrive in '25!

## Night Owls

Nearly 70 DYCD staff volunteered at 39 National Night Out (NNO) locations across the city, including all of the Neighborhood Development Areas (NDAs). We also presented two mayoral proclamations in the 40th and 42nd Precincts.

## No Place for Hate

DYCD convened a training session for senior staff in collaboration with the Office for the Prevention of Hate Crimes (OPHC). During the session, Executive Director of OPHC, Vijah Ramjattan, presented current trends in hate crimes and examined the roles of bias, microaggressions, and discrimination in contributing to such incidents. This training represents a key component of DYCD's ongoing commitment as part of the inter-agency task force dedicated to combating antisemitism.

## Pitch Perfect

DYCD hosted over 40 young people for our annual First Pitch competition. In partnership with the New York Yankees, First Pitch is a social impact competition where middle and high school youth identify an important issue in their community and creatively design a comprehensive solution to it. The three teams with the most impactful campaigns had their murals unveiled at the Bronx Children's Museum.

# DYCD and NYC Thrive in '25!

## Power of Healing

The 10th annual Healing the Hurt conference was held at UJA-Federation of New York in partnership with Vibrant Emotional Health. This year's theme, "Mind & Body in CommUNITY: Empowerment Through Culture, Connection, and Care," emphasizes holistic connection between mental and physical well-being, while highlighting the power of community, culture, and collective care in the healing process. We were joined by Eva Wong, Executive Director of the Mayor's Office of Community Mental Health, and keynote speaker Dr. Lena Green, Executive Director of the HOPE Center.



## Seeing the World

DYCD announced a passport and international student cultural exchange program, to offer free passport support services for dozens of select young people aged 15-18 in DYCD programs. The initiative will also provide young people opportunities to travel internationally next spring and summer. Priority will be given to first-time travelers and families in underserved communities.



## Sharing Stories

DYCD's My NY Story received a Program of Merit award from Generations United. The application was submitted by NYC Aging on behalf of DYCD and the Cabinet for Older New Yorkers. Generations United annually recognizes outstanding intergenerational programs that connect younger and older people in the United States. My NY Story is a 10-week activity for older and young adults in our Cornerstone Community Centers to increase healthy interactions between participants from different generations and give them a platform to share their personal New York stories.



# DYCD and NYC Thrive in '25!

## 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.

## Spring into Health

April brought the launch of DYCD's Spring into Health. In addition to dozens of events citywide, the internal kickoff highlighted the importance of a healthy body, life, and mind, with activities including a hydration station, 15-minute relaxation sessions, and a live cooking demo.

## Strategic Priorities

DYCD's 2025 Strategic Priorities support the agency's mission and comprise four program priorities (Youth Services, Youth Workforce Development, Community Development, and Public Safety), reflecting the agency's major program categories, and ten operational priorities. The 14 Strategic Priorities included 53 goals, as well as milestones that when completed, demonstrate the fulfillment of the goals and priorities.

## Step it Up

This year saw one of our biggest and best Step it Up finales at our new location: United Palace in Washington Heights. The top three teams were: Leaders by Example (LBX), Center of Attention, and Elite Impact; the Social Impact Award went to Coalition for the Arts.



# DYCD and NYC Thrive in '25!

## Subway Safety

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA), along with NYC Public Schools (NYCPS), DYCD, and Queens native, professional BMX rider, entrepreneur and philanthropist Nigel Sylvester announced a new multi-faceted campaign to fight subway surfing.



## Summer of Safety

Again, this summer, 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.



## Swimming in Success

Nearly 100 NYCHA Swim Safety Corps participants from SYEP received 150 hours of training in swimming, water rescue, and CPR/AED certification this year. 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.



## Teaching Forward Fellowship

State University of New York (SUNY) announced the expansion of its Higher Education in Prison Program through a new post-release fellowship, the Teaching Forward Fellowship Program. It offers individuals with lived experience of incarceration paid opportunities to gain professional experience and develop essential skills for long-term career success. During the fall 2025 semester, SUNY's Office of Higher Education in Prison (OHEP) partnered with DYCD and Teach For America New York to provide nine formerly incarcerated individuals with associate degrees paid opportunities with select host sites to build skills, experience, and confidence for long-term success in the workforce.





# DYCD and NYC Thrive in '25!

## 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.

## We Hear You

- For the 2025 Community Needs Assessment (CNA), DYCD is collecting responses through January 2026. This is an opportunity for New Yorkers to share the programs and services most needed in their communities.
- Our agency's 14-day response rate to written correspondence from New Yorkers is 100%.
- DYCD hosted 40 focus groups and collected 19,440 surveys from youth.
- DYCD attended more than 30 community town halls with Mayor Adams.
- We hosted 185 community tabling events that promoted DYCD services and programs.

