

THE DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

# 2015 ANNUAL REPORT



**NYC**<sup>TM</sup>

Department of  
Youth & Community  
Development



Bill de Blasio  
Mayor

**Department of  
Youth & Community  
Development**

Bill Chong  
Commissioner

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

**04**

Mission Statement

**05**

Message from the Commissioner

**06**

Programs and Initiatives

**09**

Agency Milestones

**10**

Contact Information

**11**

Funding Streams



**Department of  
Youth & Community  
Development**

# MISSION STATEMENT

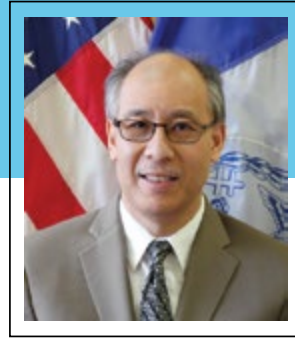
The New York City Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) invests in a network of community-based organizations and programs to alleviate the effects of poverty and to provide opportunities for New Yorkers and communities to flourish.

# VISION STATEMENT

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.



## A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMISSIONER



### Dear Fellow New Yorkers:

I am pleased to present the 2015 Annual Report for the New York City Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD).

The past twelve months have seen tremendous growth and accomplishments for DYCD, made possible through the ongoing commitment of Mayor Bill de Blasio and his administration, as well as elected officials and community-based organizations. That success is being recognized around the globe; a report by The Economist Intelligence Unit funded by Citi Foundation ranked New York City first in the nation and second only to Toronto worldwide among cities that are advancing opportunities for youth.

There were a record number of Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) participants in 2015, and the City created more than 200 positions in the tech industry and more than doubled the number of Ladders for Leaders internships and opportunities for young people who are homeless, court-involved or in foster care. A Wharton School study found that SYEP reduces incarceration rates and helps shield youth from external causes of death such as homicide. Thanks to over 9,100 diverse worksites such as the NYC Office of Chief Medical Examiner and Modell's—which employed young people at every one of its stores in all five boroughs this summer—SYEP not only builds careers but saves lives.

The unprecedented expansion of afterschool for middle school students continues, and in the current school year—the tenth anniversary of City-funded afterschool—we anticipate providing School's Out New York City (SONYC) opportunities for more than 61,000 young people in grades six through eight, for a total of more than 106,000 middle school students served in NYC. There are new SONYC pilot programs for justice-involved youth and young people living in Department of Homeless Services (DHS) family shelters.

Meanwhile, Runaway and Homeless Youth providers will offer Crisis Shelter and Transitional Independent Living (TIL) services with a focus on the LGBTQ community, including a TIL with specialized services for transgender youth. We also released a Request for Proposals (RFP) to operate youth and adult programs as part of the Cornerstone expansion to 94 New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) developments across the City beginning next summer. The newly-launched Neighborhood Development Area (NDA) Opportunity Youth: Supported Work Experience programs will offer work-readiness training and counseling, paid short-term work experience, and opportunities for career exploration to over 700 young people who are not in school or working.

Of course, DYCD and the non-profit organizations we fund, hosted fun, enriching community events, from Step it Up and COMPASS Recipe Rescue to Fun on the Rock and Skate Day. We also launched *discoverDYCD*, which allows users to search for DYCD-funded programs in their area, and provides contact information, lists of activities offered and a mapping feature with navigation. And this year our dedicated DYCD team processed a record \$500 million in awards—funding that directly improves the lives of hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers.

On the preceding page, you will find our agency's new Mission and Vision Statements, which will guide us into the future as we celebrate 20 years of the Department of Youth and Community Development investing in New York City's young people, families and communities.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Chong". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first and last names clearly legible.

