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Message from Commissioner Bill Chong



Dear Friends:

As a lifelong New Yorker who has dedicated most of my professional life to building the capacity of community-based organizations to serve young people, the elderly and vulnerable populations, I can think of no higher honor than to serve as Commissioner of the Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD).

Mayor de Blasio has outlined an ambitious agenda that includes expanding programming to tens of thousands of middle schoolers, providing immigrant services, enhancing job-related education and Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) in public schools, focusing on economic development, and preparing our future workforce. DYCD is uniquely positioned to play an important role in implementing these and other goals in the Mayor's vision of a thriving and more equitable New York City.

I have seen firsthand the powerful role of community-based organizations, and one of my priorities is ensuring they receive the resources and support needed to continue rebuilding our City "from the neighborhoods up." We also engage residents and partners throughout the five boroughs to build on our strengths and identify ways to better serve New York's diverse communities.

I invite you to browse the DYCD [website](#) to learn more about our agency's mission, programs and resources. Please feel free to [contact us](#) if you have a question, comment or concern.

Sincerely,

Bill Chong



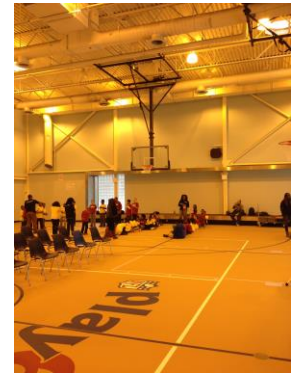
SPOTLIGHT NEWS

****DYCD Opens 45 New NYCHA Community Centers**

January marked the opening of 45 additional New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) Cornerstone programs funded by DYCD, joining the 25 already in place in all five boroughs. The expansion of community and senior center programming for residents in NYCHA housing was done in partnership with NYCHA and the NYC Department for the Aging (DFTA).

****DYCD Joins Hammel Community Center Gymnasium Re-opening**

On January 28, DYCD Assistant Commissioner Darryl Rattray and our Action Center Cornerstone program joined the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA), the NY/NJ Snowflake Youth Foundation, the NFL Super Bowl Host Committee, elected officials and community leaders to celebrate renovations to the Hammel Community Center Gymnasium in Rockaway Beach. Superstorm Sandy caused significant damage to the Center, rendering the gym unusable and closing it off to NYCHA residents and the local community. The completed repairs, which include new flooring, scoreboard, walls and basketball hoops, were funded through the Snowflake Foundation, the Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City and the Super Bowl Host Committee.



****DYCD Represents at Youth Action Day**

On January 28, Commissioner Chong traveled to Albany to participate in the Youth Action Day. Over 300 youth representing community-based organizations from across the city attended a rally and later lobbied legislators calling for an additional \$7.5 million in state support for the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) to ensure 3,700 slots are not lost due to the increase in the minimum wage.



UPCOMING EVENTS

February 20 – Black History Month: George Washington Carver Workshop

In honor of Black History Month, the Queens Botanical Garden is hosting a workshop on Dr. George Washington Carver and his contributions to the world of botany. Carver was known as “the Wizard of Tuskegee” for his groundbreaking research into cultivation and alternative uses of crops. The workshop invites you to learn how plants played an important role in Carver’s life as well as the opportunity to paint with plants, and plant a peanut to take home for further observation. Thursday, February 20. From 1:30pm to 3:00pm. Cost of admission is \$6 per child (advance registration and payment required). 43-50 Main St. at Dahlia Ave, Queens. 718-886-3800.

www.queensbotanical.org/programs/events

February 22–23 – BAMkids Film Festival 2014

Celebrate the 16th anniversary of this Brooklyn favorite with an all-star showcase of features, shorts, live performances, filmmaker Q&As and more. This year’s lineup offers more than 70 movies from across the globe, including world, US, and New York premieres. Tickets sell out early, so be sure to buy in advance!

