

# EDITORIAL

## Hats Off to DYCD

The Bloomberg Administration -- and the Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) in particular -- deserve a hearty round of applause for their courageous and Herculean effort to launch the new Out of School Time (OST) program. Any attempt to completely restructure citywide programs which serve tens of thousands of youth and families -- and affect contracts for hundreds of nonprofit providers -- is always fraught with peril.

The Administration's goal for OST -- to make comprehensive, consistently high-quality after-school programming available to children and families in all parts of the City -- is truly admirable. OST is clearly a step up in terms of both resources and expectations compared with of many of DYCD's former programs. Making City-owned space in schools, parks and New York City Housing Authority buildings avail-

able to programs leverages resources and strengthens the in-school/out-of-school connection.

However, the road to OST hasn't always been smooth. And, as our cover story this month indicates, there still are many open questions and serious concerns about how OST will impact New York City's nonprofit providers and the children and families they serve:

- Will there be adequate year-round OST programming available in all neighborhoods for the families who need and want it?
- Is OST funding truly adequate to support the high quality programs providers are being asked to operate?
- Can nonprofits raise the private share dollars necessary to supplement this government funding? And, should they have to?
- How will OST's strong focus on school-based programs affect the

ability of providers to operate other, vital center-based programming?

- What will the loss of School Aged Child Care (SACC) programs mean for the City's existing preschool child care system?
- How will the closing of these programs impact the children and families who now rely on them?
- How will the closing of these programs impact staff?
- Will the City seize the opportunity created in the form of soon-to-be available Day Care Center classroom space to expand preschool child care capacity?

We hope and believe that the City will approach these outstanding issues -- and the opportunities

they represent -- with the same energy and creativity that led to the creation of OST itself. If it does, OST will fulfill the tremendous promise which it holds for the families of New York.

Certainly none of these outstanding issues should diminish the tremendous accomplishment of DYCD in developing the new OST program model, promulgating the RFP and reviewing the 1,100 responses from 500 unique providers to ultimately select 550 programs for negotiation of contracts. The size, scope and speed of the procurement effort -- taking barely six months from RFP to program selections -- certainly seem unprecedented.

Congratulations.

## Got News?

Call: 888-933-6967

Fax: 518-392-8327

Email: [editor@nynp.biz](mailto:editor@nynp.biz)

Evolv-CS, the leading web-based client tracking and billing software for human service organizations, is performance and results driven because you are.



## Evolve<sup>CS</sup>

- ✓ Deliver Services More Effectively with Productivity Aids
- ✓ Improve Cash Flow with Timely and Accurate Billing
- ✓ Demonstrate Value through Better Outcomes

**Do Good. Be Smart. Get *Evolved*.**

 **defran systems**

5 East 16th Street, 6th floor, New York, NY 10003  
212.727.8342 • [info@defran.com](mailto:info@defran.com) • [www.defran.com](http://www.defran.com)

© 2005 Defran Systems, Inc.