



# A Year in Review

August 2012 - July 2013



# A Year in Review

August 2012 - July 2013



Dear Friends, Colleagues and Partners,

It has been one year since I was first given the privilege of heading up the NYC Office of Human Capital Development (OHCD). In August 2012, Mayor Bloomberg created OHCD to support, strengthen and advance an integrated workforce development and adult education system for New York City. As a brand new office within the Mayor's Office, we were charged with an ambitious agenda to help New Yorkers develop skills and get good jobs with employers that need them in order to ensure the City's economic vitality into the future. If we help people to thrive and grow, our City will thrive and grow. After all, as William Shakespeare wrote more than 400 years ago, "what is the city but the people."

With the strong leadership of Mayor Bloomberg, Deputy Mayors Gibbs and Steel, and Chancellor Walcott, and in collaboration with more than a dozen City agencies as well as business leaders, education and training providers, members of our NYC Workforce Investment Board, and community stakeholders, we have made great strides in bringing our mission to life. We invite you to read the pages that follow and see some of our initial accomplishments together. As always, I welcome your feedback and appreciate your partnership.



A handwritten signature in black ink on a light blue rectangular background. The signature is cursive and appears to read "Michelle Light".

Michelle Light  
Executive Director  
NYC Office of Human Capital Development  
[milight@ohcd.nyc.gov](mailto:milight@ohcd.nyc.gov)

# A Year in Review

August 2012 - July 2013



OHCD Strengthening the System.....	4
OHCD Strengthening Adult Education.....	8
OHCD Strengthening Workforce Development..	12
OHCD in the Field.....	18
What OHCD Is Reading.....	24

***“There are many people who are not employed and participating in our economy. It is our responsibility to see that they are enabled to participate. We need to be thinking in decades, not in the short term, to solve this problem.”***

— Deputy Mayor Robert K. Steel,  
June 2013 WIB Quarterly Meeting

From 2007-2011, median wages for a worker in New York City were **\$33,743.**

— American Community Survey

## OHCD Celebrates Progress of Last 12 Years

Operating in a dynamic and complex labor market, the Bloomberg Administration has made great strides in the last 12 years improving our workforce development and adult education system, and OHCD is proud to play a part. Below are some recent highlights.

- For every private sector job that NYC lost during the recent recession, NYC has since recovered more than three (NYCEDC, August 2013).
- NYC's unemployment rate dropped by a full percentage point between July 2012 and July 2013 (NYCEDC).
- The Workforce1 System served 150,653 people and placed 28,806 people in jobs in 2012 (NYC SBS).
- The Summer Youth Employment Program placed nearly 36,000 youth in summer jobs in 2013 (NYC DYCD).
- DOE's Office of Adult and Continuing Education enrolled 27,895 students and CUNY enrolled 9,414 students in adult education and English language classes in fiscal year 2012 (NY State Education Department).
- NYC Business Solution Centers launched 253 businesses and helped 671 businesses obtain financing awards totaling \$63 million in 2012 (NYC SBS).



NYC's unemployment rate is **8.4%**, representing 335,605 New Yorkers. – BLS, June 2013

## OHCD Helps Pass Bill to Expand Access to Wage Data

Historically, public workforce and education programs have not been able to easily evaluate their effectiveness by consistently accessing data that New York State collects about individuals' employment.

To address this challenge, OHCD spearheaded a strong coalition of support, in collaboration with the Mayor's Office of State Legislative Affairs, to pass bill A7911b-Rozic / S5773a-Savino. Championed by Assemblywoman Nily Rozic of Queens and Senator Diane Savino of Staten Island, the legislation, once signed into law, will **allow public agencies greater access to the dates, places, and wages of employment for individuals**. With expanded access to this wage data, public agencies and contractors will be able to focus their resources on actually providing services rather than diverting those resources to costly, incomplete and inefficient methods of tracking their performance. Public agencies will also be able to more effectively assess the performance of their programs, paying the way for stronger outcomes for New Yorkers and smarter investments for taxpayers.



Photo credit:  
CC-BY-SA-3.0/Matt H. Wade at Wikipedia

Helping to shepherd this legislation from conceptualization to passage, OHCD drafted bill language, met with legislators, mobilized support from partner organizations, and more. OHCD is committed to continuing its work to ensure successful implementation so that the City can fully harness the power of this law and the data into the future.

