

FY 2026 Borough Budget Consultations

Manhattan - Department of Youth and Community Development

Meeting Date:

The purpose of holding the Borough Budget Consultations is to have a straightforward and frank conversation about each agency's budget needs and requests. Unlike other venues, such as City Council Hearings, these consultations are not open to the public nor are they recorded. The information provided assists Community Boards in drafting our own Statement of District Needs and Budget Priorities and it facilitates the opportunity to do so in a way that supports the Agency's goals. Community Board Members often lack expertise about funding sources and the processes within Agencies regarding funding of various programs and initiatives. However, they are very knowledgeable about what local services are needed in their neighborhoods and the effectiveness of Agency programs.

This year's Manhattan agendas have three sections:

I. General overview of current and outyear agency budgets

1. What is the overall budget increase or decrease for the Agency in the FY 25 adopted budget? How does that compare to the FY24 budget? Does the Agency anticipate a budget shortfall for FY 25, FY 26 or further out years?

2. What are your priorities, operational goals, and capital goals for FY25 and projected priorities, operational goals, and capital goals for FY26?

3. What, if any, programs are affected by the end of COVID relief funds?

II. Specific Program Funding.

1. What programs within the Agency will see a significant increase or decrease in funding overall in FY 25 and anticipated FY 26? To what extent, if any, is the increase or decrease in funding related to non-recurring federal funding allocations?

2. Which programs will be new? eliminated entirely?

3. What are your benchmarks for new and existing programs and what are your benchmarks/key performance indicators for measuring success?

III. District-specific budget questions.

We request that the Agency respond in writing, but have any further discussions on these items with the Community Boards outside of the consultation.

DYCD's adopted budget for FY25 is \$1.4B, and our budget for FY24 was \$1.3B. The published budget will show a decrease in FY26 and the out-years because of annual one-time funding adjustments such as City Council discretionary funds, as well as State and Federal revenue that has not yet been awarded. Covid relief funds currently fund the agency's Indirect Cost Rate (ICR) initiative, which is a citywide program for human services providers, as well as providing additional support for community centers. DYCD is committed to maintaining service levels at the end of COVID relief funding. The increase from FY24 to FY25 includes funding for the minimum wage increase for workforce programs, COLA allocations across the agency, and City Council funding. The agency will fund one new program, Community Resources for Employment and Development (CRED), which replaces the MOCJ Precision Employment Initiative. COMPASS Explore, which was a small program option within the larger COMPASS afterschool system, was eliminated beginning in FY25.

MEETING NOTES:

General Updates:

- The agency has issued two new RFPs:
 - **Adult Literacy**
 - **Neighborhood Youth Sports Program:** Focuses on funding equipment and upkeep of sports play areas (e.g., resurfacing blacktops), distinct from the AG sports program.

AGENDA ITEM [1]: Crisis Management Systems (CMS) Programs

The announcement of the agreement on the Adopted Budget for FY2025 included the addition of a new Unit of Appropriation for the Crisis Management System (CMS).

In DYCD's responses to the Budget Consultation Questions relating to FY24 (Item 2), DYCD explained that the Office of Neighborhood Services (ONS) was moved from the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice to DYCD, which in turn occasioned the creation of a new Unit of Appropriation to house the ONS initiatives. We understood your responses to indicate that CMS was a part of the overall ONS initiatives transitioned to DYCD.

Please explain the budgetary and programming significance of housing CMS in its own U/A independent of ONS.

Please help us understand in this context:

- What types of expenditures are to be covered by this new U/A?
- Does the creation of a separate U/A for CMS contemplate a change in the nature or goals of CMS?
- Will any new programs or initiatives be created as part of the creation of this U/A?
- Has any amount of funding through this U/A been baselined for future fiscal years?

AGENCY RESPONSE:

The goals for CMS remain unchanged. We continue to work to address gun violence through a network of credible messengers to shift social norms and work with the community to mediate disputes to prevent shootings.

Funding has been baselined for the Office of Neighborhood Safety, with the exception of federal and state revenue and discretionary funding which is handled as a one-time funding initiative each year.

