



INSIDE THIS ISSUE



Recycling program launches



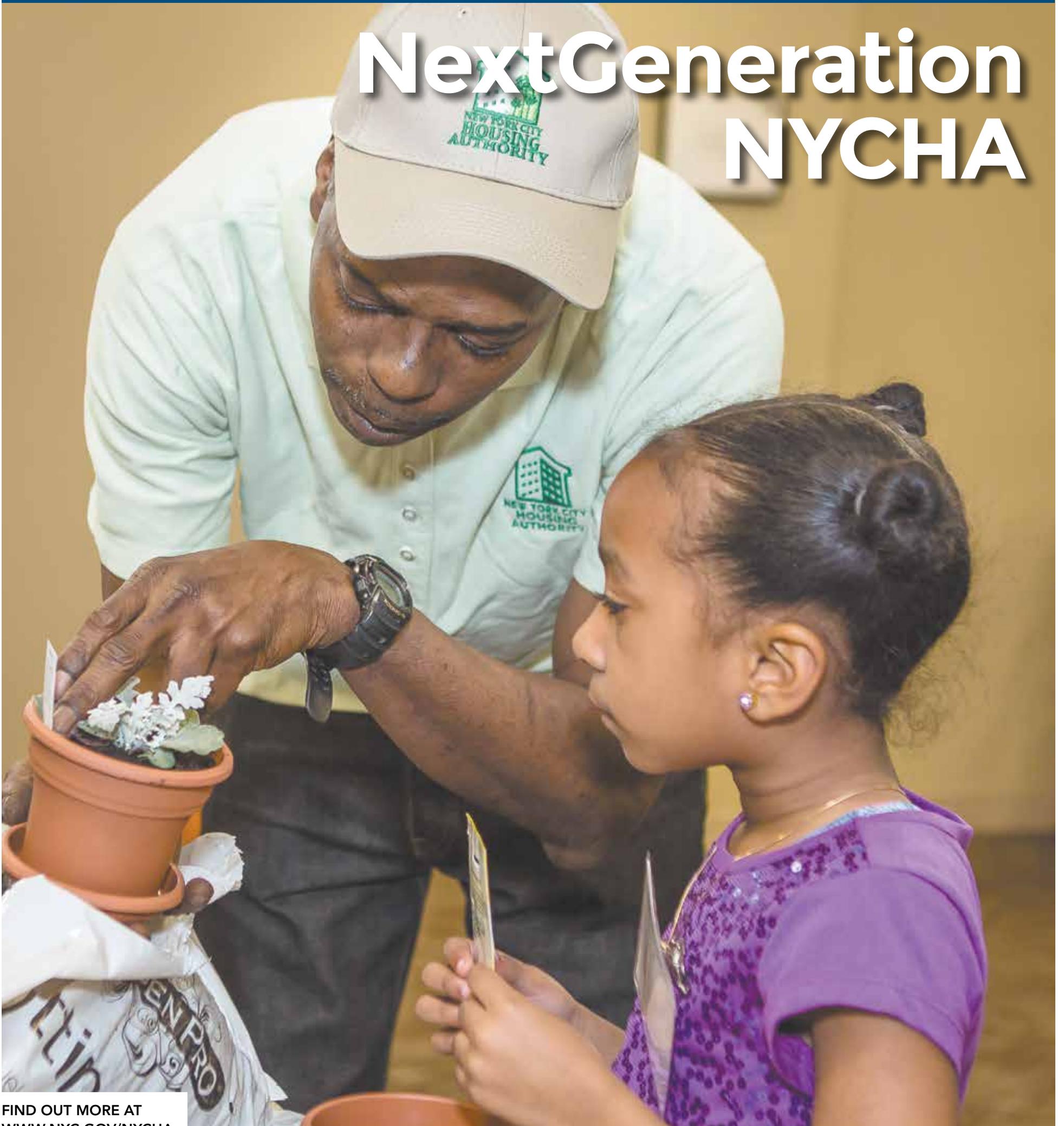
Computers to go



Grow a Garden

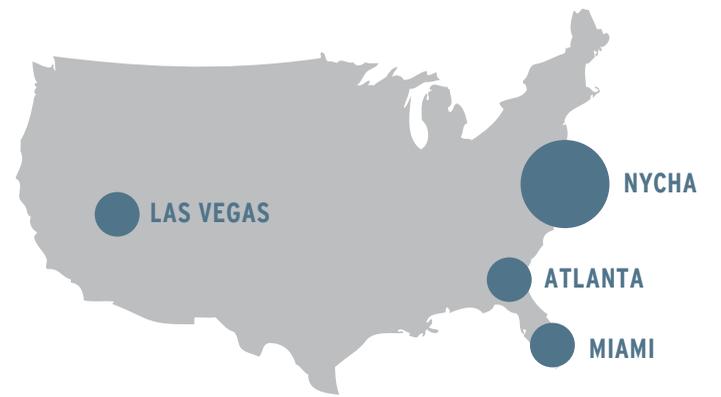
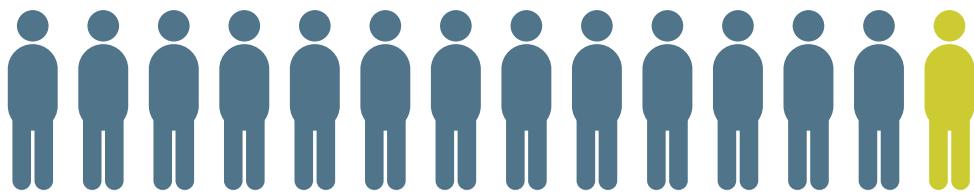
The NYCHA **JOURNAL**

Next Generation NYCHA



FIND OUT MORE AT WWW.NYC.GOV/NYCHA

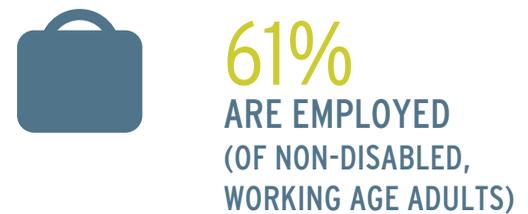
NYCHA SERVES 1 IN EVERY 14 NEW YORKERS



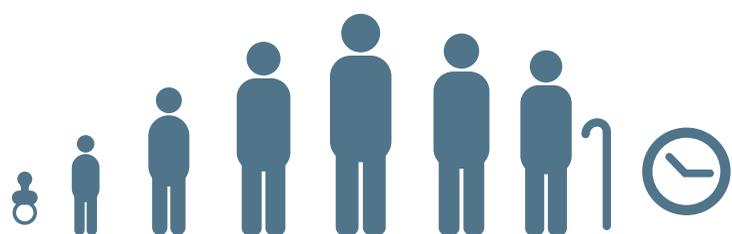
WITH **MORE THAN 615,000*** PEOPLE, NYCHA'S POPULATION IS LARGER THAN LAS VEGAS, ATLANTA, OR MIAMI

