

2020 ANNUAL REPORT



NYC



DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH

& COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Investing in Partnerships.



Empowering Individuals.



Strengthening Communities.

DYCD IN A

TIME OF CRISIS:

AGILE & RESPONSIVE



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Department of
Youth & Community
Development



EMPOWERING INDIVIDUALS

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

INVESTING IN COMMUNITIES

OUR MISSION:

THE NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (DYCD) INVESTS IN A NETWORK OF COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS AND PROGRAMS TO ALLEVIATE THE EFFECTS OF POVERTY AND TO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR NEW YORKERS AND COMMUNITIES TO FLOURISH.

OUR VISION:

DYCD STRIVES TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF NEW YORKERS BY COLLABORATING WITH LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS AND INVESTING IN THE TALENTS AND ASSETS OF OUR COMMUNITIES TO HELP THEM DEVELOP, GROW AND THRIVE.



NYC

DEPARTMENT
OF YOUTH

& COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT

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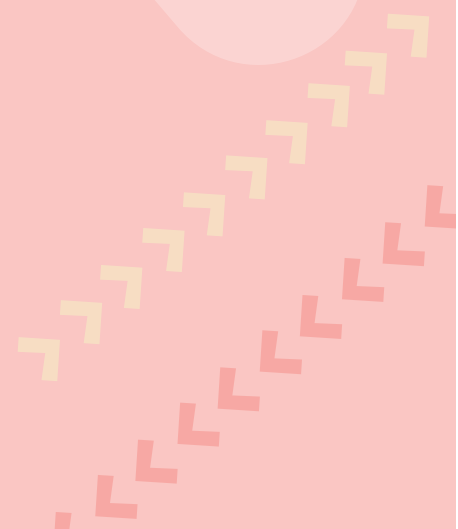
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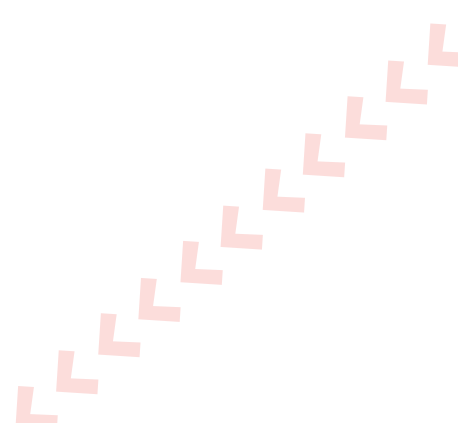
LETTER FROM THE
COMMISSIONER
BILL CHONG




Dear Friends:

I am pleased to present DYCD in a Time of Crisis: Agile & Responsive, the 2020 annual report of the New York City Department of Youth and Community Development.

With COVID-19 and the City's worst economic crisis in 45 years, this was a fiscal year unlike any other. Going on PAUSE due to the pandemic meant meeting our core responsibilities while teleworking. DYCD's IT team was among the first to get an agency up and running remotely, and our staff didn't miss a beat. Services continued to be delivered albeit in new ways: virtual opportunities like DYCD at Home; making sure that providers had contracts and were paid (nearly 3,000 contracts were registered); and fresh approaches to internal and external communications in terms of content, frequency and delivery. We committed ourselves to civic engagement and empowering young people to give back to their communities with the 2020 Census and voter registration. At the onset of the pandemic, Mayor de Blasio declared human service providers as "essential." Our outstanding network of community-based organizations answered the call by quickly reinventing themselves to administer remote programming and adapt to new initiatives such as Learning Bridges so that New Yorkers have a safe place to learn and receive services.





The result? DYCD was able to serve 339,963 New Yorkers in Fiscal Year 2020, an increase over the previous year. We continued to address the needs of vulnerable and homeless youth primarily through in-person programming and more available beds. Our COMPASS afterschool programs served 122,575 young people, and Beacon and Cornerstone Community Centers became lifelines by providing everything from remote activities to food and Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs). Tens of thousands of New Yorkers received support through literacy, immigrant services and anti-poverty programs. The 2019 Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) secured opportunities for more than 74,000 young people, and DYCD developed a curriculum with the online platform Hats & Ladders that helped make the launch of 2020's virtual SYEP Summer Bridge possible. Online applications for several programs are now available at *discoverDYCD*, and DYCD Connect has been greatly enhanced to help organizations communicate and coordinate with the communities they serve.

These accomplishments are due in no small part to investments in streamlining and modernizing our systems, and building a stronger, more integrated agency as we adapt to ever-changing realities. We also couldn't have done it without you—our fellow New Yorkers. Thank you for helping us remain “DYCD Strong.”

Sincerely,



Bill Chong
Commissioner
NYC Department of Youth & Community Development



LETTER FROM THE
COMMISSIONER
BILL CHONG



DYCD 2020 Highlights

(See DYCD Events and Milestones for other happenings related to these programs)

Beacon & Cornerstone Community Centers

Operating out of 91 school-based community centers, Beacon programs served 92,692 young people and 85,927 adults in Fiscal Year 2020. Cornerstone programs, located at 94 community centers in public housing, served 65,200 young people and 149,409 adults in Fiscal Year 2020. Strengthening adult and community engagement in Beacon and Cornerstone Centers were priorities this year, and that focus has led to large increases in adults served in both programs. Since the pandemic, Beacon and Cornerstones have played a pivotal role in the community. They remained in regular contact and communication with families to assess needs, make referrals and provide overall emotional support as many families were experiencing loss.

Beacon programs were able to offer enrichment and support activities to youth, including participation in additional remote events to address community needs during COVID-19. Beacon services remained accessible to adults and families and continued critical adult engagement through remote events. Due to the high demand for childcare, several agencies partnered with the New York City Department of Education Recreational Enrichment Centers in providing onsite academic support and childcare services to essential workers. Cornerstones pivoted quickly in being a critical and continuous resource to the community. In addition to providing vital remote and in-person services to adults and families, Cornerstones distributed nearly 200,000 meals that addressed the growing food insecurity in New York City. DYCD worked in partnership with nonprofits such as Lemontree Foods which sent volunteers to help with meal distribution at Cornerstones and City Council-funded food pantries, Fresh Direct and Food Bank for New York City.

