



Biennial Report 2013-2014

**Community
Service
Society** | Fighting Poverty
Strengthening
New York

The Road to Economic Opportunity

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The Community Service Society of New York (CSS) is an informed, independent, and unwavering voice for positive action on behalf of more than 3 million low-income New Yorkers. CSS draws on more than 170 years of excellence in addressing the root causes of economic disparity. We respond to urgent, contemporary challenges through applied research, advocacy, litigation, and innovative program models that strengthen and benefit all New Yorkers.

www.cssny.org

The Road to Opportunity



1.7 million New Yorkers lived below the official poverty line in 2013—a year in which the poverty rate rose fastest among working-age adults. Manhattan ranked as the most unequal county in

the nation. Sixty-one percent of the city’s low-income households paid at least half of their income in rent, according our 2013 report “Good Place to Work, Hard Place to Live.” For many of our constituents, the road to economic opportunity was blocked.

In 2013, while a crowded field of mayoral candidates vied for the keys to Gracie Mansion, the Community Service Society helped to change the conversation around poverty and inequality in New York City. We hosted two mayoral forums, published a series of reports, and educated candidates and voters about issues of concern to low-income communities. These efforts were informed by our annual Unheard Third survey, in which low-income New Yorkers voice their opinions about what they need to get on the path to economic security.

The year 2013 also marked the Community Service Society’s 170th anniversary—170 years in the fight to make New York a city of opportunity for legions of struggling families. We’ve had remarkable accomplishments along the road, and we continue to make progress as the city’s social and political landscape evolves.

Today, with the help of countless supporters, volunteers, and community-based partners, we are helping New Yorkers access health care; unblocking barriers to employment and housing; making workplaces more humane by fighting for basic worker protections; and

demystifying the public benefit application process to help families get the resources they need. Our research, litigation, and advocacy help pave the way for more educational opportunity, more affordable housing, and improved wages and working conditions.

These and other CSS efforts—detailed throughout the pages of this 2013 and 2014 biennial report—have had a substantial impact on the lives of low-income New Yorkers. Our work helped bring about several important milestones on the road to economic opportunity in 2014:

- Over a million New York City workers newly protected from losing their job or a day’s pay for taking a sick day.
- One million New Yorkers newly enrolled in health coverage through the New York State of Health insurance marketplace.
- A newly-elected Mayor on record with his plans to reduce poverty and address rising inequality (and an army of informed citizens ready to hold him accountable).
- The nation’s strongest law protecting consumers with health insurance from surprise, out-of-network bills—a leading cause of bankruptcy in New York.

While we have far more ground to cover in 2015 and beyond, we continue to work relentlessly to keep New Yorkers moving toward a more secure economic future. We thank you for your ongoing support.

David R. Jones, Esq.
President & CEO

Joseph R. Harbert, Ph.D.
Chair

How We Help New Yorkers on the Road to Economic Security



Emilio, a father of four, was working at a local deli when he came down with a severe case of the flu.

He requested, and received, permission to take the day off to see a doctor. When he returned to work the next day, Emilio was fired. **“I said, ‘Just like that? I have a family, I need a job.’”**

Today, Emilio is one of over one million working New Yorkers who are now protected when they have to miss work due to illness or to care for a sick family member. Thanks to the Earned Sick Time Act—a law that took effect in 2014 after a hard-fought campaign led by CSS and other advocates—workers in New York City can take up to 40 hours of sick time in a year. Workers in firms with five or more employees must be paid for this time, and in no case can a worker be fired or punished for using their allotted sick time.



After the birth of his son in 2009, Roderick left his long-time job to work in property management.

One day while out bowling with friends, he was injured in an accident that left him home-bound and recovering for almost a year—and ultimately without a job. His road back to economic security included a technology-based training program with CSS partner Per Scholas, which helped him land a job at a network security firm. But while he was working to complete the program, his unemployment benefits ran out, putting a severe strain on his budget. The CSS Income Support Services Unit was able to provide funds to help Roderick purchase a series of weekly MetroCards—allowing him to attend his training program, get to his internship, and shuttle his son to and from school and activities. For Roderick, it was the right help at the right time to help him get ahead. **“It’s really important to be able to get around New York City.”**



Following a successful career in the fashion industry, Mei Li was searching for meaningful volunteer opportunities.

A flyer for the CSS Advocacy, Counseling, and Entitlement Services (ACES) project spurred her interest, and she soon embarked on the rigorous ACES training to become a volunteer public benefits counselor. As an ACES volunteer at her local library, she has helped nearly 50 people a month navigate the application process to access critical benefits and income supports such as SNAP (food stamps), Supplemental Security Income, and Section 8 housing vouchers. **“I live in Flushing and visit the library almost every day. I was glad for the chance to help people there.”**



Julia was about to lose her health coverage right when she needed it most.

In 2013, when she was 30, Julia was diagnosed with leukemia. But her Healthy New York plan would no longer be offering coverage in 2014. Julia had put her professional dancing career on hold to take care of her illness, and she worried about how to pay for the expensive treatment she needed. To learn about her options on the New York State of Health Marketplace, she turned to a CSS Navigator—one of our statewide network of certified enrollment assistors who helped more than 38,000 New Yorkers enroll in health insurance in 2014—and learned she was eligible to enroll in Medicaid for free coverage. **“If I didn’t have health insurance, I would have either died of cancer or I would have survived and been absolutely crippled by medical bills.”**





Community Service Society | Fighting Poverty Strengthening New York





THE RACE FOR MAYOR

The 2013 election was a pivotal moment for New York City, as Mayor Michael Bloomberg prepared to step down after 12 years in office and a majority of seats on the City Council were subject to term limits. The city, only recently battered by Superstorm Sandy and still facing the lingering effects of the 2008 recession, had become a landscape of stark and rising inequality, characterized by anemic job growth in the low-wage sector and little economic advancement for any but the top earners on the ladder.