*NUMBER SERVED BY NYCHA'S PUBLIC HOUSING AND SECTION 8 PROGRAMS

NYCHA RESIDENTS BY THE NUMBERS



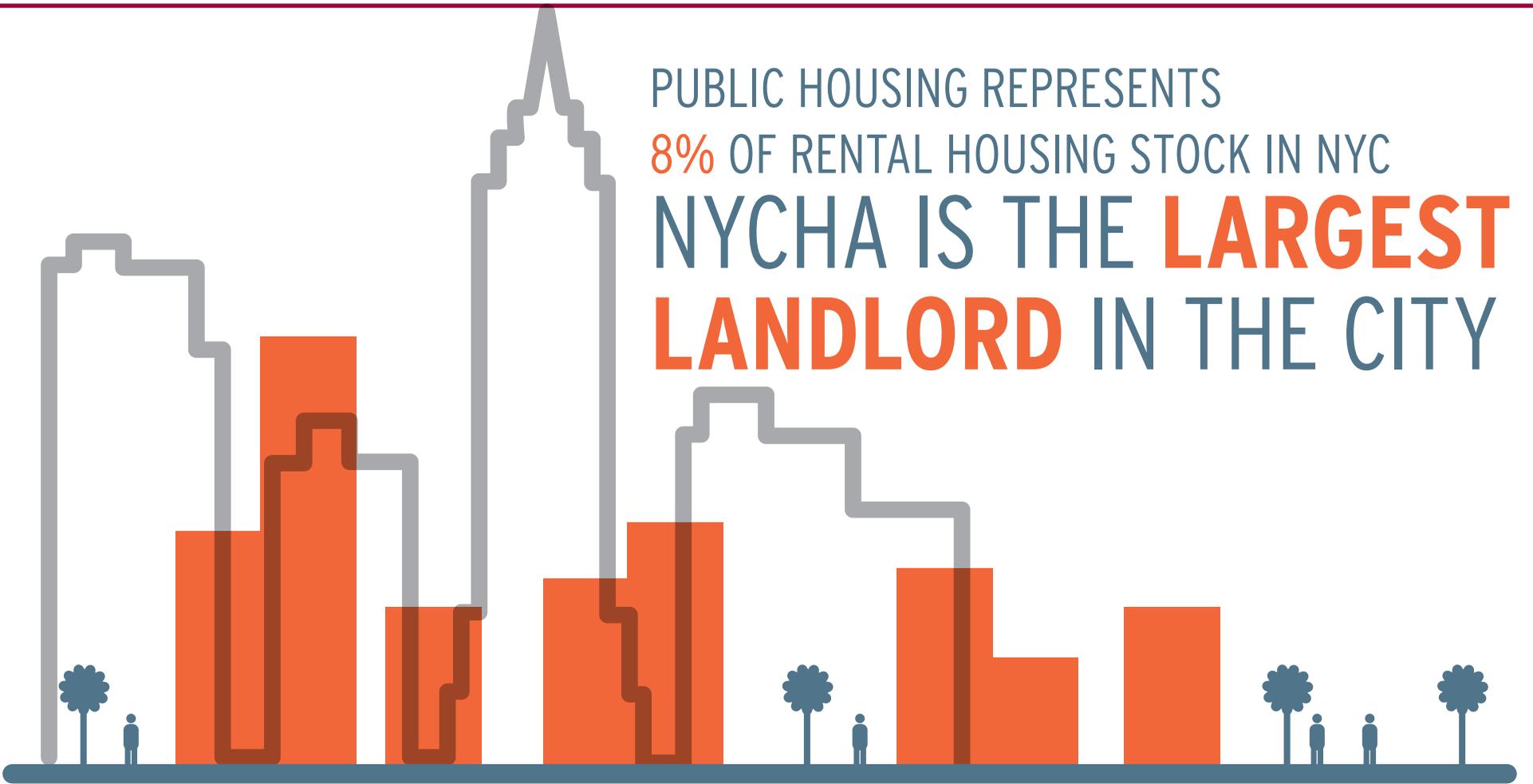
AVERAGE TENURE OF NYCHA RESIDENTS



22 YEARS

FOR SOME INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES, NYCHA IS HOME FOR ONLY A FEW YEARS. OTHERS HAVE RAISED THEIR FAMILIES AND CONTINUED TO STAY INTO OLD AGE.

PUBLIC HOUSING REPRESENTS
8% OF RENTAL HOUSING STOCK IN NYC
NYCHA IS THE **LARGEST**
LANDLORD IN THE CITY



328
DEVELOPMENTS

MADE UP OF **2,550** BUILDINGS

THAT CONSIST OF **178,000** APARTMENTS

CONTAINING OVER **175 MILLION**
SQUARE FEET OF SPACE

60% OF NYCHA'S BUILDING
ARE **50+ YEARS OLD**



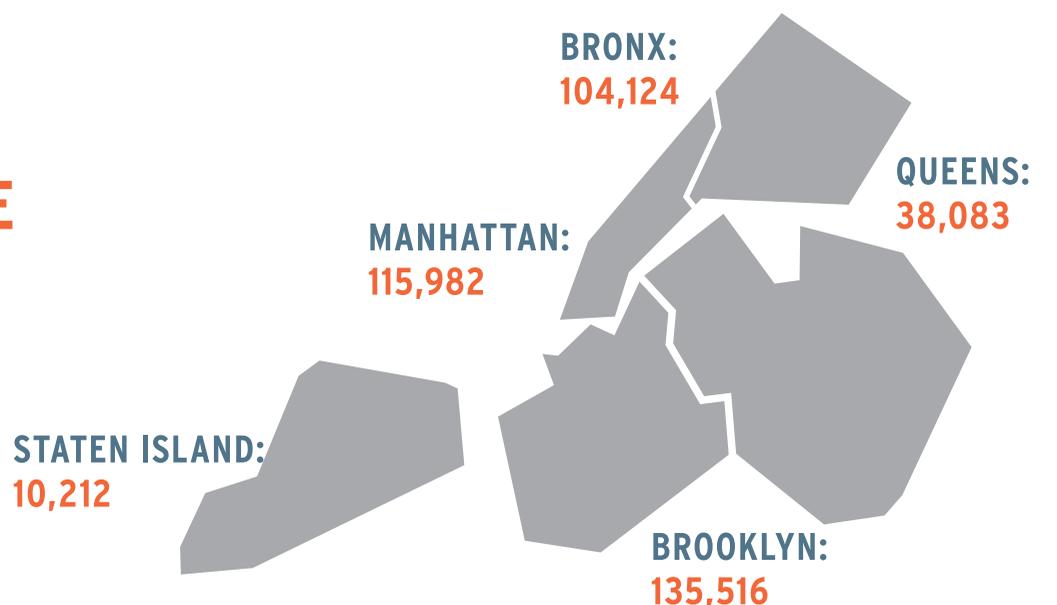
THE LARGEST DEVELOPMENT: A **SIX-BUILDING**
APARTMENT COMPLEX WITH **7,000 RESIDENTS**