Capacity Building

The COVID-19 pandemic and demonstrations for justice served as the foundation for DYCD's three-day virtual Leadership Academy in June 2020. DYCD's Capacity Building team joined Beacon and Cornerstone staff to organize an engaging mix of speakers, panels, workshops and networking sessions

for more than 300 participants from community-based organizations. Opening remarks were delivered by Deep Ghosh from the Child Center of NY, who walked attendees through the history of community centers and the essential services they provide to the City. A panel of Beacon and Cornerstone directors gave powerful testimony about their approaches and partnerships to meet the ever-growing and diverse needs of our communities. Other discussions and workshops included bringing capacity building support to the resiliency and sustainability conversations, and engaging young people in communities, leadership development, problem solving and self-care. The closing discussion featured the high school winners of DYCD's Young Sharks: St. Nicks Greenpoint Beacon and a Youth Council leader from the Research Foundation of the City University of New York (RFCUNY) M.S. 2 Beacon.

COMPASS Afterschool

COMPASS afterschool programs served 122,575 youth in FY20, well above the target of 110,000 and slightly more than the total in Fiscal 2019.

As a result of the Raise the Age legislation to eliminate youth being held at an adult facility with adults, COMPASS partnered with the Administration for Children's Services (ACS) to develop a specific program model for youth offenders at Horizons. This program began in July 2019.

At the onset of COVID-19, COMPASS programs entered a brief transition period from in-person to remote services. The transition period gave community-based providers time to set-up virtual services, train staff and ensure participants had devices and internet service. Like the shift made by schools, afterschool programs created online and virtual activities to maintain connection with youth and families and meet their recreational, academic and social-emotional needs.

The Commonpoint Queens COMPASS High program set up an emergency assistance and food package delivery program; Fresh Young Initiatives partnered with the app Trailo, created a COVID-19 resource page and developed a virtual activity hub for youth; DreamYard Project provided meals and delivered tech devices to participants who need them; and Global Kids COM-

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PASS High programs hosted youth leadership events on YouTube addressing everything from racism to completing the 2020 Census.

Community Action/Neighborhood Development Areas (NDAs)

DCYD’s NDA and Planning, Research and Program Development units hosted stakeholder engagement meetings during the summer of 2019 to discuss the effectiveness of program models and gather input about promising neighborhood-focused approaches from stakeholders who conduct work to alleviate poverty.

An NDA Concept Paper was released in early 2020 for a Request for Proposals (RFP) seeking qualified community-based organizations to provide federally funded Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) services to the City’s NDAs. Community Needs Assessments conducted by DYCD determined seven programs areas: adult literacy, economic development, healthy families, high school youth educational support, immigrant services, safety awareness and crime prevention, and senior services.

Community Development

In Fiscal Year 2020, DYCD served 13,741 New Yorkers through a variety of anti-poverty programs. Seventy-five percent of participants achieved their designated outcomes, well above the Fiscal 2020 target of 65 percent for this portfolio. For more on Community Development, see sections: Community Action/Neighborhood Development Areas (NDAs); Discretionary; Fatherhood; Literacy/Immigrant Services; and Neighborhood Advisory Board Liaison Unit (NABLU).

Discretionary

The Discretionary Unit processed 1,200 contracts during Fiscal Year 2020 and completed 828 visits to providers using a combination of desk reviews and onsite and virtual check-ins.

Funded discretionary provider PowerMyLearning is keeping teachers, young people and families connected and showing the importance of digital literacy—especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. Older Adults

Technology Services (OATS) launched new programming that includes free, daily virtual social gatherings and programs for seniors.

External Relations/Interagency Coordinating Council on Youth (ICC)

The ICC released its publication for youth emerging from detention and returning to the community, *Transitioning Back into the Community*, as well several resource guides that highlighted the services of the City of New York’s twenty youth-serving agencies and community partners. The guides were developed individually by each ICC workgroup with emphasis on the populations they serve.



Transitioning Back into the Community is also online!



The ICC held its quarterly membership meeting in September 2019. Attendees heard from the Inspector General Office of the Department of Investigation and the Community Based Alternatives/Division for Youth and Family Justice at the Administration for Children’s Services (ACS).

In October, the ICC’s Court-Involved Workgroup convened a focus group of students from the Department of Education’s District 79. They were asked for

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feedback on their familiarity with government, their awareness for civic engagement opportunities, and for recommendations they may have on how programs designed for youth could be more effective.

The November meeting commemorating National Runway Prevention Month featured a viewing of a video on gender pronouns produced by DYCD staff, a presentation by the Ackerman Institute and an update on DYCD's Vulnerable and Special Needs Youth Division. The video screened was developed for staff and provided a breakdown of concepts relating to gender and sexual equity in the workplace.



In December 2019, the ICC held its annual public hearing.

The January 2020 Supporting LGBTQ+ Workgroup meeting featured presentations by the NYC Unity Project and DYCD's Spring into Health Campaign. The NYC Unity Project, led by its executive director Ashe McGovern, presented on the first-ever focused, City-wide commitment to supporting and empowering LGBTQ+ young people.

In February, the ICC's Court Involved Youth Workgroup met and heard presentations from the Youth Gun Violence Prevention Initiative at Citizens Crime Commission of NYC. In addition, members met with representatives of the Center for Justice at Columbia University, which included two youth ambassadors, and were given a brief presentation on the progress made with the creation of the *ICC Court Involved Youth Workgroup Member Resource Guide*.

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the ICC held its annual LGBTQ+ Cultural Competency Training remotely in June 2020. The theme of the training was supporting LGBTQ+ youth amid social distancing with

an emphasis placed on appreciating what is working and not working as well as identifying supports/challenges during the crisis. This is the tenth year for the training and ninth administered by the historic LGBT Center. Daniel Reyes, the Center's Chief Programs Officer, welcomed attendees and highlighted the importance of the training.

External Relations

The External Relations Unit continues to work closely with elected officials and other community stakeholders to keep New Yorkers updated on COVID-19 and its impact on DYCD-funded programs.

Fatherhood

DYCD's Bring Your Dad to Afterschool events across the City helped kick off the 2019-2020 school year. The goal of young people bringing their dads or male caregivers to afterschool or evening programs is to get men more involved in the lives of their children and their education.

In December 2019, Commissioner Chong attended the Fatherhood Program's Father 2 Father holiday celebration at Friends of Island Academy in the Bronx for a distribution of toys collected during DYCD's Smiles of Love Gift Drive. In all, more than 1,000 items were donated, benefiting families, youth, adults and seniors in DYCD-funded programs.

