

**COMMUNITIES**  
**UNITED FOR**  
**POLICE REFORM**

**A New York City Budget for Safety & Dignity**  
**Fiscal Year FY24**

NYC Budget Justice Coalition Platform  
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Communities United for Police Reform (CPR)  
*A New York City Budget for Safety & Dignity*  
 Fiscal Year FY24

**Table of Contents**

**NYPD PROPOSED BUDGET CUTS FOR FY24 ..... 3**

Remove NYPD from Social Services ..... 3

Eliminate Anti-Crime Units, SRG, VICE and ICE Cooperation ..... 5

Address Failure to Fire NYPD Officers..... 6

Cancel NYPD Budget Bloat ..... 7

**MENTAL HEALTH & DRUG USE BUDGET PRIORITIES ..... 9**

Expand existing and successful behavioral health services that have crisis prevention and intervention components... 9

Address Serious Gaps in Services for New Yorkers Living with Serious Mental Illness ..... 10

Close Gaps in Communities of Color & LGBTQI+ Communities..... 10

Close Gaps in School Based Mental Health Services & Supports ..... 11

Invest in Drug Use Services ..... 11

Address Behavioral Health Workforce Pay Disparity & Workforce Shortage..... 11

Protect the budget and staffing of the DOHMH & DSS ..... 12

**HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS BUDGET PRIORITIES ..... 12**

House the Homeless..... 12

Protect Tenants & Prevent Homelessness ..... 13

Low-Income Housing ..... 14

Protect the budget and staffing of the HPD & DOH ..... 14

**EDUCATION & YOUTH ENGAGEMENT BUDGET PRIORITIES ..... 14**

Restorative Justice & Community Schools ..... 15

School Based Mental Health Services ..... 15

Summer Youth Employment Program & Services for 16-24 Year Olds ..... 16

Immigrant Students and Families ..... 16

Students with Disabilities and Students in Foster Care ..... 17

Adult Education & CUNY ..... 18

**PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE, VIOLENCE PREVENTION, AND WORKER PROTECTIONS..... 19**

Fair Fares ..... 19

Libraries ..... 19

Legal Services & Public Defenders ..... 19

Violence Prevention Programs ..... 20

Workforce Protections & Development..... 20

## NYPD PROPOSED BUDGET CUTS FOR FY24

Mayor Adams is shielding the NYPD from any meaningful cuts, choosing instead to shrinking actual life-saving agencies and programs. The NYPD spends close to \$11 B every year. The NYPD is already the largest police department in the world with a bigger budget than the Los Angeles and Chicago police departments combined. But this excessive spending hasn't made NYC safer. Instead, it has paved the way for historic budgetary plundering from crucial community services and resources. We need to

- End NYPD involvement in **mental health** issues and dismantle NYPD Mental Health Co-Response Teams
- Cut the **growing "homeless police"** in the Dept of Homeless Services that is budgeted at \$30.1 million and remove NYPD from homeless engagement.
- **Remove police from youth services** & youth engagement and redirect these monies to community-led, youth-serving and youth organizing programs. Including dismantling Youth Coordination Officers
- Cut funding and push to **shut down notoriously abusive NYPD units** that make us less safe, like: **Strategic Response Group, VICE and Neighborhood Safety Teams**
- Fully **end collaboration between the NYPD and ICE** and stop targeting street vendors under regressive broken windows quality of life policing.
- Cut at least \$45.8 million from the NYPD budget as a way of holding the NYPD accountable for **failing to fire officers that kill**, brutalize and/or sexually assault New Yorkers. This number represents a fraction of the cost of only SOME of these officers' salaries.
- Stop funding copaganda: Cut the budget of the NYPD's **outsized 36-person public relations spin machine** that regularly spreads disinformation.
- Cut NYPD budget bloat in the form of **overtime spending, surveillance technologies and bloated headcount.**

### Remove NYPD from Social Services

- **Eliminate NYPD Mental Health Co-Response Teams & Remove NYPD from Mental Health Response** \$5.7 million that can be redirected to community safety solutions. New Yorkers who experience an emotional or psychiatric crisis need a response system that is based in public health principles and that can connect them to the services they need. The city's plan to train police to respond to emotional distress calls and pair officers with mental health workers is a backward and failed approach. People in emotional distress account for 25%-50% of all individuals killed by police across the country. Regardless of training, the NYPD should not have a role in mental health response. The NYPD co-response teams should be eliminated, and the money should be invested in increasing nonpolice, community-based mental health services and programs that can provide general mental health services (including crisis prevention), crisis response and post-crisis wraparound support. In addition, the NYPD should be removed mental health response, including mental health response in schools and NYC should stop investing in BHEARD and invest in a truly public health-based model of mental health crisis support.

- **Dismantle Department of Homeless Services Police** \$30.1 million that can be redirected to community safety solutions. The encroachment of policing-based approaches to public health issues cannot continue. The city should dismantle the Department of Homeless Services Policing Unit and should instead be investing in well-trained social service professionals who can meet the needs of homeless New Yorkers.
- **NYPD Homeless Outreach, Engagement and Subway Sweeps** \$8 million that can be redirected to community safety solutions. In 2020, in response to #NYCBudgetJustice coalition demands, the NYPD Homeless Outreach Unit was disbanded, and the Memorandum of Understanding between the NYPD and the Department of Homeless Services dissolved, in the recognition that homelessness is a public health issue and requires a public health response. However, Adams has brought back the NYPD as the violent enforcement muscle in addressing homelessness in full force, resulting in aggressive policing of homeless New Yorkers all over the city, including the very destabilizing dismantling of homeless encampments, increased ticketing of homeless New Yorkers, and increased deployment through the Mayor’s mental health involuntary removals directive. The aggressive policing of homeless New Yorkers must stop. The two units most responsible for the harassment of homeless New Yorkers are the Business Improvement District and the Subway Safety Task Force. Those units should be eliminated and \$8 million should be redirected to addressing the crisis of housing and homelessness.
- **#PoliceFreeSchools** We are calling for a full divestment and complete dismantling of school policing infrastructure, culture, and practices in NYC schools and the reinvestment of those funds into support for youth. This includes, but is not limited to, removing all police personnel, metal detectors, and all forms of invasive surveillance equipment from school buildings, as well as eliminating zero tolerance policies that push students into the school to prison and deportation pipeline. The over \$450M spent on the NYPD’s School Policing division should be redirected to fund the resources, staff and restorative practices that support every young person to learn and grow.

