

**Manhattan Borough President's Response to the Mayor's
Executive Budget**

Fiscal Year 2027

June 2026



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Manhattan Borough President

Fiscal Year 2027 Manhattan Borough President Response to the Executive Budget

Section 251 of the New York City Charter requires each Borough President to submit to the Mayor and the Council a response to the Mayor's Executive Budget. In accordance with this section, the Manhattan Borough President submits the following statement.

Manhattan is a borough of 1.6 million people, one of the most densely populated and economically productive places on earth, and the world's cultural capital. It is also, at this moment, a borough facing three simultaneous pressures: a federal government engaged in the largest dismantling of the social safety net in a generation; a cost-of-living crisis pushing working families, nonprofits, artists, and small businesses to the margins of the city they have built; and an inherited fiscal crisis that, for the first time in years, is finally being confronted honestly.

The borough's cost-of-living data bear this out. Manhattan's average rent hit \$5,711 a month as of January, an all-time high.¹ Manhattan's median monthly rent exceeded \$5,000 for the first time in April 2026.² Roughly two-thirds of Manhattan residents are renters; more than half are rent-burdened, spending more than 30% of their income on housing.³ Storefront vacancy across Manhattan stood at 13.43% as of late 2025.⁴ Nearly one in four New Yorkers lives near or below the federal poverty line.⁵ Job creation outside healthcare has stalled.⁶

These pressures are converging with the federal government's most aggressive assault on New York City's social infrastructure in decades. The One Big Beautiful Bill Act enacted more than \$1 trillion in Medicaid and SNAP cuts over ten years.⁷ New SNAP work requirements took effect March 1, 2026, immediately affecting an estimated 123,000 New Yorkers; benefit losses began in

¹ *Elliman Report: Manhattan, Brooklyn & Queens Rentals 1-2026*, Miller Samuel Real Estate Appraisers and Consultants, February 12, 2026, <https://millersamuel.com/reports/elliman-report-manhattan-brooklyn-queens-rentals-1-2026/>.

² *NYC Residential Rental Market Report: April 2026*, The Corcoran Group, May 15, 2026, <https://inhabit.corcoran.com/nyc-residential-rental-market-report-april-2026/>.

³ Former New York City Comptroller Brad Lander, *Spotlight: New York City's Rental Housing Market*, January 17, 2024, <https://comptroller.nyc.gov/reports/spotlight-new-york-citys-rental-housing-market/>.

⁴ Manhattan Chamber of Commerce, "The State of Manhattan Business," December 2025, <https://www.manhattancc.org/2025/12/18/chamber-releases-data-on-local-economy-and-health-of-storefront-businesses/>.

⁵ *Robin Hood Annual Poverty Tracker Report*, Robin Hood, 2025, <https://robinhood.org/news/robin-hood-annual-poverty-tracker-report-shows-25-overall-poverty-rate-in-new-york-city-climbing-beyond-record-highs-observed-in-2022/>.

⁶ Former New York City Comptroller Brad Lander, *What Is Going on with NYC Jobs?* 2025, <https://comptroller.nyc.gov/reports/what-is-going-on-with-nyc-jobs/>.

⁷ "\$1 Trillion in Medicaid Cuts, \$1 Trillion in Tax Giveaways: The One Big Beautiful Bill's Budget Math," Center for American Progress, 2026, <https://www.americanprogress.org/article/1-trillion-in-medicaid-cuts-1-trillion-in-tax-giveaways-for-the-richest-1-percent-the-one-big-beautiful-bills-budget-math/>; H.R.1, One Big Beautiful Bill Act, Public Law 119-21, enacted July 4, 2025, <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-bill/1>.

June as three-month allotments expired.⁸ The Essential Plan restructuring will eliminate no-cost health coverage for approximately 233,000 New York City residents beginning July 1, 2026.⁹ Homeland Security personnel have conducted 5,567 arrests in the New York City area between January 20, 2025 and March 10, 2026, a 71% increase, including personnel who initially identified themselves as FDNY officers to gain access to City shelters.¹⁰ More than \$100 million in DOHMH public health grants have been rescinded.¹¹

The effects of these pressures are already evident in housing courts, shelter intake offices, school classrooms, NYCHA developments, and senior centers across every Manhattan community district.

Against this backdrop, Mayor Mamdani's FY2027 Executive Budget is a consequential improvement in New York City's fiscal position, made possible in large part by State partnership. The pied-à-terre tax generates \$500 million annually in new, recurring, progressive revenue. The Chief Savings Officers program delivered \$1.77 billion in combined FY2026-FY2027 savings, matching its two-year target. Six chronically underbudgeted need cliffs (shelter, cash assistance, rental assistance, special education due process, MTA subsidy, and judgments and claims) have been properly baselined, ending years of underbudgeting that forced repeated mid-year supplements. The Rainy Day Fund is steady at \$2 billion and the Retiree Health Benefits Trust to \$5.2 billion. New York State contributed \$352 million in direct aid, authorized \$3.2 billion through State authorizations, and enacted the pied-à-terre tax. These commitments reflect effective State-City partnership. But the work is not finished. Outyear gaps grow to \$8.76 billion in FY2028, \$9.49 billion in FY2029, and \$9.13 billion in FY2030.¹²

The Office of the Manhattan Borough President (MBPO) submits this response in recognition of both the progress made and the risks that remain. MBPO commends Mayor Mamdani, City Council Speaker Menin, City Comptroller Levine, and the City and State Legislature for the partnership that made FY2027 workable. The recommendations that follow are specific and actionable, organized by policy area, to close the remaining gaps, protect the reserves that have been restored, and ensure that the City's investments in housing, health, transit, education,

⁸ NYC Mayor's Public Engagement Unit, "Oh SNAP! New Work Requirements,"

<https://www.nyc.gov/site/mayorspeu/resources/oh-snap-new-work-requirements.page> (accessed June 18, 2026).

⁹ New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Testimony of Commissioner Ashwin Vasan before the New York City Council, June 5, 2026. The 233,000 figure reflects NYC residents specifically; statewide, approximately 450,000 enrollees face loss of coverage.

¹⁰ Mayor's Executive Order 13 Report of Audit Findings and Recommendations, City of New York, May 22, 2026, pp. 2, 6.

¹¹ New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, "NYC DOH Files Declaration Challenging Termination of Federal Infectious Disease Prevention Program Grants," March 2025, <https://www.nyc.gov/site/doh/about/press/pr2025/nyc-doh-challenging-termination-of-fed-infectious-disease-grants.page>.

¹² Mark Levine, *Comments on New York City's Executive Budget for Fiscal Year 2027 and Financial Plan for Fiscal Years 2026-2030*, New York City Comptroller, June 9, 2026, <https://comptroller.nyc.gov/reports/comments-on-new-york-citys-executive-budget-for-fiscal-year-2027/>.

public safety, open space, arts, and the communities that make Manhattan what it is are not sacrificed to a federal government intent on withdrawing from its obligations to New Yorkers.

I. CLOSING THE BUDGET GAP / SAVINGS & EFFICIENCY

The Mayor's FY2027 Executive Budget resolves the immediate fiscal crisis through a combination of recurring new revenue, pension restructuring, and agency savings, producing a budget that is balanced on its face in FY2027. The Comptroller's Office, however, projects a \$1.65 billion gap remaining in FY2027, and outyear gaps of \$8.76 billion (FY2028), \$9.49 billion (FY2029), and \$9.13 billion (FY2030).¹³

The Executive Budget and MBPO's Asks

The Executive Budget moved substantially in the direction MBPO's preliminary response urged.

- **Progressive new revenue:** The pied-à-terre tax (\$500 million annually), legislation that Manhattan Borough President Hoylman-Sigal originally drafted and sponsored in the State Senate, was a priority request for MBPO and exactly the kind of recurring, progressive revenue our city needs.
- **Institutionalized agency savings:** The Chief Savings Officers program delivered \$1.77 billion in combined FY2026-FY2027 savings, and six chronically underbudgeted need cliffs were baselined with reserves replenished after years of drawdown.
- **Reverse State cost-shifting:** Partially addressed; certain paratransit and foster-care cost shifts continue.

The FY2027 balance rests in part on one-time and contingent measures, including pension re-amortization, that do not reduce the outyear gaps and in some cases remain subject to approval. The Executive Budget also reserves only about half the funding typically needed to cover new labor contracts, leaving a shortfall that will require resolution before or at adoption. Federal funding reductions continue to create compounding pressure on City-funded programs, with risks to Medicaid, housing assistance, and other grant-funded services not fully reflected in the financial plan. MBPO commends Comptroller Levine and Mayor Mamdani for their joint call, issued June 17, for the Charter Revision Commission to enshrine formal funding rules and a clear target for the Rainy Day Fund in the City Charter. Building reserve discipline into the Charter is the right response to a financial plan carrying this level of outyear risk, and MBPO urges the Commission to act on it.

MBPO Recommendations:

A. Pension Re-amortization

¹³ Mark Levine, *Comments on New York City's Executive Budget for Fiscal Year 2027 and Financial Plan for Fiscal Years 2026-2030*, New York City Comptroller, June 9, 2026, <https://comptroller.nyc.gov/reports/comments-on-new-york-citys-executive-budget-for-fiscal-year-2027/>.

Pension re-amortization generates \$1.64 billion in one-time FY2027 savings. Board approvals are substantially in place, and the measure is not expected to affect city workers' pension benefits. MBPO notes, however, that as a one-time measure, it does not reduce outyear gaps.¹⁴ MBPO urges the Administration to confirm, at adoption, the current approval status of each pension board and to present a contingency plan for the scenario in which full approval is not obtained.

B. Unsubstantiated Savings

Three cost containment initiatives totaling \$668 million in FY2027 (CityFHEPS, shelter, and special education due process) have been characterized by the Comptroller's Office as potential risks, noting that the Administration has provided insufficient detail on how the savings will be achieved.¹⁵ MBPO asks OMB to present, at adoption, specific operational milestones, quarterly benchmarks, and agency-level accountability mechanisms for each initiative so that the Council and MBPO can monitor whether the savings are materializing before a mid-year gap emerges.

C. MTA Bus Subsidy Reduction

The \$200 million one-time reduction in the City's MTA bus subsidy was not included in the State's Enacted Budget and requires approval by the MTA Board before it can be treated as a confirmed saving.¹⁶ MBPO asks the Administration to disclose the status of MTA Board discussions at adoption. Until that approval is secured, the Executive Budget contains a \$200 million unresolved gap.

D. Rainy Day Fund and Fiscal Cushion

The fiscal cushion has fallen from \$12.43 billion at the start of FY2026 to an estimated \$8.36 billion at the start of FY2027. The General Reserve sits at the statutory minimum of \$100 million.¹⁷ MBPO urges the Council and Administration to treat the restored reserves as off-limits for the adopted budget. MBPO supports the Mayor's and the Comptroller's call for a formal rainy day fund policy with a target balance of at least 10% of tax revenues (\$8.48 billion) and urges the Charter Revision Commission to enshrine this requirement in the City Charter.

E. State Cost-Shifting

New York City generates 55.6% of State revenues and receives only 41.7% back.¹⁸ This inequity has been compounded by years of State cost-shifting. The City's paratransit reimbursement share has been raised from 50% to 80% of operating costs (\$165 million annually), and the City's foster care share is rising from approximately 30% to a projected 60% (\$523 million in FY2027).¹⁹ MBPO continues to press Albany to freeze

¹⁴ Mark Levine, *Comments on New York City's Executive Budget for Fiscal Year 2027 and Financial Plan for Fiscal Years 2026–2030*, New York City Comptroller, June 9, 2026, <https://comptroller.nyc.gov/reports/comments-on-new-york-citys-executive-budget-for-fiscal-year-2027/>.

¹⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 29.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 33.

¹⁷ *Ibid.*, pp. 154–155.

¹⁸ *Fiscal Flows: How Much Does New York City Pay to Albany?*, CUNY Institute for State and Local Governance, March 2026, <https://islg.cuny.edu/s/Fiscal-Flows-CUNY-ISLG-March-2026-Update.pdf>.

¹⁹ Independent Budget Office (IBO), *Analysis of the Mayor's Preliminary Budget for 2027*, March 2026, <https://www.ibo.nyc.gov/assets/ibo/downloads/pdf/city-budget-overview/2026/2026-march-analysis-of-the-2027-preliminary-budget.pdf>.

further cost-shifting and to restore fiscal equity to New York City for the duration of the financial plan period.

F. Madison Square Garden Property Tax Exemption

New York City forgoes approximately \$42 million annually through a permanent property tax exemption granted to Madison Square Garden, a highly profitable private venue occupying some of the most valuable real estate on earth.²⁰ There is no public interest justification for a permanent, unconditional subsidy to a single for-profit entity. MBPO urges the City to renew its request to Albany to repeal this exemption.