THE SMALLEST DEVELOPMENT: A **SINGLE-STORY**
SENIOR BUILDING WITH **13 RESIDENTS**

NYCHA HOUSES MORE THAN
400,000* PEOPLE ACROSS
ALL **5 BOROUGHS** WITH A
<1% AVERAGE VACANCY RATE

*NUMBER SERVED BY NYCHA'S PUBLIC HOUSING PROGRAM

RESIDENT POPULATION BY BOROUGH



NYCHA IS A KEY ECONOMIC DRIVER OF NEW YORK CITY AND STATE



FOR EVERY **\$1.00** IN DIRECT NYCHA EXPENDITURES, IT IS ESTIMATED THAT AN ADDITIONAL **\$1.80** OF INDIRECT ECONOMIC ACTIVITY OCCURS IN THE CITY AND STATE



\$3.4 BILLION

AVERAGE ANNUAL CASH EXPENDITURE

RESULTS IN



\$5.9 BILLION

ECONOMIC ACTIVITY IN NYC

AND ANOTHER



\$270 MILLION

ECONOMIC ACTIVITY IN NY STATE

NYCHA SECTION 8 PROGRAM ADDS

\$1 BILLION



TO RENT

SUBSIDY REVENUE; THESE FUNDS

ARE PASSED THROUGH NYCHA FROM

THE **FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**



TO



NYC'S LOCAL ECONOMY

NUMBER OF **JOBS CREATED** THROUGH NYCHA EXPENDITURES



28,000*
FULL-TIME JOBS
IN NYC PER YEAR



1,600
FULL-TIME JOBS
IN NY STATE PER YEAR

*INCLUDES 11,700 NYCHA EMPLOYEES

MAJOR INDUSTRIES EMPLOYING NYCHA RESIDENTS



31%
HEALTHCARE
AND SOCIAL
ASSISTANCE



12%
RETAIL TRADE



9%
EDUCATIONAL
SERVICES



9%
PUBLIC
ADMINISTRATION

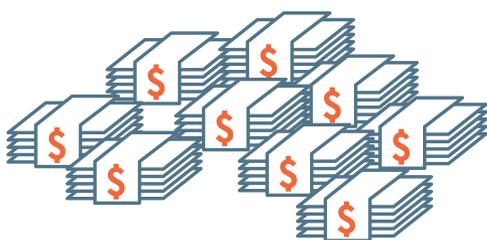
FUND GOAL:
CHANGE THE WAY NYCHA IS FUNDED

PAY LESS TO NYC

DO A BETTER JOB
COLLECTING RENT AND FEES

MAKE WISER USE
OF GROUND FLOOR SPACE

REDUCE CENTRAL
OFFICE COSTS



OPERATE GOAL:
CHANGE THE WAY NYCHA OPERATES

GO DIGITAL AND **USE TECH** TO UPGRADE SERVICE

LOCALIZE DECISION-MAKING
TO **HEIGHTEN CUSTOMERS' SATISFACTION**

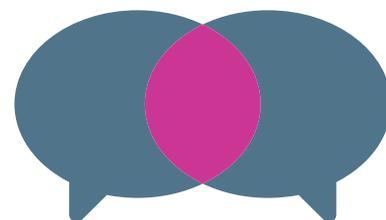
PURSUE SUSTAINABILITY FOR A CLEANER
AND GREENER NYCHA

IMPROVE SAFETY AND SECURITY



OUR VISION FOR
NEXTGENERATION NYCHA

SAFE, CLEAN, AND CONNECTED COMMUNITIES



(RE)BUILD GOAL:
CHANGE HOW NYCHA LOOKS

USE DATA TO DRIVE CAPITAL DECISIONS

PROVIDE LAND FOR NYC'S AFFORDABLE HOUSING GOALS

MAXIMIZE FEDERAL PROGRAMS TO RENOVATE
AND PRESERVE BUILDINGS

CHOOSE AND **USE GOOD DESIGN**

ENGAGE GOAL:
CHANGE HOW NYCHA ENGAGES WITH RESIDENTS

IMPROVE RESIDENT AND COMMUNITY SERVICES
WITH A NEW TYPE OF ENGAGEMENT

CREATE A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
TO FUND SOCIAL SERVICES

CONNECT RESIDENTS TO **QUALITY JOB OPPORTUNITIES**

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Introducing NextGeneration NYCHA



Dear NYCHA Resident:

I am proud to tell you about **NextGeneration NYCHA**, the New York City Housing Authority's 10-year strategic plan to create safe, clean, and connected communities and to protect and preserve the City's vital public housing resource for today and the next generation of New Yorkers.

Since it was established 81 years ago, NYCHA has provided a pathway to opportunity and a better life for millions of New Yorkers. We are the City's largest landlord and affordable housing resource – managing 178,000 apartments in 328 developments in every borough – and we are, by far, the nation's largest public housing authority. Our residents are teachers, taxi drivers, hospital support staff, and restaurant workers – in short, people who make our city run.

Yet, years of diminished support for public housing at every level of government has severely challenged NYCHA's ability to provide our residents with safe, decent housing. Since 2001, Congress has underfunded NYCHA by more than \$2 billion – money that should have gone toward repairs and major capital work. Indeed, our fiscal challenges are immense and our current operating model is unsustainable.

NYCHA is too important to the vitality and success of New York City for there to be any way but transformation. Crafted with input from thousands of NYCHA residents, employees, community and government partners, and advocates, **NextGeneration NYCHA** is a long-term, strategic plan that will guide us in changing the way we do business as a landlord. **NextGeneration NYCHA** is also an ongoing process: We will continue to seek input from all of our stakeholders as we move forward to achieve our goals, adjusting our strategy to reflect the changing needs of our employees, residents, and stakeholders when necessary.

NextGeneration NYCHA focuses on four goals:

1. Achieve short-term financial stability and diversify funding for the long term;
2. Operate more efficiently and effectively;
3. Rehabilitate and harness NYCHA's real estate assets; and
4. Develop sustainable resident services and engagement models.

