

Mayoral Response to Recommendations from the Commission on Community Reinvestment and the Closure of Rikers Island



NYC

Mayoral Response: Commission on Community Reinvestment and the Closure of Rikers Island

December 2025 | Updates

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Context

Established by Local Law 193¹, the Commission on Community Reinvestment and the Closure of Rikers Island (the “Commission”) is committed to the process of equitable reinvestment of savings from the closure of Rikers for justice-involved and justice-impacted communities. The local law empowers the Commission to operate until March 31, 2027, engage stakeholders for public input, and issue periodic reinvestment recommendations and findings to which the Mayor is required to respond.

As outlined in Local Law 193, the Commission is composed of the following members:

- Commissioner of the Department of Social Services (DSS) or their designee, who shall serve as Chair
- Commissioner of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) or their designee
- Commissioner of the Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) or their designee
- Commissioner of the Department of Probation (DOP) or their designee
- Comptroller or their designee
- Representative from New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation (H+H)
- Representative from the New York City Office of the Public Advocate
- Representative from the Office of Criminal Justice (MOCJ)
- One (1) member appointed by the Speaker of the Council, specializing in justice reinvestment

¹ The New York City Council - File #: Int 1759-2019

- Two (2) members appointed by the Mayor who represent community-based organizations focused on serving the needs of neighborhoods historically impacted by mass incarceration, such as Brownsville, the South Bronx, East New York, Harlem, and Bedford-Stuyvesant
- Four (4) members appointed by the Speaker of the Council who have been formerly incarcerated or directly impacted by incarceration
- Seven (7) members appointed by the Mayor who have been formerly incarcerated or directly impacted by incarceration

The closure of Rikers Island, followed by the establishment of borough-based jails as an alternative, stems from three basic principles shaped by communities of New York City:

- Resizing the carceral system to accommodate fewer people.
- Modernizing and co-creating well-designed facilities that are safe and growth-focused.
- Shifting cultural norms inside jails whilst fostering community connections and accessibility to services.

DSS and the Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD), Gun Violence Prevention Taskforce, support the work of the Commission.

Key Driving Forces

The Commission acknowledges that not all stakeholders agree on the root causes of crime. However, its recommendations focus on five overarching drivers, alongside core values of equity, community investment, and justice system reform. These drivers are:

- Policing
 - Identifying alternatives to arrest and reducing the negative impacts of youth probation.
- Criminalization
 - Decriminalizing behaviors that can be better addressed outside the criminal justice system.
- Systemic Racism
 - Analyzing how inequities across education, policing, health care, housing, and employment contribute significantly to mass incarceration.
- Poverty
 - Increasing access to work and living wage income, housing, health services, and education to greatly reduce mass incarceration and reincarceration rates.

- Mental Health/Substance Use Disorders
 - Ensuring access to necessary health services that address addiction and behavioral health.

The following pages are updates to the Commission’s 2019 recommendations and reflect the Adams Administration’s investments in targeted programs for communities disproportionately impacted by the criminal justice system.

Response to Employment and Entrepreneurship Recommendations

1. Removal of all legal barriers that will prohibit individuals with convictions from getting professional licenses and/or obtaining employment.

- New York State’s Clean Slate Act took effect on November 16, 2024. The law provides the Unified Court System with up to three years from that date (until November 16, 2027) to establish the required processes for automatically sealing eligible conviction records. Once that work is complete, eligible convictions will be sealed for certain civil background check purposes. The law allows individuals or their lawyers to request a review of their convictions if eligible convictions are not sealed.
- DSS and the Department of Corrections (DOC) announced a new pilot, the IDNYC enrollment initiative, designed to ease the reintegration of people exiting DOC’s care back into the community. The Human Resources Administration (HRA), which is part of DSS, and DOC will help individuals enroll in IDNYC, the nation’s largest and most successful municipal ID program. IDNYC is a critical reentry and discharge-planning tool that helps individuals leaving Rikers quickly reestablish their identity, access essential benefits, and stabilize in the community.

2. Investing in multi-generational education/training centers and initiatives in the communities most impacted by incarceration; centers and initiatives must focus on stable career pathways.

- DYCD focused recruitment and access to the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) and its year-round programming in communities most impacted by incarceration and community violence. DYCD partners with the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) and the Office of Neighborhood Safety to recruit youth in priority districts. In the summer of 2025, DYCD served 15,000 youth who reside in NYCHA, over 20,000 youth who reside in six priority precincts, and over 12,000 youth who have barriers to employment, including those who are justice-involved, experiencing homelessness, and/or receiving services from the Administration for Children’s Services (ACS).

