

District Manager's Report February, 2023

Mayor's Office Reported: Eric Adams and New York City Department of Sanitation (DSNY) Commissioner Jessica Tisch announced a roadmap to implement the nation's largest composting program, a long-delayed win for cleanliness and sustainability. After highlighting the program in his [State of the City](#) address Mayor Adams laid out details, over the coming 20 months, for weekly collection of compostable material that will become an automatic, guaranteed, free, year-round service for every single resident across all five boroughs. While curbside composting programs have existed in New York City for the last decade, none have ever served more than approximately 40 percent of the city. This will be the first-ever specific plan and commitment to reach 100 percent coverage citywide, providing residents with simple, universal weekly collection of leaf and yard waste, food scraps, and food-soiled paper products. It is also the first program designed as a service for “mass market” use by all New Yorkers.

The Adams administration developed an effective, cost-effective pilot plan for curbside composting that began in Queens on October 3, 2022. This program — designed to be the easiest-to-use, most efficient curbside composting program ever — exceeded expectations in Queens as it diverted three times the material at less than a third of the cost on average per district compared to old programs. This model will now be expanded citywide.

Full details on the 12.7 million pounds of compostable material diverted from landfill in the first three months of the Queens pilot program are available on [DSNY's website](#). The new program is built on a number of efficiencies that drive costs down, including the use of dual-bin trucks and a right-sizing of the workforce to reduce overtime. The leaf-and-yard-waste-first approach was designed based on an analysis of successful programs in other cities, including Portland, San Francisco, Seattle, and Toronto.

Unlike past composting programs, there will be no sign-up required for this new program. Residents will simply set out anything from their kitchen or their garden in a separate bin on their recycling day and DSNY will pick up those materials to turn them into usable compost or clean, renewable energy. While DSNY will make its own Brown Bins available, this program also includes the flexibility for New Yorkers to use ANY bin of 55 gallons or less with a secure lid.

Service will begin on the following timeline:

- March 27, 2023: Service restarts in Queens following a brief winter pause and becomes year-round. There will be no further seasonal breaks in any borough;
- October 2, 2023: Service begins in Brooklyn;
- March 25, 2024: Service begins in Staten Island and the Bronx;
- October 7, 2024: Service comes to Manhattan, marking the first citywide curbside composting program ever;

As Manhattan will receive service last, Mayor Adams also announced that the borough will receive an additional 150 Smart Composting Bins this spring to help residents separate their

compostable material. These orange bins are an example of a successful pilot scaling broadly. From an initial group of 25 in Astoria, Mayor Adams previously announced a plan to place 100 bins across all five boroughs, which, based on popularity, was later expanded to 250, in every part of the city. As of today, those bins have all been installed and are accessible 24 hours per day via a newly-designed app for [iOS](#) and [Android](#) called NYC Compost. The additional Manhattan bins announced today will bring the total number bins to 400.

Mayor's Office Reported: Mayor Eric Adams and Department of Small Business Services (SBS) Commissioner Kevin D. Kim recently announced the groundbreaking creation of the \$75 million NYC Small Business Opportunity Fund, the largest public-private loan fund in the city's history.

Approximately 1,500 local businesses will be served by the fund with loans up to \$250,000 at a market-leading rate of 4 percent, unleashing unprecedented resources at a critical time in the city's economic recovery for small businesses too often underserved by financial relief programs. Flexible terms address historic barriers to ensure broad access to the fund by eliminating credit score minimums, not requiring application fees, serving start-up and growth-stage businesses, and leveraging the deep roots of local organizations to reach businesses in BIPOC and immigrant communities.

The Opportunity Fund is made possible through a historic partnership with Goldman Sachs, Mastercard Center for Inclusive Growth, Community Reinvestment Fund (CRF), local community development financial institutions (CDFIs), and the city of New York, and fulfills a key commitment in Mayor Adams' "[Rebuild, Renew, Reinvent: A Blueprint for New York City's Economic Recovery](#)."

Since day one of this administration Mayor Adams has focused on helping small businesses thrive as they are crucial to New York City's economy.

The Opportunity Fund further builds on the Adams administration's historic efforts to help small business, including [Executive Order 15](#), also known as "[Small Business Forward](#)," which identified over one hundred reforms to reduce fines, extend cure periods, and eliminate violations, and ordered the creation of a Small Business Advisory Commission. These efforts are delivering tangible results. According to the latest research from the city's Economic Development Corporation, 13,600 new businesses opened in the first half of 2022, including 1800 new storefronts.

Small businesses powered New York City through the pandemic, and they are leading the way during this recovery. The new Opportunity Fund will support a more inclusive and diverse economy by enabling business owners to:

- Apply for loans ranging from \$2,000 to \$250,000;
- Pay a below-market fixed interest rate of 4 percent, regardless of loan size;

- Pay only interest for the first six months for start-up businesses, regardless of loan size;
- Use the loan to refinance existing high-interest debt, expand customer base, hire new employees, and more; and
- Access free long-term business supports through the Department of Small Business Services.

