



Human Resources
Administration
Department of
Social Services

TESTIMONY

Robert Doar, Commissioner
Human Resources Administration/Department of Social Services

2013 Executive Budget Hearing

*Hearing of the New York City Council
Finance and General Welfare Committees*

May 22, 2012

Good morning Chairman Recchia, Chairwoman Palma and members of the Finance and General Welfare Committees. As you know, I am Robert Doar, Commissioner of the Human Resources Administration (HRA) and joining me today is Jill Berry, Executive Deputy Commissioner for HRA's Finance Office and Rosine Ferdinand also of our Finance Office. To help put our budget situation into context, I want to provide you with a brief overview of our present caseload.

I. PUBLIC BENEFIT PROGRAMS AND CASELOAD UPDATE

Cash Assistance Program

Our Cash Assistance (CA) caseload, comprised of both single individuals and families with children, has been stable over the past year with approximately 352,000 recipients. We have continued our Work First approach and last year we helped thousands of cash assistance applicants and/or recipients obtain jobs or retain employment.

Food Programs and Emergency Food Assistance

HRA's Food Stamp Program caseload as of April 2012 is approximately 1.81 million recipients. There has been an ebb and flow in figures over the past year, although we have seen a slight decline from April 2011. We expect this pattern of small month to month fluctuations will continue and that the caseload will decline slightly during the coming 12 months. This is based on Obama Administration projections of caseload decline due to an improving national economy which was outlined in President Obama's FY 2013 budget proposal. At the preliminary budget hearing in March, I described the broad efforts underway to address the demands faced by a program that grew by over 700,000 recipients in a short, four-year period. These efforts are working and most recently, 100,000 food stamp applications have been submitted on-line through the City's "ACCESS NYC" and the State's "MyBenefits" websites. Recent data provided to the City by both the State and the Federal government indicate that New York City's program access is significantly better than the rest of the state and better than most of America's largest cities.

Also, our Emergency Food Assistance Program (EFAP) continues to provide nutritious foods to city residents. Funding for the program has remained stable at \$9.5 million for food, and the program is distributing over 11 million pounds of food to approximately 478 food pantries and soup kitchens.

Child Support Enforcement

Following a record setting year in 2011 with \$731 million in collections, of which 91 percent went directly to families to help keep them out of poverty, this year we have kept pace and expect to reach similar levels. The Mayor's Executive Budget proposal takes into account the State's unfortunate reduction in financial support for this important program as a result of the State budget that shifted a majority of the non-federal administrative costs for the program on to local districts.

Public Health Insurance and Upcoming Restructuring

The public health insurance caseload, or Medicaid, consists of approximately 2.98 million New Yorkers, a slight increase over last year's level. The program has seen continued growth; in

fact by over 79 percent in ten years. This program is presently at the center of both state and federal healthcare redesign efforts. Over the past two years, the state's Medicaid Redesign Team has developed and begun implementing measures that move away from the present structure and towards a managed care model. In addition, the state budget includes measures both to reduce the financial share for Medicaid growth paid by local districts, including New York City, and to begin takeover of select administrative functions presently performed by local districts. These changes to the program will inevitably impact how New Yorkers receive Medicaid-funded services as well as the role HRA will play in administering them.

Medicaid funded community based long term care will see significant changes as a result of these measures. Last August, Medicaid consumers under the age of 65 who were enrolled in Medicaid managed care and who also received personal care through our Home Care's Personal Care Services (PCS) program, began receiving their personal care services as part of the benefit package of their managed care plans. At that time, approximately 4,000 PCS recipients were transferred from HRA to a managed care plan. This, and other reforms, as well as declining personal care enrollment, has resulted in reduced Personal Care expenditures of nearly \$400 million since FY 2010. This year, we also anticipate that 28,000 of the 35,000 remaining PCS clients who receive their care through HRA contracts will be transferred into Managed Long Term Care, once the state receives federal approval to do so. The State has also developed a proposal to integrate care for many adults eligible for both Medicaid and Medicare ("dual-eligibles") through a demonstration that would include New York City.

II. HRA BUDGET SAVINGS PLAN

Since 2007, HRA's budget savings efforts have saved the City an average of \$179 million per year, or 14 percent of our non-Medicaid city tax levy (CTL) budget. These city tax levy savings have increased dramatically over the last six years from \$9 million in savings in FY 2007 to \$272 million savings in FY 2013. Despite this savings, our city tax levy expenditures (excluding Medicaid) have grown modestly from \$980 million ten years ago to \$1.1 billion five years ago and are budgeted at \$1.3 billion in FY 2013.

During the same time period that we were called to implement these savings, we were also responding to an increased demand for our services. In particular, our food stamp and Medicaid programs, fueled also by state eligibility changes, saw unprecedented growth in caseloads. Throughout all savings plans, we recognized that we needed to protect our direct services from budget actions, as they were providing support to additional recipients in a relatively short period of time. We worked hard to avoid layoffs to front-line staff and found a vast majority of our savings through administrative efficiencies and maximizing federal and state revenues.

Our budget has also been further challenged by both federal and state funding decisions. During this time, the state systematically shifted financial responsibility for its social service programs (food stamps, safety net cash assistance, and child support) to local districts resulting in a loss of over \$130 million to the city. In addition, although HRA benefited from a temporary influx of federal stimulus funds for both social services and Medicaid, those funds are gone.

Overall, HRA manages over \$39 billion in resources. Medicaid is the largest portion of our budget, where the combined City, State and Federal shares total \$33 billion. This is followed by over \$3.4 billion in food stamp benefits. Cash assistance, employment, HASA, Domestic

Violence, Adult Protective Services as well as other programs combined represent \$2.13 billion. Our personnel services budget that supports a budgeted headcount of 14,506 is \$754 million, and the remaining part of the budget is administrative costs at \$310 million and capital at \$41 million.

