FY'27 Cornerstone Workscope Design Policy

The workscope plan illustrates the provider's ability to assess the community, garner their needs and design a plan built on community input. When submitted it is expected that the CBO agency lead will review the plan for approval.
Enter your workscope on the DYCD Connect platform: https://www.dycdconnect.nyc/

DYCD Connect WORKSCOPE VALIDATIONS

Within the Workscope are system validations that ensure the workscope meets the basic contractual & program requirements. If validations are not met, you cannot submit.
The contract period for Fiscal Year 2027 is from July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2027.

The following items are workscope validations, these must be completed to submit your workscope for approval

- ☐ Operating hours: Minimum Fiscal Year hours **2285 for workscope submission**
- ☐ Public Information accurate and complete
- ☐ Program Design questions
- ☐ Minimum Staffing requirements – (See within)
- ☐ 15 open holidays with activity schedule (150 hours)
- ☐ 12 SU Hours and 15 SY hours required for Exploring Futures activity validation (Must TAG)
- ☐ Nine Youth Council Meetings in School Year (Create Activity with min of 9 occurrences)
- ☐ Four Advisory Board meetings in School Year
- ☐ Contacts section - Program Director, Program Supervisor, Executive Director, Assistant Director, Evening/Weekend Supervisor, Fiscal Officer and RA President

Cornerstone Contract Requirements (2017 RFP)

Target Population	Minimum Required Hours of Operation	Total Hours	Required ROP (Rate of Participation)
Elementary (Grade K-5)	Summer: Mon-Fri. 8AM-6PM, 8 wks School Yr.: Mon-Fri. 3-6PM Holidays: 15 days 8AM-6PM	400 Hours 540 Hours 150 Hours	ADA of 80% of enrolled youth.
Middle School (Grade 6-8)	Year-Round: Mon-Fri. 6-10PM as well as on weekends 10am to 5pm	200 Annual Hours+	10,000 sq. ft. and over, 75% min ROP
			Under 10,000 sq. ft., ADA of 50% min enrolled youth.
High School (Grade 9 to 21 years old)	Year-Round: Mon-Fri. 6-10PM as well as on weekends 10am to 5pm	165 Annual Hours+	10,000 sq. ft. and over, 70% min ROP
			Under 10,000 sq. ft., ADA of 50% enrolled youth.
Adults (22 years old and above)	Year-Round: Mon-Fri. 6-10PM as well as on weekends 10am -5pm	N/A	No ROP requirement, only enrollment

Mandatory Contract Activities:

- **Community Events:** at minimum 2 Large scale events - Recommended: 1 Summer and 1 School Year. You are encouraged to also have smaller community events, recognitions, and open house sessions and/or community resource sharing.
- **Cornerstone Advisory Board - 4 Minimum Scheduled per School Year Workscope. The Cornerstone advisory board is sperate from other advisory board** and include at least two members of the NYCHA Tenants/Residents' Association a NYCHA staff person, and at least one representative from the Cornerstone CBO team.
- **Cornerstone Youth Council -** The purpose of Youth Council is to foster youth leadership and civic engagement, as well as guarantee a strong youth voice in the selection, development, and implementation of program activities.
  - ☐ Consist of Middle and High School participants

- ☐ Would have a minimum of 10-15 participants
- ☐ Meets monthly minimally through school year and maintain a record of all proceedings.

- **Exploring Futures** Middle School Career Exploration Exploring Futures Curriculum: Activity is mandatory for Middle school cohort with a minimum of 12 hours for summer and 15 hours for the School Year, this can be trips, curriculum, activity or a combination of both.
- **Cornerstone Saturday Spring Cleaning** (April/May 2027)
- **Summer Camp** NYCHA RAD/PACT Residents Summer Registration Week FY'27 **first full week in April** (April 5 – 9, 2027)

General Hours of Operation:

- School Year Monday - Friday: 2PM - 10PM (Afterschool: 3PM - 6PM) Saturday: 10AM - 5PM
- Summer Hours: Monday - Friday: 8 AM to 11PM (Summer Camp: 8AM–6PM **&** Evening: 6PM-11PM) Saturday - Sunday: 3PM to 11PM