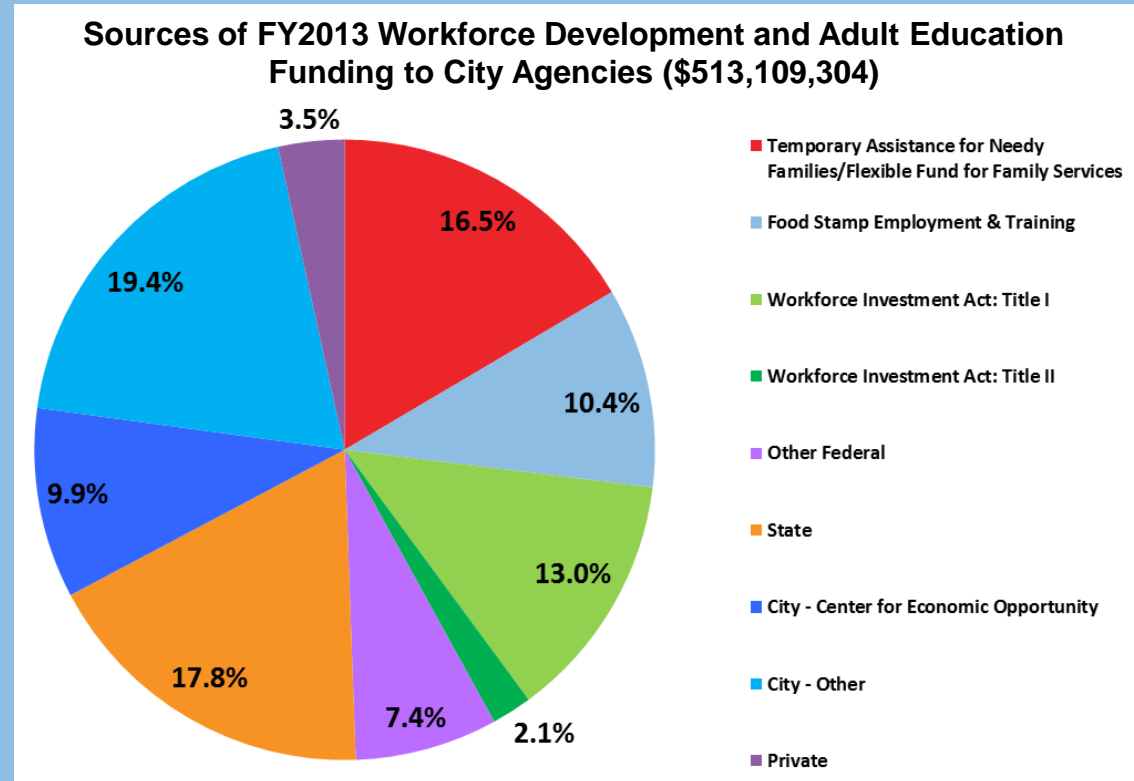
**15.1%** of New Yorkers are unemployed or underemployed. – BLS, June 2013

## OHCD Analyzes Funding to City Agencies

What funds are powering City agencies forward in workforce development and adult education? Where do they come from?

OHCD is answering these questions in partnership with over a dozen City agencies. OHCD is collecting data in order to assemble information about the amounts and variety of funding currently invested across the system. This information is critical to understand the array of resources that fuel our City in serving New Yorkers to prepare for and secure quality employment.

The chart on the right is a sample of the analysis that OHCD is preparing.





## OHCD Mobilizes as Congress Considers WIA Reauthorization

Advocates across the country have been asking Congress for a decade to reauthorize the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (WIA). Since WIA technically expired in 2003, WIA funds have been flowing from Washington, DC through a Continuing Resolution, leaving the funds vulnerable.

In March 2013, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Supporting Knowledge and Investing in Lifelong Skills (SKILLS) Act (H.R. 803), which would consolidate 35 existing federal workforce programs into one Workforce Investment Fund. Meanwhile, the U.S. Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee voted its bill out of committee on July 31, 2013 with bipartisan support under the leadership of Senators Patty Murray (D-WA) and Johnny Isakson (R-GA). **Efforts to re-authorize WIA have languished in Congress for the last decade, but this Congress has moved closer than ever before**, resolving issues that have previously blocked passage – like consolidation of programs, local control, and workforce board membership requirements.

OHCD issued a call to action to our NYC Workforce Investment Board (WIB) members to help reinforce the importance of WIA reauthorization from a business perspective. **WIB members Bill Abramson and Horace Barker** wrote letters of support. **The NYC Department for the Aging, NYC Department of Small Business Services, and the NYC Department for Youth & Community Development** also secured letters from various partner employers. In addition, OHCD worked with multiple City agencies to coordinate the development and submission of recommendations for WIA reauthorization, speaking to issues of funding levels, local control, and performance indicators.

***“We firmly believe that WIA is long overdue for reauthorization. We need a strong and modernized workforce system, and we strongly support efforts to increase investments in quality services, resources and training.”***

– Excerpt from a letter of support for WIA Authorization to members of Congress, from six national signatories on June 13, 2013

By 2020, there will be an estimated **21%** increase in NYC jobs requiring at least an associate

## OHCD Coordinates City for Transition from GED® to TASC

The test of General Educational Development (GED)® is a national, privately-owned test. Since 1942, it has been the primary pathway available to obtain a high school equivalency (HSE) diploma. For more than 25,000 NYC residents each year, this opens the door to college, higher wages and more job opportunities. However, after 70 years, the landscape is rapidly changing.

In response to upcoming changes to the GED® exam including higher costs and standards, New York State took action to seek comparable, affordable assessments that could serve as an alternative. Through an RFP process, NYS selected CTB/McGraw-Hill to develop a new HSE exam called the TASC (Test Assessing Secondary Completion). It will replace the GED® test in January 2014. A test-taker will still earn a HSE credential; it is just a different means to get there. The new TASC exam will be similar to the current GED® exam, but will become more academically rigorous aligned to the Common Core State Standards and fully administered by computer over time.