We have already begun to transform the way we do business. For example, the City Council provided funding to enable us to complete 49 additional CCTV projects by the end of 2014. In January, we launched a new management model at 18 developments that will improve customer service and response time by shifting decision-making on purchasing to property managers. In line with Mayor de Blasio's goals for a healthier, more sustainable New York, NYCHA is launching a recycling initiative this month that will make our developments cleaner places to live and work. Citi and NYCHA have created a public/private partnership to launch Doorways to Opportunity, a \$1.4 million suite of programs that will provide NYCHA residents with access to employment training, jobs, financial counseling, tax preparation services, and business development support.

NextGeneration NYCHA is not just for NYCHA residents, but for all New Yorkers who value safe, clean, and connected communities and our city's exceptional diversity. Join us and support **NextGeneration NYCHA** to ensure that every New Yorker is proud to call this city home.

In partnership,

Shola Olatoye, Chair and CEO
New York City Housing Authority

GETTING TO KNOW GM KELLY

You served as NYCHA's General Manager previously (2009-2011). How does it feel to be back?

It's fantastic. NYCHA has a remarkable history, and it's so important to the City. This is evidenced by all the extraordinary men and women who grew up in NYCHA and have become leaders in various industries.



Why is public housing so important?

The salvation of the nation begins in the homes of the people. I believe that social and environmental justice can be achieved through the recognition of public housing's importance to families and communities. It's an opportunity for job development, social and community support, and most important, a

How are things different now than when you were GM a few years ago?

The financial situation is even more difficult now. On the plus side, the Mayor's administration is extremely focused on public housing and committing the resources that NYCHA needs.

safe environment for people to raise their children in a healthy manner. And healthy cities and neighborhoods are comprised of people from different incomes and backgrounds – diversity and inclusivity create better living environments for everyone.

What's your view on NextGeneration NYCHA, our plan to preserve public housing for the future?

It's fundamentally sound and fundamentally necessary. We have to create an environment that enables our kids and our kids' kids to benefit from this incredibly valuable resource that was available to our parents and our parents' parents.

How does your background as an architect inform your work as a housing leader?

I believe in the concept of driving social justice through the built environment. As an architect, I've seen how well-designed buildings and neighborhoods contribute dramatically to the health of residents.

How do we ensure a safe environment at our developments?

We need to continue investing in physical improvements like lighting, layered entry, and cameras. Developing a safe community is everyone's responsibility, so there's also an opportunity for us to collaborate more with our NYPD partners and with residents.

You're also an accomplished professor and lecturer at a variety of universities. What does that mean to you?

I've been blessed to have teaching responsibilities that coincide with my work responsibilities; the types of subjects we investigate academically are all relevant, real-world topics. I also like that in my own quiet way I'm recruiting the next generation of government leaders by engaging them on the issues that impact public housing.

NYCHA BOARD MEETINGS

NYCHA'S BOARD MEETINGS, open to the public, take place on Wednesdays at 10 am in the NYCHA 12th floor conference room at 250 Broadway. People who wish to speak during the public comment period must pre-register at least 45 minutes before the meeting is scheduled to begin and can only comment about items on that meeting's agenda. Each speaker's time is limited to three minutes. The public comment period concludes either when all speakers are finished or after the 30 minutes allotted by law for public comment, whichever comes first.

Copies of the calendar for the upcoming board meeting are available on NYCHA's website or can be picked up at the Office of the Corporate Secretary, 250 Broadway, 12th floor after 3 pm on the Monday before the meeting. Copies of the dispositions of prior meetings are available on NYCHA's website or can be picked up from the Office of the Corporate Secretary no earlier than 3 pm on the Thursday after the board meeting. Any person requiring reasonable accommodation in order to participate in the meeting should contact the Office of the Corporate Secretary at **212-306-6088** no later than five business days prior to the meeting. For additional information regarding the calendar of meetings, dispositions, dates and times, please call **212-306-6088**.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

- | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| June 24, 2015 | September 30, 2015 | November 18, 2015 |
| July 29, 2015 | October 28, 2015 | December 23, 2015 |

* Note: There will be no Board Meeting in August. The November and December Board Meetings are scheduled for the 2nd-to-last Wednesday.

Mixed Paper



Cardboard



Metal



Rigid Plastic



Glass



Cartons



New Recycling Program Launches This Month

IN LINE WITH MAYOR BILL

DE BLASIO'S goals for a healthier, more sustainable New York, NYCHA is introducing a recycling initiative that will affect every NYCHA family. Part of NextGeneration NYCHA, the initiative is designed to bring the Authority into compliance with the City's strengthened recycling laws by the end of 2016. The first five sites to launch recycling are Sheepshead Bay, Nostrand, Boynton Avenue, Bronx River and Bronx River Addition Houses. The roll-out will begin

in early May with outdoor recycling stations that include bins for paper and cardboard, as well as bins for metal, plastic and glass installed at five developments.

Site assessment teams are now visiting all developments to determine — with resident input — the best locations for the outdoor recycling stations, as well as storage locations from where DSNY will pick up the recyclables.

"We need recycling bins here desperately because now there is no

designated area for these materials," commented Pink Houses Green Committee Coordinator Carolyn Thunder, who accompanied the assessment team with Resident Association members at Pink Houses. "These bins will be great because they can't be opened to fit anything but recycling materials. This will keep things much cleaner and it will be good for the community."

"I think once residents understand the reasons for recycling, they will care about the program," said Hope

Gardens Resident Association President Gloria Estrada, who is also President of the Resident Green Committee.

"This is a wonderful effort to encourage residents and the community to live healthier," adds Barbara McFadden, Sheepshead Bay Houses Resident Association President. "The grounds will be cleaner, there will be less pollution, and the children are looking forward to recycling at home."

For more information, visit NYCHA's and DSNY's websites.

NYCHA RECEIVES HISTORIC FEMA GRANT

\$3 billion biggest disaster recovery grant ever

"WE'RE HERE AT the largest public housing development in Brooklyn to announce the largest grant ever by FEMA in its entire history," Mayor de Blasio said on March 31 at Red Hook East's Joseph Miccio Community Center, where he was joined by U.S. Senator Charles Schumer and NYCHA Chair Shola Olatoye. "This will affect tens of thousands of people, this will protect them, this will make their lives better, this will make our Housing Authority better. This will be a big step forward

in the City's overall resiliency efforts as we prepare to deal with a future of extreme weather."