G. Foundation Aid Weights

The Enacted State Budget adjusted two weights in the Foundation Aid formula, for English language learners and for students experiencing homelessness or in foster care, generating additional aid for City schools. MBPO welcomes these adjustments and urges Albany to see them through to their full targets: a stronger English Language Learner weight, which IBO estimates would generate approximately \$69 million for City schools; a stronger weight for students in temporary housing and foster care; and a Regional Cost Index correction to reflect the true cost of educating students in New York City.²¹

II. HOUSING

Affordable housing is one of Manhattan's most pressing public policy challenges. Manhattan's average rent hit \$5,711 a month as of January, an all-time high.²² Manhattan's median monthly rent exceeded \$5,000 for the first time in April 2026.²³ Roughly two-thirds of Manhattan residents are renters, more than half are rent-burdened, and a quarter or more are severely rent-burdened, spending over half their income on housing.²⁴ Failing to address the housing shortage could cost the region as many as 730,000 jobs and cumulatively nearly \$1 trillion in lost economic output by 2035.²⁵

The Executive Budget and MBPO's Asks

The Executive Budget's five-year capital plan dedicates \$22 billion to housing, 18.8% of the \$117.1 billion total, alongside new FY2027 expense investments that include a NYCHA

²⁰ Independent Budget Office (IBO), *An Examination of the Madison Square Garden Property Tax Exemption*, July 2023, p. v, <https://www.ibo.nyc.ny.us/iboreports/an-examination-of-the-madison-square-garden-property-tax-exemption-july-2023.pdf>.

²¹ Independent Budget Office (IBO), *Analysis of the 2027 Executive Budget and 2026–2030 Financial Plan*, June 1, 2026, p. 7; Independent Budget Office (IBO), *Analysis of the 2027 Preliminary Budget and 2026–2030 Financial Plan*, March 24, 2026, p. 5.

²² *Elliman Report: Manhattan, Brooklyn & Queens Rentals 1-2026*, Miller Samuel Real Estate Appraisers and Consultants, February 12, 2026, <https://millersamuel.com/reports/elliman-report-manhattan-brooklyn-queens-rentals-1-2026/>.

²³ *NYC Residential Rental Market Report: April 2026*, The Corcoran Group, May 15, 2026, <https://inhabit.corcoran.com/nyc-residential-rental-market-report-april-2026/>.

²⁴ Former New York City Comptroller Brad Lander, *Spotlight: New York City's Rental Housing Market*, January 17, 2024, <https://comptroller.nyc.gov/reports/spotlight-new-york-citys-rental-housing-market/>.

²⁵ *The Affordability Squeeze: Impact of Housing Undersupply on the Tri-state Region*, Regional Plan Association, May 2024, <https://rpa.org/work/reports/impacts-ny-housing-crisis>.

operations package (\$34.5 million) and a baselined Code Enforcement expansion (\$3 million annually). However, the Comptroller's Office raised an execution risk. HPD committed only 76.6% of its planned capital in FY2025 and must increase its commitment pace by 84% in FY2026 and 73% in FY2027 to meet the May Plan. Capital that is authorized but never committed does not produce housing.

The budget's response to MBPO's preliminary housing asks was uneven.

- **HPD capital:** MBPO sought at least \$4 billion a year. The budget meets that in FY2027 and FY2028 (\$4.9 billion and \$4.6 billion), then falls to \$2.5 billion and \$2.3 billion by FY2030 with no committed path.
- **Right to Counsel:** MBPO called for at least \$350 million in additional funding. The budget funds it at \$194.4 million, rising to \$218.7 million from FY2028.
- **NYCHA investment:** \$5.6 billion over five years, including \$256 million for vacant-unit turnover, responds to MBPO's preservation and occupancy asks.
- **SPEED Task Force and DCP rezoning capacity:** Both were explicitly requested and are funded, at roughly \$4.7 million and \$1.5 million respectively.²⁶
- **Affordable Housing Opportunity Navigator:** Requested by MBPO; not funded.

MBPO Recommendations:

A. HPD Capital Commitment and Pipeline

MBPO commends the Administration for meeting MBPO's call for at least \$4 billion annually in HPD capital in FY2027 and FY2028. However, the Comptroller's analysis reveals that HPD committed only 76.6% of its planned capital in FY2025 and must increase its actual commitment pace by 84% in FY2026 and 73% in FY2027 to meet the May Plan.²⁷ MBPO urges the Administration to present, at adoption, a staffing and operational plan for HPD demonstrating that HPD has the staffing and procurement capacity to commit the funds at these levels. MBPO also urges the Administration to present a credible path to maintaining the \$4 billion annual HPD capital threshold through FY2030. The drop from \$4.9 billion in FY2027 to \$2.5 billion in FY2029 and \$2.3 billion in FY2030 threatens to disrupt the pipeline that FY2027-FY2028 investments are designed to build.

B. BSA

MBPO urges the Administration to provide dedicated new resources to the Board of Standards and Appeals commensurate with its expanded workload under the 2025 City Charter amendments. A fast-track capital program is only as fast as its slowest approval step.

C. Right to Counsel

²⁶ "Mamdani Releases Executive Budget with Increases to Housing Funding," New York Housing Conference, May 14, 2026, <https://thenyh.org/2026/05/14/mamdani-releases-executive-budget-with-increases-to-housing-funding/>.

²⁷ Mark Levine, *Comments on New York City's Executive Budget for Fiscal Year 2027 and Financial Plan for Fiscal Years 2026-2030*, New York City Comptroller, June 9, 2026, p. 159.

Citywide tenant representation in housing court has fallen from 71% in 2021 to 42% in 2024.²⁸ When adequately funded, at least 89% of tenants with a Right to Counsel attorney remain in their homes, and eviction filings for low-income tenants fall by nearly half.²⁹ The Executive Budget funds Right to Counsel at \$194.4 million in FY2027, growing to a \$218.7 million baseline from FY2028, an expansion but still far below MBPO's call for at least \$350 million in additional funding. With federal legal services funding under attack, the City's Right to Counsel investment must anticipate a federal gap. MBPO urges the Administration and Council to fund Right to Counsel at a level commensurate with the federal threat, and to identify a path to at least \$350 million in additional annual funding by the FY2028 adopted budget.

D. Affordable Housing Opportunity Navigator

MBPO renews its call for an Affordable Housing Opportunity Navigator, a funded program at HPD providing site-level opportunity mapping, a plain-language subsidy stacking guide, a pipeline transparency dashboard, and staffed pre-development technical assistance for Minority- and Women-Owned Business Enterprise (MWBE) and mission-driven developers. This program was not funded in the Executive Budget. Small developers should not need a team of consultants to access City subsidy programs.

E. Office-to-Residential Conversions

The single largest barrier to office-to-residential conversion in Manhattan remains the operable windows requirement, which the national building standard does not require. MBPO urges Albany to pass S9742A, legislation that Manhattan Borough President Hoylman-Sigal drafted and sponsored in the State Senate, to enable mechanical ventilation as an alternative to operable windows, aligning New York with the national standard. This single regulatory change would unlock stalled conversion projects and add thousands of units to the pipeline without a dollar of City capital.

F. Mitchell-Lama Preservation

The Executive Budget does not include a standalone Mitchell-Lama preservation line. MBPO asks the Administration to identify, at adoption, which Mitchell-Lama buildings in the preservation pipeline are at risk of deregulation or deterioration before FY2028 and what the City's plan is for each.

G. NYCHA

Manhattan is home to 77 NYCHA developments, housing 91,010 Manhattanites, an irreplaceable source of affordable housing for low-income residents.³⁰ A 2023 Physical Needs Assessment found that NYCHA requires \$78 billion over two decades to reach a state of good repair.³¹ MBPO welcomes the additional NYCHA capital commitments in

²⁸ Former New York City Comptroller Brad Lander, *Evictions Up, Representation Down: New York City's Housing Court Crisis*, May 2, 2025, <https://comptroller.nyc.gov/reports/evictions-up-representation-down/>.

²⁹ Ibid.

³⁰ New York City Housing Authority, *NYCHA Fact Sheet 2025*, 2025, https://www.nyc.gov/assets/nycha/downloads/pdf/NYCHA_Fact_Sheet.pdf.

³¹ New York City Housing Authority, *Physical Needs Assessment 2023*, July 2023.

the Capital Plan and urges the City to sustain and expand these investments in the coming years.

Average NYCHA vacant unit turnaround time peaked at 424 days in FY2024 and stood at 350 days through April FY2026, still far above what is acceptable for a public housing authority of NYCHA's scale.³²

MBPO urges the Administration to publish, at adoption, the number of NYCHA vacant units targeted for return to service in FY2027 and the quarterly milestones that will demonstrate the \$256 million investment is on track. MBPO also asks the Administration to conduct a full assessment of federal impacts on NYCHA operations and capital (including potential loss of federal vouchers and capital grants), and to present contingency planning at adoption.

MBPO is also concerned that the capital plan includes no NYCHA preservation funding beyond FY2028, leaving the long-term rehabilitation needs of the portfolio without a committed funding path as federal capital support grows more uncertain. MBPO urges the Administration to present, at adoption, a plan for sustaining NYCHA preservation investment in FY2029 and FY2030.

H. HUD Rule FR-6524-P-01: Mixed-Immigration-Status Families

The proposed HUD rule would terminate housing assistance for mixed-immigration-status families, potentially displacing approximately 11,000 New Yorkers (including approximately 5,000 children) from NYCHA and HPD-assisted housing.³³ MBPO urges the City to conduct a full impact assessment identifying the specific developments, families, and children affected, with a displacement mitigation plan ready before the rule takes effect.

I. Emergency Housing Voucher Termination

Federal termination of the Emergency Housing Voucher (EHV) program puts approximately 7,200 NYCHA and HPD voucher-holders at immediate risk of losing rental assistance.³⁴ MBPO urges the Administration to identify, at adoption, a city-funded replacement or bridge mechanism for current EHV holders facing voucher loss, and to publish a timeline for how these households will be protected from displacement.

III. HEALTHCARE / PUBLIC HEALTH

New York City spent decades building a public health infrastructure. The federal government is now dismantling its financial foundation. The consequences are immediate and falling hardest on the New Yorkers least able to absorb them.

The Executive Budget and MBPO's Asks

³² New York City Council Finance Division, *Report on Fiscal 2027 Executive Budget: New York City Housing Authority*, June 2026.

³³ Daniel Parra, "HUD Rule Would Evict 11,000 NYC Public Housing Kids," *City Limits*, February 25, 2026.

³⁴ Samantha Maldonado, "NYC's NYCHA Section 8 Voucher Waitlist Is About to Open for the First Time in a Decade," *The City*, March 24, 2026.

The Executive Budget's new public-health investments include Disease Outbreak Resilience (\$11.3 million, \$17.6 million combined with State), Stop TB NYC (\$4.6 million baselined), Sexual Health Clinics (\$3.2 million for four new locations), and a Health and Affordability Corps (\$3 million in city funds, 46 positions). The City's subsidy to Health + Hospitals (H+H) is \$1.746 billion in FY2027. The FY2027 budget also captures a one-time \$250 million debt service reimbursement paid by H+H to the City, accelerated to offset the City's pension re-amortization savings, that does not recur after FY2027.³⁵

The Comptroller's Office projects H+H's ending cash balance falling from \$784 million at the end of FY2026 to \$127 million by 2030, driven primarily by OBBBA-related Medicaid changes, with an estimated 750,000 New York City Medicaid enrollees expected to lose coverage through work requirements and more frequent recertifications in 2027.³⁶

The budget responds to MBPO's preliminary healthcare asks only in part.

- **Federal grant replacement:** The disease-outbreak, TB, and sexual-health investments replace only a fraction of the more than \$100 million in rescinded DOHMH grants MBPO asked the City to backfill.
- **Essential Plan backstop:** Not funded; 233,000 New Yorkers lose no-cost coverage beginning July 1, 2026.

MBPO Recommendations:

A. H+H Cash Position and Medicaid Risk

H+H's projected ending cash balance of \$127 million by 2030 is not an adequate buffer for a health system serving 1.4 million patients. OBBBA's work requirements and more frequent Medicaid recertifications are projected to affect 750,000 New York City Medicaid enrollees beginning in 2027.³⁷ MBPO asks the Administration to develop a State-City response plan for the Medicaid enrollment cliff before it takes effect, and to publish a contingency protocol for H+H in the event that Medicaid rate cuts or federal grant terminations exceed H+H's available cash reserves.

B. Essential Plan Coverage Loss

Due to federal funding cuts, the State submitted a proposal to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to undo the Essential Plan expansion for individuals between 200-250% FPL, eliminating no-cost health insurance for approximately 233,000 New York City residents beginning July 1, 2026.³⁸ MBPO urges the Administration to identify city-level coverage backstops for Essential Plan enrollees losing coverage this

³⁵ Mark Levine, *Comments on New York City's Executive Budget for Fiscal Year 2027 and Financial Plan for Fiscal Years 2026-2030*, New York City Comptroller, June 9, 2026, p. 151.

³⁶ Mark Levine, *Comments on New York City's Executive Budget for Fiscal Year 2027 and Financial Plan for Fiscal Years 2026-2030*, New York City Comptroller, June 9, 2026, <https://comptroller.nyc.gov/reports/comments-on-new-york-citys-executive-budget-for-fiscal-year-2027/>.

³⁷ Ibid.

³⁸ Ibid.; New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Executive Budget Hearing Transcript, New York City Council, June 5, 2026 (233,000 figure reflects NYC residents specifically).

summer, and to publish a timeline and enrollment projection for each available alternative.