**In collaboration with city and state stakeholders, OHCD is helping NYC prepare for this transition** in order to maximize the number of people able to take the HSE test and increase the success of test-takers. In particular, OHCD:

- 1) Co-wrote and co-signed a letter sent to 4,829 people who have passed some but not all of the existing GED®, urging them to retake the remaining portions before their scores expire.
- 2) Supported the “2013 GED® Campaign to the Finish” organized by the Fund for Public Advocacy.
- 3) Consulted with the New York State Education Department, New York City Department of Education, CUNY, nine city agencies, three libraries, test preparation providers, professional development organizations and other stakeholders to discuss concerns, identify priorities and assess emerging issues.
- 4) Presented to the NYC Workforce Funders in order to raise awareness about system needs such as communications, professional development, and technological infrastructure.





# OHCD Strengthening Adult Education

## OHCD Wraps Up Reentry Education Grant



OHCD concluded a multi-year grant, partnering with the **NYC Department of Correction**, that elevated education's pivotal role in helping individuals transition out of incarceration and back into the community. In managing the last phase of the \$1.8 million funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, OHCD:

- Enhanced the development of the New York Reentry Education Network ([www.reentryeducationnetwork.org](http://www.reentryeducationnetwork.org)) coalition;
- Evaluated performance of four grantee organizations; and
- Co-sponsored and helped to organize a conference, *Pathways of Possibility*, with 180 participants across sectors on February 27, 2013 as the culminating event.

## OHCD Supports Adult Education Funding for Immigrants



On July 17, 2013, OHCD Executive Director Michelle Light joined **City Council Speaker Christine Quinn** and officials from the Bloomberg Administration to announce \$18 million of funds to provide adult education classes and legal services for New York's young immigrants in order to help them qualify for the federal government's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. NYC is home to roughly 16,000 disconnected youth or adults who could stay in the U.S. thanks to DACA as long as they are pursuing formal adult education. The **NYC Department of Youth and Community Development** and **CUNY** will be responsible for administering the new funds for outreach, seat expansion and professional development.

Only **32%** of New Yorkers taking the GED® test without formal preparation passed in 2012.

# OHCD Strengthening Adult Education

## OHCD Tests Open Seat Locator



Recognizing the need for a free online tool to help NYC residents easily identify adult education programs that currently have space for another participant, OHCD pursued the development of a pilot system that identifies the local programs with available seats. In collaboration with the **New York State Education Department, the Literacy Assistance Center, the NYC Center for Economic Opportunity, the NYC Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications, and seven providers in Brooklyn**, OHCD launched beta testing of the system and is exploring prospects to expand data collection for a potential tool to be housed at [www.nyc.gov](http://www.nyc.gov).

## OHCD Leads on YouCanToo!



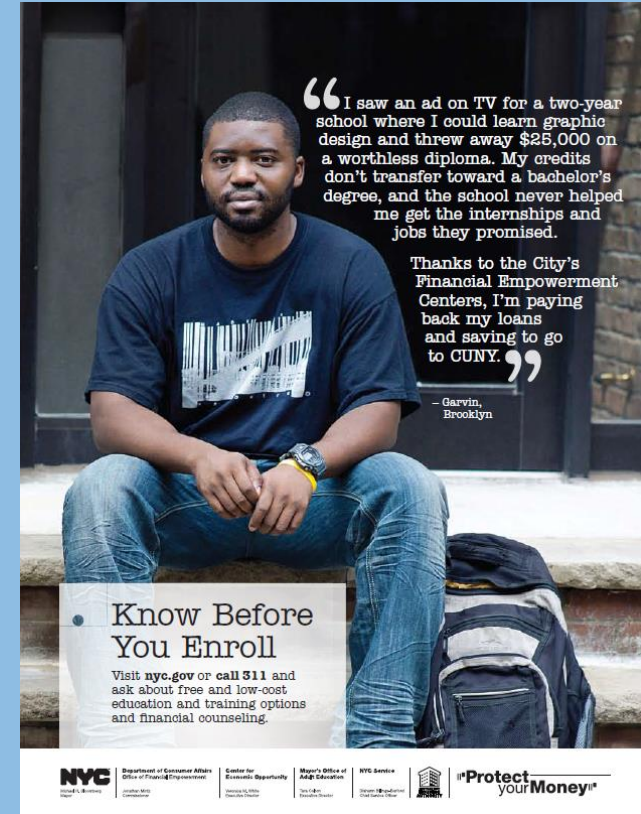
OHCD's work online is also seen in YouCanToo! ([www.nyc.gov/youcantoonyc](http://www.nyc.gov/youcantoonyc)), a website designed to motivate and prepare adult learners to pursue educational opportunities, such as English for Speakers of Other Languages, adult basic education and high school equivalency preparation classes. In partnership with **New York City Council**, OHCD:

- Finalized a dynamic classroom-based curriculum;
- Offered free training to 50 adult education teachers to familiarize them with the website and the curriculum; and
- Placed more than 600 DVDs in the hands of adult education program coordinators.