In her remarks, Chair Olatoye thanked NYCHA residents for their leadership and patience, and NYCHA staff for their hard work. She also said that FEMA's "incredibly generous investment isn't just about fixing and replacing — it's about building better and smarter for tomorrow . . . With these funds we'll be able to fix everything from play areas to rooftops here at Red Hook Houses, and at our other severely damaged developments in

DEVELOPMENTS TO RECEIVE SANDY FUNDS

Coney Island Houses	Haber Houses	Baruch
Red Hook West	Coney Island Site 8	East River Houses
Red Hook East	Riis II	Smith Houses
Redfern	Metro North	La Guardia
Hammel Houses	Carleton Manor	Campos I
Carey Gardens	Beach 41st	Coney Island Site 1B
Coney Island Sites 4 & 5	Ocean Bay Bayside	Lavanburg
Surfside Gardens	Wald	Rangel Houses
O'Dwyer Gardens	Gowanus	Two Bridges
Gravesend	Riis I	Campos II
Ocean Bay Oceanside	Astoria	Isaacs

Coney Island, the Rockaways, and the Lower East Side."

Also in attendance were Brooklyn Borough President Eric L. Adams, Congresswoman Nydia Velasquez, Congressman Hakeem Jeffries, Councilmember Carlos Menchaca, and Lily Marshall, president of the Red Hook West Tenant Association. Ms. Marshall, a Red Hook resident for 49 years,

shared her experience of being in her development during Hurricane Sandy and in its aftermath. "It was rough; this is Red Hook, we made it," she said. "I am thankful that the City is now getting this funding so that Red Hook Houses and other NYCHA developments will be protected if another Hurricane Sandy hits."

NYCHA ALERTS: STAY UP-TO-DATE ON GAS, HEAT, AND HOT WATER OUTAGES

WHEN'S THE HOT WATER going to be back on? When's the gas going to be fixed? Now you can find out the answer to these questions by visiting the new NYCHA Alerts webpage.

NYCHA Alerts has the most up-to-date information on gas, heat, and/or hot water outages with daily

updates of known outages affecting the developments. When you access the page, you'll see a table with the address of the outage, specific location (e.g., Building 1), type of outage (gas, heat, hot water, or a combination), date and time the outage was reported, and an estimated time for when the outage will be over.

"As part of Mayor de Blasio's commitment to increasing transparency and improving communications with our residents, NYCHA will provide daily updates online regarding heat or hot water issues at our developments," NYCHA Chair and CEO Shola Olatoye said. "This is an important way of providing real-time, critical information to

our stakeholders in a simple, easy to use format."

You can help us keep NYCHA Alerts current. If you know of a gas, heat, or hot water outage that is not posted on the site, please **call the Customer Contact Center at 718-707-7771.**

NYCHA Teens' Amazing Race Across Manhattan

ON APRIL 8, 60 teens from NYCHA developments on the Lower East Side dashed around Manhattan following clues that led to them to the Freedom Tower, The High Line, Rockefeller Center, the Apollo, NYCHA First Houses, and other landmarks. The teens, along with chaperones from sponsor organizations, were participants in the "L.E.S. Run Da City" Scavenger Challenge organized by Manhattan Community Operations to unite youth from neighboring developments. Divided into seven teams, each group was given a digital camera to document themselves finding Challenge landmarks or completing tasks such as a group shot with street performers, finding a copy of the *NYCHA Journal*, and recording an anti-violence message. Landmarks and activities were assigned points, at the end of the challenge the teams with the most points were: Goldiggers, 1st place; Black Ops, 2nd place; and Team Fusion, 3rd place. Winners were excited to receive Beats products, including earphones, headphones, and speakers. The event was co-sponsored by the New York City Police Department, the Department of Youth and Community Development, Grand Street Settlement, and University Settlement.



SENATOR KLEIN JOINS THROGGS NECK CLEAN-UP DAY

On April 10, State Senator Jeff Klein, Assemblyman Michael Benedetto, members of Community Board 10 and youth in Police Service Area 8 Explorers joined residents of Throggs Neck Houses for an early spring clean-up day. Activities included trash pick-up, debris removal, raking, and preparing the beds for a vegetable garden. The residents' council worked with CB 10 to arrange for the New York City Department of Sanitation to donate cleaning supplies, gloves, garbage bags, brooms, rakes, and shovels. The event was bookended by two particularly deliciously rewarding activities: breakfast and a barbecue hosted by the Throggs Neck Houses Residents Association.





NYCHA's Digital Vans operate throughout the five boroughs from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and come equipped with eight laptops, wireless Internet access (Wi-Fi), and printers. They also act as a mobile hot spot.

NYCHA Digital Vans: Connecting Communities

IT'S FRIDAY AT Bushwick Houses and one of NYCHA's Digital Vans is parked outside of the baseball field. Jose Valentin, a resident for more than 18 years, stops by to print a television repair manual. He worked in electronics for many years and likes to stay current as the technology changes.

NYCHA's two Digital Vans—each with eight laptops, wireless Internet access (Wi-Fi), and printers—travel the five boroughs to NYCHA developments with limited or no access to broadband high-speed Internet service. They also serve as a hot spot; residents nearby the van can use their own devices to access Wi-Fi. With help from on-site instructors, residents like Mr. Valentin can learn how to use the computers and Internet, update their résumés, and search and apply for jobs.

"We're in the age of technology and today everything is in digital form," says Mr. Valentin, who visits the Digital Van regularly on its scheduled Bushwick Houses days, bi-weekly Fridays. "We need awareness in our community and all around because a lot of people are being displaced because of technology. This is the only way of getting jobs and moving forward because to do a résumé everything has to be online and if

you don't have access to computers then basically you're lost. The NYCHA Digital Van is something good for the community."

After Mr. Valentin leaves the van, the afterschool rush begins: a group of elementary schoolchildren have arrived to do homework, play games, and surf the Internet. Like Mr. Valentin, they are all regulars. The driver, Bernard Williams (or Mr. Williams as the kids call him), makes sure they've all signed in and that they do homework before playing games. Joshua Stevenson, the instructor, addresses any computer issues and maintains order in the van, rotating kids when the van is at capacity.

In operation since 2012, the Digital Vans have become part of the communities they serve: kids decorate the inside of the vans for special occasions and residents don't just stop by to use computers or find out about new job opportunities, they stop by just to say hello, too.

Because of the popularity and growing need to increase digital access for residents, the Departments of Citywide Programs and Information Technology are in the process of purchasing a third Digital Van. For more information about the Digital Van call **212-306-8090** or e-mail digitalvan@nycha.nyc.gov.

MAYOR DE BLASIO CONTINUES THE CITY'S INVESTMENT IN NYCHA

MAYOR BILL DE BLASIO'S PLAN to build a stronger and safer New York City includes unparalleled support of NYCHA. The Mayor recently pledged \$100 million a year to NYCHA for roof replacements. The City's first \$100 million is a match to the State's \$100 million and will cover roof replacements at Sheepshead Bay, Queensbridge North and South, Parkside, and Albany Houses, benefitting 13,000 residents.