Mandatory Administrative Time: This time frame is non- programmatic, designed to conduct administrative business and including but not limited to parent orientation, clean up, data entry, etc.		
Post SU- Aug 31, 2026 - Sep 11, 2026 **Post SY- June 21,2027- July 2, 2027**	Mon- Fri 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Mon- Fri 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM	Office is open. Cooling Centers may be activated by OEM

Cornerstone city wide sub theme: **(A.C.T.) Advocate • Care • Transform** Lead locally. Change together. Encourages service, leadership, civic engagement, and collective action. There should be at least two Summer Activities related to the sub theme

Workscope Sections

General PROGRAM COMPLIANCE

Program Design Questions- All questions must be answered
Mission statement /staff training
Community served and target population
Program objectives/strategies

Please provide your CBO's mission statement, and if different, the mission statement of your program.

- Please describe your organization's mission. What skills will the program enhance, provide, or develop for children, adults, and families within the program's community?
- Please outline the program strategies for recruiting, training, and supporting the professional growth and development of frontline staff.

Community Served and Target Population

- Please describe the community your Cornerstone Program serves and your program's target population. Please also include a needs assessment of the target population.
- What tools did you use to assess the needs of your community? What were the findings of your community assessment?
- Based on your community needs assessment, please identify the top three community needs and explain how the program services will address each of these needs.
- Please outline the outreach, recruitment, and retention strategies for the Summer, Afterschool, and Evening Program. Be sure to include specific timelines and the roles of staff members involved in these efforts.

Program Objectives/Strategies

Please provide a description of your program's objectives and strategies.

- How will your program use your agency's resources to support programming and referrals?
- What type of referrals will be offered to families in need of health services (both mental and physical health)?
- All Cornerstone programs are required to have a minimum of three (3) partnerships. Explain how each partnership will be used to enhance your community needs and/or program design.

Program Themes

Each Cornerstone is required to have a overarching theme for the entire contract.

- State the proposed overall theme/approach that will provide the framework for programming across all cohorts, activities, and community events. Incorporate the community assessment findings (mentioned in Community Served and Target Population).
- Please outline the strategy for incorporating the City-Wide Cornerstone Sub Theme as outlined by DYCD. Additionally, please specify the names of two activities and one community event that will align with the Fiscal Year Sub Theme.

- **City-Wide Cornerstone Sub Theme: (A.C.T.) Advocate • Care • Transform** Lead *locally. Change together.* Encourages service, leadership, civic engagement, and collective action.

PARTNERSHIPS: All Cornerstone programs are required to have a minimum of three (3) partnerships. Explain how each partnership will be used to enhance your community needs and/or program design

PUBLIC PROFILE

Public Info- Add Public program Description, Main Point of contact details, Languages Supported and Program Specialization(s)- Program Specialization(s)- Summer Camp, Afterschool, Evening Teen Program, Saturday Center and others. Social Media Handles add them if you have them.

Operating Hours-

Summer- Monday-Friday 8AM-11PM;
Summer- Saturday-Sunday 3PM-11PM.
Summer Cooling Center Hours- 6pm-11pm Refer to Guidance sent by DYCD-Youth Service Operations. This section can be modified as needed throughout the fiscal year.

Workscope STAFFING PLAN VALIDATIONS Contract Required Staff titles must be entered along with the minimum number per position.

Required Staff Plan titles (Contractual)	**Recommended Staff titles**
Program Director (1) (F/T) per site **Assistant Director (1)** **Security (1)** **Janitorial/Maintenance Staff (1)** **Group Leader (4)** Program Supervisor (1) CBO Admin Supervisor	Activity Specialist (1) Instructor (1) Education Specialist (1) Social Worker (1) Data Entry Clerk (1)
Must be included in the Staffing Plan section of your Workscope visible in Program Compliance.	Staffing must align with required staff to participation ratio

Professional Development -Utilize the Cornerstone Admin Weeks in between programming to host training as much as possible**.** Enter all summer and school-year trainings, including dates for agency-wide professional development across all sites, as well as any site-specific sessions.