## We're on the Air!

DYCD's very first podcast, DYCD Next Gen, was launched in December 2024 to amplify youth voices and promote agency programs and services.

# DYCD Next Gen Podcast

Hosted by Ryan Cooks, DYCD Next Gen gives New York City youth a voice in the issues most important to them, their families, and communities. Each month, young people discuss everything from mental health and education to politics and the latest trends.

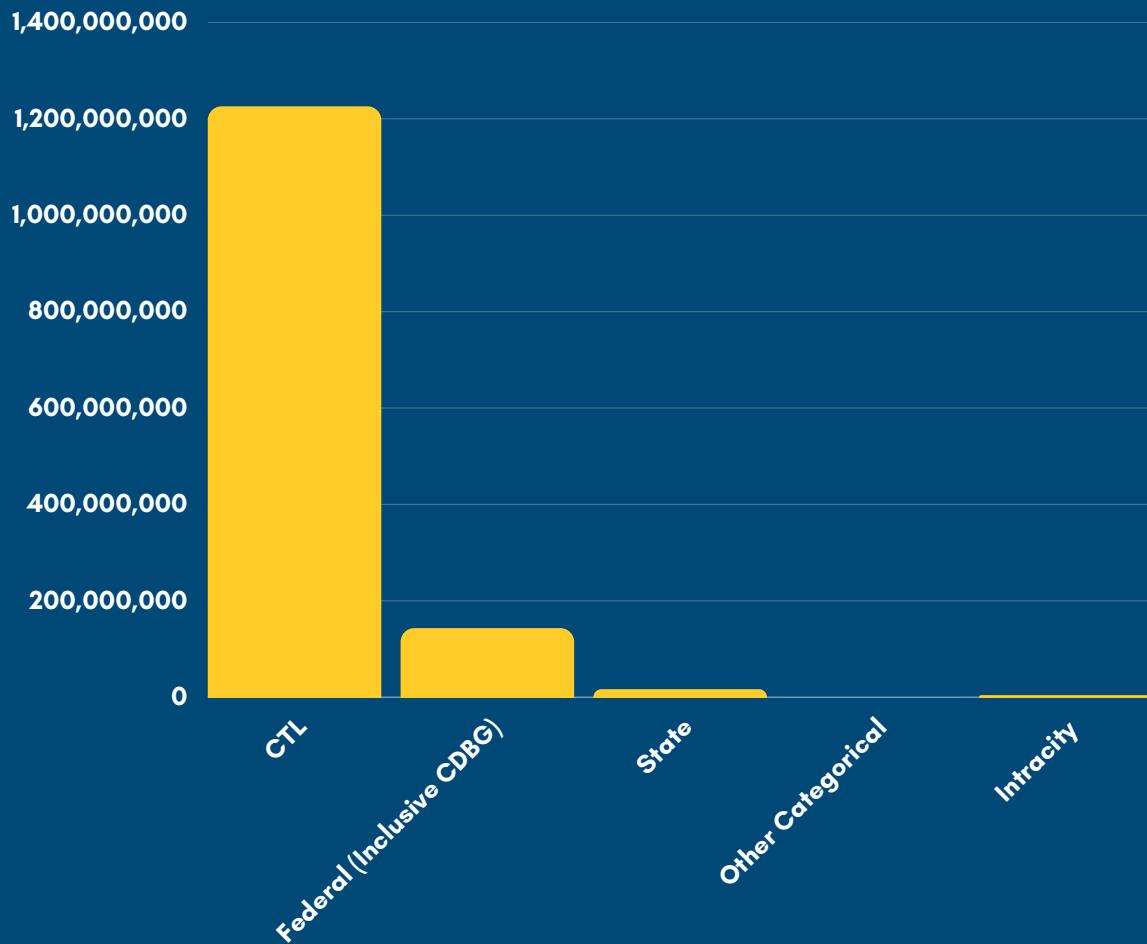


**@DYCD Next Gen**



**@DYCDNYC**

# DYCD Fiscal Year 2025 Financials



Category	Budget (\$ millions)
CTL	\$ 1,225,953,351
Federal (Inclusive CDBG)	\$ 143,369,170
State	\$ 16,636,271
Other Categorical	\$ 30,000
Intracity	\$ 4,315,882
<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>\$ 1,390,304,674</b>