June 2020 saw the launch of DYCD's "Barbershop Talks" webinar series. The inaugural two-hour session on healthy masculinity continued the great interest in



this topic from April's Denim Day event for Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Given the pandemic, social unrest and racial tension facing the City, the Barbershop Talks were introduced to promote health dialogue among men. Topics included definitions of masculinity, men's interpersonal relationships, and LGBTQ and gender identity. More than one hundred participants



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joined DYCD, our funded Fatherhood programs and special guest panelists Ted Bunch, co-founder of A CALL TO MEN; Juan Ramos, executive director of Southside United HDFC – Los Sures; Rev. Dr. Alfonso Wyatt, author and founder of Strategic and Facts; and Jeffery Gardere, psychologist, speaker and author. Men’s health and mental health were the focus of gatherings in July and August.

DYCD celebrated the annual Blue Tie Awards: Honoring Fathers event in June 2020. Now in its 13th year, the gathering was held virtually for the first time due to COVID-19 and recognized many of the achievements



of individual fathers that are participating in Fatherhood programs around the City. Derrick Manigault of Brooklyn Community Services was selected MVP-Dad of the Year and other honorees included Forestdale’s Family Services and the Fortune Society. Assemblyman Charles Fall was the Keynote Speaker.

UpNext, a DYCD-funded Fatherhood program, was in the national spotlight on *The Today Show*. The segment featured the inspiring story of dads getting back on the right track thanks to UpNext and its partnership with Midtown Community Court.

Information Technology

In September 2019, online applications for DYCD-funded Beacon, COMPASS, Cornerstone and Literacy programs went live on *discoverDYCD*.

Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) programs have been added to DYCD Connect for Participant Tracking.

DYCD’s digital assistant, Billie the Bot, was launched to more efficiently respond to inquiries regarding DYCD-funded programs.

The IT staff developed systems and reports to help with the COVID-19 response and kept systems up and running to allow DYCD’s Finance and Procurement teams to support nonprofits during the crisis. Digital consents were added to supplement paper/written consent forms and enhance the online enrollment process during the pandemic. The DYCD Connect, discoverDYCD and Reporting teams rapidly developed COVID-related tracking and reporting, and Helpdesk and Infrastructure Operations staff quickly transitioned the agency to teleworking.

Literacy/Immigrant Services

DYCD’s funded Literacy and Immigrant Services portfolios served a combined 17,000 New Yorkers in Fiscal Year 2020.

Literacy programs once again received additional funding support under Adult Literacy expansion. Fifty-five contracts were amended to increase enrollment by 5,600. In addition, the unit provided tremendous support to strengthen and enrich professional development for more than 300 staff members at funded CBOs. Three teacher training courses graduated 43 individuals who were ready to start teaching in funded programs. We also collaborated with CUNY to offer trainings on college and career advisement to CBO instructional and counseling staff.

Literacy initiatives provide participants with opportunities to improve their English literacy skills through funding of Adult Basic Education (ABE) and English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)/Civics programs. Despite the COVID-19-related suspension of in-person standardized tests used to measure progress, nearly half of the participants met standards of improvement in their ability to read, write and speak English. The percentage of participants achieving positive outcomes in Immigrant Services programs increased to 63 percent, exceeding the target of 60 percent.

Adult Literacy Programs rapidly turned to technology so that instructors can continue to meet virtually with their students during the pandemic. In order to facilitate the transition, DYCD staff has provided timely training to CBO staff on the effective use of various digital

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platforms to engage students. We also convened practitioners to share knowledge and best practices in distance learning. As an example, Inwood Community Services (ICS) enabled instructors—including those who are self-described “old school”—to continue to meet virtually with their students. Said Cyn Andreozzi of ICS: “If there is a silver lining to this pandemic and to this extraordinarily difficult time, it may be that love of family, of community, of learning, prevails.”

Future Now, the DYCD-funded Adult Literacy program housed at Bronx Community College, raised money to assist students who have lost loved ones to COVID-19 with emergency cash, food, and cleaning/hygiene supplies.

Immigrant Services providers had to shift gears very quickly to help their participants and families obtain benefits and services needed due to the pandemic. Although many were able to help them remotely, they still found most participants needed in-person services so they could continue to thrive. Increases in unemployment benefits, food stamps and healthcare applications were crucial. Providers also stepped up to help those who did not qualify for benefits by connecting them to food pantries and funds set up specifically for them.

Neighborhood Advisory Board Liaison Unit (NABLU)

In 2019, DYCD embarked on a stakeholder engagement process that included collecting feedback directly from 12,993 NYC residents across 41 Neighborhood Development Areas (NDAs) on the service needs and gaps present in their communities. It also collected feedback from 510 participants in antipoverty programs funded by the federal Community Services Block Grant (CSBG), 97 principals of New York City public schools with DYCD programming, and 13 elected officials. Neighborhood Advisory Boards (NAB) used this feedback to allocate CSBG funds to a set of services designed to address New Yorkers’ programmatic needs. DYCD used the information collected from the CNA to plan and design more effective programming; to better align and connect programming and service providers at the community level; and to advance its mission, vision and guiding principles.

Public hearings were held in the City’s new Neighborhood Development Areas (NDA), including Queens 8

(Briarwood–Jamaica Hills/ Pomonok–Flushing Heights–Hillcrest) and Queens 9 (Richmond Hill/O-zone Park).

Requests for Proposals (RFPs)

- Beacon Truman (re-issue)
- Unity Works (on hold during 2020)
- SYEP Special Initiatives (re-issue)
- SYEP Career Ready (school-based re-issue)
- Capacity Building Marketing and Communications
- Capacity Building Nonprofit Talent Development and Employee Engagement
- Capacity Building: Civic Engagement

Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY)/LGBTQ+ Youth

Twenty-five beds at two DYCD-funded Homeless Young Adults sites opened on Staten Island (Project Hospitality) and in Brooklyn (CORE Services) in late 2019, increasing the total number of available beds for young people to 778 (753 beds for ages 16 to 20, and 25 beds for ages 21 to 24).

DYCD’s funded runaway and homeless youth programs hosted events to mark National Runaway Prevention Month in November 2019, including Nets basketball games at Barclays Center, an Open Mic Night and bowling.

DYCD has worked to ensure equal access to programs that are welcoming to the LGBTQ+ community, including the addition of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) questions to our application form.

Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) Services programs continued to offer vital support during the COVID-19 pandemic. Drop-in Centers made essential referrals to housing and health care while they expanded online supports, including counseling on how to cope during the pandemic, clinical support for anxiety or depression, and recreational activities to maintain social connections during this time.

As part of the City’s efforts to provide safe spaces for runaway and homeless youth with COVID-like illness (CLI) who do not otherwise have a safe place to isolate, The Door and Ali Forney Center operated hotel isolation beds with medical services provided by Callen-Lorde. DYCD’s RHY program managers checked in daily with

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contracted sites to see if any youth in isolation requires a hotel referral. On a larger scale, the COVID-19 Hotel Program provided free hotel stays to eligible New Yorkers who cannot isolate where they live, as well as front-line workers in the healthcare industry who wish to reduce the risk of transmission at home.

DYCD's Administrative Services and Youth Services teams helped supply RHY providers with much needed Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and connected 90 cases of diapers, three cases of formula and 25 cases of baby wipes to 30 children staying at facilities run by Diaspora, SCO, Children's Village, and Covenant House. Cole Giannone, Senior Advisor for Youth Homelessness at the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services, secured more than 9,000 face masks through NYC Emergency Management. They were distributed to front line staff at Ali Forney Center, Cardinal McCloskey, Project Hospitality, Safe Horizon, Sheltering Arms, SCO of Family Services, The Door, Diaspora, GEMS, Rachel's Place, CORE Services, Covenant House, Children's Village, Good Shepherd and Rising Ground.

In conjunction with the Joe Torre Safe at Home Foundation, free hamburgers (donated by an anonymous benefactor) were distributed during the pandemic to young people at RHY facilities Ali Forney Center, GEMS, Rising Ground and Project Hospitality.

Pride Month was observed in June 2020 by partnering with the LGBT Community Center for a remote training on supporting LGBTQ+ youth during social distancing.

Workforce Development

In July 2019, Commissioner Chong joined Mayor de Blasio, Deputy Mayor for Strategic Policy Initiatives Phil Thompson, Schools Chancellor Richard A. Carranza, and City University of New York Chancellor Félix Matos Rodríguez to announce the launch of CareerReady NYC—a partnership between City government, employers, educational institutions, and nonprofit organizations to support young New Yorkers with the education, work experience and personal attributes needed for career success and economic security.

The 2019 Summer Youth Employment Program served over 74,000 young people and paid participants in

excess of \$108 million in wages and stipends. After rolling out the most significant transformation in the program's 56-year history, SYEP offered youth a variety of different program options, including the traditional community-based model for nearly 59,000 participants and project-based opportunities for over 15,000 youth aged 14 and 15. The special initiatives model reached nearly 8,000 young people who are homeless, in foster care, justice system-involved or living in select NYCHA developments, and over 2,200 youth were served through programs with CUNY, NYC DOE's District 75 and the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice's Cure Violence program.

Three SYEP program options were rebranded to improve marketing and recruitment efforts. After several focus groups were held with youth and stakeholders, Vulnerable Youth is now known as Emerging Leaders, General NYCHA as Career First, and NYCHA MAP as MAP to Success.



SYEP engaged Hats & Ladders, a national education curriculum developer to create a digital and in-person curriculum designed to motivate youth to explore, experiment with, and prepare for a wide range of career pathways. SYEP participants will use the Hats & Ladders digital platform to complete their pre-employment educational hours and support their summer learning.

The Work, Learn & Grow (WLG) program provided nearly 4,300 participants of the 2019 Summer Youth Employment Program with additional career readiness training and paid employment opportunities for up to twenty-two weeks from October 2019 through February 2020. Participants worked in a variety of jobs in the

DYCD 2020 Highlights



public, non-profit and private sectors, while receiving career readiness training focused on topics including career exploration, financial literacy, conflict resolution, resume/cover letter development and opportunities to continue education and social growth. Fifty providers served youth placed at nearly 1,300 worksites throughout the five boroughs. Additionally, WLG hosted a pilot program with CUNY which offered 300 youth an opportunity to take part in a College Now course, earn one college credit and receive additional career and college advisement within the first 11 weeks of the WLG program. Upon successful completion of the course, participants were placed in an internship for the remainder of the program.

DYCD's Workforce Connect employer engagement team capitalized on students' free time during the mid-winter school break in February 2020 by organizing several career exploration events hosted by employers around the City. Workplace tours, panels, and discussions were conducted with participants from the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Learn & Earn, WIOA Train & Earn, and Ladders for Leaders programs by employees at companies in various industries including Maimonides Hospital, VMLY&R, Kings County Hospital and Company.

The February 2020 kickoff of Advance & Earn, which supports opportunity youth with their academic and career goals, was met with excitement for things to come. But by late March DYCD was presented with an entirely new landscape of remote instruction amid the global COVID-19 pandemic. Initial challenges included providers and participants having unreliable connections and limited access to technology, adjusting curricula to make sense in a remote environment, participants caring for loved ones or living in environments not conducive to learning, and instructors without remote teaching experience having to quickly develop proficiency in video platforms. Despite the challenges of launching a new program model in the peak of the pandemic, Advance & Earn participants and staff persevered, and the program's very first cohort was quite a success. In all, over 130 credentials were earned, 20 participants were on their way to receive an HSE diploma, and two young people were off to college at CUNY Hostos and Metropolitan College of NY. Many young people obtained employment in various industries and companies such as: Meals on Wheels, NY Presbyterian, Census 2020, FedEx, Lyft/Citi Bike,

Woodlawn Cemetery, UPS, Creative Art Works, Whole Foods and Generation Contact Tracing.

WIOA Youth programs had to quickly pivot to virtual instruction and case management while building capacity. Enrollment in Train & Earn was capped to allow providers to operate safely and focus on the participants already enrolled. Providers were extremely creative in continuing to provide occupational training. One example is the Emergency Medical Technician Training run by The Door in partnership with Hostos Community College. Because the core EMT instructors are still active in the field, it was decided that for the safety of the participants they would start teaching remotely in early March. For the first time in the program's history, every student in the program passed the midterm exam with a score of 75 percent or better. Learn & Earn providers focused on serving youth remotely, keeping them engaged in school as much as possible, and providing social support. DYCD worked with our technical assistance partners to support instructors, developed opportunities for participants to maintain income by engaging in service learning projects, allowed providers to purchase additional tech devices for participants in need, eased enrollment guidelines, and instructed providers to expand the use of their social workers and case managers to meet the needs of participants and staff.