The Community Service Society set out to make this election matter for low-income New Yorkers—who comprise one-third of the city’s electorate but often find their policy concerns overlooked by candidates for public office.

We sponsored two highly-publicized mayoral candidate forums, published a detailed voter guide outlining the candidates’ positions on issues of concern to low-income New Yorkers (as voiced in our annual Unheard Third survey), and issued a series of reports detailing specific, actionable policy recommendations for the new mayor. The result was a spirited public debate that kept issues of inequality and lack of economic opportunity front and center in the minds of voters—and the candidates themselves.



More than 1,000 people attended our February 2013 mayoral forum, “Race for Mayor 2013: What’s in it for Low-income New Yorkers?” The forum was moderated by Brian Lehrer of WNYC and co-sponsored by Local 32BJ of the Service Employees International Union. Seven mayoral candidates debated issues that directly impact the city’s low-income residents—from how to strengthen the linkage between education and jobs for our young people, to paid sick leave, to raising the minimum wage, and more.



CSS published a series of reports in the months before and after the 2013 election to draw attention to critical policy issues affecting economic opportunity and mobility in New York City. Many of the findings were drawn from our annual Unheard Third survey of low-income New Yorkers. The reports covered affordable housing, education policy, and job-creation strategies, among other issues.

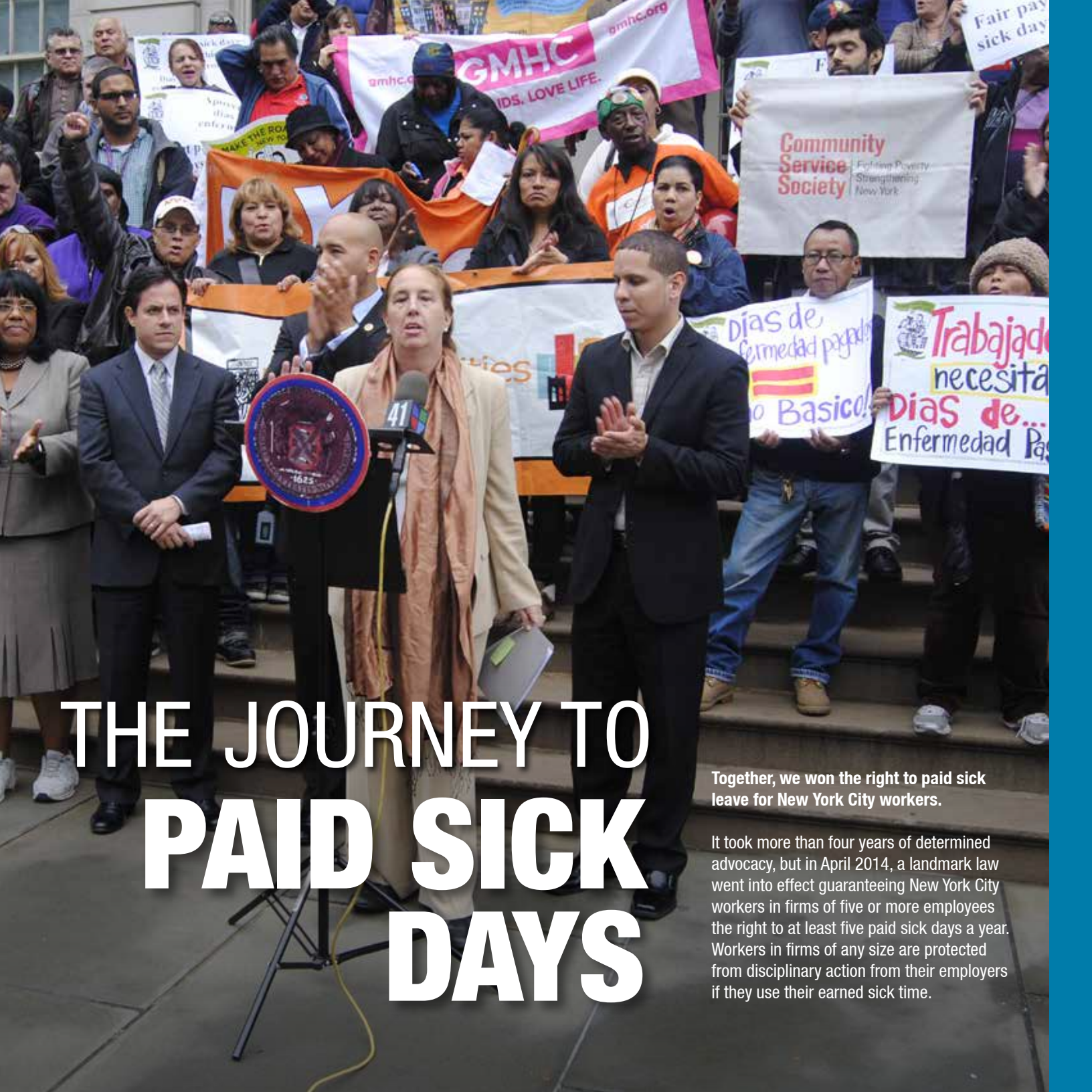


The New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) is home to more than half a million New Yorkers, making it the city's largest landlord. But years of government disinvestment have left the Authority in financial distress, and its 328 housing developments in critical disrepair. At our April 2013 mayoral forum on public housing (cosponsored with the Teamsters Union Local 237), all of the candidates present made a public commitment to improve NYCHA's financial position by ending an annual \$70 million payment to the city for police services. In 2014, newly-elected Mayor Bill de Blasio made that promise a reality.