C. Reproductive Health and Gender-Affirming Care

The Executive Budget baselines \$5 million for abortion access services (\$1 million for the Abortion Access Hub and \$4 million for medication abortion at public health clinics), and MBPO urges the Administration to expand that investment as federal Medicaid restrictions take effect and private providers contract. MBPO commends the Administration for opening a new DOHMH clinic in Corona offering gender-affirming hormone therapy for adults, which Commissioner Martin described as one of the first times a public health department has taken this step. MBPO urges the City to build on that investment by expanding gender-affirming care to locations in Manhattan, developing a concrete plan and timeline for youth gender-affirming care, and establishing an explicit, baselined city budget line for these services so they are protected at adoption and in future fiscal years.

D. Nurse-to-Patient Staffing Ratio

MBPO urges the Administration to establish and fund a 1:2 nurse-to-patient staffing ratio at H+H facilities. Public hospitals are too often understaffed; this standard is both a patient safety measure and a workforce retention tool in a labor market where H+H competes with private hospitals for nurses.

E. HASA Emergency Shelters

The City Council's General Welfare Committee identified a \$39.6 million need for HASA emergency shelters. The broader HIV/AIDS Services Administration program area faces a \$62.6 million reduction as federal Medicaid funding for this population reaches its greatest risk.³⁹ HASA clients without emergency shelter face interrupted HIV treatment with cascading costs for H+H emergency departments. MBPO joins the Council in calling for HASA shelter funding in the adopted budget.

F. HIV Prevention and PrEP Access

New York City saw a 17% rise in new HIV diagnoses in 2024, the fourth consecutive year of stable or increasing diagnoses, a reversal from sustained pre-pandemic declines. 86% of newly diagnosed individuals are Black or Latino.⁴⁰ MBPO asks DOHMH to publish a plan for making long-acting injectable PrEP available at all sexual health clinics and for targeted outreach in high-incidence communities.

IV. MENTAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Every day in Manhattan, people living with serious mental illness cycle between hospital emergency rooms, public transit, shelter intake offices, and jail. Treatment exists; but the system

³⁹ New York City Council Finance Division, *Report on the Fiscal 2027 Executive Budget: Committee on General Welfare*, June 2026.

⁴⁰ New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Executive Budget Hearing Transcript, New York City Council, June 5, 2026.

lacks enough of the right interventions in the right places. The Executive Budget invests in crisis response, but leaves key implementation failures unresolved.

The Executive Budget and MBPO's Asks

The Executive Budget's new investments include Mobile Treatment (\$47.3 million in FY2027, baselined for existing Intensive Mobile Treatment (IMT), Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT), Single Point of Access (SPOA), and Continuous Engagement between Community and Clinic Treatment (CONNECT) teams), Behavioral Health Emergency Assistance Response Division (B-HEARD, \$4.8 million at FDNY, reversing the November 2025 decision to shift the program entirely to H+H, plus \$30.5 million at H+H)⁴¹, Mental Health Clubhouses (\$4 million), a confirmed Bridge to Home third site, and a Bellevue Comprehensive Psychiatric Emergency Program (CPEP) expansion (\$48 million capital).

Still, critical gaps remain. The 11 new Intensive Mobile Treatment teams funded in the FY2026 adopted budget are still undeployed because the RFP has not been issued, the STEPS step-down pilot for Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) has \$4.5 million approved but no RFP released, and as of June 2026, 600 people are waiting for IMT, 367 for ACT, and 200 for Forensic Assertive Community Treatment (FACT).⁴²

The budget invests in crisis response but leaves MBPO's core implementation asks unmet.

- **Intensive Mobile Treatment RFP:** Still unissued months after FY2026 funding; the 11 funded teams remain undeployed, and MBPO urges release at adoption.
- **Coordination structure:** Addressed through the Office of Community Safety (OCS, \$40.9 million) and the B-HEARD expansion at FDNY, with a \$15 million increase for Violence Interruption.
- **Crisis residences:** None announced beyond the ten now operating citywide.
- **Stabilization beds:** Not newly funded.
- **Street outreach salary floor:** Not established.

MBPO Recommendations:

A. Intensive Mobile Treatment RFP

MBPO urges the release of the Intensive Mobile Treatment RFP at adoption. The 11 IMT teams funded in the FY2026 adopted budget remain undeployed because the RFP has not been issued, an implementation failure that's resulted in months of delayed care for hundreds of people on waiting lists. The RFP must be released simultaneously with the STEPS step-down pilot RFP. The STEPS step-down pilot, funded at \$4.5 million in FY2026 to create structured transition pathways for individuals stepping down from ACT, also has no issued RFP as of June 2026. Without step-down capacity, ACT teams

⁴¹ New York City Council Finance Division, *Report on the Fiscal 2027 Executive Plan – Health and Hospitals Corporation*, June 2026, p. 6.

⁴² New York City Council, Executive Budget Hearing, Committee on Mental Health and Substance Use (Chair Tiffany Cabán), transcript, June 2026, at timestamp [3:10:18].

cannot easily discharge stabilized clients, which blocks new enrollments and prevents the teams from reaching those who need them most.

B. Crisis Residences

The City has 10 crisis residences citywide for a city of 8.3 million people, far short of what a functioning behavioral health system requires. MBPO urges the Administration to commit to opening at least five new crisis residences in FY2027 and FY2028, with at least one specifically designed for youth and LGBTQ+ populations.

C. Mental Health Continuum at High-Needs Schools

MBPO urges the Administration to restore and baseline the \$5 million Mental Health Continuum program, providing early intervention at 50 high-needs schools. Early behavioral health intervention for students is among the highest-return investments in the City's portfolio. Its elimination should require an explanation.

D. Street Outreach Worker Compensation

The average salary for city-contracted street outreach and behavioral health workers is approximately \$40,000.⁴³ MBPO urges the Administration to establish a minimum compensation floor of at least \$50,000 annually for all city-contracted community outreach workers. Workforce retention in this field is a public safety issue.

E. Office of Community Safety Operational Plan

The Office of Community Safety receives \$40.9 million in FY2027 and serves as the coordinating hub for the City's entire community safety portfolio. MBPO urges OCS to publish a consolidated account of all violence interruption investments, contracted outreach teams, jurisdictional boundaries, a unified data-sharing framework, and quarterly performance benchmarks by adoption. The executive budget also includes a nearly \$15 million increase for the Crisis Management System (CMS) and related anti-violence initiatives under the Office of Neighborhood Safety. CMS has reduced shootings by an average of 21% where it operates⁴⁴, yet neither the 7th nor the 9th Precinct is among the 41 service areas currently covered. The Lower East Side is home to one of the largest concentrations of NYCHA developments in Manhattan, and MBPO urges the Administration to designate it as a CMS service area with baselined funding for outreach workers and violence interrupters, paired with hospital-based intervention at Bellevue and Gouverneur.

F. B-HEARD Baseline and 24/7 Coverage

MBPO commends the B-HEARD expansion and urges the Administration to baseline the program at full operating capacity through FY2030 and to publish a timeline for expanding coverage to all five boroughs on a 24/7 basis.

G. OCMH-to-OCS Organizational Transfer

The executive budget transfers the Office of Community Mental Health (OCMH) from DOHMH to the Office of Community Safety (OCS), effective FY2028, with \$3.2 million

⁴³ Center for Urban Community Services (CUCS), testimony submitted to the New York City Council Committee on Public Safety, Code Blue Oversight Hearing, February 10, 2026.

⁴⁴ Office of the New York City Comptroller Brad Lander, *The Cure for Crisis: The Power and Potential of Community Violence Intervention*, March 2025, p. 17.

and 17 positions moving with it. MBPO urges the Administration to demonstrate how mental health programming and clinical standards will remain distinct from other program operations under this structure. Situating mental health functions within a public-safety coordinating office risks subordinating clinical priorities to enforcement or other objectives. OCMH is already restricted to a coordinating function. It is unclear to MBPO what its new or evolved role will be under OCS.

H. IMT and ACT Waitlist Publication

DOHMH has declined to publish IMT and ACT waitlist figures publicly. As of June 2026, as DOHMH reported in a City Council hearing, the City has 600 people waiting for IMT, 367 for ACT, and 200 for FACT. MBPO urges quarterly public publication of waitlist data by program type. Families and providers cannot advocate for a system whose true demand is hidden.

V. HOMELESSNESS

New York City's total homeless population has grown 78% since 2019 to approximately 140,000 individuals.⁴⁵ The only durable solution to homelessness is housing. But between the housing crisis and the need for an adequate shelter system, the Executive Budget leaves critical gaps.

The Executive Budget and MBPO's Asks

The FY2027 DHS budget totals \$4.22 billion, down \$412.7 million from the preliminary budget, with \$284 million in planned shelter cost-containment savings; city funds account for \$3.447 billion.

The Comptroller's Office finds \$194 million of those savings sit in a holding code with no program assignment, even as the non-asylum shelter census grows (single-adult census is 12.8% above the prior-year average) and the savings depend on closing commercial hotel shelters.⁴⁶

The budget stabilizes shelter funding but leaves MBPO's capacity and data asks largely unmet.

- **Shelter capacity:** \$988.6 million in shelter funding and \$31.2 million for street homelessness are baselined, and domestic violence shelter funding is made permanent, ending years of underbudgeting.
- **Safe Haven beds:** None newly funded; the 2,000-bed ask is unmet.
- **DHS vacancy:** Headcount stands at 1,616 against 1,932 budgeted positions, and the budget permanently eliminates 183 of those vacancies.
- **Placement and psychiatric-discharge data:** Neither publication ask is addressed.

MBPO Recommendations:

⁴⁵ New York State Office of the State Comptroller, *New York City Government Services: Services for the Unsheltered*, Report 21-2026, March 2026, p. 2, <https://www.osc.ny.gov/files/reports/osdc/pdf/report-21-2026.pdf>.

⁴⁶ Mark Levine, *Comments on New York City's Executive Budget for Fiscal Year 2027 and Financial Plan for Fiscal Years 2026-2030*, New York City Comptroller, June 9, 2026, <https://comptroller.nyc.gov/reports/comments-on-new-york-citys-executive-budget-for-fiscal-year-2027/>.

A. Domestic Violence Shelter Funding

MBPO commends the Administration for baselined domestic violence shelter funding, ending years of precarious annual renewals that created chronic instability for survivors and the organizations that serve them. This is an overdue commitment. MBPO urges the Administration to apply the same baseline stability to transitional housing programs for DV survivors seeking permanent exits from the shelter system.

B. Safe Haven Beds

MBPO urges the Administration to include 2,000 new Safe Haven beds, prioritizing single-room facilities, in the adopted budget. Outreach providers consistently find that single-room placement offers are accepted at higher rates and produce more stable outcomes than congregate shelter.

C. Shelter-to-Housing Data

Without accurate data distinguishing permanent housing exits from transitional placement exits, the City cannot demonstrate its \$3.4 billion DHS investment is reducing homelessness rather than cycling people through the system. MBPO urges the Administration to fix the data gap between permanent and transitional shelter exits and to report these figures quarterly.

D. HASA Emergency Shelters

See Healthcare section. The broader HIV and AIDS Services program area faces a \$62.6 million reduction in the Executive Budget as federal Medicaid funding for this population faces its greatest risk. MBPO joins the City Council in calling for \$39.6 million for HASA emergency shelters in the adopted budget; interrupted housing leads directly to interrupted HIV treatment and cascading emergency costs that fall on H+H regardless of whether the City funds shelter now or emergency care later.

E. Psychiatric Discharge Destination Data

H+H does not publish data on where inpatient psychiatric patients are discharged, whether to shelter, street, supportive housing, or transitional housing, and the institutional referral team managing those discharge referrals operates with only three full-time and five to six part-time staff handling thousands of referrals annually. MBPO urges the Administration to require publication of H+H inpatient psychiatric discharge destination data and to invest in the institutional referral program's capacity to connect people to housing rather than cycling them back into shelter.

VI. TRANSPORTATION

In Manhattan, the subway, the bus, the bike lane, and the sidewalk are the primary infrastructure of daily life for a nighttime population of 1.6 million and a daytime population of around 4 million. The Executive Budget invests in bus service and cycling infrastructure, but leaves the City's MTA funding obligation underbudgeted and key transit equity asks unmet.

The Executive Budget and MBPO's Asks

New investments include a Bus Action Plan (\$16.9 million in FY2027, growing to \$35 million by FY2030), Cycling and Micromobility (\$11.2 million), and Public Realm (\$6.4 million); the MTA subsidy rises from \$702.5 million to \$839.9 million, Fair Fares grows by \$25 million, and red light camera capital (\$97.4 million) advances the expanded program.

The Comptroller's Office finds the City's MTA operating contribution still underbudgeted by \$86 million even after the \$137 million increase, notes that the \$200 million one-time bus-subsidy reduction was not in the State's Enacted Budget and requires MTA Board approval, and reports the City's MTA capital contribution at \$2 billion, \$1 billion short of the required \$3 billion.⁴⁷

The budget advances bus and cycling investments but leaves MBPO's MTA-funding and transit-equity asks unmet.

- **MTA operating contribution:** The budget adds \$137 million, but the Comptroller finds it still \$86 million short of full funding.
- **MTA capital contribution:** At \$2 billion, it remains \$1 billion short of the required \$3 billion, with no multi-year plan to close the gap.
- **Fair Fares:** A \$25 million increase, but no expansion to 300% FPL as MBPO sought.
- **School Streets:** No new dedicated funding.
- **Cycling and bus-lane infrastructure:** Funded, consistent with the Streets Master Plan.

MBPO Recommendations:

A. MTA Operating Contribution Gap

The Comptroller estimates the City's MTA operating contribution is underbudgeted by \$86 million in FY2027.⁴⁸ MBPO asks the Administration to identify, at adoption, the source of funds for this remaining gap, and to present a multi-year plan for ensuring the MTA operating contribution is fully funded through FY2030.

B. MTA Capital Contribution Shortfall

The City's \$2 billion capital commitment to the MTA's FY2025-2029 Capital Plan is \$1 billion short of the \$3 billion required commitment. MBPO urges the Administration to identify a path to close this gap in the adopted capital plan.

C. Fair Fares Expansion

Fair Fares enrollment hovers around 30% of the eligible population despite the \$25 million baseline increase.⁴⁹ MBPO urges the Administration to present a multi-year plan for expanding Fair Fares to 300% FPL, paired with automatic enrollment for households the City already identifies as income-eligible through SNAP, Medicaid, and other benefit

⁴⁷ Mark Levine, *Comments on New York City's Executive Budget for Fiscal Year 2027 and Financial Plan for Fiscal Years 2026-2030*, New York City Comptroller, June 9, 2026, <https://comptroller.nyc.gov/reports/comments-on-new-york-citys-executive-budget-for-fiscal-year-2027/>.

⁴⁸ Ibid.

⁴⁹ Ibid.

programs, and to extend the program to express bus and MNR/LIRR CityTickets. A timeline for reaching full coverage over three to five years is better than no plan.

D. Student OMNY Half-Mile Restriction

MBPO urges the Administration to eliminate the half-mile walk-to-school exclusion from the Student OMNY program at adoption. This restriction denies transit access to children on unsafe routes and contradicts the City's commitment to safe streets. In accordance with the NYC Panel for Educational Policy's March 25, 2026 resolution,⁵⁰ MBPO also urges the City to expand the program to cover unlimited rides, extend it to express buses and MNR/LIRR CityTickets, utilize more durable card materials, and improve replacement timelines and communication around deactivations.

E. School Streets and Intersection Safety

MBPO urges the Administration to include \$20 million in dedicated School Streets funding and \$15 million for DOT's hardened daylighting program (1,000 intersections annually) in the adopted budget. Pedestrians accounted for 111 deaths in traffic collisions in 2025, the highest of any transportation mode.⁵¹

F. Paid Residential Parking

Only 22% of Manhattan households own a car, compared to 45% citywide, and car ownership in the lowest-income census tracts falls below 10% – meaning that unlimited free public parking disproportionately subsidizes higher-income households at the expense of transit users, cyclists, and pedestrians.⁵² Expanding parking meters to 25% of existing free spaces could generate \$1.21 billion or more annually in new revenue⁵³ while improving traffic flow and reducing vehicle idling. MBPO urges the Administration to advance a pilot plan for meter expansion and residential parking permits.

G. Streets Master Plan Compliance Reporting

MBPO asks DOT to publish, at adoption, the specific FY2027 targets under the Streets Master Plan for new bus lane miles, protected bike lane miles, and pedestrian safety improvements, and to report progress quarterly.

H. Paratransit Cost-Shift

The State raised the City's paratransit reimbursement share from 50% to 80% of operating costs, a \$165 million annual burden. MBPO calls on the Administration to formally document this as a State-imposed cost and to make reversal of this shift a priority in State budget negotiations.

I. Manhattan Waterfront Greenway

⁵⁰ Resolution in Support of Fare-Free and Equitable Public Transit for all New York City Students, 2025-2026 Panel for Educational Policy, meeting date March 25, 2026.

⁵¹ "Traffic Deaths Reach All-Time Low: New York Ends Year With Fewest Fatalities Ever Recorded," NYC Department of Transportation, January 2, 2026, <https://www.nyc.gov/html/dot/html/pr2026/traffic-deaths-reach-all-time-low.shtml>.

⁵² Car Ownership in NYC: By the Numbers, Hunter Urban Policy & Planning, published May 2024, <https://www.hunterurban.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Car-Light-NYC-Infographics-May-2024.pdf>; Selected Housing Characteristics 2024: ACS 5-Year Estimates Data Profiles, United States Census Bureau, accessed May 22, 2026, https://data.census.gov/table/ACSDP5Y2024.DP04?g=040XX00US36_050XX00US36061_160XX00US3651000.

⁵³ 5 Revenue-Raising Ideas for NYC, Center for an Urban Future, published February 2026, https://nycfuture.org/pdf/5IdeasRaisingRevenue_v4.pdf.

MBPO urges the Administration to publish a Manhattan waterfront greenway completion map showing funded segments, deferred segments, and unfunded gaps. The East River Esplanade Phase 3 (\$85.2 million, anticipated completion Spring 2028) is the largest active project; the Queensboro Bridge open space development (\$91.6 million) has been deferred to FY2032.

VII. EDUCATION & HIGHER EDUCATION

Every child in New York City deserves a fully resourced school, a safe building, a qualified teacher, and the services their IEP requires. The Executive Budget includes a major early childhood investment but leaves critical outyear funding cliffs unresolved.

The Executive Budget and MBPO's Asks

New investments include Class Size compliance (\$122 million, with \$1.5 billion added to the SCA five-year capital plan), Special Education Due Process Reform (\$149 million in savings paired with \$67 million or more in new programs and staff), Little Apple (\$2.3 million pilot), ECE provider rate increases (\$40 million), childcare vouchers (\$33 million), 2-K outreach (\$5 million baselined), COMPASS K-8 expansion (\$730 million), Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP, \$246 million), and CUNY operational support (\$1.571 billion, including \$15 million baselined for community colleges); State Foundation Aid for English language learners, students in temporary housing, and students in foster care rose by \$149.7 million.⁵⁴

The Comptroller's Office identifies four funding pressures. The childcare voucher gap is \$128 million in FY2027, growing to \$476-506 million by FY2028-FY2030; school custodial costs are roughly \$100 million short annually; the UFT differential is at least \$25 million; and the \$425 million annual 2-K cliff beginning in FY2029 is unresolved.⁵⁵

The budget delivers special education reform but leaves the 2-K cliff and Foundation Aid asks unresolved.

- **Special education due process:** Reformed, producing \$149 million in savings while reducing litigation burden.
- **IEP delivery:** Addressed only through the due-process reform; service-delivery improvements remain to be demonstrated.
- **2-K funding cliff:** Funded through FY2028, but the \$425 million cliff from FY2029 is unresolved.
- **CUNY community colleges:** Some operating investment, including \$15 million baselined.

⁵⁴ New York City Council Finance Division, *Report on the Fiscal 2027 Executive Plan and the Fiscal 2027 Executive Capital Commitment Plan for the Committee on Finance and the Committee on Education – Department of Education* (June 2026), 12.

⁵⁵ Mark Levine, *Comments on New York City's Executive Budget for Fiscal Year 2027 and Financial Plan for Fiscal Years 2026–2030*, New York City Comptroller, June 9, 2026, <https://comptroller.nyc.gov/reports/comments-on-new-york-citys-executive-budget-for-fiscal-year-2027/>.

- **Foundation Aid corrections:** Certain state-level asks still pending in Albany, not reflected in the budget.

MBPO Recommendations:

A. 2-K Funding Cliff

MBPO urges the Administration to secure, before adoption, a multi-year State commitment to 2-K funding beyond FY2028. The Comptroller confirms the \$425 million annual cliff beginning in FY2029 is unresolved.⁵⁶ A universal pre-K program that has no funding plan beyond FY2028 is a promise the City cannot keep.

B. Childcare Voucher Gap

The Comptroller estimates a FY2027 City funding gap of approximately \$128 million for childcare vouchers, widening to \$476-506 million annually by FY2028-FY2030. More than 25,000 children are on the waitlist for low-income childcare vouchers.⁵⁷ MBPO urges the Administration to present at adoption a plan for addressing both the FY2027 shortfall and the widening outyear gap, drawing fully on the State's new matching fund allocation.

C. Class Size Mandate Extension

The State legislature has extended the class size compliance deadline to September 2029. MBPO supports the extension and urges the Administration to pair it with a binding multi-year capital commitment from both the State and City.

D. Special Education Service Delivery

MBPO commends the special education due process reform and urges the City to ensure IEP services are delivered completely and on time. The savings from reduced due process litigation should fund improved service delivery and better, more timely IEP outcomes.

E. Universal Dyslexia Screening

Approximately 1 in 5 children has a reading-related disability. Early identification is one of the most effective interventions.⁵⁸ MBPO urges the Administration to fund a universal dyslexia screening program. A standard for early screening paired with communication of families' rights should be established in the adopted budget.

F. District 75 Foundation Aid

MBPO renews its call for \$50 million in Foundation Aid dedicated to District 75 programs serving students with the most complex disabilities. District 75 schools serve some of the City's highest-need students with some of the lowest per-student funding supplementation.

G. CUNY Per-Student Equity

⁵⁶ Ibid.

⁵⁷ Ibid.

⁵⁸ "How Common Is Dyslexia in the US: 1 in 5 Americans," *Science Insights*, March 5, 2026, <https://scienceinsights.org/how-common-is-dyslexia-in-the-us-1-in-5-americans/>.

MBPO urges the Administration to establish a per-student funding equity target for CUNY community colleges, working toward closing the per-student gap between community colleges and senior colleges. Community colleges are the primary pathway to workforce credentials for first-generation college students; they deserve funding that reflects that role. MBPO is aligned with the Council's concern that the Executive Budget does not restore CUNY ACE, CUNY Reconnect, or CUNY ASAP, three completion-support programs previously funded in FY2026 but not baselined, and urges the Administration to include them at adoption.⁵⁹

VIII. PUBLIC SAFETY

Public safety in Manhattan requires sustained investment in the conditions that prevent violence before it occurs. The Executive Budget expands the City's crisis response and violence interruption infrastructure, but does not sufficiently address uniformed coverage and the function of its Office of Community Safety.

The Executive Budget and MBPO's Asks

New investments include the B-HEARD expansion at FDNY (\$4.8 million, 60 positions in FY2027, growing to 84 by FY2029); H+H operates an additional \$30.5 million, making the combined investment \$35.3 million), the Office of Community Safety (\$40.9 million), a Violence Interruption increase (nearly \$15 million), Community Resources for Employment and Development (CRED) (\$42.7 million), the Office of Hate Crimes Prevention (\$26 million annually), FDNY civilian staff (84 new positions), and NYPD Enhanced In-Service Training (\$38 million, 399 positions). NYPD's \$6.59 billion FY2027 budget is \$309.8 million above the FY2026 adopted level; the year-over-year movement in city funds reflects uniformed vacancy savings, personal-services accruals, and the capitalization of police vehicles rather than programmatic cuts. FDNY's total budget rose \$23.8 million to \$2.67 billion in FY2027.

The Comptroller projects an additional \$562 million in citywide overtime in FY2027, with NYPD uniformed overtime the largest driver even as headcount declines.⁶⁰ The PBA and UFA contracts expired July 31, 2025 and remain in negotiation; the City's labor reserve covers annual wage increases of only 1.25%, and each additional point above the pattern would cost \$550 million to \$600 million when fully phased in, a risk the budget does not provision for.⁶¹

⁵⁹ New York City Council Finance Division, *Report on the Fiscal 2027 Executive Plan and the Fiscal 2027 Executive Capital Commitment Plan for the Committee on Finance and the Committee on Higher Education – City University of New York* (June 2026), 7.

⁶⁰ Mark Levine, *Comments on New York City's Executive Budget for Fiscal Year 2027 and Financial Plan for Fiscal Years 2026–2030*, New York City Comptroller, June 9, 2026, p. 103, <https://comptroller.nyc.gov/reports/comments-on-new-york-citys-executive-budget-for-fiscal-year-2027/>.

⁶¹ Mark Levine, *Comments on New York City's Executive Budget for Fiscal Year 2027 and Financial Plan for Fiscal Years 2026–2030*, New York City Comptroller, June 9, 2026, pp. 5, 117, <https://comptroller.nyc.gov/reports/comments-on-new-york-citys-executive-budget-for-fiscal-year-2027/>.

The budget expands violence-prevention and hate-crimes investments but leaves staffing transparency and labor-cost risks unaddressed.

- **Houses of worship and cultural institutions:** The new Office of Hate Crimes Prevention (\$26 million annually) partially responds to MBPO's call for sustained protection.
- **Violence interruption:** Expanded, with a \$15 million increase, CRED at \$42.7 million, and the Office of Community Safety at \$40.9 million.
- **Unarmed crisis response:** The B-HEARD expansion at FDNY (60 positions) partially addresses this ask.
- **Precinct staffing:** The precinct-level staffing analysis MBPO asked for has not been published, and NYPD overtime remains elevated even as headcount declines.

MBPO Recommendations:

A. Office of Community Safety

OCS receives \$40.9 million in FY2027 and serves as the coordinating hub for the City's community safety portfolio. The office is newly established, and MBPO recognizes that its operational framework is still being built out. MBPO asks the Administration to publish, at adoption, an initial accounting of OCS's contracted outreach teams, jurisdictional boundaries, a data-sharing framework, and the performance benchmarks it will use to measure impact in its first year.

B. NYPD Precinct Staffing

MBPO asks the Administration to present, at adoption, a precinct-level staffing analysis showing whether the uniformed PS accruals and vacancy reductions leave any precincts below minimum staffing standards. NYPD overtime remains elevated even as headcount declines, a pattern that suggests workload is not declining at the same rate as budgeted staffing.

C. B-HEARD

B-HEARD is jointly operated by FDNY and H+H, with H+H carrying \$30.5 million of the program's \$35.3 million FY2027 budget. MBPO urges the Administration to baseline the full combined program at operating capacity through FY2030 and to publish a timeline for expanding coverage to all five boroughs on a 24/7 basis.

D. Hate Crimes Prevention and Community Security Grants

MBPO commends the \$26 million annual investment in the Office of Hate Crimes Prevention. MBPO asks the Administration to specify, at adoption, how this funding reaches houses of worship, cultural institutions, and LGBTQ+ community organizations in Manhattan, and to establish a grants program for community security measures at vulnerable institutions.

IX. PARKS, OPEN SPACE, AND RECREATION

Manhattan has less parkland per capita than most major American cities, and what it has is under-maintained and under-staffed. The results of this anemic workforce are already visible.

In Fall 2024, uncleared brush and detritus created the conditions for wildfires to spread during a historic drought.⁶² New York City ranked 20th nationally in the Trust for Public Land's 2026 ParkScore Index, trailing cities including San Francisco, Boston, and Minneapolis, a ranking that reflects both the quantity and quality of accessible park space. The Executive Budget makes the most significant Parks staffing investment in years, though the Executive Budget simultaneously cuts Parks capital by \$270 million from the February plan.⁶³

The Executive Budget and MBPO's Asks

FY2027 Parks city funds rose \$81.4 million to \$667.3 million, with new staffing for Recreation (\$7.9 million), Park Workers (\$6.2 million, 73 positions), Urban Park Rangers (\$5.8 million), Forestry Management (\$3 million, baselining 32 positions), and seasonals (\$1.7 million for World Cup operations); the five-year plan includes \$174 million for urban tree canopy and concessions revenue rose \$11 million.

Despite the operating increase, the Comptroller notes that Parks capital fell \$270 million from the February Capital Commitment Plan in the May Plan.⁶⁴

The budget makes the largest Parks staffing investment in years but stops short of MBPO's 1% commitment.

- **1% of city spending:** Parks rises to about 0.70% of city funds revenue, notable progress but short of the 1% target and not yet a formal phased commitment.
- **Urban tree canopy:** The five-year plan includes \$174 million for canopy expansion, though Parks capital overall fell \$270 million from the February plan.

MBPO Recommendations:

A. Parks Capital Reduction

MBPO notes with concern that while Parks' operating budget increased by \$81.4 million, Parks capital simultaneously decreased \$270 million in the May Capital Commitment Plan from the February plan. MBPO asks the Administration to identify which Parks capital projects were reduced, deferred, or removed, and whether any projects serving climate resilience, tree canopy expansion, or infrastructure renewal were affected.

B. The 1 Percent Commitment Path

At \$667 million, Parks is at approximately 0.70% of citywide city funds revenue, important progress, but not yet a formal commitment. MBPO calls on the Administration to adopt a formal, phased path to 1% of city funds revenue for Parks:

⁶² Prospect Park Track Club, "Wildfires in NYC: Fall 2024 and Beyond," January 6, 2025, <https://pptc.org/blog/2025/1/6/wildfires-in-nyc-fall-2024-and-beyond>.

⁶³ 2026 ParkScore Index, New York, NY, Trust for Public Land, published May 2026, <https://www.tpl.org/city/new-york-new-york>.

⁶⁴ Mark Levine, *Comments on New York City's Executive Budget for Fiscal Year 2027 and Financial Plan for Fiscal Years 2026-2030*, New York City Comptroller, June 9, 2026, p. 161, <https://comptroller.nyc.gov/reports/comments-on-new-york-citys-executive-budget-for-fiscal-year-2027/>.

0.75% in FY2028, 0.85% in FY2029, 1% in FY2030. A phased plan gives Parks the budget horizon it needs to hire, train, and deploy staff against a capital program that is growing.

C. Forestry Workforce and Tree Canopy

As of October 2025, the City had only 67 active Foresters and 77 Climbers/Pruners citywide, a backlog of more than 20,000 uninspected tree conditions, and 35,000 open work orders.⁶⁵ The Mayor's 2026 Urban Forest Plan, released in April 2026 and mandated by Local Law 148 of 2023, is a strong start to creating a roadmap to reach 30% citywide canopy coverage, but the plan must be fully funded to achieve its goals. The \$174 million urban tree canopy capital commitment is welcome, but the Tree Planting line adds only 19 positions, funded for one year through Capital IFA. MBPO urges the Administration to publish a workforce plan showing how the forestry staffing gap will be closed alongside the capital investment.

D. Concessions Revenue Reinvestment

MBPO is pleased to see \$11 million in annual concessions revenue. However, MBPO urges the new revenue be reinvested into NYC Parks rather than into the general fund. Revenue generated by parks, including concessions (\$11 million annually) and tree replacement fees (\$14.6 million annually), should return to parks capital and maintenance.

E. Deferred Maintenance Plan

MBPO asks the Administration to publish a deferred maintenance remediation plan with a prioritized project list and timeline for all parks facilities across every community district. The Passerelle bridge and roof reconstruction (\$278.8 million) was deferred from FY2030 to FY2031; of the \$91.6 million planned for the Queensboro Bridge open space development, \$47.5 million was pushed to FY2032 and the remainder cut from the five-year plan entirely. These deferrals need a public accounting.

F. One-Shot Position Baseline

The FY2027 Executive Budget makes progress on long-term workforce stability, baselining 161 of 276 one-shot positions that have historically been subject to year-to-year uncertainty. MBPO urges the Administration to baseline all 276 existing one-shot positions and calls on the City Council to fund an additional 276 positions, including 100 Parks Enforcement Patrol officers, 100 park workers, 50 forestry workers, and 26 playground associates, to enable the department to stabilize and grow its workforce in key areas.

G. Manhattan Waterfront Greenway

Manhattan's waterfront is one of the borough's most significant public open space assets, and completing a connected greenway along it has been a long-standing priority of communities across the borough. The Executive Budget includes notable investments in this corridor: East River Esplanade Phase 3 (\$85.2 million, FY2026-2030, with construction anticipated to begin Spring 2026 and complete Spring 2028) is the most

⁶⁵ FY 2027 Borough Budget Consultations Manhattan - Department of Parks and Recreation, meeting date October 3, 2025, https://www.nyc.gov/assets/manhattancb3/downloads/resources/FY_27_Budget_Questions_and_Answers/DPR-CB-Questions-and-Answers-FY-27.pdf.

significant active Manhattan waterfront project in Parks' current capital plan, and the Hamilton Fish outdoor pool reconstruction (\$38.2 million) has been added for FY2030. These are welcome commitments. MBPO urges the Administration to publish a full Manhattan waterfront greenway map showing funded segments, deferred segments, and the gaps that remain unfunded, so that New Yorkers can see the full picture of what has been committed, what has been pushed out, and what still lacks a funding source.

X. CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Extreme heat causes an estimated 525 heat-related deaths annually in New York City.⁶⁶ The Executive Budget makes major climate capital investments even as the federal government pursues a political campaign against the City's climate infrastructure.

The Executive Budget and MBPO's Asks

The Executive Budget raises DEP's city-funded budget by \$54 million over the preliminary plan, with operating investments in a Bureau of Coastal Resiliency (\$10.6 million), Wastewater Treatment (\$37.3 million), Lead and Copper Rule compliance (\$20.7 million), and Filtration Avoidance Determination (\$14.3 million). The five-year capital plan includes Flood Risk Reduction (\$7.5 billion), Extreme Heat (\$1 billion), Green Infrastructure (\$901 million), Cloudburst Management (\$423 million), and East Side Coastal Resiliency (\$112.7 million); DEP's total five-year capital commitment is \$20.3 billion, 17.3% of the total.

Federal disruptions to climate and infrastructure funding have been recurrent, with FEMA grants terminated and restored only through court action, and the Comptroller documents a pattern of paused-then-restored capital funding affecting the Gateway Project, Second Avenue Subway Phase 2, and the 34th Avenue busway.⁶⁷

The budget meets MBPO's coastal-resiliency and cloudburst asks.

- **Bureau of Coastal Resiliency:** Met, funded at \$10.6 million in operating funds.
- **Cloudburst Management:** Sustained with \$423 million in five-year capital; the program's South Jamaica project (completed early 2025, \$6 million) captures up to 3.5 million gallons of stormwater annually.⁶⁸
- **Filtration Avoidance Determination:** Maintained at \$14.3 million, consistent with MBPO's call to baseline this long-term safeguard.

MBPO Recommendations:

⁶⁶ NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, *2025 NYC Heat-Related Mortality Report*, 2025, <https://a816-dohbsp.nyc.gov/IndicatorPublic/data-features/heat-report>.

⁶⁷ Mark Levine, *Comments on New York City's Executive Budget for Fiscal Year 2027 and Financial Plan for Fiscal Years 2026-2030*, New York City Comptroller, June 9, 2026, <https://comptroller.nyc.gov/reports/comments-on-new-york-city-executive-budget-for-fiscal-year-2027/>.

⁶⁸ New York City Department of Environmental Protection, *Cloudburst Resiliency Planning Study*, <https://www.nyc.gov/site/dep/environment/cloudburst-resiliency-planning-study.page>.

A. DEP Execution Capacity

MBPO urges the Administration to demonstrate, at adoption, that DEP has the staffing and operational plan to execute its \$20.3 billion capital program. Authorized capital does not become built flood protection without the workforce to deliver it. MBPO shares the Council's concern that DEP has historically underspent its capital budget due to procurement complexity, environmental review requirements, and workforce constraints.

B. Green Infrastructure Deployment Map

The \$901 million green infrastructure and \$423 million Cloudburst Management investments in the five-year capital plan are substantial commitments. MBPO asks the Administration to publish a deployment map showing which neighborhoods receive sponge-city and cloudburst investments, with priority to areas at highest compound flood risk. All capital work conducted on streets, in parks, and on public property should systematically incorporate green infrastructure and stormwater management design standards wherever site conditions permit. The Administration should also publish a maintenance cost projection for the City's existing green infrastructure portfolio to ensure their continued effectiveness.

C. Filtration Avoidance Determination

MBPO commends the continued investment in the Filtration Avoidance Determination program (\$14.3 million annually). This is one of the City's most effective long-term fiscal safeguard in the water infrastructure portfolio, protecting billions in avoided treatment plant costs by maintaining watershed protection. It should be permanently baselined.

XI. ARTS AND CULTURE

Manhattan anchors New York City's cultural economy. The creative sector employs 326,000 New Yorkers citywide, a workforce that has grown 24.6% since 2004 and remains one of the city's core economic engines and a defining competitive advantage. Yet that foundation is under strain. New York City's share of the national creative workforce has declined from 9.3% to 8.6% since 2019, with the city losing market share in seven out of ten creative industries, and creative workers here now earn approximately 23% less than the national average after adjusting for cost of living, down from 15% less a decade ago.⁶⁹ At the same time, arts, culture, and freedom of expression are under attack. The Trump administration is dismantling federal cultural infrastructure one institution after another, with thousands of previously approved NEA grants abruptly canceled, a proposal to eliminate the NEA, the NEH, and the Institute of Museum and Library Services outright, and a \$1.1 billion clawback from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting defunding PBS, NPR, and the local public media stations that serve our

⁶⁹ Center for an Urban Future, *Creative New York 2025* (New York: Center for an Urban Future, December 2025), https://nycfuture.org/pdf/CUF_CreativeNY_Report_9.pdf.

communities.⁷⁰ With federal support collapsing, the City must expand its own cultural investment.

The Executive Budget and MBPO's Asks

The Executive Budget adds \$10 million for cultural organizations through the Cultural Institutions Group and Cultural Development Fund, alongside a \$15.2 million Heat, Light and Power adjustment that reflects actual CIG utility costs rather than new programmatic support. Total FY2027 DCLA funding is about \$239.6 million, \$23.6 million above the preliminary plan but \$60 million below the FY2026 adopted level of \$299.7 million; against the Council's \$30 million request, the \$10 million leaves a \$20 million gap.⁷¹

The budget moves partway on arts funding but leaves MBPO's core asks unmet.

- **DCLA funding decline:** Partly reversed, with \$23.6 million added since the preliminary plan, but total funding remains about \$60 million below the FY2026 adopted level and \$20 million short of the Council's \$30 million ask.
- **Public media and local news:** No dedicated city support funded.

MBPO Recommendations:

A. Close the \$20 Million Gap

MBPO joins the City Council in calling for the remaining \$20 million gap in DCLA funding to be closed in the adopted budget. As federal arts funding evaporates and freedom of expression faces attack from Washington, New York City's cultural investment should be growing. The \$10 million is slated for both the Cultural Institutions Group and Cultural Development Fund organizations; MBPO asks DCLA to specify, at adoption, the per-organization and per-program breakdown of that allocation, to prioritize organizations that have lost federal arts funding, and to publish a program-level accounting of the FY2026 to FY2027 decline that distinguishes expiring one-year additions from reductions to recurring programs.

B. Multi-Year Cultural Development Fund Grants

MBPO urges the Administration to commit, in the adopted budget, to multi-year Cultural Development Fund grants for organizations receiving more than \$100,000 annually. Year-to-year uncertainty in cultural funding is not an acceptable operating environment for the neighborhood organizations that anchor Manhattan's cultural life. Three-year grants allow planning, hiring, and programming at a scale that one-year grants cannot support.

C. NEA and NEH Grant Impact Accounting

⁷⁰ Associated Press, "Trump proposes eliminating the NEA and NEH as arts grants are canceled," May 3, 2025; Corporation for Public Broadcasting, "The Impact of the Federal Rescission on Public Media," 2025, <https://cpb.org/spotlight/impact-federal-rescission-public-media>.

⁷¹ New York City Council Finance Division, *Report on the Fiscal 2027 Executive Budget for the Department of Cultural Affairs* (New York: New York City Council, June 2026).

MBPO asks DCLA to publish, at adoption, an accounting of NEA and NEH grants lost by New York City cultural organizations in FY2026 and FY2027, identifying which categories of programming are most affected.

D. Public Media and Local News Support

MBPO urges the City to establish dedicated operating support for public media and independent local news organizations facing federal defunding. New York State recognized this need in its FY2026 budget with \$4 million for public radio stations facing federal cuts. New York City should follow that lead; local news is democratic infrastructure.

E. DCLA Capital Feasibility Planning Program

MBPO supports increased and sustained funding for DCLA's Capital Feasibility Planning (CFP) Program, which gives selected nonprofit cultural organizations a consultant to help them weigh whether they are ready for a capital construction or renovation project. Smaller organizations are too often shut out of the City's capital process because they lack the in-house staff to manage it, and the CFP program meets them at the early, decisive stage when that guidance matters most. Following a three-year pilot that supported nearly 10 organizations, the program now reaches only two to four organizations a year depending on its budget. MBPO urges the Administration to expand and baseline CFP funding in the adopted budget so the program can serve more organizations annually and become a permanent part of DCLA's capital support work.

F. Affordable Workspace and Benefits for Creative Workers

MBPO urges the City to: (i) convert underutilized public assets into affordable artist workspace and rehearsal facilities; (ii) work with NYCEDC and HPD to protect existing artist-occupied spaces at risk of displacement; (iii) develop a targeted support program for small and mid-sized arts venues facing rising insurance costs, operating expense pressures, and lease instability; and (iv) pilot portable benefits for the freelance workers who make up a large share of the city's creative workforce.

XII. AGING

Manhattan's older adult population is growing, increasingly isolated, and disproportionately exposed to federal cuts. Over 504,000 older adult New Yorkers live alone; nearly 17% report high levels of loneliness, and 22% say they would like to socialize more⁷², a gap that senior centers and Naturally Occurring Retirement Community (NORC) programs are specifically designed to close. OBBBA's Medicaid changes threaten community-based long-term care services that allow older adults to remain in their homes.

The Executive Budget and MBPO's Asks

⁷² Irene Lew, et al., "A NORC in Every Neighborhood: Expanding Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities to Meet the Needs of Older New Yorkers," *United Neighborhood Houses*, January 2026, https://assets.nationbuilder.com/unhny/pages/2025/attachments/original/1769719676/A_NORC_in_Every_Neighborhood_1.26.pdf.

The Executive Budget funds DFTA at \$577.1 million for FY2027, \$3.6 million above the preliminary level, with new investments in Supporting Seniors (\$3.4 million), an Indirect Cost Rate Adjustment (\$4.2 million), transportation vans (\$527,000 in federal funds), and OTI technology transfer (\$740,000); Older Adult Support Services is extended through FY2030. NORC expansion (\$10 million), NORC nursing support (\$1 million), and a digital-literacy and AI-fraud pilot were not funded.

The budget makes modest aging investments but leaves MBPO's top asks unfunded.

- **Provider stability:** A \$4.2 million indirect-cost-rate adjustment builds on \$19.7 million from the preliminary stage, roughly \$23.9 million combined to stabilize DFTA's contracted nonprofit providers.
- **NORC expansion:** The \$10 million to add NORCs in the 31 neighborhoods without one was not funded, despite a return United Neighborhood Houses estimates at \$480 per participant per year against \$180,675 for nursing-home placement.⁷³
- **Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE) and Disability Rent Increase Exemption (DRIE) outreach:** Not reflected in the budget.
- **AI-assisted digital safety pilot:** Not funded.

MBPO Recommendations:

A. NORC Expansion

MBPO urges the Administration to fund NORC expansion to the 31 neighborhoods currently without one (at an estimated cost of \$10 million) in the adopted budget. NORC program spending is \$480 per year per person; nursing home placement costs \$180,675 per year. The return on this investment, measured in avoided nursing home placements and reduced Medicaid costs, is among the most fiscally rational aging investments available to the City.

B. NORC Nursing Support

MBPO urges the Administration to include \$1 million to sustain the NORC nursing support baseline.

C. Digital Literacy and AI Fraud Protection

Financial exploitation of older adults causes devastating and often irreversible harm, and the proliferation of generative artificial intelligence has made financial scams harder to detect, more personalized, and more convincing. The same tools that empower bad actors can be deployed in defense. MBPO urges the Administration to fund a digital literacy and AI-assisted fraud detection pilot through DFTA's community partner network, enabling DFTA and its community partners to flag suspicious financial communications before harm occurs and to teach older New Yorkers to recognize AI-generated manipulation. Older New Yorkers should not be left vulnerable to AI-enabled financial fraud because the City failed to invest in the tools to protect them.

⁷³ Irene Lew, et al., "A NORC in Every Neighborhood: Expanding Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities to Meet the Needs of Older New Yorkers," *United Neighborhood Houses*, January 2026.

D. OBBBA Medicaid Impact on Older Adults

OBBBA's Medicaid changes, including more frequent recertifications and new work requirements, are expected to cause 750,000 New York City Medicaid enrollees to lose coverage in 2027. Many older adults receiving community-based long-term care services are at risk of losing coverage or facing service interruption.⁷⁴ MBPO urges the Administration to assess the DFTA and H+H managed care impact specifically and to ensure that older adults who lose Medicaid coverage for community-based services do not fall through to more costly institutional settings.

E. SCRIE and DRIE Outreach

Enrollment in the SCRIE and DRIE programs has stagnated despite sizable eligible populations. MBPO urges the Administration to fund proactive multilingual outreach to increase enrollment among eligible older adults, particularly immigrants and long-term renters in rapidly gentrifying neighborhoods.

F. Manhattan Community Awards Program

MBPO supports restoration and increased funding for the Manhattan Community Awards Program, administered jointly through the Department for the Aging (DFTA) and the Department of Education (DOE). This program provides direct support to Manhattan community organizations serving older adults and youth, and has faced funding pressure in recent budget cycles. MBPO urges the Administration to restore and increase funding for the Manhattan Community Awards Program in the adopted budget, ensuring that community-based organizations across Manhattan's twelve community districts can continue delivering the programming that older adults and families depend on.

XIII. IMMIGRATION

The federal government's assault on immigrant communities is playing out on the streets, in the schools, and in the houses of worship of Manhattan right now. The Executive Budget invests in immigration legal services, but does not address all of the gaps created by federal enforcement escalation and program terminations. A November 2025 KFF/New York Times survey found that 41% of immigrants now worry that they or a family member could be detained or deported, up sharply from 26% just two years earlier, and nearly 30% report limiting their activities outside the home as a direct result of federal enforcement fears, including avoiding health care and keeping their children from school. This is a chilling effect that reaches far beyond those directly targeted by enforcement.⁷⁵ The federal threat extends to housing as well. The proposed HUD rule FR-6524-P-01 would terminate assistance for mixed-immigration-status

⁷⁴ Mark Levine, *Comments on New York City's Executive Budget for Fiscal Year 2027 and Financial Plan for Fiscal Years 2026-2030*, New York City Comptroller, June 9, 2026, <https://comptroller.nyc.gov/reports/comments-on-new-york-citys-executive-budget-for-fiscal-year-2027/>.

⁷⁵ KFF/New York Times, "KFF/New York Times 2025 Survey of Immigrants: Worries and Experiences Amid Increased Immigration Enforcement," November 18, 2025, <https://www.kff.org/racial-equity-and-health-policy/kff-new-york-times-2025-survey-of-immigrants-worries-and-experiences-amid-increased-immigration-enforcement>.

families and could displace roughly 11,000 New Yorkers, including approximately 5,000 children, as discussed in the Housing section of this response.

The Executive Budget and MBPO's Asks

Immigration legal services are confirmed at \$32.9 million in FY2027, more than double the pre-FY2027 baseline, and Promise NYC (\$25 million) is baselined. The City has committed roughly \$9 billion in city funds to asylum-seeker services since July 2022, and 28,205 individuals remained in shelter as of May 10, 2026, a 59% decline from the January 2024 peak.⁷⁶

The federal government terminated legal-representation contracts for about 1,800 unaccompanied children, and the Mayor's EO 13 Compliance Audit documents 5,567 ICE arrests in the New York City area between January 20, 2025 and March 10, 2026, a 71% increase, including agents who misrepresented themselves as FDNY personnel to reach City shelters and Probation records.⁷⁷

The budget strengthens legal services but leaves key enforcement-response asks unmet.

- **Immigration legal services baseline:** Confirmed at \$32.9 million, more than double the prior baseline, though the Council's Immigration Committee identifies a \$53.35 million need, a gap of roughly \$20 million.
- **Unaccompanied children:** No restoration of the legal representation lost when federal contracts for about 1,800 children were terminated.
- **MOIA ICE monitoring unit:** Not funded; the EO 13 audit is a one-time review, and a \$250,000 transfer falls short of the dedicated unit MBPO sought.
- **Rapid Response Legal Collaborative:** Not separately funded.
- **Schools serving families in crisis:** Not addressed in the budget.

MBPO Recommendations:

A. Unaccompanied Children Legal Representation

MBPO urges the Administration to fund dedicated legal representation for the approximately 1,800 unaccompanied children now facing removal without counsel after the federal contract terminations. Children with legal representation prevail 90% of the time, while those without it face an 85% chance of deportation.⁷⁸ Research by the American Immigration Council finds that detained immigrants with legal representation are ten times more likely to win their cases than those without, a disparity that makes

⁷⁶ Mark Levine, *Comments on New York City's Executive Budget for Fiscal Year 2027 and Financial Plan for Fiscal Years 2026–2030*, New York City Comptroller, June 9, 2026, pp. 127–129.

⁷⁷ NYC Mayor's Office, *Executive Order 13 Audit: Report of Audit Findings and Recommendations* (New York: Mayor's Office, 2026), 2, 7, <https://www.nyc.gov/content/dam/nycgov/mayors-office/downloads/pdf/press-releases/2026/EO-13-Report-of-Audit-Findings-and-Recommendations.pdf>.

⁷⁸ Office of the New York City Comptroller Brad Lander, *Protecting Our Neighbors*, June 2025, <https://comptroller.nyc.gov/reports/protecting-our-neighbors/>.

investment in legal services one of the highest-impact tools available to the City.⁷⁹ The City Council's Committee on Immigration identified a need for \$53.35 million total in HRA immigration legal services, well above the \$32.9 million already funded.⁸⁰

B. Rapid Response Legal Collaborative

MBPO urges the Administration to include dedicated, flexible funding for the Rapid Response Legal Collaborative in the adopted budget. ICE arrests have risen sharply; surge-capable legal capacity cannot be funded through fixed annual line items alone.

C. MOIA ICE Monitoring Unit

MBPO urges the Administration to fund a dedicated unit within MOIA to conduct an ongoing audit of where ICE is operating and to identify and pursue every available legal tool to limit City complicity in enforcement directed at New Yorkers. MOIA's direct budget remains just \$781,962, supporting only five positions, unchanged since FY2026 adoption, and a new monitoring mandate of this scale cannot be absorbed within that footprint. The Administration should provide MOIA with dedicated funding and staffing sufficient to stand up and sustain this unit, rather than relying on one-time transfers or the office's existing capacity.

D. EO 13 Recommendations: Full Implementation

The EO 13 audit found material vendor compliance gaps regarding sanctuary city code. MBPO urges full implementation of the EO 13 recommendations, including updated protocols at NYPD and DSS, revised vendor contracts, and new guidance on non-local law enforcement access to City property. The Administration should report at adoption which contracts have been revised for sanctuary compliance.

E. SNAP Work Requirements and Chilling Effects

Mixed-status households that remain technically eligible for SNAP are disenrolling out of fear, workers are hesitating to report wage theft, families are delaying medical care, and parents are avoiding benefits enrollment for their U.S.-citizen children. Each of these withdrawals is a cost the City absorbs in emergency room visits, shelter beds, unreported crimes, and reduced tax revenues. MBPO urges MOIA and HRA to conduct targeted outreach affirming sanctuary city protections and benefits access rights.

F. Essential Plan and Medicaid Loss for Immigrants

Approximately 233,000 New York City residents (predominantly immigrant families between 200-250% FPL) will lose no-cost Essential Plan coverage beginning July 1, 2026.⁸¹ MBPO urges the Administration to identify, at adoption, a city-level coverage backstop or enrollment pathway for these residents.

G. Social Services Access

⁷⁹ American Immigration Council, "The Difference Representation Makes: The Value of Legal Representation in Immigration Court," October 2011 (updated 2024), <https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/research/difference-representation-makes>.

⁸⁰ New York City Council Finance Division, *Report on the Fiscal 2027 Executive Budget: Committee on Immigration*, June 2026.

⁸¹ Mark Levine, *Comments on New York City's Executive Budget for Fiscal Year 2027 and Financial Plan for Fiscal Years 2026-2030*, New York City Comptroller, June 9, 2026, <https://comptroller.nyc.gov/reports/comments-on-new-york-citys-executive-budget-for-fiscal-year-2027/>.

The federal assault on immigrant communities is landing hardest on families who depend on City services to stay stable. MBPO urges the City to resource schools to support students whose families are in crisis and to train staff to respond appropriately to immigration enforcement concerns, and to ensure that social service agencies can serve clients regardless of immigration status, with culturally and linguistically responsive staff.

H. **Promise NYC Eligibility Review**

MBPO commends the baselining of Promise NYC at \$25 million. MBPO asks the Administration to review the program's eligibility criteria to ensure all mixed-status families who need childcare access can benefit, and to report the number of children served and the waitlist at adoption.

XIV. FOOD SECURITY

More than a third of adult New Yorkers and more than 40% of families with children reported needing more money to meet their household food needs.⁸² Overall food pantry demand remains approximately 80% above pre-pandemic levels, and visits by families with children were up 97% in FY2025 compared to six years earlier.⁸³ SNAP enrollment in New York City declined 5.5% between January 2025 and February 2026, reducing benefits for more than 100,000 people.⁸⁴ SNAP benefit losses begin in July 2026 as New Yorkers who could not meet the 80-hour monthly work requirement exhaust their three-month allotment.

The Executive Budget and MBPO's Asks

The Comptroller's Office finds SNAP benefit losses beginning in July 2026 as three-month allotments expire, the federal administrative-cost match cut from 50% to 25% (costing roughly \$75 million in FY2027 and \$100 million in FY2028), and, from Federal FY2028, a new state share of benefit costs that could reach \$700 million for the City if Albany passes it down; SNAP-Ed was already terminated in September 2025, stripping \$2.2 million from DOHMH.⁸⁵

Against that backdrop, the budget's food-security response is uneven.

- **Community Food Connection (CFC):** Baselined at \$53.6 million through FY2030, more than triple the prior baseline, meeting the documented surge in food-pantry demand.

⁸² Robin Hood Foundation and Columbia University Center on Poverty and Social Policy, *Poverty Tracker Spotlight Report: Food Budget Shortfalls in NYC*, November 2025, <https://robinhood.org/reports/poverty-tracker-spotlight-food-budget-shortfalls-nyc>.

⁸³ Gothamist, "'Persistently High' Number of NYC Kids Rely on Food Pantries as Aid Cuts Loom," May 2026, <https://gothamist.com/news/persistently-high-number-of-nyc-kids-rely-on-food-pantries-as-aid-cuts-loom>; NYC Food Policy Center (Hunter College), "How NYC Households Are Navigating SNAP Benefit Losses in 2026," May 2026, <https://www.nycfoodpolicy.org/how-nyc-households-are-navigating-snap-benefit-losses-in-2026-2/>.

⁸⁴ City Limits, "Fewer New Yorkers Are Getting Food Stamps Amid Federal Overhaul," May 2026, <https://citylimits.org/more-new-yorkers-are-forgoing-food-stamps-amid-federal-overhaul>.

⁸⁵ Mark Levine, *Comments on New York City's Executive Budget for Fiscal Year 2027 and Financial Plan for Fiscal Years 2026-2030*, New York City Comptroller, June 9, 2026, <https://comptroller.nyc.gov/reports/comments-on-new-york-citys-executive-budget-for-fiscal-year-2027/>.

- **Groceries to Go:** Continued with \$10 million, but only as one-time funding.
- **SNAP outreach and mitigation:** \$295,774 in additional federal outreach funds, but no dedicated city-funded strategy to offset the benefit losses hitting roughly 123,000 New Yorkers.
- **Community composting:** The Lower East Side Ecology Center and GrowNYC remain without baselined funding.

MBPO Recommendations:

A. City-Level SNAP Response Strategy

SNAP benefit losses begin this July for approximately 123,000 New Yorkers who could not meet the 80-hour monthly work requirement. MBPO urges the Administration to present, at adoption, a city-level SNAP response strategy laying out the administrative, legal, and programmatic tools available to mitigate the impact of work-requirement benefit losses this summer. As part of that strategy, MBPO asks the Administration to publish its own projection of how many New Yorkers are expected to lose benefits and over what period, so that the City's mitigation efforts can be scaled to the actual size of the need.

B. SNAP Administrative Cost Funding

The Comptroller estimates SNAP administrative costs will increase by approximately \$75 million in FY2027 and \$100 million in FY2028 due to the federal match reduction from 50% to 25%.⁸⁶ These costs are not included in the Executive Budget. MBPO asks OMB to identify the source of funds for these costs at adoption.

C. SNAP State Cost-Sharing Risk

The OBBBA provision requiring states to bear a share of SNAP benefit costs beginning in Federal FY2028 could cost New York City up to \$700 million annually if New York State passes the full cost to localities, based on the State's payment error rate.⁸⁷ MBPO asks the Administration to publish its estimate of the potential impact and its advocacy strategy for preventing or mitigating this provision before it takes effect.

D. Community Food Connection Outcome Indicators

MBPO asks the Administration to add outcome indicators for the CFC program at adoption: applications received, providers served, deliveries made, and clients served. Public accountability requires public measurement.

E. Baseline Groceries to Go

MBPO commends the \$10 million in FY2027 for Groceries to Go, which enables food-insecure New Yorkers managing diabetes or hypertension to order groceries for pickup or delivery through NYC Care. Because this funding is one-time, the program faces the same year-to-year precarity that CFC carried before it was baselined. MBPO urges the Administration to baseline Groceries to Go in the adopted budget so that participants

⁸⁶ Mark Levine, *Comments on New York City's Executive Budget for Fiscal Year 2027 and Financial Plan for Fiscal Years 2026–2030*, New York City Comptroller, June 9, 2026, p. 37.

⁸⁷ Mark Levine, *Comments on New York City's Executive Budget for Fiscal Year 2027 and Financial Plan for Fiscal Years 2026–2030*, New York City Comptroller, June 9, 2026, p. 85.

who depend on it for managing chronic conditions are not left without support after FY2027.

XV. SMALL BUSINESSES AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Approximately 25,500 businesses opened in New York City in 2024, with closures outpacing openings in three of the last five tracked quarters. Manhattan's storefront vacancy rate stood at 13.43% as of late 2025, and mid-tier office vacancy in the central business district runs between 13% and 15%, suppressing the foot traffic that neighborhood businesses depend on.⁸⁸ Small business operators are now absorbing an estimated \$4.5 billion in annual tariff-related costs on top of already elevated commercial rents, labor costs, and regulatory burdens, with disproportionate impacts on the food, retail, and manufacturing sectors and additional margin pressure on the restaurants and food retailers that anchor Manhattan's neighborhood commercial corridors.⁸⁹

The Executive Budget and MBPO's Asks

Commercial Rent Tax reform and expansion of the Small Business Resource Network were not addressed.

- **Commercial Rent Tax reform:** Not included; the CRT continues to fall hardest on mid-tier independent businesses in the \$500,000 to \$1 million rent range, and MBPO renews the call to support S451/A6580.
- **Conditions for small business:** Targeted programs were added, including City-Backed Business Insurance (\$20 million), a Commercial Lease Right to Counsel pilot (\$4 million), street-vendor support (\$20.5 million), and a Medallion Loan Guarantee (\$12.6 million), but no broader dedicated capital or operating program beyond existing NYCEDC and SBS infrastructure.

MBPO Recommendations:

A. City-Backed Insurance Program Design

MBPO commends the \$20 million city-backed business insurance program. MBPO asks SBS to publish the program design at adoption, including eligibility criteria, premium structure, coverage limits, and how the City's financial exposure is managed. A program that is underdesigned will not reach the small businesses that need it most.

B. Commercial Rent Tax Reform

MBPO calls on the Administration to include Commercial Rent Tax reform in the adopted budget. The CRT falls hardest on mid-tier independent businesses in the \$500,000-\$1 million rent range. A January 2026 Manhattan Chamber of Commerce

⁸⁸ Manhattan Chamber of Commerce, "The State of Manhattan Business," December 2025, <https://www.manhattancc.org/2025/12/18/chamber-releases-data-on-local-economy-and-health-of-storefront-businesses/>.

⁸⁹ Manhattan Chamber of Commerce, *The State of Small Business Operating Conditions in New York City*, Vol. I, No. 1 (May 2026), <https://www.manhattancc.org/state-of-nyc-small-business/>.

analysis found that raising the CRT threshold to \$1 million for storefront businesses would deliver \$15,000–\$25,000 in annual savings to 900–1,300 businesses at a net cost to the City of \$12–16 million, just 0.01% of the City budget.⁹⁰ MBPO urges the City to support S451/A6580 in Albany.

C. Commercial Lease Right to Counsel Staffing

The Commercial Lease Right to Counsel pilot is funded with only two full-time positions. MBPO urges the Administration to ensure the pilot is adequately staffed, with a public dashboard showing applications received and case outcomes by neighborhood.

D. Small Business Resource Network and Compliance Navigators

MBPO urges the Administration to expand the NYC Small Business Resource Network and fund dedicated compliance advisors who can provide in-person guidance in the languages spoken by many business owners. With businesses managing complex licensing requirements across dozens of industries and a growing set of new worker protection mandates, small businesses need accessible, in-person guidance to keep pace.

E. NYC Tourism + Conventions Funding

NYC Tourism + Conventions has not seen a City funding increase since 2006, even as international arrivals fell 6.5% through April 2026 and competitors like Los Angeles and Boston invest far more aggressively.⁹¹ MBPO urges the Administration and Council to fund it at \$35 million in the FY2027 adopted budget. An industry generating \$84.7 billion in economic impact and \$7.5 billion in annual tax revenue, supporting roughly 397,000 jobs, warrants more than frozen 2006-era investment, and \$35 million would expand borough-focused marketing and convention development that benefit small businesses with no marketing capacity of their own.

XVI. NONPROFITS

New York City's 13,000 nonprofits contribute nearly \$78 billion annually, approximately 10% of citywide GDP, and employ nearly 18% of all workers.⁹² More than three-quarters receive government funding.⁹³ That partnership is being strained by federal funding withdrawals and City procurement practices that force nonprofit providers to finance public services with their own reserves. The Executive Budget does not remedy the nonprofit crisis.

The Executive Budget and MBPO's Asks

⁹⁰ Manhattan Chamber of Commerce, *Preliminary Cost-Benefit Analysis: Raising the NYC Commercial Rent Tax Threshold to \$1 Million* (January 2026), www.manhattanc.org.

⁹¹ Mark Levine, *Comments on New York City's Executive Budget for Fiscal Year 2027 and Financial Plan for Fiscal Years 2026–2030*, New York City Comptroller, June 9, 2026, p. 17, <https://comptroller.nyc.gov/reports/comments-on-new-york-citys-executive-budget-for-fiscal-year-2027/>.

⁹² Nonprofit Finance Fund, *New York City Sector Survey* (New York: Nonprofit Finance Fund, September 17, 2025), <https://nff.org>.

⁹³ Nonprofit Finance Fund, "Survey: NYC Nonprofits are Enduring Under Strain of Funding Pullbacks and Severe Government Payment Delays," September 17, 2025, <https://nff.org/insights/survey-nyc-nonprofits-are-enduring-under-strain-of-funding-pullbacks-and-severe-government-payment-delays/>.

The Executive Budget includes no discrete action on the nonprofit crisis. Over 90% of FY2024 human-services contracts were registered late, and first payments at HPD averaged 765 days⁹⁴; the Nonprofit Finance Fund's 2025 NYC survey finds only 19% of NYC nonprofits were paid on time, compared with 47% of nonprofits nationally, and 32% were paid more than 90 days late.⁹⁵

The budget leaves MBPO's three core nonprofit asks unaddressed.

- **Late payments:** Unaddressed; the payment-delay crisis persists with no new mechanism to speed contracting or expand advance payments.
- **Inadequate contract rates:** Only a \$4.2 million DFTA indirect-cost-rate increase, applied to one agency; the DYCD \$30.97 million "Cost of Living Correction" actually cuts payments to community-based youth and violence-interruption providers.⁹⁶
- **Federal grant-loss cascade:** No discrete response, even as the Comptroller documents mounting federal cuts across the sector.

MBPO Recommendations:

A. Payment Timeline Accountability

MBPO calls on the Administration and Council to make a public commitment, at adoption, to measurably reduce the average payment timeline for all human services contracts in FY2027. MBPO asks OMB and the Comptroller to publish a quarterly payment dashboard (showing average days-to-payment by agency) so the sector and the public can hold the City accountable. At HPD, first payments averaged 765 days. This is not an acceptable operating environment. MBPO also urges the City to prioritize full implementation and expand the allocated pool for advance payments, providing a larger upfront share to trusted partners with strong performance and financial track records.

