

START
TIME 11:07 AM

**TESTIMONY BEFORE
THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

**COMMITTEES ON YOUTH SERVICES, FINANCE AND COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT**

FISCAL YEAR 2013 EXECUTIVE PLAN

**PRESENTED BY
JEANNE B. MULLGRAV, COMMISSIONER**

**NEW YORK CITY
DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

THURSDAY, MAY 24, 2012

Good morning Chairmen Fidler, Recchia and Vann and members of the Youth Services, Finance Committees and Community Development Committees. I am Jeanne B. Mullgrav, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD). Thank you for the opportunity to update you on the budget outlook for Fiscal 2013.

As Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg highlighted earlier this month, the 2013 Executive Budget does not include any additional agency reductions beyond what was proposed in November. This is welcome news given the 12 rounds of gap-closing actions, and significant loss of federal and state funding to DYCD during the past several years. We are grateful that with the support of the Mayor, the Council, and our dedicated providers, we have been able to maintain core services for young people and families

DYCD's Fiscal 2013 Executive Budget is \$244.8 million. \$150.0 million is city tax levy, \$64.6 million is federal, \$4.7 million is state and \$ 25.5 million is from other funds.

- Afterschool Services

Since we last met in March, DYCD took two significant actions impacting Beacon and Out-of-School Time Programs.

1. Beacon Programs

First, DYCD released a list of seven Beacon programs slated to close July 1, 2012. As you know, this action was necessary given how funding to Beacons has decreased from \$44.5 million in Fiscal 2009 to \$33.1 million in Fiscal 2013. On the ground, this would have meant that each of our 66 city-tax levy funded Beacon programs budgets would decrease to \$274,000 – down from \$341,305 in Fiscal 2012 and \$400,000 before the recession. We do not expect programs to operate at this funding level while maintaining the program quality young people and parents have come to expect. In discussions with service providers and advocates, many echoed these concerns.

Knowing how valuable each of our 80 Beacon programs are to every community, we based our decision regarding specific closures on the most objective measures possible, including population and poverty data for community districts in which the Beacons are located. They included two in Manhattan and Queens and one in the Bronx, Brooklyn and Staten Island.

When faced with such difficult choices, there are no perfect solutions. However, we believe we adopted the fairest method to determine which Beacons would close.

2. Out-of-School Time Programs

Since 2009, OST has experienced a significant loss of City, State and Federal funding. Funding decreased from \$121 million for over 75,000 slots to \$73 million for 27,000 slots in 2013. We thank the Council for its support of OST. Its restoration of \$12.2 million funds over 11,000 slots this year.

Late last month, DYCD sent notifications to organizations eligible for award in the competition for OST Elementary and Middle School programs. In all, 224 programs will be operated by 95 community-based organizations located throughout the five boroughs. The 123 Elementary programs and 101 Middle School programs will be located in a variety of settings, including:

- 184 in DOE School buildings
- 9 in New York City Housing Authority facilities
- 7 Department of Parks and Recreation Facilities
- 24 in private centers

New programs will begin September 1, 2012. These new programs will serve over 25,000 of NYC's elementary and middle school students. Additionally, nearly 2,000 high school students will continue to be served by existing contracts.

Unfortunately, given the over 1,200 responses to the Request for Proposals, many proposals were not funded. This is not necessarily a reflection on the quality of their programming, but rather more a factor of limited resources and the high level of competition. 77 incumbent organizations who are currently providing OST programs were among those selected for awards. Additionally, 18 new organizations will be entering the portfolio.

We remain committed to providing high-quality, comprehensive services through OST, and maximizing the value received for the funding available. We look forward to seeing the new OST model take root next year, building on the strengths and accomplishments of the program. It enhances services to include year-round programming and includes new elements to help young people compete in the new 21st century economy. We are confident that with the support of the Mayor, the City Council and our dedicated providers, OST will stay true to its values, poised to grow and thrive when more prosperous times return.

- Community Services Block Grant

Last week, we concluded a series of five Borough meetings concerning federal Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) funding. As you know, the President's budget again proposes to cut CSBG in half, with the possibility of the remaining \$350 million allocated through a competitive process, not based on needs or population. The meetings highlighted the City's strategic use of its \$30.9 million from CSBG to support 200 community-based organizations serving 30,000 low-income New Yorkers. During these meetings, we heard moving testimonies from many whose lives have been improved by these programs, such as a senior who was able to stay in her home, an immigrant who learned English, a young adult who received her GED and a father who strengthened his relationship with his children. We appreciate the efforts of many advocacy and community-based organizations in spearheading these important forums to educate the public and policy makers on the importance of CSBG funding.