We created an interactive voter guide to get the mayoral candidates on record with their views on what would help low-income New Yorkers get ahead. Drawing from our annual Unheard Third survey, we designed a candidate questionnaire focused on issues identified as top concerns by survey respondents. We then published the responses online and in print in local and community newspapers, reaching an estimated 400,000 New Yorkers with an informative discussion of how the candidates planned to address issues related to education, affordable housing, economic growth, and more.





THE JOURNEY TO PAID SICK DAYS

Together, we won the right to paid sick leave for New York City workers.

It took more than four years of determined advocacy, but in April 2014, a landmark law went into effect guaranteeing New York City workers in firms of five or more employees the right to at least five paid sick days a year. Workers in firms of any size are protected from disciplinary action from their employers if they use their earned sick time.

CSS led the research that first identified the widespread lack of sick leave among working New Yorkers—an estimated 1.3 million workers who lacked a single day of paid time off, according to our 2009 report “Sick in the City.” We followed up with five additional reports, a policy roundtable, and a mayoral forum that put candidates on record with their support of paid sick days. Our efforts included testimony before the City Council, op-eds, and data and analysis to fuel the campaign and inform the news media. We also attended countless rallies and public events, standing shoulder to shoulder with a broad-based coalition of affected workers, labor, women’s groups, health advocates, seniors, elected officials, and advocacy organizations.



Tens of thousands of citizens took action in support of paid sick days in New York City. Here, 50,000 signed petitions were delivered to City Council Speaker Christine Quinn at a rally in October 2012. The paid sick days campaign was driven by a passionate and committed coalition of advocates who kept sustained pressure on elected officials who resisted passage of the bill.



CSS research, polling data, and analysis were instrumental in raising awareness of the magnitude of the problem and answering questions about how a paid sick days law in New York City would impact jobs and businesses.



The original paid sick days bill passed in June 2013 when the City Council voted to override the veto of then-Mayor Bloomberg. In 2014, Mayor de Blasio and the City Council took further action, expanding the law to cover hundreds of thousands of additional workers. Nancy Rankin, CSS Vice President for Policy, Research, and Advocacy, stood by the Mayor at the signing of the expanded paid sick days bill in March 2014.



Successful implementation of paid sick days meant educating workers, businesses, and advocates about their rights and responsibilities. We partnered with the City's Department of Consumer Affairs to provide data, based on our Unheard Third survey, to help target outreach to workers most in need of paid sick days. We also worked with partners including A Better Balance and Make the Road NY to train social and legal service providers about how the new law works, and to develop public outreach and education materials.



ing
obs


Community
Service Society

IT'S ABOUT TIME:

- To end the impossible choice between a day's pay and a healthy family
- To keep our workplaces and schools safe from illness
- To pass the Paid Sick Time Act



Quinn tells Speaker Quinn that all workers



The New York State of Health opened in October 2013, a new marketplace which allows consumers to compare and select health insurance plans online, over the phone, or with the help of an in-person assistor. This marked a sea-change in how New Yorkers access health insurance, introducing new opportunities but also new complexities for people looking to get covered. During the first year of open enrollment, nearly one million New Yorkers enrolled in coverage through the marketplace.

NAVIGATING THE NEW HEALTH INSURANCE LANDSCAPE

Since 2010, CSS's nationally-recognized health insurance consumer assistance program, Community Health Advocates (CHA), has helped tens of thousands of New Yorkers navigate the health insurance system every year. CHA uses a hub-and-spokes model, with CSS providing resources, training, and technical support to a network of community-based organizations around the state. CSS also runs a toll-free hotline with a robust volunteer program to serve consumers statewide.

This unique model provided the framework for the launch of the Community Service Society Navigator Network (CNN) in October 2013 to help New Yorkers enroll in health insurance through the new marketplace. As the state's largest provider of Navigator services, CNN and its network of 38 subcontractors helped more than 38,000 New Yorkers enroll in health insurance during the first year of open enrollment.



Community Health Advocates (CHA) was designated as New York State's health care consumer assistance program in 2010. Since then, CHA and its statewide network have completed more than 200,000 cases helping consumers to obtain health care services, understand their health insurance, and make health care work for them. Between 2010 and 2014, CHA helped consumers save more than \$13 million in health care and health insurance costs.



Navigators are certified by the state to assist people enrolling in health plans. CSS operates the state's largest Navigator network, serving 61 of 62 New York Counties. With the help of a Navigator at CSS, Queens resident Anna enrolled in a health plan after two years of being uninsured. Anna was eligible for financial help through the marketplace, keeping her monthly premium to \$81 a month and her deductible to just \$250 a year. "I got a great plan that I can afford. It's such a relief!" said Anna.



With the launch of the new health insurance marketplace, small businesses also gained new options to provide affordable, quality health insurance to their employees—often with the aid of substantial tax credits. Between 2012 and 2014, CSS operated a Small Business Assistance Program through a network of 34 subcontractors, providing health insurance information and assistance to more than 28,000 small businesses and their employees—including Manhattan-based Hot Bread Kitchen.