- Work, Learn, Grow (WLG), DYCD’s school-year program, similarly prioritizes participants who reside in NYCHA or priority districts, or who have barriers to employment. Opportunities have also been expanded for youth who are not attending public school beyond WLG. The Anti-Gun Violence (AGV) Employment Program and the Cure Violence Employment Programs have expanded to provide year-round services. Last school year, over 1,000 youth participated in these programs, regardless of their educational status.
- Through the Mayor’s Office of Criminal Justice (MOCJ), the City invested \$500,000 in the “We Outside Summer” Flip the Script filmmaking apprenticeship serving young people ages 18-24 in Brownsville. The four-month paid program provides mentorship to help participants make their own short film, which could be screened at events like the Tribeca Film Festival.

3. Invest in entrepreneurship programs and small businesses, including nontraditional industries.

- In collaboration with MOCJ, the Department of Small Business Services (SBS) launched Cannabis Reentry Employment Assistance and Training Experience (CREATE) in 2024. CREATE is a 6-week, paid training program that identifies individuals who have justice system involvement in the past three years and provides them with opportunities for training and employment within NYC's cannabis market.
- Through SBS, Small Business Forward is an interagency effort to review and reform existing business regulations. The 2022 effort included the Department of Buildings (DOB), Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), NYC Department of Sanitation (DSNY), Fire Department of New York (FDNY), Department of Consumer and Worker Protection (DCWP), and the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH). The 2025 effort builds on the successes of 2022 with an additional focus on process improvements.
- DYCD is looking to launch a “Be A Boss” program, leveraging existing contracts to support prospective entrepreneurs and small- and micro-business owners, who would in part target persons at risk of causing harm or otherwise justice-involved for support to start their own businesses

4. Ensure people who are detained/incarcerated have access to fair labor wages and benefits

- The City Council has introduced two resolutions addressing minimum wages in NYS prisons- Resolutions 336 and 276 of 2024.

5. Invest much more significantly in vocational and hard-skills training, and GED and college programs, for individuals who are detained/incarcerated.

- MOCJ launched Next Mile NYC, a virtual Commercial Driver License (CDL) training and workforce development program. MOCJ and DOC are working toward providing this program to individuals in custody.
- DOC and NYC Public Schools' East River Academy, located on Rikers Island, celebrated the graduation of 63 people in custody in June 2025. This is the largest class of people to earn their high school diploma or equivalency (GED) since 2014.
- DOC's Educational Services Unit played a pivotal role in expanding access to learning opportunities on Rikers Island. Key advancements this year include:
 - Expansion of classroom space on the Robert N. Davoren Center's (RNDC) main school floor²
 - Re-establishment of the "old" Annex school at RNDC
 - Development of systems to minimize instructional disruptions
 - Continued advocacy for faster access to the computer-based GED
 - A new Learning Lab Captain at RNDC

Response to Health Recommendations

1. Strategically reinvest city, state, and federal dollars.

- DOHMH investments via Opioid Settlement Funds include supporting wraparound services for syringe service programs, including on-site medical care, connection to services, and support for basic needs. These investments also include an expansion of DOHMH's non-fatal overdose response program, Relay, to more hospitals across the City, as well as funding substance use treatment providers to increase low-threshold access to buprenorphine and methadone.
- Thirteen Clubhouses are open citywide and are enrolling adults living with serious mental illness. Clubhouses help people develop mutual support networks and build skills for employment and recovery.
- Invested funds continue CONNECT clinics, which enhance licensed mental health clinics to offer more walk-in services, robust community engagement, and a more flexible and holistic approach to mental health care.

² RNDC is on Rikers Island.

- MOCJ continues to fund services citywide, with reentry services embedded in communities with more people leaving jail or prison.

2. Enhance the existing network of health care and facilitative services to connect and keep connected to health care, marginalized residents in disproportionately burdened neighborhoods of the City to prevent avoidable involvement with the criminal-legal, shelter and emergency systems. We recommend a requirement for community systems to be more responsive to patient needs and focused on health outcomes.

- DOHMH's Family & Child Health Division has incorporated Trauma-Informed approaches when implementing evidence-based sex education programs in schools, after-school programs, and in residential care facilities for youth aged 11-20.
- DOHMH's Health Justice Network (HJN) utilizes trained Community Health Worker Navigators with lived experience to develop personalized plans for justice-impacted persons throughout their reintegration process. HJN can assist participants with health insurance activation, connection to mental healthcare and substance use supports, legal support, employment and education services, and housing support services.
- DOHMH continues to fund and oversee Forensic Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) teams to provide outpatient mental health treatment to people with Severe Mental Illness (SMI) and Criminal Legal System (CLS) involvement. Our 2023 Intensive Mobile Treatment expansion resulted in five new teams that are now operating. DOHMH's Support and Connection Center in East Harlem offers short-term clinical and non-clinical services to people with mental health and substance use needs, and promotes community-based and person-centered engagement, stabilization, and connection to services.
- NYC Talent operates a healthcare Industry Partnership, the New York Alliance for Careers in Healthcare (NYACH), which connects healthcare employers, organized labor, educators, policymakers, and professional advocacy groups to strengthen and support New York City's 850,000-person healthcare workforce. NYACH and City partners manage a portfolio of aligned nursing pipeline supports, which aims to strengthen this essential workforce that serves as the backbone of healthcare providers of all varieties—hospitals, community clinics, long-term care facilities, and more— and in every community, which is also a career that provides a proven pathway to the middle class for thousands of New Yorkers each year.
- DYCD is exploring the possibility of using the 1115 Medicaid Waiver to pay for Crisis Management System (CMS) and Community Development (CD) programs, focusing on prevention, late-stage intervention to keep people out of jail and the hospital.