ACTIVITY DESIGN:

- Activities **will have** outcomes Using Smart Goals to design activities that have measurable outcomes
- **Theme based Programming:** Activities should reflect your overall and sub-Cornerstone theme supported with Project based learning, throughout each cohort throughout the fiscal year (Summer to Spring) make it fun and holistic.
- **The activity timeframe** should be no more than two (2) hours. Apart from some trips. Only Elementary Cohort should be grouped.
- **Schedule blocks are allowed during;** Summer, Holiday Only for the Elementary Cohort only with schedule and description of what takes place for each Elm group.
- **Tagging Activities**: Required: Tags show up in Discover DYCD, tags allow users to search for specific activities offered by the program. (Exploring Futures)

ACTIVITY TITLE ABBREVIATIONS

Time/Season Name	Abbreviation	Cohort Name	Abbreviation	Complete Name	Abbreviation
Evening	E	Elementary	Elm	Group	G
School Year	SY	Middle School	MS	Grade	Gr
Summer	SU	High School	HS	Inter-Generation **IG**	
Saturday/Sunday	Sat or Sun	Adults	A		

Mealtimes: Program schedules must include summer mealtimes.

CACFP Child Adult Food Care Program Regulations:
○ Breakfast must be served between 9AM-10AM. Summer only ○ Lunch must be served between 12-1PM. ○ PM snacks must be served between 3-4PM. ○ AFS Dinner is served starting at 5:30pm. (DYCD Dismissal by 6pm)

Mandatory Events: Events you must add to your "Event section" in addition to your program planned events

1. Resident Association President- Family Day- July or August – Only Resident Associations can host a "Family Day" Cornerstone should collaborate.
2. Youth Count – Last week of Jan Tentative
3. SYEP Recruitment- (Jan-Feb)
4. Summer Camp Orientation in June before School Year program ends
5. September Parent Meeting before the second week of AFS
6. NYCHA Residents School Year Registration Week for FY'27
7. NYCHA Residents Summer Registration Week FY'27
8. RA Tenant Month Meeting Dates.
9. Professional Development Days-Utilize the Cornerstone Admin Week to host training as much as possible.
10. Enter Staff summer training. Enter dates of any planned agency wide Professional Development across the contract (all sites on a multi-site contract) Enter any training courses specific to your site.
11. Saturday Spring Cleaning dates (April-May 2027)
12. Administration Week -Post Summer and Post School year 2026-2027

FY'27 Cornerstone Workscope Summer Programming Requirements:

Summer Schedule:

- Weekdays: July 6, 2026 - Aug 28,2026 Mon – Fri 8am - 6:00 PM Summer camp (10hrs)
- Evening: July 6, 2026 - Aug 28, 2026 Mon- Fri 8am- 6:00PM - 11:00 PM (5hrs)
- Weekends: July 11, 2026 - August 29, 2026 Sat & Sun 3:00pm – 11:00 PM (8hrs)

Contract Expectations: Summer Program Mon-Sun Activity design

- Providers will start summer camp with full enrollment for the Elementary cohort slots is required by the start of summer camp programming.
- Enrollment is rated within the first two weeks of programming. Failure to meet enrollment will result in corrective action.
- Cooling Center hours 6pm to 11pm Mon-Sun. Providers must keep this updated.
- Trips: All Cohorts should have summer trips. Upload the Trip Itinerary to the Workscope notes section
- Evening Program/Weekend - structured and unstructured activity in person
- Minimum of two Summer Activities and 1 community event related to the sub theme
- Middle school Career Exploration Exploring Futures Curriculum: Activity is mandatory for Middle school cohort with a minimum of 12 hours for summer

License:

- Elementary cohorts follow SACC or Summer Camp Permit if the program does not have a SACC.
- Morning Health and wellness check – conducted at the front door before entering camp every morning. (Record in medical log

Summer Activity title:

Format should be: "Summer Period, Slot Type, Activity Name, Grade(s) or Group Name."

Activities can have more than one schedule: In person Activity Title: SU MS Coding Gr 7pm-8 pm

Schedule Title: SU E MS Coding Gr 7 (T & Th at 6PM—7PM) |Add "Time" to schedule title.