Youth Connect (now DYCD Community Connect)

To better reflect the array of age groups and communities it serves, DYCD's Youth Connect has been renamed DYCD Community Connect. It remains a "one stop shopping" resource and referral service for youth, families and community-based organizations (CBOs) by utilizing web-based strategies and a confidential toll-free hotline. Community Connect provides information and assistance to callers in more than 180 languages and can also be contacted via an online form on the DYCD website and through Youth Connect social media. The 1.800.246.4646 call center received more than 19,000 calls in Fiscal Year 2020 (prior to the onset of COVID-19). Contact DYCD at: CommunityConnect@dycd.nyc.gov.

DYCD Events and Milestones



- In July 2019, Commissioner Chong spoke at the annual PASE conference, Charting Our Future, about the key investments the City has made in data systems, evaluation, capacity building and creating a talent pipeline. That same month the Commissioner addressed young people at the Jobs First Conference about making smart career choices.
- DYCD and NYPD's 3rd Annual Career Day was a huge success. The August 2019 event was held at the NYPD Police Academy in College Point, Queens. There were 161 SYEP participants who had expressed interest in public service or who were currently interning at NYPD. The participants received hands on activities such as rock climbing, working with robots with the Technical Assistance Response Unit (TARU), attempting the Job Standard Test (JST) just like the cadets, and trying on tactical gear like the Strategic Response Group. The participants met additional units such as the Aviation Unit, Special Victims Unit, Neighborhood Coordination Officers and the Canine Team.
- In August, Downtown Brooklyn was the site of DYCD Democracy Corps: Day of Action and Rallies. An event at the City Tech Center featured guest speakers, performances and youth project accomplishments through creative presentations and workshops. The Rally Roll Call encouraged their peers to motivate people to

come together for a common purpose in their communities. SYEP project-based learning activities focused on the 2020 Census, environmental justice, and voter registration to align with the Administration's DemocracyNYC plan.

- DYCD participated in the NYPD's annual Patrol Borough Manhattan North Harmony Day in Central Park. This event brings thousands of young people out to interact with officers and learn about resources, including DYCD-funded programs, in their community.
- Commissioner Chong was a panelist at an education summit hosted by *City & State* where policy and industry experts gathered to foster conversation and debate over critical issues such as higher education, closing the achievement gap, innovation and technology and school safety. He addressed the importance of social and emotional learning and staff development (mediation and how to de-escalate conflicts) when it comes to keeping schools and programs safe.
- Another outstanding example of our agency's impact is the DYCD Performance Festival, in which students grades 5 through 12 from SONYC and Beacon programs use artistic expression to take us on a journey around the world through music. Previously, a recording studio filled with talented young people (along with our own Daron Burrows) created a video of Marvin Gaye's anthem, "What's Going On." This past year an even larger group of performers gathered to record "Tomorrow," the uplifting Quincy Jones-produced classic.
- In September 2019, DYCD's efforts to advance civic engagement among young people and communities brought together staff from our funded programs for Inspire and Mobilize—Building Bridges for Youth Civic Engagement. The panel discussion included representatives from UNICEF USA, CORO, NYC Youth Votes, Next Generation Politics and NYC Service. Cornerstone's Jerry Hyppolite performed spoken word. The purpose of the convening was to assess provider knowledge of civic engagement and to discuss civic engagement framework, resources and support, partnerships, and networking and relationship-building opportunities.





DYCD Events and Milestones

- DYCD-funded Beacon and Cornerstone programs had young people and other community members involved with the Campaign Finance Board Voter Registration Day. We also worked with programs on creative ways to get New Yorkers to register.
- DYCD hosted a special National Literacy Month gathering to name the large 18th floor conference room at 123 William Street in memory of DYCD’s unforgettable literacy champion, Richard Fish. Richard’s family, friends and colleagues were on hand for the dedication, which included the unveiling of a plaque in the Richard Fish Conference Room.
- The Grow with Google initiative in October 2019 offered young people and adults (16 years old and up) two days of free digital skills and job search workshops at Google’s NYC headquarters. Google is committed to reaching New Yorkers in high needs communities and providing more opportunities focused on technology, and career awareness and exploration.



- The United States Tennis Association concluded its celebration of National Hispanic Heritage Month with a special tennis introduction clinic for over 50 youth from DYCD-funded programs who hail from multiple Queens communities. The day of fun was held at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center. The clinic participants, all elementary and middle school students from DYCD-funded community partners Sunnyside Community Services and The Child Center of New York, had an opportunity to participate in the sport for the first time through numerous on-court activities.

- The Department for the Aging (DFTA) honored DYCD at its annual job fair event. DYCD was presented with DFTA’s Employer Recognition Award for supporting Title V of the Older Americans Act—the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP)—a federal initiative providing subsidized community service and employment training to low-income, unemployed individuals aged 55 and older. So many of our seniors have skills and life experiences to bring to our funded programs, and we look forward to making even more connections in the future.

STRONGER TOGETHER

COLLABORATING FOR RESILIENCE



- DYCD hosted NYC-based nonprofit organizations to participate in our 4th Annual Stronger Together Interactive Symposium, where they networked with fellow nonprofit leaders, learned about best practices, and received DYCD’s new toolkit, Building Strategic Partnerships, to strengthen their connections.
- The Family Development Credential Program (FDC) held its Annual Recognition Ceremony at CUNY’s John Jay College. The event celebrated 134 frontline staff and supervisors in social service organizations throughout New York City who earned their Family Development Credential or Leader Credential during Fall 2018 and Spring 2019. FDC and FDC for Leaders are CSBG-funded intensive professional development training programs that DYCD offers in partnership with the City University of New York.
- To mark Lights on Afterschool, DYCD began a social media campaign featuring young people who have benefited from City-funded afterschool. This year marked the 15th anniversary of the City’s afterschool program, which began as the Out-of-School-Time Initiative and now serves

DYCD Events and Milestones



more than 122,000 youth as COMPASS. Commissioner Chong also attended an event at the Empire State Building with Afterschool Alliance and PAL.



