



CB11M
EAST HARLEM

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STATEMENT OF DISTRICT NEEDS & BUDGET REQUESTS

-
FISCAL YEAR 2027

adopted October 2025

INTRODUCTION

The annual Statements of Community District Needs (CD Needs Statements) and Community Board Budget Requests (Budget Requests) are Charter mandates that form an integral part of the City's budget process. Together, they are intended to support communities in their ongoing consultations with city agencies, elected officials and other key stakeholders and influence more informed decision making on a broad range of local planning and budget priorities. This report also provides a valuable public resource for neighborhood planning and research purposes, and may be used by a variety of audiences seeking information about New York City's diverse communities.

HOW TO USE THIS REPORT

This report represents the Statement of Community District Needs and Community Board Budget Requests for Fiscal Year (FY) 2027. This report contains the formatted but otherwise unedited content provided by the community board, collected through an online form available to community boards from June to November, 2025.

Community boards may provide substantive supplemental information together with their Statements and Budget Requests. This supporting material can be accessed by clicking on the links provided in the document or by copying and pasting them into a web browser, such as Chrome, Safari or Firefox.

If you have questions about this report or suggestions for changes please contact:
CDNEEDS_DL@planning.nyc.gov

This report is broadly structured as follows:

1. Overarching Community District Needs

Sections 1 – 4 provide an overview of the community district and the top three pressing issues affecting this district overall as identified by the community board. Any narrative provided by the board supporting their selection of their top three pressing issues is included.

2. Policy Area-Specific District Needs

Section 5 is organized by seven distinct policy areas aligned with the service and program areas of city agencies. For each policy area, community boards selected the most important issue for their districts and could provide a supporting narrative. The policy area section also includes any agency-specific needs and a list of relevant budget requests submitted by the community board. If the community board submitted additional information outside of a specific policy area, it may be found in Section 6.

3. Community Board Budget Requests

The final section includes the two types of budget requests submitted to the City for the FY24 budget cycle; one list for capital and another for expense budget requests. For each budget request, community boards were able to provide a priority number, explanation, location, and supporters. OMB remains the definitive source on budget requests submitted to city agencies.

Disclaimer

This report represents the Statements of Community District Needs and Community Board Budget Requests of this Community District for Fiscal Year 2027. This report contains the formatted but otherwise unedited content provided by the community board.

Budget Requests: Listed for informational purposes only. OMB remains the definitive source on budget requests and budget request responses.

Budget Priorities: Priority numbers apply to expense and capital Budget requests from all policy areas. A complete list of expense and capital budget requests by this Board sorted by priority can be found in Section 7 of this document.

Supporting Materials: Some community boards provided substantive supplemental information. This supportive material can be accessed by clicking on the links provided in the document or by copying and pasting the links provided in the Appendix into a browser.

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1. COMMUNITY BOARD INFORMATION

Manhattan Community Board 11

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Chair: Xavier A. Santiago
District Manager: Angel D. Mescain

2. 2020 CENSUS DATA

The following two pages contain data from the most recent 2020 Decennial Census, which includes basic demographic and housing characteristics for New York City, the borough, and this community district. The data also includes a view of change over time since 2010.

New York City

	2010		2020		Change, 2010-2020		
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Point
AGE							
Total population	8,175,133	100.00	8,804,190	100.00	629,057	7.7	0.0
Total persons under 18 years	1,768,111	21.6	1,740,142	19.8	-27,969	-1.6	-1.8
MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE RACE / HISPANIC ORIGIN							
Total population	8,175,133	100.0	8,804,190	100.0	629,057	7.7	0.0
Hispanic/Latino (of any race)	2,336,076	28.6	2,490,350	28.3	154,274	6.6	-0.3
White non-Hispanic	2,722,904	33.3	2,719,856	30.9	-3,048	-0.1	-2.4
Black non-Hispanic	1,861,295	22.8	1,776,891	20.2	-84,404	-4.5	-2.6
Asian non-Hispanic	1,028,119	12.6	1,373,502	15.6	345,383	33.6	3.0
Some other race, non-Hispanic	78,063	1.0	143,632	1.6	65,569	84.0	0.6
Non-Hispanic of two or more races	148,676	1.8	299,959	3.4	151,283	101.8	1.6
HOUSING OCCUPANCY							
Total housing units	3,371,062	100.0	3,618,635	100.0	247,573	7.3	0.0
Occupied housing units	3,109,784	92.2	3,370,448	93.1	260,664	8.4	0.9
Vacant housing units	261,278	7.8	248,187	6.9	-13,091	-5.0	-0.9

