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NYC DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES MAKES MORE THAN A HANDFUL OF MATCHES

DSS Matchmaker Events have Connected Over 350 Certified Firms with Numerous Representatives from Non-Profit Human Services Providers and Agency Staff via One-on-One Interviews

Participating Businesses Have Received Over \$250 Million in City Contracts

Dozens of Provider and Agency Reps Matched More Than 75 Certified Businesses for Over 500 One-on-One Meetings at This Year's Event

NEW YORK – This May, the New York City Department of Social Services (DSS) celebrated the success of its fifth annual Matchmaker event. Organized by the DSS Marketplace team, Matchmaker events connect locally certified firms to not-for-profit human service providers through meaningful, one-on-one interactions. These businesses can share details about their capabilities as providers discuss their ongoing needs and upcoming contract opportunities. Since its inception, over 350 certified firms have participated in DSS Matchmaking events and made over 1,500 connections with not-for-profit representatives and a range of agency staff. Dozens of participating businesses have secured direct contracts with DSS, and numerous others have received subcontracts from DSS providers. Roughly one in six Matchmaker participants has received a city contract or non-profit subcontract.

“For too many of New York City’s certified businesses, contracts with the city have been out of reach not because of the quality of their work or their capacity, but simply because of a lack of access,” said **DSS Commissioner Erin Dalton**. “Our Matchmaker events allow us to address this barrier through meaningful one-on-one interactions and advance our goal of ensuring that city dollars are supporting local economies and historically underserved communities. After five years of matchmaking, it’s incredibly rewarding to see nearly one in six participants receive a city contract or subcontract and we look forward to making many more important connections at these events in the future.”

DSS relies on contracted non-profit human service providers to deliver a wide range of critical supports – from shelter resources to workforce development programs – to low-income New Yorkers. While ensuring the effective delivery of these services is paramount, the agency approaches every contract as an opportunity to support local economic development by creating jobs, wealth, and strong business and non-profit ecosystems.

These contracting efforts exist within DSS’s larger strategy to not only support the local business marketplace, but local workers by connecting them to stable, good-paying jobs. DSS-HRA Business Link programs connect New Yorkers on public assistance to jobs in the private and public sector through the HireNYC program. HireNYC helps New Yorkers obtain employment with the city’s human service providers, who are required to hire and employ local residents

receiving public benefits. These programs represent meaningful investments in the City's labor marketplace by helping more New Yorkers obtain gainful employment. In FY25, [a record number of individuals](#), over 10,500, were connected to employment through HireNYC.

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About the New York City Department of Social Services: DSS, comprised of the Department of Homeless Services (DHS) and the Human Resources Administration (HRA), serves millions of New Yorkers annually through a broad range of services that aim to address poverty and prevent homelessness. DHS oversees a broad network of shelters, re-housing solutions, and outreach programs designed to help New Yorkers experiencing homelessness get back on their feet. HRA serves over three million New Yorkers through the administration of more than 15 major public assistance programs. DSS is central to the City's mission to expand opportunity for New Yorkers in need, address housing insecurity, and ensure that low-income New Yorkers receive the benefits and assistance for which they may be eligible.