

AGENDA ITEM [1]: Impact of Measures to Close Budget Gaps and Threatened Funding Cuts on the Budget For FY 2028 and Beyond

Mayor Mamdani's Administration took office while facing a reported \$5.4 Billion budget gap for Fiscal Years 2026 and projected FY 2027. While the current Fiscal Year budget gap is reported to have been closed, the Mayor's Administration continues to prioritize finding savings and efficiencies in a variety of agency operations and is convening a charter revision commission to expedite certain efforts to secure and implement those savings and efficiencies.

There are potential severe cuts to or elimination of funding and other resources from the federal government for a host of programs and initiatives. These are exacerbated by actual or virtual elimination of certain federal agencies that supported services for the most underserved.

With these developments in mind, please answer the following questions:

1. Has the funding for any programs or initiatives at your Agency allocated for FY 2026 or projected FY 2027 been cut or reduced as a result of the efforts to close City Budget gaps in FY 2026, FY 2027 or projected FY 2028?
 - a. If yes:
 - i. Please identify the program or initiative, and
 - ii. Please provide an estimate of the amount of the funding cut or reduction in both absolute and percentage amounts.
2. Has the funding for any programs or initiatives at your Agency allocated for FY 2026 or projected FY 2027 been cut or reduced as a result of actual or threatened cuts to or reductions in funding or subsidies directly or indirectly attributable to the federal government for FY 2026, FY 2027 or projected FY 2028?
 - a. If yes:
 - i. Please identify the program or initiative, and
 - ii. Please provide an estimate of the amount of the funding cut or reduction in both absolute and percentage amounts.
3. Has any State or federal funding streams previously earmarked or allocated for programs or initiatives at your Agency been redirected or re-allocated to other uses in order to:
 - a. Close the City Budget Gap for FY 2026, FY 2027 or projected FY 2028?
 - i. If yes, please provide an estimate of the funding cut or reduction in both absolute and percentage amounts.
 - b. Prepare for or respond to actual or threatened cuts to or reductions in funding or subsidies directly or indirectly attributable to the federal government for FY 2026, FY 2027 or projected FY 2028?
 - i. If yes, please provide an estimate of the funding cut or reduction in both absolute and percentage amounts.
4. Have any programs or initiatives, including scheduled or planned expansions of existing programs or initiatives, at your Agency been frozen, postponed, suspended or

abandoned as a result, directly or indirectly, of measures taken to address either the City Budget Gap or the threats to cut or reduce federal funding in FY 2026, FY 2027 or projected FY 2028?

- a. If yes:
 - i. Please identify such programs or initiatives, and
 - ii. Please provide an estimate of the funding needed to restore or continue those programs and initiatives as planned.
5. What other measures is your Agency taking in connection with:
 - a. The calls for greater efficiency in City government operations, or
 - b. Actual or threatened cuts to or elimination of federal funding?
6. What is the current vacancy rate for positions in your agency?

AGENCY RESPONSE:

- 1) We have realigned budgets, identified operating efficiencies and reforecast contract spending – but we have not reduced any programs or services.
- 2) SBS continuously re-evaluates needs across the budget and programs to ensure SBS is able to meet our mission of delivering services to New Yorkers.

So far, there has not been a reduction in federal funding as a result of new policy. Federal funding supports most of our workforce development services and several of our neighborhood-based commercial revitalization grants.

- 3) No.
- 4) No.
- 5) We have realigned budgets, identified operating efficiencies and reforecast contract spending – but we have not reduced any programs or services.
- 6) The current vacancy rate for positions at SBS is 9%.

MEETING NOTES:

NEW INFORMATION:

FOLLOW-UP COMMITMENTS:

AGENDA ITEM [2]: Support for Storefront Businesses

Please identify the programs through which SBS supports small businesses in high-vacancy areas. What is the funding level for NYC BEST?

AGENCY RESPONSE:

SBS develops strategies to strengthen NYC's commercial corridors and combat storefront vacancies through data-driven and community-informed interventions through SBS's neighborhood development grants. Our business programs also seek to combat storefront vacancies, key among them are NYC Business Express Service Team (BEST) and SBS's Commercial Lease Assistance Program (CLA). BEST provides permitting and licensing support to help businesses open and activate vacant storefronts while CLA provides pro-bono legal assistance as an entrepreneur starts a new commercial lease.