SU MS Coding Gr 8 (Sat 6-7PM)

Summer Camp Elementary Scheduling Block:

Write out what activities occur in the description. Include mealtimes in separate activity blocks. **Arrival and Dismissal is not an activity. However, they can be a part of program warm up and program cool down activity.**

Create schedule blocks for summer camp (Example)

- SU ELM Health Check and arrival Gr K-5 (8am – 9am),
- SU ELM CACFP breakfast Gr K-5 (9am-10am),
- SU ELM Summer Groups in House Gr K-5 10am-12pm,
- SU ELM CACFP lunch Gr K-5 12pm-1pm,
- SU ELM Summer CAMP Clubs Gr K-5 1pm-3pm,
- SU ELM Summer Groups in House Activities Gr K-5 3pm-6pm,

Summer Camp Community Week:

The last week of summer programming is designated as **"Community Week"** closing out the summer and transitioning into school year programming. Most activity is in-house.

Summer Events: Community events: You may have as many as you like. Attendance sheet is required

- Family Day is hosted by the Resident Association (Development) in partnership with Cornerstone.
- Culminating Events for Summer Camp and Evening Weekend Programming
- Teen Evening/Program Orientation
- Residents School Year Registration Week for
- Administrative Time- Post SUMMER

Summer Camp Registration NYCHA RAD/PACT Residents Summer Registration Week FY'27 **first full week in April** (April 5 – 9, 2027)

FY'27 Cornerstone Workscope School Year Program Requirements

AFS: Mon. Sep 14, 2026 - Fri. Jun 18, 2027

Eve: Mon. Sep 14, 2026- Fri. Jun 18, 2027
Wknd: Sat. Sep 19, 2026- Sat. Jun 12, 2027

School Year Program:

- Write a measurable or observable outcome illustrating what participants will experience in the activity.
- The activity timeframe should be no more than two (2) hours.
- High School activities must indicate Grade 9 to Young Adults (High school age but not in School)
- In activity details, use TAGS and Primary Category in the creation of the activity.
- School Year Program schedules must include mealtimes in the description but is not as an activity.
- Snacks must be served between 3-4PM. Dinner must be served between 5:30-6:30PM. (ELM Dismissal by 6PM).
- Teen Meals (if opted into) must be served between 6:30-7:30PM

School Year Activity Format: "(Season/Period, Slot Type, Activity Name, Grade (s) or Group Name."
Activities can have more than one schedule.
Activity Title**:** SY E HS Basketball Clinic Gr 9- YA
SY Schedule Titles:
SY E HS Basketball Gr 9- 11 (T & Th at 7PM-9PM) Add *"Time" in schedule title.*
SY E HS Basketball Gr 12- Young Adults (M & W at 8-9PM and correction. Unit expectations

Community Events: at **minimum** 2 Large events - Recommended: (1) Summer and (1) School Year.
You are encouraged to also have smaller community events, recognitions, and open house sessions and/or community resource sharing events. Examples include but not limited to:

- After-school Parent Meeting 4 dates throughout the year.
- Seasonal Events- Lights on Afterschool, Tax Prep, SYEP Recruitment, back to school, End of year celebrations
- DYCD Youth Count – Last week of Jan Tentative |SYEP Recruitment- Early 2027 (Jan-Feb)
- Summer Camp Orientation in June before the end of School Year program
- School Year summer Camp Orientation dates. (This can be changed later)
- RA Tenant Month Meeting Dates. Monthly Resident (Tenant) Association -Resident Meetings ***must be honored even during***

Youth Council: A minimum of 9 Youth Council Activities during the School Year (at least 9 occurrences). Primary category "Youth Council **Cornerstone**

Advisory Board- Each DYCD Cornerstone contractor is required to create an Advisory Board at each community center. The Cornerstone Community Advisory Board serves as the primary mechanism for gathering community input, strengthening relationships, and leveraging resources for the Cornerstone program. A minimum of 4 school year meetings per year.

Professional Development Days - Utilize the Cornerstone Admin Week to host training as much as possible.