Manhattan

	2010		2020		Change, 2010-2020		
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Point
AGE							
Total population	1,585,873	100.00	1,694,251	100.00	108,378	6.8	0.0
Total persons under 18 years	234,435	14.8	232,511	13.7	-1,924	-0.8	-1.1
MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE RACE / HISPANIC ORIGIN							
Total population	1,585,873	100.0	1,694,251	100.0	108,378	6.8	0.0
Hispanic/Latino (of any race)	403,577	25.4	402,640	23.8	-937	-0.2	-1.6
White non-Hispanic	761,493	48.0	793,294	46.8	31,801	4.2	-1.2
Black non-Hispanic	205,340	12.9	199,592	11.8	-5,748	-2.8	-1.1
Asian non-Hispanic	177,624	11.2	219,624	13.0	42,000	23.6	1.8
Some other race, non-Hispanic	7,882	0.5	16,112	1.0	8,230	104.4	0.5
Non-Hispanic of two or more races	29,957	1.9	62,989	3.7	33,032	110.3	1.8
HOUSING OCCUPANCY							
Total housing units	847,090	100.0	913,926	100.0	66,836	7.9	0.0
Occupied housing units	763,846	90.2	817,782	89.5	53,936	7.1	-0.7
Vacant housing units	83,244	9.8	96,144	10.5	12,900	15.5	0.7

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 and 2020 Census Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary Files
Population Division, New York City Department of City Planning

Manhattan Community District 11

	2010		2020		Change, 2010-2020		
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Point
AGE							
Total population	120,511	100.00	125,771	100.00	5,260	4.4	0.0
Total persons under 18 years	27,048	22.4	23,954	19	-3,094	-11.4	-3.4
MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE RACE / HISPANIC ORIGIN							
Total population	120,511	100.0	125,771	100.0	5,260	4.4	0.0
Hispanic/Latino (of any race)	59,290	49.2	56,743	45.1	-2,547	-4.3	-4.1
White non-Hispanic	14,442	12.0	18,865	15.0	4,423	30.6	3.0
Black non-Hispanic	37,590	31.2	35,311	28.1	-2,279	-6.1	-3.1
Asian non-Hispanic	6,654	5.5	9,825	7.8	3,171	47.7	2.3
Some other race, non-Hispanic	722	0.6	1,249	1.0	527	73.0	0.4
Non-Hispanic of two or more races	1,813	1.5	3,778	3.0	1,965	108.4	1.5
HOUSING OCCUPANCY							
Total housing units	50,226	100.0	54,738	100.0	4,512	9.0	0.0
Occupied housing units	47,109	93.8	51,823	94.7	4,714	10.0	0.9
Vacant housing units	3,117	6.2	2,915	5.3	-202	-6.5	-0.9

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 and 2020 Census Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary Files
Population Division, New York City Department of City Planning

Statement on Data Accuracy

Under Title 13 of the U.S. Code, the Census Bureau is legally bound to protect the privacy of individuals participating in the decennial census. To adhere to the law and to avoid the disclosure of information about individual respondents, the Census Bureau has historically applied a host of techniques, such as top- and bottom-coding, imputation, table- and cell-suppression, and data swapping. The Census Bureau is employing a new technique with the 2020 Census, referred to as the Disclosure Avoidance System (DAS), based on differential privacy. With this approach, the Census Bureau “infuses noise” systematically across census data and sets a quantified disclosure risk, referred to as the Privacy Loss Budget (PLB).

