Department of Youth & Community Development

Bill de Blasio
Mayor

Bill Chong
Commissioner

2014 Annual Report

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Message From the Commissioner

Dear Fellow New Yorkers:

I am pleased to present you with the 2014 Annual Report from the New York City Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD).

This has been a tremendous year of growth for DYCD, made possible by the steadfast commitment of Mayor Bill de Blasio and his administration, elected officials, our community partners and DYCD staff in the development and well-being of New York City's young people and families. As a lifelong New Yorker who has dedicated most of his professional life to building the capacity of community-based organizations to serve youth, the elderly and vulnerable populations, I can think of no greater honor than to serve as DYCD Commissioner.

Of all our shared accomplishments this past year, perhaps the most significant was the largest expansion of afterschool for middle school students in New York City history. With an unprecedented $145 million investment, School's Out New York City (SONYC) was launched and the number of free afterschool seats for grades 6-8 was nearly doubled. In the 2014-15 school year, more than 78,000 middle schoolers will have access to high quality learning opportunities, including STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) and other programming that are pathways to success for our young people.

DYCD was also excited to announce the renaming of the Out-of-School Time Initiative (OST) as the Comprehensive After School System of New York City (COMPASS NYC). Through its network of providers, COMPASS and SONYC offer more than 800 programs with a strong balance of academics, recreation, enrichment and cultural activities to support and strengthen the overall development of young people from kindergarten through 12th grade. What began in 2005 with an initial investment of $46 million has grown to serve more than 88,000 youth with a budget of more than $260 million.

Caring for our young people doesn't stop at the end of the school year, and that's why more than 55,000 students participated in Summer Enrichment programs, Summer evening hours were extended at Cornerstone Community Centers to offer safe havens for teens and young adults, and NYC Summer Quest doubled its number of sites by expanding beyond the Bronx into Central Brooklyn. And more than 47,000 jobs were provided by the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) – the highest number in five years.

2014 also saw the opening of 45 new Cornerstone Community Centers in partnership with the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) and the addition of 100 new crisis shelter beds for Runaway and Homeless Youth. Finally, DYCD continued its support of New York's diverse immigrant communities by helping to launch a new public awareness campaign encouraging the City's undocumented youth to seek eligibility information and apply for the federal Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program benefit.

These are just a few highlights of the year gone by, so I invite you to read further to learn more about DYCD and our efforts to fulfill the Mayor's vision of a thriving and more equitable New York City.

Bill Chong
Commissioner
NYC Department of Youth and Community Development

COMPASS/SONYC Afterschool

Mayor Bill de Blasio, Schools Chancellor Carmen Fariña, and DYCD Commissioner Chong officially launched School's Out New York City (SONYC), the City's largest-ever expansion of afterschool for middle school students. The number of seats has nearly doubled to more than 75,000, and with the addition of non-public school sites in early 2015, the total number will exceed 78,000 during the course of the school year. Promotion of the programs included subway ads and online applications • DYCD hosted an Afterschool Resource Expo designed to encourage providers to partner with organizations that can provide program-enhancing resources • Students from DYCD afterschool programs joined Mayor de Blasio and First Lady Chirlane McCray for a Halloween celebration at Gracie Mansion • More than 250 elementary and middle school participants from DYCD's afterschool programs roller-skated to music at Skate Day's new host, the LeFrak Center at Lakeside in Prospect Park • Comprehensive After School System (COMPASS) Transition to High School (THS) participants joined inspirational speaker and "Dancing With the Stars" winner J.R. Martinez at Lehman College for an author-led book discussion and writing project.

Beacon

DYCD and Sunnyside Community Services hosted a Queens Resource Fair, offering more than 15 providers the opportunity to network, broaden their ability to make more informed referrals, and develop partnerships across the borough. Participating providers included LaGuardia Community College's Young Adult Internship Program (YAIP); HANAC; Henkels & McCoy Training Services; Catholic Charities Neighborhood Services; Queens North Community Center; Young Immigrant Literacy Program (YILP); Leaders in Training Program (LIT); Opportunities for a Better Tomorrow; Forestdale Fathering; Queens Community House; Southern Queens Park Association (SQPA); Eagle Academy for Young Men; HANAC Corona Beacon - P.S.19Q; Hispanic Family Services; and Chhaya CDC.