The Mayor also announced the elimi-

nation of NYCHA's annual \$30 million Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) fee to the City. This will save the Authority \$130 million through fiscal year 2019. NYCHA had paid the PILOT fee since 1949.

Since taking office, the de Blasio administration has committed more than \$934 million in additional operating funds and \$634 million in additional capital funds to address the Authority's budgetary needs.

DIGITAL VAN SCHEDULE

(June 2015 –August 2015) Monday – Friday, 10 am – 4 pm

BROOKLYN

STUYVESANT GARDENS SENIOR CENTER 150 Malcolm X Blvd between Gates Ave and Monroe Street	Mondays 06/15/15 07/27/15 06/29/15 08/10/15 07/13/15 08/24/15
OCEAN HILL Parking Lot at Building #1, 24 Mother Gaston Blvd	Tuesdays 06/16/15 07/28/15 06/30/15 08/11/15 07/14/15 08/25/15
KINGSBOROUGH Kingsborough 3rd Walk, btw. 1880 Pacific St. and Bergen St.	Tuesdays 06/09/15 07/21/15 06/23/15 08/04/15 07/07/15 08/18/15
WARREN STREET HOUSES 572 Warren Street, between 3rd and 4th Avenues	Wednesdays 06/10/15 07/22/15 06/24/15 08/05/15 07/08/15 08/19/15
MARCY Park Avenue between Marcy and Nostrand Avenues	Thursdays 06/11/15 07/23/15 06/25/15 08/06/15 07/09/15 08/20/15
BUSHWICK 372 Bushwick Avenue at baseball field	Fridays 06/12/15 07/24/15 06/26/15 08/07/15 07/10/15 08/21/15
TOMPKINS Parked opposite of 212 Throop Ave., near Sumner Houses	Fridays 06/19/15 08/14/15 07/17/15 08/28/15 07/31/15

BRONX

CASTLE HILL 625 Castle Hill Ave.	Mondays 06/22/15 08/03/15 07/06/15 08/17/15 07/20/15 08/31/15
MITCHEL (also serving Mott Haven, Mill Brook) 200 Alexander Avenue at 137th Street	Mondays 06/15/15 07/27/15 06/29/15 08/10/15 07/13/15 08/24/15
MELROSE (also serving Jackson, Morrisania Air Rights) Morris Avenue between 153rd and 156th Streets near Classic Center	Mondays 06/22/15 08/03/15 07/06/15 08/17/15 07/20/15 08/31/15
FOREST (also serving McKinley) Between 980 and 1000 Trinity Avenue	Tuesdays 06/16/15 07/28/15 06/30/15 08/11/15 07/14/15 08/25/15
MORRIS (also serving Butler and Webster) 3663 Third Ave near East 170th Street	Tuesdays 06/09/15 07/21/15 06/23/15 08/04/15 07/07/15 08/18/15
PATTERSON On 143rd Street between 3rd Avenue and Morris Avenue	Wednesdays 06/17/15 07/29/15 07/01/15 08/12/15 07/15/15 08/26/15
EDENWALD (In front of management office) 1145 east 229th st.	Thursdays 06/11/15 07/23/15 06/25/15 08/06/15 07/09/15 08/20/15

MANHATTAN

EAST RIVER [also serving Wilson/Metro-North] (425 E 105th St. [outside East River Maintenance Office])	Wednesdays 06/10/15 07/22/15 06/24/15 08/05/15 07/08/15 08/19/15
LEXINGTON/WASHINGTON (Near 1773 3rd Ave.)	Thursdays 06/18/15 07/30/15 07/02/15 08/13/15 07/16/15 08/27/15

QUEENS

ASTORIA HOUSES 4-20 Astoria Blvd, Maintenance parking lot	Wednesdays 06/17/15 07/29/15 07/01/15 08/12/15 07/15/15 08/26/15
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STATEN ISLAND

NEW LANE 70 New Lane	Thursdays 06/18/15 07/30/15 07/02/15 08/13/15 07/16/15 08/27/15
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Schedules are subject to change or cancellation.

REES PROGRAMS

NRTA Construction Training

The NYCHA Resident Training Academy is open to verified NYCHA residents who have a high school diploma/GED, are 18 years of age or older and interested in pursuing a career in construction. Learn more by visiting <http://opportunitynycha.org/events/categories/tabe-session-construction/> or calling 718.289.8100. Upcoming TABE sessions are: **Monday, June 15, June 29, July 13, and July 27. You must RSVP in advance.**

Six Month Business Skills Program for Women

REES is hosting two upcoming information and TABE sessions for Grace Institute who provide an intensive business and administrative training program for women. Learn more at

<http://opportunitynycha.org/events/grace-institute-information-session-2/> and RSVP for one of two coming sessions:

Wednesday, June 24 10:00am to 12:30pm

Wednesday, July 1 10:00am to 12:30pm

The sessions will be held at REES 787 Atlantic Avenue, 2nd floor Brooklyn.

Photo ID is required to enter the building. <http://opportunitynycha.org>

For more information, visit opportunitynycha.org.

HUD AWARDS \$250,000 TO NYCHA FOR SAFETY MEASURES

THANKS TO A \$250,000 GRANT from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), NYCHA will be able to purchase and install CCTVs and additional security equipment at Breukelen Houses.

NYCHA received the grant from HUD's Capital Fund Emergency Safety and Security Program, which provides public housing authorities with assistance in improving the health and safety of residents by addressing safety and security issues.

"All Americans should feel secure when they're at home," said HUD Secretary Julián Castro. "These grants provide our local partners with new tools to enhance the strength and vitality of their neighborhoods. Now, more families will be able to walk to school, get to work and safely access opportunity."

Landmark Public Housing Energy Contract Announced by HUD

Reduced energy costs, healthier air, more jobs for residents

ON THURSDAY, APRIL 9, Mayor Bill de Blasio, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Julián Castro, New York City Housing Authority Chair Shola Olatoye, and Director of the Mayor's Office of Sustainability Nilda Mesa announced the launch of the largest energy savings program for any public housing authority in the country. The announcement took place at the Breukelen Houses' Community Center in Canarsie.

Through a series of competitive Energy Performance Contracts (EPC), it is estimated that at least \$100 million in work will occur across nearly 300 NYCHA developments to upgrade and retrofit thousands of buildings, dramatically reducing greenhouse gas emissions and generating tens of millions of dollars in cost savings, as well as

creating more than 500 jobs.

