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Help is Needed in Response to Hurricane Irene



While New York City escaped much of Hurricane Irene's wrath, our urban forest did not fare as well. More than 2,000 trees across the city were destroyed, split, or uprooted as a result of the hurricane. In addition, counties in neighboring upstate New York and New Jersey were declared "major disasters" by the federal government, and approximately 80% of Greenmarket farmers (who

supply fresh produce throughout the five boroughs) were affected, with some reporting an 80-100% loss of their products.

Please consider making a donation to the City's [Storm Damage Fund](#) or GrowNYC's [Hurricane Irene Relief Fund](#).

Young Men's Initiative Launches



On August 4th, Mayor Bloomberg announced the launch of the Young Men's Initiative, a set of targeted policies and programs aimed at reducing disparities that inhibit the advancement of black and Latino young men in New York City. Over the next three years, \$67.5 million in City funding and \$60 million in private funding, including a \$30

million grant from the Campaign for Black Male Achievement of the Open Society Foundations and \$30 million grant from Bloomberg Philanthropies, will be invested in educational, employment, and mentoring opportunities for young men.

A key goal of the initiative is to connect probationers to opportunities that prevent recidivism, including transformative mentoring and literacy programming. The initiative is also helping to support the expansion of Jobs-Plus, a pioneering public housing-based employment program currently being piloted in New York City and San Antonio, Texas through the Social Innovation Fund

grant awarded to the Mayor's Fund. Download a copy of the "[Young Men's Initiative Report](#)."

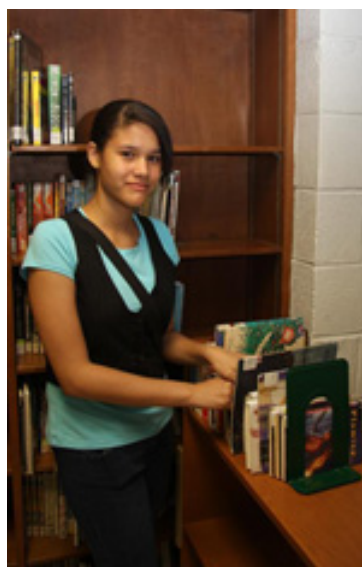
NYC STEPS Helps New Yorkers Prepare for and Access Entry-Level Jobs in the Technology Industry



The New York City Supported Training and Employment Preparation Services (NYC STEPS) program is a public-private partnership that provides free workplace and computer skills training to Family Justice Center (FJC) clients as they prepare for entry-level jobs in the technology field. On April 12th the program launched its first pilot at the Queen's Family Justice Center (FJC), serving victims of domestic violence. The program is a partnership between the Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence, the Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications, and NYC Service, which is coordinating volunteers to assist with class instruction. The Department of Small Business Services' Workforce1 program will also assist graduates with interviews, resume development, and job placement.

The NYC STEPS program is one of several self-sufficiency initiatives provided by the FJCs. Additional programs include English as a Second Language training, instruction in accessing available benefits, and financial literacy and empowerment workshops. Private funds are needed to help support the expansion of these important services. For more information, visit www.nyc.gov/fund.

2011 Summer Youth Employment Program Concludes



Thanks to the generosity of 35 donors this year, the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) was able to offer jobs to an additional 4,200 young New Yorkers. With public and private funding, the 2011 SYEP enrolled more than 30,000 participants at more than 5,700 worksites, and participants earned \$31 million in gross wages.

Community-based providers, including four providers with specialized services for vulnerable youth (court-involved, runaway/homeless, and foster care), administered the program and conducted its education component. Topics included work readiness, financial literacy, career exploration, and college and post-secondary education opportunities. In addition, its health education component covered HIV/AIDS awareness, domestic violence issues, nutrition, and substance abuse.

"If it wasn't for having this summer job, I most likely would just be home watching television wasting my time waiting for school to start in the fall, but unlike a lot of my friends I am working with such an amazing program...SYEP has helped me with learning the importance of the workforce and presenting yourself appropriately. SYEP has helped me build a resume while getting hands on experience." -Alexandria, 2011 SYEP participant

The City received more than 131,000 applications for this year's program, far exceeding the number of jobs available. Please help us meet the demand and increase the number of job placements next summer. To donate, please call 212-788-7794 or visit www.nyc.gov/fund.

Change by Us Mini-Grants Announced



Change by Us NYC is an interactive Web-based platform that leverages the power of ideas and the civic community in New York City. The initiative is supported by grants from the Rockefeller Foundation and the Campaign for New York's Future, and is administered by the Citizens Committee for New York City. This month, 19 community projects focused on community gardening and agriculture, composting, and tree and park stewardship were selected as recipients of Change by Us NYC mini-grants.

Selected projects include the 300 West Block Association, which is engaging the Chelsea community in street tree care, spring bulb planting, leaf collection, and a post-Halloween pumpkin collection to be composted into mulch. Also, Butterfly Project NYC is educating and engaging local 8th graders at Emolior Academy to help renovate and maintain a pollinator garden area in Drew Gardens, on the Bronx River.

To learn more about grant recipients and Change by Us NYC, visit www.nyc.changeby.us.

Social Innovation Fund Enters Second Year



The Corporation for National & Community Service announced a second year of funding to the Mayor's Fund for the Center for Economic Opportunity's Social Innovation Fund (SIF) programming.

WorkAdvance is one of the five programs being piloted through the SIF. The program connects unemployed and low-wage working adults to quality jobs in targeted sectors that have room for career growth. In New York City, Per Scholas, a technology-based workforce training program, is a SIF sub-grantee that implements the WorkAdvance program.

José, a participant in Per Scholas's program, is one example of an individual who excelled through the sector-based approach that SIF WorkAdvance aims to replicate. José learned about Per Scholas's computer technician training while participating in a community release program. While living in a correctional facility, he attended classes full time at Per Scholas and worked a part-time evening job. Upon completing the course with Per Scholas, José was referred to a small financial IT company. He started at \$8 per hour and is now the Lead IT Support Analyst at the company, earning \$78,000 a year. He is graduating from a local community college with a focus in Computer Information Systems and is attending Baruch College of the City University of New York this fall.

For more information on the City's Social Innovation Fund programming, visit www.nyc.gov/ceo.

Together we can make a difference.

To support any of these or other innovative public projects, please visit www.nyc.gov/fund.
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