

CAMPAIGN FOR SUMMER JOBS

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CAMPAIGN ENDORSERS

88th Precinct Community & Youth Council, Inc.
Alianza Dominicana
Art Without Borders
Asian-American Consulting Services
Association for a Better New York
Baychester Gunhill Youth Council
BHRAGS, Inc.
Boys & Girls Harbor, Inc.
Boys and Girls Republic
Bronx Shepherds Restoration Corporation
CAMBA, Inc.
Center for Family Life in Sunset Park
Center for Family Life, St. Christopher-Ottile
Charosa Foundation Corporation
Children's Arts & Science Workshops, Inc.
Children's Defense Fund
Chinese-American Planning Council
Choices for Children
Citizen's Advice Bureau
Citizens' Committee for Children
Claremont Neighborhood Center Inc.
Community Opportunities & Development Agcy.
(former) Community School Board 30
(former) Community School Board 32
Coney Island Youth Development Inc.
Correctional Association
Covenant House
CSA After-School Tutorial Program
Deerfield Area Association
Directions for Our Youth
The Door, University Settlement
East New York Urban Youth Corps
Ecumenical Community Development Organization
FEGS
Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies
Forest Hills Community House
Fort Greene Recreation Inc.
Goddard Riverside Community Center
Good Shepherd Services
Grand Street Settlement
Greenwich House
Haitian Centers Council
Hamilton-Madison House
Hanac Youth Services
Harlem RBI
Henry Street Settlement
Hudson Guild
Human Services Council
Inwood House
Jobs for Youth Apprenticeship Program
John the Baptist Community Center, Inc.
Juvenile Justice Project
Kingsbridge Heights Community Center
Kips Bay Boys & Girls Club
LaGuardia Community College
LEAP, Inc.
Lincoln Square Neighborhood Center
Madison Residence for Exceptional Persons
Madison Square Boys & Girls Club
M.L. Wilson Boys & Girls Club of Harlem
Neighborhood Family Services Coalition
Nick's Healthnet
NYC Employment and Training Coalition
NYC Mission Society
Partnership with Children, Inc.
Pathways for Youth
Police Athletic League
Project Reach Youth, Inc.
Rena-Coa Multi-Service Center
Richmond Hill Multi-Culture Service Arts
and Health Association
Riverdale Neighborhood House
Sacred Heart Church
SCAN- New York
The Seneca Center
South Bronx Community Corporation
Southeast Bronx Neighborhood Centers, Inc.
Springfield Gardens Methodist Church
CSA After School Tutorial Program
Stanley Isaacs Neighborhood Center
St. John's Baptist Church
St. Matthew's & St. Timothy's Neighborhood Center
Sunnyside Community Services
UJA Federation of NY
United Therapeutic Community
United Federation of Hindu Mandirs
United Neighborhood Houses
Urban Strategies, Inc.
The Valley, Inc.
Washington Heights-Inwood Coalition
Woodside on the Move, Inc.
Ya-Ya Network
YEP Contractors' Coalition
YMCA of Greater NY, Westside
Youth Dares

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Testimony before the New York City Council Youth Services Committee

Chairman Lew Fidler

May 14, 2008

Resolution No. 1389 – Summer Jobs Stimulus Act of 2008

Good morning. On behalf of the Campaign for Summer Jobs, we are here today to testify in support of Resolution No. 1389, which urges the United States Congress to pass the Summer Jobs Stimulus Act of 2008. This Act was introduced by Senator Patty Murray (D-WA), and along with a companion bill (H.R. 5444) introduced by Congressman James Clyburn (D-SC), would authorize one billion dollars for summer youth employment programs through the Workforce Investment Act for the period of April 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008. Resolution No. 1389 is very timely, since summer is right around the corner. The Summer Jobs Stimulus Act must be passed immediately, in order to give States and municipalities enough time to develop jobs, and recruit and enroll youth for the expanded summer jobs programs that this Act would provide funding for.

As you know, the Campaign for Summer Jobs is a coalition of nearly 100 community-based and citywide organizations in New York City that supports funding for a permanent summer youth employment program. Following a change in legislation that eliminated a dedicated federal funding stream (Job Training Partnership Act) for summer jobs, United Neighborhood Houses (UNH) and the Neighborhood Family Services Coalition (NFSC) co-founded the Campaign for Summer Jobs in December 1999. Since then, the Campaign has worked tirelessly to advocate for State and City funds to ensure the availability of summer jobs for youth. We want to take this moment to again thank the City Council for your strong support of summer jobs for teens over the years. We simply would not have the current level of City investment in SYEP without your committed leadership.

New York City's teenagers want to work during the summertime. Nearly 94,000 youth applied to the City's 2007 summer youth employment program. This was a record number of applications received, and about a 30 percent increase in applications from 2006. Nearly 42,000 teens were enrolled in SYEP in 2007, which is less than 1 in 2 who applied. The summer jobs application deadline for this year's program is this Friday, May 16, 2008, and we expect a new record to be set where over 100,000 applications will have been submitted to the City. With such high demand for an effective and popular program, we are disappointed to see the Mayor propose an \$8 million cut to SYEP in his FY 2009 Executive Budget. This translates into a loss of around 5,600 jobs. In addition, due to a revised formula for the allocation of State SYEP funds, New York City will receive

\$500,000 less in State funds this year (a reduction from \$20.2 million last summer, to \$19.7 million this summer). This reduction will result in a loss of 430 jobs. In total, 6,030 summer jobs are in jeopardy for 2008.

While we have worked in partnership with the City and State to increase summer jobs funding since the loss of federal funding in 2000, we recognize the importance of having dedicated federal funding to support SYEP again. Towards this end, the Campaign met with Congressmembers Towns, Clarke, and Meeks in late 2007 to urge for the restoration of a dedicated federal funding stream for SYEP.

Given the proposed City cuts, reduction in State funding, continued low teen employment rates in the summer, and the downturn in the economy, passing the federal summer jobs stimulus act would aid our City in several significant ways:

- Provide additional funding to meet the high demand of summer jobs for teens.
- Offer opportunities for greater numbers of youth to gain work experience and work skills. According to the Center for Labor Market Studies at Northeastern University, early work experience raises earnings over a lifetime by 10 – 20 percent.
- Further stimulate the local economy through the purchases of goods and services paid for by the wages that teens earn at their summer jobs. Research from the Center for Labor Market Studies at Northeastern University has shown that an additional \$3 in economic activity is generated for every \$1 that a teenager earns.

We are pleased to see the growing recognition that the federal government must support a stand alone summer jobs program again. In addition to this summer jobs stimulus bill, we are pleased that this is the second year in a row that the U.S. Conference of Mayors is supporting a \$1 billion request for SYEP funding to be included in the federal budget. Mayor Bloomberg has been supportive of this request, and we would be pleased to work with the City Council to pass a resolution to support this as well.

In supporting this resolution and the bills by Senator Murray and Congressman Clyburn, we do want to urge that States and localities be given an option to waive the WIA income eligibility requirements. Since this bill is for a limited period of time this year, we want to ensure that as many teens as possible can participate in this program, and would hate to see upfront income documentation and verification efforts slow down the ability of the City to enroll teens in SYEP. Waiving these income eligibility requirements would be in line with the City's current summer jobs program, which has no income limits for participants.

Once again, thank you for your ongoing support of the summer youth employment program. We look forward to working with the City Council to pass the Summer Jobs Stimulus Act of 2008, and to restore funding in the City's adopted FY2009 budget to ensure that nearly 42,000 teens can again enroll in the City's summer jobs program this year.