

PROGRAMMATIC ALTERNATIVES FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY INVESTMENTS

The following represent possible areas to invest additional financial resources for the FY 2016 budget that would contribute to building safer, stronger and more equitable New York City communities. The document is not meant to be complete, however it does represent options that are more likely to contribute to long-term safety than the proposal being considered to add 1000 positions to the NYPD, at a cost of close to \$70 million in FY 2016 and nearly \$100 million in FY 2017.

YOUTH PROGRAMS & SERVICES

While the de Blasio administration and City Council have substantially increased investments in certain essential areas of youth programming, there are a range of others in which funding is inadequate. While the Fiscal Year 2015 budget increased the number of Summer Youth Employment Program jobs for youth ages 16-24 to over 47,000, the program still turned away over 83,000 youth who applied. This program provides young people with educational and work experiences that are immensely valuable to help them towards future employment. \$45.7 million of city tax levy funding was dedicated to this program last year. An additional \$21.5 million would be required in this year's budget to increase the level of slots to 50,000 (accounting for the minimum wage increase), but the Council should be leading efforts to enhance this program so that every young person who applies has the opportunity. Reaching that goal of full summer youth employment for youth in our city would ultimately require an **investment in the Summer Youth Employment Program of over \$100 million**.

Other areas of youth funding where at least \$70 million in funding should be considered for allocation before being spent on increasing the NYPD headcount include but are not limited to:

- Citywide implementation of Restorative Justice: Restorative Justice Coordinator in 514 schools (431 High Schools/83 Secondary Schools), ongoing training and coaching in Restorative Justice for all staff in 514 schools, Youth and parent outreach and engagement (**\$90 million**)
- Implement universal free lunch for all public school students (**\$24 million**)
Because of the poverty stigma associated with school lunch— and understandable fears of undocumented families filling out the significant required paperwork to qualify— an estimated 250,000 income eligible city students do not participate in the school lunch program. Overall, 81% of elementary school students eat school lunch, but that number drops to 61% by middle school, and 38% in high school.
- Elementary and middle school after-school programs in low-income neighborhoods that are slated to be lost in all five boroughs unless budget action is taken
 - At least 2,300 elementary school after-school OST/COMPASS slots (**\$7.7 million**)
 - 17 afterschool slots funded by DOE that serve 1,882 children (**\$5.9 million**)
- Increased funding for COMPASS after-school programs that are underfunded at a rate below that of middle school programs, despite their being more expensive
- Adequate funding for 66 city-funded beacons, which serve 800-1200 children in after-school programs
- Adequate funding for EarlyLearn early childhood education programs for low-income families
- Increased funding for child welfare prevention and services for low-income families

- Adequate funding for all Council Youth initiatives (not included in the Mayor's Preliminary Budget), including but not limited to: Early Childhood Literacy Initiative, Jill Chaifetz Hotline, Big Brothers Big Sisters of NYC, New York Junior Tennis League, Sports and Arts in Schools, Summer OST, The After-School Corporation, YMCA After-School, Youth Action Build, etc. (**approx. \$27 million**)
- Adequate funding for all Council Education initiatives (not included in the Mayor's Preliminary Budget), including but not limited to: Anti-Gun Violence Initiative, Middle School Quality Initiative, Dropout Prevention & Intervention, etc. (**at least \$10.3 million**)
- Support funding for creation of model initiative for parent engagement in public schools that promotes student achievement and school success, and includes Parent-Teacher Home Visits, Academic Parent-Teacher Teams, Parent Advocate Program, Parent Resource Centers, and Parent University (**at least \$7.1 million**)

HOUSING, HUMAN & SOCIAL SERVICES

The housing crisis is what has led our city to its record levels of homeless New Yorkers. There is at least \$70 million in funding that could be considered for allocation to support addressing this crisis, and should be used to that end before being spent on increasing the NYPD headcount. Areas for consideration include but are not limited to:

- Adequate funding to fulfill the need for beds and services for **runaway and homeless youth** (larger increase than the \$1.34 million increase in City Tax Levy funding in the Preliminary Budget)
Runaway and homeless youth are some of the most vulnerable youth in New York City. Despite the de Blasio Administration's increased investment to create more shelter beds, open a 24-hour drop-in center, and expand services, more can and should be done for these young people. The New York State budget included \$4.5 million to create approximately 1,000 shelter beds for runaway and homeless youth. Data from the New York State Office of Children and Family Services showed youth were turned away from shelters with no available space 5,000 times in 2012.
- Funding for free legal representation for low-income tenants in Housing Court (**at least \$100 million**)
The number of evictions increases every year, with nearly 30,000 families evicted from their homes in 2013. Fewer than 10 percent of tenants in Housing Court have legal counsel, whereas 90% of landlords have representation. Upwards of half of these evictions could be averted with legal representation, helping to prevent an exacerbation of the housing crisis.
- Adequate funding for NYCHA repairs and operating budget (**\$300 million**)
In the city's request to Albany for \$300 million for NYCHA, the de Blasio administration pledged to match it with city funding. Despite the state only committing \$100 million, the city should follow through with a \$300 million commitment to public housing residents. NYCHA forecasts an operating deficit of nearly \$100 million in 2015, over \$200 million in 2016, and growing in successive years.
 - Restoration of funding for 55 NYCHA-managed community centers to keep them open (**\$17.1 million**)
- Fully funding City Council housing initiatives that help address homelessness, eviction, and affordable housing (Citywide Homeless Prevention Fund, Anti-eviction legal services, Mortgage Foreclosure Prevention Initiative, etc.): at least **\$12.1 million**
- Restore funding for the Council's Alternatives to Incarceration (ATI) Programs Initiative to at least its FY '08 level of **\$6.83 million**

ATI/Reentry programs are critical to the City's success in reducing crime, and jail and prison populations. The evidence-based programs are also cost-effective, saving the city and state correctional systems more than \$100 million each year.

- Fully funding City Council anti-poverty social service initiatives that provide food and financial support (Anti-Poverty Initiative, EITC Assistance Program, Food Pantries, etc.): **at least \$6.4 million**
- Adequate funding for homeless service providers that provide shelter and services, which have been chronically underfunded
- ACCESS HEALTH NYC – Health insurance outreach and assistance to target the approximately 70,000 uninsured children and multitude of other New Yorkers who are uninsured, speak English as a second language, people with disabilities, LGBTQ, formerly incarcerated, homeless and others with barriers to health care access/information about coverage and options (**\$5.5 million**)
- New York Immigrant Family Unity Project (NYIFUP) – the first public defender program in the country for immigrants facing deportation. (**\$4.5 million**)
- Fully restore funding for the Council's health initiatives, including but not limited to: Anti-Gun Violence Initiative, Hepatitis B/C Initiative, HIV/AIDS – Communities of Color, Infant Mortality, etc. (at least **\$2.9 million**)

HIGHER EDUCATION

Higher education is a public good, and President Obama has called on states and cities to invest more in college education and make it more affordable. The City University of New York (CUNY) provides opportunities for young adults in our city's neighborhoods, generating positive outcomes for New Yorkers – and particularly those in neighborhoods that have traditionally experienced underinvestment by government. 54% of CUNY undergraduates have family incomes of less than \$30K, 75% are people of color, 53% are working for pay, 38% are immigrants. 57% are women, and 42% are first generation in college.

While the City hasn't made the same cuts to community colleges as Albany, City support has failed to keep pace with enrollment growth. City support for CUNY community colleges has fallen 17% since 2008-09 and 30% since 1990-91, when adjusted for inflation and enrollment growth.

When President Obama unveiled his proposal for free community college, he cited CUNY's Accelerated Study in Associate Programs (ASAP) program as a model because it has shown that investing in smaller classes and more support for community college students raises graduation rates.

Funding for higher education should be a higher priority than increasing the NYPD headcount right now. The **City Council should consider moving closer to meeting the need of CUNY students and schools, which requires at least \$150 million**, instead of increasing the number of police personnel.

COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Adequate funding for Council community development, economic development and job training/placement initiatives not included in the Mayor's Preliminary Budget, including but not limited to: A Greener NYC, Adult Literacy, Anti-Gun Violence-Violence Prevention, Communities of Color Non-Profit Stabilization, Consortium for Worker Education, Jobs to Build On, New Skills/New Jobs, New York Immigration Coalition, NYC Cleanup, Veterans Community Development, Women's

Housing and Economic Development, Worker Cooperative Business Development, etc.: **approximately \$20 million.**

- Adequate funding to support the growing senior population's aging with good health, dignity and safety within their communities. Council initiatives should be restored and enhanced in some cases to areas that include but are not limited to: Case management and social workers to help with access to benefits, meals, Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities (with an increase to include NYCHA developments), adult day services, senior centers, caregiver support, etc.: **approximately \$34 million.**
- Renewal and expansion of DYCD's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals initiative (**\$20 million for literacy services**)
- Expansion of City Council's Adult Literacy Initiative to at least **\$5 million** to support the City's workforce development reforms, and help connect those New Yorkers with language barriers to employment.