Cornerstone

DYCD opened 45 new Cornerstone Community Centers in partnership with New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA). The initiative extends youth afterschool programs, teen and adult services, and community-driven activities and events to more than 15,000 participants citywide • Friedrich donated 150 air conditioners for Cornerstone programs at 38 Community Centers in all five boroughs • More than 130 volunteers from DYCD's YMI Cornerstone Mentoring program participated in the MillionTreesNYC spring planting day at Marine Park (Brooklyn), Alley Pond Park (Queens) and Conference House Park (Staten Island) • DYCD hosted the Young Men's Initiative #YMIMatters Workshop Series, an opportunity for Cornerstone Mentoring participants across the City to connect with their peers and participate in a series of workshops that explored themes around life skills, healthy relationships, success and leadership. The NYC Youth Poet Ambassador and Urban Word NYC held spoken word performances on youth empowerment, civic engagement and passion for literacy, followed by a panel discussion featuring a recruiter for STEM professionals, a finance manager from a media company and an engineering college student. The event involved 23 Cornerstone centers and nearly 200 mentors, chaperons, DYCD staff, volunteers, panelists, facilitators and performers.

Community/Youth Awareness and Outreach

DYCD and the Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence hosted a live Twitter chat on Teen Dating Violence • DYCD hosted *From Poverty to Opportunity*, a symposium marking the 50th anniversary of the Economic Opportunity Act and the launch of the War on Poverty. The Symposium featured ten panel discussions and three technical assistance workshops, on issues ranging from afterschool, fatherhood, seniors and housing to disconnected youth, human trafficking and accessing health care in hard-to-reach communities • In partnership with the Nonprofit Help Desk, DYCD continued to lead a series of borough-based fundraising trainings called Building Bridges, during which small nonprofits leaders, Neighborhood Advisory Boards and discretionary-funded programs learn the basics of fundraising and accessing free services.

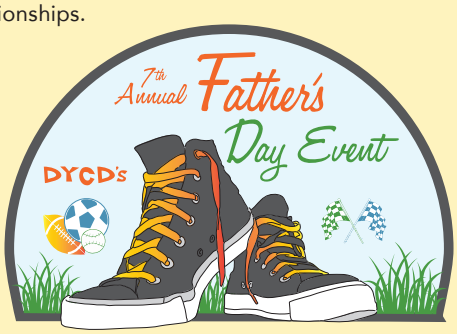
DYCD Youth Connect

In 2014, DYCD Youth Connect is projected to reach more than 70,000 New Yorkers through the 1-800-246-4646 hotline, DYCD social media, the Youth Connect E-blast, and community outreach events, providing information on afterschool, jobs and workforce development programs, immigration, family support, literacy and other DYCD-funded programs • Youth Connect also launched a special newsletter for transition-aged youth, as well as a new telephone system and database (NUCLEUS), to improve the quality of service to New York's young people and families.

Fatherhood

DYCD Commissioner Chong, Human Resources Administration (HRA) Commissioner Steven Banks, elected officials, and more than a hundred students and their dads and father figures participated in the 8th annual Dads Take Your Child to School celebration in Brooklyn. The morning featured dads walking their kids from University Settlement's Ingersoll Cornerstone Community Center to area schools • In observance of Sexual Assault Awareness Month and Denim Day, DYCD's Fatherhood

Initiative invited dads to visit the recently opened Manhattan Family Justice Center. Fathers, program representatives and DYCD staff toured the Center and participated in a workshop, which included information on healthy relationships and sexual assault within intimate partner relationships.



Immigrant Services

DYCD Commissioner Chong joined Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs Commissioner Nisha Agarwal, Young Men's Initiative Director Jahmani Hylton and the New York Immigration Coalition to launch a new public awareness campaign encouraging the City's undocumented youth to seek eligibility information and enroll in the federal Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. The campaign, the first of its kind in the nation, includes advertisements appearing in English, Spanish and Chinese on subways, buses and bus shelters, as well as ads in Urdu, Bengali, Arabic, Haitian Creole, Russian and Korean newspapers.

Jobs and Workforce Development

More than 47,000 young people were employed through the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP), which provides New York City youth between the ages of 14 and 24 with summer employment and educational experiences that capitalize on their individual strengths, develop their skills and competencies, and connect them to positive adult role models • The Young Adult Internship Program (YAIP) completed the first of three cohorts for the current fiscal year. During the latest cycle, 476 youth graduated from the 14–week subsidized jobs 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.