## OHCD Helps “Know Before You Enroll” Initiative Spread Across US

The City has long recognized the burden that many students bear from mounting educational debt, which all too often comes as a surprise with little career payoff. To help ensure that each New Yorker is making educational choices that promote their long-term prosperity, OHCD collaborated with the **NYC Department of Consumer Affairs Office of Financial Empowerment and NYC Center for Economic Opportunity**, among other partners, to implement “Know Before You Enroll,” a major public awareness initiative that has earned the esteem of stakeholders across the country. This past year, OHCD helped the campaign spread outside our five boroughs. In collaboration with DCA, OHCD:

- Presented to 12 jurisdictions across the country about how to replicate the initiative in their communities;
- Tracked and referred out complaints from New Yorkers about predatory education and training providers;
- Responded to media inquiries about the initiative; and
- Elevated the initiative to the national stage, providing guidance to veterans’ organizations as they replicated the NYC campaign and launched a veteran-specific campaign at [www.knowbeforeyouenroll.org](http://www.knowbeforeyouenroll.org)



**“** I saw an ad on TV for a two-year school where I could learn graphic design and threw away \$25,000 on a worthless diploma. My credits don’t transfer toward a bachelor’s degree, and the school never helped me get the internships and jobs they promised.

Thanks to the City’s Financial Empowerment Centers, I’m paying back my loans and saving to go to CUNY. **”**

— Garvin, Brooklyn

**Know Before You Enroll**  
Visit [nyc.gov](http://nyc.gov) or call 311 and ask about free and low-cost education and training options and financial counseling.

**NYC** Department of Consumer Affairs Office of Financial Empowerment  
Center for Economic Opportunity  
Mayor’s Office of Adult Education  
NYC Service  
**Protect yourMoney**



# OHCD Strengthening Workforce Development



## OHCD Helps NYC Secure US DOL National Emergency Grant

On October 29, 2012, Hurricane Sandy devastated neighborhoods throughout New York City. Thousands of businesses were impacted by the storm, and many people filed initial unemployment claims.

Working with the **NYC Department of Small Business Services (SBS)** and the **New York State Department of Labor (NYSDOL)**, OHCD assisted in managing the National Emergency Grant Program (NEG) to fund temporary post-disaster recovery jobs in clean-up and humanitarian assistance.

Following the successful launch of the program by SBS and the **NYC Department of Parks and Recreation**, which placed more than 800 individuals in jobs, OHCD quickly convened other City agencies to take advantage of additional available NEG funds. Towards that end, OHCD:

- Outlined the opportunity for funding and invited proposals;
- Provided technical assistance as agencies crafted potential applications and managed the submission of proposals to NYSDOL in order to streamline the complex intergovernmental process; and
- Joined two visits in New York City with then-US Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis in November 2012.

### NEG Partners in NYC:

- Mayor's Office of Contract Services
- NYC Department for the Aging
- NYC Department of Buildings
- NYC Department of Homeless Services
- NYC Department of Parks and Recreation
- NYC Department for Small Business Services
- NYC Department of Sanitation
- NYC Department of Youth and Community Development
- NYC Housing Authority

### NEG in NYC:

**9** agencies  
**10** projects approved  
**\$35+** million  
**1,900** jobs



*In Nov. 2012 after Hurricane Sandy, **158,204** individuals in NY state filed initial unemployment claims, nearing the record set in Jan. 2009 at the recession's height.* – New York Times

## OHCD Supports LINK Initiative for Low-Income New Yorkers

On March 25, 2013, OHCD Executive Director Michelle Light joined Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg and the **NYC Economic Development Corporation (EDC)** as they announced the “Leveraging Innovations and our Neighborhoods in the Knowledge economy” (LINK) initiatives. This effort includes eight new pilot programs designed to connect low-income New Yorkers to the City’s knowledge economy and foster business activity that provides employment and advancement opportunities for those with less formal training, helping to alleviate key challenges that prevent many from moving up the economic ladder. EDC is working with partners, including the **NYC Human Resources Administration, the NYC Center for Economic Opportunity, and the NYC Department of Small Business Services**, to implement the programs.

For example, the “Learn as you Earn Advancement Program”, LEAP, is geared to Associate degree and certificate program students, providing each with workplace skills training and relevant, employer-paid internships in growing industries such as tech. The “Immigrant Bridge Program” offers micro loans between \$1,000 and \$10,000 to unemployed and underemployed immigrant New Yorkers for educational purposes.



**39%** of NYS residents had the middle skills required of **46%** of current jobs in 2009.

## OHCD Manages the NYC Workforce Investment Board (WIB)

Among many responsibilities, OHCD manages the NYC Workforce Investment Board (WIB). The NYC workforce investment area is the largest in the nation and includes the City's five boroughs: Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens and Staten Island. The WIB is a federally-authorized public-private oversight body made up of volunteer members appointed by the Mayor and includes representatives of local businesses, institutions of higher education, labor unions, community-based organizations, and government agencies. The WIB meets quarterly. Deputy Mayor Robert K. Steel joined the September 2012 and June 2013 meetings, Deputy Mayor Linda I. Gibbs joined the December 2012 meeting, and Chancellor Dennis Walcott joined the March 2013 meeting.

At the most recent meeting in June 2013, OHCD convened a panel of experts to discuss how the City's workforce development system could evolve. The panel featured:

- **Steven Dawson**, NYC Workforce Strategy Group
- **Jeanette Nigro**, Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce
- **Merrill Pond**, Partnership for NYC
- **Lincoln Restler**, NYC Employment & Training Coalition

Representing small businesses, leading corporations, the philanthropic community and education and training providers, these experts shared recommendations that were independently produced yet significantly aligned for improving the City's workforce system. See pages 24-25 for the reports that house these visions.



