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United Neighborhood Houses: Building Strong Communities City Fiscal Year 2020 Priorities Overview

For over 100 years settlement houses have welcomed New Yorkers through their doors providing services that foster opportunity and promote health, well-being and belonging. Settlement houses build a stronger New York City, individual by individual, family by family, and neighborhood by neighborhood, with early childhood education and afterschool programs, adult literacy and workforce development programs, senior centers and older adult services, housing assistance, behavioral health programs, and more. Each year, UNH advocates for budget and policy priorities that support effective settlement house programs and stronger communities.

BUDGET PRIORITIES: UNH recommends the restoration and expansion of the following programs in order for settlement houses to serve their communities and expand their reach to even more New Yorkers in need:

Issue	FY2020 Recommendations
After-School and Summer Programs	<p><u>COMPASS After-School Programs</u> – Expand access to after-school programs for elementary school students.</p> <p><u>Summer Programs for Middle School Students</u> – Baseline \$20.35 million for summer programs for 34,000 middle school students.</p>
Bridge Programs	Invest \$60 million in Bridge Programs which provide career focused adult education to job seekers.
Census Outreach	Fund community based organizations to carry out Census Outreach and technical assistance over the next two years.
Early Childhood Educator Salaries	Achieve salary parity for the early childhood workforce.
Literacy Programs	<p><u>Adult Literacy</u> – Restore and baseline \$12 million for adult literacy classes and establish a citywide taskforce to better coordinate services.</p> <p><u>Family Literacy</u> – Fund a new Family Literacy initiative at \$5 million to promote whole-family educational success.</p>
Mental Health Initiatives	<p><u>Autism Awareness Initiative</u> – Increase to \$4 million to support services to children living with Autism and their families during non-school hours.</p> <p><u>Children Under 5 Mental Health Initiative (CU5)</u> – Increase to \$2 million to support services to children who have experienced trauma at a young age.</p> <p><u>Medicaid Redesign Transition</u> – Increase to \$1 million to assist community-based organizations as they move from a fee-for-service system to a managed-care model under New York State’s Medicaid Redesign.</p>

(over)

	<p><u>Senior Centers, Meals, and Infrastructure</u> – Add previously-promised \$10 million in “model budget” funding; add an additional \$20 million for congregate meal funding and kitchen staff; create an emergency repairs fund for expense and capital building improvements.</p> <p><u>Home Delivered Meals</u> – Invest \$15 million to continue providing daily meals to homebound seniors.</p>
Older Adults Services	<p><u>Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities (NORCs)</u> – Baseline \$1 million for NORC Administration and add \$750,000 to support nursing services in NORCs.</p> <p><u>Geriatric Mental Health Initiative</u> – Increase to \$2.5 million to support mental health services for older adults in non-clinical settings, and consider a further investment to expand to additional communities.</p> <p><u>Healthy Aging Initiative</u> – Restore \$2.04 million to continue providing key supports.</p> <p><u>Support our Seniors</u> – Restore at \$4.08 million to continue providing key supports.</p>
Youth Employment	<p><u>Summer Youth Employment Program</u> – Ensure the Price Per Participant for SYEP contractors covers the cost of new requirements included in DYCD’s SYEP RFP.</p> <p><u>Year-Round Youth Employment</u> – Baseline and enhance funding for Work, Lean & Grow to make it a truly year-round work experience for youth in high school.</p>

POLICY PRIORITIES: UNH endorses the following policy reforms and urges the Council and Executive to make them a reality:

Issue	Proposal
NYCHA Community Spaces	UNH has developed a comprehensive platform to make operating conditions for the nonprofits running early childhood education, community, and senior centers out of NYCHA-owned facilities. In addition to advocating for operational reforms at NYCHA, New York City should compensate nonprofits running programs out of community spaces for the cost of maintaining the spaces.

HUMAN SERVICES SECTOR PRIORITIES: To ensure the nonprofit human services sector can run effective, high quality programs and services in their communities, UNH recommends the following:

Issue	FY2020 Recommendation
Contract Registration	Clear backlog of human services contracts awaiting registration and establish a transparent process for tracking contract actions.
Exempt Employee Costs	Address increased costs associated with the increase in the New York State Overtime Exemption Level.
Indirect Rate	Ensure the City fulfills its commitment for a 10% indirect rate for all non-profit contractors and make investments to fund an indirect rate up to 15% where necessary.
Rate Setting	Provide sample budgets in procurements so providers can accurately assess the feasibility and level of risk in bidding for contracts.

United Neighborhood Houses (UNH) is the 100-year old membership organization of New York’s settlement houses. We mobilize our members and their communities to advocate for good public policies, and we promote strong organizations and practices that keep neighborhoods resilient and thriving for all New Yorkers. Today, UNH’s membership includes 40 settlement houses in New York City and two in upstate New York. UNH’s work strengthens the capacity of more than 30,000 employees and volunteers working across 680 locations to continue providing necessary services and quality of life enrichments for over 765,000 New Yorkers who come to settlement houses each year.

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