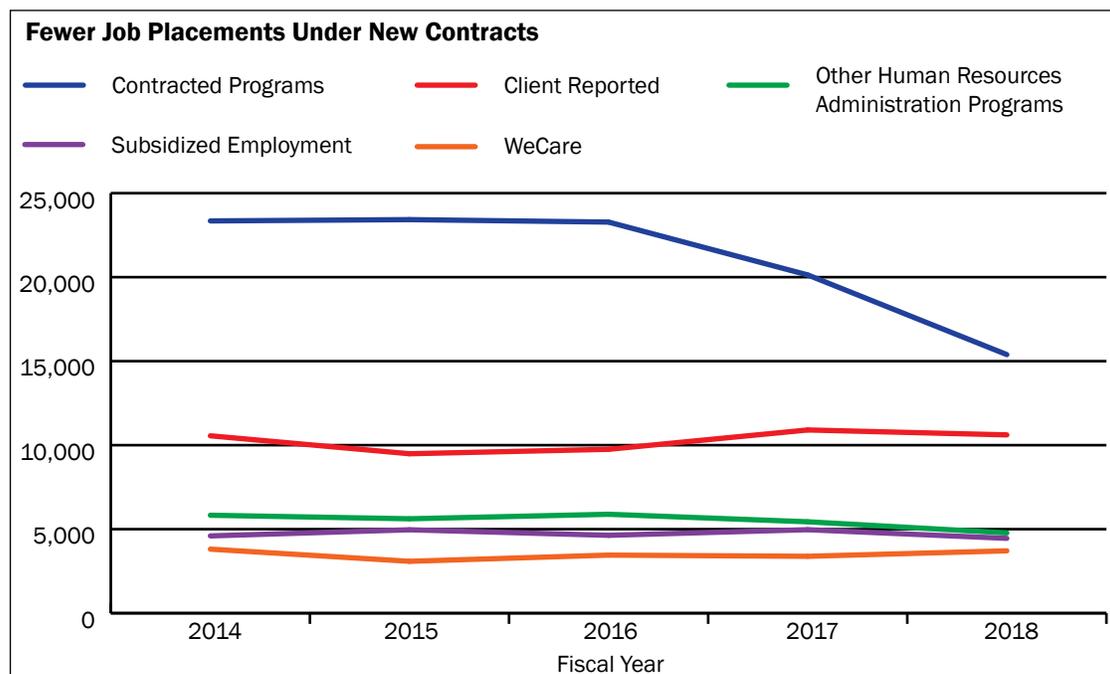


# Have Changes to a Key City Job-Training Program for Cash Assistance Recipients Affected the Number of Placements?

In April 2017 the city's Human Resources Administration implemented new employment services contracts for cash assistance recipients who are able to work. The new contracts, which replaced employment contracts dating from the Bloomberg Administration, put more emphasis on the individual needs of clients, while providing specialized services for youth and other groups with specific needs. Under the new contracts, the providers are expected to stress education and training in plans for individual clients.

The contracted employment programs are one of several types of assistance the Human Resources Administration offers to cash assistance clients to help them obtain jobs. These other programs include WeCARE (Wellness, Comprehensive Assessment, Rehabilitation and Employment), designed to help individuals overcome medical and/or mental health barriers to employment; subsidized employment; and programs to address substance abuse treatment and the needs of clients with HIV/AIDS. In addition, a substantial number of cash assistance recipients report that they have found jobs on their own. IBO has tracked the job placement numbers of these various programs over the past five years.



- Largely as a result of the transition to the new contractors, overall job placements for cash assistance clients decreased by 17 percent, from 47,005 in fiscal year 2016 to 38,942 in 2018 even as the number of recipients remained relatively flat over that period at about 360,000.
- The new contracted employment programs placed 15,390 clients into jobs in 2018—a decrease of 34 percent from the 23,278 job placements made by contracted programs in 2016, the last full year under the old contracts. The Human Resources Administration attributes the decline to the phase-in of the new employment vendors, and expects job placements to rise substantially in 2019.
- As IBO reported in [March](#), the number of cash assistance recipients in education and training programs has roughly tripled under the de Blasio Administration, but at an average of about 3,000-4,000 a month is still a small share of the caseload.
- The number of job placements from the WeCARE program increased by 7 percent, from 3,455 in 2016 to 3,710 in 2018.
- The number of cash assistance clients placed into jobs through subsidized employment decreased slightly, from 4,633 in 2016 to 4,454 in 2018. Subsidized employment includes the Human Resources Administration's job-training programs in collaboration with other city agencies such as parks and sanitation, as well as some private-sector jobs where subsidies are provided to employers by diverting clients' grants.
- Other programs accounted for 4,776 job placements in 2018, down from 5,886 in 2016.
- The number of clients finding jobs on their own rose from 9,753 in 2016 to 10,612 in 2018, an increase of 9 percent.