3. Invest in youth-focused prevention and alternatives to incarceration and detention.

- DOHMH's Center for Health Equity and Community Wellness supports the increase in crisis prevention capacity in Cure Violence organizations. The Strong Messenger Project supports Cure Violence organizations and is coordinating with DYCD to continue expanding services.
- Mayor Adams made a historic \$331 million investment in K-8 afterschool services, including 20,000 additional elementary school seats to roll out through FY27.
- The City invested in the second year of Summer Safety Plan services, expanding services to engage youth in evenings and on weekends at select sites throughout the City.
- The City invested in 137 Saturday Night Light (SNL) programs across all five boroughs, successfully serving over 8,000 middle school and high school participants.

4. Invest in Street Outreach, Service Referral, and Crisis De-escalation by engaging with persons who are experiencing street homelessness and connecting them to services that minimize interactions and touchpoints with the CLS, ultimately preventing (re-) incarceration.

- Behavioral Health Emergency Assistance Response Division (B-HEARD) continues to evolve as a nationally recognized model for improving crisis response. In FY25, B-HEARD refined its approach to maximize impact by switching from using police precincts as geographic boundaries within the existing pilot area to flexible boundaries better aligned with how Emergency Medical Services (EMS) units are dispatched. This program modification allows existing teams to be more adaptable in their ability to respond to nearby calls outside of a precinct boundary once they have completed a call, which will increase their ability to respond to more calls. Further enhancements to the program design are planned in Fiscal Year (FY) 2026.
- Through End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence (ENDGBV), the City has expanded the investment in gender-based violence programming, including:
 - Establishing Respect First to neighborhoods most impacted by Domestic Violence/Gender-based Violence (DV/GBV). Respect First is a free, restorative justice program for youth aged 13-21 who have harmed others or been in unhealthy relationships.
 - Expanding Home+ to include flexible funding for Survivors to meet their needs. Home+ is a free city-wide program that helps survivors stay safely

in their homes by providing pendant alarm systems to call for help, lock change and repair services for doors and windows, grants to help cover expenses to maintain or secure housing, housing-related case management, and safety planning. All Home+ participants are connected to additional support services, like case management and safety planning, through contracted community-based organizations.

- Expansion of DV matrimonial services via the launching of a pilot to provide legal representation for Survivors in divorce proceedings
 - Expansion of NYC's 24-hour Hope Hotline to now include a chat feature, to increase accessibility
 - Expansion of supports for criminalized survivors in our Court Programs
- Through the Department of Homeless Services (DHS), the City has:
- Opened nearly 1,600 new Safe Haven and stabilization beds during this administration, bringing the overall capacity to 4,000 low-barrier beds.
 - Announced an additional investment of \$600 million for 900 new Safe Haven beds and 100 dedicated beds as part of NYC Health + Hospitals 'Bridge to Home' program, which strengthens pathways to housing for New Yorkers with severe mental illness discharged from in-patient psychiatric care. Nearly a third of the beds are already available, with the rest in the pipeline and anticipated to open in 2026.
 - Launched in August 2024, the Partnership Assistance for Transit Homelessness (PATH) program teams have made over 20,000 engagements with unhoused New Yorkers living in the subway system, delivering critical services – including shelter, meals, medical care, and mental health support – more than 6,100 times. As part of the City's growing use of "co-response" – a crisis response model which pairs clinical professionals with police to engage with members of the public in need of medical care and/or social services – participating police officers receive specialized training in crisis de-escalation and allow their clinical partners to take the lead once safety is assured. While co-response is not meant to replace traditional outreach conducted without police involvement, in certain situations, the presence of police officers affords clinicians a greater sense of personal safety, enabling more meaningful engagement with those in need. Co-response also greatly enhances the ability of a clinician to initiate transport to a hospital for evaluation in circumstances where an individual exhibits symptoms of mental illness, presenting a danger to themselves or others.
 - Deepened engagement with unsheltered individuals through the agency's Street Homeless Solutions Outreach Clinical Support. The team develops responsive initiatives that address the unique drivers of street homelessness in high-traffic areas—including substance use access, untreated serious mental illness, and income from panhandling or other

illegal activities—and strengthens pathways to care and stability through compassionate, sustained outreach.