**67%** *of the jobs in NY state in 2020 will require a career certificate or college degree.*



## OHCD Connects WIB with NYC Workforce Funders

On May 29, 2013, OHCD facilitated the first-ever meeting between the WIB Executive Committee and the NYC Workforce Funders. It was an opportunity to build off the strong partnership of the NYC Workforce Funders with specific City agencies, such as the **NYC Department of Small Business Services** and **NYC Housing Authority**. OHCD opened a dialogue about the NYC Workforce Funders' priorities as well as their insight, lessons and recommendations based on past collaborations between private philanthropy and the City. OHCD looks forward to continuing this important conversation and identifying areas of shared interest, so that public and private investments go farther together to benefit the City. As shown by the chart below, the rise of private dollars for workforce development has offset the decrease in public funding over recent years in NYC.

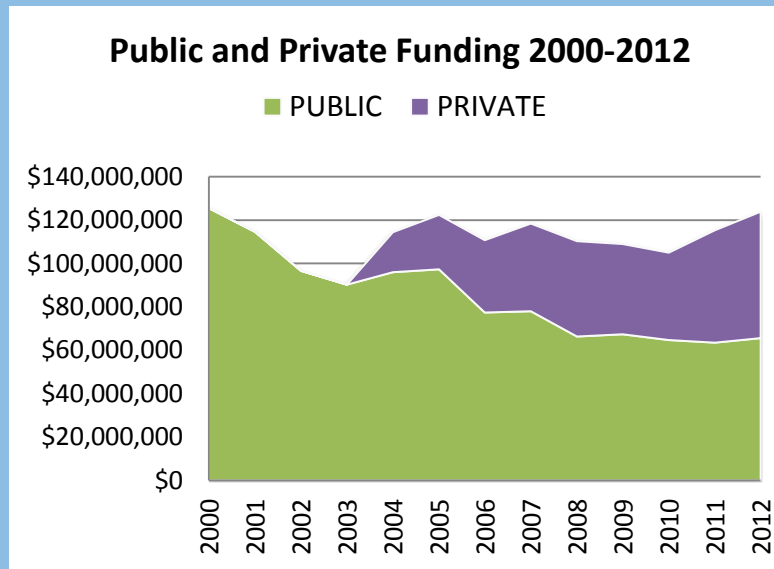


Chart credit:  
Bret Halverson,  
Staff Consultant,  
NYC Workforce  
Funders

**28.6%** of NYC 2012 public high school graduates were deemed career or college ready.

# OHCD Strengthening Workforce Development



## OHCD Applauds WIB Members Arroyo, Bluestone, Elliott, and McDermott

OHCD is proud to highlight contributions of WIB members across New York City. Below are a few examples.

**WIB Member Laurice Arroyo** of National Grid was selected by the **NYC Economic Development Corporation** to serve as a Judge for their Business Innovations Challenge. Contestants submit proposals for innovative and sustainable programs and business models that will help foster upward income mobility for low-income and/or low-skill and middle-skill workers. Learn more about the Business Innovations Challenge at [www.nycbic.com](http://www.nycbic.com).

**WIB Member Mark Elliott** of Economic Mobility Corporation was featured in a webinar in collaboration with CLASP, a organization focused on policy for low-income individuals, and the National Transitional Jobs Network. Mark and his colleague presented on new research they have conducted on the value of subsidized employment programs. Learn more about the research at [www.clasp.org/issues/pages?type=employment\\_strategies&id=0011](http://www.clasp.org/issues/pages?type=employment_strategies&id=0011).

**WIB Member Les Bluestone** of Blue Sea Development reports that its Arbor House in the Bronx – affordable housing with a rooftop hydroponic farm – has been named one of four finalists from across the US in *Affordable Housing Finance* magazine’s 2013 Readers’ Choice Awards in the “green” category. Learn more about the Arbor House at [www.nychdc.com/pr\\_02-21-2013/](http://www.nychdc.com/pr_02-21-2013/)

**WIB Member Joe McDermott** of the Consortium for Worker Education was recognized by the Clinton Global Initiative for its Jobs to Build On (JTBO) program, funded by the New York City Council. Learn more about JTBO at [www.jobstobuildon.org](http://www.jobstobuildon.org).

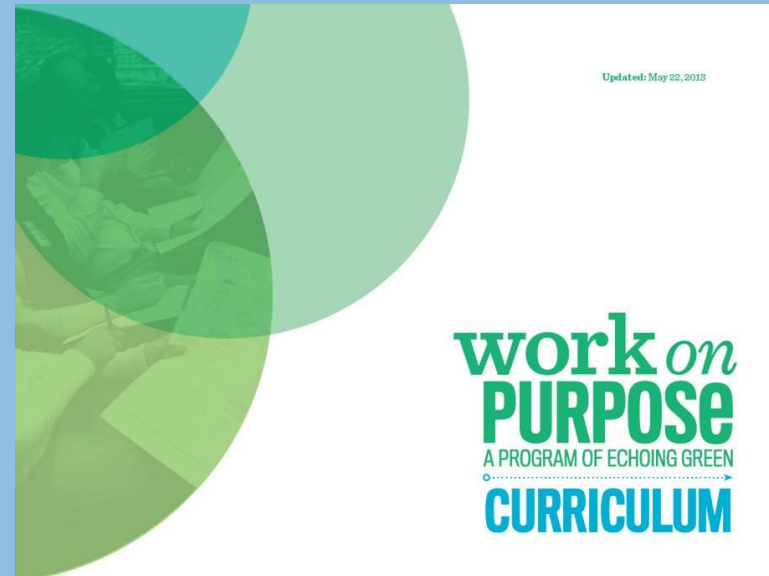
**1.14 million** *New Yorkers age 25+ lacked a high school diploma, 2007-2011.*