- In November 2019, DYCD and My Brother's Sister's Youth Council (MBSK) participated in Teens Take the Met, during which young people were invited to drop in for teen-only activities across the Museum including art making, performances, music, and more.
- *City & State* honored Commissioner Chong as one of its Nonprofit Power 100, the most influential people working in nonprofit organizations focusing on civil rights, criminal justice, health care, education, immigration and legal services.
- DYCD teamed up with the Girl Scouts of NYC to create about 40 troops across our funded COMPASS, Beacon and Cornerstone programs. The Girl Scouts provided free training for DYCD program staff, curriculum, uniforms, badges, scholarships, summer camp, and ongoing technical support. The organization's programming in Business and Entrepreneurship, Outdoor Adventure & Education, STEM, Leadership, and Community Service are all aligned with the core components of the COMPASS and Community Center models.
- In December 2019, DYCD joined a meeting of a workgroup led by the Office to Prevent Hate Crimes. DYCD recommended CBOs to be members of the Neighborhood Safety Coalitions in the three targeted Brooklyn neighborhoods: Crown Heights, Williamsburg and Borough Park.
- In January 2020, one thousand young people from DYCD-funded afterschool programs attended the Hello Panda Festival at Citi Field in Queens for free. It is the largest international lantern, food, and arts extravaganza celebrating culture and diversity.
- Commissioner Chong co-chaired the first meeting of the young adolescent workgroup of the Children's Cabinet. That same month, DYCD joined the first

meeting of the NYPD youth crime workgroup formed to coordinate City resources to stem the rise of robberies by young people. Commissioner Chong met with NYPD Commissioner Dermot Shea, and DYCD stands ready to work with the NYPD to raise awareness of DYCD resources.

- DYCD held its second annual staff development conference, "Solos to Symphony: Collective Impact." The day featured learning sessions, meet and greets for staff, remarks from Commissioner Chong, and a powerful speech by Geoffrey Canada, president of the Harlem Children's Zone. DYCD created the conferences to inspire staff to look outside the work they do in their respective units ("solos") and work toward a more cohesive agency ("symphony").



- From January 28 through January 31, 2020, the NYC Youth Count was conducted. DYCD encouraged young people to head to one of DYCD's funded drop-in centers to complete a short, anonymous survey.
- In celebration of Black History Month, the producers of Broadway's "Ain't Too Proud to Beg" invited 400 DYCD young people to attend performances, meet the cast and learn about theater.



Leggo My LEGO Robotics Competition

- In February 2020, DYCD's Leggo My LEGO Robotics Competition was held in Harlem. In partnership with FIRST LEGO League, the com-



DYCD Events and Milestones

petition introduced robotics to approximately 250 fourth to eighth graders at 25 DYCD-funded program sites. Through this hands-on, project-based competition, students learn about STEM concepts such as computational thinking, programming, mechanical engineering and the engineering design life cycle. Soft skills critical to future success such as public speaking and teamwork are also developed.



Hoops for A Cause Basketball Tournament

- The DYCD Mentoring Initiative hosted its annual middle school Hoops for A Cause Basketball Tournament at Williamsburg Community Center. Mentoring participants across the City came together to showcase their leadership, basketball, civic engagement and sportsmanship skills.
- DYCD’s annual Skate Day event attracted hundreds of young people in DYCD-funded programs enjoying a day of ice skating in Prospect Park.
- In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, DYCD launched virtual events to help young people stay connected remotely. #DYCDatHome and #FunAtHome events include puppetry, open mics, contemporary jazz, the DYCD Heroes Project, Asian traditional dance, hip hop fusion, and visual arts.
- Even COVID-19 couldn’t keep Women’s History Month from being observed at DYCD in March 2020—not in person but virtually! Program Integration and Professional Development staff hosted daily “lunch and learns” on prominent SHEroses throughout history, and 75 staffers went online to enjoy a virtual panel with the Women of DYCD sharing their professional stories.

- In April 2020, DYCD hosted an online conversation with A CALL TO MEN for Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Ted Bunch, Chief Development Officer of A CALL TO MEN, facilitated a dialogue on healthy masculinity.



- DYCD hosted Its 3rd Annual Community Moms Event in May 2020. In honor of Mother’s Day, our #DYCDCCommunityMoms campaign celebrated mothers and other caretakers who provide inspiration and support to families and communities. These community moms—whether volunteers, mentors, teachers, community leaders, healthcare staff, essential workers, caregivers, aunts, sisters or mothers—dedicate their time and energy to the physical, social, and emotional well-being of our City. Due to COVID 19 the event this year was virtual. Special guest speakers included Jacqueline Banks, Executive Director at the NYC Commission on Gender Equity; Councilmember Deborah Rose; and motivational speaker Arletta Allen.
- DYCD’s 2019 Step it Up for LGBTQ Rights video, produced with Show the Good, was nominated for a Webby, a prestigious international award honoring excellence on the Internet.



DYCD Events and Milestones

- More than 100 DYCD staffers joined a virtual moment of silence to coincide with a Minneapolis memorial service for George Floyd. We used Microsoft Teams so that our DYCD family could come together and pay our respects for eight minutes and 46 seconds, the amount of time a police officer kept his knee on Mr. Floyd's neck and ignored his cries for help.
- Dance and step teams from all five boroughs took part in this year's Step It Up NYC competition: Democracy in Action. These talented groups created performance pieces about the issues that NYC youth want voters to consider when they go to the polls, and also launched voter registration campaigns in their communities. This spring, while we all socially distanced to stop the spread of COVID-19, the teams took their campaigns online and continued to sharpen their skills with weekly online dance and step classes.



- The DYCD family gathered virtually for the Juneteenth: Celebrate Freedom commemoration of the abolishment of slavery in the United States. Staff learned more about Juneteenth, shared their words of freedom, and enjoyed spoken word and song while celebrating the historic resilience of African Americans.
- My Brother's and Sister's Keeper Youth Council (MB-SKYC) hosted an open mic event, Youth Quarantined Poets. There were powerful poems shared on topics such as COVID-19, systemic racism, Black Lives Matter and personal identity.
- DYCD celebrated Pride and the 50th anniversary of the Pride March virtually.
- We mourn the passing in 2020 of Suzanne Lynn, former DYCD Deputy Commissioner for Community Development. She joined the agency in September 2003 and served for nearly 11 years.