Runaway and Homeless Youth

100 new crisis shelter beds and a 24-hour drop-in center for Runaway and Homeless Youth opened • DYCD staff, in collaboration with students from the Children First Club of Brooklyn College, visited the SCO Family of Services - Brooklyn Drop-in Center and delivered boxes of toiletries containing toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, lotion and shower gels • DYCD held its Runaway and Homeless Youth Conference, *Piecing It All Together–Joining Forces to Help Runaway and Homeless Youth*, with more than 100 representatives from various City agencies and non-profit organizations. A Youth Poetry Slam at the Helen Mills Theater highlighted young people performing original poems and dramatic readings along with special guest Craig "Mums" Grant, from the hit HBO series "Oz."

Summer Programming

Summer Enrichment programs in July and August supported children of working families with participants enjoying everything from dance, music and sports to Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) and public service. In 2014, approximately 55,000 students received free summer programs, including 34,700 middle school youth • NYC Summer Quest, a collaboration between DYCD, the Department of Education (DOE) and Fund for Public Schools doubled its number of sites to 22, expanded beyond the Bronx into Central Brooklyn and served 2,800 students • Evening hours were extended at Cornerstone Community Centers during the summer months to provide safe havens for teens and young adults.

Teen ACTION/Summer of Service

DYCD hosted the 6th Annual Teen ACTION culminating event, *Teen ACTION: A Day to Learn, Service, & Change our Communities*, offering a performance workshop from the Forum Project followed by project peer presentations and 90-minute workshop sessions, including conflict resolution & mediation, youth advocacy, environmental justice and civic engagement • DYCD received a generous grant from The Neuberger Berman Foundation to conduct the 6th Annual Summer of Service initiative, a seven–week program designed to encourage young people to take an active role in their community.

Other DYCD Events

DYCD programs based in the Rockaways participated in the 9th annual Fun on the Rock at the New York Hall of Science in Queens. Each year the event addresses the unique challenges of Rockaway providers, including the ongoing recovery from Superstorm Sandy, and being in a part of the City with limited social and recreational opportunities for young people • The 2014 DYCD/Nike Tournament Championship Games were held at Polytechnic University, with approximately 120 young athletes representing their Beacon, Cornerstone and COMPASS programs. The championship games culminate a fun-filled 10-week program comprised of skills & drills sessions, youth development training, nutrition education, athlete mentoring workshops and over 300 games played citywide that served close to 1,400 participants • As part of the partnership between DYCD and the US Soccer Foundation, and in collaboration with 21st Century Fox, participants of the DYCD Soccer for Success program attended a private screening for the hit movie "Rio 2." Soccer for Success provides over 2,000 participants in Beacon, Cornerstone and COMPASS programs structured soccer-based activities and nutritional workshops to promote healthy living • Over 4,000 Beacon and Cornerstone elementary and middle school campers attended DYCD Day at the Bronx Zoo • In partnership with the American Museum of Natural History, DYCD hosted A Night at the Museum, which allows mentees and mentors from DYCD's Cornerstone programs to participate in a nocturnal exploratory adventure filled with science, history and learning • Beacon, Cornerstone, In-School Youth (ISY) and Service Learning groups from across the City joined together for the first ever DYCD Night at the Theater. CUNY's LaGuardia Performing Arts Center shared their adaptation of the Tony Award-winning musical "In the Heights" • DYCD, the Mental Health Association and Health First hosted a Learning Day entitled *Healing the Hurt: Enhancing Resilience in the Wake of Trauma*, which brought together over 100 agency professionals from DYCD-funded programs to gain a greater understanding of trauma-informed services.