**This year we are calling on the city to immediately:**

- Implement a hiring freeze on school police that does not allow to fill for attrition
  - Eliminate funding for the vacant school police positions
  - Eliminate the \$47.5M dedicated to “enhanced security measures” for more costly surveillance technology in schools
- **Youth Coordination Officers** \$106.2 million that can be redirected to community safety solutions. In 2020, the NYPD unilaterally launched a new youth initiative that included more than 230 YCOs in each of the department’s 77 precincts and the NYPD has recently announced that they are increasing YCO’s to 436 officers. The officers conduct home visits and make other contact with individual youth whom the NYPD has labeled “at risk” of criminal activity. This program is dangerous to young people in the city, giving license to the NYPD to surveil and track any young person it deems fit. The less contact that young people have

with the NYPD, the better, and NYC cannot continue to fund the NYPD youth arm while youth organizations and programs – particularly those that engage in community organizing and political education with young people – are under-resourced across the city.

### Eliminate Anti-Crime Units, SRG, VICE and ICE Cooperation

- **Strategic Response Group** Total of \$133.7 million that can be redirected to community safety solutions. The Strategic Response Group (SRG) has elicited protests from New Yorkers since former NYPD Commissioner Bill Bratton first announced the idea of the unit. In fact, when the SRG's purpose was made public (for counterterrorism, policing protests and disorder), the public outcry forced the de Blasio administration to say that it would not move forward. In spite of that, the SRG was created in 2015 as a hyper-militarized unit of a few hundred officers and has expanded significantly since.

Since its creation, the SRG has proven to be especially brutal. It led the violent police response to the 2020 spring and summer racial justice protests against police violence, which has resulted in a slew of lawsuits for human rights violations, including one by the New York state attorney general. SRG officers were also among the officers who killed Saheed Vassell in Crown Heights in 2016. There are approximately 445 SRG officers, with a budget of \$68.1 million in FY24. Cutting that unit would also result in an additional \$65.6 million from centrally allocated expenses, resulting in \$133.7 million that can be reinvested into community safety solutions.

- **VICE** Total of \$25.1 million that can be redirected to community safety solutions. The VICE unit is responsible for discriminatory policing and targeting of LGBTQ and other New Yorkers. VICE is notorious for harassment, sexual violence, abuse and false arrests of Black, Latinx and Asian trans and cis women, as well as sex workers and others who work in informal economies, including massage and escort services.

The VICE unit should be eliminated, and money should be used to support people in the sex trades before they are arrested, instead of being used to make arrests and mandate services post-arrest. The reallocated funds should go to health and wellness services, competent legal representation, educational opportunities, and nonprofit organizations working with individuals involved in the sex trades. There are 98 officers in the VICE Unit with an allotted \$12.8 million in the NYPD expense budget and another \$12.3 million in centrally allocated expenses, totaling \$25.1 million that can be redirected to community safety solutions.

- **Rebranded Anti-Crime Units aka Neighborhood Safety Teams** Total of \$114.9 million that can be redirected to community safety solutions. The newly branded Neighborhood Safety Teams are reiterations of the Anti-Crime Plain Clothes Units that came before them, plainclothes units that were characterized by an overly aggressive mandate that proactively and aggressively targets Black, Latinx and other communities of color.

Plainclothes units have a notorious history for racial profiling, violence, unconstitutional stops and the suppression of New Yorkers' rights. In the early 2000s, groups led by the National Congress for Puerto Rican Rights – known today as the Justice Committee – alongside Malcolm X Grassroots Movement, the Center for Constitutional Rights and other allies that later founded CPR – successfully won the dismantling of the Street Crimes Units. Since then, mayors and the NYPD have attempted to rebrand and retrain the units; however, the abuses remain.

Adams claims his Neighborhood Safety Teams are different, but recent reporting on the teams by New York Focus has uncovered that a great number of the officers have documented complaints against them for excessive force and other abuses against New Yorkers.<sup>i</sup> More than 96% of the precincts that have these teams are in primarily Black or Latinx communities. By the end of FY23, there are slated to be over 500<sup>ii</sup> officers on the Neighborhood Safety Teams, costing \$58.5 million in salaries and another \$56.4 million in central expenses, totaling \$114.9 million.

- **ICE & NYPD** Continue to severely restrict cooperation between the NYPD and DOC and ICE, including ensuring that ICE is removed from all City buildings and facilities, to protect our community members from brutal immigration enforcement tactics that persist regardless of presidential administration through the discretion of regional ICE offices.
- **Stop NYPD Targeting of Street Vendors** Under Adams, we have seen an increase of NYPD targeting street vendors under a regressive broken windows “quality of life” crackdown. Street Vendors are receiving exorbitant tickets for minor violates like vending too close to the crosswalk, and their possessions and business items are often destroyed or damaged during their interactions with the NYPD. The city should be supporting street vendors and making licenses more accessible, not wasting valuable city resources policing and harassing New Yorkers who are working hard to support themselves and their families.