- HRA released a new Request for a Proposal (RFP) in early 2025 for non-residential services that provides prevention, intervention, and safety planning services, and community-based support to DV survivors in the community. Nine contracts have been awarded and will start in FY26.

5. Invest in community health and wellness, social support and community systems.

- Through the Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD):
 - In FY25, HPD set a back-to-back record for producing the most housing for formerly homeless individuals and families on record – totaling 4,178 homeless units. This only eclipsed HPD’s FY24 record, which totaled 4,126 units.
 - In FY25, HPD also set a back-to-back-to-back record for homeless households connected to homes, totaling 4,593 individuals and families.
 - HPD’s Section 8 Homelessness Prevention program refers elderly and disabled participants at risk of losing their subsidy to three Community-based Organizations (CBOs) for extra help complying with program requirements. HPD’s Housing Retention and Stabilization team manages the qualification of service providers and approval and tracking of service plans intended to support the transition of homeless households exiting shelter into HPD-financed affordable housing (aka “Our Space” units).
- HRA supports the Commission’s recommendations through its ongoing work in the following areas:
 - HRA continues to promote submission of Medicaid applications and renewals via mail, online (via ACCESS HRA), or in person at a community-based Medicaid office. Interpretation services are available to applicants.
 - In June 2021, HRA, in collaboration with the New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS) and the National Executive Council (NEC) at Columbia University, launched a pilot program aimed at providing incarcerated individuals the opportunity to apply for public benefits prior to their release from select New York State correctional facilities. The pilot has since been expanded to allow incarcerated individuals to apply for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Cash Assistance (CA) benefits at 11 facilities prior to discharge to NYC.
 - On August 5, 2025, IDNYC launched a pilot enrollment site in partnership with the Department of Corrections at the Eric M. Taylor Center (EMTC) on Rikers Island. The pilot is open to persons in custody who were born in NYC and are at least 90 days from release.

- In March 2025, Domestic Violence Services (DVS) issued an open-ended RFP to replace 94 emergency shelter beds. HRA intends to award at least two contracts.
- The Mayor’s Office of Talent and Workforce Development (NYC Talent) operates Community Hiring, which enables the City to leverage its purchasing power to connect City vendors to talent and jobseekers to opportunities through Community Hiring. Authorized by State legislation that took effect in 2024, Community Hiring allows City agencies to set workforce goals in their procurement contracts, requiring vendors to provide employment and apprenticeship opportunities to low-income individuals and those living in low-income communities, including NYCHA housing. Community Hiring goals apply to applicable contracts for services in industries like construction, building services, tech, architecture, and human services. Jobseekers and vendors will be connected through a network of Referral Sources, including the City’s public workforce system, thereby increasing the number of employers utilizing resources such as SBS’s Workforce1 and HRA’s Business Link.
- MOCJ funds reentry and alternative to incarceration programs that provide wrap-around services for justice-involved people, such as a virtual CDL training and workforce development program, Next Mile NYC. MOCJ is working towards opening two new transitional housing sites, and is currently exploring options for housing that provides appropriate services for justice-involved people with behavioral and mental health histories.

6. Invest in community training and messaging.

- DOHMH's Center for Health Equity and Community Wellness builds capacity of community and faith-based organizations to provide health and social service referrals and resources, including linkages to primary care, mental and behavioral health, vaccines/vaccine-related care, food and employment resources, etc. DOHMH has offered a Community Mental Wellness and Resiliency (CMWR) curriculum to over 40 faith-based and 50 community-based organizations, amounting to 170 sessions reaching 2500+ New Yorkers. Launched in January 2024, CMWR is a three-hour workshop designed to strengthen community mental health and build individual and community mental resilience through lessons about recognizing mental health warning signs and risk factors, creating support strategies and management techniques, and connecting to local mental health resources. The department partners with communities, including faith leaders, who participate in and help to champion CMWR across sectors throughout the City.
- DOHMH's Center for Health Equity and Community Wellness has begun developing interpersonal skills training, including conflict de-escalation, for the

community health worker (CHW) workforce and will continue exploring additional training opportunities for community medical providers and other health professionals.

- DOHMH's Center for Health Equity and Community Wellness recently produced a media campaign encouraging community residents to utilize our Neighborhood Health Services, including educational sessions, peer support opportunities, and material needs. Linked [here](#).

Response to Housing and Homelessness Recommendations

1. The combination of federal, state and City rental assistance programs should be sufficiently funded to meet the need to cover all those experiencing homelessness in the City regardless of what system they are in and to prevent homelessness.

- MOCJ funds reentry services providers to support benefits enrollment for people leaving jail or prison.
- Rikers Pilot was implemented in coordination with DOC and DSS-HRA-DHS in August 2019. The program consisted of Rikers' workers connecting clients to Homebase, and providing them with Pathway Home and the City Fighting Homelessness and Eviction Prevention Supplement (CityFHEPS) vouchers once clients entered shelter.
- The Housing Choice Voucher program is facing significant budget shortfalls due to rising costs combined with sweeps of prior reserves. As a result, HPD stopped issuing new vouchers in April and put a hold on its Project-Based Voucher (PBV) RFP.
- The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) recently released a new Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for Continuum of Care (CoC) funding, rather than the automatic renewal process that has been done in years past. The competition criteria significantly disadvantage permanent supportive housing funding, and NYC as a jurisdiction, putting ongoing funding for up to 4,700 units at significant risk.

2. Increase funding and add to the supply of supportive housing instead of reallocating the existing 15,000 units, and playing one group of people in need in shelters against another coming out of correctional facilities. There is a need for increased access to housing opportunities for foster youth and seniors.

- In May 2025, DSS expanded eligibility for supportive housing, broadening the definition of chronic homelessness to include individuals with a history of two or more incarcerations or hospitalizations and 180 days of homelessness within the

last four years who otherwise would not qualify under HUD's chronic homelessness requirement.

- DOHMH's Justice Involved Supportive Housing (JISH) RFP for congregate or scattered site units remains open. Additional funding will be added to the RFP in FY26 to increase interest in this service expansion opportunity.
- The Administration will be investing \$339 million from FY25 through FY32 to create and preserve 5,850 supportive, congregate housing units. This is included in the Administration's record commitment of capital to affordable housing, which will total more than \$24 billion over the next 10 years.
- In addition, through HPD, the administration has:
 - Made excellent progress toward its 15/15 program goals, and continues to finance record amounts of supportive housing.
 - Both the PBV RFP and CoC grants have been instrumental in the financing of new supportive housing. With these two funding sources on hold and at risk, other means to fund supportive housing will need to be sought.
 - Over the past three Fiscal Years, HPD has financed more supportive housing than any other three-year period on record. In total, the Agency has financed more than 6,100 units of supportive housing over this time period.
 - In FY25 alone, HPD,
 1. Financed 1,962 units of supportive housing, which was only eclipsed by the agency's FY23 and FY24 housing production totals.
 2. Financed the fifth most senior housing on record for the City, totaling 1,904 units of housing dedicated for older New Yorkers.

3. Justice Involved Supportive Housing (JISH) service funding is too low and takes too long to receive.

- DOHMH added \$2M of additional City Council funding to current JISH contracts in FY25, and will do so in FY26 as well.

4. Increase efforts to support Moving On initiatives.

- The Moving On contract is nearing registration by the end of this year. Moving On seeks to educate supportive housing providers on a model for identifying and supporting tenants who are ready to transition into affordable housing without needing the same level of onsite supports, thus freeing up space for those who need it most. Tenants will receive CityFHEPS subsidy.

5. Increase the Empire State Supportive Housing Initiative (ESSHI) Services & Operating Funding. High property costs in New York City and metropolitan areas are straining providers' service budgets.

- ESSHI is a State-funded and operated program.

Response to Youth Recommendations

1. Invest in Healthy Start initiatives

- ACS refers expectant parents who are under 26 weeks pregnant to DOHMH's Nurse-Family Partnership Program. Families can be referred during their prenatal period up to the child turning 24 months under the child welfare protocol. Homemaking Services can be explored through preventive services.
- ACS has also developed several key resources to support direct service providers of pregnant and birthing people throughout the perinatal period, which includes the first year of parenthood. These include an informational video on Perinatal Moods and Anxiety Disorders (PMADS), a maternal mental health fact sheet, and a Medicaid treatment and resource list for families, frontline staff, and provider agencies. In addition, ACS released a comprehensive guidebook on maternal mental health. For PMADS referrals, an encrypted email containing the referral form should be sent to gfc-referrals@healthsolutions.org.
- ACS provides child care assistance to families that are in child welfare services as well as to low-income families. This assistance helps families afford child care with a provider of their choice in different settings across the City. Particularly, ACS is focused on supporting continuity for very low-income families, families that are unhoused, and children with special needs. Eligibility is funding-dependent.
- ACS also utilizes Healthy Families NYC. The Clinical Consultation Team (CCT) supports the Division of Child Protection (DCP) in assessing families' clinical needs in the first year of life. The Family Permanency Services (FPS) division continues to partner with the DOHMH Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) Harlem Division. FPS meets quarterly with NFP to troubleshoot referrals and/or issues that may arise with the expectant and parenting youth in the care and custody of the ACS Commissioner. Additionally, parenting youth are also connected to Healthy Families and preventive services such as Attachment Biobehavioral Catch-up.
- New York City Public Schools (NYCPS) offers free or low-cost programs for children from birth through age five, available across all five boroughs and

designed to support learning, development, and family. Eligibility varies by program.