COMPASS NYC

THE COMPREHENSIVE AFTER SCHOOL SYSTEM OF NEW YORK CITY

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In September, Mayor Bill de Blasio, Schools Chancellor Carmen Fariña, and DYCD Commissioner Chong launched School's Out New York City (SONYC), the City's largest-ever expansion of afterschool for middle school students. The number of seats has nearly doubled to more than 75,000, and with the addition of non-public school sites over the coming months, the total number will exceed 78,000 during the course of the school year.
The unprecedented expansion is part of the de Blasio administration's plan to transform public education in New York City, including Pre-K for All, the creation of new community schools, and a historic contract with New York City's teachers. The after-school expansion will reduce inequality across all communities and provide sixth, seventh and eighth graders with safe, high-quality learning and recreational opportunities during an especially challenging time in their lives

COMPASS NYC

The newly-renamed Comprehensive After-School System of NYC (COMPASS NYC) comprises more than 800 programs serving young people enrolled in grades K-12. Through its network of providers, COMPASS NYC offers high-quality programs with a strong balance of academics, recreation, enrichment, and cultural activities to support and strengthen the overall development of young people. Programs are offered at no cost to families and are strategically located in public and private schools, community centers, religious institutions, public housing, and recreational facilities throughout the City.

SONYC DANCE

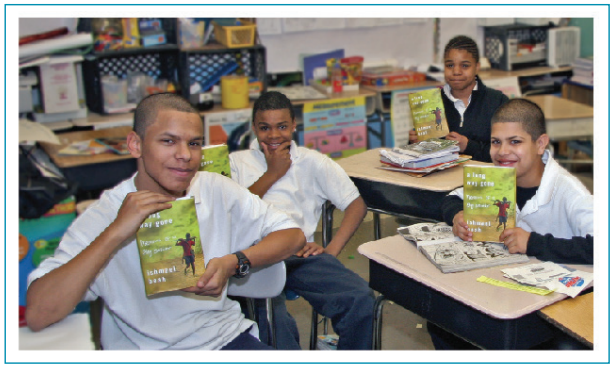
SONYC

Enhancements include programs being
open five days per week
for **36 weeks** during the school year

SONYC Price-per-participant increase to **$3,000**
(higher for programs serving students with special needs)
will cover additional hours and enable providers to hire and retain qualified staff and provide high-quality programming

SONYC ART

SCHOOL'S OUT NEW YORK CITY



SONYC

COMPASS NYC's middle school model, renamed SONYC (pronounced "sonic"), serves as a pathway to success for youth in sixth, seventh and eighth grades. Structured like activity clubs, SONYC offers young people a choice in how they spend their time, with opportunities in leadership, academics, arts, physical fitness, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics), and literacy. Activities range from basketball, fitness, volleyball and tennis to dance, culinary/chef, fashion and shoe design, service learning, and homework help. The City itself becomes a classroom, through field trips and instruction outside of the traditional educational setting.

Transition to High School Program (THS)

The COMPASS NYC Transition to High School Program (THS) is designed to help incoming high school ninth graders navigate their new surroundings with targeted academic and social and emotional supports, and advocacy within the school community. Research shows that when freshmen get off track, they are more likely to drop out than finish high school.

SONYC CHEF

More than **78,000** seats to be available this school year nearly doubles from **44,000** last year

271
new SONYC middle school programs – bringing total to
562 citywide

SONYC FASHION & SHOE DESIGN

More than 34,000
new middle school after-school seats are available this school year

SONYC FITNESS

$145 million
in new SONYC after-school funding (FY15)