### Address Failure to Fire NYPD Officers

- **Cancel Officers on Modified Duty** Total of \$56.6 million that can be redirected to community safety solutions. The NYPD refuses to fire officers in a timely way and too often does not fire or discipline officers at all for actions against the public. There are an estimated 250 officers on modified duty. The NYPD refuses to fire officers in a timely way and too often does not fire or discipline officers at all for actions against the public. The mayor and city council should reduce the NYPD budget with the total costs that taxpayers have covered to keep those officers on the force and redirect these funds to nonpolice community safety solutions.
- **Eliminate Pay of NYPD Officers Who Killed New Yorkers** Total of \$48.5 million redirected to community safety solutions. Justice Committee and CPR staff researched and analyzed payrolls of NYPD officers in 12 cases where officers killed New Yorkers, and the NYPD is still paying at least one officer involved in the killing in the most recent year that payroll records

are publicly available. Pay calculations totaled \$48.5 Million and included in that small sample are the officers responsible for the killings and related misconduct or cover-up of the following NYPD killings: Amadou Diallo (1999), Ramarley Graham (2012), Shantel Davis (2012), Mohamed Bah (2012), Kimani Gray (2013), Eric Garner (2014), Delrawn Small (2016), Kadeem Torres (2017), Allan Feliz (2017), Saheed Vassell (2018), Kawaski Trawick (2019) and Antonio Williams (2019).

There are many other cases where NYPD officers have not been fired for killing New Yorkers and are still paid by the NYPD. The payroll costs calculated here relate only to a dozen NYPD police killings. The above calculations represent only a small fraction of the total paid to continue to employ officers who kill, brutalize and otherwise engage in misconduct against members of the public.

- **Cut Costs of Police Violence Judgments and Settlements** Cut \$200 million from the NYPD expense budget. Every year, NYC pays millions to settle lawsuits against the NYPD for violence and abuse against the public. That money comes out of a central fund, not the NYPD budget. When police and other agents of the state kill or injure New Yorkers, the city should compensate survivors of that violence and family members of those killed to the fullest extent. The NYPD should also face consequences for continuing to facilitate violence against members of the public. The NYPD's annual expense budget should be cut by the equivalent of the average of settlements for the prior seven years as a consequence for the NYPD's systemic refusal to fire officers and its routine support and protection of abusive officers.

### **Cancel NYPD Budget Bloat**

- **NYPD Public Relations** Total of \$5 million that can be redirected to community safety solutions. The NYPD has 36 positions within the NYPD's Deputy Commissioner for Public Information (DCPI) office that manages NYPD public relations. With a budget of \$3.4 million, this PR arm of the NYPD dwarfs other agencies that have much smaller press departments, including some that combine intergovernmental and PR functions. The DCPI budget is believed to be only a fraction of the full PR apparatus that is at the NYPD's discretion. Other PR and propaganda capacity that is not included in DCPI's budget includes contracts with private firms to aid with NYPD recruitment and PR costs that are paid for by private entities like the NYC Police Foundation. The NYC Police Foundation and other private sources have been known to cover strategic communications costs, including the creation and placement of propaganda advertising, videos, blogs and podcasts. The NYPD PR budget should be cut.
- **NYPD Overtime** \$800 million cut and redirected to community safety solutions. NYPD overtime is a prime example of NYPD budget bloat. Over the last decade, the NYPD has routinely overspent its overtime budget by upward of \$200 million with no consequence, resulting in the city spending \$4.6 billion in the last seven years on NYPD overtime.<sup>iii</sup> Instead of curbing NYPD overtime overspending, the NYPD is slated to spend close to \$800 million in overtime spending for FY23.

Overtime is widely known to be abused by individual officers who conduct baseless arrests at the end of their shifts to take advantage of additional overtime pay, which also benefits their retirement benefits. The NYPD also uses overtime to pay NYPD officers to attend community events and other public relations stunts. Basically, NYPD overtime is a racket, and it is an example of the waste and over-resourcing of the department. Instead of repeatedly claiming that there is little to be done about the NYPD overtime budget, the council should exercise responsible fiscal oversight and cut the NYPD overtime budget to limit unnecessary spending, in addition to doing its due diligence and rejecting additions to overtime spending throughout the fiscal year.

- **NYPD Surveillance and Technology Increases** The total amount the NYPD is spending on surveillance technologies is unknown. Despite efforts to force transparency, the full spending on surveillance and technology and the personnel required to operate it are not known to the public. We know that the NYPD is in possession of powerful surveillance technology, including facial recognition tech, X-ray vans, stingrays, ShotSpotters, drones and other military equipment – powerful spying technology that the NYPD has full authority to deploy on New Yorkers without any oversight.<sup>iv</sup>
- **NYPD Hiring Freeze & Headcount Reduction**. Total of \$528.6 million that can be redirected to community safety solutions. Reducing police violence requires reducing unnecessary contacts between police and the public. What is clear across NYC and the country is that when asking folks to think about safe neighborhoods and communities, the common denominator is not more policing but rather more investments in basic resources needed to survive.

The NYPD is the largest police department in the country, with over 50,000 staff, including approximately 35,000 officers. Mayor Adams has made significant cuts to almost every single other critical agency through vacancy reductions, while leaving Uniform NYPD Officers headcount untouched. NYPD make up almost 20% of the city's municipal workforce and Uniform Officers are some of the most expensive city personnel.

In this transition period where NYC moves toward a healthy and safe recovery from a global pandemic, what is clear is that massive police presence has not kept communities safe. In fact, decades of increasing funding for police while defunding community infrastructure in low-income communities of color has made NYC less healthy and less safe. To reduce police violence, we need to reduce the NYPD's massive staffing and redirect those monies to nonpolice community safety solutions that can prevent and reduce violence in NYC streets and homes.