The EPC, facilitated by HUD, is part of Mayor de Blasio's sweeping green buildings plan. In addition to contributing to the City's work to dramatically reduce emissions, NYCHA can mitigate the impact of rising utility costs through a reduction in consumption and help preserve funds for vital repairs and other building upgrades by leveraging alternative sources to finance energy and water upgrades.

"The launch of this initiative will help replace and repair outdated NYCHA systems with energy-efficient technology intended to cut energy consumption and costs," said Chair Olatoye. "These repairs are especially important in light of NYCHA's substantial outstanding capital needs and will also mean an improved quality of life for NYCHA residents."

The NYCHA JOURNAL

ESTABLISHED 1970 • CIRCULATION 200,000

PUBLISHED BY THE NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS

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*Must be a U.S. Citizen or Permanent Resident
Must be 19 or older and HS or GED/TASC Graduate*



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School Crossing Guards help children safely cross busy intersections on their way to and from school. School Crossing Guards control traffic flow around schools in the morning, at lunch time and at the end of the school day.

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There are no formal education or experience requirements for this job, but all candidates must be able to understand and be understood in English.

Prospective candidates must pass a qualifying medical examination, which includes drug screening and a character/background investigation, prior to appointment. You must also complete six (6) days of training at the Police Academy once appointed.

If you are interested in applying for a School Crossing Guard position please visit:

<http://nypdcivilianjobs.com/schoolcrossingguard/>

and provide your information and you will be contacted by an NYPD representative.



The New York City Police Department is an Equal Opportunity Employer

West Nile Virus Mosquito Treatment

The New York City Housing Authority will be treating all of the catch basins located on Housing Authority developments to reduce the mosquito population in an effort to minimize the transmission of the West Nile Virus. These treatments will take place between May and September of 2014. One or more of the following pesticides will be used:

Vectolex CG, EPA Reg. No. 73049-20, Toxicity Category - "Caution"
Summit B.t.i. Briquets, EPA Reg. No. 6218-47, Toxicity Category - "Caution"
Altosid XR, EPA Reg. No. 2724-421, Toxicity Category - "Caution"

Contact names and numbers for this application are;
NYC Housing Authority:

Raymond Gamble, Administrator, 718-707-5306 available from 9 am - 5 pm

Denise Torres, Technical Resource Advisor, 718-707-8032 available from 8 am - 4 pm

NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation, Region 2,
Bureau of Pesticide Management - 718-482-4994

National Pesticide Telecommunications Network - 1-800-858-PEST

Inquiries concerning symptoms of pesticide poisoning should be directed to the Poison Control Center 1-800-222-1222

A Week in the Life

Community Health Worker with Harlem Health Advocacy Partners

AS A COMMUNITY Health Worker (CHW), Cadine DeSouza advocates for the health and well-being of NYCHA residents by helping them navigate healthcare, government, and social service systems so that they can lead healthier lives.

Cadine, a Rangel Houses resident, is one of 14 CHWs who work at Northern Manhattan Perinatal Partnership (NMPP) as part of the new Harlem Health Advocacy Partners (HHAP) program. HHAP is a free program for NYCHA residents living in five developments identified as high risk for asthma, diabetes, and hypertension: Clinton, Johnson, and Taft Houses; Lehman Village and Kings Towers. It is a joint project of the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOH) and NYCHA, along with NMPP, Community Service Society (CSS), City University of New York School of Public Health, and New York University School of Medicine.

MONDAY

Cadine's at the office typing progress notes on her participants, doing resident phone screenings, and making referrals. During a phone screening to recruit participants, she finds out if a resident has asthma, diabetes, or hypertension, if he/

she lives in one of the five developments, and other basic medical questions.

Along with her supervisors and HHAP project director, Cadine attends a monthly project meeting with the DOH. A CHW always gives a report from the field. Cadine tells the group about a participant whose roach problem triggers her asthma. Cadine plans to help the resident access services to address this problem. (Residents experiencing problems with pests should call the NYCHA Customer Contact Center at **718-707-7771**.)

TUESDAY

Cadine is at Johnson Houses with two other CHWs. Johnson, one of the larger developments in the program, has three CHWs assigned to it while smaller developments have two. She works with a new participant on intake, which entails the completion of a 32-page booklet with health information. This usually takes an hour and a half to finish.

Later, Cadine visits a participant's apartment to create a Participant Action Plan (PAP) with him to start an exercise routine. They create a specific plan that states the type of exercise he will do, the duration, days of the week, and what time of day.



WEDNESDAY

Cadine consults with the nurse intern about a medical question from a participant. She and the other CHWs at Johnson brainstorm on an outreach event. The last outreach event at Johnson, "Love Your Health," was a success; they enrolled residents, made stress balls, played health bingo, and did blood pressure screenings. She reviews materials from a recent DOH smoking cessation training to assist her in creating a PAP with a participant.

THURSDAY

Back at Johnson, Cadine walks around the development, visits the Property Manager's office, and does street outreach.

She accompanies a resident to a doctor's appointment. Before the appointment Cadine reviewed a list of questions for the resident to ask her doctor to ensure all her concerns are

addressed. After the appointment Cadine will follow-up to make sure the resident has her prescriptions, she's not having any side effects, and remind her to call the doctor for test results.

FRIDAY

The CHWs, their two supervisors, and project director have a weekly strategy meeting. One issue they discuss: how to enroll more men in the program. After the meeting, Cadine makes calls to participants to remind them she'll be back at Johnson on Monday.

Want to join the HHAP team? HHAP is looking for 15 part-time Health Outreach Specialists to join the Community Activation Team. You must be 16 or older and a current resident of Clinton, Johnson, King Towers, Lehman Village, or Taft Houses. For more info, contact Odalis Gonzalez at odalisgnmpp@gmail.com or **212-665-2600 x401**.



GROW YOUR OWN GARDEN

NYCHA'S GARDEN AND GREENING PROGRAM, one of the oldest urban gardening programs in the country, recently introduced some young gardeners to seed starting. The children were instructed by Sharon Harrison-Salley, Community Assistant with Resident Engagement, and Andre Livingston, a Polo Grounds Towers resident and consultant with the Garden and Greening program. In addition to providing gardening education, Mr. Livingston builds raised garden beds so that seniors and children can plant with ease.

SEED STARTING

If you want to grow your own plants from seeds, the following are some basic steps to seed starting indoors. Pick your seeds based on whether you want indoor plants or will be transferring to a garden. For instance,

tomatoes, peppers, and eggplant need to be started as seeds six to seven weeks before they can be transplanted to a garden. For an indoor herb garden, basil, rosemary, thyme, or parsley are good options and can be transferred to bigger pots a few weeks after planting. In addition to seeds, you'll need a sterile seed starting mix and containers.