In addition to helping New Yorkers enroll in coverage and make better use of their health plans, CSS advocates for policies that expand access to affordable health care in New York State. CSS is a founding member of Health Care For All New York (HCFANY), a statewide coalition of more than 170 consumer-focused groups. In 2014, HCFANY won a key policy victory when it helped secure passage of the nation's strongest law protecting insured consumers like Gladys—who got hit with a whopping \$130,000 in hospital and doctor fees following a stroke—from surprise, out-of-network medical bills.



PROGRAM SNAPSHOT

Financial Security

Financial Coaching Corps

The Financial Coaching Corps (FCC) helps clients take control of their finances and increase their future security by teaching them how to budget, save, and build on their assets. FCC is powered by a cadre of older-adult, volunteer financial coaches who complete a rigorous training program and provide services at local community-based organizations.

1,400+ clients helped with issues including banking, budgeting, and reviewing and repairing credit reports

28 financial coaches serving at **24** partner agencies

87% of clients reported an increase in understanding of one or more personal finance topics

Income Support Services

CSS connects New Yorkers in immediate financial need with resources from a variety of grant programs—including the New York Times Neediest Cases Fund, the United Way Emergency Food and Shelter Program, and the New York City Department of Homeless Services. Our Income Support Services Unit works with clients referred from more than 30 nonprofit partner agencies in all five boroughs.

1,200+ clients served

230 families received emergency eviction prevention grants

675 participants in workforce development programs received grants for child care, transportation, and other urgent needs

Next Door Project

One out of every three New Yorkers has a criminal record, and half of all official criminal histories contain at least one error. These errors compound the problems people with past criminal convictions face in gaining employment, housing, and a firm footing in their communities. The Next Door Project helps New Yorkers review, understand, and correct their official criminal records, connecting them with community resources and legal expertise that help open doors to employment and economic stability.

1,200+ New Yorkers served

25 highly-trained, community-based volunteers

Over **40%** of client “rap sheets” contained errors



Health Care Access



Community Health Advocates

Community Health Advocates (CHA) is New York State's designated consumer assistance program. CHA helps New Yorkers navigate the complex health care system by providing individual assistance and public outreach to communities throughout New York State. Through a network of community-based partner organizations, CHA helps consumers and small employers understand health insurance coverage and access the care they need.

86,000+ cases completed

34,000+ helpline calls

\$6.8 million in health-related costs saved for New Yorkers

CSS Navigator Network

With the opening of the new health care marketplace in 2013, CSS launched the Community Service Society Navigator Network (CNN) to help individuals, families, and small business enroll in health coverage through the New York State of Health marketplace. CNN's extensive network of state-certified Navigators offer services in multiple languages, in person or over the phone, in communities throughout New York State.

38 community-based partners

61 out of **62** New York counties served

38,000+ New Yorkers got help enrolling in a health plan in the first year

PROGRAM SNAPSHOT

Strengthening the Sector



ACES Project

Since 1984, the ACES Project (Advocacy, Counseling, and Entitlement Services) of the CSS RSVP program has helped New Yorkers access critical public benefits—such as Medicaid, Food Stamps, SSI, and Public Assistance. ACES volunteers receive intensive training in how to navigate a complex array of public benefit programs. Volunteers are placed in community-based partner agencies to work directly with clients, thus strengthening the service offerings in communities throughout New York City.

65 volunteers serving in **38** partner agencies

10,737 total client contacts

Counseling on **13,849** public benefit issues

Benefits Plus Learning Center

The Benefits Plus Learning Center offers publications, training, and consultation services designed to educate and support the social service professional and clients through the complexities of the public benefit system. Benefits Plus, our comprehensive, searchable online resource manual for social service professionals, includes in-depth information on over 60 different federal, state, and local government benefit and housing programs.

75 workshops conducted with over **1,650** participants

Over **750** annual users of Benefits Plus manual

93% of users say they have saved time using Benefits Plus to assist their clients

Volunteerism

Retired and Senior Volunteer Program

The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) recruits, trains, and places volunteers at community-based organizations throughout the five boroughs of New York City. The strength of the RSVP program is three-fold: it provides life-changing opportunities for volunteers ages 55 and over; it helps meet the critical needs of communities by mobilizing hundreds of thousands of hours of volunteer service; and it strengthens public and nonprofit agencies by matching skilled volunteers with vital programs and services.

3,500+ volunteers

300+ community sites

Over **1.1 million** hours of service

Experience Corps

Success at reading is fundamental to success in school, yet there are few proven methods for helping young children who have fallen behind. Our Experience Corps Literacy Program brings together a diverse cadre of older-adult volunteers, a network of public school sites, and a meticulous, research-based approach to help thousands of New York City's children at risk for academic failure.

104 volunteer literacy tutors in **10** schools

1,974 children receiving one-on-one tutoring

29,085 lessons delivered

MentorUP & MentorCHIP

CSS provides mentoring to children affected by incarceration and the criminal justice system through two volunteer-driven programs. Mentoring Youth of Promise (MentorUP) trains volunteer mentors to build the academic confidence and social skills of youth who are in Alternatives to Detention programs. Mentoring Children of Incarcerated Parents (MentorCHIP) offers site-based mentoring at partnering organizations to build the confidence and resilience of children ages 6–16 whose parents are incarcerated.