MEETING NOTES:

NEW INFORMATION:

FOLLOW-UP COMMITMENTS:

AGENDA ITEM [2]: COMPASS, Beacon, SONYC, and Cornerstone Funding Levels

For each of the Compass, Beacon, SONYC and Cornerstone programs, please provide the following information:

- The Budget allocation for FY2025 and projected FY2026 for each program.
- The Number of youth/young people who can be served by each program at that funding level.

- Whether there is a waiting list or excess demand for any of these programs that cannot be met at these funding levels?

Specifically with respect to Cornerstone, Community Boards have heard concerns that the funding is not adequate to meet the demand for slots/seats.

- Please address the adequacy of funding in relation to the levels of unmet demand.
- Are there reasons other than funding that limit the ability to meet all demand for Cornerstone programs?

AGENCY RESPONSE:

The adopted FY25 budget included \$422.4M million in funds for COMPASS and SONYC. This level will fund about 98,000 slots. Beacon Programs were funded at \$73.4M in FY24 for about 110,000 slots and are budgeted at \$64.8M in FY25. (FY25 budget amount does not yet include Summer Rising.)

The budget includes \$66.59M for Cornerstone programs. DYCD served 214,000 participants in FY23. Community center participant numbers include youth and adult programs, and community events.

Cornerstone programs are located in NYCHA developments, and their capacity is limited by the size of the space. All DYCD afterschool programs must obtain a school aged child care (SACC) license and follow federal, state, and City health and safety regulations.

MEETING NOTES:

Compass, Beacon, SONYC, and Cornerstone Programs:

- **CB Question:** Are there currently waiting lists, and what happens in that case?
- **Agency Response:** Each program maintains its own waiting list; there is no centralized waiting list.

NEW INFORMATION:

FOLLOW-UP COMMITMENTS:

AGENDA ITEM [3]: Services for Migrant Youth and Children of Asylum-Seekers

We understand there is a measurable increase in new migrants and asylum-seekers under 24 years of age seeking assistance, and that this need is expected to be on-going for a considerable period of time.

What funding is available, and through what program or initiative, to meet the needs of this vulnerable population?

- Can funding for runaway youth be used to meet some or all of these needs?
- Are there programs that, if their budgets were expanded, could contribute toward meeting these needs?

AGENCY RESPONSE:

Like many other City agencies, DYCD has seen increased demand for services with little additional funding available from state and federal sources. DYCD Runaway and Homeless Youth programs have seen major increases in demand.

DYCD is now providing ESOL services adult literacy services at selected HERRC locations around the City, in addition to the portfolio of RFP programs.

New arrivals are served in many COMPASS afterschool programs and community centers.

MEETING NOTES:

Services for Migrant Youth and Children of Asylum Seekers:

- **Update:** Increased demand for services, particularly for new arrivals needing legal services, literacy programs, ESOL, and transportation. The agency refers individuals to other service providers and encourages connections with Community Resources. Increased evictions are impacting stability for after-school programs.

NEW INFORMATION:

FOLLOW-UP COMMITMENTS:

AGENDA ITEM [4]: SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM (SYEP)

Please confirm the published reports that indicate that more than 150,000 youth participated in the SYEP in FY2025 (Summer of 2024), which would appear to shatter the record set the previous year.

For SYEP in FY2025 and projected FY2026, please provide:

- The total budget for the program (please quote separately the amount if any that is baselined for future fiscal years).
- The total number of youth who applied for a placement.
- The total number of youth who participated.
- The number of youth who were offered placement and for whatever reason did not enroll.

What is reasonable to expect with respect to SYEP in FY2026?

Are there reasons outside of funding issues that limit the number of slots available for placement? Have partner among agencies, non-profits and the private sector reduced the number of slots they are willing to create?

AGENCY RESPONSE:

Last month, the New York City Summer Youth Employment Program concluded its 61st year of operation after placing 100,000 New Yorkers into paid opportunities for six weeks. The \$205 million budget supported participants at more than 17,000 worksites who received life-changing paid career exploration and work experiences, with benefits extending well beyond the summer. See attached list of program providers.

