



NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL MEMBER
ERIK BOTTCHEER
— THIRD COUNCIL DISTRICT —

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Council Member Erik Bottcher and Coalition Announced Major New Initiative to Increase Employment Opportunity for Residents of NYCHA Elliott-Chelsea & Fulton Houses

NEW YORK CITY, NY - Today New York City Council Member Erik Bottcher, Hudson Guild, Greenwich House and the New York City Employment and Training Coalition announce the West Side Work Coalition and FY24 funding allocations for workforce development.

The West Side Work Coalition (WSWC) is a unique collaboration between government, job readiness providers, community-based organizations, philanthropy, and businesses of all sizes to connect local talent to open employment opportunities now while supporting the development of new and dynamic training programs for future jobs. The WSWC is committed to the elevating and advancing the effective and efficient neighborhood employer network required to meet hiring needs.

The West Side Work Coalition is committed to creating and sustaining strong pipelines to employment opportunities and growing industries with an initial focus on NYCHA Elliott-Chelsea and NYCHA Fulton Houses. Historically, the unemployment rate in the primary service location (CD3) (3.6%) had been below both the Manhattan unemployment rate (3.8%) and New York City (4.4%) unemployment rate. However, as reported by the Community Service Society in 2021, unemployment rates in public housing hover around 22%.

Funding in the FY24 budget will support WSWC programming that 1) Introduces qualified job seekers to employment through the development and implementation of a customized referral process to recruit/refer/screen candidates for local job opportunities; 2) Developing customized job training opportunities to meet the business needs of the local employers; 3) Monitoring and reporting key data regarding the number of job seekers who are referred, hired, and retained; and 4) Investing in the WSWC to ensure the long-term viability of this local hiring initiative.

“Access to job opportunities is essential to addressing economic inequality in our community,” said **Council Member Erik Bottcher**. “This Coalition brings together talent from NYCHA Elliott-Chelsea and NYCHA Fulton Houses with top employers based right here in Council District 3, connecting a historically underserved population with meaningful employment



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opportunities. We have an incredible array of partners across industries committed to offering opportunities to job seekers, and we will continue to grow our partnerships to sustain a Coalition that serves the West Side for years to come. I am so appreciative of the support from Speaker Adams, community organizations, community members and business partners and that allows this Coalition to be possible.”

“Expanding meaningful employment and workforce development opportunities is critical to increasing economic mobility for local residents and boosting our city’s economy,” said **Speaker Adrienne Adams**. “The Council is proud to invest \$25,000 to support the West Side Work Coalition, which will connect employers with NYCHA residents living in the west side of Manhattan. This partnership is vital to uplifting New Yorkers who are seeking opportunities to thrive, and we will continue to support their important work.”

"Talent is New York City's most valuable asset and connecting New Yorkers to opportunity is the key to shared prosperity," said **Abby Jo Sigal, Executive Director, Mayor's Office of Talent and Workforce Development**. "We look forward to working with the West Side Work Coalition to position residents in NYCHA's Fulton and Elliott-Chelsea Houses for career success and help West Side employers, big and small, tap the talent they need to thrive."

“The West Side Work Coalition is an innovative solution designed to pair the needs of our community members seeking to enter the workforce with those of local businesses and employers”, said **Congressman Jerry Nadler**. “I want to commend Council Member Bottcher, Hudson Guild, Greenwich House and the New York City Employment and Training Coalition for supporting this important pipeline to fulfilling employment opportunities for job seekers in our district.

State Senator Brad Hoylman-Sigal said, "The West Side is blessed with thousands of thriving businesses, from Fortune 500 companies to beloved small businesses. The West Side Work Coalition promises to leverage these tremendous assets on behalf of employment opportunities for underserved areas of Manhattan, specifically the NYCHA Elliott-Chelsea and Fulton Houses. I commend Council Member Bottcher and the New York City Council for their foresight in launching this project and hope it serves as a model for workforce development elsewhere in the city."

"The West Side Work Coalition is doing crucial work to support the community on the west side," said **Assemblymember Tony Simone**. "While New York City is well on its way to recovering from the pandemic, low income New Yorkers are still struggling to keep up. The Coalition will benefit local residents by helping them find the opportunities they need to enter into meaningful employment. I am grateful to Councilmember Bottcher and the New York City Council for supporting this important organization, and investing in the economic health of NYCHA residents and the West side at large."



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“The West Side Work Coalition’s holistic approach to workforce development is a model with extreme promise for Chelsea-Elliott and Fulton Houses residents. I look forward to seeing how residents’ talent is matched to meaningful, gainful employment,” said **Manhattan Borough President Mark Levine**. “WSWC is leading the way on innovative solutions to combat economic inequity in New York.”

"NYCHA is committed to fostering employment opportunities and workforce development for residents," said **NYCHA Chief Executive Officer Lisa Bova-Hiatt**. "We look forward to working alongside the West Side Work Coalition in their mission to connect the residents of Fulton and Elliott-Chelsea to local job opportunities."

"This is an exciting moment for the West Side as a new piece of infrastructure is realized, thanks to the hard work of Council Member Bottcher and a long list of amazing partners," said **Jeffrey LeFrancois, Chair of Manhattan Community Board 4**. "The West Side Work Coalition strikes at the significant opportunities available to many but not to all, and will make a difference in the lives of New Yorkers. Providing skills training and jobs stabilizes communities and boosts the entire city. Infrastructure is meant to last, and this new piece of critical infrastructure will strengthen our communities, create a replicable model to bring to all corners of the city, and improve the lives of countless New Yorkers."

“Hudson Guild is committed to helping our community members find and keep jobs. The West Side Work Coalition is bringing together employers, government and service providers to advance local hiring, and is proud to be part of that effort. Through the Guild's direct employment assistance to residents of the Fulton and Elliott-Chelsea Houses, we are excited to be part of a coalition that will help people succeed. We are grateful to Speaker Adams for her leadership on this, and to Councilmember Bottcher for creating the West Side Work Coalition,” said **Executive Director of Hudson Guild, Ken Jockers**.

"We are deeply honored to partner with Councilman Erik Bottcher, Hudson Guild, the NYCETC, local employers, and other funding and service partners in launching this transformative initiative," said **CEO and Executive Director of Greenwich House Darren Bloch**.

“When we launched our Lifelong Opportunity and Skills Center last year the aim was to find and foster exactly these types of collaborations, that bridge the gap between potential and opportunity. Beyond the launch of this coalition, we are thrilled to highlight this public-private partnership with Hudson Guild, NYCHA, Greenwich House and KeyBank Foundation, which will literally help equip dozens of community members with essential skills and training, we will open doors to good jobs now and future-looking careers.”

"The development of accessible and resourced on-ramps to quality jobs and living wages for local job seekers is essential to the City's post-pandemic recovery. We know the way to launch



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and sustain these efforts is through the intersection of public and private support," **said Gregory J. Morris, CEO, NYCETC.** "The West Side Work Coalition is an effort to position NY talent for present employment opportunities and future ones - with a specific interest in the labor markets that will define our future including construction and technology, health care and hospitality. That these efforts are focused on public housing residents *first* is a demonstration of a shared commitment that our City Council as well as workforce development program providers, private funders, and most importantly, business has to make economic stability and mobility possible for working people."

"The Garment District Alliance is proud to support the West Side Work Coalition and its mission to connect local individuals with employment opportunities. As an active member of the Coalition, we were delighted to extend a job opportunity to a community member, and we continue to promote this impactful program to the local businesses and organizations that make up our vibrant neighborhood," said **Barbara A. Blair, president of the Garment District Alliance.** "We applaud the efforts of New York City Council Member Erik Bottcher and the members of the Coalition, and we look forward to our continued work providing opportunities for individuals as they forge paths to professional success."

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