CDFI partners, including [Accompany Capital](#), [Ascendus](#), [BOC Capital](#), [Harlem Entrepreneurial Fund \(HEF\)](#), [NDC](#), [Pursuit Community Finance](#), [Renaissance Economic Development Corporation \(REDC\)](#), and [Trufund](#) will provide application assistance and no-cost financial advice, utilizing a novel model of local engagement to reach businesses in greatest need. Additional CDFIs can apply to partner on the fund. To further the fund's reach in hard-hit communities, SBS will launch a major door-to-door outreach campaign throughout the five boroughs.

To be eligible for a loan, businesses must have less than \$5 million in annual revenue and be located within New York City. Applications to the Opportunity Fund opened in January at SBS opportunityfund.nyc, and those interested can learn more about the Fund by calling SBS's Hotline at (888) SBS-4NYC, in addition the city will offer [webinars](#) to help businesses learn about the application process and the steps involved. The webinars will be offered every Tuesday with alternating start times of 10 am or 2 pm beginning on Tuesday, January 24th 2023 at 2pm.

Mayor Eric Adams and New York City Department of Education (DOE) Chancellor David C. Banks recently announced proposed improvements to the Fair Student Funding (FSF) formula for the 2023-2024 school year in an effort to increase equity in the formula. The improvements being announced today are in direct response to the recommendations made by the Fair Student Funding Working Group in November 2022. The FSF formula funds approximately two-thirds of community district school budgets and specifically funds schools based on their students' needs.

New York City public schools will propose the following changes:

An additional weight for students in temporary housing to schools serving these students, including recent asylum-seeking students. An additional weight for schools that have higher concentrations of students with needs, including students in poverty, students with disabilities, and English language learners.

Building on another one of the challenges the working group identified, New York City public schools will also be enhancing the budget appeals process to ensure it is responsive to schools' special education staffing needs. Finally, New York City public schools will be focusing intentionally on increasing transparency and community engagement regarding the FSF formula and school budgets more broadly. The proposed weight changes will go to the Panel for Educational Policy for review.

In July 2022, the working group convened in response to Chancellor Banks' call for public engagement to examine the FSF formula. The working group — led by two co-chairs, Alliance for Quality Education Executive Director Jasmine Gripper and Ed Trust-New York Executive Director Dr. Dia Bryant — engaged in a robust process for three months, meeting with national experts, conducting community engagement sessions, and considering specific policy improvements and their impact on New York City schools and communities. In November 2022, the working group released their report for consideration by the chancellor.

More specifically, New York City public schools are recommending these changes:

Adding a student in temporary housing weight to the FSF formula:

- This weight is a groundbreaking shift in how schools allocate resources to public school students, with this specific focus on supporting students who reside in temporary housing.
- This funding will support students in asylum-seeking families who are living in temporary housing — providing additional resources to the schools that are taking them in.
- This change is expected to drive approximately \$45 million in funding, impacting students in temporary housing across all five boroughs.

Adding a concentration weight to the FSF formula:

- Schools that serve higher concentrations of students with needs (such as students living in poverty, students with disabilities, and English language learners) may require additional resources to provide high-quality educational opportunities to their students.
- This change is expected to drive over \$45 million in funding to schools in all five boroughs and would impact over 300 schools across the city serving the highest concentration of neediest students.

Ensuring the budget appeals process is responsive to special education programming needs:

- Throughout the engagement sessions, a significant focus of the working group was the critical need for schools to be able to meet the staffing needs of students with disabilities in a general education setting. Through the budget appeals process, New York City public schools will refine the budget appeals process to prioritize supporting schools in meeting these needs.

Increasing budget transparency for families, students, and the public:

- From the working group and their community engagement sessions, New York City public schools heard concerns over a lack of transparency and understanding in how to fund schools, how the formula works, and what funds are available at the school level.

New York City public schools are now taking steps to address this by improving transparency around school budgets and its own budget through additional, more accessible information available on its website and through its own external engagement process.

Mayor's Office of Contract Services (MOCS) Reported: MOCS launched Getting Started: Contracting with NYC vendor training monthly webinar series. The webinar series is designed to assist first-time City Contractors and organizations with enrolling in PASSPort and finding opportunities. Upcoming 2023 Vendor Training Sessions · Getting Started: Discretionary Funding Wednesday, February 15, 2023 · Getting Started: Completing Award Tasks Wednesday, March 15, 2023 Click [here](#) to register! Updates from MOCS Learning & Development Team

Click [here](#) for the webinar schedule and to register!