III. 2013 EXECUTIVE BUDGET PLAN

Even with the federal and state cuts, I believe we have held strong to our commitment to put forward budgets that protect the quality and integrity of our programs, while saving city dollars and the present budget plan is no exception. In the FY13 Budget Plan, HRA has identified approximately \$84 million in savings. As these were covered in-depth during the preliminary budget hearing, I will quickly summarize them and provide more in-depth information as needed.

Administrative and Revenue Maximization

The vast majority of the savings for this budget are from revenue maximization and administrative savings, many with minimal or no impact to services or our clients. Fringe benefit rates provided significant savings for this year. Unexpected delays in three NY/NYIII permanent congregate supportive housing projects also provided savings. In the new fiscal year, HASA will release a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the remaining 394 NYNY III congregate supportive housing units. It is anticipated that the available operating funding for the contracts awarded from this RFP will be approximately \$10 million annually. This new RFP is consistent with the guidance from our state oversight agencies, the Department of Health and the Office of Mental Health.

We also were able to identify federal and state revenues for some expenditures that were previously provided through the city tax levy and we put forward a plan to eventually relinquish most of the multi-service centers within our portfolio. Another proposal in the plan is to request recovery from sponsors of cash benefits provided to legal immigrants in our Safety Net Assistance Program. A payment plan will be negotiated based on a sponsor's ability to pay and we will not seek recovery from sponsors of domestic violence victims, asylees or refugees. Unlike our broader Cash Assistance program, the City pays for 100 percent of the administrative costs of the Safety Net Program as well as 71 percent of the cost of benefits. In fact, very few cities, or even states, fund a safety net program like ours.

Our budget plan also retains our plan to eliminate funding for the Teen RAPP program - not because we don't believe it is a valuable program, but because it is not core to our agency's mission. However, we continue to address domestic violence issues through our management of the NYC domestic violence shelter system and through the provision of non-residential domestic violence support and prevention services.

Staffing Issues

This budget includes implementation of an earlier year PEG by eliminating 200 vacancies to be taken throughout the Agency, with a higher percentage to be absorbed in our non-direct service staff lines. However, due to the administrative demands placed on our Food Stamp Program, our budget plan includes funding to support up to 259 additional eligibility and supervisory staff for fiscal year 2013. The additional staff will help speed up the processing of both center-based

and electronic applications at our call centers, and avoid backlogs in the program. However, there is an expectation that this influx of staff need is temporary, especially as our automation efforts come into full use over the course of the year, and that almost half of the slots will not be required in the out-years. However, I will continue to closely monitor the staffing over the course of the year to make sure our projections are accurate.

HIV/AIDS Services Administration (HASA)

As the most comprehensive program of its kind in the country, HASA currently serves over 32,000 medically eligible clients and their families, totaling over 46,000 individuals. We believe this is an incredibly effective program but similar to all our critical safety net programs, HASA, which is funded at \$417 million, must also be part of budget saving discussions. As outlined in March, we have therefore put forward approximately 4.9 percent in reductions to the supportive housing program. The overall City savings of HASA PEGs is \$6.2 million.

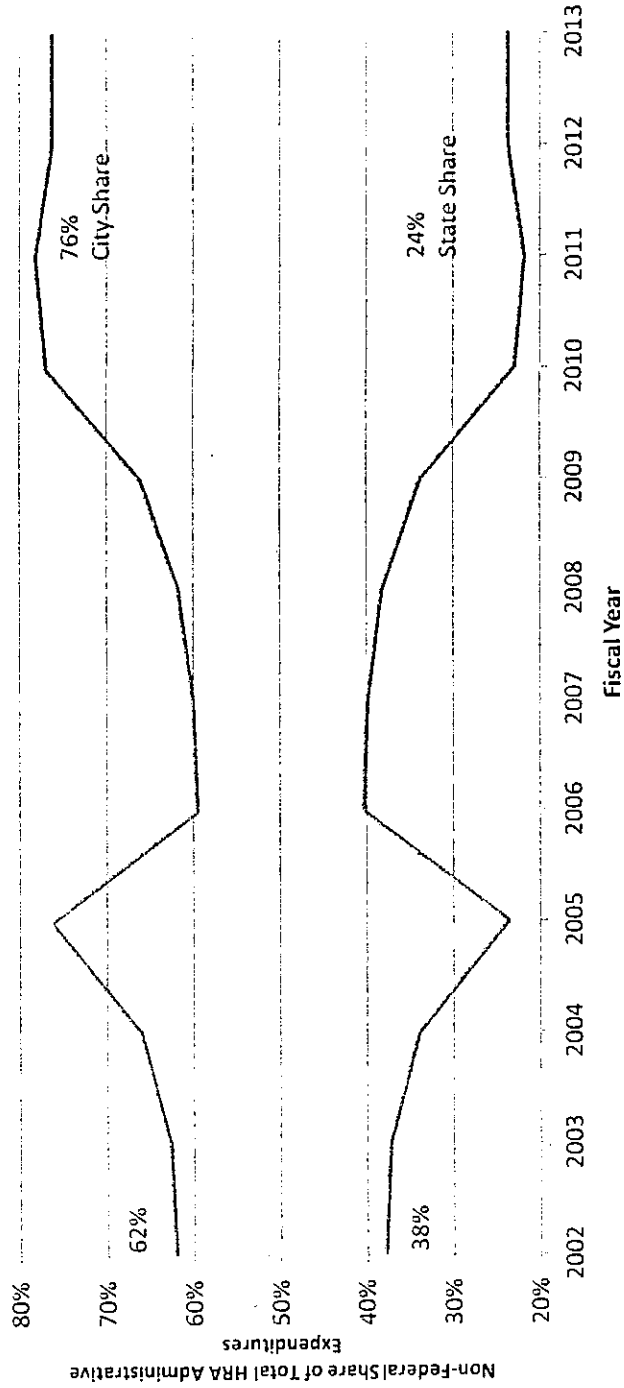
In following up on discussions from the preliminary budget hearing, I want to assure you that we are addressing concerns raised that some brokers may have been requesting HASA clients to contribute to their fee. To the extent that we discover brokers who are in fact requesting additional payments, these brokers will be removed from the informal list which may be provided to clients. We will continue to monitor this informal list, and if we are made aware of any broker who is violating this rule, HRA will take appropriate action.

