

The Civic Engagement Commission invites New Yorkers to submit ideas for how to spend \$4 million of the city budget

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NEW YORK – The Civic Engagement Commission (CEC) announced today the fourth cycle of [The People's Money](#), New York City's citywide participatory budgeting process. This is an opportunity for New Yorkers to submit ideas for projects to address community needs. Ideas can be submitted until November 19, either [online](#) or [in-person](#) at Idea Generation Workshops across the city.

“Now more than ever, we must create more avenues for residents to have a voice, listen to feedback, and deliver services and programs that are responsive and timely,” said **CEC Chair and Executive Director Dr. Sarah Sayeed**. “The People’s Money gives residents direct say about their most pressing needs, and the ability to also propose solutions they want to put into place. By coming together in small Idea Generation Workshops, discussing challenges and solutions together with neighbors, residents reclaim their power to have a say in how public dollars are spent. They also reclaim their hope in the promise that democracy holds for everyone.”

This fall, the Civic Engagement Commission team invites new ideas for The People's Money, New York City's citywide participatory budgeting process. For the fourth year, New Yorkers can gather with their neighbors and community members to discuss challenges and propose solutions. New Yorkers will then review those ideas and help decide what will go on the ballot. Then in the spring, New Yorkers will get to choose which ideas they want to bring to life. The ideas with the most votes will be implemented next year.

This new cycle of The People's Money process will run in four phases:

- Phase 1: Idea Generation
 - October 15 – November 29, 2025: New Yorkers submit ideas online or in-person for projects that can address community needs.

- Phase 2: Borough Assemblies
 - January – February 2026: Ballots are developed by Borough Assembly Committees who evaluate submitted ideas against equity criteria.
- Phase 3: Voting
 - May – June 2026: New Yorkers vote online or in-person at a vote site in their neighborhoods.
- Phase 4: Project Implementation
 - June 2026 – October 2027: Winning projects are announced, funded, implemented, and monitored.

“For New Yorkers who have ever felt, ‘there oughta be...’ about a particular wish or need to better their community, the Idea Generation phase of The People's Money is the gateway to manifesting that,” said **CEC Commissioner Natalie DeVito**.

A [video of the participatory budgeting process was released](#) along with today's announcement to easily explain the different phases to New Yorkers. Additionally, a social media campaign was implemented in collaboration with partners to maximize the reach and inform residents of the fourth cycle of The People's Money. Through aligning partners on a social media launch for the campaign, the CEC is working to inform New Yorkers of the civic process, regardless of where they are. Idea Generation Workshops will be held until November 19, through in-person workshops to engage New Yorkers with the process.

“There has never been a more relevant moment to be engaging communities in thinking about and voicing their priorities about how a city should spend its funds. The People's Money works in opposition to those forces attempting to narrow and curtail existing pathways for democracy,” said the **Director of The People's Money, Hillary Carelli-Donnell**. “We're grateful to be working with such a diverse roster of community partners to expand opportunities for democratic engagement for all New Yorkers 11 and up.”

“Idea Generation sessions are a time for our customers to come together and make a positive impact on our neighbors,” said **Nicky Roberts of Comedy in Harlem**. “We love brainstorming programs that make a difference.”

Using an inclusive engagement strategy, the CEC, and a diverse group of [79 selected partner organizations](#), including several library branches, will be opening their doors to host Idea Generation Workshops throughout the city. These partners are community-based organizations with established connections in their neighborhoods, engaging their networks and coalition partners to expand the reach of The People's Money to as many New Yorkers as possible.

Outreach efforts will primarily be directed toward New Yorkers who have typically been left out of the democratic process. This includes a targeted partnership with organizations in 33 priority neighborhoods, as identified by the Taskforce on Racial Inclusion and Equity (TRIE) as most heavily impacted by COVID-19, and with specific communities, such as those with limited English proficiency, youth (11-21), veterans, people with disabilities, immigrants, NYCHA residents, older adults, the faith-based community, LGBTQIA+, and justice-impacted residents. These organizations have been selected as [TRIE Partners](#) and collaborate with the CEC through the year-long capacity-building partnership. This collaboration supports the organizations in building local coalitions to engage neighborhood residents throughout the whole cycle of The People's Money and other civic engagement opportunities.

“Practical Knowledge, Inc. is excited to bring The People’s Money to our TRIE neighborhoods because it gives residents a direct voice in shaping local priorities,” said **Yvonne Daniels, the Executive Director of Practical Knowledge, Inc.** “By engaging students, families, and community partners in this process, we’re helping to ensure that public dollars reflect real community needs and drive long-term impact across Southeast Queens.”

“Bridge Street Development Corporation is very excited to implement ‘Youth Job Training and Employment Opportunities’ in Bedford Stuyvesant & Bushwick,” said **Program Director of Youth Workforce Services for Bridge Street Development Corporation, Sidda Philip.** “As someone who was born & raised in this community and at one point in time in dire need of training & employment opportunities, it is truly gratifying to serve Bedford Stuyvesant & Bushwick teens and give them an opportunity to better themselves.”

Last cycle, thousands of residents across the city participated by collectively discussing community needs and submitted nearly 4,000 ideas. Borough residents

then evaluated those ideas for the borough ballots. Ultimately New Yorkers ages 11 and up voted on projects that will directly impact their communities, and you can learn more about this process through our [2025 Annual Report](#). In August, the CEC announced the funded programs from the third cycle, which are currently in their Implementation phase. These programs address community needs such as youth development, mental health services, food access, job training, and much more. Currently, there are [20 projects being implemented](#) by Implementation Partners throughout the city.

Residents will also be able to submit ideas via the CEC's online platform, participate.nyc.gov.