NYC Open Data

The New York City Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) is part of the City's commitment to Open Data for All—for people of all walks of life, from all five boroughs, who are using open data to make a difference in their communities. Along with our fellow City agencies, DYCD continues to provide specific datasets that inform the public about the work that we do and how we use that data to make agency decisions. Categories of DYCD data include Runaway and Homeless Youth sites and discharge information, federal Community Development Block Grant and Community Services Block Grant Funding, and ThriveNYC funding. DYCD has also committed to disclosing its Open Data participation through our social media channels, on our website and in this annual report. Visit opendata.cityofnewyork.us for more on NYC Open Data.



Planning, Program Integration, and Evaluation (PPIE) catalyzes and supports an integrated approach to change in DYCD. In FY20, the changes in programs, policies, practices and procedures were primarily in response to COVID-19 and the resulting impact on NYC communities and the DYCD-funded nonprofit organizations that serve them.

The Administration designated the City’s nonprofit human service sector as essential. The Office of Capacity Building stepped up to help them through the rapid and significant challenges they faced. The team swiftly transitioned to virtual service delivery, for everything from webinars to targeted consultations. In addition, the portfolio developed new content in response to emerging needs. For example, Fiscal Management Associates designed a webinar, digital toolkit and other resources to introduce providers to the Federal PPP program—several CBOs received loans and ExpandedEd delivered workshops on how to engage youth through online platforms. In total, 16,166 people attended virtual workshops last year—more than three times the average annual attendance.

With the sudden shift in DYCD operations and the service delivery strategies of our providers, the *Program Integration and Professional Development (PIPD)* team stepped up to build staff capacity to work in new ways and to facilitate internal processes to enhance the agency’s equity-focused efforts to meet the social justice imperative the City faced. Specific to staff, PIPD facilitated the certification of nine agency staff in Proscii and led the development and adoption of a universal set of core competencies for supervisors. On equity, PIPD led the team representing DYCD on the City’s EO45 workgroup; participation in this Citywide cohort of agencies has spurred an agency commitment to actualizing the agency’s Equity Statement.

The *Office of Strategic Communications and Stakeholder Engagement (OoScaSE)* led the way for DYCD to communicate more information with more people. The Office increased online engagement by more than 300 percent through expanded platforms and the quality and frequency of the



DYCD Behind the Scenes

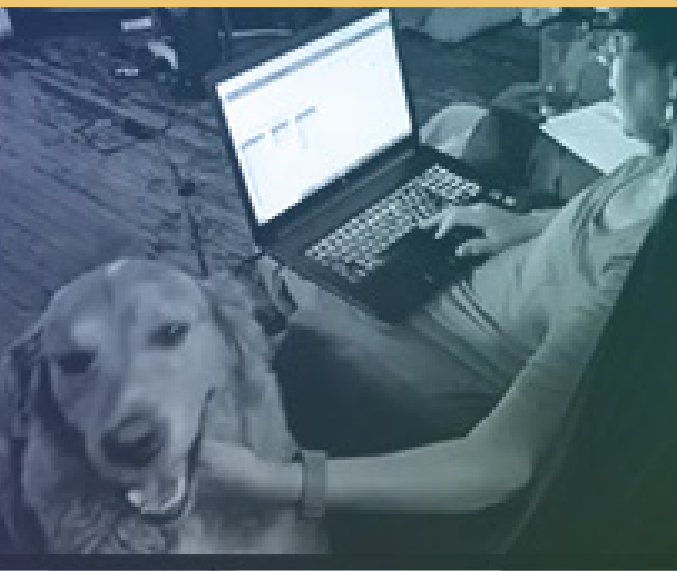


content shared. OoSCaSE designed and implemented a communications plan to promote SYEP Summer Bridge and to mitigate negative feedback caused by the change in model and significant decrease in numbers served caused by COVID-19. Finally, to build on DYCD's commitment to civic engagement, the Office conceived, designed, and launched the "We the YOUTH, You the People" initiative, a youth-led effort to facilitate a NYC youth agenda to engage candidates for key local offices in FY21.

The newly renamed *Office of Planning, Evaluation and Analytics (OPEA)* led efforts to support DYCD's adaptation to monitoring in a remote environment, including conducting an extensive literature review of best practices, supporting implementation through new monitoring tools and facilitating policy decisions among DYCD leadership. OPEA also led a robust NDA program development process, producing eight Requests for Proposals (RFPs) informed by a Community Needs Assessment and emerging pandemic-related needs. To advance DYCD's goal to become a data-driven organization, OPEA provided seven trainings to staff and in partnership with Information Technology team, launched a collaborative process to design dashboards to track department milestones and agency outcomes. Finally, the agency's Theory of Change was formally approved by the Executive Team.

The *Office of Executive Communications* helps coordinate, develop and distribute important updates to funded providers, the press and the public at large during the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, the unit works closely with the Commissioner on his weekly and monthly messages to DYCD staff to keep them informed about the latest agency news.

Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises (MWBEs) support local economies by providing employment opportunities to people within our communities. When the City decreased its spending during the pandemic, DYCD increased its outreach to MWBEs to ensure their participate in solicitations. DYCD's efforts to include MWBEs

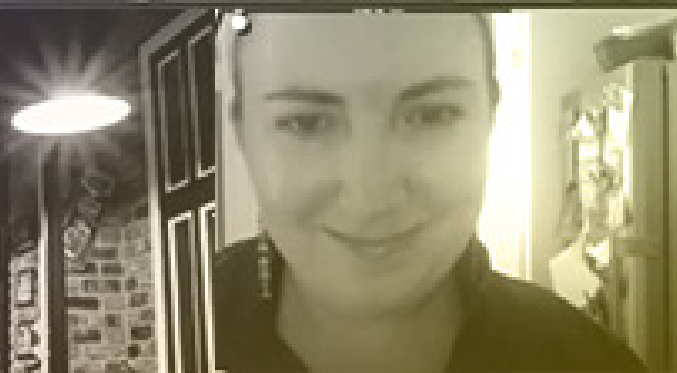


in our purchasing efforts resulted in contract awards totaling over \$176,000 in COVID-19-related purchases. These purchases included but are not limited to laptops for staff, cleaning supplies, masks, hand sanitizer and dispensers, plexiglass for reception areas, and signage for throughout our office in preparation for the staff return.

DYCD's *Procurement unit* has been committed to timely registering of contracts for valuable services to New York City residents. With staff working remotely, more than 80 percent of the FY21 contract extensions and renewals were either registered or sent to the Comptroller's Office to be registered on time.