## OHCD Highlighted in Echoing Green “Work on Purpose” Curriculum

**Echoing Green’s “Work on Purpose” program** helps young professionals identify their purpose and put it into action by creating a career with positive social impact. In May 2013, Echoing Green released its signature “Work on Purpose Curriculum.” The curriculum is rooted in the best life-and work-practices gleaned from in-depth interviews with world-changing and emerging social entrepreneurs, including the founders of Teach For America, the Freelancers Union, and CityYear. These practices were also compared against scholarship from top research institutions, such as Stanford, Yale and the University of Pennsylvania.

Providing professional development exercises and practical guidance, the curriculum is designed to meet the expressed needs of today’s employers and address the top learning outcomes recommended by higher education leaders. Echoing Green has already trained over 150 individuals from over 75 colleges, universities, and nonprofit organizations across the country to become certified “Work on Purpose Facilitators” in order to help young people pursue a meaningful career path that is right for them.

Echoing Green featured OHCD Executive Director Michelle Light in the new curriculum. Showcasing Michelle’s professional journey prior to OHCD and the work of OHCD, it was the first time that Echoing Green shared the story of a leader engaged in social change via the government sector.



Barely **half** of New Yorkers without a high school diploma were employed, 2007-2011.

## Opportunities for a Better Tomorrow – August 22, 2012



**Opportunities for a Better Tomorrow** Executive Director Randy Peers invited OHCD Executive Director Michelle Light to visit their Bushwick site in Brooklyn. The organization serves underprivileged youth and adults with job training and placement assistance, adult basic education, and other critical resources. Michelle particularly enjoyed meeting members of the Young Adult Internship Program in the computer lab as they diligently learned Microsoft Office Specialist skills.

[www.obtjobs.org](http://www.obtjobs.org)

## Brooklyn Navy Yard – October 3, 2012



**WIB Member Jocelyne Rainey** along with Andrew Kimball, and Alan Fishman welcomed OHCD Executive Director Michelle Light to the four million square feet of **Brooklyn Navy Yard**, an impressive industrial park in Navy Hill, Brooklyn. Whether through farming vegetables on a rooftop, sewing and constructing kevlar vests, or building solar street lamps, the park's vibrancy was clear. At the time, 150 businesses were on the waitlist for access to all the Brooklyn Navy Yard has to offer.

[www.brooklynnavyyard.org](http://www.brooklynnavyyard.org)

Helping a New Yorker earn a high school diploma is worth over **\$325,000** to the City.

– Community Service Society of NY, 2009

## Workforce1 Career Center – October 10, 2012



**WIB Member Jocelyne Rainey** of the Brooklyn Navy Yard and OHCD Executive Director Michelle Light visited the Industrial & Transportation Sector Workforce1 Career Center in Jamaica, Queens. Launched by the **NYC Department of Small Business Services** in 2008, this center is one of the Department's 17 career centers in an integrated network to fulfill business customers' hiring and training needs by preparing and placing the most qualified individuals in their job opportunities. It was the first sector-focused career center in NYC. [www.nyc.gov/workforce1](http://www.nyc.gov/workforce1)

## NYC Coalition for Adult Literacy – October 18, 2012

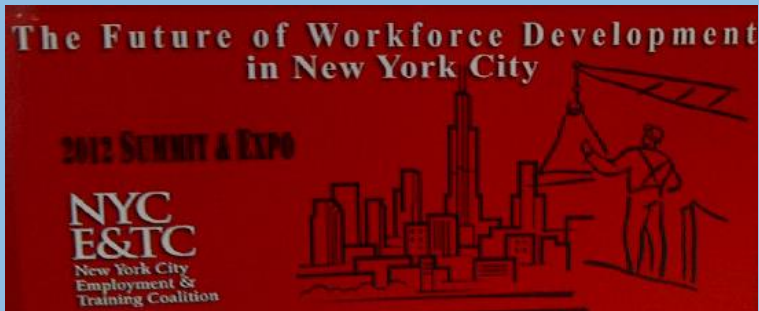


OHCD Executive Director Michelle Light met with the **NYC Coalition for Adult Literacy** at the Literacy Assistance Center to join a discussion, facilitated by John Hunt of LaGuardia Community College, of the challenges facing adult education and its role in the workforce system. In particular, the group focused on the implications of potential reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act, services at the Workforce1 Career Centers for people with low levels of English literacy, and possible partnership with the NYC Workforce Investment Board. [www.nyccaliteracy.org](http://www.nyccaliteracy.org)

**1 in 4** *New Yorkers age 25+ in 2011 had a high school diploma but no further education.*



## NYCETC Annual Summit and Expo – December 14, 2012



Held at St. Francis College in December 2012 and led by **NYC Employment & Training Coalition** (NYCETC) Managing Director Lincoln Restler, the NYCETC Annual Summit and Expo opened with a morning plenary panel, “The Bloomberg Era: Key Accomplishments and Remaining Priorities.” As one of the panelists, OHCD Executive Director Michelle Light outlined the movement toward a more unified workforce development and adult education system in NYC, the creation of OHCD and areas of progress, lessons learned so far, and advice for the next Administration regarding key big picture workforce challenges.

