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**NYC DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, NYC  
OPPORTUNITY LAUNCH ADVANCE & EARN PROGRAM FOR YOUNG PEOPLE NOT  
WORKING OR IN SCHOOL**

*New initiative combines education and workforce development to give New York City young adults the skills they need to succeed*

**NEW YORK**—The NYC Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) and the Mayor's Office for Economic Opportunity (NYC Opportunity) today announced the start of Advance & Earn, a new career pathway approach to delivering education and workforce services to opportunity youth. The program will offer young adults ages 16-24 who are not in school and not working a continuum of education and employment services from literacy instruction through advanced training and job placement or college enrollment supported by comprehensive support services tailored to individual needs. The Advance & Earn program is funded by NYC Opportunity in partnership with the NYC Young Men's Initiative.

“The young people of New York City deserve equal opportunities that prioritize career awareness, career exploration, and work-based learning to prepare them for a constantly changing workforce. Advance & Earn marks a major step forward in the Administration's efforts to create a sustainable economy in which every New Yorker finds steady work and earns a wage that can support them and their families,” said **J. Phillip Thompson, Deputy Mayor for Strategic Policy Initiatives**.

“With the number of young people taking and passing the High School Equivalency (HSE) decreasing, Advance & Earn offers support services and engagement strategies such as paid internships to help them pass the exam, build their literacy, math and job skills, and put them on the road to becoming gainfully employed and successful adults. We thank the Mayor's Office for Economic Opportunity, the NYC Young Men's Initiative and our community partners for working with us to create this exciting new program,” said **Bill Chong, Commissioner, NYC Department of Youth and Community Development**.

“Advance & Earn is an innovative program that aims to support NYC's young adults along a career pathway to long-term success. We are proud to be partnering with the Department of Youth and Community Development and the Young Men's Initiative to launch this exciting new education and employment program that builds on the insights and experiences of youth participants and service providers,” said **Matthew Klein, Executive Director, Mayor's Office for Economic Opportunity**.

Advance & Earn will offer three program tracks, with an emphasis on intensive case management and the retention of participants in a continuum of services:

- Pre-HSE Instruction (16-to-24-year-olds): Academic instruction at the fourth to eight grade reading levels within a focus on work readiness, industry, career and college exploration.
- HSE Preparation (16-to-24-year-olds): Prepares participants for the Test Assessing Secondary Completion (TASC) exam and includes work readiness training, college and career exploration, paid internships, and credential instruction.

- Advanced Training (18-to-24-year-olds): Sector-focused, occupational skills training, paid internships, college and career exploration, and job placement.

Pre-HSE participants will receive a weekly stipend based on attendance; HSE Preparation and Advanced Training participants are eligible for a 250-hour internship at the prevailing minimum wage. Advance & Earn applicants must be ages 16 to 24, a resident of New York City, currently not working or in school, legally authorized to work in the City, and willing to commit at least six months to the program.

DYCD awarded contracts to six community-based organizations to operate all three program components. The first six-month cohort of services began February 3; a second cohort is scheduled to launch in September.

<b>Provider</b>	<b>Borough</b>	<b>Advanced Training</b>	<b>Subcontractor</b>
<b>The Door – A Center of Alternatives</b>	Manhattan & Bronx	Masonry and Landscaping	Woodlawn Conservancy
<b>Commonpoint Queens</b>	Queens	Certified Nurse’s Aide and EKG/Phlebotomy Technician	Access Institute
<b>Stanley M. Isaacs Neighborhood Center</b>	Manhattan	Line Cook/Culinary Arts	The Chef Agency
<b>Opportunities for a Better Tomorrow</b>	Brooklyn	Digital Marketing	Generation
<b>Child Development Center of the Mosholu Montefiore Community Center</b>	Bronx	Commercial Driver’s License	SuperTrans, VP Buses LLC
<b>NYSARC</b>	Staten Island	Direct Support Professionals	n/a

“With the support of Advance & Earn, we’ll be able to engage 100 youth in pre-High School Equivalency and HSE preparation classes, as well as workforce readiness trainings and paid internships at the Door’s sites in Lower Manhattan and the Bronx. It will also allow us to expand our existing partnership with the Woodlawn Conservancy in the Bronx to train 50 youth in masonry, construction, and/or landscaping annually. These advanced training participants will receive professional certifications and access to paid internships, improving their opportunities to obtain permanent employment upon graduation. We’re grateful to the visionary leadership of the Department of Youth and Community Development and the Mayor’s Office for Economic Opportunity for helping us to expand these vital, successful programs,” said **Eric Weingartner, CEO, The Door.**