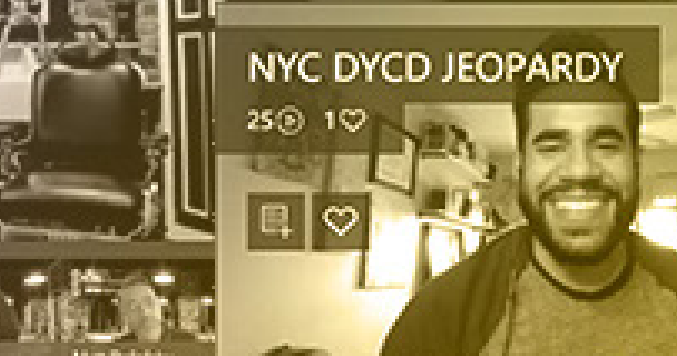
Bureau of Budget and Finance

DYCD funds various community-based organizations that provide services and activities for youth and low-income populations and is only as strong as the community-based organizations with whom it contracts. While ensuring funds are available to community-based organizations is always a priority, in response to the severe economic impact of the coronavirus in both the nonprofit community and among its participants, this year the Bureau worked diligently to ensure funds were timely to prevent and/or minimize disruptions to service delivery. To ensure budgets were approved efficiently and cash was available, DYCD released line item budgets in February to allow for review and approval so that funds were available at the start of fiscal year 2021. During calendar year 2020, in less than seven days of invoice receipt, DYCD reimbursed more than \$600 million to over 300 community organizations at 3,000+ sites Citywide. As the City continues to respond to the pandemic, the Bureau of Budget and Finance will continue to support community-based organizations with their financial concerns via our digital helpdesk, cafdhelp@dycd.nyc.gov.



NYC DYCD JEOPARDY

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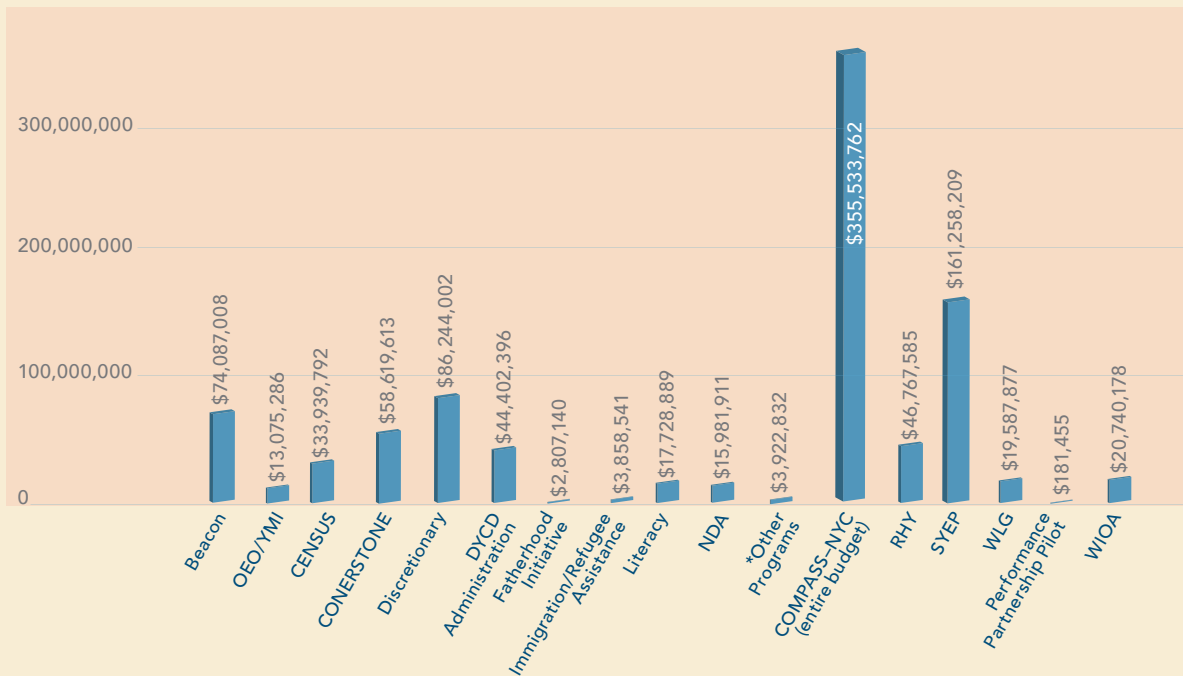
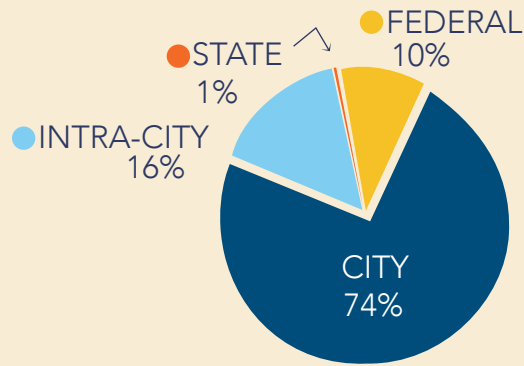


FY2020 DYCD FUNDING STREAMS



FY2020 DYCD FUNDING STREAMS • TOTAL = \$958,736,476

● CITY TAX LEVY	\$705,503,649
● FEDERAL	\$93,735,980
● STATE	\$7,014,617
● INTRA-CITY/OTHER	\$152,482,230
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TOTAL	\$958,736,476



ACRONYM KEY

OEO/YMI	Mayor's Office for Economic Opportunity /Young Men's Initiative
NDA	Neighborhood Development Area Programs
COMPASS- NYC	The Comprehensive After School System of New York City
RHY	Runaway and Homeless Youth Program
SYEP	Summer Youth Employment Program
WLG	Work, Learn & Grow Employment Program
WIOA	Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
*Other Programs	TA & Evaluation, Food Pantry, NYC Service Corps and Charter School Initiative



2020 ANNUAL REPORT



DEPARTMENT
OF YOUTH

& COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT



Department of
Youth & Community
Development

NYC Department of Youth & Community Development
2 Lafayette Street, 19th Floor
New York, N.Y. 10007

DYCD Community Connect
Toll Free 1.800.246.4646
Out-of-State: 646.343.6800

Call 311 for government information and services
Out-of-City: 212.NEW.YORK (212.639.9675)

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