**Bill Chong**  
Commissioner  
NYC Department of Youth  
and Community Development



## AFTERSCHOOL

Beacon Centers  
COMPASS NYC  
Cornerstone Centers  
Neighborhood Development Area Programs  
Teen ACTION

## WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT & INTERNSHIPS

In-School Youth Employment Program  
Ladders for Leaders  
Neighborhood Development Area  
Opportunity Youth Programs  
Out-of-School Youth Employment Program  
Summer Youth Employment Program  
Work, Learn and Grow Employment Program  
Young Adult Internship Program

## IMMIGRANT SERVICES

Civics Classes  
English for Speakers of Other Languages  
Services for Immigrant Families

## READING & WRITING

Adolescent Literacy  
Adult Literacy  
Young Adult Literacy

## RUNAWAY & HOMELESS YOUTH

Crisis Shelters  
Drop-in Centers  
Street Outreach  
Transitional Independent Living Programs

## FAMILY SUPPORT

Fatherhood Initiative  
Healthy Families Initiative  
Housing Advocacy and Assistance  
Senior Services and Assistance

## RESOURCES

Capacity Building  
Community Action Board  
discoverDYCD  
DYCD Youth Connect  
@DYCD E-Blast  
DYCD website  
E-Newsletter  
Neighborhood Advisory Board  
Transportation Program





## Beacon

The University Settlement Beacon High School step team, **Undefined Beatz**, was crowned this year's **DYCD Step It Up champions** at the Apollo Theater. More than 80 teams and 1,000 youth participated in the fifth annual competition, designed to create positive change around anti-violence themes, including bullying, and teen dating and gun violence.

For seven weeks during the summer, 24 Nike athletes from the Brooklyn Community Store volunteered at the **Research Foundation CUNY Flatbush Beacon Center** by leading and assisting sport sessions, chaperoning field trips and serving as mentors for young people.

## Capacity Building

As part of its ongoing efforts to connect afterschool providers to resources that will enhance their programs, DYCD launched the **Cultivating Curiosity: Inquire, Create and Explore** initiative, which includes a resource expo and summer activities. The Resource Expo held at the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum was attended by over 600 afterschool representatives and showcased more than 80 organizations that provide visual and performing arts, sports, literacy, cooking, STEM, leadership, film and civic engagement programming.

Using the City as a learning playground, the **Cultivating Curiosity Summer in the City** pilots help youth discover their "spark" with hands-on interdisciplinary approaches to STEM, literacy, performing and visual arts, leadership, and service learning. Participants were able to engage in high-quality learning activities that encouraged them to build skills, discover talents, and be exposed to potential careers fields.

## COMPASS/SONYC Afterschool

The **Comprehensive After School System of New York City (COMPASS)** now comprises more than 900 programs and serves over 95,000 students from kindergarten through high school in all five boroughs.



The unprecedented expansion of afterschool for middle school students continues, and in the current school year—the tenth anniversary of City-funded afterschool—DYCD anticipates providing **School's Out New York City (SONYC)** opportunities for more than 61,000 young people in grades six through eight.

There are new SONYC pilot programs for justice-involved youth and young people living in Department of Homeless Services (DHS) family shelters.

## Cornerstone

Cornerstone Community Centers expanded to **94 New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA)** developments, an increase of 24 community center sites across New York City.

For a second straight year, there were expanded summer evening hours at **Cornerstone Community Centers**, allowing services to operate until 11:00PM seven nights a week.

## Community Development

In partnership with The Mayor's Office of Contract Services and The Mayor's Office of Operations, DYCD presented a **Community Development Workshop** at Bronx Community College. The host agencies provided valuable information on the City contracting and discretionary funding processes.

## External Relations/Interagency Coordinating Council on Youth

Now available is "*Coming Home: Transitioning Back into the Community – A Resource Directory*," which provides information about resources available to young people in New York City who are leaving detention or have been involved with the criminal/juvenile justice system. The guide was compiled by members of the Interagency Coordinating Council on Youth (ICC), which includes DYCD. To view the guide, go to [www.nyc.gov/dycd](http://www.nyc.gov/dycd).

The ICC, in conjunction with DYCD's Cornerstone Program, held a **Youth and Police Summit** at the Johnson SCAN Cornerstone Community Center that brought together youth 14 – 17 years of age and community police officers. The ICC has previously facilitated dialogue between the NYPD, community groups, residents and youth to enhance community relations.