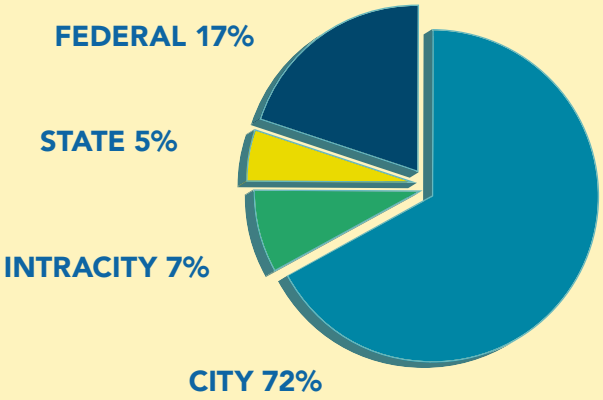
SONYC SUCCEEDING IN LIFE

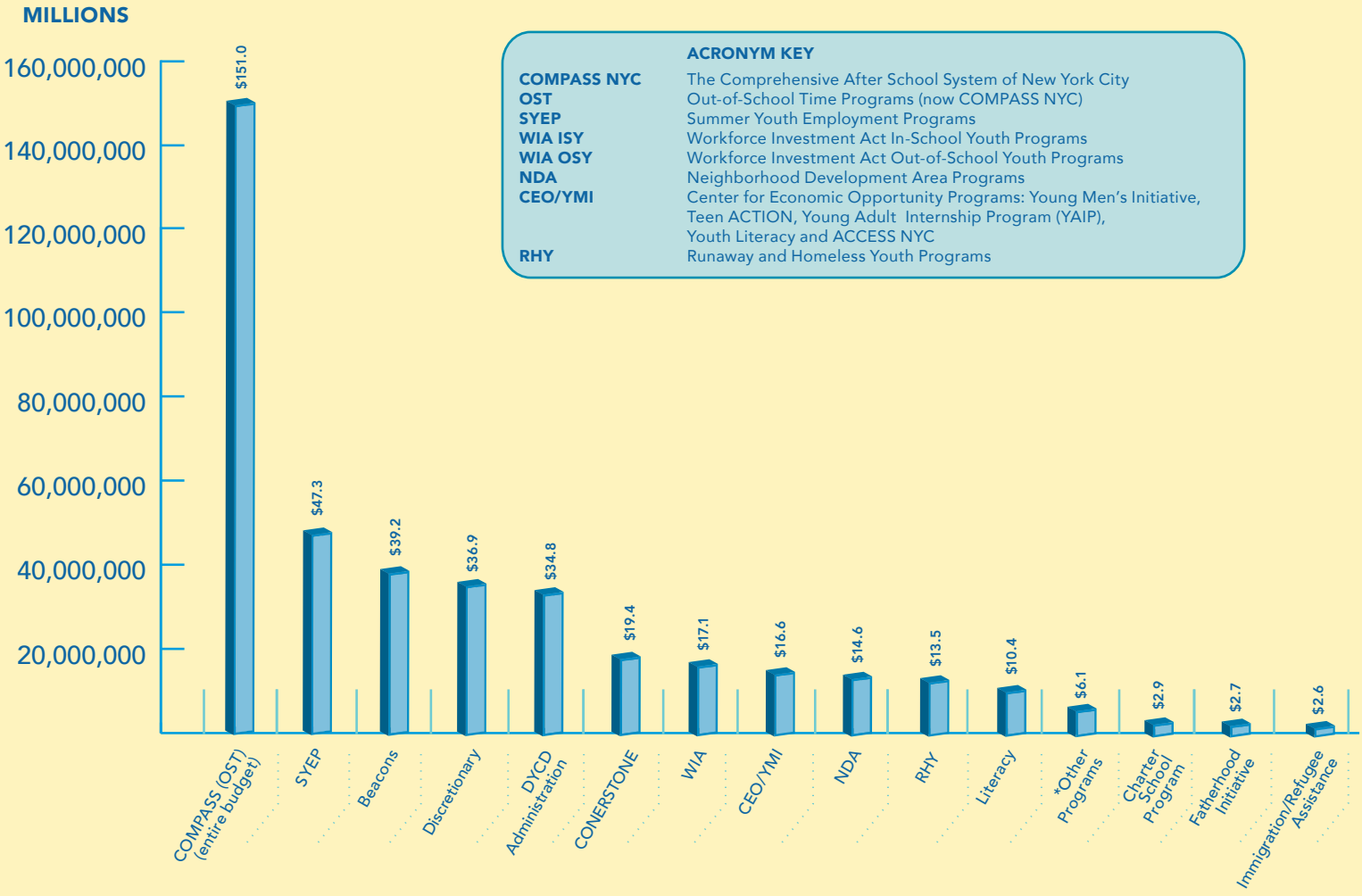
SONYC BASKETBALL

SONYC COMMUNITY ACTION

2014 DYCD FUNDING STREAMS • TOTAL = $415 Million

CITY		$297 Million • 72%
INTRACITY		$28 Million • 7%
STATE		$19 Million • 5%
FEDERAL		$71 Million • 17%





ACRONYM KEY

COMPASS NYC	The Comprehensive After School System of New York City
OST	Out-of-School Time Programs (now COMPASS NYC)
SYEP	Summer Youth Employment Programs
WIA ISY	Workforce Investment Act In-School Youth Programs
WIA OSY	Workforce Investment Act Out-of-School Youth Programs
NDA	Neighborhood Development Area Programs
CEO/YMI	Center for Economic Opportunity Programs: Young Men's Initiative, Teen ACTION, Young Adult Internship Program (YAIP), Youth Literacy and ACCESS NYC
RHY	Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs