NYCETC represents the 150+ job training, education and career service providers in New York that each year collectively help over 500,000 New Yorkers prepare for and earn the employment necessary to achieve self-sufficiency for themselves and their families.

VISION

We call on the City to create a workforce system that creates living-wage career tracks for jobseekers; aligns workforce and economic development; and operates with respect for people, community and local businesses. In pursuit of this vision we urge the Mayor and the City Council to:

- Implement and fully fund “Career Pathways” for all New Yorkers
- Embed workforce training into all economic development initiatives
- Streamline oversight of the workforce system

1: IMPLEMENT AND FULLY FUND CAREER PATHWAYS FOR ALL NEW YORKERS

Increase Bridge Program Funding to $60 Million by expanding programs within DYCD and CUNY, and initiating new ones via HRA, EDC, and WKDEV for jobseekers with basic skills deficits.

Bridge programs, as described in the de Blasio Administration’s 2014 Career Pathways plan, are designed to provide those who have either basic skills deficits or barriers to employment with the key skills they need to take advantage of available jobs and training programs. This year, Mayor de Blasio should fulfill the promise set in his Career Pathways plan of $60 million in annual funding for bridge programs by FY 2020, spread across several agencies:

- **Double the proposed allocation for DYCD’s “Advance and Earn” bridge program to $15 Million:** Provide young adults lacking a high-school degree with the essential skills they need to gain good jobs.

- **Increase the allocation for successful CUNY bridge programs to $15 Million:** Expand the number of college seekers aided by programs such as CUNY Prep and CUNY Start Math.

- **Follow through on the HRA Concept Paper for “Career Bridge” for $10 Million in FY2020:** HRA’s Career Pathways contracts are incomplete without a City-funded supplement to serve clients in need of basic skills development.

- **Empower the Mayor’s Office of Workforce Development to design and oversee $10 million in new bridge programs:** Utilize the contracting authority of a City agency, give WKDEV the ability to partner with providers on new pilot bridge programs aimed at underserved communities.

- **Establish $10 million in sector-specific bridge programs linked to EDC’s “New York Works” plan:** Help New Yorkers who aren’t currently prepared for jobs in EDC’s expected growth sectors to gain the basic skills they need.
2: EMBED WORKFORCE TRAINING INTO ALL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

All major economic development projects and initiatives must include substantial workforce training investments that create equitable career pathways for all New Yorkers

- For economic development projects and initiatives sponsored by City entities like the Economic Development Corporation (including specific development partnerships with corporations such as Amazon, and sector-wide initiatives such as New York Works) all RFPs and contracts should include language requiring the private sector partners to detail how they’ll implement and invest in a pipeline connecting local workers to trainings and to jobs.

- All future economic development proposals by public entities should include workforce training as a funded component. This funding should be a meaningful portion of the project’s total public cost - approximately 10% of the full public subsidy/investment should be directed at workforce training initiatives.

- The City should establish hiring goals for disadvantaged and local workers on projects involving City resources such as land, tax credits, or direct funding. Economic development projects should be evaluated primarily according to their ability to create jobs for New Yorkers in need of employment. Finally, the City should designate a monitoring agency (such as WKDEV) to ensure development projects achieve their workforce goals.

3: STREAMLINE OVERSIGHT OF THE WORKFORCE SYSTEM

The New York City Council can ensure the above goals are attained by streamlining oversight and requiring key reporting

- The public workforce system is spread across multiple agencies, and no single City Council body takes responsibility for its direct oversight. The Council should designate a body for this function - a new committee, Council task force, or similar entity - with a focus on ensuring that the dollars spent by the City on economic and workforce development are not only creating job openings but are filling NYC jobs with New Yorkers in need of improved employment.

- The Council should require through legislation that city agencies, especially SBS and EDC, issue clear annual public reports on the number of jobseekers they have served (via either job placement or connections to training) who come from high-unemployment populations: youth, recent immigrants and english-language learners, people with disabilities, with criminal justice histories, or with limited work experience or educational attainment.