[www.nycetc.org](http://www.nycetc.org)

## Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies – January 8, 2013



Bich Ha Pham, Director of Policy, Advocacy, and Research at the **Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies** (FPWA), welcomed OHCD Executive Director Michelle Light to a FPWA discussion with member organizations and coalition partners. Participants shared trends or themes that they were seeing among job-seekers and students who engage with their programs and their views on the biggest challenges facing NYC’s workforce development system. It was a productive conversation, tapping the perspective from advocates and front-line workers on the ground.

[www.fpwa.org](http://www.fpwa.org)

**79%** of those admitted to NYC community colleges require remedial education.



## Henkels and McCoy – February 11, 2013



**WIB Member Ed Goldberg** of Macy's joined OHCD Executive Director Michelle Light to see in action **Henkels and McCoy**, which operates a training program supported by **NYC Department of Youth and Community Development** for out-of-school youth in Long Island City, Queens. Thanks to Suzanne Foran and Caroline Hudak at Henkels and McCoy, Ed and Michelle participated in a job skills workshop focused on active listening, learned how to install a motherboard in a computer, and spoke with young people about their careers. [www.henkels.com](http://www.henkels.com)

## National Association of Workforce Boards Forum – March 11, 2013



OHCD Executive Director Michelle Light moderated a panel at the annual National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB) Forum in Washington, DC. The panelists discussed how NYC effectively implemented, evaluated, and expanded its sector-focused workforce services. In 2008, NYC launched its first sector-focused career center with a City investment from the **NYC Center for Economic Opportunity (CEO)**. An independent evaluator found that the program led to higher placement rates and wages when compared to the standard one-stop. Based on these results, the City expanded this approach from the transportation sector, adding additional sector centers for healthcare and manufacturing. In 2010, CEO obtained a federal Social Innovation Fund award to build national evidence for this workforce development strategy. CEO's model, WorkAdvance, is now being evaluated in NYC, Tulsa (OK), and Northeastern Ohio. [www.nawb.org/forum](http://www.nawb.org/forum)

Only **29%** of NYC community college students earn a degree in six years.

## Food and Finance High School – May 9, 2013



**WIB Member George Ntim** of New York Marriot Marquis and OHCD Executive Director Michelle Light visited the **Food and Finance High School**, one of 42 Career and Technical Education (CTE) high schools run by the **NYC Department of Education**. Graciously hosted by Principal Roger Turgeon and Jessica Mates, George and Michelle learned how to organically raise 17,000 tilapia, how to bake pies, and how to grow plants in a hydroponic lab. Students also offered their career aspirations, ranging from personal chef to Food Network host to restaurant entrepreneur.

[www.schools.nyc.gov/SchoolPortals/02/M288/default.htm](http://www.schools.nyc.gov/SchoolPortals/02/M288/default.htm)

## Goodwill NY/NJ – June 12, 2013

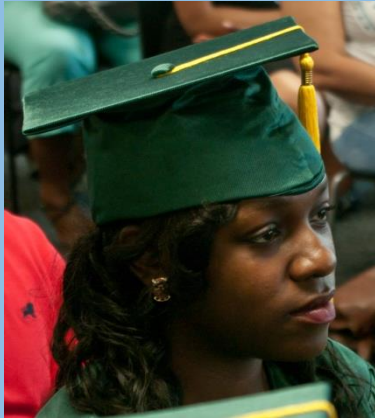


**Goodwill NY/NJ** CEO Bill Forrester invited OHCD Executive Director Michelle Light to visit their headquarters in Astoria, Queens. Walking through the facility, it was easy to see how the organization empowers people like Wilberto to find work – a mission that has involved partnership with **NYC Human Resources Administration** among other City agencies. Goodwill NY/NJ reports currently placing 13,000 people in competitive employment and serving as the largest provider of temporary staffing to the City.

[www.goodwillnynj.org](http://www.goodwillnynj.org)

On average, New Yorkers with a college degree earn **144%** more than those with only a high school degree over a working lifetime. – Center for an Urban Future, 2010

## GED® Graduation by NYC Department of Probation – July 12, 2013



The **NYC Department of Probation (DOP)** held its first-ever GED® graduation ceremony for 29 probation clients who just passed the GED® exam and earned their high school equivalency diploma. DOP Commissioner Vincent Schiraldi and **NYC Department of Education** Chancellor Dennis Walcott presided at the event held at South Bronx Neighborhood Opportunity Network (NeON) center. "You are a high school graduate, plain and simple," Chancellor Walcott told them. OHCD was delighted to join the celebration.