Holidays: Project from the NYCPS Calendar and federal holidays. Add (15) Open school closing days.
During School half days - Programs should not close. The program is opened regular hours or holiday hours.
Once Open Holidays have been entered, an **adjacent holiday activity** must be created in one full activity schedule i.e.Mid-Winter Holiday date must have a mid-winter holiday activity for each day.
After 5 consecutive open Holiday days of programming (50 hours total) - Saturday will not be applicable except for SNL (Saturday Night Lights).
Add Closed Holidays into the holiday section. *No schedule is needed.*

- Other Holiday Programming – If space and staffing allow, additional (MS, HS and Adults) cohorts can be served during Holiday programming between 8am to 6pm. Trips are encouraged for all.

- All Scheduled Resident Association scheduled tenant meetings must be honored during holiday programming.
- Activities held during Holiday programming count towards the ROP of centers over 10,000 sq ft only.
- Holiday Camps: Elementary Time: 8AM - 6PM (with blocks separated by meals and with itinerary in Description)

Cornerstone Registration: Protocol

Cornerstone Registration should be fair and transparent for families to easily follow. The registration process, flyers and dates should be shared in writing as early as possible with Resident Association President/Property Manager, to allow them to inform residents. Cornerstone registration does not automatically roll over.
DYCD Universal Applications are valid for a fiscal year (July 1- June 30). **Registrants/participants do not automatically roll over to the next fiscal year**. Online Applications should be printed out from the system and stored in a secure place at the program site. This can be done by running the Intake report or clicking the "Intake Form" button on the youth's registration page in DYCD Connect. *Locate Universal youth and age 14+ applications in the document Library in DYCD Connect.*

Registration Period types: Early registration allows for timely notification of acceptance to families.

General Registration: - Open to the public to submit complete applications.

- Programs should register parents and youth of the same family simultaneously when possible.
- Registration can also start online at https://discoverdycd.dycdconnect.nyc/home
- The registration process, flyers and dates should be shared in writing as early as possible with Resident Association President/Property Manager, to allow them to inform residents. Cornerstone registration does not automatically roll over.

NYCHA Residents Registration week, Mandatory occurs at least two weeks before general registration. The residents of your development must have an opportunity to return completed applications. After that week, general registration of elementary and all other cohorts can begin. FY'27 Week first **full week in April** (April 5 – 9, 2027)
Cornerstone Summer Camp Registration (Elementary) should be **completed by the first week in June.**

- NYCHA Residents Registration Week should be held before general registration **March**- **Apr**il
- Online registration is enabled once the workscope for FY'24 is released.
- Participants can be entered into the new workscope once it's released to the provider.

Cornerstone Fall Registration –Afterschool Registration (Elementary) should be **completed before the last week of August**.

- Within the **first two weeks of August**, Cornerstones will host a "NYCHA Registration Week." Families will submit a confirmation form, showing interest in attending the Afterschool program. All Cohorts can also have early registration.

Writing Activity Outcomes

Ensure Programming Reflects a Thriving Community Approach

- Engage youth & families in meaningful ways. Use the DYCD Frameworks to guide you
- Provide opportunities for active community participation and leadership.
- Enhance access to resources that support social, emotional, and academic growth.

Outcomes should be specific and clear

- Clearly define what success looks like. Avoid vague terms. Outcomes inform the facilitator/Group Leader/Activity specialist of the goal and expectation of the activity.
- Make Outcomes Measurable
- Define quantifiable indicators that can be tracked over time.
- Use metrics like knowledge gained, behavior changes, skills demonstrated, or participation rates.
- Example: "80% of participants will show improved conflict resolution skills based on pre- and post-assessments."



USE outcomes that are: EASY TO OBSERVE OR MEASURE with **VERBS**	**AVOID outcomes that are:** DIFFICULT TO OBSERVE OR MEASURE
The participant will perform … The participant will be able to draw … The participant will be able to list …	Participants eat lunch… Participant will become familiar with … Participant will appreciate …

Examples of Strong Youth Development Outcomes:

- "By the end of the activity, 85% of participants will demonstrate effective communication skills by presenting their project ideas to peers and facilitators."
- "Over six months, participants will increase their academic confidence by developing personalized study plans and reflecting on progress bi-weekly."
- "By the end of the summer, 70% of 30 participants will exhibit improved teamwork skills through successfully completing group projects without argument and fighting."
- "5 of 7 Youth will develop financial literacy skills by creating personal budgets and setting financial goals."

