A signature focus of the de Blasio Administration is to address inequality for New Yorkers throughout the five boroughs. One key piece of solving the inequality puzzle is to address the growing skills gap that prevents large segments of the city’s populations from accessing jobs that will generate incomes sufficient to support a family.

To better understand how to combat this skills gap that affects millions of New Yorkers, we are convening Jobs for New Yorkers, a task force with the Office of Workforce Development comprised of representatives with services or locations in all five boroughs from the “supply side” of the workforce: educators, non-profit leaders, advocates, union leaders, and philanthropists, and the “demand side”: business leaders, employers from across the five boroughs in manufacturing, financial services, media, hospitality, healthcare, the tech ecosystem, retail and food services. We are bringing these important leaders together over the next few months in order to better understand what skills employers in New York need today and how they predict their future workforce needs will change in the coming years. From there, we can begin to thoughtfully develop strategies and investments that are targeted to the specific recommendations of our growing industries. The Task Force will also include senior leaders from all relevant City agencies.

Jobs for New Yorkers Task Force meetings and community input will help us to understand which programs and initiatives in our systems are functioning correctly and should be expanded and supported, and those which are not producing real results and should be re-configured or eliminated entirely. Fundamentally, we need to shift our workforce paradigm from focusing on transactional outcomes defined by low-wage job placement to building skills that will result in higher wage employment and a stronger workforce. Working with this select group of stakeholders, the Jobs for New Yorkers Task Force will advise the administration on immediate fixes that we can begin to implement in our workforce development programs as well as long term, impactful goals which will shift the state of our workforce in a positive way for the future.

“With this task force, we are going to harness the experience, knowledge and expertise from this diverse group of business, education and community leaders to expand opportunity for more hardworking New Yorkers.”

- Mayor Bill de Blasio

**TASK FORCE GOALS**

The four goals:

- Better integrate the $500 million investment in workforce programs and education resources to serve the unemployed and under-employed

- Address the skill gaps for low-wage workers by creating training programs that teach skills specifically geared to what today’s companies need. This will create a pipeline of home grown workers who can fill the new opportunities being created by the city’s growing businesses, particularly in sectors like fashion and design, advertising, engineering, film and television production, health care, modern manufacturing, and the tech ecosystem

- Ensure our local employers seek, find and hire talent from the five boroughs of New York City

- Combine economic development strategies with workforce development initiatives to allow more New Yorkers access to quality employment in industries where the City makes investments
TASK FORCE MEMBERS

The Task Force will have members from our largest sectors, business leaders, workforce development leaders, education and advocates for low-income New Yorkers as well as representatives from the innovation economy, modern manufacturing, labor, and philanthropy. Additionally, input will come from feeder task forces and the public. The Task Force will be staffed by the Mayor’s Office of Workforce Development, under the direction of the Deputy Mayor for Housing and Economic Development. Senior Officials from all of the relevant City agencies will also participate. Maria Torres-Springer, Commissioner of SBS and Kyle Kimball, President of NYCEDC will be City leaders of the task force.

Vinnie Alvarez, NYC Central Labor Council  
John Banks, Con Edison  
Cesar Claro, Staten Island Economic Development Corporation  
Steven Dawson, Paraprofessional Healthcare Institute  
Leecia Eve, Verizon  
Carlo Frappolli, JPMorgan Chase & Co.  
Greg Hambric, Modells Sporting Goods  
Leo Hindery, Jr., InterMedia Partners  
Jukay Hsu, Coalition for Queens  
Daniel P. Huttenlocher, Cornell Tech  
Patricia Jenny, New York Community Trust  
Tim Johnson, Greater New York Hospital Association  
David Jones, Community Service Society  
Jennifer Jones Austin, Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies  
Angie Kamath, Per Scholas  
Steve Kempf, Lee Spring  
Deborah King, 1199 SEIU Training and Employment Funds  
Chauncy Lennon, JP Morgan Chase, Global Philanthropy  
Stanley S. Litow, IBM  
Ira Machowsky, FEGS  
Felix Matos Rodriguez, Hostos Community College  
Cheryl McKissack, McKissack & McKissack  
Danny Meyer, Union Square Hospitality Group  
John Mogulescu, CUNY  
Andrea Phillips, Urban Investment Group at Goldman Sachs  
Jessamyn W. Rodriguez, Hot Bread Kitchen  
Jake Schwartz, General Assembly  
Denise Warren, New York Times Media  
Fred Wilson, Union Square Ventures  
Sondra Youdleman, Community Voices Heard

CONTACT US

For more information, please contact  www.nyc.gov/wkdevnyc