Also, the HASA Advisory Committee is complete and met in April. As part of that meeting, we started discussions on how best to engage healthy adults who are part of a HASA client's cash assistance case in employment related activities. HRA will continue this dialogue regarding the importance of employment for these healthy adults as well as the benefits of work for clients living with HIV/AIDS as part of a specially-scheduled June Advisory Committee meeting.

At this point I look forward to committee member questions.

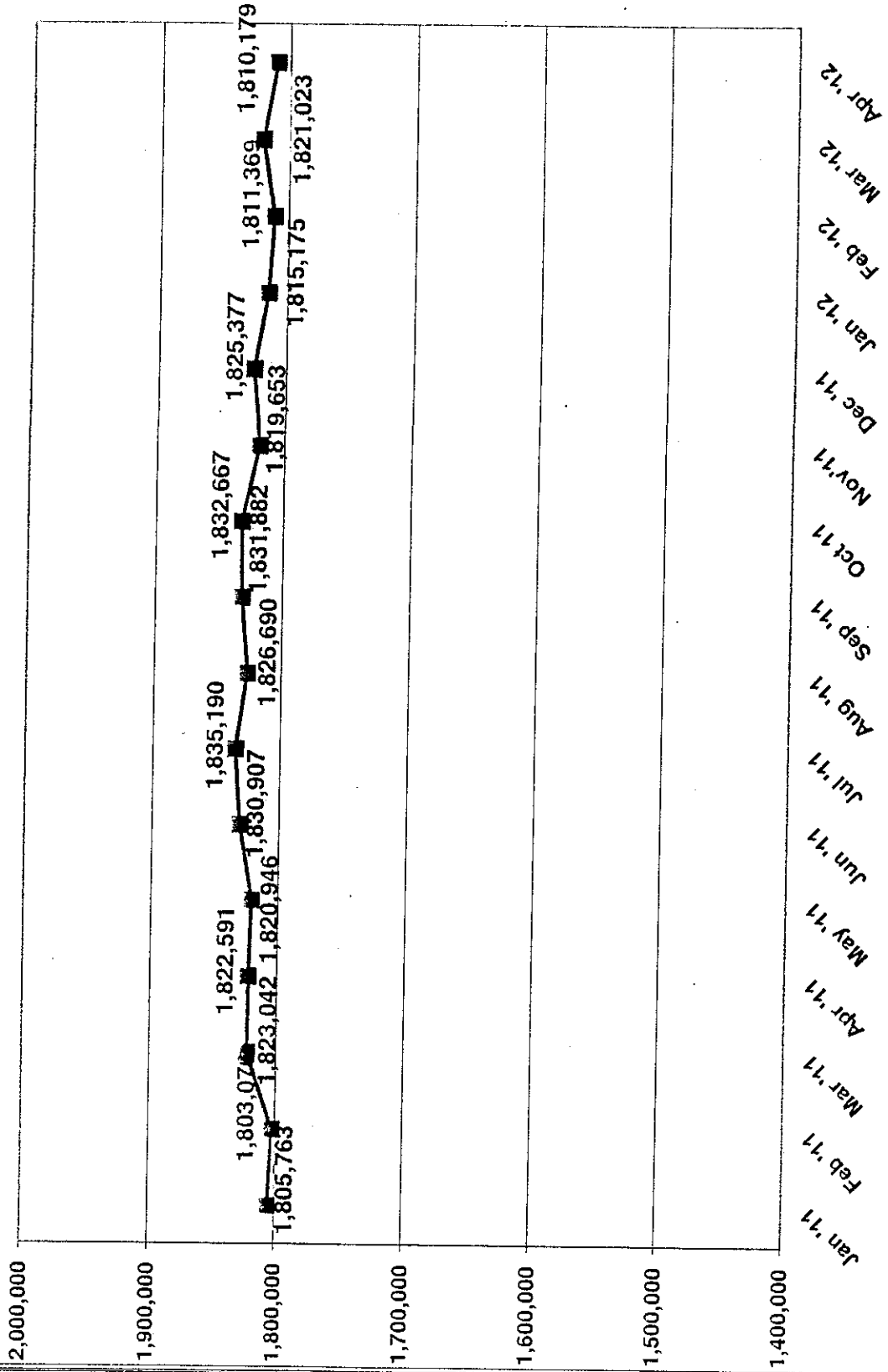
New York State Support for HRA Administration in New York City Has Fallen Further and Further Behind the City's Commitment

- ❖ In FY 2002, New York State's share of the non-federal cost of administration was 38%, and the City's share was 62%
- ❖ In FY 2013, New York State's share is 24% while the City's share is 76%
- ❖ If the State shared the cost of HRA administration equally with the City, spending on HRA administration would have cost local taxpayers \$212 million less in FY 2013