While the new DAS approach may diminish the risk of disclosure concerns, it comes at a cost to data accuracy. Consequently, 2020 Census data users should be aware that all sub-state counts, except for housing units (which are unaffected by the DAS), may be adjusted to protect the privacy of Census participants and may be subject to reduced accuracy. Because DAS noise infusion is randomized, it is impossible for data users to know the degree to which any individual statistic is altered. However, it is possible to say that in general the relative size of errors decreases as counts increase. Consequently, data users should have greater confidence in the accuracy of the data as counts get larger. Further, an evaluation of a Privacy-Protected Microdata File (PPMF), treated with a Disclosure Avoidance System like the one applied to 2020 redistricting data, showed that counts of 300 or more rarely have sizable errors (error beyond +/- 10% of the count). Therefore, while data users need to be cognizant of data accuracy limitations, they should have confidence in conclusions based on sizable counts, which are relatively unaffected by the Census Bureau’s latest disclosure avoidance method.

3. OVERVIEW OF COMMUNITY DISTRICT

Community Board 11 ("CB11") proudly represents East Harlem and Randall's and Wards Islands, together known as Community District 11 ("CD11"). East Harlem is a community deeply rooted in history, culture, and resilience. Historically home to diverse immigrant populations, the neighborhood has long been shaped by working-class families whose traditions and legacies reverberate through the neighborhood today. Our long-standing residents remain the stewards of our cultural heritage and are vital to sustaining the neighborhood's unique character. This Statement of District Needs is limited by the formatting requirements of the Mayor's Office of Management and Budget, but we invite readers to explore the many resources referenced throughout this document to obtain a more comprehensive understanding of our community.

Along with our emphasis on culture and history, East Harlem has always been a neighborhood shaped by change. Long before it was part of New York City, this land was home to the Lenape people. Later, under Dutch and then English control, it stayed rural for centuries, more farmland than city. By the 19th century, as the city pushed north, East Harlem began to fill with immigrant families looking to escape the crowded tenements of lower Manhattan. German and Irish immigrants constituted the first major wave of immigrants, who left their native lands due to political unrest and economic hardship. They were followed by a wave of Jewish immigrants from Eastern Europe in the late 19th century, fleeing religious and economic persecution. Next, Italian immigrants came in huge numbers, seeking economic opportunity ^[1]. By the early 1900s, "Italian Harlem" was the largest Italian community in the United States, consisting of roughly 100,000 Italian Americans at its peak in the 1930s (many times larger than Little Italy on the Lower East Side, which peaked at almost 10,000 Italians in 1910) ^[2]. This was a place where family networks, religious organizations, settlement houses, non-profits, and neighborhood associations gave working class immigrants a foothold in America. The legacy of Italian Harlem survives today through our remaining residents of Italian descent and traditions like The Giglio Society of East Harlem's Annual Festival.

In the 1920s, a diaspora of Puerto Ricans, newly enfranchised as American citizens by the Jones-Shafroth Act of 1917, arrived in East Harlem in search of work and opportunity. These new Americans and their Nuyorican descendants remade Italian Harlem into "El Barrio." At the same time, large numbers of African Americans moved to Harlem and East Harlem as part of the Great Migration, fleeing racial prejudice, violence, and segregation in the Southern United States, in search of better opportunity. This melting pot of history, identity, and culture gave way to music, food, language, culture, and traditions that continue to shape the neighborhood's identity.

However, from the mid to late 20th century, East Harlem suffered a precipitous economic decline. Redlining beginning in the 1930s, based on the neighborhood's increasingly black and latino populations, made it harder to obtain financing for development and mortgages for home ownership. This disincentivized investment, leading to urban decay and blight. Beginning in the 1950s, urban renewal championed by Robert Moses resulted in large swaths of the neighborhood being razed to construct large-scale public housing developments. While these projects provided a much-needed source of long-term affordable housing and were celebrated by many urban planners at the time, the destruction displaced thousands of residents and drastically altered the landscape, demographics, and culture of East Harlem. Today, our community houses nearly a third of Manhattan's total New York City Housing Authority ("NYCHA") population ^[3], constituting the second highest concentration of public housing anywhere in the United States ^[4].