The External Relations team joined elected officials at twenty **Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP)** workshops at **Beacon** and **Cornerstone** centers across the five boroughs to provide attendees with valuable information on eligibility criteria, the application process, program providers, and alternative summer opportunities and resources.

## Fatherhood

DYCD held its **8th Annual Father's Day** event, "Nurturing through Nature," hosted by the Queens Zoo. This year's was the most popular yet, with more than 200 dads and kids enjoying a day of fun.



To kick off the new school year, **Dads Take Your Child to School Day** attracted more than 100 dads, father figures and their children along with Brooklyn Nets stars Rondae Hollis Jefferson and Willie Reed. DYCD's institutional support of the Dads Take Your Child to School campaign has



helped it expand both in New York City (722 schools, up from 523 last year) and statewide (a total of 831 schools).

### *Immigrant Services*

More than 3,300 young people were assisted in applying for the **Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)** program and other forms of immigration relief over the past two years.

DYCD continues to be committed to NYC's immigrant families by providing support to parents of English Language Learners by increasing their participation in their children's education and helping them navigate the NYC school system. A new program of English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) instruction in the context of civics is available for the City's adult immigrant population seeking citizenship.

### *Literacy*

DYCD Literacy Programs held the first annual **Star Achievers Award Ceremony** to recognize the achievement of Young Adult Literacy Program (YALP) participants, with awards for excellent attendance, remarkable improvements, taking on a leadership role, and overall outstanding performance.

As part of DYCD's ongoing support to instructional staff at funded community-based organizations (CBO), approximately 400 staff participated in monthly trainings offered by the Literacy Programs Unit for teachers of English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL). Workshop titles included Curriculum Development, Integrating Technology in Language Learning, Using Games and Manipulatives in Language Learning, and Brain-Based Learning Strategies.

### *Neighborhood Development Areas (NDA)*

Nearly 200 three-year NDA contracts are underway, providing more than 15,000 New Yorkers with immigration, literacy, healthy families, housing, seniors and high school youth programs, and the newly-launched **Opportunity Youth: Supported Work Experience**. Opportunity Youth offers work-readiness training and counseling, paid short-term work experience, and opportunities for career exploration to over 700 young people who are not in school or working. The new role of counselor-advocate within the NDA high school programs is also helping students.

### *Public Information/Youth Connect*

DYCD was featured in nearly 200 news stories in 2015, including **CBS Evening News** featuring Commissioner Chong and SYEP participant Adrian Gonzalez.

In 2015, **Youth Connect** surpassed projections by reaching over 100,000 New Yorkers through the 1.800.246.4646 hotline, DYCD social media, the Youth Connect E-blast, and by attending more than a hundred community outreach events.

### *Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY)*

DYCD-funded Runaway and Homeless Youth providers offer **Crisis Shelter** and **Transitional Independent Living (TIL)** programs, with specialized services for LGBTQ youth, including a TIL for transgender youth and a 24-hour Drop-in Center. One hundred new TIL beds opened this year, joining the 100 made available in 2014. Mental health services have been added to existing and new RHY services.



In recognition of **National Runaway and Homeless Youth Prevention Month** in November, DYCD hosted **Open Mic Night** with artist and songwriter **TL Cross** at the Helen Mills Theater. DYCD also hosted the “More than Meets the Eye” conference at New York Law School, featuring an audience participation play based on real-life struggles of runaway and homeless young people, and four workshops addressed issues providers confront when working with RHY.



**Hetrick-Martin Institute (HMI)** and DYCD partnered to review, assess and improve the capacity and quality of services for LGBTQ Runaway and Homeless Youth at our funded program sites.

### Teen ACTION/Summer of Service

DYCD received a generous grant from The Neuberger Berman Foundation to conduct the **7<sup>th</sup> Annual Summer of Service** initiative, with young people in grades 7–10 completing more than 116,900 hours of civic engagement and social justice projects as part of the **Teen ACTION** initiative.