[www.nyc.gov/html/prob](http://www.nyc.gov/html/prob)

## Green City Force – July 19, 2013



**WIB Member Les Bluestone** joined OHCD Executive Director Michelle Light to visit **Green City Force (GCF)** at their Red Hook Urban Farm in Brooklyn, kindly hosted by GCF Founder Lisbeth Shepherd. Recently awarded the first NYC "Most Innovative Nonprofit Award," GCF trains **NYC Housing Authority (NYCHA)** residents, ages of 18-24, on six-month environmental projects and provides critical work experience. To date, approximately 100 NYCHA youth have graduated from the program, with 75% advancing into jobs or post-secondary education. GCF is one example of the strong partnerships with NYCHA's Office of Resident Economic Empowerment & Sustainability. [www.greencityforce.org](http://www.greencityforce.org)

**172,000** *young adult New Yorkers are neither in school nor working.*

# What OHCD Is Reading

Here is a small sampling of some resources that have come across our desks at OHCD. (Note that the views and opinions expressed in these reports are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official position or policy of OHCD.)

**The Benchmarking Project**, housed at the Corporation for a Skilled Workforce, released ***Apples to Apples: Making Data Work for Community-Based Workforce Development Programs***. The report explores what 'good' performance looks like for different types of workforce development programs.

[www.skilledwork.org/Newsletter/ApplesToApples.pdf](http://www.skilledwork.org/Newsletter/ApplesToApples.pdf)



**The Brooklyn Alliance**, an entity of the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce, released ***The NYC Mayoral Forum Candidates Book***, outlining recommendations for addressing small business and workforce issues.

[www.ibrooklyn.com/external/wcpages/wcmedia/documents/Candidates%20Issues%20Book-General.pdf](http://www.ibrooklyn.com/external/wcpages/wcmedia/documents/Candidates%20Issues%20Book-General.pdf)



**The Center for an Urban Future** and **NYU Wagner** released ***Innovation and the City***, a compilation of 15 ideas across different policy areas and cities from which the next Mayor could draw inspiration. This report looks to leverage the Mayoral transition as a "unique opportunity to develop new and innovative policy ideas" that are "as ambitious, experimental and innovative as his or her predecessor."

<http://nycfuture.org/research/publications/innovation-and-the-city>



**The National Skills Coalition** released ***Comprehensive Immigration Reform: A Proposal for a Skills Strategy that Supports Economic Growth and Opportunity***, which explores the challenges and opportunity in developing a skills agenda alongside legislative efforts to reform immigration. This skills strategy proposal is intended to dramatically increase the amount and impact of resources available for skills training for immigrant and native-born workers without increasing the cost of immigration reform.

[www.nationalskillscoalition.org/assets/reports-/2013-6-24\\_nsc-cir.pdf](http://www.nationalskillscoalition.org/assets/reports-/2013-6-24_nsc-cir.pdf)



About **half** of all former foster youth in their early 20s are unemployed. – Center for an Urban Future, 2013



# What OHCD Is Reading

The **National Skills Coalition** also released *Undoing Success: The Real Impact of Federal Workforce Development Funding Cuts on Jobseekers and Employers*, which explores in particular the effect of one billion fewer dollars currently flowing from the federal government for workforce development than in 2010. Stories of the impact on individuals are featured. [www.nationalskillscoalition.org/assets/reports/-undoing-success.pdf](http://www.nationalskillscoalition.org/assets/reports/-undoing-success.pdf)



The **NYC Center for Economic Opportunity (CEO)** released their *Annual Report* on the CEO Poverty Measure 2005-2011 in late April 2013. Mark Levitan, CEO's Director of Poverty Research, summarizes key findings from CEO's work to construct a better poverty measure in NYC. [www.nyc.gov/html/ceo/downloads/pdf/ceo\\_poverty\\_measure\\_2005\\_2011.pdf](http://www.nyc.gov/html/ceo/downloads/pdf/ceo_poverty_measure_2005_2011.pdf)



The **NYC Employment & Training Coalition (NYCETC)** developed the *2013 NYCETC Employment and Training Agenda for Mayoral Candidates* as a statement of priorities that current mayoral candidates should be aligning with in order to address the jobs crisis in NYC. [www.nycetc.org/#/issues-and-priorities/c133a](http://www.nycetc.org/#/issues-and-priorities/c133a)



The **NYC Workforce Strategy Group** released *Re-envisioning the New York City Workforce System*, a strategy paper commissioned by the NYC Workforce Funders and The Clark Foundation. The report sets out 10 recommendations for rethinking various political, operating, and infrastructural components of the current system. [www.reenvisionworknyc.org](http://www.reenvisionworknyc.org)



**Partnership for New York City** launched the *NYC Jobs Blueprint*, a website and report on workforce and economic development recommendations for NYC, exploring issues of jobs, workers, infrastructure, housing, and efficient government. [www.nycjobsblueprint.org](http://www.nycjobsblueprint.org)



In 2011, one in every four NYC families made at most **\$16,029** . – NYC CEO

Created by Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg in 2012, OHCD is responsible for **supporting, strengthening and advancing** an integrated workforce development and adult education system for New York City.

In partnership with more than a dozen City agencies as well as business leaders, education and training providers, members of our NYC Workforce Investment Board, and community stakeholders, OHCD takes a collaborative approach to realize its mission.

**OHCD aspires to build a strong, inclusive City of opportunity and growth where every person who wants to improve their education, skills and job prospects *can* and where every business that needs to find talent *does*.**