The bankruptcy of New York City in the early 1970s and broader municipal disinvestment hit East Harlem particularly hard. Lots were cleared for development that never came, leading to a fragmented landscape that exacerbated issues seen across the city: urban flight, racial tension, drug abuse and economic despair. The crack epidemic of the 1980s, the AIDS epidemic, and the hollowing of the social safety net and rising incarceration rates in the 1990s left deep scars. Today, East Harlem is the poorest neighborhood in Manhattan. 29.4% of East Harlem's 130,000 residents

live in poverty and the median annual household income of \$42,760 for non-homeowners is 41% lower than the citywide average [5]. Poverty rates have decreased and median incomes have increased in recent years, largely because of an influx of higher earning residents seeking below-average rent—not due to substantial changes in the economic conditions for long-time residents with the greatest need. Despite New York City's status as the wealthiest city on Earth, child poverty in East Harlem stands at 40% and senior poverty at 34.5%, underscoring an urgent need for comprehensive support and investment in the community [6].

Despite East Harlem's challenges, our community celebrates our tradition of migration, change, and perseverance. The community has always been rich in history and culture, counting among our community members figures such as Al Pacino, Fiorello La Guardia, Lou Gehrig, Tito Puente, Langston Hughes, Julia de Burgos, Cicely Tyson, Tupac Shakur, Marc Anthony, and countless others. Each wave of residents and immigrants has fought, in different ways, to claim space and leave their mark on the neighborhood and the world.

East Harlem has a population of approximately 130,000 people [7]. A majority of residents currently identify as Hispanic (45.5%) and Black non-Hispanic (29.8%), with smaller but growing populations of White non-Hispanic (14.2%) and Asian non-Hispanic (8%) residents [8]. Our diverse community continually celebrates its identity through thriving local businesses, vibrant cultural institutions, powerful street art, civic activism, community events, and gardens and public spaces.

Today, East Harlem is once again at a crossroads. Gentrification is bringing new pressures—higher rents, displacement, and a fight to hold onto the unique identity of El Barrio. At the same time, we value a culture of inclusivity for new community members and recognize that the most consistent theme in the neighborhood's history has been change.

After nearly a century, the community eagerly anticipates the return of the Second Avenue Subway and the opportunities it will bring, but many are worried about potential negative impacts and our neighbors who have been displaced by eminent domain. We are grateful that revised plans for the subway extension account for the evident synergies of linking the Q train to the Lexington Avenue lines and Metro North at 125th Street, but wish the MTA would go further to create community and retail space at the new transit hub, similar to the Fulton Center which opened downtown in 2014.

Additional major developments, projects, and plans CB11 has been involved with in recent years include the completion of Sendero Verde and accompanying community spaces, the passage of the City of Yes citywide zoning text amendments, progress on developing the former Pathmark site on 125th street, the 2023 Downtown Revitalization Initiative Strategic Investment Plan [9], progress on the Timbale Terrace project and accompanying Afro-Latin Music and Arts (ALMA) Center, progress on the Harlem African Burial Ground, the 2017 East Harlem Points of Agreement, the 2019 Vision Plan for a Resilient East Harlem, the East Harlem Neighborhood Plan, the planned development of the Beacon and accompanying East Harlem Multi-Service Center, the funding and 2025 groundbreaking of the Harlem River Greenway, the ahead-of-schedule (as of October 2025) track replacement of the Metro North Park Avenue Viaduct, and the planned 107th Street Pier & Bobby Wagner Walk Reconstruction (despite a major gap in funding for the segment between 107th street and 117th street) [10].