## PROPOSED INVESTMENTS IN COMMUNITY SAFETY INFRASTRUCTURE

### **MENTAL HEALTH & DRUG USE BUDGET PRIORITIES**

Making accessible, affordable, comprehensive, culturally competent behavioral health and drug use services available to all New Yorkers in the communities in which they live is crucial to creating a safe environment for all. We cannot continue to police and incarcerate New Yorkers living with mental illness and failing to close the serious gaps in services that leave so many New Yorkers without care. The NYC Council needs to:

- Expand existing and **successful behavioral health services that have crisis prevention and intervention components**.
- Address serious gaps in services for New Yorkers living with serious mental illness by expanding successful **voluntary community-based recovery programs**.
- Increase **overdose prevention centers** and harm reduction services for drug users.
- Expand **school-based mental health clinics and services**.
- Expand reach of **mental health services to under-served communities including communities of color and LGBTQI+ communities**.
- Invest in more innovative approaches to mental health care that are **designed and led by Black, Latinx, and immigrant communities** and integrate mental health care and healing services into trusted community-based organizations.
- Address the city's serious behavioral health workforce shortage by **reducing inequities in pay, increasing the use of peer-specialists** and incentivizing Black, Latinx, and immigrant New Yorkers to gain accreditation and work in public-sector behavioral health services.
- **Protect the budget and staffing** of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and the Department of Social Services.

#### Expand existing and successful behavioral health services that have crisis prevention and intervention components

- **Crisis Respite Centers** are a successful alternative to emergency hospitalization for individuals experiencing psychiatric crisis that are voluntary, home-like environments that often include 24-hour support from peers, as well as wrap around services. These programs have a documented success rate in helping individuals recover from psychiatric episodes and get connected to ongoing care and support, in addition to being much more cost-effective than hospital-based care. Currently there are only 8 respite centers in New York City, which is a woefully inadequate number given the number of New Yorkers who are in need of emergency psychiatric care. The number of respite centers should be doubled in the next fiscal year.
- **Mobile Treatment Teams** such as Intensive Mobile Treatment (IMT) Teams, Assertive Community Treatment (ACT), Forensic Assertive Community Treatment Teams (FACT) & Health Engagement and Assessment Teams (HEAT) are all street-based teams that are designed to reach people living with serious mental illness who have a history of being disconnected from services.

IMT teams are specifically designed for people with a history of unsafe behavior and FACT teams are specifically designed for people who are involved in the criminal-legal system, and HEAT teams are designed for frequent 911 callers. The teams all include a peer-specialist and IMT, ACT, and FACT teams also have an additional 7-10 team members including housing and employment specialists, family specialists, and substance use specialist. These teams meet clients out in the community and have a very high success rate putting people on the pathway toward recovery.

Currently, the waiting list to be seen by these teams is over 600 people, and it can take years to get off the waitlist, leaving many New Yorkers without access to these services. The city should increase funding for these teams and eliminate the waitlist.

### Address Serious Gaps in Services for New Yorkers Living with Serious Mental Illness

New York is failing at providing accessible, high-quality services to New Yorkers with serious mental illness – relying instead on criminalization and emergency hospitalization that fails to connect people with long-term support or holistic community-based services. The city must invest in mental health services that have proven track records of putting people on the pathway toward recovery while centering the dignity and self-determination, of people living with serious mental illness.

- **Community-Based Recovery Programs** are programs that move beyond managing a person's symptoms toward providing a range of holistic services and leveraging peer-relationships to restore people's dignity, agency, and self-determination so that they can reintegrate into the community and thrive. These models incorporate psychiatric and psychosocial support as well as a range of wrap-around services in employment, education, health, and housing. The city should increase the number of mental health clubhouses and other peer-based community recovery programs, especially in Black, Latinx, and other communities of color.

### Close Gaps in Communities of Color & LGBTQI+ Communities

- **Invest in innovative mental health models for communities of color** Too many New Yorkers of color are disconnected from services and support because the mental health service models available to them are culturally inappropriate, fail to connect with clients, and break mental health stigma. The city must invest in trusted organizations led-by communities of color that are designing and implementing innovative mental health treatment models that meet the cultural needs of the communities they work with.
- **Invest in increased mental health services for LGBTQI+ communities** LGBTQI+ New Yorkers are at increased risk for mental health issues and we need to ensure that there are more behavioral health services that are specifically tailored to LGBTQI+ communities, especially in Black, Latinx, immigrant and other communities of color.
- **Invest in Access Health NYC** Renew the funding for Access Health NYC so that CBOs and community health centers that were on the frontlines pandemic response can continue to educate the communities about health access, coverage, and rights, specifically our newcomers and asylum seekers.

## Close Gaps in School Based Mental Health Services & Supports

- **School Social Workers and Counselors** It goes without saying that all children and families need access to social workers and counselors, and yet many NYC public schools still lack the adequate staff to provide all of their children with the supports they need. Especially now as the pandemic has impacted the mental health of so many children, NYC needs to ensure that they get the support they need at this critical juncture.
- **Mental Health Continuum** Supporting students at 50 high-needs schools through school partnerships with H+H mental health clinics, dedicated staff to provide students with timely access to mental health services, NYC Well hotline to advise school staff with mental health inquiries, Children's Mobile Crisis Teams to respond to students in crisis, school-based mental health clinicians, Collaborative Problem Solving training to build school staff capacity to better manage student behavior, and culturally-responsive family engagement

## Invest in Drug Use Services

After three years of some of the highest rates of overdose deaths in decades, NYC needs an aggressive plan to make sure that there are plenty of safe injection sites and harm reduction services.