Your Path to Contracting with the City

In **September 2022**, MOCS launched [Your Path to Contracting with the City](#), a vendor roadmap designed to demystify New York City's procurement process. The roadmap serves as a high-level, step-by-step guide to assist vendors on their contracting journey.

M/WBE Non-Competitive Procurement Method \$1 Million Threshold Increase

In **October 2022**, Governor Kathy Hochul signed [legislation A.10459/S.9351](#) increasing opportunities for Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises (M/WBEs) to contract with the City. By increasing the threshold limit of City contracts that can utilize the City's M/WBE Non-Competitive Procurement Method from \$500,000 to \$1,000,000, M/WBEs will now be able to more effectively compete for larger contracts.

As of **January 12, 2023**, City agencies can now procure goods, services and construction up to \$1,000,000 using the Non-Competitive Procurement Method.

ConEdison Reported: Project by project, business customers have reduced their energy consumption by more than 1 million megawatt hours through Con Edison's Small and Medium Business Program. That's a milestone equal to enough electricity to keep the lights in the theaters, restaurants, shops, and offices throughout Times Square shining brightly for **two** years.

When Con Edison started its [Small and Medium Business Program](#) in the five boroughs and Westchester in 2010, it focused on simple improvements such as installing LED lighting. Currently, the program offers more comprehensive measures, including lighting and controls, heating, ventilation and cooling (HVAC) equipment, hot water systems, building envelope, energy management systems, and refrigeration upgrades.

The program has provided more than 33,000 business customers almost \$238 million in incentives for nearly 49,000 projects.

Con Edison's clean energy programs play an integral role in helping business customers understand their electrification needs, and finding the right incentive to make their clean energy goals affordable. This work is an important part of Con Edison's [Clean Energy Commitment](#).

To help achieve New York's ambitious climate goals, Con Edison is building a Clean Energy Network to advance market transformation and optimize the efforts of stakeholders, contractors, distributors, manufacturers, architecture and engineering design firms, technology providers, financiers, educators, and key industry professional organizations, to benefit New Yorkers.

Con Edison is working to help NYC businesses meet their energy efficiency requirements under Local Law 97.

That law is part of the city's ambitious plan to make NYC carbon neutral by 2050. It applies a carbon emissions limit for businesses that own a single building over 25,000 square feet, or multiple building units with more than 50,000 combined square feet. The first emissions compliance deadline is 2024.

Con Edison offers energy efficiency saving and incentive programs for all kinds of businesses from [large commercial and industrial customers](#) to [multifamily building owners](#) to [apartment dwellers and homeowners](#).

DEP Reported: In preparation for a multi-month shutdown of New York City's Delaware Aqueduct planned for later this year, NYC DEP has begun slowly introducing water from the Croton system into the city's supply of tap water. NYC DEP operates 19 protected reservoirs spread across three separate water supply systems located in the Catskills and Hudson Valley. Water sourced from each system, and each reservoir within each of those three distinct systems, may taste slightly different to some people. However, New Yorkers can rest assured because NYC DEP scientists test the City's tap water approximately 2,000 times every single day of the year to ensure it remains safe and of the highest quality. Any New Yorkers with concerns about their tap water should report it to 311 so NYC DEP water quality scientists can investigate. More information on the City's water distribution system and source water can be found [here](#).

Additional information on the complex repair of the City's Delaware Aqueduct, which conveys approximately half of the water consumed in the city each day, can be found [here](#).

MTA Reported: The Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) announced a significant expansion of the citywide open stroller pilot program to additional buses serving all five boroughs. The expansion follows a successful pilot program launched in September, with a dedicated open stroller space introduced on 142 buses serving the M31, B1, Bx23, Q50, Q12, S53, and S93 routes. The open stroller program will be expanded to at least 1,000 buses serving additional routes in all five boroughs. The routes to be served by this expansion are currently being determined by New York City Transit and will be announced in the coming weeks.

The expansion will bring stroller access to at least 1,000 buses, including the initial 142 buses involved in the pilot, serving a mix of local and select bus routes. The two seat options -- seat removal versus the flip-up seating space -- will continue be evaluated to identify the best solution and any potential safety concerns. New York City Transit is also exploring designated stroller

spaces being incorporated in all new buses.

The pilot also involved extensive customer engagement and ridership analysis. The MTA collected customer feedback on the open stroller pilot via a variety of methods following the commencement of the pilot, with overwhelmingly positive responses. In addition, bus operators on routes participating in the open stroller pilot were asked to record stroller usage, with over 2,500 stroller journeys tallied since the beginning of the pilot.

Stroller demand was highest on the B1 and the S53 routes. Customers and operators alike have reported faster and easier boarding experiences, more comfortable bus rides, and more positive interactions with fellow riders on the open stroller pilot routes.

The stroller space will allow customers with young children to board and ride the bus without needing to fold their stroller first. As with the current pilot, the stroller space on the buses in the pilot expansion will be either an open space near the rear door, or a space created by flipping up two side-by-side seats, depending on the bus model.

The additional buses participating in the open stroller program will be identified with a stroller decal on the outside of the bus that customers can easily see before boarding. Once inside the bus, the designated space will be identified with a similar decal.

The designated open stroller spaces are entirely separate from existing priority seating for bus riders with disabilities. A bus customer boarding with a wheelchair will still have the same number of designated spaces.

Office of Emergency Management Reported: Emergency Management Department welcomes 21 community networks across the city into the Strengthening Communities program. Each community network will receive a \$40,000 grant to build a local emergency preparedness plan for their community. These networks represent a wide range of community groups that offer important services in areas most deeply affected by such emergencies as the COVID-19 pandemic and coastal storms. These local leaders will be provided resources and training to build emergency preparedness plans to better support their communities before and after an emergency. The 21 participating networks will begin a rigorous five-month educational experience to develop a local community emergency plan.

This brings the total number of networks participating in the program to 37, with seven networks completing the inaugural program in 2020 and nine networks completing the program in 2021. Orientation for the new members was held on January 19. The training program focuses on five key areas to build an emergency plan specific to their communities:

- Create a needs assessment.
- Design community maps of the area where they provide services.
- Build a directory of resources for after an emergency.

- Prepare a communications strategy to message their community and staff before, during, and after emergencies.
- Design plans on how to manage donations and accept volunteers.

The 21 grant recipients reflect New York City's diverse communities and showcase invaluable support provided by community organizations to the public. These participants will join the network of community partners coordinated through NYC Emergency Management's community preparedness unit.

The networks are:

Brooklyn

- Coalition of Pakistani Community Organizations Active in Disasters
- BHRAGS Alliance
- Coney Island Beautification Project
- Red Hook Initiative
- United Jewish Organizations of Williamsburg, Inc.
- Yemeni American Merchants Association

Bronx

- East Bronx COAD
- The Groundswell Project
- Gambian Youth Organization.

Citywide

- Independent Living Center Coalition for Emergency Preparedness (ILCCEP)
- Muslim Community Network (MCN)

Manhattan

- Athletes Artists Activists
- East Harlem COAD
- NAACP MID- Manhattan
- United SIKHS.

Queens

- Community Inclusion & Development Alliance (CIDA)
- Korean Community Services of Metropolitan New York
- Project New Yorker
- Woodside on the Move

Staten Island

- Community Partnership Initiative
- Staten Island Urban Center

Community networks interested in becoming a partner can find out more information about the Strengthening Communities program by checking out the [latest video](#) or visiting nyc.gov/communitypreparedness.

Department of City Planning (DCP) Reported: Director Dan Garodnick recently announced that 30 supermarkets have opened under the City’s [Food Retail Expansion to Support Health \(“FRESH”\) program](#), which is now serving 1.2 million New Yorkers that live within a half-mile of a store and previously had few greengrocer options. This citywide program, which launched in 2009, already has an additional 21 FRESH stores in the pipeline, which will serve an additional 300,000 people who currently do not have easy access to fresh food.

FRESH lessens health disparities across NYC by creating opportunities for accessible healthy food in underserved neighborhoods through zoning and tax benefits. The report shows that:

- FRESH has incentivized the development of 51 supermarkets, 30 of which have already opened, in neighborhoods from Crown Heights in Brooklyn, to Harlem in Manhattan, to Morrisania in the Bronx. (Full list in [report](#).);
- 21 stores are in development following a successful expansion of the program in 2021, but are not yet open.

FRESH gives property owners the right to construct slightly larger buildings in mixed residential and commercial districts, and in light manufacturing districts, if they include a FRESH supermarket.

To reach more New Yorkers, the City, with strong support from the City Council, expanded the FRESH zoning incentive to 11 additional underserved communities, from the 20 Community Districts it originally served. Since the program’s expansion, five applications for FRESH supermarkets have been submitted in the newly expanded areas, part of the 21 stores in development. This expansion was a key step to reducing health inequities that were further heightened by the COVID-19 pandemic.

FRESH was created in response to the citywide study [Going to Market](#), which highlighted the widespread shortage of neighborhood grocery stores providing fresh food options in many New York City communities. The FRESH expansion grew out of a 2018 DCP analysis emphasizing the need to grow the program to more areas.

In 2019, DCP also launched the interactive [Supermarket Needs Index](#) to inform communities of nearby grocery stores and supermarkets and show which neighborhoods remain underserved.

DID YOU KNOW:

Alternate side parking will be suspended on the following dates:

- Monday, Feb 13th - Lincoln's Birthday Observed
- Monday, Feb 20th - Presidents' Day
- Wednesday, Feb 22nd, Religious Observance - Ash Wednesday

Parking meters remain in effect

Respectfully Submitted by:

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