83 volunteer mentors at **10** partner sites

7,246 hours of intergenerational mentoring

Service to **290** youth affected by incarceration



RESEARCH TOPLINES



FOSTERING INDEPENDENCE
The Need for a Statewide Foster Youth College Success Initiative

Community Service Society | Policy Priority | Community Research
YICC
May 2013

UNHEARD THIRD VOTE 2013

WHAT NEW YORKERS WANT FROM THE NEW MAYOR

- An Affordable Place to Live
- A Change in Education Policies
- Jobs With Upward Mobility

Community Service Society | Policy Priority | Community Research
January 2014

Between 2002 and 2011, the city lost 385,000 units of housing affordable to low-income New Yorkers

September 2012

The Impact of Paid Sick Days on Jobs: What's the Real Story?

Highlights from a policy roundtable discussion hosted by the Community Service Society of New York.



Community Service Society | Policy Priority | Community Research
October 2012

THE UNHEARD THIRD 2012

ISS POLICY UPDATE

PAID SICK DAYS
Support Grows for a Work Standard Most Low-Wage Earners Still Lack in New York City

By Nancy Sartin
October 2012

The Community Service Society of New York (CSSS) draws on a 100-year history of leadership in addressing the social issues of economic disparity through applied research, advocacy, legislation, and community-based practice. CSSS has been a leading voice on paid sick days in New York City.

Mayor Baraka Obama's Executive Order for Paid Sick Days and the passage of the Paid Sick Days Law in New York City are the result of a long-term effort by CSSS and other advocates to ensure that all workers have the right to paid sick days.

As the largest and most diverse workforce in the world, New York City needs a paid sick days law that is comprehensive and effective. CSSS has been a leading voice in this effort, and we are pleased to see the law passed and signed into law.

Community Service Society | Policy Priority | Community Research
October 2012

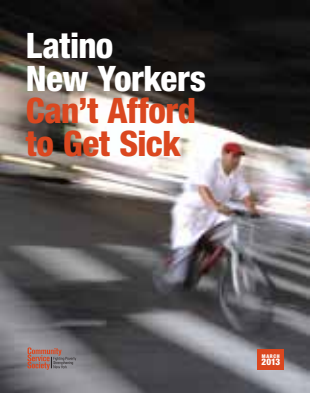
Health Coverage that Works for New Yorkers
Health Care For All New York's 2012 Statewide Listening Tour

By Carrie Tracy, JD & Kristin Dugan, MPH



Community Service Society | Policy Priority | Community Research
November 2012

Latino New Yorkers Can't Afford to Get Sick



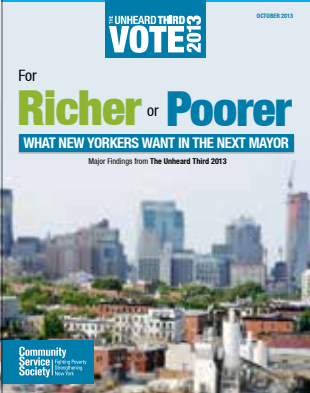
Community Service Society | Policy Priority | Community Research
2013

47% of Latino workers in New York City lacked even a single day of paid sick leave, according to our 2012 Unheard Third survey

UNHEARD THIRD VOTE 2013

For **Richer or Poorer**
WHAT NEW YORKERS WANT IN THE NEXT MAYOR

Major Findings from The Unheard Third 2013



Community Service Society | Policy Priority | Community Research
October 2013

3 out of 4 New Yorkers say they are worried about a disappearing middle class in New York City, according to our 2013 Unheard Third Survey

IN NYC, OLDER WOMEN HAVE BEEN OUT OF WORK THE LONGEST—ALMOST A YEAR.


POLICY BRIEF
WOMEN, BLACKS, AND OLDER WORKERS STRUGGLE IN POST-RECESSION NEW YORK CITY

August 2013

Community Service Society | Policy Priority | Community Research
October 2013

THE MEANING OF MERIT
ALTERNATIVES FOR DETERMINING ADMISSION TO NEW YORK CITY'S SPECIALIZED HIGH SCHOOLS

A Policy Blueprint for the Next Mayor and City Council of New York City




Community Service Society | Policy Priority | Community Research
LDF
October 2013

Challenging Traditional Expectations

How New York City's CTE High Schools Are Helping Students Graduate

A Report by the Community Service Society
Luzia Trechean and Aparna Melwani



Community Service Society | June 2014

New York City public high school students enrolled in Career and Technical Education (CTE) schools are much more likely to graduate than their peers in non-CTE schools

THE UNHEARD THIRD 2012

CSS POLICY UPDATE

The Case for Raising New York State's Minimum Wage

By Norma Melwani
January 2013

The United States' slow recovery from the Great Recession has almost exclusively benefited those with the highest incomes. The top 1 percent of earners captured 39 percent of economic gains from 2009 to 2010.¹ Striking income inequality in the United States is at its highest level since the Great Depression.²

In New York, those in the financial services sector, who many feel were responsible for the economic conditions we now again debate, while low-wage workers continue to struggle. According to the Census Bureau, New York has the highest level of income inequality of all states in the country and has the largest income disparity of any state in the nation.³ In 2011, the median income for the top 10 percent of earners in New York City was \$223,256, but the bottom 10th, it was under \$9,000.⁴

As the state's 11th largest economy, it is one of the few states that has been able to create jobs faster than the rest of the country. However, the state has not been able to get to and support those workers despite working full-time jobs. In New York City, over 150,000 full-time, full-year workers are living in poverty, which another 300,000 are among the near-poor with household incomes between 60 percent and 100 percent of the federal poverty level.⁵ It is an affront to figure out how this could be the case: a \$12,000 year-round worker makes the minimum wage rate around \$12,000 per year. The federal poverty threshold for a family of three is \$17,910 for a family of three, it is \$14,825.⁶

Community Service Society | June 2014


MAKING THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT WORK FOR NEW YORK'S CONSUMERS.