SYEP also guarantees a slot to NYCHA residents, and other slots are dedicated to vulnerable youth with involvement in the juvenile justice or foster care systems. However, not every young person who is selected for the program ultimately enrolls, so the difference between the number of participants (100,000) and the number of applicants (more than 180,000 about 176,000) also includes applicants who were selected but did not enroll. Slots are also limited by the capacity of the provider. We worked closely with them to expand capacity and to use the additional funding.

DYCD staff supervise the program and work with the contracted providers, but the nonprofit organizations are responsible for administering the program, and they have discretion to deploy staff as they choose within their contracted budget. This summer, SYEP participants who commuted to in-person jobs received Metrocards for their transportation needs. The cards were distributed through the provider organizations and were available to all participants who commuted by subway, regardless of their home neighborhood. Additionally, about 1,000 participants received Citi Bike memberships.

MEETING NOTES:

NEW INFORMATION:

FOLLOW-UP COMMITMENTS:

AGENDA ITEM [5]: Career Ready - Work-Learn-Grow

It appears that the former Work-Learn-Grow program has been rebranded as Career Ready - Work-Learn&Grow. Does the apparent name change signal a change or evolution in the nature of the program or the type of services included in those offered to participants?

Has the target audience for participants changed? Have the eligibility requirements or screening

criteria changed or evolved for FY2025 or projected FY2026?

Please provide the following information for FY2025 and projected FY 2026:

- The overall budget allocation for the program.
- The number of qualified students who applied for placement in the program in FY2025.
- The number of students that will be served through that allocation in FY2025.
- Participation goals for the program in FY2026.

AGENCY RESPONSE:

We are pleased that \$28.8 million is included in the FY25 budget for the Work, Learn & Grow Employment Program. It will fund 7000 slots.

WLG is designed to build off the experiences gained in SYEP. WLG provides SYEP participants who are between the ages of 16-19 and currently in-school with career readiness training and paid employment opportunities for up to 25 weeks from October to March. Participants work in a variety of entry-level jobs including:

- Government Agencies
- Hospitals
- Non-Profits
- Small Businesses
- Law Firms
- Museums
- Sports Enterprises
- Retail Organizations

WLG career readiness training will focus on such topics as career exploration, financial literacy, conflict resolution, resume/cover letter development and opportunities to continue education and social growth.

Programs are located in community-based organizations in all five boroughs of New York City. Youth can apply for the program online or at a community-based organization during the application period. Participants are selected by lottery for the program.

To be eligible for the Work, Learn and Grow Employment Program, a young person must be:

- an SYEP participant or applicant
- between the ages of 16-19 years old
- currently in school

DYCD also offers other year-round programs. [Advance & Earn](#) is a workforce development program (similar to Train & Earn) serving out-of-school young adults with academic remediation, high school equivalency attainment, and advanced occupational training. In FY23 the program served 905 participants and in FY24 it served 1,152 participants.

[Learn & Earn](#) is a federally funded program for in-school youth specific to juniors and seniors with a focus on high school graduation and college enrollment. In FY23 the program served 1,065 participants and in FY24 it served 1,068 participants. Because Learn & Earn is funded through WIOA, participants must be low-income and have a barrier to employment such as being foster-involved, homeless, justice-involved, disability, pregnant or parenting.

MEETING NOTES:

NEW INFORMATION:

FOLLOW-UP COMMITMENTS:

AGENDA ITEM [6]: Train & Earn Program

DYCD's responses to the Budget Consultation questions from FY2025 (September 2023) referenced the transition of the Out-Of-School Youth Program, including its expansion based on the FY 2024 Adopted Budget, which appears to have carried an expectation that the program would be nearly quadrupled in size.

Please provide an update on the success and evolution of this program, including for FY2025 and projected FY2026:

- The amount of funding allocated to the program.
- The number of eligible applicants for FY2025.
- The number of applicants accepted or placed into the programs.
- Goals for the maintenance or growth of the program in FY2026.

AGENCY RESPONSE:

Train & Earn (formerly the Out-of-School Youth Program) is a Federally-funded career pathways program that provides comprehensive job training and employment services, along with support services needed by participants to find a permanent job, obtain their high school equivalency if applicable, and access postsecondary education and training. Train & Earn is funded at \$16.9 million in FY25 to serve youth and young adults aged 16–24, who are not working and not in school, and meet certain eligibility requirements.