DYCD Frameworks:

Positive Youth Development (PYD) is an intentional, pro-social approach designed to: **ENGAGE** youth in productive and constructive ways in multiple domains such as communities, schools, families, peer groups, organizations; **RECOGNIZE, UTILIZE, AND ENHANCE** youth strengths/assets; and **PROMOTE POSITIVE OUTCOMES** by fostering positive relationships and providing opportunities and supports that help youth build skills, gain mastery, and develop leadership skills.

NYC Public Schools (NYCPS)

School Year Calendar 2026–2027

NYC Public Schools

This is the 2026–27 school year calendar for NYCPS schools from 3-K through grade 12. If your child attends a private, parochial, charter school, NYC Early Education Center (NYCEEC), or Family Childcare Program, please contact your child's school for information about their calendar. Please note the following:

- On days when school buildings are closed due to inclement weather or other emergencies, NYCPS may be in session remotely.
- Individual schools' Parent-Teacher Conference dates might be different from the dates below. Your child's teacher will work with you to schedule your conference.
- On this schedule, **elementary schools** are defined as programs that serve kindergarten (K) through grade 8, including schools with 3-K and Pre-K programs, as well as those that end in grade 5 or grade 6. **Middle schools** are defined as programs that serve grades 6–8, and **high schools** are defined as programs that serve grades 9–12. **6-12 schools** are defined as programs that serve just grades 6–12 in a single school.

Date	Weekday	Event
September 10	**Thursday**	**First day of school**
September 21	Monday	Yom Kippur, schools closed
September 23	Wednesday	Evening Parent-Teacher Conferences for middle schools and D75 schools
September 24	Thursday	Evening Parent-Teacher Conferences for high schools, K–12, and 6–12 schools
September 30	Wednesday	Evening Parent-Teacher Conferences for elementary schools and Pre-K Centers
October 12	Monday	Italian Heritage/Indigenous Peoples' Day, schools closed
November 3	Tuesday	Election Day, school will be in session remotely for all students
November 5	Thursday	Afternoon and Evening Parent-Teacher Conferences for elementary schools; students in these schools dismissed three hours early
November 11	Wednesday	Veterans Day, schools closed
November 12	Thursday	Afternoon and Evening Parent-Teacher Conferences for middle schools and D75; students in these schools dismissed three hours early
November 19	Thursday	Evening Parent-Teacher Conferences for high schools, K–12, and 6–12 schools
November 20	Friday	Afternoon Parent-Teacher Conferences for high schools, K–12, and 6–12 schools; students in these schools dismissed three hours early
November 26–27	Thursday–Friday	Thanksgiving Recess, schools closed
December 24–January 1	Thursday–Friday	Winter Recess, schools closed

January 18	Monday	Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day, schools closed
January 26-29	Tuesday–Friday	Regents Administration
February 1	Monday	Professional Development Day; students that attend high schools and schools that serve only grades 6-12 are not in attendance. All other students attend school.
February 2	Tuesday	Spring Semester begins
February 15–19	Monday–Friday	Midwinter Recess, schools closed
March 3	Wednesday	Afternoon and Evening Parent-Teacher Conferences for elementary schools and Pre-K Centers; students in these schools dismissed three hours early
March 4	Thursday	Afternoon and Evening Parent-Teacher Conferences for middle schools and D75 schools; students in these schools dismissed three hours early
March 9	Tuesday	Eid al-Fitr, schools closed
March 18	Thursday	Evening Parent-Teacher Conferences for high schools, K–12, and 6–12 schools
March 19	Friday	Afternoon Parent-Teacher Conferences for high schools, K–12, and 6–12 schools; students in these schools are dismissed three hours early
March 26	Friday	Good Friday, schools closed
April 22-30	Thursday–Friday	Spring Recess, schools closed
May 12	Wednesday	Evening Parent-Teacher Conferences for high schools, K–12, and 6–12 schools
May 13	Thursday	Evening Parent-Teacher Conferences for middle schools and D75 schools
May 17	Monday	Eid al-Adha, schools closed
May 26	Wednesday	Evening Parent-Teacher Conferences for elementary schools and Pre-K Centers
May 31	Monday	Memorial Day, schools closed
June 8	Tuesday	Clerical Day; no classes for students attending 3-K, Pre-K, elementary schools, middle schools, K–12 schools, and standalone D75 programs
June 10	Thursday	Anniversary Day/Chancellor's Conference Day for staff development; students do not attend school
June 15–18; 21–25	Tuesday–Friday; Monday–Friday	Regents Administration
June 28	**Monday**	**Last day of school for students**

Cornerstone City Sub Theme- FY'27 ACT Activity Extensions

Advocate → Care → Transform and show participants how they move from awareness to action.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL Focus: Awareness, empathy, simple community action

ADVOCATE

"My Voice Matters" Poster Campaign
Youth create posters about things they care about (clean parks, kindness, safety) and display them in the center.
Storytime + Speak Up Circle
Read a book about fairness or helping others, then have youth share one thing they would change in their community.

CARE

Kindness Crew Challenge
Daily/weekly acts of kindness (helping peers, writing thank-you cards to staff, cleaning shared spaces).
Community Helpers Appreciation Week
Create cards or small tokens for NYCHA staff, security, sanitation workers, etc.

TRANSFORM

Mini Garden or Plant Project
Plant flowers or herbs in small pots—teach care and responsibility while beautifying the space.
"Before & After" Clean-Up Day
Clean a classroom or outdoor area and take pictures to show impact.

MIDDLE SCHOOL Focus: Identity, teamwork, problem-solving, early leadership

ADVOCATE

Community Issue Brainstorm + Pitch
Youth identify 1–2 issues (littering, bullying, lack of activities) and present solutions to staff.
Youth Voice Podcast or Video Series
Record short clips discussing community topics and solutions.

CARE

Peer Support Circles
Guided conversations around school stress, friendships, and community experiences.
Volunteer Days (Internal)
Help set up events, assist elementary groups, or support front desk operations.

TRANSFORM

Community Improvement Project
Plan and execute a small project (bulletin board redesign, mural concept, organizing a game night).
"Adopt-a-Space" Initiative
Take responsibility for maintaining a specific room or area weekly.

HIGH SCHOOL Focus: Leadership, ownership, real-world application

ADVOCATE

Youth Council / Advocacy Group
Monthly meetings to discuss real issues and create action steps.
Know Your Rights Workshops
Partner with local orgs to educate youth on civic rights and responsibilities.

CARE

Mentorship Program
High schoolers mentor elementary or middle school participants.
Wellness Check-In Leaders
Youth lead peer wellness or mental health awareness activities.

TRANSFORM

Community Campaign Project
Plan a campaign (violence prevention, voter awareness, community pride).
Event Planning Team
Youth lead planning for a community event (Family Day support, talent show, etc.).

ADULT PROGRAMS Focus: Community leadership, advocacy, and collective impact

ADVOCATE

Community Forums / Listening Sessions
Discuss neighborhood concerns and connect with local stakeholders.
Civic Engagement Workshops
Topics: voting, tenant rights, accessing city resources.

CARE

Wellness & Support Groups
Mental health, parenting circles, caregiver support.
Community Resource Network
Share job leads, housing info, and support services.

TRANSFORM

Neighborhood Improvement Projects
Organize clean-ups, beautification, or safety initiatives.

Resident Leadership Committees
Adults take active roles in shaping programming and center priorities.

SIGNATURE CROSS-AGE ACTIVITIES (HIGH IMPACT) These are places where your theme really comes alive:

A.C.T. Community Day
Youth + adults work together on a service project
Showcase performances, testimonies, and outcomes

"Lead Locally" Month
Each group leads one initiative (elementary = kindness, middle = project, adults = forum)

Transformation Wall
Before/after photos, quotes, and stories showing impact across programs