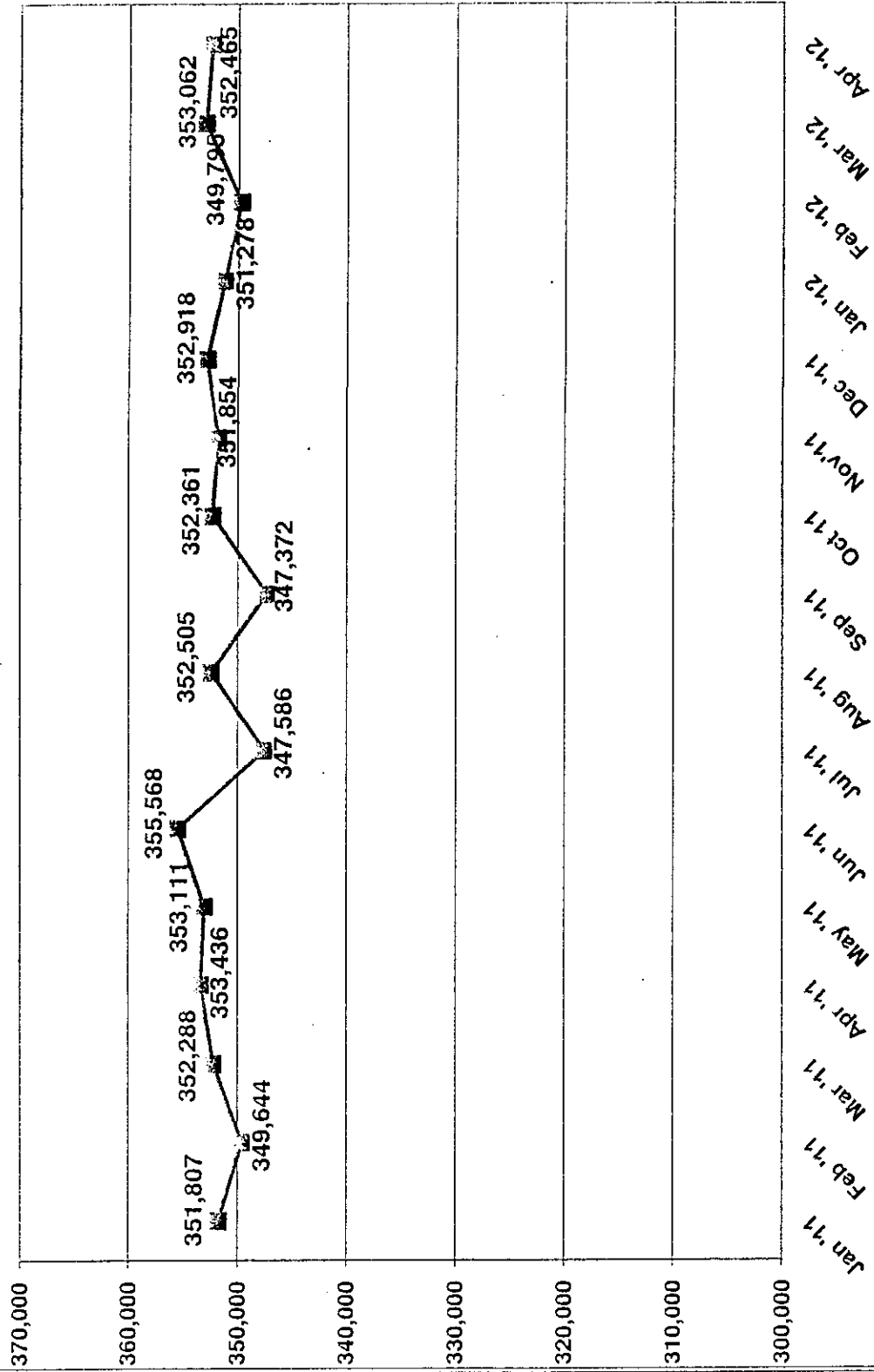


This chart includes administrative expenditures for all HRA programs including: Cash Assistance, Food Stamps, Medicaid, Employment, Child Support, HASA, APS, and Domestic Violence.