POLICY BRIEF

OPTIMIZING CONSUMER PROTECTIONS IN STATE HEALTH INSURANCE EXCHANGES

October 2013

Community Service Society | June 2014



THE UNHEARD THIRD 2014

VOTE 2014

WHAT NEW YORKERS WANT FROM THE NEW MAYOR

A Change in Education Policies

An Affordable Place to Live

Jobs With Upward Mobility

Community Service Society | June 2014

NEARLY HALF OF MEXICAN CHILDREN IN NEW YORK CITY ARE GROWING UP POOR.

POLICY BRIEF

YOUNG MEXICAN-AMERICANS IN NEW YORK CITY: WORKING MORE, LEARNING AND EARNING LESS


March 2013

Community Service Society | June 2014

GOOD PLACE TO WORK HARD PLACE TO LIVE

THE RISING CHALLENGE FOR NEW YORK CITY'S NEXT MAYOR

CLOSING THE GROSS 2013 | By Luzia Trechean and Aparna Melwani



Community Service Society | June 2014

JobsFirstNYC

BARRIERS TO ENTRY


The Increasing Challenges Faced by Young Adults
In the New York City Labor Market

THE FINAL POLICY INSTITUTE
The Community Service Society of New York

James Patten (patten@finalpolicy.org)
Luzia Trechean (trechean@cssny.org)

UPGRADING SECURITY: Unionization and Changes in the Workforce, Wages, and Standards in the NYC Security Industry, 2004-2011

The Community Service Society Reports



Community Service Society | June 2014

Between 2004 and 2011, a surge in unionization among security officers contributed to a 10% increase in real wages

THE UNHEARD THIRD 2013


VOTE 2013

THE RACE FOR MAYOR

What's in it for low-income New Yorkers?

Community Service Society | June 2014

PUTTING PREVENTION TO WORK IN NEW YORK CITY: TOBACCO CONTROL AT THE COMMUNITY LEVEL



Community Service Society | June 2014

PUBLICATIONS JULY 2012-JUNE 2014

June 2014

What New Yorkers Want From the New Mayor: A Change in Education Policies

Apurva Mehrotra, Lazar Treschan

May 2014

Fostering Independence: The Need for a Statewide Foster College Success Initiative

Apurva Mehrotra, Lazar Treschan

February 2014

Challenging Traditional Expectations: How New York City's CTE High Schools Are Helping Students Graduate

Lazar Treschan, Apurva Mehrotra

January 2014

What New Yorkers Want From the New Mayor: An Affordable Place to Live

Thomas J. Waters, Victor Bach

October 2013

The Meaning of Merit: Alternatives to Determining Admission to NYC's Specialized High Schools

Lazar Treschan, Apurva Mehrotra

October 2013

For Richer or Poorer: What New Yorkers Want in the Next Mayor

Nancy Rankin, Apurva Mehrotra

June 2013

Health Coverage that Works for New Yorkers: Health Care For All New York's 2012 Listening Tour

Carrie Tracy, Arianne Slagle

May 2013

Barriers to Entry: The Increasing Challenge Faced by Young Adults in the New York City Labor Market

Lazar Treschan for the Community Service Society, James Parrot for the Fiscal Policy Institute, and JobsFirstNYC

April 2013

Good Place to Work Hard Place to Live: The Housing Challenge for New York City's Next Mayor

Thomas J. Waters, Victor Bach

March 2013

Young Mexican-Americans in New York City: Working More, Learning and Earning Less

Lazar Treschan, Apurva Mehrotra

March 2013

Latino New Yorkers Can't Afford to Get Sick

Apurva Mehrotra, Nancy Rankin

March 2013

The Race for Mayor: What's in it for low-income New Yorkers?

Nancy Rankin, Apurva Mehrotra

January 2013

The Case for Raising New York State's Minimum Wage

Apurva Mehrotra

October 2012

Optimizing Consumer Protections in State Health Insurance Exchanges

Samuel Salganik, Elisabeth Ryden Benjamin, Arianne Slagle, Marissa Geoffroy

October 2012

Paid Sick Days: Support Grows for a Work Standard Most Low-Wage Earners Still Lack in New York City

Nancy Rankin

October 2012

Upgrading Security: Unionization and Changes in the Workforce, Wages, and Standards in the New York City Security Industry, 2004-2011

Nancy Rankin, Michelle Holder

September 2012

Putting Prevention to Work in New York City: Tobacco Control at the Community Level

Arianne Slagle, Ashley Vroba

September 2012

The Impact of Paid Sick Days on Jobs: What's the Real Story?

Nancy Rankin

ADVOCACY SNAPSHOT

Highlights from 2013 and 2014

The **Legal Department** continued to litigate or settle important employment and housing discrimination cases to remove unfair barriers for people with criminal conviction histories and other groups. This included a landmark Title VII employment discrimination case against the Census Bureau challenging the process for hiring temporary Census workers.

In October 2012, Mayor Michael Bloomberg signed into law three bills to dramatically **improve how New York's disadvantaged youth connect to public assistance and educational programs**. The bills stemmed from recommendations in a CSS report, "Missed Opportunities," that uncovered tough obstacles faced by many low-income youth applying for help from the city's Human Resource Administration.

In June 2013, the **New York City Council passed the Earned Sick Time Act** providing job-protected paid sick days to hundreds of thousands of New York City workers. In 2014, the law was expanded to cover even more workers. CSS provided extensive research into the problems caused by lack of paid sick days and partnered with a broad coalition of advocates calling for reform.