- **Overdose Prevention Centers & Harm Reduction Services** Currently, there are two OPCs in NYC that have demonstrated success at both preventing overdose deaths and connecting people to crucial public health services such as housing, treatment services and mental health services. The city should invest in increasing the number of OPC's to every borough. The city must also increase the capacity of harm reduction programs (including syringe service programs) and peer support programs such as the Relay Program. Funding should also be allocated to broaden drug checking within harm reduction agencies and broad-based public education on drug use and resources. Investing in those programs will help ensure that more New Yorkers who are in need of services get connected to appropriate care.

## Address Behavioral Health Workforce Pay Disparity & Workforce Shortage

In addition, there is a serious shortage of mental health workers, especially Black, Latinx, and other mental health workers of color that can provide culturally and linguistically appropriate care to New Yorkers diverse communities. New York should invest in:

- **Increase Training for peer-specialists** The city should increase funding for peer-specialists trainings to increase the number of peers who can be employed as mental health service workers.
- **Approve 6% COLA for Human Service Workers** Most behavioral health service providers in New York City are currently operating with a 15-20% vacancy rate due to the high-turnover of staff, making it impossible to provide high-quality services to New Yorkers. The human service workers that make up the workforce, including social workers, mental health and substance abuse counselors, and social service assistants are predominantly workers of color (75%) and women (70%) and make 20-35% less than the median annual wages of

workers in comparable positions in the government and private sector and 15% of these workers qualified for food stamps. ([Citations from JustPay Campaign](#))

- **Increase Human Services Career Advancement Scholarship** This initiative covers up to 50 percent of tuition costs for qualified employees of human service nonprofits working toward associate's, bachelor's, or master's degrees at participating City University of New York (CUNY) schools. This initiative should be increased to ensure that more Black, Latinx, and other New Yorkers of color have more access to accreditation in social service work.

### Protect the budget and staffing of the DOHMH & DSS

- We need to protect the budgets and staffing of critical city agencies such as the DOHMH and DSS that are tasked with ensuring that New Yorkers get the services and supports that they need. The mayor has significantly cut the budgets of these agencies and reduced the positions through vacancy reductions. We need to protect the budgets of these agencies as well as address the staffing shortages so that New Yorkers are getting what they need.

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## **HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS BUDGET PRIORITIES**

Long-term affordable housing for all New Yorkers is a cornerstone of a safe city. We cannot continue to allow the mayor to put forward police-based approaches to addressing the homelessness crisis and failing to make the needed investments to ensure all New Yorkers have a home. We need to:

- House the Homeless through increasing **rental assistance, safe havens and supportive housing**.
- Protect Tenants through **investments in legal services and homeless prevention programs**.
- Increase **low-income housing** for unhoused New Yorkers and **invest in NYCHA**
- **Protect budgets and staffing** of the Department of Housing, Preservation and Development, and the Department of Homeless Services.

### House the Homeless

- **Rental Assistance** Expanding and increasing city funds for City FHEPS Vouchers. Current spending is approximately \$284 million and should be increased to \$1.2 Billion to fix administrative barriers and bureaucratic inefficiencies that make it hard for both tenants and landlords to use the city FHEPS system, as well as increase the number of New Yorkers who are eligible to use FHEPS. Fight housing voucher discrimination and ensure that all residents, including immigrants, LGBTQIA+ New Yorkers, and young people have access to these vouchers.

The city needs to restore and increasing the budget and staff of the Source of Income Discrimination Unit of NYC Commission on Human Rights which currently has a high vacancy rate, essentially resulting in no enforcement that protects tenants who are trying to

use City FHEPS from discrimination. The budget for the SID Unit should be at least \$4 million dollars and have at least 48 attorneys available to New Yorkers.

- **Supportive Housing** Decrease barriers to supportive housing and address discrimination, especially for New Yorkers who use drugs and/or are involved with the criminal justice system and ensure that vacant supportive housing units are filled. Protect the \$234.5 Million in NYC's capital budget so that NYC' can follow through on its commitment to build 15,000 supportive housing units in the next 15 years and ensure transparency on where the city is at in meeting these demands. While this is an important start, in order to truly close the gaps in supportive housing, the city would need to at least double this investment to \$470 and focus on single occupancy supportive housing units that provide the safest place for New Yorkers.
- **Safe Havens** Increase and protect funding for safe havens to ensure that we expand these successful small-scale, low-barrier programs for homeless New Yorkers who often feel unsafe in larger shelters.
- **LBGTQIA+ Homeless New Yorkers** There are currently not enough safe places for LBGTQIA+ homeless New Yorkers, especially young people, and we need to increase services and supports, including shelters, safe havens, and supportive housing.

## Protect Tenants & Prevent Homelessness

- **Right to Counsel & Tenant Organizing** \$70 million Approximately 186,000 households will need support for eviction cases in the upcoming year and as they struggle to pay for an attorney. While the Right To Council Law was established, it is not fully funded. Current levels of funding at \$166 million it simply isn't enough to cover the full cost of the work. The retention rates at the legal services organizations are proof of this. According to the provider community, RTC is currently funded at about 70% of its current cost, and that's not even accounting for what it would cost if we were to implement best practices with all the support roles tenants need, fair salaries for legal services workers, and caseloads that ensure all tenants receive the best possible representation. This means that the city needs to increase the budget for RTC by at least \$70 million dollars to fund the law as it is now, while also looking to further increase the funding to achieve best practices and its full potential for tenants.
- **Increase Homeless Prevention Programs** Increasing and expanding NYC's Homebase program that helps New Yorker's overcome an immediate housing crisis and achieve housing stability as well as avoid stays or decrease length of stay in the city shelter system. This includes raising wages for New Yorkers employed to provide these services who consistently experience high turnover rates.