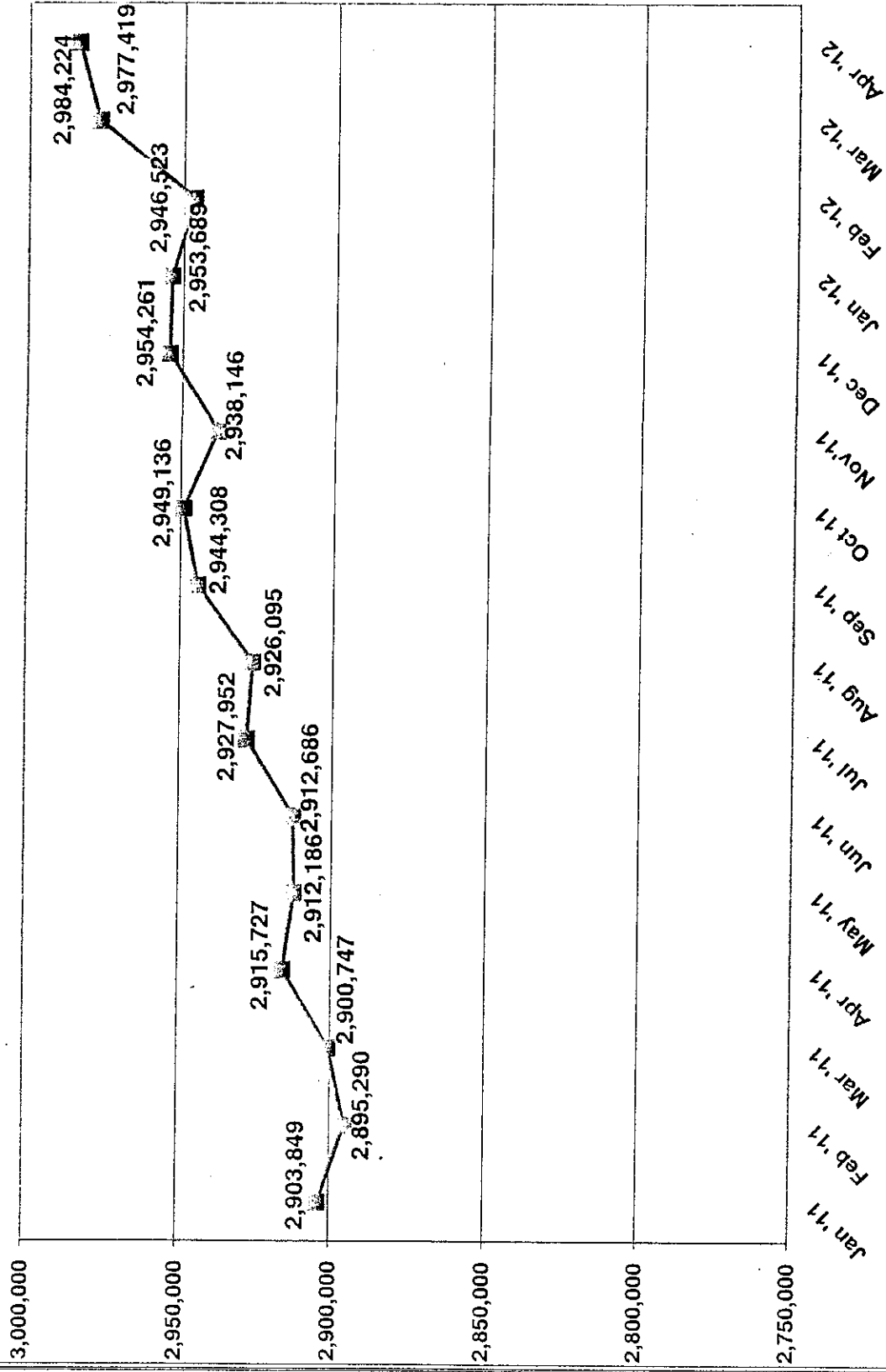
FOOD STAMP RECIPIENTS IN NYC
January 2011 - April 2012



CASH ASSISTANCE RECIPIENTS IN NYC
January 2011 - April 2012



MEDICAID ENROLLEES IN NYC
January 2011 - April 2012



The New York City Administration for Children's Services

Ronald E. Richter, Commissioner

Testimony to the New York City Council

Committee on General Welfare, Committee on Juvenile Justice, Committee on Women's

Issues, and Committee on Finance

May 22, 2012

"New York City Council Fiscal Year 2013 Executive Budget Hearings"

Good morning Chairs Palma, Gonzalez, Ferreras and Recchia, and members of the General Welfare, Juvenile Justice, Women's Issues, and Finance Committees. I am Ronald Richter, the Commissioner of the Administration for Children's Services and with me today is Susan Nuccio, our Deputy Commissioner for Financial Services. We are pleased to be back before the Council to provide you with an update on our ongoing work to protect and serve New York City's children, young people, and to strengthen their families. In particular, we are eager to update you on the specific budgetary items we covered at the preliminary budget hearing in March and to share information about our progress on recent initiatives in juvenile justice, early care and education, and teen preventive services.

As I stated in March, the outlook for our 2013 budget does contain positive news. In Fiscal Year 2013, Children's Services budget is \$2.7 billion of which \$781 million is city tax levy. We were able to meet our January PEG through a combination of the following revenue and expense reduction initiatives. We benefited from New York City's ability to increase the federally-negotiated fringe reimbursement rate for personnel benefits, crediting ACS with \$35.8 million in city savings; we achieved \$16.6 million in city tax levy savings through a one-time revenue settlement for prior year services; the number of children who receive Federal Title IV-E reimbursement increased, saving the City \$4.4 million; and, due to the decrease in the number of families receiving adoption subsidies, we saved \$15.5 million, of which \$3.4 million is city tax levy.

When we came to you in March, we expressed concerns regarding earlier PEGS that had been funded for one year, the funding for which expires on June 30th. This year's budget included \$8.2 million in restorations provided by the New York City Council, which funded 131 positions in the Divisions of Child Protection, Family Support Services, and Administration. With this one-time funding coming to an end, to avoid layoffs in those divisions, ACS will take the following actions:

- 1) Thirty-six Child Protective Supervisor I positions that are vacant will not be filled.
- 2) Staff from the Family Preservation Program will be more completely integrated into the Family Service Units within the Division of Child Protection. These staff will move into

and fill vacancies in the model budget code for Family Services Units. The work of the Family Preservation Program will be redesigned and incorporated into the Family Services Unit redesign which is currently underway. Solution Based Casework practice is being integrated into the work of the Family Services Units. This, along with the Teen Services Initiative, which I will describe later, will address the needs of families who would have received services provided by the traditional Family Preservation Program model.

- 3) ACS will maximize revenue from Federal and State grants to fund personnel who are delivering services to children, young people and families under the grants.
- 4) Staff who might otherwise have been in positions due to be laid off will be moved to vacant positions within ACS.

We appreciate the funding that the Council has provided to support those areas, and are pleased to have been able to find ways to avoid layoffs of our staff. Whenever possible, avoiding layoffs is always our preference, while continuing to deliver the vital services to our City's children, young people, and families.

In the two months since we testified at the preliminary budget hearing, Children's Services has taken important steps forward to implement two major initiatives: we announced on April 26 the non-profit provider agencies that have been recommended for awards to operate non-secure placement facilities as part of Close to Home; and we released on May 4 the recommended awardees for EarlyLearn NYC, our much anticipated overhaul of New York City's subsidized early childhood care and education system. As both of these initiatives will significantly transform the current systems that are in place, I would like share with the Council additional details concerning our progress and plans in each area.