MEETING NOTES:

Train and Earn vs. Learn & Earn:

- **Clarification:**
 - **Train and Earn:** Federally funded program aimed at in-school youth at risk of dropping out.
 - **Learn & Earn:** New program targeting out-of-school and out-of-work youth/young adults.

NEW INFORMATION:

FOLLOW-UP COMMITMENTS:

AGENDA ITEM [7]: Adult Literacy Programs

In DYCD’s responses to Budget Consultation Questions from FY2024 (September 2023), DYCD anticipated the awarding of new contracts for adult literacy programs.

Please provide an update on this critical service and need in FY2025 and projected FY2026, including:

- The overall budget allocation for all such programs.
- The number of eligible applicants in FY2025.
- The number of participants selected in FY2025.
- Any factors other than funding that limit the effectiveness of the programs.
- The status of the new contracts referenced earlier.

AGENCY RESPONSE:

New contracts awarded through the recent Request for Proposals began on July 1. We have made 56 awards so far. DYCD awarded funds \$7,935,200 for ESOL programs, covering 6,104 slots, and for ABE/HSE awarded \$2,847,000 for 2,190 slots. Additional funds were added at budget adoption and we are working with OMB to determine how to allocate those funds.

In general, consistent attendance is a challenge for adult participants who work and have other family obligations. Our programs' ability to provide instruction remotely under the new RFP should help mitigate the problem. Our portfolio also includes seven awards for Adolescent Literacy. Total funding is \$875,000 for 175 slots.

MEETING NOTES:

NEW INFORMATION:

FOLLOW-UP COMMITMENTS:

AGENDA ITEM [8]: Runaway and Homeless Youth Programming and Services

In DYCD's responses to Budget Consultation Questions for FY2024 (September 2023), DYCD provided a detailed and thorough explanation of the needs of this population, and the multiple and overlapping offers of services to them.

Please provide an update on any changes or the evolution of these essential services, including with respect to:

- The budget allocation for FY2025 and projected FY2026.
- Whether any portion of that budget is baselined for future years.
- The numbers of youth able to be served based on those budget allocations.
- Whether there are additional needs for services that cannot be accommodated given the level of funding available.
- The program goals for service in FY 2026.

AGENCY RESPONSE:

DYCD's Runaway and Homeless Youth programs are designed to serve youth holistically, enabling them to obtain the services needed to place them on a path to independent living and stability. We are committed to helping young New Yorkers build new skills and flourish. RHY services were funded at \$54M in FY24 and FY25 and are budgeted at \$52M in FY24. (The baselined amount is \$52M.)

DYCD funds an integrated portfolio of runaway and homeless youth services that are delivered by community-based providers through contracts. The three types of services include residential services, drop-in centers, and street outreach. Combined, they reach more than 20,000 young people annually.

Residential services include crisis services programs and transitional independent living support programs. The New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS)

regulates all residential services provided by Youth Bureaus across New York State. DYCD is the designated Youth Bureau for New York City.

In recent years, we have tripled the number of beds in residential programs for young people ages 16-20, for a total of 753 beds. We implemented two key program policies: increasing the time young people may stay in residential programs up to 120 days in Crisis Services programs and 24 months in Transitional Independent Living programs. Following these state and city legislative changes, we also created residential services for youth up to age 24, and we now have four programs with a total of 60 beds for homeless young adults.

Crisis Services Programs provide emergency shelter and crisis intervention services. Youth have their basic needs met while developing a service plan with short-term and long-term goals. In cases where family reunification is not possible, provider staff work with youth to identify appropriate transitional and long-term housing placements.

Transitional Independent Living (TIL) Support Programs are a longer-term housing option that provide support as youth establish an independent life through educational and career development services, health services and mental health care, counseling, and basic life skills training.

Drop-in centers in each borough serve youth ages 14 through 24. At our eight centers, youth are provided with basic needs such as food and clothing, and supportive services such as recreational activities, health and educational workshops, counseling, and referrals to additional services, including shelter as needed. At least one center in each borough is open 24 hours a day, every day of the week.