“Commonpoint Queens is honored to be a part of the Advance & Earn Program, giving our young adults an incredible opportunity to take that first step into their bright professional future. We’re grateful that our participants will have access to industry focused training in the health care field, paid medical internships, instruction that will support a focused contextualized curriculum, and the support of a dedicated team that truly believes in the potential of each one of them. We’re certain that Advance & Earn will transform the lives of our New York City Opportunity Youth,” said **Danielle Ellman, CEO, Commonpoint Queens.**

“The Isaacs Center is thrilled to take part in this innovative initiative to provide young people with the tools and supportive services they need to successfully retain employment in a rapidly growing and high-demand career sector. We applaud the Mayor and Commissioner Chong for their relentless commitment

to Opportunity Youth and look forward to working with our Advance & Earn community partners to help at-risk youth transition from hardship to sustainable career pathways in food service and culinary arts,” said **Gregory J. Morris, President and Executive Director, the Stanley M. Isaacs Neighborhood Center.**

“Opportunities for a Better Tomorrow (OBT) is excited to build on nearly 40 years of work with this responsive career pathways model for NYC youth through Advance & Earn. Our program offers young adults with the training, skill development and individualized support at every phase of their career pathway. With academic instruction, professional development, internship and industry certifications in Digital Marketing, we are focused on entry into quality jobs and higher education. We are thrilled to be part of this work and our collaboration with colleagues across NYC,” said **Courtney Granger, Vice President of Programs, Opportunities for a Better Tomorrow.**

“The Advance & Earn Program is an exciting opportunity for young adults to get their start in high-demand jobs with high income potential. They can learn and apply new skills in a supportive environment strategically designed to help them achieve personal, educational and vocational goals,” said **Liza Perez, Director of Workforce Development & Continuing Education, Child Development Center of the Mosholu Montefiore Community Center.**

“NYSARC NYC Chapter is proud and delighted to be part of this innovative approach and we are confident that it will lead New York City youth to find rewarding careers and encourage many to pursue higher education. Together, we hope that we can turn young people’s hopes into reality and promote economic self-sufficiency, independence and increased self-esteem. Young people can get their HSE and attain Advanced Training certification while earning and that is a key to success. We strongly believe that we can help to transform lives for the better. We are proud to be part of this change,” said **Salvador Moran, Director of Employment and Business Services, NYSARC, Inc.**

For more information on Advance & Earn, visit [www.nyc.gov/advance](http://www.nyc.gov/advance) or call DYCD Youth Connect at 1-800-246-4646 or 646-343-6800.

## **About DYCD**

DYCD supports New York City’s afterschool and youth workforce development programs throughout the five boroughs. The agency also oversees funding for anti-poverty programs, such as adult literacy and immigrant services. For more information, visit [www.nyc.gov/dycd](http://www.nyc.gov/dycd) or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#).

## **About NYC Opportunity**

NYC Opportunity uses evidence and innovation to reduce poverty and increase equity. It advances research, data and design in the City’s program and policy development, service delivery, and budget decisions. Its work includes analyzing existing anti-poverty approaches, developing new interventions, facilitating the sharing of data across City agencies, and rigorously assessing the impact of key initiatives. NYC Opportunity manages a discrete fund and works collaboratively with City agencies to design, test and oversee new programs and digital products. It also produces research and analysis of poverty and social conditions, including its influential annual Poverty Measure, which provides a more accurate and comprehensive picture of poverty in New York City than the federal rate. Part of the Mayor’s Office of Operations, NYC Opportunity is active in supporting the de Blasio administration’s priority to make equity a core governing principle across all agencies.

## **About YMI**

NYC's Young Men's Initiative (YMI), the nation's most comprehensive municipal effort to tackle the broad disparities slowing the advancement of Black and Latino young men, was launched in August 2011. This cross-agency enterprise is New York City's commitment to finding new ways to tackle the crisis affecting young Black and Latino men. Through an innovative public-private partnership, the City has invested in new programs and policies that are designed to address disparities between young Black and Latino men and their peers across numerous outcomes related to education, health, employment, and the criminal justice system. These programs and policies break down barriers to success and help young men achieve their professional, educational, and personal goals.

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