### Youth Workforce Development

**The Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP)** expanded to a record 54,263 participants at 9,156 diverse worksites, and the City more than doubled the number of **Ladders for Leaders** internships (1,035) and opportunities for young people who are homeless, court-involved or in foster care (2,078). Through partnerships with companies like AOL, Pandora and Medidata, over 200 positions were created in the tech industry, up from just 44 slots last year. The school year employment program **Work, Learn and Grow** was launched, employing 4,000 in-school youth ages 14–24.

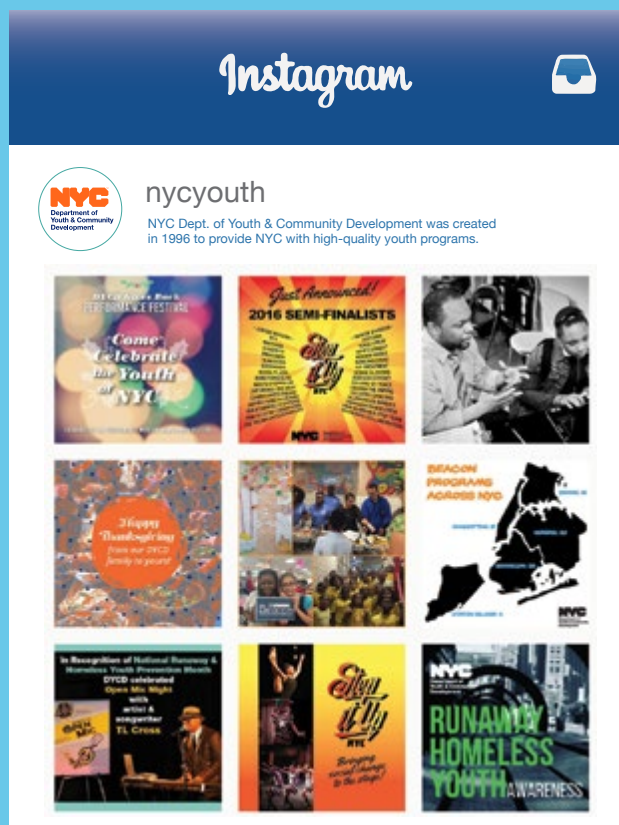
A **Wharton School study** found that SYEP reduces incarceration rates and helps shield youth from external causes of death such as homicide.

**The Young Adult Internship Program (YAIP)** completed the first of three cohorts for the current fiscal year. During the latest cycle, 492 youth graduated from the 14-week subsidized internship program, which targets youth between 16 and 24 years old who are not in school and not working, and aims to connect them to advanced training, employment and/or higher education opportunities.

**The WIOA Out-of-School Youth (OSY)** Program served over 1,500 eligible youth between the ages of 16–24 who are not working or in school and need assistance in upgrading their occupational and educational skills. More than 1,850 young people participated and 139 college scholarships were offered as part of the **In-School Youth (ISY)** program “Transition to Adulthood,” designed to help high school juniors and seniors graduate and prepare them for post-secondary education or employment.

## OTHER DYCD EVENTS AND MILESTONES

DYCD launched its **Instagram** site and the new **discoverDYCD** web-based app, which allows users to search for DYCD-funded programs in their area.



**The Honorable David N. Dinkins** joined DYCD for the renaming of the main conference room at 123 William Street (17<sup>th</sup> Floor) in honor of former Commissioner of Youth Services, **Richard L. Murphy**.



**COMPASS** events included the **10<sup>th</sup> annual Skate Day**; **REEL eXposure Film Festival**; **Recipe Rescue**; **My Voice NYC Poetry Slam**; **Young Artist exhibits**; **10<sup>th</sup> Annual Fun on the Rock**; “Gives Back” **Performance Festival**; “Thankful” **Young Poets Society**; **SONYC Game Changers Youth Leadership Kickoff**; and the **Transition to High School Culminating Event** at the New York Public Library with actor, veteran and “Dancing with the Stars” winner **J.R. Martinez** and young men who contributed to their published “Experience Our Story” anthology.

DYCD partnered with the **NY POPS Orchestra** to sponsor the attendance of 1,323 DYCD youth at the Orchestra’s annual Kids in the Balcony concerts.