Juvenile Justice and Close to Home

At the last hearing we presented the Council with a detailed overview of the numerous juvenile justice reforms that ACS has worked closely with the Council to implement over the past several years. The pinnacle of these reforms is Close to Home, which will realign the

juvenile placement system, ending the practice of sending youth away to be confined to distant, ineffective state placement facilities, and instead will keep them in or close to their families and communities in New York City. We were delighted that Close to Home was signed into law by Governor Andrew M. Cuomo as part of the 2012-2013 New York State Budget. Children's Services appreciates your support in advancing this initiative with the Governor and our state legislators.

The historic legislation builds on the City's legacy of juvenile justice reform which includes reducing the use of detention and placement, increasing community-based alternatives and lowering recidivism rates, while continuing to make our City safer. Through Close to Home, young people charged with delinquency whose cases have been adjudicated by the New York City Family Court will have the opportunity to be rehabilitated, supervised, and, when necessary, confined near their families and in their communities.

Since the Governor signed the legislation, we have taken several steps toward implementation of Close to Home. In early April, after holding town-hall meetings in each of the five boroughs, we released our draft non-secure placement plan to the public in order to gather additional feedback from the community and juvenile justice stakeholders before submitting the final plan to the State for its review and approval. We held two public hearings to solicit public comment on the draft plan. ACS received over 300 comments and we are working to incorporate the feedback before submitting the final plan to the State. There were several themes that recurred among the comments that we received including: 1) linking youth who have been placed to local community-based providers to further their rehabilitation; 2) making certain that young people have access to educational resources so that they don't fall behind in their academics; and 3) addressing all of the medical and mental health needs of young people while they are in placement.

We have also made progress in determining who will provide services to youth in need of placement. As mentioned, in late April we announced the provider agencies that were recommended for an award to deliver non-secure placement services in response to a negotiated acquisition solicitation. The nine recommended awards for general non-secure placement, totaling 216 beds, are all located within New York City, achieving an important goal of Close to

Home. Additional recommended awardees will provide services for specialized juvenile populations in non-secure placements, with 51 beds located just outside of the City, and another 12 beds in the City. All recommended contract awards are contingent upon the provider's completion of the City's positive responsibility determination.

We have begun weekly meetings with the New York State Office of Children and Family Services for transition planning in anticipation of ACS accepting the first youth into non-secure placement in September 2012. We are examining youth-specific information to identify the most appropriate services that will be needed for young people transferring back into the City from upstate facilities, as well as planning for how long they will continue in placement in New York City. At the same time, we are working with the New York City Department of Education (DOE) to determine the best educational model for the non-secure providers. Some providers will have school sites within their facilities and others will transport their students to one of the two new education sites in the Bronx or Brooklyn run by DOE's District 79 Passages Academy. Passages Academy has consistently provided quality educational services to students in non-secure detention, secure detention, and non-secure placement for many years.

We are thrilled to have reached this important juncture in juvenile justice reform for New York City and State. Rehabilitating youth in or close to their communities, involving their families, and keeping them connected to their education and community will be nothing short of revolutionary and lead to better outcomes. We will accomplish all of this while keeping our communities safe. We could not have reached this historic point without the Council's leadership, guidance, and assistance, and for that we are extremely grateful.

Early Care and Education

Children's Services also announced the recommended awards for EarlyLearn NYC, a major innovation in child-care and early education on May 4. EarlyLearn NYC marks the first time in nearly 50 years that the City is dramatically changing this system in an effort to bring consistent quality early care and education to New York's neediest children. Our unique, ground-breaking early care and education model will merge child care and early education into a single, seamless system, which will establish a foundation for success for the City's youngest citizens and their families. We acknowledge that this transformation is not without challenges.

However, we are committed to working with parents, our provider partners, unions, and the Council to deliver high quality services to New York City's children and families most in need.

We recommended 149 providers for awards to serve approximately 43,464 children at 448 EarlyLearn sites throughout the five boroughs. The recommended awardees consist of 88 Head Start Delegates (dual eligible or pure Head Start) and 61 Child Care Providers; among the Child Care Providers are 25 Family Child Care Networks.

In terms of the service delivery model, as set out in the RFP for EarlyLearn, greater consideration was given to "proposals that incorporate family child care services within center-based programs." This relationship will build a continuity of care between service settings in order to provide families with smooth transitions as their children age. Additionally, the relationship will promote administrative efficiencies, including access to training and professional development opportunities for staff.

As we discussed at our briefing to the City Council on May 10, our three key guiding principles for Early Learn Awards included: 1) reaching the City's families most in need; 2) choosing high quality programs; and 3) maximizing the available resources through a blended funding model.

To reach families most in need, we undertook a comprehensive analysis to define and assess community need. We analyzed several social indicators, including but not limited to: the concentration and number of eligible children (measured by the federal poverty level); children receiving child welfare services; and the location of Section 8 Housing vouchers and Public Housing Assistance within New York City neighborhoods—thus recognizing the significance of the location of NYCHA developments.

To offer the quality programs that EarlyLearn seeks to deliver, we undertook a rigorous process of reviewing and scoring the 282 proposals that we received. Award recommendations were based on technical score and other factors listed in the RFP (such as program design, curriculum, child screening and assessment, commitment to cultural sensitivity, serving children with special needs, and mental health and nutritional services). As indicated in the RFP and

discussed in detail at the briefing, the evaluation criteria were weighted as follows: 40% of the score was based on the quantity and quality of proposed approach; 40% of the score was based on the level of organizational capability; and 20% of the score was based on the quantity and quality of successful relevant experience.