2. Equitable investment in systems (education, health, and employment).

- Mayor Adams made a historic \$331 million investment in the City's K-8 after-school services, including 20,000 additional elementary school seats to roll out through FY27, and established an Afterschool for All Commission to explore a pathway to universal programming.
- DYCD is creating meaningful access to quality education at all levels by involving Credible Messenger Mentors schools through the Youth Enrichment Services (YES) initiative. YES engages school-aged youth ages 11 to 21 in programming and supportive services that change the culture around violence and encourage positive youth development. YES is delivered in and around schools in neighborhoods with a high prevalence of community violence. DYCD uses data from NYCPS and the New York City Police Department (NYPD) to ensure CBOs are partnered with schools with the greatest need. YES staff actively recruit and engage youth who are vulnerable to system involvement and may be at risk for interpersonal violence or who have experienced community violence. In FY25, DYCD is enhancing the YES program by adopting a data-driven approach to deliver greater services to schools where violence is most prevalent and need is highest. With a larger investment in each school, YES programming focused more intensively on conflict mediation and resolution skills, equipping young people with the tools to de-escalate conflicts before they escalate to physical harm.
- In 2023, NYCPS allocated \$250,000 in the American Rescue Plan - Homeless Children and Youth funds to a pilot initiative providing one-on-one mentoring and advocacy to students in temporary housing attending a middle school in the Bronx, along with holistic supports for the students and their families. The initiative serves 30 students and their families with strengths-based counseling, educational advocacy, social/emotional supports, and a wide array of social services. Recognizing that family stability is a key aspect of educational support, mentors help families navigate the shelter system, enroll in language and GED classes, and provide them with a diverse set of programs throughout the year. The proposal was designed by ACS, receives program guidance by the ACS Family Services Division and NYC Public Schools, data analysis support from the Center for Innovation through Data Intelligence (CIDI), and is being carried out at the school by the Children's Aid Society. The holistic supports provided have contributed to improved school attendance, stronger relationships between school staff and students, addressing families' concrete needs, and a more supportive overall school environment for students who might otherwise have been neglected, excluded, or disciplined.

- ACS continues to serve on the Leadership Team for the Every Child and Every Child and Family is Known (ECFIK). Entering its third year of implementation, ECFIK was recently expanded citywide and is now connecting students residing in DHS shelters with caring adults in 125 schools across the five boroughs. ECFIK is providing mentors and holistic support services to students and families residing in DHS shelters. Program staff from ECFIK and partnering organizations have been sharing their experiences, perspectives, resources, and expertise with each other.

- In addition to the work with the NYC Foster Care Office (FCO) and ECFIK, starting in 2023, NYCPS has been working with ACS to provide educational programming at the Children’s Center and in communities around foster care agencies that is strength-based and trauma-informed. Programming consists of academic interventions, social-emotional skill building and supports, arts activities, career readiness services, and educational trips around NYC. The program is called RISE and is slated to continue at least through 2026.

- The ACS Family Services Division has launched a new model called School-Based Early Support. ACS anticipates making 16 contract awards throughout the five boroughs, with anticipated funding of over \$20M per year from 2024 to 2027. Provider agencies will work closely with partner NYCPS schools to identify families who would benefit from community-based support, connect families to resources, address families’ concrete needs, support parents/caregivers, and avoid unnecessary investigations. Providers will operate from a strengths-based perspective; co-design service plans with families; and provide support to families in a manner that is consistent with the family’s goals, values, beliefs, and culture.

- ACS aims to reduce reliance on “pre-placement” stays at the Nicholas Scoppetta Children’s Center. ACS is reviewing many aspects of its work to provide high-quality care to youth and families and to improve its practices for transitioning youth to other homes/settings after a short stay at the Children’s Center. Those related workstreams include:
 - Providing welcome items and transition care packages to youth upon their arrival to and departure from the Children’s Center
 - Enhancing and sustaining a trauma-informed and programmatically enriched milieu in order to reduce the negative impact of trauma and allow children to heal in a safe and nurturing environment. Through intentional age-appropriate program development, community partnerships, and contracted providers, the unit manages the delivery of robust activities and events. The goal of the unit is to reduce the impact of systems of trauma, provide enrichment and recreation, meet children’s social and emotional needs, and reduce idle time through engagement.