Street outreach focuses on locations in the city where runaway and homeless youth tend to congregate, offering on-the-spot information and referrals. The goal is to develop a rapport with the youth and connect them to services, including shelter.

Counselors in RHY programs work with youth to develop Individualized Service Plans to outline short-term and long-term goals. They can receive a range of supportive services both directly and through referrals, which include medical and mental health care services, intensive counseling, family mediation, education, substance abuse prevention, violence intervention and prevention counseling, and housing assistance. When appropriate, staff members assist young people in reuniting with their families or with moving to transitional and longer-term programs. Through a partnership with the Mayor's Office of Community Mental Health, young people can access high quality mental health services in drop in centers and in residences.

MEETING NOTES:

Runaway and Homeless Youth Programming and Services:

- **CB Question:** How is funding holding up?
- **Agency Response:** There is growing demand for housing for the under-21 population. Currently, some beds are not available every night in drop-in centers. The agency refers individuals to available centers or programs.

NEW INFORMATION:

FOLLOW-UP COMMITMENTS:

AGENDA ITEM [9]: Contracts Awarded to Service Providers

Please provide an updated list of contracts awarded to service providers and partner groups in Manhattan, broken out by Community District. Please include the length of the remaining term for such contracts, and whether new RFPs will be required for any current service provider agency.

AGENCY RESPONSE:

Please see [attached list](#). In the past year, DYCD issued RFP's for literacy services and WIOA (train and Earn/Learn and Earn) programs, and introduced the Neighborhood Youth Team Sports program with a NAQ process.

MEETING NOTES:

NEW INFORMATION:

FOLLOW-UP COMMITMENTS:

AGENDA ITEM [10]: Harm Reduction Services - Youth Substance Abuse

Please provide a chart of service providers by Community District that receive DYCD funding for Youth Harm Reductions Services, including without limitation outreach, needle kiosks and safe disposal, NARCAN training, and needle clean-up.

Please indicate which providers provide which services.

Please provide the funding allocated for these services in FY2025 and projected FY2026.

Please describe the benchmarks for success for these programs and services.

AGENCY RESPONSE:

This is a DOHMH program.

MEETING NOTES:**NEW INFORMATION:****FOLLOW-UP COMMITMENTS:****AGENDA ITEM [11]: Peer Navigators**

Please provide an update on the Peer Navigators program, including:

- the Funding allocation for the program in FY2025 and projected FY2026
- Whether all or any portion of such funding is baselined for future years
- the number of Peer Navigators supported through such funding allocation
- Whether the Peer Navigators program is at capacity, or whether additional funding could place additional Peer Navigators into useful service.

AGENCY RESPONSE:

Peer navigators were part of DYCD RHY programs in FY 23. They were funded for a single year as part of the Homeless Youth Demonstration Project/ Opportunity Starts with a Home. At the same time, DYCD introduced housing navigators, and that program continues to receive City funds. There are 16 housing navigators, two at each drop in center.

MEETING NOTES:**NEW INFORMATION:****FOLLOW-UP COMMITMENTS:****AGENDA ITEM [12]: Recommended Priorities for Community Board Advocacy**

What programs, initiatives or budget line items would DYCD recommend that Community Boards include in their Statements of District Needs and Budget Priorities for FY 2026?

AGENCY RESPONSE:

We are grateful that our expense budget has almost tripled in recent years, allowing us to greatly increase capacity for afterschool programs, youth employment, runaway and homeless youth programs, and other agency priorities. However, most of our funds are

from City Tax Levy, and we ask for your support in requesting state funding for runaway and homeless youth programs, SYEP, and other youth services. We appreciate the continued support of Community Boards that have advocated for increasing youth and community services.

Additionally, Cornerstone Community Centers that are located in NYCHA developments could benefit from funding for repairs.

MEETING NOTES:

Recommended Priorities for CB Advocacy:

- **Agency Request:**
 - Increased funding for adult literacy.
 - Expansion of programs to reach additional providers.
 - Assistance from community boards with after-school youth employment through connections and referrals.

Follow-Up Actions Required:

- **DYCD:** No specific follow-up actions mentioned; general advocacy support requested for program expansion and youth employment.

NEW INFORMATION:

FOLLOW-UP COMMITMENTS: