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## **CITY AWARDS CONTRACTS FOR EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS TARGETING NEW YORKERS ON PUBLIC ASSISTANCE**

*More than 68,000 HRA clients will benefit*

Commissioner Steven Banks announced today the contract awards for three new employment programs to be administered by the Human Resources Administration (HRA) that will connect people on cash assistance with the jobs, training or education that suit their needs and skills to help them build a career and become financially independent. In total, more than 68,000 HRA clients are expected to benefit from these programs annually.

“Our new employment programs leave behind the one-size-fits-all approach of the past to offer services that take into consideration the individual needs of our clients while providing specialized services for youth and other groups with specific needs,” said **Department of Social Services Commissioner Steven Banks**. “The selected vendors, which are a combination of large and small organizations, have a proven record of success and we are confident in their capacity to advance our workforce development efforts.”

The three programs are:

- **YouthPathways**, which targets New Yorkers aged 18-24 and will provide in-depth assessment, training, education, job placement and other services that are specifically focused on this population. The contracts were awarded to ResCare Workforce Services, America Works of New York, Inc., Fedcap Rehabilitation Services, Goodwill Industries of Greater NY and Northern NJ, Inc., Maximus Human Services Inc., and East River Development Alliance. These vendors will be working with the following subcontractors: Queens Library, Association of Community Employment, Avondale Care Group, Career & Educational Consultants, Community Service Society, Futures and Options, HANAC, Project Renewal, Pro-Placement Solutions, Quality Employment Services, and StartFresh.
- **CareerCompass**, which will assess the skills and experience of clients 25 and over, help them create a service plan, and match them with employment, sector-based training, education, adult literacy, high school equivalency or other programs as needed. The contracts were awarded to America Works of New York, Inc., Fedcap Rehabilitation Services, National Association on Drug Abuse Problems of New York State, Inc., Goodwill Industries of Greater NY and Northern NJ, Inc., Maximus Human Services, Inc., DB Grant Associates, Inc., and Educational Data Systems, Inc. These vendors will be working with the following subcontractors: HANAC, Community Service Society, Project Renewal, Inc., and Career & Educational Consultants.
- **CareerAdvance**, which will provide expert sector training, employment, and retention services in growth industries. CareerAdvance includes borough-based contracts as well as contracts specifically tailored to populations with special needs including homeless and

formerly homeless New Yorkers and domestic violence survivors, those with previous involvement in the criminal justice system, those with limited English proficiency and immigrants, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Intersex (LGBTQI) New Yorkers, and older adults. The contracts were awarded to DB Grant Associates Inc., Maximus Human Services Inc., America Works of New York, Inc., and Goodwill Industries of Greater NY and Northern NJ, Inc., Fedcap Rehabilitation Services, and Gay Men's Health Crisis. These vendors will be working with the following subcontractors: York College, Association of Community Employment, Avondale Care Group, Career & Educational Consultants, Community Service Society, Futures and Options, HANAC, Nontraditional Employment for Women, Project Renewal, Madison Strategies Group, StartFresh, Quality Employment Services, Pro-Placement Solutions, and Association of Women Construction Workers of America, Inc.

“To provide New Yorkers in need with the necessary tools to build long-term careers in growing industries that offer living-wage employment is one of the core values for this administration,” said **Barbara Chang, Executive Director of the Mayor's Office of Workforce Development**. “These innovative employment programs realize our goal of assisting them in their journey to financial independence while strengthening our economy.”

“New York City is a leader in battling income inequality, and this is a great initiative that gives people a hand-up,” said **Gregg Bishop, Commissioner of the NYC Department of Small Business Services**. “When all communities, regardless of race, gender, or ethnicity, have the opportunity to succeed, the City as a whole thrives.”

These three programs are part of a wide range of employment programs and services that HRA is funding and operating. The selected agencies will be able to make use of HRA's new and existing partnerships with other City agencies, such as the Department of Small Business Services' Workforce 1 program; HireNYC, which leverages the purchasing power of the City to help social services clients find employment with City contractors and development projects; the Parks Opportunity Program, which offers subsidized employment in the Parks Department, and other subsidized jobs programs; education and training opportunities presented through various partners; and a wide variety of other services reflecting the scope and diversity of New York City. Clients will also continue to be able to select internships and education opportunities to enroll in as long as they meet HRA standards and fulfill their work requirements under federal and state law.

As HRA moves to complete the phase out the Work Experience Program (WEP), these new programs will provide work activities in compliance with federal and state law that will be more effective in providing services that align with the Administration's vision of expanding job opportunities and creating the basis for building career pathways out of poverty.

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