The funding level for NYC BEST is currently \$4 million annually.

MEETING NOTES:**NEW INFORMATION:****FOLLOW-UP COMMITMENTS:****AGENDA ITEM [3]: Business Improvement Districts and Similar Entities**

1. What City funding is available for BIDs to supplement their self-funded revenue?
2. How much funding is available for merchant organizations that are not BIDs and / less formally organized for FY27? What are the programs available to assist these organizations?

AGENCY RESPONSE:

- 1) SBS supports neighborhood revitalization through grant programs for BIDs, including but not limited to: Small BID Support Grant Program, AvenueNYC Commercial Revitalization Grants, and Public Realm grants. Each program has different eligibility, but BIDs may apply for any of these grant opportunities.

Outside of SBS, many BIDs receive discretionary funding from their Council Members and apply for other government and private funding.

- 2) SBS supports community organizations that exist outside of the formal BID model. SBS' support ranges from helping organizations develop neighborhood revitalization strategies to building capacity for neighborhood initiatives.

SBS' Merchant Organizing Grants, AvenueNYC Commercial Revitalization Grants, Neighborhood 360, and Public Realm grants are all open to organizations interested in ensuring their neighborhood is a vibrant commercial hub. Applicants must be community-based organizations (CBOs).

In FY27, the total funding for these programs is approximately \$4.8 million citywide. For FY27, the following (non-BID) organizations in Manhattan were awarded funding:

- Harlem One Stop
- Morningside Heights Community Coalition
- Carnegie Hill Neighbors
- Community League of the Heights
- Friends of Bogardus Plaza
- Cooper Square Committee
- Broadway Mall Association
- The W.O.W. Project
- Gotham Park
- Union Settlement
- Uptown Grand Central

MEETING NOTES:

NEW INFORMATION:

FOLLOW-UP COMMITMENTS:

AGENDA ITEM [4]: MWBE

Has last year's projected \$6.9M for FY27 for the Minority and Women-owned Business Enterprise (MWBE) Program been baselined for the current year or out-years? What is the projected funding for FY28?

What programs and funding are available for businesses working to qualify as an MWBE?

AGENCY RESPONSE:

Actual FY26 budget for the Minority and Women owned Business Enterprise (MWBE) Program was \$6.4M.

At this time, \$7.6M is budgeted for FY27, and \$6.9M is budgeted for FY28.

MEETING NOTES:

NEW INFORMATION:

FOLLOW-UP COMMITMENTS:

AGENDA ITEM [5]: Supporting Small Business Near Capital Projects

Last year, we asked SBS about funding or programs specifically for small businesses impacted by City capital construction projects and since there has been proposed Council legislation on the same topic. Is there funding in FY 27 and FY 28 for this purpose?

AGENCY RESPONSE:

SBS' existing resources can provide support to businesses impacted by construction. Through our Business Solution Centers with locations across all five boroughs, SBS can help small businesses through business education webinars on marketing strategies and provide financing assistance to apply to loans. Interested business owners can call our hotline at 888-SBS-4NYC or visit one of our Manhattan Business Solution Centers, locations are listed below:

- NYC Business Solutions Lower Manhattan Center
14 Wall Street, 17th Floor, New York, NY 10005
- NYC Business Solutions Upper Manhattan Center
361 West 125th Street, 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10027
- NYC Business Solutions Washington Heights Center
560 West 181st Street, 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10033

MEETING NOTES:

NEW INFORMATION:

FOLLOW-UP COMMITMENTS:

AGENDA ITEM [6]: New York Future Fund

1. How many businesses has the fund lent to?
2. What is the default rate on loans from the fund?
3. What wrap-around services are available to help a business behind on payments return to good standing?

AGENCY RESPONSE:

We project ~100 loans annually under the NYC Future Fund. Data on defaults will be clearer in FY28 as the program launched in Spring, 2026. The Future Fund has a flexible repayment rate that fluctuates depending on a business's revenue and loan size. This can help businesses who are dealing with slow revenue catch up when they are doing better financially. Our partner CDFIs and Business Solutions Center staff work closely with clients to help them understand and manage their payments.

MEETING NOTES:

NEW INFORMATION:

FOLLOW-UP COMMITMENTS:

AGENDA ITEM [8]: Live XYZ

Is the City still contracted with Live XYZ to provide quarterly open/close and vacancy counts for storefronts in NYC. Does the City plan to continue the contract? Will BIDs continue to be able to access the data?

AGENCY RESPONSE:

Live XYZ is NYC's data infrastructure partner for storefronts and public spaces. Via a citywide agreement, Live XYZ is available to agencies, mayoral offices and covered community partners included within the agreement. SBS plans to utilize LiveXYZ in FY27.

The NYC Office of Technology and Innovation maintains the citywide agreement. Therefore, we cannot speak to who qualifies as community partners and defer to them. However, we will continue using the data for outreach and service delivery strategy.

MEETING NOTES:

NEW INFORMATION:

FOLLOW-UP COMMITMENTS:

AGENDA ITEM [9]: Workforce Development Funding

What are key Workforce Development programs receiving funding from SBS in FY27 and what services do they provide? How is this funding coordinated with workforce development funding from other agencies?

AGENCY RESPONSE:

The citywide network of Workforce1 Career Centers provides career services for jobseekers and recruitment services for businesses, including pre-screening and matching for open positions, individual career coaching, workshops, access to training grants, and more. Workforce1 Career Centers work with other agencies and local community partners who refer candidates to Workforce1 and Workforce1 refers candidates to partner services. Workforce1 is overseen by the NYS Department of Labor and NYC Workforce Development Board. Additionally, SBS coordinates with the NYC Office of Talent and Workforce Development on the city's workforce needs.

Workforce1 Centers located in Manhattan include:

- Upper Manhattan Workforce1 Career Center, [215 West 125th Street, 6th Floor, New York, NY 10027](#)
- Washington Heights Workforce1 Career Center, [516 West 181st Street, 5th Floor, New York, NY 10033](#)
- Healthcare Workforce1 Career Center, [14 Wall Street, 17th Floor, New York, NY 10005](#)

SBS also offers a wide array of workforce training programs. Some program highlights include:

- [Construction Site Safety Training program](#), which provides the required safety training needed to work on most construction job sites in NYC.
- [Nurse licensing exam prep \(NCLEX-RN\)](#) for foreign-trained nurses prepares internationally trained nurses to gain the English and nursing skills needed to pass the exam and get work as a Registered Nurse in New York City.
- [First Course NYC](#), is a program for eligible New Yorkers who are passionate about starting a foodservice career in a demanding NYC restaurant kitchen.

Finally, the JobsNYC initiative organizes hiring halls, career fairs, and mobile outreach events in areas with high unemployment. The events engage city agencies, employers, and resource providers at hiring halls and events.

We welcome community boards to refer constituents to the Workforce1 System. Constituents can either walk-in to a Workforce1 Center, connect on [our website](#), or call the SBS hotline (888 SBS-4NYC).

MEETING NOTES:

NEW INFORMATION:

FOLLOW-UP COMMITMENTS:

AGENDA ITEM [10]: Wish List

For community board advocacy, we need to know which important programs or projects are most in need of funding. If your agency were given a large amount of money, to which staffing need, program, or capital project would you assign it?

AGENCY RESPONSE:

We are proud of all SBS business and workforce programs that support the backbone of our local economy, we greatly appreciate any assistance from community boards in promoting our work so more New Yorkers can take advantage of our resources.

To highlight some of SBS' work:

SBS' Business Solutions Centers are located in all five boroughs and offer free resources, webinars and one-on-one assistance to small businesses. SBS connects entrepreneurs to free resources ranging from financing assistance to legal services. The NYC BEST team helps explain government rules and regulations to business owners, which can help them get their licenses and permits faster and avoid/reduce fines and violations. SBS also offers business emergency preparedness and recovery support. SBS helps minority and women-owned businesses (M/WBEs) get City-certified and compete for contracts.

SBS' Workforce1 centers are also located in all 5 boroughs, and they provide a wide variety of in-person and remote services. We support jobseekers with mock job interviews, resume prep, workshops, and job referrals. Through this work and more, SBS offers a variety of free training programs for local residents to acquire skills in growing fields.

MEETING NOTES:

NEW INFORMATION:

FOLLOW-UP COMMITMENTS: