

Annual Report

# 2025



# Partnerships & Initiatives

# Resident Services, *Partnerships & Initiatives*

The Department of Resident Services, Partnerships, and Initiatives (RSPI) connects the NYCHA resident community to critical programs and services from external and internal partners, with a focus on economic opportunity, youth, seniors, and social services.

RSPI also supports NYCHA's network of resident leaders as part of its work to strengthen the relationship between residents and the Authority.



Within RSPI, the **Office of the Vice President of Partnerships & Initiatives** (Partnerships & Initiatives) oversees three program offices and one unit:

### **Grants Support Unit**

*Read more on page 2.*

### **Resident Economic Empowerment & Sustainability**

*Read more on page 3.*

### **Resident Health Initiatives**

*Read more on page 10.*

### **Public & Private Partnerships**

*Read more on page 16.*



## ***Message from the Vice President of Partnerships & Initiatives***

Dear Residents, Partners and Staff,

It is with great pride and gratitude that we present NYCHA RSPI's Partnerships & Initiatives 2025 Annual Report. 2025 has been a year of growth, innovation and progress. This report demonstrates the success of our collaborative efforts - from resident leadership, to dedicated staff and invaluable partners. I welcome you to read through the following pages to learn more about the work of Partnerships & Initiatives.

Thank you to our incredible staff and committed partners. Thank you to the NYCHA residents who have trusted and guided our work. As we reflect on last year's successes, we also remain committed and eager to deepen our impact and partnerships in NYCHA communities in the years to come.

Sincerely,  
**Shanna Castillo, Vice President, Partnerships & Initiatives**

## Grants Support Unit

Partnerships & Initiatives houses the Grant Support Unit, which provides end-to-end grants management and leads project management across the full grant lifecycle, including identifying funding opportunities, coordinating cross-departmental collaboration, developing competitive proposals, supporting partner-led applications to public and private funders, and ensuring compliance through reporting and close-out.

**In 2025, Partnerships & Initiatives facilitated and supported nearly \$7 million in funding to advance education and workforce development programs, health initiatives, community services, and public safety efforts benefiting NYCHA residents.**

Beyond direct grant development, Partnerships & Initiatives strengthens internal capacity by equipping staff and partners with the tools and knowledge to pursue funding independently. In 2025, the Office hosted a Grants 101 training for Summer Youth Employment Program interns and NYCHA staff focused on identifying funding opportunities and crafting strong, competitive applications.

## 2025 Highlights

### **Grant Program: HUD Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS)**

#### **Program Office: Resident Economic Empowerment & Sustainability**

The Unit secured an expansion of the FSS program, funding four full-time Service Coordinator positions to support Section 8 residents in building savings and advancing toward financial independence. The team also successfully secured renewal funding for 2026.

**Read more about FSS on page 8.**

### **Grant Program: HUD Emergency Safety & Security Grant (ESSG)**

#### **Program Office: Asset & Capital Management**

The Unit obtained funding for NYCHA to install new Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) cameras at the Polo Grounds Houses, strengthening on-site safety infrastructure and supporting crime prevention efforts.

### **Grant Program: New York State AmeriCorps**

#### **Program Office: Resident Health Initiatives**

The Unit facilitated funding for NYCHA's first-ever AmeriCorps program, ensuring the continuation of the NYCHA Health Corps and transitioning full program administration to NYCHA. Corps members will deliver public health direct services and capacity-building initiatives in partnership with public and nonprofit partners serving public housing residents and other low-income New Yorkers.

**Read more about NYCHA Health Corps on page 14.**

# Office of Resident Economic Empowerment & Sustainability

The Office of Resident Economic Empowerment and Sustainability (REES) supports residents in increasing their income and assets through programs, policies, and partnerships in four key areas:



**Employment & Career Advancement**



**Adult Education & Job Training**



**Financial Empowerment & Asset Building**

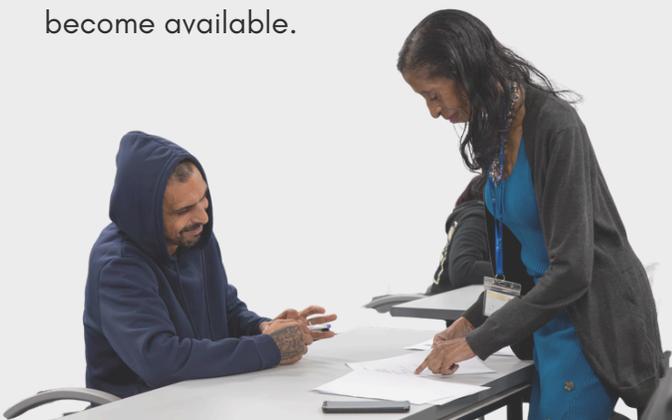


**Resident Business Development**

## Partnership-Driven Service Coordination

REES connects NYCHA residents to economic opportunity services through a network of more than 80 partner organizations operating across 15 zones citywide. Each zone is supported by a dedicated REES Zone Coordinator, a neighborhood-based NYCHA employee who leverages local knowledge to build and manage partnerships.

Through referrals and targeted outreach, REES helps residents get a job, start a business, enroll in a job training program, earn a GED, manage finances, and much more. Residents can access services online through the MyNYCHA portal or by calling the REES Hotline to speak with an Intake and Assessment Specialist, who can refer them to services aligned with their needs and interests and ensure they are contacted as new offerings become available.



## 2025 Highlights

**15,801 calls received**  
through the REES Hotline

**1,123 referrals**  
to partner services

**4,532 residents attended 406 events**  
hosted by REES, including information sessions, workshops, & more

**957 residents enrolled**  
in partner workforce programs

**868 residents completed**  
partner workforce programs

**581 residents completed**  
financial education and asset-building workshops

 [OpportunityNYCHA.org](https://OpportunityNYCHA.org)  
 **REES Hotline: (718) 289-8100**

## Job Generation

REES advances NYCHA’s Section 3 resident hiring efforts through its Job Generation Unit, which works with NYCHA vendors and employer partners to connect residents to employment, job training, and other economic opportunities tied to NYCHA projects and hiring commitments.

Section 3 requires recipients of certain HUD financial assistance to provide economic opportunities, to the greatest extent feasible, for low- and very low-income residents in connection with projects in their neighborhoods. To support this mandate, the Job Generation Unit engages NYCHA residents, resident leaders, and internal and external stakeholders and develops job training programs specifically aligned with open Section 3 roles to bridge skills gaps and prepare residents for immediate hiring opportunities.

In addition, the team manages partnerships that deliver job readiness services and direct employment connections, including referrals for interview preparation and resume support.

### 2025 Highlights

**574 job placements** through NYCHA vendors, developer partners, and other employer partners

**1,372 job placements** through partner organizations, including 10 Jobs-Plus locations serving 40 developments

## Expanding Opportunity to Coney Island Residents Through a HUD Jobs-Plus Program

NYCHA was awarded \$3.8 million from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to launch the Coney Island Jobs-Plus program, serving residents of Coney Island Houses, Surfside Gardens, and Coney Island I (Sites 4 and 5). Formally launched in February 2025, the program provides employment services, financial education, and other supports through one-on-one case management, information sessions, and partner events held in a dedicated space on the Coney Island Houses campus. **To date, 148 residents have enrolled, surpassing the first-year membership goal of 98.**



**Read more on The NYCHA Journal**

[Jobs-Plus Coney Island Soft Launch at Surfside Gardens](#)



## NYCHA YouthBuild Celebrating the Inaugural Cohort

REES, in partnership with Central Brooklyn Economic Development Corporation and Genesis Construction Training Center, Brooklyn Public Library, and Northeast Brooklyn Housing Development Corporation, enrolled 46 participants across two cohorts into NYCHA's first YouthBuild program in Brownsville.

Part of a \$1.3 million U.S. Department of Labor funded initiative, the six-month program combines classroom learning, hands-on construction training, and guidance to help young people ages 17 to 24 build technical skills and long-term stability.

Participants received stipends and earned industry-recognized certifications, including OSHA, Site Safety Training (SST), and National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) credentials in construction technology.



*"NYCHA YouthBuild gave me the means to advance in whatever career I want to be in.... It [also] gave me a sense of community, because we all came from different NYCHA developments and we came together and helped each other out."*

*Mr. Jordan Lewis, NYCHA YouthBuild Graduate (pictured above)*



**Read more on The NYCHA Journal**

[NYCHA's First YouthBuild Cohort Graduates with Skills, Confidence, and Community](#)



## Heating Plant Technician Program (HPT)

Funded by Con Edison via the Public Housing Community Fund (PHCF), the Heating Plant Technician (HPT) Trainee Program is a collaborative initiative between CUNY's New York City College of Technology (City Tech), and NYCHA's Learning and Development and REES offices. The six-month program integrates classroom instruction and on-the-job training with a curriculum focused on heating systems, mechanical operations, and maintenance. Each trainee is paired with a seasoned Heating Plant Technician or Supervisor mentor to provide guidance and feedback.



**Of the 15 residents who completed the program, 10 were hired as provisional Heating Plant Technicians.**

The second cohort launched in September 2025 and is scheduled to graduate in March 2026.



## Bricklayer Apprenticeship

In response to projected demand for skilled bricklaying and PCC labor within NYCHA's capital portfolio, REES and NYCHA's Capital department worked with Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Local 1 to host two pre-apprenticeship cohorts in spring 2025 for the PCC and bricklayer trades, respectively. This training was held at Local 1's training center in Long Island City, preparing residents for union apprenticeships. In total, 8 NYCHA residents enrolled in the pre-training.

**After completing the program in June 2025, 5 NYCHA residents have been hired as first-year apprentices for PCC jobs and 3 residents were hired for bricklayer apprenticeships.**

### Read more on The NYCHA Journal

[Latest Cohort of NYCHA's Heating Plant Technician \(HPT\) Program Graduates](#)

[Training Program with Union Paves Career Path for Bricklayer, PCC Apprentices](#)



## NYCHA Resident Training Academy

The NYCHA Resident Training Academy (NRTA) provides free, industry--recognized training and job placement services to NYCHA residents and Section 8 voucher holders. The program offers specialized workforce development tracks in janitorial services, pest control, and construction, through which participants earn certifications that prepare them for employment with NYCHA, NYCHA contractors, and other employer partners. The Construction track is a New York State Department of Labor--approved pre-apprenticeship program that provides direct entry pathways into 24 union trades. In October 2025, NRTA launched a Construction track cohort with graduation projected for January 2026.

### 2025 Highlights

**262 NRTA-J Graduates**  
across 12 training cycles

**12 NRTA-Pest Control Graduates**  
across 1 training cycle

## NYCHA-CUNY Scholarship: Celebrating 20 Years!

In 2025, the NYCHA-CUNY Scholarship program celebrated its 20th year of providing vital scholarships that help residents pursue undergraduate and graduate degrees at CUNY schools. The NYCHA-CUNY Scholarship program provides \$1,000 scholarships to qualified residents currently pursuing undergraduate and graduate degrees at City University of New York schools with a minimum 3.0 grade point average.

**Since the program began in 2005, NYCHA has awarded more than 615 scholarships totaling over \$615,000 in financial support to NYCHA residents in the five boroughs. This year, 100 residents were awarded scholarships in partnership with the Public Housing Community Fund.**

### Read more on The NYCHA Journal

[Twenty Years of Supporting NYCHA Residents' College Dreams](#)

[Meet NYCHA-CUNY Scholar Naya Mellette](#)

[Meet NYCHA-CUNY Scholar Glenn De La Cruz](#)

[Forging the Path as He Walks It: NYCHA-CUNY Scholar David Perez](#)



## Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS)

The Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) program is a HUD-funded rent incentive and asset-building initiative that supports NYCHA Section 8 residents in pursuing financial goals. As participants increase their earned income, any resulting rent increases are deposited into an interest-bearing escrow account, which is disbursed when residents achieve their self-sufficiency goals.

### 2025 Highlights:

**73 residents**  
newly enrolled in FSS

**34 residents**  
graduated FSS

**\$477,366**  
in escrow savings  
disbursed to graduates

*"Completing the FSS Program made me realize that I can continue achieving my goals with the right support and resources. While in the program, I not only completed my bachelor's degree but also earned my master's degree. By staying consistent with my goals, I was able to receive escrow savings, which I will use to pay off debt and work toward purchasing a new home for my family."*

*Matessa Johnson, FSS Graduate*

## Pathways to Homeownership

NYCHA REES connects public housing residents and Section 8 voucher holders to homeownership education and opportunities through partnerships with HUD-certified providers and financial institutions. Through REES-led information sessions, residents learn about the home-buying process, mortgage qualification, and available first-time homebuyer programs. Residents prepare themselves for homeownership through referrals to credit-building and financial counseling partners.



**In 2025, two NYCHA residents became first-time homeowners after completing the full application and education process for NYCHA facilitated affordable cooperative development in the Bronx and Brooklyn.** Their success highlights the impact of REES's partnerships and its commitment to expanding accessible pathways to homeownership.

### Read more on The NYCHA Journal

[Former Longtime NYCHA Resident Living Her Dream as New Co-op Homeowner](#)



## NYCHA Business Pathways Series

Funded by the JPMorgan Chase Foundation via PHCF, the NYCHA Business Pathways series provides free business development training, mentorship, coaching, market access, and licensing support to help residents launch and grow food and childcare businesses.



### 2025 Highlights



**22 Food Business Pathways Graduates**



**11 Childcare Business Pathways Spanish Language Course Graduates**

## NYC Boss Up NYCHA Business Pitch Competition

Funded by the Moelis Foundation, NYC Boss Up NYCHA provides NYCHA entrepreneurs (NYCHApreneurs) with the financial and technical resources needed to scale their businesses. The program awards each winner a \$20,000 financial grant, technical training, and wraparound support, creating a more equitable and inclusive entrepreneurial ecosystem for NYCHA business owners. **In 2025, 9 NYCHA residents won NYC Boss Up grants to help grow their businesses.**

*“Everyone says they want to help small entrepreneurs grow, but not everyone knows how to help.*

### **REES does it well. They meet you where you are.**

*I don't think there's any other place in the country I could've gotten these resources. NYCHA is unique, and I don't think residents realize how many opportunities there are out there for them.”*

*Ms. Sarah Adams, Food Business Pathways Graduate & Boss Up Winner*

#### Read more on The NYCHA Journal

[Celebrating NYCHA's Newest Food Business Entrepreneurs](#)

[Meet Sage Beausejour, Owner of Sweet Sage NYC](#)

[Meet Eric Michael Thomas, Owner of Chef Doula LLC](#)

[Childcare Business Pathways Celebrates Its First Spanish-Language Cohort](#)

[NYCHA Entrepreneurs Win Boss Up Grants to Support Businesses](#)

[NYCHA Entrepreneur Makes Her Mark on Governors Island](#)



# Office of Resident Health Initiatives

Resident Health Initiatives (RHI) builds resident health and advances health equity through innovation and cross-system collaboration. RHI leads and critically supports a set of strategic initiatives that connect residents to preventive health resources, help create healthier indoor environments, and build capacity for resident leadership in health.

RHI's work is centered around three pillars:



**Preventive health**



**Partnership management**



**Operational alignment**



## 2025 Program Unit Highlights

**Healthy Start @ NYCHA** hosted three baby showers, providing expecting families and new parents with essential resources, education, and community support. The events welcomed 429 residents from developments across all five boroughs.

The **Farms and Gardens** team organized the second annual NYCHA Farms & Gardens Season of Growth Summit, bringing together over 300 residents and partners to network and learn about relevant topics including starting a community garden, food as medicine, composting, and grant writing.

**Smoke-Free NYCHA** deepened youth-focused engagement through collaboration with national tobacco control experts, Truth Initiative. Thirty-two NYCHA youth gathered for an in-person workshop to learn about the harms of tobacco and vaping and build leadership skills to support healthy communities.

**Healthcare Partnerships** partnered with the NYC Health Department on the Health Advocacy Partners Program (HAPP), expanding place-based community health worker support across developments in three boroughs. In its second year, HAPP engaged 7,142 residents in 869 group wellness activities and provided health coaching to 1,204 residents.

**Community Mental Health** joined Northwell Health, resident leaders, SCAN-Harbor, and other partners to launch a new NYCHA-based mental healthcare program at the Ethel Velez Battle Community Center. *Healthy Minds, Healthy Harlem* provides mental health assessments, virtual and in-person therapy, medication management, and bilingual providers for participants, regardless of their ability to pay.





## Healthy Start @ NYCHA

Healthy Start ensures expecting NYCHA families have safe, hazard-free homes while connecting them to services such as home visiting, doula support, childcare, and fatherhood programs. The program is linked to NYC's broader network of birth equity partners. Program participants, who are NYCHA residents that voluntarily disclose a pregnancy, receive customized support and invitations to special events for growing families.

**567** new pregnancy disclosures

**812** program participants

**80+** program partners

**368** resource navigation wellness calls

**281** baby item deliveries & distributions

**147** Healthy Start apartment hazard inspections completed

### Resource Connections for Expecting Families

Citywide baby showers are Healthy Start's trademark resource fair events that provide face to face connections to partner organizations in tandem with educational workshops and family fun activities. The events also offer direct access for growing families to baby essential items such as strollers, car seats, diapers, clothes, books and more. In 2025, the program hosted two citywide baby showers, partnered with NYCHA resident leaders on one local baby shower event in Harlem, and **distributed goods valued at \$176,049 at baby shower events.**



### Proactive Hazard Inspections for Expecting Families

The Healthy Start @ NYCHA team works with NYCHA property managers and NYCHA Healthy Homes to identify and address in-unit hazards. **In 2025, NYCHA operations teams closed 2,394 work orders addressing repair needs in the homes of program participants.**

#### Read more on The NYCHA Journal

[NYCHA Partnered with Brooklyn Borough President to Support Growing Families](#)

[Giving New Parents a Healthy Start @ NYCHA](#)

[NYCHA Joins Maternal Health Partner for Stock Exchange Opening Bell](#)



[healthy.start@nycha.nyc.gov](mailto:healthy.start@nycha.nyc.gov)



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## NYCHA Farms & Gardens

NYCHA Farms and Gardens builds collaboration between residents and partners to activate open spaces, strengthen community health and wellbeing across generations, and advance environmental sustainability. The Farms and Gardens team manages a network of urban farms and provides support to residents, partners, and NYCHA teams to support gardens and farms.

### Farms at NYCHA

Since beginning the first farm operations in 2013, NYCHA farms have grown into vibrant hubs of community engagement, education, youth workforce and leadership development and access to fresh food – bringing together residents of all ages.

**In 2025, Farms at NYCHA operators conducted nearly 500 community activities including farm stands and distributions, garden club celebrations, educational workshops, hands-on gardening and harvesting, and more. More than 270 NYCHA residents volunteered their time to support farm operations across 9 farms.** Together, these efforts underscore the farms' continued success as resident-centered spaces that promote health, sustainability, learning and community connection across NYCHA developments.



**34,600+ lbs of produce**  
distributed to residents  
**~155K lbs of food scraps**  
collected for compost

### Resident Garden Highlights

In Summer 2025, more than 200 volunteers revitalized Marlboro Houses' community garden through Rebuilding Together New York City's (RTNYC) She Builds project, replacing planter walls, replenishing soil and improving pathways to preserve the garden as a vital "third space" for residents. RTNYC-led projects in 2025 also constructed four new garden beds at Butler Houses in the Bronx and renovated and expanded three garden beds at Grant Houses in Harlem.

#### Read more on The NYCHA Journal

[NYCHA Farms & Gardens: Growing Community, Food, & Engagement in 2025](#)

[Sowing Seeds of Community: NYCHA's 2025 Farms and Gardens Summit](#)

[Resident Climate Action Grants Bring Home-grown Solutions to Life Across NYCHA](#)

[Smith Houses Garden Wins GreenThumb "Rookie of the Year" Award](#)

[Green City Force Welcomes Its Newest Cohort of Graduates](#)

[Partnering to Beautify NYCHA](#)



**200+ registered gardens**  
across NYCHA campuses

**116 technical assistance touchpoints**  
delivered to resident gardens

**24 resident gardens**  
built or substantially renovated

 [gardens@nycha.nyc.gov](mailto:gardens@nycha.nyc.gov)

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## Smoke-Free NYCHA

Smoke-Free NYCHA creates healthier homes for residents and healthier working environments for employees by reducing exposure to secondhand smoke and providing resources to residents and employees who smoke and want to quit or cut back. The work is led by a team of community health workers with lived experience that provide education and technical assistance to residents and NYCHA operations teams.



In 2025, Smoke-Free NYCHA focused on integration of smoke-free policy across NYCHA systems and communities. **Smoke-Free staff hosted 413 technical assistance activities to strengthen policy enforcement**, primarily supporting property management and frontline staff. These efforts included on-site employee trainings, targeted outreach and flyering in response to common area violations, and distribution of educational materials secondhand smoke exposure. Smoke-Free NYCHA also launched a new online training module to promote more consistent and effective policy enforcement across developments.

**644 NYCHA employees**  
trained in Smoke-Free policy

**75% of residents**  
with a documented violation  
were successfully contacted

**1,605 residents engaged**  
through community events and  
tenant association meetings

**The team also hosted 95 educational activities for residents**, including presentations at resident leader meetings and community forums, as well as multi-generational activities that fostered community connection through creative strategies such as games and artistic expression.

Smoke-Free NYCHA continued to expand resident access to cessation resources through collaboration with NYC Health Department's Neighborhood Health Action Centers to bring nicotine replacement medications directly to residents. The program also partnered with Weill-Cornell to bring lung screening to NYCHA through its mobile service.

### Read more on The NYCHA Journal

[Meet Smoke-Free NYCHA Liaison Equan Brown](#)

[Meet Shakyna Gorden, Bronx Liaison for Smoke-Free NYCHA](#)

[NYCHA Youth "Air the Truth" at Smoke-Free Workshop](#)

 [smoke-free@nycha.nyc.gov](mailto:smoke-free@nycha.nyc.gov)

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## Health Care Partnerships

Health Care Partnerships leads collaborations that create pathways for residents into preventive health careers and bring partner-led health resources to NYCHA communities. The unit partners with the NYC Health Department to bring place-based Community Health Worker (CHW) services to residents in targeted NYCHA developments. **Harlem Health Advocacy Partners (HHAP)**, a Public Health Solutions initiative, celebrated 10 years in 2025, serving 16 developments in East and Central Harlem. The **Health Advocacy Partners Program (HAPP)** reaches an additional 11 developments across the Bronx, Brooklyn, and Queens. Both programs employ NYCHA residents as CHWs and connect residents to care, wellness programs, and community resources.

Health Care Partnerships also connects partners to critical information on operations-based program innovations and resources across NYCHA. In 2025, RHI engaged 209 organizations in two webinars on critical topics: NYCHA's Repairs Process and Mold Assessment and Remediation. This webinar series ensures partners that provide support to NYCHA residents have access to comprehensive information on healthy homes and repairs topics.

## NYCHA Health Corps

The NYCHA Health Corps (NHC) is an AmeriCorps service program that creates pathways for NYCHA residents into preventive and public health careers through training and work experience.

**In 2025, 35 NYCHA residents completed the service term, serving across 20 host sites and impacting 16,910 New Yorkers through their service activities.**



*"After serving in this program, I have gained three things: confidence in myself, new technical skills, and new family and friends."*  
*Kwantika Gathers, NYCHA Health Corps Member*

## Community Health Worker Certificate Training Program

NYCHA continued its partnership with CUNY LaGuardia Community College to deliver the CHW Certificate Training. Over 18 weeks and a 125-hour internship, residents gain the skills and credentials to enter or advance in the workforce, earning an industry-recognized certificate and up to nine college credits. **In 2025, 16 NYCHA residents graduated from the program.**

### Read more on The NYCHA Journal

[Celebrating NYCHA Health Corps Alumni](#)

[NYCHA Health Corps Members Recognized at NYC Service AmeriCorps Ceremony](#)

[Empowering NYCHA Residents to Lead Healthier Lives](#)

[Breast Cancer Awareness Walk Held at Queensbridge Houses](#)

# Community Mental Health

RHI works with NYCHA residents and strategic partners, including the NYC Health Department, to strengthen community mental health across NYCHA communities. In 2025, RHI advanced this work in partnership with the NYCHA Mental Health Task Force, a citywide collaborative developing solutions that build towards a vision of thriving NYCHA communities with equitable, stigma-free access to mental health and wellbeing supports.

Community health work at NYCHA was further bolstered through a partnership with the Mayor’s Office of Community Mental Health, which supported the hiring of a Community Mental Health Partnership Manager to drive coordination, partnership alignment, and long-term impact.

## NYCHA Mental Health Task Force

**In 2025, the NYCHA Mental Health Task Force activated 35 members, including 18 resident members.** The Task Force hosted two discussions with citywide resident leaders and NYC government partners focused on “988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline” and the City’s mental health crisis prevention and response systems. NYCHA also engaged 68 residents and community stakeholders through four Community Mental Wellness and Resilience trainings during Mental Health Awareness Month in May and supported resident leaders in accessing additional training through CUNY’s Academy for Community Behavioral Health.

## Community Mental Health Summit

In December, RHI hosted the first NYCHA Community Mental Health Summit, bringing together approximately 100 residents and partners for a day of learning and dialogue. The event connected community members and mental health professionals to discuss intergenerational trauma and healing practices, substance use and recovery pathways, and supporting teens and their families. The Summit highlighted NYCHA resident voices and shaped strategic priorities for 2026 and beyond. **In a post-Summit survey, more than 90% of respondents indicated that they feel better equipped to prevent or respond to a mental health crisis.**



**Read more on The NYCHA Journal**

- [Mental Health Awareness Month Spotlight](#)
- [Mental Health Program Opens at Ethel Battle Velez Community Center](#)
- [October 10 Is World Mental Health Day](#)
- [NYCHA Hosts First Community Mental Health Summit](#)



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# Office of Public Private Partnerships

The Office of Public Private Partnerships (OPPP) strengthens NYCHA’s collaboration with public and private partners to expand access to community-facility based services and resources and opportunities that support residents from infancy through older adulthood. Through these partnerships, OPPP collaborates on community space improvements, including capital enhancements, and supports resident-focused programming and enrichment activities that cultivate learning, wellness and connection for NYCHA communities.

OPPP operates through three core units:



## NYCHA’s Portfolio of Community Facilities:

### 101 Community Centers

93 centers operated by DYCD  
8 centers operated by non-City partners

### 94 Older Adult Centers

84 centers operated by NYC Aging  
10 centers operated by non-City partners

### 57 Daycare Centers

53 centers operated by NYCPS  
4 Operated by non-City partners

### 7 Health Centers

3 centers operated by HHC  
4 centers operated by non-City partners

*“NYCHA has housed NYC Aging Older Adult Clubs for over 40 years. Over the past seven years, that long-standing relationship has evolved into a partnership. We now work collaboratively across programs to ensure older adults feel informed, connected, and supported in their homes and beyond. Through our partnership serving older adults living in NYCHA developments, we deliver meaningful, coordinated support to older New Yorkers every day.”*

*NYC Aging Commissioner Lorraine Cortés-Vázquez*



## Community Relations

The Community Relations Unit fosters meaningful relationships with residents, community leaders, and partner agencies to ensure NYCHA spaces serve as true neighborhood anchors. In collaboration with City agencies such as NYC Department for the Aging (NYC Aging), New York City Public Schools (NYCPS), and New York City Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD), the unit manages City partner relationships for community spaces, facilitates repair needs for partner-operated facilities, and gathers resident feedback to identify programming priorities and opportunities for engagement.

### 2025 Highlights

#### Community Center Upgrades at DYCD Cornerstone Sites

**Mariner's Harbor Houses** celebrated the reopening of a **newly renovated community center**, featuring an instructional kitchen, computer rooms, and upgraded common spaces.

**Gowanus Houses Community Center** reopened its doors after 20 years. The new cornerstone partner, Grand Street Settlement has launched community programs as of December.

In partnership with the Public Housing Community Fund (PHCF), CAMBA, and Amazon, NYCHA opened a **fully equipped computer lab at the Van Dyke Community Center**, expanding access to technology, workforce resources, and digital learning for more than 3,300 residents.



*"Through our Cornerstone Community Centers, DYCD supports more than 100,000 young people and families each year with high quality enrichment, leadership development, workforce readiness, and safe, welcoming spaces embedded directly within NYCHA communities. This collaboration ensures that residents have access to consistent, year round programming and facilities that reflect our shared commitment to safety, equity, and operational excellence."*

*Associate Commissioner Daniel Guillen  
Department of Youth and Community Development, Youth Services Division*

#### Read more on The NYCHA Journal

[Mariner's Harbor Houses Celebrates Newly Renovated Community Center](#)  
[Newly Equipped Computer Lab Opens at Van Dyke Community Center](#)

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## Community Facilities

The Community Facilities Unit manages a diverse range of community facilities across NYCHA developments citywide, occupied by City agencies and nonprofit and community-based organizations that provide essential services and resources to residents. The unit oversees the leasing process for new tenants and works with property management to troubleshoot repair needs for non-City partner tenants.

In 2025, the Community Facilities Unit:

**Generated \$2.28 million in rent revenue** through effective lease management.

**Executed 7 new leases** across NYCHA developments, expanding access to education, workforce development, health, and social services through partnerships with nonprofit and community-based organizations. Several leases are long-term, ensuring sustained service delivery and neighborhood investment.

**Advanced data collection and portfolio management efforts** to track program participation, ensure at least 51% NYCHA resident engagement at DYCD Cornerstone sites, document resident board involvement, and maintain updated information on community tenants.



[community.leasing@nycha.nyc.gov](mailto:community.leasing@nycha.nyc.gov)

### Partner feature: **Goddard Riverside - Stanley Isaacs Older Adult Center**



The Isaacs Center Older Adult Center is operated by Goddard Riverside under contract with NYC Aging. The center provides comprehensive services to older adults on Manhattan's Upper East Side, including residents of the Isaacs and Holmes developments, which are designated Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities (NORCs). The center offers educational, recreational, and wellness programming ranging from arts and games to dance, yoga, and meditation, along with daily meals, a weekly pantry, and group outings through a dedicated bus service.

A central feature of the center is its case management support, where social workers and health staff help members navigate benefits, housing, and health needs, and connect them to additional resources. With most services offered free or at a suggested donation, the center plays a vital role in reducing isolation, easing financial burdens, and helping older adults remain active, supported, and able to age with dignity in their community.

## Art & Physical Installations

Art and physical installations are also managed by the Community Facilities Unit. Across NYCHA developments, art serves as a key tool for community connection and place-making. The unit partners with professional artists and community-based organizations to install murals and other enhancements on NYCHA property. These projects are developed with resident input, frequently in partnership with resident associations, and are often used as youth and community engagement opportunities.

In 2025, new and incoming tenants committed significant capital investments to modernize and improve facilities, including **12 mural projects across 8 NYCHA developments.**

### Mural Installation Timeline



**Read more on The NYCHA Journal**

[New Mural Unveiled at Bushwick Houses](#)



## Strategic Partnerships

The Strategic Partnerships Unit manages existing collaborations and develops new opportunities to support NYCHA residents. The Strategic Partnerships unit serves as a “first stop” for external organizations interested in working with NYCHA to provide resources, opportunities and complimentary event access to NYCHA residents.

Partner contributions include technology equipment, gift cards, culturally diverse books, access to cultural events—including arts and sports activities—summer camp sponsorships, and supplies for college students. The unit seeks to engage residents to gather feedback on the types of opportunities they value and supports partners in navigating agency processes, including requests for letters of support for projects and programs at NYCHA developments.

**\$971,633**  
**Total value of in-kind donations received**



[partnerships@nycha.nyc.gov](mailto:partnerships@nycha.nyc.gov)



Photos (above and right) by Christian Rodriguez.

## Book Rich Environments

In 2025, NYCHA partnered with the National Book Foundation and DYCD to bring the Book Rich Environments initiative to NYCHA communities, supporting literacy by **distributing more than 32,000 free books** to children and families. Ten NYCHA community centers were selected through an application process, with each site receiving 3,200 books distributed via community centers and library events.

## Eagle Island Girls Camp

NYCHA partnered with the Public Housing Community Fund and Hydro Quebec to provide full summer camp scholarships to 70 girls ages 9 to 15 living in NYCHA developments through the Eagle Island Camp Scholarship program. The scholarships covered all camp-related costs, giving participants the opportunity to build confidence, leadership skills, and lasting friendships through outdoor and creative activities in the Adirondacks.



**Read more on The NYCHA Journal**

[Award-Winning Children's Author Visits Drew Hamilton Community Center](#)



## Project Move-In

For the second year, NYCHA OPPP partnered with NYC Service and PHCF on Project Move-in, providing 60 NYCHA residents with essential items to support college-bound students with the transition to campus or off-campus living. Selected through an application process, students attended a distribution event at Yankee Stadium, where they received duffel bags filled with laptops, household items, and other school-ready necessities. Students also received tickets to a Yankee game as well as ride-share codes from Lyft to support with transportation to the stadium.



## Expanding Access to Live Theater

Through its ongoing partnership with New Victory Theater, NYCHA provided families the opportunity to experience the magic of live theater for free. In the third season of this collaboration, NYCHA public housing and Section 8 residents were able to receive up to four tickets per household to any performance during the theater's 2025-2026 season. This initiative expanded access to arts and culture and created shared experiences that engaged residents of all ages.

### Read more on The NYCHA Journal

[Project Move-In Helps NYCHA Students Start College with Confidence](#)

[Free New Victory Theater Tickets for NYCHA Families](#)



# Acknowledgements

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