As we evaluated the proposals, our goal was to identify providers that were capable of delivering quality services to our children and families. Among the factors we considered, for example, were a proposer's relevant experience in the community or with comparable populations. Other factors included the extent to which a proposer demonstrated a commitment to diversity and culturally sensitive practices, as well as involvement of parents/caretakers in governance of the proposed program. These factors are an important part of defining quality and the overall educational experience of the children and families who will be served.

Finally, in order to achieve a maximization of resources and to create a more stable, sustainable subsidized child care system, EarlyLearn uses the resources that are available – through Head Start, Universal Pre-Kindergarten, and Child Care Block Grant funding – and leverages them to serve as many children as possible. EarlyLearn also introduces a public/private partnership where providers will match 6.7% of the cost of service. We are working with programs to encourage innovative ways to achieve the match through fundraising, soliciting donations of goods and services, volunteerism and other in-kind contributions, as well as enrollment of children whose parents will pay the full or partial cost of service.

Early Learn contracts will begin in October 2012. Since our May 10 Council briefing, we have received a number of questions about the award process as well as about the process of transitioning from the current system to EarlyLearn NYC by October. We are eager to work with the Council to address your questions. We have met, and will continue to work with, providers, families, elected officials, advocates, union representatives, and experts in early care and education to help us in implementing and reaching the goals of EarlyLearn NYC.

We are grateful that the Council was able to provide \$42 million in enhancements in Fiscal Year '12, which allowed us to continue operating 257 pre-school classrooms, several hundred family child care slots and six city-lease PEG sites. As you know, that funding ends on

June 30th. In order to give families affected by the FY12 service terminations that were previously restored ample time to make other accommodations, we are now in the process of notifying those families to remind them that their care ends on June 30th.

Preventive Services Initiatives

Finally, one of our key strategies to expand services for teens involved in the child welfare system who are at risk of foster care placement is to introduce new teen preventive services that will provide intensive, home-based, therapeutic services to families in crisis. ACS' Teens Services Initiative builds on our success using evidence-based models of practice with young people with a finding of juvenile delinquency and PINS populations. We successfully implemented Phase I of a pilot program in Manhattan, as well as the University Heights and Highbridge neighborhoods in the Bronx. Through these pilots, we worked with New York Foundling and Children's Village to provide intensive, home-based services that aim to further reduce foster care placements, reduce truancy, and keep families together. And, just last week, we initiated Phase II of the program, issuing a Request for Proposals for evidence-based, evidence-informed, and other promising practices that have been implemented successfully with the teen population in child welfare systems nationwide. We anticipate that when the project is rolled out citywide in the Spring of 2013, we will have an array of services available to meet the needs of teens and their families. We project that when it is fully implemented, we will reduce by 30-40% the number of teenagers who will be placed in foster care who became known to us through a child protective investigation.

Conclusion

This is truly a transformative time for Children's Services. We have touched on today only the highlights of the various initiatives that we are implementing to achieve our Strategic Plan. We are committed to achieving measureable results that will benefit the children, young people, and families that rely upon ACS for child welfare, juvenile justice, and early care and education services. Our work would not be possible without our collaboration with the Council, and in particular Chairs Palma and Gonzalez.

Thank you for your time today and I am happy to answer any questions.



*City Council Executive Budget Hearing
General Welfare and Finance Committees
Fiscal Year 2013
Tuesday, May 22, 2012*

Good afternoon Chairs Palma and Recchia and members of the General Welfare and Finance Committees. I'm Seth Diamond, Commissioner for the Department of Homeless Services (DHS) and joining me here today are Steve Pock, Deputy Commissioner for Fiscal and Procurement Operations, and Lula Urquhart, Assistant Commissioner for Budget and Audit.

I'd also like to introduce you to Douglas James, DHS' new Deputy Commissioner for Adult Services. Many of you may recognize Doug from his former position with DHS as Deputy General Counsel. In his new role, Doug will manage emergency shelters for single adults and adult families and provide services to individuals living on the street. Additionally, Doug will be interfacing with some of you at the Council as well as other City agencies, non-profit partners and key stakeholders to lead agency initiatives.

Today we are happy to be here to discuss Mayor Bloomberg's Fiscal Year 2013 Executive Budget for DHS and to update you on Agency initiatives and accomplishments.

HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION

Two weeks ago, Homeless Services unveiled a new Citywide prevention campaign to urge families at-risk of homelessness to utilize Homebase prevention services. As you can see on our exhibit, the public awareness campaign centers around the slogan, "Reach out, before you're forced out of your home: We can help you avoid shelter."

The first phase of the campaign features ads in both English and Spanish on billboards, subways, check-cashing establishments, MTA buses and bus shelters. We identified key advertisement placements in the city's 15 highest risk communities to ensure that we are targeting families and individuals who are most at-risk of becoming homeless. The intent is to raise awareness and encourage families and individuals to access prevention services through Homebase before seeking shelter. In addition to the outdoor campaign, television public service announcements will air in July and a Web video will be available on DHS' Website.

DHS will also combine these public messages with a grassroots campaign to solicit Homebase referrals, working with community-based organizations and public officials who play a crucial role in helping families who are experiencing a housing crisis.

The campaign is off to a great start. Since the ads first went up, the daily average number of calls to 311 for Homebase services has doubled. Since inception, Homebase has served nearly

35,000 families and individuals and through this effort, we intend to reach even more New Yorkers before they seek shelter.

HOUSING COURT INTERVENTION

In addition to our efforts to raise public awareness in high risk communities, DHS is continuing to place targeted homelessness prevention services in key locations. In April, we collaborated on a new eviction prevention pilot with the Office of Court Administration, Human Resources Administration (HRA) and Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) in Bronx Housing Court. Our staff has been screening Advantage petitioners as they enter Housing Court to expedite FEPS applications and providing an attorney to represent them in housing court as needed.