[1] https://www.ny.gov/sites/default/files/2024-05/DRI_6_East_Harlem_Strategic_Investment_Plan.pdf

[2] <https://hdc.org/borough/east-harlem/>

[3] <https://www.nyc.gov/assets/nycha/downloads/pdf/pdb2023.pdf>

[4] <https://nyhealthfoundation.org/>

[5,6,7,8] <https://furmancenter.org/neighborhoods/view/east-harlem>

[9] https://www.ny.gov/sites/default/files/2024-05/DRI_6_East_Harlem_Strategic_Investment_Plan.pdf

[10] <https://edc.nyc/project/107th-street-pier-bobby-wagner-walk-reconstruction>

4. TOP THREE PRESSING ISSUES OVERALL

Manhattan Community Board 11

The three most pressing issues facing this Community Board are:

Affordable Housing

For many years in a row, Affordable Housing & Homelessness has been the top issue for the East Harlem community, though it is increasingly rivaled by Crime & Public Safety, as further detailed below. Many residents feel vulnerable about their ability to remain in East Harlem as the neighborhood experiences rapid change. Between 2010 and 2020, East Harlem added over 5,000 new housing units, including nearly 2,000 income restricted units. Despite this progress, rents remain high relative to incomes, placing some longtime residents at risk of displacement. Preserving affordability and creating new affordable housing remains essential to maintaining the neighborhood's cultural identity and preventing displacement of those who have long called El Barrio home.

Specifically in the creation of affordable housing, residents stress that projects labeled "affordable" as measured by a percentage of the metropolitan Area Median Income ("AMI"), are rarely truly affordable for residents of East Harlem. From 2022-2024, East Harlem added nearly 1500 new housing units, of which 437 were income restricted for households earning 50% of AMI or less [11]. In 2025, the AMI for a three-person household in the New York City area is \$145,800, meaning that an average East Harlem family making \$45,000 per year could only afford rental units created with a 30% AMI threshold, which in 2020, comprised approximately only 15% of units labeled "affordable" [12]. Thus, the incomes of our residents with the greatest need for affordable housing often fall significantly below the AMI limitations, and so the term "affordable housing" has come to mean little in practice. Residents frequently advocate for local neighborhood preference for new affordable housing units that become available. Residents are also generally in favor of the City of Yes plan, insofar as it will contribute to affordable housing development in East Harlem and the rest of the City, but favor a mandatory affordable housing component for extremely low-income individuals, with a local preference for new developments in East Harlem.

Preservation of affordable housing is equally critical. With nearly 80% of the rental units in East Harlem subject to government subsidies or regulations aiding their affordability, East Harlem represents one of the greatest concentrations of regulated and subsidized housing in the United States [13]. Many non-NYCHA residents live in apartments subsidized by state or federal programs such as Section 8 or the Low Income Housing Tax Credit ("LIHTC"), but between 2025 and 2030, the subsidies making approximately 3,500 units in East Harlem affordable will expire. This trend will only get worse in the years to follow. Protecting these units is essential to preventing mass displacement. Community members have consistently called for deeper affordability, stronger protections for rent-regulated units, and local neighborhood preference in new housing lotteries to ensure that the people who live here now are not priced out of their community.

Residents in public housing frequently express concern about aging NYCHA campuses, where crumbling infrastructure, delayed repairs, and basic maintenance failures severely compromise quality of life. Some elderly or disabled residents in NYCHA buildings are unable to leave their homes because of broken or unreliable elevators. Some residents have gone months without heat or hot water, waiting for NYCHA to conduct maintenance and repairs. Facilities and pedestrian infrastructure around public housing campuses are poorly maintained, as NYCHA triages healthy and safety emergencies in its buildings across the City with \$80 billion in capital needs [14].

Linked to affordable housing development is the issue of homelessness. Residents often mention homelessness among the most pressing issues facing our community. The concerns include support for people experiencing housing insecurity and assistance in securing housing—both temporary and long-term. However, the primary complaint on the subject of homelessness for an increasing number of residents, is the apparent proliferation of people who appear to be struggling with homelessness, substance use, or mental illness, roaming or laying around on the streets in East Harlem. These conditions leave many feeling unsafe, while underscoring the City's failure to invest adequately in prevention, treatment, and permanent housing solutions.