- Contracts with an agency to provide two community-based short-term assessments and support programming serving youth with long stays at the Children’s Center.
 - Works with NYS Office for People with Developmental Disabilities and contracted providers to ensure that youth are able to reside in other settings that are best to meet their needs, including usage of respite housing for eligible youth.
- In 2025, ACS shared child welfare provider agencies with key information about enrollment processes and deadlines for early childhood education programs, including 3-K and Pre-K, for them to, in turn, share with families they are working with. ACS has renewed an interagency data-sharing agreement to facilitate outreach by NYC Public Schools' Division of Early Childhood Education to parents whose children are in foster care and receiving Early Intervention (EI) services. Informing parents about Committee on Preschool Special Education (CPSE) services just before the children age out of EI helps to prevent lapses in services, should the parent choose to continue services for the child through the CPSE.
 - ACS has worked closely with NYCPS's Office of Community Supports and Wellness to provide joint guidance, trainings, and professional development events for district-level NYCPS support staff; school counselors and social workers; and foster care agency staff about best practices in providing education-related supports to students in foster care, and how interagency collaboration enables more holistic planning and services. ACS has also partnered with officials from School District 9 in the Bronx to help counselors and social workers in District 9 learn about and connect with prevention service providers in their area.
 - In 2024 and 2025, ACS rolled out a comprehensive attendance support strategy with foster care agencies, NYCPS, the Center for Fair Futures, and educational advocates to provide data-driven, holistic attendance support services to students in foster care. This included specific practices by mentors and educational advocates for students in middle and high schools.
 - In 2023, the ACS Division of Child and Family Well-being supported local coalitions of Community-Based Organizations called Community Partnerships in developing strong relationships with schools in Brooklyn and the Bronx. The Community Partnerships assisted local schools with resources, service referral pathways, and trainings to enable school staff to connect students and families to culturally relevant supports in their communities. Since then, the Community Partnerships have continued to use learnings from that initiative to bolster the network of school and Partnership staff created to efficiently address family needs, deliver ongoing professional development and training for leadership and key stakeholders, use wellness offerings to deepen family engagement, and promote cross-agency collaboration.

3. Invest in two-generational models to support young people and their families.

- The kinship work that ACS invests in heavily in the Division of Child Protection always explores grandparents and other familial supports. ACS's prevention services system comprises programs that utilize evidence-based frameworks such as Mobility Mentoring. This research-informed approach supports families in enhancing their well-being, addressing their children's needs, and overcoming poverty. It emphasizes key areas including financial management, education, employment, family stability, and mental health.
- ACS awarded two waves of contracts to expand Family Enrichment Centers. As of July 2024, there are 29 Family Enrichment Centers (FEC) across the five boroughs of New York City. In January 2026, ACS will support the start-up of the 30th and final FEC. FECs are warm, welcoming, walk-in, family-centered spaces open to all, co-designed with community members. At the centers, families and children can connect with neighbors, volunteer their time, participate in various offerings, and access the resources and supports they need to thrive. Investing in families and communities will set children up to succeed.

4. Scale and correctly-resource Next Steps Transformative Mentoring Program.

- Program discontinued due to low participation. Participants were transitioned to other Mayor's Action Plan (MAP) mentorship programs.

5. Wraparound Service-Delivery Models.

- DYCD-funded Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) drop-in centers offer eight centers, including one in each borough, operating 24/7, for young people to access a wide range of supports for housing, education, career development, life skills, and health and mental health services.
- Beginning September 29, 2005, ACS, in collaboration with other NYC partners, has joined a 100 Day Challenge focusing on Youth Homelessness and Prevention in New York City, sponsored by the Department of Housing and Urban Development and being facilitated by Re-Institute. The challenge began on September 29 and ends January 16, 2026. NYC's goal for this challenge is to achieve a 25% decrease in the number of youth ages 24 and under entering the adult shelter system during the 100 Day Challenge.
- ACS's Family Services Division, in collaboration with the Division of Child Protection, launched the Teen Priority Initiative on September 29. This initiative is designed to reduce the number of teens ages 12-17 who enter the child welfare system, particularly when there is parental and/or youth refusal to

return home, or when families are not amenable to prevention services that would otherwise help them remain together in the community. Two prevention programs were identified – Functional Family Therapy (FFT) and Multisystemic Therapy (MST) – to engage both caregivers and teens. The initiative will focus on the following areas or pain points with this population:

- Teens discharged from the hospital or released from NYPD arrest, court, or detention.
- Teens placed at, or at risk of being placed at, the Children’s Center.
- Teen cases with no active child protective investigation where there is parental refusal and a possibility of a voluntary placement.

6. Quality Spaces for Young People.

- DYCD is investing in additional community spaces in Brownsville, Gowanus, Kew Gardens, and Mariner's Harbor.
- The 2025 Summer Safety Plan (SSP) provided safe, structured environments and high-quality programming for youth across New York City during the summer by extending hours at community centers and building partnerships between Beacon/Cornerstone Community Centers and CMS providers. This expansion strengthened relationships between youth and staff and served as a critical intervention point for community members who might otherwise lack structured summer activities.

Twenty-eight sites were activated with expanded hours, and 13 CMS partners supported the initiative. There were approximately 3,800 unique registrants with over 45,000 Beacon hours attended and over 50,000 Cornerstone hours attended. SSP surveys and focus groups were conducted with both providers and participants.

7. The City should invest in community-based navigation initiatives, hiring navigators from the communities they serve to help make social services more navigable.

- NA

8. Intervening at the earliest point when a young person is in contact with the justice system.

- ACS continues to work with its contracted provider agencies in ensuring a permanency plan is in place for our Crossover Youth (youth in both the foster care and juvenile justice systems). The agencies were trained on the Crossover Youth Practice Model (CYPM), in which the DOP and ACS work collaboratively to secure a child welfare placement with wrap-around services for youth rather than having youth detained/sentenced. In addition, ACS has created a CYPM

track for older youth 18+ to address permanency, placement, mental health, and well-being. We work closely with diversion programs and community-based partners to provide skill-based programming for youth that are facilitated by those with lived experience.

- ACS launched Fair Futures in 2019 to serve youth ages 11-26 in foster care and the juvenile justice system to support their progression to independence and self-sufficiency. Through Fair Futures, ACS supports young people in matching them with a coach who provides socio-emotional support and professional coaching to create their goal plan, as well as assist the youth through the many transitions to adulthood and avoid the pitfalls leading to detention. Coaches provide support in critical areas, specifically: education, employment, housing, and goal setting. Fair Futures facilitates strong collaboration among ACS staff working to address the needs of our youth and adults in a holistic, comprehensive way.

The Fair Futures program is currently serving as a resource for the Mayor's Gun Violence Prevention Task Force, ensuring that youth are matched with a coach to provide them with access to a caring adult. In the last few years, detention admissions have been around 1,000 young people per year. During FY25, over 4,000 unique youth aged 11 to 26 were served by Fair Futures. This included 600 middle school-aged youth, 2,800 14–26-year-old youth who were coached, and 252 students who received tutoring services.

- Since 2007, ACS has supported eleven Community Partnerships that operate as coalition-based structures rooted in: Community Building, Community Organizing, Social Capital, and Social Equity. These Partnerships serve as collaborative platforms where residents, organizations, and ACS come together, share information, build relationships, and co-design strategies, and all efforts are guided by community-identified priorities to enhance overall well-being. This model fosters: inclusive decision-making, stronger local networks, and tailored solutions that reflect the lived experiences of community members.
- Finally, as announced in the 2025 State of the City, the City invested over \$40 million in the Youth Safety and Success Initiative (YSSI), which expands four successful programs currently being implemented and one program launching this fall. The programs include Fair Futures, College Choice, Girls JustUs and Assertive Community Engagement and Success (ACES) and one new program, Career Choice/Workforce Ready. These programs will reach nearly 8,000 participants (an expansion of almost 3,000 young people) and help connect more youth with counseling, careers, college opportunities, and more. supports youth in both our foster care and juvenile justice programs.

- Girls JustUs: A highly successful gender-responsive juvenile justice diversion program that currently operates in Brooklyn will now be expanded to Queens and the Bronx. (24 additional girls will be served via this expansion).
- Assertive Community Engagement and Success (ACES): A program that provides evidence-based services to high-risk youth who have been involved with the justice system. The program provides social pathways away from gang and gun violence to young people between the ages of 16-24. Beginning in FY 27, the program will be expanded citywide and will allow over 400 more young people to take part each year.
- Fair Futures: As described previously, is a first-of-its-kind program that already serves more than 4,300 young people by connecting youth in foster care and the juvenile justice system between the ages of 11-26 with tutoring and coaching to build life skills, set academic, housing, career goals and more. This investment will allow an additional 2,000 youth to be served.
- College Choice: Established in 2022, this program offers college tuition, room and board assistance, individualized support and stipends for young people in foster care. The program had more than 400 students in the fall of 2024 and with this funding can serve over 500 students by FY 27.
- Career Choice/Workforce Ready: This new program builds off the success of College Choice and connects young people in foster care who do not go to a two or four-year college but are participating in vocational and job readiness training with financial and social support. Additionally, youth will receive a daily cash stipend. This funding will also allow for an expansion of DYCD's Advance and Earn program beginning in FY26.

Commission Meetings

Commission Member meetings were held on:

- April 22, 2025
- July 22, 2025
- October 28, 2025

Public Engagement and Comments

Public Hearings were held on:

- May 30, 2025
- August 26, 2025
- November 18, 2025

Recordings of the hearing, as well as submitted written testimonies, can be found on the Commission's website <https://www.nyc.gov/site/hra/about/commission-on-community-reinvestment.page>

Partnering City Agencies

Thank you to the agencies listed below for contributing to the report.

- Administration for Children's Services (ACS)
- Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH)
- Department of Housing and Preservation Development (HPD)
- Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD)
- Department of Small Business Services (SBS)
- Department of Social Services (DSS)
 - Department of Homeless Services (DHS)
 - Department of Human Resources (HRA)
- Mayor's Office of Community Mental Health (OCMH)
- Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice (MOCJ)
- Mayor's Office of Talent and Workforce Development (NYC Talent)
- Mayor's Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence (ENDGBV)