<http://www.bam.org/kids/2014/bam-kids-film-festival>

Now Until February 23 – Tropical Discoveries and Wintertime Wonders

Go on a warm weather adventure inside the New York Botanical Garden's conservatory in search of plants that thrive in high temperatures. Over at the Everett Children's Adventure Garden, guests can discover fruits and leaves from different countries before potting a plant or two to tote home. Tue–Sun, 10:00am–6:00pm. All ages. New York Botanical Garden, Bronx River Pkwy., Bronx. Saturdays 9:00am–10:00am FREE. <http://nybg.org>

Now Until February 23 – New York Transit Museum's Holiday Train Show

Kids will feel positively “giant” while wandering around the 34-foot-long display, festooned with miniature versions of city landmarks such as the Brooklyn Bridge and the Empire State Building. New York Transit Museum Gallery Annex, Grand Central Terminal, E 42nd St, Manhattan. Mon–Fri 8:00am–8:00pm; Sat, Sun 10:00am–6:00pm FREE. <http://mta.info/mta/museum/index.html>

Now Until March 2 – Ice Skating at the South Street Seaport

This 110-by-45-foot ice skating rink at the intersection of Fulton and Front Streets joins the markets that debuted at South Street Seaport over the summer. Drop-in basic skills classes will be held Saturdays and Sundays from 9am–9:45am. Hours: Mon–Thurs: 11:00am–9:00pm; Fri–Sat: 10:00am–10:00pm; Sunday: 10:00am–9:00pm. General Admission \$10, children 5 and under receive FREE admission; Skate Rental \$6; Residents living in 10038 and 10005 zip codes, with valid ID, receive 50% off admission, skate rentals and helmet rentals.

<http://seechangenyc.com/ice-rink/>

February 24–March 2 – Kids Night on Broadway

Two-for-one Broadway ticket deals, especially great for families. Buy one full price adult ticket to a kid friendly show and get a FREE child's seat (ages 6-18) for performances between February 24 and March 2. Check website for more details. <http://kidsnightonbroadway.com/>

March 1–March 2 – Meet Superstar Chefs at Kids Food Festival

During this two-day celebration of healthy eating, families mingle with chefs and culinary icons, plus check out demos, classes for kids, samples, live entertainment and a Balanced Plate Scavenger Hunt. While this spring's lineup is still *to be announced* (TBA), last year, families had the chance to meet Chef Cricket Azima and learned to make tasty, nutritious (and pretty) fruit and yogurt treats, then went through “Veggiecation,” in which they studied the artful process of creating a Crazy, Crunchy, Cool Cucumber Salad. Performances are also in the mix; last year's included Songs for Seeds, Yumiloo & The Rainbow Machine, Super Sprowtz and The Dirty Sock Funtime Band. Bank of America Winter Village at Bryant Park, Sixth Ave. (between 40th and 42nd Streets), Manhattan. All ages. For tickets, visit www.kidsfoodfestival.com

Ongoing –The Staten Island Children's Museum

Interactive exhibitions and creative workshops offer plenty of opportunities for hands-on, first hand experiences that nurture children's natural curiosity and creativity. Visits to the museum launch children on a voyage of discovery — about themselves and the world around them. Tues–Sun 10:00am–5:00pm. \$6 <http://www.statenislandkids.org/>



FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Youth Service Improvement Grants (YSIG)

Grants are awarded in the spring and the fall. Awards are \$25,000. Applicants must: have 501(c)(3) tax-exemption, be a community-based organization, serve youth ages 5 to 25 years, serve youth directly (staff must have direct contact with youth at the point-of-service); and have an operating budget between \$250,000 and \$5.0 million. Deadline for applications is March 12, 2014 at 3:00pm Eastern time.

http://www.wtgrantfdn.org/funding_opportunities/service-improvement-grants/youth_service_improvementOur

ING Unsung Heroes Awards Program

For more than 15 years, and with nearly \$4 million in awarded grants, ING Unsung Heroes has proven to be an A+ program with educators. Each year, 100 educators are selected to receive \$2,000 to help fund their innovative

class projects. Three of those are chosen to receive the top awards of an additional \$5,000, \$10,000 and \$25,000. Applicants must be: Employed by an accredited K-12 public or private school located in the United States; Full-time educators, teachers, principals, paraprofessionals, or classified staff with effective projects that improve student learning. Apply by April 30, 2014. <https://unsungheroes.scholarshipamerica.org/>

World We Want Foundation is accepting applications from organizations that represent youth making positive social change in their communities and around the world. Eligible partner organizations must be recognized as tax exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, must have a project team of one or more youths, a partner organization that supports and sponsors the team, and a project mentor to guide and advise the team. Grants of up to \$5,000 will be awarded to youth between the ages of 13 and 25 who want to make a difference through a range of social action activities, including community service projects, service-learning projects, and social ventures. There is a rolling deadline. To obtain additional information and an application, go to <http://www.theworldwewantfoundation.org/start-your-project>