1. Choose containers that drain well. Here, children use plastic flats with multiple drainage holes that are then placed into large trays that can hold water. You can also use peat pots or recycled containers (yogurt, milk cartons, bottles, etc.) after they are washed and drainage holes are created.
2. Fill containers 2/3 full with seed starting soil. (Do not use gardening soil.) Use a pen or pencil to create small hole in the soil, drop a seed inside, and cover loosely with soil.

3. Plant only 2-3 seeds per pot.
3. Keep the seeds warm, between 65-70 degrees. You can keep them on top of the refrigerator or in a warm room. Also be sure to keep them moist, mist them with water or keep the pots in a tray of water. Do not water them directly because this may disturb the seeds and soil.
4. Once seeds begin to sprout move the pots to a sunny windowsill. When they produce their first true leaves begin using a fertilizer or fish emulsion diluted with water.

TRANSPLANTING

After the seedlings have grown their second set of true leaves or when they are 4-5 inches tall, they are ready to be transplanted to a larger container. Squeeze the sides of container, turn plant upside down, slide plant into a larger container, and fill with potting soil. Here, children



transplant the seedlings into terra cotta pots.

If you want to plant your seedlings outside, you have to gradually introduce the seedlings to the outdoor climate by bring them outside during the day and back in at night. After a week the seedlings will be ready to be transplanted outside.

For more information about urban gardening, visit **The New York Horticultural Society** at www.thehort.org.

How Do You SPELL

WINNER



Twelve of the best spellers from NYCHA's Manhattan Community Centers showed off their vocabulary know-how at Manhattan Community Operations' annual Spell-Off, held on April 10 at Drew Hamilton Community Center. The 12 competitors, representing grades 3 through 6, previously won regional spelling bees at their community centers which qualified them to move on to the final competition at Drew Hamilton. The crowd of almost 130 children cheered on their friends as they spelled word after word correctly, sometimes exhausting the judges' word lists. A first place winner was declared from each grade: Manhattanville 3rd grader Alec Wallace won with "kitchen;" Seward Park 4th grader Leilani Saulsbury won for "independent;" Drew Hamilton 5th grader Nia Mayers won with "economy;" and Lehman 6th grader Abdul Tandia won for "stability."

Home Ownership 101

OWNING A HOME may be the foundation of the American dream – and it's a dream that might become reality for some NYCHA residents. NYCHA's Office of Resident Economic Empowerment and Sustainability (REES) has partnered with several non-profit organizations to provide a series of free homebuyer education courses.

Partner organization Bridge Street Development Corporation recently led two courses for Bedford-Stuyvesant NYCHA residents as part of the REES Mortgage Clinic. Topics covered included understanding, establishing, and maintaining good credit, as well as the ins and outs of shopping for a home and securing a mortgage.

"You don't necessarily need a lot of money to buy your own home," Tischelle George, NYCHA's Assistant Director of Asset Building and Financial Literacy, said. "What you do need is a steady source of income and education about the home-buying process. We're connecting NYCHA residents to partners who offer programs that

help first-time homebuyers afford to buy a home."

Attendees left the sessions with practical knowledge and action plans. Session leader Edward Odom Jr., Vice President of Community Development at Citi, tasked attendees to create a budget and follow it for 3 to 6 months to see how much money they could save. He told them to be sure to calculate all of their monthly expenses, including rent, travel, food, savings, and entertainment, as well as accounting for irregular expenses such as car repairs.

Sumner Houses resident Marcella McMurrin gave rave reviews to the informative "Are you ready to buy a home?" session she attended in February. "I learned how to increase my credit score, because your credit is very important. You want to have open credit, like a credit card that you pay off every month, to show that you're creditworthy. I also learned how to budget and how to apply for a loan."

Vilma Pomales, who lives in Brevoort Houses, went to the "Improving Your Credit Score" session in March because

Improving Your Credit Score*

If you want to get a credit card, buy or lease a car, or rent or buy a home: Your credit score matters! When someone looks at your credit score, they are checking your payment history, amount owed, length of credit history, new credit accounts opened, and types of credit in use.

HOW TO RAISE (OR MAINTAIN) YOUR CREDIT SCORE:

- Pay your bills on time (talk to your creditors if you need a lower monthly rate)
- Try to pay down your debts
- Keep your long-running credit card accounts open
- Don't open a lot of new accounts within a short period of time
- Keep a good mix of credit
- Don't open new accounts that you don't need (such as store credit cards)
- Check your credit report for mistakes and fix past errors.

Check your credit score for free at AnnualCreditReport.com.

*adapted from Citibank's "Score Some Points: Understanding Your Credit Score" presentation.

she's always dreamt of owning her own home. "My mother had her own house and I always had the vision of having my own. I'm tired of paying rent. Things were different when my mother bought her house in the 60s, things were easier. Now there's a credit check and a lot of other things you need to know to buy a house."

According to Stephen Cozier, a Chase mortgage banker who led one of the

sessions, "Buying a home can be an option for everyone. A first-time homebuyer's seminar is always a great way to get more information, followed by a pre-approval which can provide the applicant with a variety of options based on their financial ability."

Check www.opportunitynycha.org to find out when more workshops will be held.

NYCHA's Got Talent

NYCHA's 45th Annual Talent Show Competition was held on May 2, 2015 at Boys and Girls High School in Brooklyn. The show featured 21 acts of singing, dancing, and poetry from performers representing NYCHA developments in Brooklyn, Bronx, Manhattan, and Staten Island. The photos below are winners in the Youth, Teen, Adult, and Senior categories. In addition to the competitors, the show featured guest performances from Brenda Nowell, Janice Mikell, Renee Flowers, NYCHA Youth Chorus, NYCHA Senior Choir, and the Brevoort Dancers. To see more photos from the talent show, please visit NYCHA's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/NYCHA.



Singer Nathaniel Washington, Linden Houses, 3rd place, Adult category



Singer Fred Harley, Glenwood Houses, 2nd place, Senior category



Singer Kayaa Grant, Fort Independence Houses, 2nd place, Youth category



Singer Carmela Ciocia, Marlboro Houses, 3rd place, Teen category



Singer Brazil Anstar, Manhattanville Houses, 1st place, Adult category



Poet Flordelisa Mota, Twin Parks Houses, 3rd place, Senior category



Singer Jennifer Miller, Isaacs Houses, 1st place, Senior category



Singer Aquila Arlene Taylor, Red Hook Houses, 2nd place, Adult category



Harmony, Butler Houses, 2nd place, Teen category



Ladies of DH Squad, Drew Hamilton Houses, 3rd place, Youth category



Evolution, Castle Hill Houses, 1st place, Youth category



K.G.B. Dance Troop, Edenwald Houses, 1st place, Teen category





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