- **Tenant Organizing** Invest \$5 Million in to fund Local Law 53 for Tenant Organizing to ensure that New Yorkers know about the services and supports available to them if they are at risk of losing their homes.

### Low-Income Housing

- **Protecting and Investing in NYCHA** \$538 Million to NYCHA to cover rent arrears. Tens of thousands of public housing households applied to the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) during the COVID-19 pandemic, but the authorizing legislation deprioritized public housing tenants and others assisted households, so they have received nothing. This has created a huge gap in NYCHA's operating budget, which relies primarily on federal subsidy and rents.
- **Increasing Low-Income Housing:** The New York City Housing crisis must be fully addressed by massive investments in affordable housing rental and home ownership opportunities which would expand housing supply based on need and informed by data. At least \$4 billion dollars' worth of investments is needed to address the housing crisis.

### Protect the budget and staffing of the HPD & DOH

- We need to protect the budgets and staffing of critical city agencies such as the Department of Housing, Preservation and Development that has a huge vacancy rate that is making it hard for them to provide the critical services that New Yorkers need. We need to address this staffing crisis and protect the budget of this critical agency.

Similarly, the Department of Homeless Services is on the frontlines of addressing the housing crisis in New York city, as well as meeting the needs of asylum seekers, we need to ensure that all the resources within DHS are going towards housing homeless New Yorkers, not increasing the policing of homeless New Yorkers, and ensuring that people get placed in long-term low-income housing options.

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## **Education & Youth Engagement Budget Priorities**

Ensuring all New York City children, youth and families have access to high-quality education, youth programming and support services to increase safety and well-being for students and families. Protecting and investing in university and adult education to meet the current need and bolster economic security.

- Expand school-wide **restorative justice** practices in K-12 schools
- Invest in **mental health** and related supports for all NYC students, including university students
- Invest in **youth employment** programming and services for young people ages 16-24

- Ensure that **students with disabilities, students in foster care, and English language learners** have the supports and services that they need
- Ensure that **Adult Education** is fully funded to meet high levels of need in New York’s immigrant communities
- Ensure that **CUNY** is fully funded to continue offering high quality education to New Yorkers

### Restorative Justice & Community Schools

- **Restorative Justice** Our students need culturally responsive and healing-centered programs and school staff with proven track records of being able to help students thrive in and out of school. Restorative justice programs in schools keep students safe and out of the criminal legal system, but Adams has remained silent about an increased investment in these innovative programs.
  - Expand schoolwide restorative justice practices to 500 high schools · \$125 Million
  - \$75 million directly to 500 high schools to hire school-based restorative justice coordinators.
  - Invest \$2.2 million to deliver ongoing restorative justice trainings for all school staff, and the broader school community (e.g. students and families)
  - Add \$5 million to fund restorative justice electives, clubs, and/or advisories, including opportunities for students to obtain course credit.
  - Invest at least \$2 million to sustain paid school-based opportunities and work-based learning internships for young people to lead restorative justice practices and build skills that will set them up for the future.
- **Community Schools** Restore \$9.16 million in funding to the 52 Community Schools bracing for significant budget cuts so they can continue to provide wraparound services to students and their families. While community schools have a proven track record of boosting graduation rates, attendance, and on-time grade progression, budget cuts are threatening these services at a time when they are needed most. Consistent and sustainable funding are critical to building community trust, authentic school-community partnerships and secure the longevity of the country’s largest community school initiative.

### School Based Mental Health Services

- **School Social Workers and Supportive Positions** \$150 Million It goes without saying that all children and families need access to social workers, counselors, and other support staff, and yet many NYC public schools still lack the adequate staff to provide all of their children with the supports they need. Especially now as the pandemic has impacted the mental health of so many children, NYC needs to ensure that they get the support they need at this critical juncture. NYC Schools need \$75M directly to schools to hire 500 community members into supportive positions including Youth Advocates, Parent Coordinators, Paraprofessionals, Community Outreach Coordinators, Counselors, and Social Workers; and staff to greet students at the door and check-in visitors. Another \$75M should be baselined to baseline and continue to hire additional social workers at competitive rates to support the needs of all students, including newcomer asylum seekers, and achieve a ratio of 1:150 across schools and 1:50 for high-need schools.

- **Mental Health Continuum** \$5 million baseline funding for mental health continuum. Supporting students at 50 high-needs schools through school partnerships with H+H mental health clinics, dedicated staff to provide students with timely access to mental health services, NYC Well hotline to advise school staff with mental health inquiries, Children's Mobile Crisis Teams to respond to students in crisis, school-based mental health clinicians, Collaborative Problem Solving training to build school staff capacity to better manage student behavior, and culturally-responsive family engagement.

### Summer Youth Employment Program & Services for 16-24 Year Olds

- **Expansion of Summer Youth Employment Programs:** \$57 Million The current level of funding for SYEP still means that it will have to turn away approximately 33% of applicants. In addition, many undocumented young people are currently left out of the system. SYEP is a proven anti-violence program that invests in young people and communities. It has been shown to reduce the number of young people victimized by violence and also reduces the likelihood of youth involvement in the criminal legal system. The importance of this program cannot be underestimated, and its expansion is necessary to reach as many young people as possible.
- **Services for 16-24 Year Old's** We need to increase services for young people who are 16-24, especially support with employment, housing, and education. Young people need increased support during this crucial time, yet they often age out of many critical services. We need to ensure that we invest in young people and move money away from criminalizing young people to supporting them.

### Immigrant Students and Families

- **Multi-faceted immigrant family communication and outreach \$4M** This initiative strengthens the DOE's communication with immigrant families, many of whom would otherwise be left without important information, by using local ethnic media to share school-related updates, sending paper notices to families' homes, reaching families via phone calls and text messages, and collaborating with immigrant-facing community-based organizations to create and launch information campaigns.