- Youth Summer Employment Opportunities

Since we were first given responsibility for the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP), we shared the Council's desire to conduct an independent study of its long-term benefits. Given our focus on maximizing the total number of youth we could serve, cost was a concern. So we were delighted to partner with New York University's Institute for Education and Social Policy to accomplish this at no cost to DYCD. The researchers recently completed the first phase of a study examining the impact of SYEP on school outcomes. It tracked more than 36,000 public school students who applied for SYEP in 2007 and compared those who *were* selected for SYEP to those who were *not*. The SYEP lottery gives researchers the basis for a random assignment study, the "gold standard" in evaluation research. Overall, the Institute's research team found that SYEP increases school attendance in the following year by a day or two. Even more encouraging is the fact that among youth 16 and older with less than 90% attendance in the prior year, SYEP increases school attendance by as much as four or five days. For these youth, SYEP *also* increases the likelihood that they attempt the English and "Math A" Regents Exams. As a result, about 100 more students passed each of these exams. Because this is a random assignment study, the Institute's researchers have strong reason to believe that SYEP actually causes these increases. The study suggests that beyond providing youth with work experience and a paycheck, SYEP enhances educational success by increasing engagement and effort in school after the summer is over. We are pleased that NYU will continue to study SYEP, examining data from additional years, as well as other outcomes such as high school graduation.

As discussed in March, we are delighted that the State has invested \$25 million into the SYEP. Recently, we were notified that the City's share of funding will be \$13.5 million. This is particularly welcomed given that we are likely to exceed the 131,000 youth who applied for SYEP last year. Combined with the City's investment of \$20 million, along with other smaller funding sources, we presently have \$38.9 million to serve approximately 26,000 youth. We hope to serve more youth through the Mayor's third annual public-private partnership campaign for SYEP.

This summer's Ladders for Leaders efforts are encouraging with 1,131 young people applying. Of these, 305 have been invited to attend pre-employment workshops and mock interviews to prepare them for internships. To date we have a commitment from 77 employers to hire 211 young people. Of these, 19 employers are new to Ladders and include Bad Boy Entertainment Worldwide, the Mayor's Fund, Office of Chief Medical Examiner, Hilton Hotels, Neuberger Berman, New American Chamber of Commerce, New York Community Bankcorp, and Voxy, just to name a few. Efforts are ongoing to recruit additional employers. In partnership with the Commission on Women's issues, this corporate-supported internship program allows young people the opportunity to gain work experience, college preparation workshops, scholarships, and SAT courses.

Marking the first day of summer vacation, on June 28th we are hosting our second annual Job Fair for young people at Emigrant Savings Bank on Chambers Street. Working with DCAS, the boroughs' Chambers of Commerce, the State Department of Labor, and employers, it is our goal to provide a wide-range of employment opportunities for young people in DYCD programs.

- NYC Summer Quest

While these are challenging times, we continue to be proud of the City's innovative work enhancing services and developing strategic partnerships to carry out our mission. For example, DYCD, the Department of Education, and the Fund for Public Schools have developed the NYC Summer Quest pilot program. Supported by \$2.3 million in private contributions, this pilot will provide a five week, engaging summer learning experience for 1,470 youth elementary and middle school students in the South Bronx. The program will focus on project-based learning, literacy enrichment, healthy-eating and physical activity. For example, one program will cultivate an urban garden and manage a student-run Green Market, for them to learn about ecology, engineering, team-work and entrepreneurial skill building. The goals of the program are to prevent summer learning loss, support students advance to middle and high school, and to evaluate the program's benefits to youth.

- Cornerstone Mentoring Program Special Events

On April 28, 200 youth and adults from the Cornerstone Mentoring program took part in MillionTreesNYC's tree planting events at 6 parks located throughout Queens, Staten Island, and the Bronx. The Cornerstone participants planted over 800 trees as part of this service event, learning how to properly plant a tree. Additionally, on June 30, the Museum of Natural History and DYCD are hosting a "Night at the Museum." This event is designed to allow mentors and mentees to participate in a nocturnal exploratory adventure filled with science, history and learning.

- New York Aquarium Father's Day Celebration

On June 16, DYCD's annual Father's Day Celebration is taking place at the New York Aquarium. Part of our Fatherhood Initiative, the event is designed to allow children and their fathers explore nature and learn together and to strengthen their relationship. They will participate in an interactive workshop about the role of parents in the animal kingdom with Aquarium favorites penguins and sea lions. Additionally, earlier this month, dads and children participated in Mother's Recognition Day events at Cornerstone Programs where they created artwork together to present as gifts on Mother's Day.

All of these activities are consistent with our efforts to provide holistic and structured theme-based activities, trips and recreational services to young people. They also demonstrate our commitment to innovation to improve the quality of services offered by the programs that we support. Additionally, they help lay the groundwork for expansion when the City's economy improves.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to discuss the DYCD Fiscal 2013 Executive Budget. I am joined by Denice Williams, Assistant Commissioner for OST and John V. Cirolia, Deputy Commissioner for Administration.