The Toshiba America Foundation is accepting applications from K-5 grade school teachers with innovative science or math projects. The Foundation awards grants of up to \$1,000 to K-5 teachers in public or private nonprofit schools in support of hands-on science or math education projects. Grant funds may be used for project-related materials only. The foundation strongly encourages projects planned and led by individual teachers or teams of teachers for their own classrooms. Summer projects or afterschool programs will not be considered, nor will salaries, facility maintenance, textbooks, video production, audio-visual equipment, and education research be funded. Applications are due October 1; complete application and eligibility guidelines and information about past recipients are available at the Toshiba America Foundation Web site. For more information, go to http://www.toshiba.com/taf/k5_teachers.jsp

GTECH's After School Advantage Program provides nonprofit community agencies and public schools with up to \$15,000 in computers, online technology, computer software, and volunteer hours to afterschool programs in inner-city communities. Applicants must be a nonprofit organization, community agency, or school with 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status; have an existing afterschool program in need of a computer lab; serve disadvantaged youth between the ages of 5 and 15; and have staffing and monetary support systems in place to sustain the lab. The application date is rolling. For more information, go to <http://www.expandedschools.org/funding-opportunities/gtech-afterschool-advantage-program#sthash.C5LkCeh5.dpbs>

FOR COMMUNITIES

J.M. Kaplan Fund

The Fund's Migration program supports a variety of efforts to integrate the 40 million foreign born individuals who call the United States home so they can thrive and contribute fully to the country's civic, cultural and economic life. The Fund normally makes grants to organizations in the United States, which have tax-exempt status. Due to its narrow funding focus, the Fund makes grants by invitation only. After familiarizing yourself with the Fund's program areas and guidelines, if you feel that your project falls within this focus, you may submit a brief letter of inquiry. <http://www.jmkfund.org/guidelines-and-inquiries>

Champion Creatively Alive Children Creative Leadership Grants 2014

Apply today for a grant to fund an innovative, creative leadership team within your elementary school's professional development program. Proposals will be accepted through June 23, 2014. See more at: <http://www.arteducators.org/grants/additional-grant-tips-scholarships#sthash.aTy4Q1NW.dpuf> or <http://www.naesp.org/champion-creatively-alive-children-0>

General Mills Champions for Healthy Kids Program

Through the Champions for Healthy Kids Program, the General Mills Foundation will award 50 grants of \$10,000 to nonprofits working to improve nutrition and physical fitness for youth. Deadline is March 14, 2014. For more information, visit http://www.generalmills.com/en/Responsibility/Community_Engagement/Grants/Champions_for_healthy_kids.aspx

The New York Community Trust makes grants primarily to nonprofit organizations located in the five boroughs of New York City, with funding in four broad areas: Children, Youth, and Families; Community Development and the Environment; Education, Arts, and Human Justice; and Health and People with Special Needs. They are committed

to sticking with significant issues that don't lend themselves to quick or easy solutions, and look for projects that take fresh approaches to long-standing issues and that tackle emerging problems and opportunities.

Deadline June 13, 2014 for decision on or before December 31, 2014.

<http://www.nycommunitytrust.org/GrantSeekers/GrantmakingGuidelines/tabid/203/Default.aspx>

The Mathematics and Science Partnerships (MSP) program is a competitive grant program intended to increase academic achievement of students in mathematics and science by supporting and enhancing the content knowledge and instructional practices for teachers of mathematics and science. Applications must be postmarked by: March 7, 2014. <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/funding/currentapps.html#msp>

MINI-GRANTS

The **Kids In Need Foundation**, a national nonprofit organization dedicated to providing free school supplies to economically disadvantaged school children and underfunded teachers, is accepting applications from K-12 teachers for grants to support classroom projects. Grants of up to \$500 will be awarded to educators for projects that strengthen creativity, critical thinking skills, and/or core knowledge by engaging students in the learning process. Grant awards are based on the creativity of the projects being proposed. Typically, 300 to 600 grants are awarded each year. All certified K-12 teachers in the United States are eligible. Grant applications are available online each year from July 15 until September 30. <http://www.kinf.org/grants/index.php>

Lego Children's Fund

The LEGO Children's Fund will provide quarterly grants for programs, either in part or in total, with a special interest paid to collaborative efforts and to providing matching funds that leverage new dollars into the receiving organization. The foundation awards grants to organizations, including educational organizations with specific, identifiable needs primarily in these areas of support: early childhood education and development; technology and communication projects that advance learning opportunities; and sport or athletic programs that concentrate on under-served youth. More information can be found at <http://www.legochildrensfund.org/Guidelines.html>