Given that more than 329,000 public school students do not have a parent who speaks English fluently and more than 61,000 children of Limited English Proficient parents live in households without broadband internet access, it is critical for this initiative to continue, especially at a time when the city is experiencing an influx of immigrant families seeking asylum.

- **Expand Linking Immigrant Families to Early Childhood Education (LIFE) \$4M** For 5 years, the LIFE Project has helped ensure equitable Pre-K/3K access for immigrant families, who overwhelmingly reported they could not have applied without one-on-one, linguistically and culturally fluent support from LIFE Project CBO partners.
- **Early childhood education and care for children who are undocumented (Promise NYC) \$10M** No child should be turned away from an early childhood education program due to



their immigration status. The city should continue to be a leader in providing early learning opportunities to children, including those who are undocumented, by extending ACS funding for Promise NYC.

- **Undocumented Child Care Funding \$20M** Renew and expand this program which provides subsidized child care for children without citizenship status.
- **Bolster English Language Learner (ELL) transfer school programs \$3M** for ELLs who arrive in the U.S. as teenagers have some of the greatest needs of any student population. This year, the DOE launched new programs aimed at serving ELLs at six existing non-ELL transfer schools in Brooklyn, the Bronx, and Queens. However, these programs did not receive sufficient resources to provide the intensive support that recently arrived immigrant students typically need.

The city should invest and baseline \$3 million to add comprehensive services at the six new ELL Transfer School Programs in Queens, the Bronx, and Brooklyn. This funding would provide bilingual social workers, robust training for school-based staff, and community-based wrap-around support, bringing these new programs in line with best practices for newcomers ages 16-21 and enabling them to serve more students at a time when the need is greater than ever.

### Students with Disabilities and Students in Foster Care

- **Guarantee busing for students in foster care \$5M** When students are removed from their homes and families and placed into foster care, school is often the only source of stability in their lives. Federal and state law require school districts to provide transportation to students in foster care so they can stay in their original school, unless it is in their best interest to transfer to a new school. However, the DOE currently does not guarantee bus service or a comparable mode of door-to-door transportation to students in foster care. Even when students do receive busing, delays in routing can be hugely destabilizing to students who are already in crisis. The city should invest and baseline \$5 million to provide bus service—or alternative, comparable door-to-door transportation—to the relatively small number of students in foster care, so that no student in the foster system is forced to change schools due to lack of prompt, workable transportation.
- **Shelter-based community coordinators** · \$3.3M Twenty-five of the 100 shelter-based community coordinators the DOE committed to hiring this year are funded with city dollars. With more than 60% of students in shelter chronically absent, these coordinators—who are only just beginning their work—can play an important role in helping students in shelter get to school every day and access needed educational support. At a time when the number of students living in shelters has grown and low attendance is a top concern, it is important to ensure the continuity of this new program.
- **Provide preschoolers with disabilities with their mandated services** \$30M During the 2020-21 school year, the most recent year for which data are publicly available,

30% of preschoolers with disabilities—more than 7,000 children—did not receive all their mandated services. These children finished the school year without receiving a single session of at least one of the special education services they had a legal right to receive, such as speech therapy or part-time special education teacher services, and there were significant disparities based on school district, race, housing status, and language of instruction. The city should invest and baseline funding to provide children with their mandated services by taking steps such as hiring more DOE service providers, instead of relying on outside agencies; increasing payment rates to ensure children needing bilingual services and children in underserved communities receive their services; and allocating funding to DOE Pre-K Centers and schools for preschool special education services so that young children receive their services in their pre-K and 3-K programs.

### Early Childhood Education & Literacy

- **Universal UPK 3** New Yorkers were promised universal Pre-K for three-year-olds and many New Yorker’s were hoping for this crucial public service to help ease the financial burden that so many families are currently feeling. The mayor’s decision to roll-back universal UPK-3 has detrimental implications for families and children who highly benefit from these programs. The city must invest the needed funds to fulfill on its promise to make UPK-3 universal and accessible to all children in NYC.
- **Invest in a comprehensive approach to revamping reading instruction and intervention in 250 schools \$25M** One of the most fundamental responsibilities of schools is to teach children how to read. Yet, in New York City, less than half of students in grades 3–8, and only 36% of Black and Hispanic students and 18% of students with disabilities, are reading proficiently, according to the 2022 state exams. The city should invest and baseline \$25 million for a comprehensive approach to revamping reading instruction and intervention in 250 schools. An intensive, targeted effort in a small vanguard of schools will be an important step toward scaling effective practices system-wide in the coming years.

### Adult Education & CUNY

- **Adult Literacy**
  - Restore and baseline \$20.4M in funding for DYCD RFP-contracted adult literacy programs. This would include \$5.7M in established baseline funding, the \$8M in Expansion funding that was baselined in FY22, and the \$6.7M that was added for additional expansion in FY23. The restored and baselined funding should be used both to keep programs whole and to invest in greater resources, services, and supports for students.
  - Renew the \$4M City Council Discretionary Adult Literacy Initiative, with added flexibility so that programs that receive this funding are not bound by the problematically low \$950 per student DYCD funding rate.

- Renew the \$2.5M City Council Discretionary Adult Literacy Pilot Project and expand it to \$5M under the new title “Adult Literacy Program Enhancement”, now that the pilot has proven to be a resounding success.
- **CUNY** We need to ensure that CUNY is fully funded as it is one of the key institutions in the city that promotes racial equity and boosts the economy, making a direct impact on increasing the safety in communities. CUNY needs funds to replace lost full-time faculty, funding for ASAP for All, mental health counselors, expanding intensive English language instruction, childcare centers, support for senior colleges, and capital funds.