In 2014, Mayor Bill de Blasio's budget **relieved the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) of a \$70 million annual payment** to the New York City Police Department that sapped needed operating resources from the Authority. The Mayor had pledged to take this action at a 2013 public housing candidates forum co-sponsored by CSS.



Health Care for All New York (HCFANY), a statewide coalition of consumer advocacy groups co-founded by CSS, **won all of its top three legislative priorities in 2014:**

- Creation of Basic Health Plan to provide affordable health insurance to low-income consumers who don't qualify for Medicaid. The plan, which was modeled after recommendations in a 2012 CSS report, will expand coverage to an estimated 400,000 New Yorkers when it launches in 2016.
- Funding for a statewide consumer assistance program to help New Yorkers navigate the complex health care landscape.
- A new law providing the nation's strongest protections for consumers against surprise, out-of-network medical bills.

In March 2014, the New York State Assembly approved a bill that would modernize New York's Temporary Disability Insurance Program **to offer up to 12 weeks of paid family leave to workers who need time off to care for a new baby or a sick family member**. CSS and other advocates have continued to press the Governor and the State Senate to pass paid family leave.



CELEBRATING 170 YEARS



CSS AND THE CITY

In May 2013, the Community Service Society celebrated its 170th anniversary with Step-Up New York, a festive event at New York's Gotham Hall honoring partners in the fight against urban poverty.



CSS President & CEO David R. Jones presents The Josephine Shaw Lowell Leader in Social Justice Award to David Boies, Chairman, Boies, Schiller and Flexnor LLP.



The Honorable David N. Dinkins presents Danny Glover with the Richie Perez Spirit of Service Award.



Blanchette Rockefeller Leader in Philanthropy Award Recipient Maurice R. Greenberg, pictured with James Wolfensohn.

Our History

The Community Service Society of New York was formed in 1939 by the merger of two venerable social service agencies: The New York Association for the Improvement of the Condition of the Poor (founded in 1843) and the Charity Organization Society (founded in 1882).

Our long history in the fight against poverty has been marked by significant achievements: serving as the catalyst for the city's first tenement housing laws; creating a prototype for the nation's free school lunch program; and advancing New York State's old age assistance program, an important forerunner to Social Security.

We continue to make remarkable progress, thanks in large part to the support of a vast network of partners, contributors, and volunteers.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Condensed Consolidated Statement of Activities Years Ended June 30, 2014 and June 30, 2013

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Totals 2014	Totals 2013
REVENUE					
Public Support:					
Contributions	355,024	90,885		445,909	618,885
Foundations	253,802	2,283,423		2,537,225	3,663,598
Bequests	47,309			47,309	70,921
Greater New York Fund/United Way	294	30,015		30,309	30,332
New York Times Neediest Cases Fund		1,070,454		1,070,454	1,246,951
Government grants		8,461,439		8,461,439	8,187,402
Subscription and advertisement income	94,109			94,109	105,913
Total public support	750,538	11,936,216		12,686,754	13,923,642
Other revenue:					
Investment income	14,087,516	4,464,082		18,551,598	12,983,933
Change in fair value of beneficial interest in perpetual trusts			3,303,129	3,303,129	1,665,149
Program service fees	188,169			188,169	157,705
Change in investment in The United Charities	32,087			32,087	184,029
Net Revenue from special events					263,931
Total other revenue	14,307,772	4,464,082	3,303,129	22,074,983	15,254,747
Net assets released from restrictions	15,536,665	(15,536,665)			
Total Revenue	30,594,975	863,633	3,303,129	34,761,737	29,178,389
EXPENSES					
Program services:					
Direct service program	13,324,616			13,324,616	13,188,297
Policy research and advocacy	4,429,475			4,429,475	4,084,754
Public interest	1,013,356			1,013,356	1,087,142
Total program services	18,767,447			18,767,447	18,360,193
Supporting services:					
Management and general	4,579,105			4,579,105	4,913,726
Fundraising	960,965			960,965	950,208
Total supporting services	5,540,070			5,540,070	5,863,934
Total expenses	24,307,517			24,307,517	24,224,127
Change in net assets before other charges	6,287,458	863,633	3,303,129	10,454,220	4,954,262
Pension and other postretirement benefits adjustment	(1,342,335)			(1,342,335)	5,434,954
Impairment loss-City Limits					(220,000)
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	4,945,123	863,633	3,303,129	9,111,885	10,169,216
NET ASSETS – Beginning of year	66,691,463	25,874,136	60,430,501	152,996,100	142,826,884
NET ASSETS – End of year	\$ 71,636,586	\$ 26,737,769	\$ 63,733,630	\$ 162,107,985	\$ 152,996,100

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Condensed Consolidated Statement of Financial Position Years Ended June 30, 2014 and June 30, 2013

ASSETS	2014	2013
Cash and cash equivalents	2,083,900	3,472,981
Marketable securities	130,486,315	120,769,922
Accounts receivable:		
Government agencies	4,621,344	3,063,253
Other	392,135	211,116
Beneficial interest in perpetual trusts	34,639,095	31,335,966
Accrued interest and dividends receivable	145,478	
Prepaid expenses and other assets	82,645	65,834
Securities sold receivable	167,885	1,400,000
Investment in the united charities	2,122,144	2,090,057
Equipment and improvements—net	1,803,787	2,031,422
TOTAL	\$ 176,544,728	\$ 164,440,551
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
<i>Liabilities:</i>		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	4,351,727	1,538,624
Accrued Vacation	841,680	785,809
Securities purchased payable.	70,025	1,400,000
Liability for postemployment and postretirement benefits	9,173,311	7,720,018
Total liabilities	14,436,743	11,444,451
<i>Net Assets:</i>		
Unrestricted	71,636,586	66,691,463
Temporarily restricted	26,737,769	25,874,136
Permanently restricted	63,733,630	60,430,501
Total Net Assets	162,107,985	152,996,100
TOTAL	\$ 176,544,728	\$ 164,440,551

NOTES

These consolidated statements include all funds of the Community Service Society of New York and its affiliates, The Institute for Community Empowerment, and Friends of RSVP, Inc. The statements are condensed from the financial statements for the years ended June 30, 2014 and 2013, which have been audited by Loeb & Troper LLP.

1. A copy of the latest CSS financial report filed with the New York State Office of the Attorney General in Albany is available upon request from the Department or CSS.
2. The Society's board follows a policy of appropriating Endowment monies according to a formula. The current formula allows up to 6% of the five-year average of the Endowment's market value to be spent. For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2014 and 2013, the Society appropriated \$7,383,000 and \$7,714,000 respectively, according to this formula.

Our Supporters

The Community Service Society of New York is grateful for the generosity of all its supporters. As space is limited, we are only able to list our major contributors. However, this does not minimize our appreciation of everyone who cares about CSS's work.

Listed below are the generous individuals and entities who supported us in 2013 (year ending June 30, 2013) and 2014 (year ending June 30, 2014).

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Biennial Report covers fiscal years July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013 and July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014.

This report was produced by the Department of Marketing and Communications.

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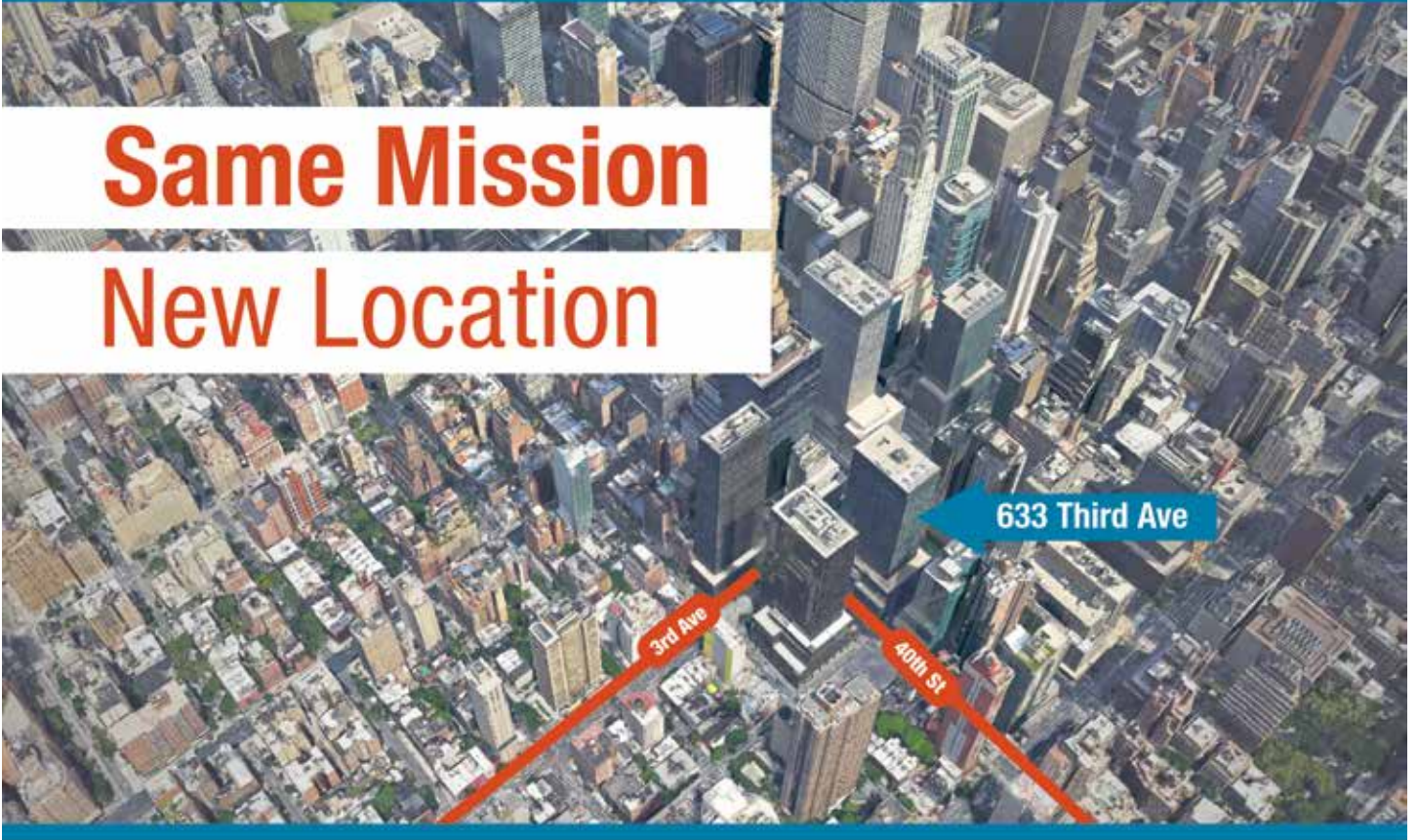
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