B. Universal Indirect Cost Rate Policy

MBPO urges the Administration to adopt a universal indirect cost rate policy for all city human services contracts, ensuring that every nonprofit is reimbursed for actual administrative overhead. The current system forces nonprofits to subsidize city services with private philanthropy. A 15% minimum indirect cost rate floor should be established in the adopted budget.

C. Federal Grant Health Assessment

MBPO asks the Administration to conduct, before adoption, a financial health assessment of its most critically dependent human services contractors, identifying organizations at acute risk of closure due to federal funding loss. The Comptroller's report documents cascading federal cuts across public health, immigration, SNAP

⁹⁴ Former New York City Comptroller Brad Lander, *Nonprofit, Nonpayment: An Analysis of Payment Delays for the City's Human Service Contractors* (New York: Office of the New York City Comptroller, April 2025), <https://comptroller.nyc.gov>.

⁹⁵ Nonprofit Finance Fund, "Survey: NYC Nonprofits are Enduring Under Strain of Funding Pullbacks and Severe Government Payment Delays," September 17, 2025, <https://nff.org/insights/survey-nyc-nonprofits-are-enduring-under-strain-of-funding-pullbacks-and-severe-government-payment-delays/>.

⁹⁶ Mark Levine, *Comments on New York City's Executive Budget for Fiscal Year 2027 and Financial Plan for Fiscal Years 2026-2030*, New York City Comptroller, June 9, 2026, <https://comptroller.nyc.gov/reports/comments-on-new-york-city-executive-budget-for-fiscal-year-2027/>.

administration, and social services. The nonprofit-sector aggregate impact needs to be visible to the Council before adoption. MBPO urges the City to identify organizations at immediate risk of closure due to federal funding loss and establish a rapid-response bridge funding mechanism.

D. 3% COLA, Indirect Cost Rate, and Multi-Year Contracts

MBPO requests that the City continue funding a 3% COLA for city-contracted human services workers, establish a 15% minimum indirect cost rate floor, and move toward 3-5 year contracts for proven providers. These three measures together would materially reduce the financial instability that forces nonprofits to choose between mission delivery and organizational survival.

E. Pass and Fund Intro 452

MBPO calls on the City and the Council to pass and fund Intro 452, which would phase in pay parity for human services workers over three years. The legislation carries an estimated cost of \$965 million to \$1.35 billion, a major investment, but one that reflects the actual cost of workforce stability in the sector that delivers nearly every city human service. Without wage parity, the City's contracted nonprofit workforce will continue to turn over at rates that undermine service quality and organizational capacity.

XVII. SANITATION

Clean streets are a baseline condition for livable neighborhoods, functional commerce, and public health. Manhattan's density makes sanitation challenges more acute than in any other borough. The Executive Budget makes meaningful investments in containerization and 311 accountability but leaves community composting and fire safety gaps unaddressed.

The Executive Budget and MBPO's Asks

New investments include Containerization (\$14.8 million in FY2027, growing to \$162.2 million by FY2030, expanding to six new community districts by the end of 2027) and the 311 Citizen Service Center (\$64.5 million, within OTI), the platform through which sanitation-complaint accountability should run. The budget maintains the savings from cancelling the never-implemented EPA-funded Battery Disposal Program (\$353,006 annually), and the NYC Community Compost Network's \$9.29 million request was not funded.

MBPO Recommendations:

A. Containerization Deployment Timeline

MBPO commends the \$14.8 million containerization investment and the accompanying expansion in dedicated staffing from 115 to 607 positions by FY2030, which signal that the Administration is committed to operationalizing this program at scale rather than treating it as a pilot. MBPO asks the Administration to publish, at adoption, the specific community districts and deployment timeline so that high-density, high-foot-traffic corridors in Manhattan receive equitable priority. MBPO urges the Administration to

baseline containerization funding through FY2030 in the adopted financial plan, showing the full cost trajectory from \$14.8 million (FY2027) to \$162.2 million (FY2030).

B. Battery Disposal Program Restoration

MBPO urges the Administration to establish a city-funded battery disposal program in the adopted budget. The EPA-funded program behind this savings line was never implemented; a vendor was selected, events were planned, and the program did not run. Lithium batteries disposed of in regular household waste are a documented fire risk in DSNY collection trucks and transfer facilities, and the absence of any safe disposal infrastructure transfers that risk to sanitation workers and to the communities adjacent to transfer stations. The \$353,006 in annual savings is not adequate justification for leaving this gap unaddressed.

C. Community Composting

MBPO urges the Administration to include the NYC Community Compost Network's \$9.29 million request in the adopted budget. The citywide mandatory composting program placed only 7.2% of compostable material in the correct bin in FY2025, up from 4.2% the prior year but well below the 30% threshold researchers estimate is needed for cost-effective diversion.⁹⁷ Community composting addresses populations and waste streams that the residential containerization program cannot reach, and organizations like the Lower East Side Ecology Center and GrowNYC provide the outreach and education infrastructure that drives participation; their baseline funding should be secured in the adopted budget.

D. 311 Data Accountability

MBPO requests that the City ensure 311 sanitation complaint response times are tracked, reported publicly, and held to clear standards, and that 311 data is used proactively to target cleaning resources, including increased sweeping in corridors with elevated complaint patterns.

E. Street Sweeping Camera Enforcement

MBPO joins the Council in urging Albany to pass S1891/A4523 authorizing DSNY to install cameras on street sweeping vehicles to automatically issue tickets for alternate-side parking violations during scheduled cleaning hours. The City has already projected revenue from this program in the FY2027 Executive Budget; without State authorization, that revenue assumption is at risk. In FY2025, \$125.6 million in fines were issued for street cleaning violations, and camera-based enforcement is expected to increase both compliance and revenue markedly.

F. Dog Waste

In partnership with BetaNYC, MBPO analyzed more than 1.5 million 311 complaints spanning January 2024 through April 2026, the most detailed block-level examination of dog waste conditions in Manhattan assembled to date.⁹⁸ The analysis finds that dog waste complaints have risen as a share of overall 311 activity since mid-2022, with

⁹⁷ BioCycle, "What NYC's Organics Summonses Reveal About Scaling Organics Diversion," February 10, 2026, <https://www.biocycle.net/nyc-mandatory-organics-collection-enforcement-lessons/>.

⁹⁸ Manhattan Borough President Brad Hoylman-Sigal and BetaNYC, "NYC 311 Complaints – Manhattan: Manhattan Dog Waste Analysis," May 14, 2026, <https://mbp-bhs.github.io/manhattan-dog-waste/analysis.html>.

February 2026 setting a six-year record; that Community District 12 (Washington Heights and Inwood) generates the borough's highest complaint rate at nearly 0.24% of all 311 activity, more than 18 times the best-performing district; that higher litter basket density corresponds with fewer dog waste complaints; and that the canine waste bag dispenser program, which installed approximately 200 units in 2018, has lost 87.5% of its infrastructure and is effectively defunct in most of the borough. MBPO urges the Administration to direct DSNY and NYC Parks to install targeted litter baskets on the highest-complaint, lowest-coverage blocks identified in this analysis; restore and expand the canine waste bag dispenser program in uptown Manhattan, where need is greatest and existing coverage is zero; and fund community outreach campaigns timed to launch in November and December, ahead of the annual late-winter complaint spike rather than in reaction to it.

XVIII. COMMUNITY BOARDS

New York City's 59 community boards are the closest point of contact between city government and the neighborhoods it serves. The City of Yes for Housing Opportunity has sharply increased the volume and complexity of land use applications flowing through community boards, with no new programmatic funding allocated to support the review work these applications require.

The Executive Budget and MBPO's Asks

The community-board city-funds budget rose only \$43,000 from the preliminary to the executive plan, to \$21,973,000, with OTI providing a single staff member for all 59 boards and no new urban-planning support, even as City of Yes drives a heavy new land-use review workload.

The budget leaves every community-board ask unaddressed.

- **City of Yes capacity supplement:** Not funded, despite the surge in land-use review that City of Yes creates.
- **Technical Support:** Not expanded.
- **Formula-based funding:** Not established.

MBPO Recommendations:

A. City of Yes Capacity Supplement

MBPO urges the Administration to include, in the adopted budget, a dedicated capacity supplement for community boards to handle the increased land use review workload created by City of Yes for Housing Opportunity. A program that rezones the entire city should be accompanied by the resources to review it.

B. Language Access Services

MBPO urges the Administration to fund language access services at all community boards consistent with Local Law 30 obligations. Community boards that cannot

communicate with their constituents in their languages are not fulfilling their democratic function, particularly in districts with large immigrant populations.

C. Formula-Based Funding

MBPO urges the Administration to establish formula-based funding for community boards that reflects actual costs, including population, geographic size, land use volume, and demographic complexity, and to index community board salaries and operating budgets to inflation through a COLA mechanism.

D. Urban Planning and Technology Support

Community boards are required to weigh in on complex land use applications involving environmental review, zoning analysis, and community impact assessments, but have no dedicated urban planning staff. MBPO strongly urges the City to provide each community board with access to dedicated urban planning support for land use engagement. The Office of Technology and Innovation currently provides only a single staff member to support all 59 community boards, a ratio that is wholly inadequate to the actual technical demands placed on boards. OTI must substantially expand its dedicated support capacity, providing dedicated assistance for hybrid hearings, ULURP filings, and digital records management.

XIX. BOROUGH CAPITAL ALLOCATION (SECTION 211)

Under Section 211 of the New York City Charter, 5% of the City's annual capital appropriations are distributed among the five Borough Presidents. Where the City Council has not legislated an alternative formula, each borough's share is calculated as the average of its share of the City's total population and its share of the City's total land area.

MBPO Recommendations:

Under the current Section 211 formula, Manhattan's effective capital allocation is pulled sharply downward by its small geographic footprint. Manhattan is home to approximately 20% of the City's population while accounting for only 7.5% of its total land area, the smallest footprint of any borough.⁹⁹ Because the formula averages population share and land area share, that disparity is baked directly into our allocation.

The formula's reliance on residential population ignores daytime population entirely. On weekdays, commuters push Manhattan's effective population to more than 3.9 million, according to pre-pandemic estimates.¹⁰⁰ The hospitals, transit hubs, courthouses, social service offices, and cultural institutions concentrated in Manhattan serve New Yorkers from all five boroughs; the wear on infrastructure does not diminish because those users commute in from Brooklyn or the Bronx. Manhattan is home to 120 museums, more than 500 theater companies,

⁹⁹ New York City Department of City Planning, *2020 Census Briefing Booklet* (2021), https://www.nyc.gov/assets/planning/download/pdf/planning-level/nyc-population/census2020/dcp_2020-census-briefing-booklet-1.pdf.

¹⁰⁰ Mitchell L. Moss and Carson Qing, *The Dynamic Population of Manhattan*, Rudin Center for Transportation Policy and Management, Wagner School of Public Service, New York University (March 2012), p. 1.

and scores of dance companies and music venues.¹⁰¹ According to a 2022 State Comptroller report, three-quarters of New York City's arts, entertainment, and recreation employment, and nearly two-thirds of all employers in the sector, are concentrated in six neighborhoods, nearly all of which are in Manhattan.¹⁰² The same logic applies to the human services sector. Many major nonprofits are located in Manhattan because proximity to city agencies, courts, and major transit nodes makes Manhattan the most accessible location for a citywide clientele.

MBPO urges the City Council to exercise its authority under Section 211 to legislate a revised allocation formula, one that incorporates daytime population, accounts for the concentration of citywide-serving institutions in Manhattan, and reflects the actual capital needs of each borough rather than a simple average of residential headcount and land mass.

CONCLUSION

The FY2027 Executive Budget is a step forward for New York City's fiscal health, one made possible in large part by State-City partnership and by the Administration's willingness to pursue structural changes that prior budgets deferred. The baselining of chronically underbudgeted need cliffs, the restoration of the Rainy Day Fund and the Retiree Health Benefits Trust, and new recurring revenues such as through the pied-à-terre tax mark meaningful progress. However, the Comptroller's Office projects a remaining gap of \$1.65 billion in FY2027 itself. Outyear gaps of \$8.76 billion in FY2028, \$9.49 billion in FY2029, and \$9.13 billion in FY2030 cannot be closed through one-time measures or deferred decisions. The fiscal discipline that made this budget possible must carry through the outyears.

Manhattan's 1.6 million residents, and the millions more who work, learn, receive services, and build their lives here, depend on a city government that budgets honestly, invests strategically, and protects its most vulnerable. The Borough President's Office looks forward to working with the Administration and the City Council to adopt a budget that reflects those commitments.

¹⁰¹ Office of the New York City Comptroller Brad Lander, *Tourism's Role in New York City's Economy*, Spotlight (March 12, 2025), p. 6, <https://comptroller.nyc.gov/reports/tourisms-role-in-new-york-citys-economy/>.

¹⁰² New York State Comptroller, *Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation in New York City: Recent Trends and the Impact of COVID-19* (2022), <https://www.osc.ny.gov/reports/osdc/arts-entertainment-and-recreation-new-york-city-recent-trends-and-impact-covid-19>.