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## Public Infrastructure, Violence Prevention, and Worker Protections

### Fair Fares

- **Expand Fair Fares** to an additional one million New Yorkers earning up to 200% of the federal poverty line \$142M - NYC’s Fair Fares program hasn’t yet reached its potential because its strict eligibility threshold stops it from reaching the one million New Yorkers living in near poverty. Expanding eligibility for Fair Fares from 100% up to 200% of the federal poverty line (\$60,000 annual income for a family of four) will put money in the pockets of low-income workers who badly need it. Expanding the number of Fair Fares recipients would also bring more riders into public transit, improving safety and bringing revenue to the cash-strapped MTA, while helping riders avoid unnecessary interactions with NYPD officers.

### Libraries

- Mayor Adam's preliminary budget proposes a cut of \$20.5 Million to the libraries’ baseline funding. If the libraries also lose the \$15.7M allocated by the City Council in FY23, the libraries will be facing a potential loss of \$36.2 Million. All this at a time when libraries are helping our communities recover from the pandemic and the social isolation that was so exacerbated by Covid. Libraries are too important to our communities to defund.
- In addition, we must allocate an additional \$3 million to NY Public Libraries, one million for each of the three independent systems, to go towards IDNYC applications and renewals, with a focus on new arrival enrollment.

### Legal Services & Public Defenders

- **Public Defenders** We need to ensure that public defenders have the funding that they need to provide vital public services to New Yorkers, including public defense, representation of youth in Family Court and foster care issues, and eviction and deportation defense.
- **Legal Services for Immigrant New Yorkers**
  - Invest \$59 million in funding for immigration legal services through the New York Immigrant Family Unity Project (NYIFUP) to ensure continuity of services and to help

defend immigrants against the continued aggressive, anti-immigrant policies from Washington that persist despite the change in presidential administration.

- Invest \$10 million in an emergency immigration legal services program for the city's newest immigrant residents.
- The city should invest \$1M as a pilot program to provide funding for immigration legal service providers to hire social workers who could act as case managers, working with clients to navigate benefits enrollment, school, and landlord interactions, helping obtain necessary documents from city, state, and federal agencies, and providing crucial emotional and mental health support to clients navigating a crisis moment in their lives. This would allow lawyers to focus on legal work and help reduce burnout within the legal staff as well.

## Violence Prevention Programs

- **Crisis Management Systems:** \$1 Billion As the city faces an increase in gun violence, Adams claims that his budget makes significant investments in the CMS that have a proven track record of intervening to prevent and significantly reduce gun violence. The CMS is a network that deploys teams of trained violence interrupters and credible messengers who mediate conflicts on the street and connect high-risk individuals to services that can reduce the long-term risk of violence.

From 2010 to 2019, data shows the CMS has contributed to an average 40% reduction in shootings across program areas compared to a 31% decline in shootings in the 17 highest-violence precincts in NYC.<sup>54</sup> In spite of these programs' success in preventing and reducing gun violence in neighborhoods they are based in, Adams' proposal only allots a total of \$138 million for these essential violence reduction programs. That is nothing close to the \$1 billion that violence interruption groups, credible messengers and advocates are calling for to fully fund the NYC CMS.

- **Hate violence prevention programs** that are rooted in communities have strong track records of preventing and addressing hate violence. They are programs that ensure a comprehensive, community-driven approach to preventing bias incidents and hate crimes and that strengthen public safety. Despite that, many hate violence prevention programs lack the full funding needed to address New Yorkers' increasing needs. We're calling on the council to invest in and to fully fund P.A.T.H. Forward, Hate Crimes Prevention Initiative and Hope Against Hate.

## Workforce Protections & Development

- **Protecting Low-Wage Workers** Low-wage workers have borne the brunt of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, and yet the city is cutting crucial funding that protects those workers. The city council should invest at least \$5 million into the Low Wage Worker Initiative and the Low Wage Worker Support Initiative, two programs that work in tandem to combat wage theft, support discrimination claims, and conduct worker outreach and education programs in multiple languages.
- **Workforce Development** The city council must renew funding for the Job 34 Training and Placement Initiative. That funding includes \$5.25 million for the Consortium for Worker

Education Jobs to Build On program and \$2.2 million for the Worker Service Centers. The funding supports classes that serve members of unions, community groups and providers that serve immigrants.

- **Worker-Owned Language Service Coops \$5M** in funding to further the expansion of language services through continued development of the recently launched three language services worker-owned cooperatives for those who speak Languages of Limited Diffusion (LLD) and the NYC Community Interpreter Bank that increases the supply of trained, vetted interpreters to be provided to community-based nonprofit organizations.

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**Communities United for Police Reform (CPR)** is an unprecedented campaign to end abusive and discriminatory policing practices in New York, and to build a lasting movement that promotes public safety while reducing reliance on policing. CPR runs coalitions of over 200 local, state, and national organizations, bringing together a movement of community members, lawyers, researchers, and activists to work for change. The partners in this campaign come from all five boroughs, from all walks of life and represent many of those most targeted by the NYPD.

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<sup>i</sup> [Exclusive: Here Are the New NYPD Gun Units' Trainees. Many Have Histories of Excessive Force Complaints.](#) *New York Focus*, Chris Gelardi, May 23, 2022

<sup>ii</sup> New York City Council Public Safety Executive Budget Hearing, May 11, 2022; it was said that the plans were to New York City Council Executive Budget Hearing, Public Safety Committee, May 11, 2022

<sup>iii</sup> Supporting Schedules, City of New York, FY14-FY23

<sup>iv</sup> <https://www.nyclu.org/en/news/nypd-published-its-arsenal-surveillance-tech-heres-what-we-learned>