Four varsity teams of 200 young women from the **Jr. Liberty League Powered by DYCD** competed at a Williamsburg Cornerstone site along with NY Liberty guard Epiphanny Prince.



McDonald's sponsored 20 of DYCD's summer program participants between the ages of 8 and 17 to attend the **Brooklyn Nets Summer Camp**, which culminated with an event at Barclays Center.

Thousands of young people enjoyed a day of fun at **DYCD Day at the Bronx Zoo**.

The **"Healing the Hurt"** conference at New York Law School helped educate youth professionals about trauma in our neighborhoods and among young people.

DYCD joined the Afterschool Alliance to participate in the annual **"Lights On Afterschool"** campaign.

The Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence and DYCD collaborated on the **"Empowering Men to Speak Out Against Sexual Violence"** Denim Day gathering at the Bronx Family Justice Center.

Along with the Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment, DYCD hosted approximately 200 young adult program participants for **"Daredevil: Anatomy of a Scene Made in NY."** The Netflix series' stunt coordinator, stunt double, director, art director and production designer spoke with attendees about the many pathways to careers in film and production.

DYCD joined iconic32—co-founded by actor and 2015 Step it Up judge Malik Yoba—for its first **Pop Culture Youth Summit** at John Jay College, where young people met and co-created with influencers in the fields of tech, photography, art, film, music and sports.

The **"Kids Take the Met"** event at the Metropolitan Museum of Art features nearly 4,500 young people—half of them associated with DYCD-funded programs—exposed to art and culture, murals, gallery tours, dance and music, and graphic arts.

Hundreds of **DYCD NYC Soccer for Success** program participants took part in tournament play at Macombs Dam Park in the Bronx, with a surprise visit from professional footballer Kwadwo Poku of the New York City Football Club.

In partnership with the Department of Design and Construction (DDC), events celebrating the **Young Engineers** program—an effort to expand STEM education in afterschool programs—were held at Ebbets Field Middle School (MS 352) in Brooklyn and MS 22 in the Bronx.

DYCD held its **"Battle of the Boroughs"** art exhibits, a friendly competition to engage youth, family, friends to come out and support the creative talent that resides within their local communities.

**Youth Connect and External Relations** expanded the annual gift drive, collecting **more than 1,200 toys and books for youth** for DYCD's afterschool, Fatherhood (children of enrolled fathers) and Runaway and Homeless Youth mother-child programs.

**Requests for Proposals (RFPs)** issued in 2015 included: COMPASS School-Based Elementary Programs; COMPASS Center Based or Non-Public Schools Elementary Programs; COMPASS High; COMPASS Explore; COMPASS Elementary (18 Public Schools); SONYC: Additional Public School Sites; SONYC Pilot Programs; Community Schools with the Department of Education; Vulnerable Youth Residential Services; Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) for Out-of-School Youth (OSY) Programs; NYCHA Cornerstone Programs; and Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) Ladders for Leaders.

## DYCD by the Numbers

 **54,263**  
**PARTICIPANTS**

SYEP expanded to a record 54,263 participants in 2015.

**28%**   
**INCREASE IN 2015**

The City created more than 200 positions in the tech industry, up from just 44 slots last year.

 **9,100**  
**WORKSITES**  
**IN 5 BOROUGHES**

Thanks to more diverse worksites in 2015, SYEP not only builds careers but saves lives in NYC.

 **2015**  
**2016** 

## 106K SECONDARY STUDENTS

In the 2015–16 school year, we anticipate providing afterschool opportunities for an unprecedented 106,000 middle school students.

## GET CONNECTED!

Youth Connect is a free and confidential information service that connects youth to jobs, afterschool programs and training opportunities.

**CALL IN NYC: 1.800.246.4646**

**OUTSIDE NYC: 1.646.343.6800**

**EMAIL US: [youthconnect@dycd.nyc.gov](mailto:youthconnect@dycd.nyc.gov)**







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## 2015 DYCD FUNDING STREAMS • TOTAL = \$593 MILLION