On average, from start to finish, eviction cases have been discontinued in less than 20 days, an unprecedented accomplishment. Later this week, we will be meeting with Deputy Chief Administrative Judge Fern Fisher and her staff to replicate the effective early intervention model in Brooklyn and Queens.

POST ADVANTAGE WORKSHOPS

In preparing for the loss of Advantage, from April 2011 to January 2012, DHS sent monthly letters to Advantage households to ensure they understood the program was ending. We have also notified tenants of the City's prevention resources and strongly encouraged households to attend Homebase information workshops to avail themselves of support services to remain stably housed in the community. Since late September, we've hosted 325 information sessions throughout the five boroughs and have an additional 40 sessions scheduled through the end of June. Already reaching more than 3,500 former Advantage households, we will continue to provide these community housing advice workshops on a variety of topics geared to maximizing housing stability and increasing knowledge in communities around tenant rights and the services available to tenants and landlords.

HOME TO STAY

DHS is also piloting a program for families who have a previous shelter history to assist them in their return independence. In the spring of 2010, the agency launched the Home to Stay program as a collaborative pilot project with four service providers: Center for Urban Community Services (CUCS), Community Solutions, Women In Need (WIN) and Jericho Project. Funded by the Robin Hood Foundation, the program is designed to place families into housing as quickly as possible and ensure families do not return to homelessness. Home to Stay provides housing placement, employment assistance and temporary social services to achieve independence and reduce recidivism to a targeted group of homeless families using Family Critical Time Intervention (CTI).

Early results from the pilot show promise, with a 17 percent increase in the percentage of families exiting shelter and 62 fewer days in shelter for families served in the Home to Stay program.

VETERANS

While we are examining a cohort of families with shelter histories, we are also doing more to support veteran families. DHS has been a leader in innovative programming to help homeless veterans and we continue to explore new strategies. Since last fall, the Homebase program, through a grant to HELP USA, has been providing homeless prevention and rapid re-housing services for at-risk and homeless veteran households in New York City under the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Supportive Services for Veteran Families Program (SSVF).

The SSVF program focuses on serving two populations of veterans. The first group is ‘housed’ veterans who are at imminent risk of becoming homeless. The program assists these veteran households with an array of services, which includes anti-eviction services, short-term financial assistance, job placement, budget counseling and housing relocation services. The second population is sheltered homeless veterans. The SSVF program works with shelter providers to offer specialized veterans services and assists shelter staff to place these veterans back into housing in the community. The SSVF program then offers follow-up services to ensure veterans remain stably housed. The program also adds a specialized ‘veterans’ component to the City’s existing Homebase program and coordinates the work of Homebase with the range of services available through the VA. With an annual enrollment target of 225 at-risk and homeless veteran households, the program is on track to exceed its goals. Since its inception, the program has served 204 homeless and at-risk veteran households throughout City.

Additionally, last October, DHS launched the Veterans Outreach and Housing Placement Initiative in partnership with the Bowery Residents’ Committee (BRC), Common Ground and Goddard Riverside Community Center. With a goal of connecting homeless single veterans to services and housing, the initiative has resulted in 150 individuals being engaged to date, with 120 of these veterans having moved to either permanent or transitional housing. Furthermore, more than 80 percent of these clients have either been connected to benefits through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs or other public benefits and/or entitlements. We anticipate that a total of 200 single veterans will be placed into housing through this initiative by October of this year.

FAMILY INTAKE CENTER IS HONORED

DHS is also proud to announce that its Prevention Assistance & Temporary Housing (PATH) family intake center has been recognized by the Construction Management Association of America (CMAA) and the Society of American Registered Architects of New York (SARANY).

In early June, DHS will be honored at the CMAA’s 19th annual awards ceremony where PATH will be distinguished as one of five award recipients in 2012. Later in the month, PATH will be additionally honored by SARANY at its 17th annual “Celebration of Architecture & Design,”

awards. With this award, PATH will join the ranks of other exclusive awardees, including the High Line and Brooklyn Navy Yard.

Since its opening, PATH's innovative and efficient design has improved the intake process and allows DHS to better serve New Yorkers on a daily basis. I do hope that we are able to reschedule the General Welfare Committee's tour of PATH in the coming weeks.

Fiscal Year 2013 Executive Budget

Finally, DHS' current FY12 expense budget is \$914 million; for next year, FY13, the budget is \$801 million; Advantage funding accounts for the most significant portion of the difference.

Of the \$801 million, \$410 million are City funds, \$107 million are State funds, \$279 million are federal funds, \$4 million are CD grant funding, and \$1 million are intra-City funding. The \$801 million budget allocates \$335 million to services for single adults, \$404 million to services for families, and \$62 million to support services.

The DHS Capital Plan for the five year period of FY12 – FY16 is currently \$103 million. Capital projects for homeless families total \$31 million; projects for single adults total \$40 million; \$21 million has been allocated for support services; and \$11 million is designated for City Council funded projects.

I'm now happy to answer any questions you may have.

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____
 in favor in opposition

Date: 5/22/12

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Mr Seth Diamond

Address: 32 Feather St.

I represent: DHS

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____
 in favor in opposition

Date: 5/22/12

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Lula Urquhart

Address: _____

I represent: DHS

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____
 in favor in opposition

Date: 5/22/12

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Steve Rock

Address: _____

I represent: DHS

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 5/22/12

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Jill Berry

Address: 180 Water St, 11th F, NY, NY 10038

I represent: NYC HRA

Address: 180 Water St, NY, NY 10038

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: ROSINE FERDINAND

Address: 180 Water St NY NY 10038

I represent: HRA

Address: same as above

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Robert Doer

Address: Human Resources Admin.

I represent: _____

Address: 180 water st 25th fl

NY, NY 10038

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms