

Women's Safety Summit Report



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Women's Safety Summit:

Executive Summary

In January 2025, the Adams administration held a Mayoral Summit on Women's Safety hosted by New York University's Marron Institute of Urban Management, bringing together almost 100 social service providers and government agency representatives for generative discussions focused on improving safety and reducing violence for women, girls, transgender, and gender expansive New Yorkers. The Mayoral Summit on Women's Safety fulfilled one of the many commitments in Mayor Adams' "[Women Forward NYC: An Action Plan for Gender Equity](#)." Announced at Mayor Adam's [2024 State of the City address](#), Women Forward NYC is a \$62 million investment aimed at making New York City a national leader on gender equity, including for transgender and gender expansive New Yorkers. The action plan addresses gender disparities by connecting women to professional development and higher-paying jobs; dismantling barriers to sexual, reproductive, and chronic health care; reducing gender-based violence against women, and providing holistic housing services, including for formerly incarcerated women and domestic and gender-based violence survivors.

The summit offered space for service providers and government agencies to uplift existing programs and initiatives, identify gaps in resources and services, and consider opportunities for additional collaboration to best serve New Yorkers. The event included a panel discussion between the Mayor's Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence (ENDGBV) Commissioner Saloni Sethi and panelists from social service providers, including Hailey Nolasco from Center for Justice Innovation, Jayna Marie Jones from HELP Roads, and Devin Dean from RISE Project at the Center for Justice Innovation. The panel focused on the root causes of gendered violence, definitions and principles of survivor-centered safety, and community-based approaches to accountability and safety. Attendees then participated in breakout discussion groups, facilitated by members from CUNY Institute for State and Local Governance (ISLG), with each group focusing on a specific realm of safety: (1) safety at home; (2) safety in school and work settings; and (3) safety in public spaces.

This report includes key themes discussed among the breakout groups and outlines the City's commitments to addressing the needs identified during the Summit. Safety is a cross-cutting issue that requires an interagency and community informed response. To effectively address holistic safety concerns, local government must leverage resources and support from partners at the federal and state levels, as well as the non-profit and private sector. The city invites partnership in our work to make New York City the safest city in America for women, girls, transgender, and gender expansive people.

Key Discussion Themes



Key Discussion Themes

Attendees were broken into three separate breakout groups focusing on different areas of safety: (1) safety at home; (2) safety in school and work settings; and (3) safety in public spaces. Across all the conversations, the following key themes emerged:

Providers want more opportunities to build cross-organizational connections and share information.

A central theme of breakout group discussions was that providers both want and need more opportunities for information sharing, outreach, and engagement. Creating a space for information sharing among practitioners – at the staff level, in particular – is essential to building referral pathways and warm hand-offs to better support survivors. This space would allow providers to coordinate their efforts, introduce newer staff members to other providers, build relationships, and help address silos between providers who address different but intersecting violences, such as gun violence and interpersonal violence. While the Mayor’s Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence has encouraged provider collaboration through events held at their [Family Justice Centers](#) or regular convenings of borough-based providers under the Domestic Violence and Other Violence Emergencies (DOVE), the conversation highlighted the need for additional spaces that cut across siloed issue areas.

Multidisciplinary collaboration is key to holistic safety.

Collaboration between providers and government agencies that provide various services to survivors is necessary to provide holistic support and address intersecting safety issues. Participants mentioned the need to bridge gaps between schools, medical professionals, and the criminal justice system especially. An example of a model referenced in the discussions included co-response teams, which pair law enforcement with trained clinicians and outreach professionals. For example, the [Department of Health and Mental Hygiene \(DOHMH\) and the New York City Police Department \(NYPD\) Co-Response Teams](#) are comprised of two police officers and one behavioral health professional and serve community members at an elevated risk of harm due to mental health or substance use challenges.

Survivor and community needs must be centered in safety responses.

Resources and programs that address public and domestic safety should consider survivor needs proactively to ensure that programs are accessible and effective. For example, pet-inclusive shelters make survivors of gender-based violence more likely to leave abusive environments and flexible funding for different needs, such as new locks and window replacements, make it easier for survivors to access care. The discussion also highlighted the need for safety programs to be designed in partnership with community members to ensure the community is receptive and the services are relevant, especially in communities less trusting of government.

New Yorkers need information and resources to promote community-centered safety.

Community members are key partners in addressing public safety. To help keep their own communities safe, community members, organizations, and civic leaders must be equipped with accurate information about available resources. The conversations between groups highlighted how there is both misinformation and lack of information on topics such as reporting domestic violence and identifying different types of abuse, such as elder abuse. Language and cultural barriers can also contribute to difficulties in sharing information in communities. [Family Justice Centers](#) were named as a model that works to effectively share information in communities and connect survivors to resources that should be replicated and expanded.

Real safety requires housing and economic stability.

When basic economic needs are not met, it is difficult to prioritize and meet safety needs. Factors such as lack of housing (due to voucher discrimination, unsafe housing conditions, etc.), or lack of financial stability, may increase people's vulnerability to harm or push them to cause harm. It is crucial to prioritize the basic needs of individuals and communities and look upstream when addressing the causes of why people both cause harm and may be vulnerable to harm. Participants agreed that connecting people with safe, permanent housing with supportive services – not just temporary shelters – should be a priority. The Adams administration has taken major steps to address housing and economic stability including, passing the most [pro-housing proposal in city's history](#) that will build 80,000 new homes over 15 years and invest \$5 billion towards critical infrastructure updates and housing. Recently, the city opened the first affordable housing site to specifically prioritize [renting units to women-led households](#), which will provide 64 units of housing in the Bronx



The City of New York's Commitment to Improving Safety for Women, Girls, Transgender, and Gender Expansive New Yorkers

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The City of New York will continue to work with partners from the Women's Safety Summit and beyond to improve how communities receive information and access resources and services in New York City. As a result of the Summit and to continue working towards the Women Forward 2030 goals, the city will continue to both expand and seek new opportunities to:

1. **Convene service providers across disciplines** to build relationships, community, and referral pathways and to discuss collaborative service and/or funding models that allow providers to reach more New Yorkers.
2. **Continue to build partnerships with key stakeholders**, such as academic institutions and private sector entities to leverage existing research and institutional expertise to inform policy decisions and service delivery.
3. **Engage in public awareness campaigns** about key issues impacting New Yorkers and the available resources and services available to address these issues. Public awareness campaigns can provide accurate information to community members so that they can help create safe spaces, promote accountability, and access the services they need outside of systems.
4. **Explore and coordinate expanded pathways to housing and economic opportunities**, including connection to employment opportunities, housing vouchers, and flexible funding for housing stability.

Women Forward NYC

Goals for 2030

The City of New York is committed to being the most women-forward city in the country. Through Women Forward NYC, the City of New York has set long term goals to drive gender equity. Below is a sample of the work the city is doing to reach those goals, including Women Forward specific program and the city's efforts more broadly. Additional city services to support women and families and more information on the Women Forward NYC plan can be found at [women.nyc](https://www.women.nyc).

Economic Mobility Goals

- **Close the gender pay gap for the same work**

Examples of Current City Initiatives:

- [Executive Order 84 Creation of the Mayor's Office Pay Equity Cabinet](#)

- **Close the female labor force participation gaps**

Examples of Current City Initiatives:

- [Women.NYC Network](#)
- [NYCHA Childcare Business Pathways](#)

- **Drive to parity in gender representation among the top 40 highest paying occupations**

Examples of Current City Initiatives:

- [Women.NYC Pivot to Growth](#)
- [NYC Her Future STEAM Pipeline](#)

- **Drive to parity in gender representation among NYC business ownership**

Examples of Current City Initiatives:

- [WE NYC](#)

Health Goals

- **Reduce pregnancy-associated mortality among Black women by 10%**

Examples of Current City Initiatives:

- [New Family Home Visiting](#)
- [Nurse Family Partnership](#)

- [Maternal Health Quality Improvement Network](#)
 - [Obstetric Simulation Training](#)
 - [Citywide Doula Initiative](#)
 - [Family Wellness Suites](#)
 - [Baby Boxes](#)
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- **Reduce breast cancer mortality by 10%, with a focus on reductions among Black women**
Examples of Current City Initiatives:
 - [Breast Health Screening](#)
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- **Increase percentage of 13-year-olds with completed HPV series by 40%**
Examples of Current City Initiatives:
 - [HPV Vaccine Action Toolkit](#)
 - [School Based Health Centers](#)
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- **Reduce annual HIV diagnosis rates for Black and Latina women by at least 50%**
Examples of Current City Initiatives:
 - [The Sexual Health Education Taskforce](#)
 - [Sexual Health Clinic](#)
 - [The NYC PEP Hotline](#)
 - [NYC Teens Connection](#)
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- **Reduce the percentage of public high school girls who report feeling sad or hopeless by 10%**
Examples of Current City Initiatives:
 - [Care, Community, Action: A Mental Health Plan for New York City](#)
 - [NYC Teenspace](#)
 - [Community-based suicide prevention programming to specifically serve Black and Brown youth](#)
 - [School Based Mental Health Centers](#)

Public Safety & Housing Stability Goals

- **Reduce felony domestic violence assaults by 25%**

Examples of Current City Initiatives:

- [Respect First](#)
- [Respect and Responsibility](#)
- [Early Relationship Abuse Prevention Program \(Early RAPP\)](#)
- [The Street Harassment Prevention Advisory Board \(SHPAB\)](#)
- [Executive Order 85 Establishing a NYC Domestic and Gender-Based Violence Workplace Policy](#)

- **Reduce homicides involving women victims by 30%**

Examples of Current City Initiatives:

- [Fatality Review Committee](#)
- [Partners Against the Hate \(P.A.T.H\)](#)
- [Project Grants to Prevent and Eliminate Bias and Hate](#)

- **Increase families with children exiting shelter into permanent housing by 25%**

Examples of Current City Initiatives:

- [Home+](#)
- [Affordable Housing Service Site](#)
- [Project CRIB](#)
- [Connecting More Families to Rental Subsidies](#)

Conclusion

This report lays out key findings from the Mayoral Summit on Women's Safety and the next steps the City will take to address the issues discussed. This work could not be done without the city agencies and service providers who joined the Summit, who helped inform the city's continued work to make the city safer for women, transgender, gender expansive New Yorkers and their families.