Grow to Learn Mini-Grant

Receive up to \$2,000 for your school garden! When you register your school garden with Grow to Learn you become eligible to receive materials and expert assistance from GreenThumb, and can also apply for a Grow to Learn Mini-Grant of between \$500 and \$2,000 to start or expand your school garden. Please submit your application by March 5, 2014. http://growtolearn.org/view/mini_grant



GOVERNMENT RESOURCES

NEW YORK CITY

Apply Online For School Meals. ACCESS NYC offers the online application for School Meals. You can now apply online for the school meals program. It is simple, secure, and convenient. Additionally, you can submit one School Meals application for all your children even if they attend different schools.

<https://www.applyforlunch.com/Application>

CUNY and the **NYC Department of Education (DOE)** have collaborated to create the NYC College Line, an Internet directory of NYC-based college access and support programs that help New Yorkers prepare for, get into, and complete college. Whether you are a high school student seeking tips and tools to guide your college search, a college student on the hunt for internships, a caregiver looking to help a student, or an advising professional looking for upcoming workshops in your area, NYC College Line is designed to help parents, students, and student advisors alike access the right resources quickly. For more information, go to <http://nyccollegeline.org/>

NEW YORK STATE

Resources for Working Families. New York State agencies and departments have many resources available to help working families make ends meet. Visit <http://otda.ny.gov/workingfamilies/> for a complete list.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Centers for Disease Control Immunization Schedules for Infants and Children

In easy-to-read formats, check the schedule for the age or age range when each vaccine or series of shots is recommended. Or create a personalized schedule that shows the recommended dates for your child.

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/easy-to-read/child.html>

U.S. Department of Education Discretionary Grant Competitions

List of currently open grant competitions, topics range from Special Education to Charter School Enhancement

<http://www.ed.gov/grantapps>

The **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services** and other federal agencies provide grants, benefit programs for individuals and families, loans, and contracting opportunities. To find and apply for a grant, visit

<http://www.hhs.gov/grants/>

Special Notice to Federal Grant Seekers: All Federal grant seekers must register their organization in the new System for Acquisition Management (SAM), which has replaced the Central Contractor Registry (CCR). If you are looking to apply for a Federal grant, double check your organization's record in SAM at <https://www.sam.gov/portal/public/SAM> to confirm that all of its information was correctly migrated into the new system. To register in SAM, you will need to have your organization's Dun & Bradstreet (DUNS) number. If you already have a DUNS number, the full registration process in SAM can take 3-5 days. If you don't have a DUNS number, you can obtain one at <http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform>. Assistance with the SAM system is available via the Federal Service Desk at www.fsd.gov or via phone at 866-606-8220 (toll free) or 334-206-7828 (internationally).



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

The [National Girls Collaborative Project](#) works to strengthen the capacity of girl-serving STEM programs to effectively reach and serve underrepresented girls in STEM. To assist programs to reach girls with disabilities, the NGCP website now includes a [comprehensive listing of disability resources](#) including: links to publications, resources, and organizations focused on including, advocating for and serving youth with disabilities. This resource is organized into three groups: K-12 Education, Higher Education, and Career Information.



OPPORTUNITIES FOR SCHOLARSHIPS, INTERNSHIPS, AND AWARDS

NYS Higher Education Services Corporation (HESC)

Every year, hundreds of thousands of students benefit from financial programs administered by HESC.

Grants, scholarships and awards come from several sources, including the college, New York State and the Federal government. Other sources include funding from corporations, unions, trust funds, religious and fraternal organizations, and other associations.

http://www.hesc.ny.gov/content.nsf/SFC/Grants_Scholarships_and_Awards

The 2014 New York Life Excellence Award

Your program could win \$10,000 from Excellence Award sponsor New York Life Foundation! The New York Life Excellence in Summer Learning Award recognizes outstanding summer programs that demonstrate excellence in accelerating academic achievement and promoting healthy development for young people between kindergarten and twelfth grade. Applicants are reviewed by NSLA staff in addition to peer organizations in the field. Site visits are conducted to a select group of finalists to observe program activities before announcing the awards. Up to three winning programs will be awarded \$10,000 from sponsor, New York Life Foundation.

http://www.summerlearning.org/?page=excellence_summer