[11] <https://furmancenter.org/neighborhoods/view/east-harlem>

[12] <https://cssny.org/news/entry/de-blasio-housing-legacy>

[13] ~80% includes NYCHA (30% of housing stock)

[14] <https://council.nyc.gov/press/2025/05/14/2870/>

Crime and Public Safety

This year, crime and public safety rivaled affordable housing as the most important issue in East Harlem. Residents continue to grapple with challenges that range from violent crime—gang activity, shootings, and assaults—to the quality-of-life issues that shape daily experience, like open-air drug use, theft, and disorder on our streets. Even as overall violent crime statistics have declined in recent years, occasional high-profile incidents remind people of the risks and fuel a sense of unease. On August 27, 2025, less than a month before the initial draft of this document was compiled by the District Needs & Budget Committee, Robin Wright, a beloved East Harlem resident and 69-year-old grandmother on her way home from lunch, was killed by a stray bullet near 110th Street and Madison Avenue. There have been a number of other high-profile instances of gun violence in the last year. For many residents, the measure of safety is not a statistic, but whether they feel comfortable staying out past dark, getting on the subway, or walking through the neighborhood to get something to eat.

To address these issues, CB11 has repeatedly requested additional funding and resources with a particular focus on safety around NYCHA developments and youth crime prevention programs. CB11 successfully advocated for an expansion of the Mayor's Action Plan for Neighborhood Safety (MAP) to the Wagner Houses, Johnson Houses, and Jefferson Houses, but the Board continues to request that MAP expands coverage to every NYCHA development in East Harlem. We also continue to request additional resources for evidence-based violence intervention programming, increased social worker case management capacity, and efforts to combat above-average rates of domestic violence and hate crimes in our community. CB11 further requests increased resources for NYPD youth crime prevention programming, community engagement, and increased enforcement to combat the sale and distribution of dangerous narcotics.

Mental health crises on the street remain a recurring issue and residents have expressed frustration that police are often the first or only responders, if there is a response at all. While law enforcement plays a role in maintaining order and enforcing the law, there are many situations where mental health professionals, EMS, or other emergency services would be more appropriate and more effective. The distinction between when a situation requires policing versus when it requires care is one that East Harlem residents feel acutely, and it is central to the experience of safety. To address these issues, CB11 has requested additional resources for the Department of Health & Mental Hygiene and evidence-based groups to further the destigmatization of mental health needs and encourage treatment.

The Public Safety & Transportation Committee of CB11 has made it a goal to keep these concerns at the forefront, not only by tracking trends, but by creating spaces for community dialogue. One major effort has been the annual Public Safety Conference, which brings together residents,

elected officials, law enforcement, and community organizations, to identify priorities and coordinate solutions. While community feedback varies considerably on these issues, the clear throughline is a consensus that enforcement alone is not enough. Residents want to see the root causes of crime addressed—through youth programming, job opportunities, mental health and addiction services, and investments in housing and education.

Quality of life issues (noise, graffiti, petty crime, etc.)

Closely tied to public safety, many East Harlem residents identify quality-of-life concerns as the most pressing issue facing the community. The wide range of responses we received underscores how chronic under-resourcing in CD11—despite greater need than other parts of Manhattan—has compounded over time, directly and negatively shaping the daily lives of East Harlem residents. These issues range from the most visible—overflowing trashcans, rat infestations, open-air drug use, litter and fecal matter in the streets and on the sidewalks—to the less visible but equally impactful challenges of social isolation among seniors, inadequate social services for vulnerable populations, poor air quality, and limited access to healthy food and preventive health services. Residents consistently express frustration that while major investments are announced in high-profile areas, the day-to-day basics of neighborhood life often go unmet. A block with discarded syringes, people laying on the sidewalk under the influence of illegal narcotics, or trash piled high shapes community perception just as powerfully as crime statistics or new housing stats.

For years, CB11 has repeatedly requested increased resources for sanitation enforcement, more on-street trash cans, and expanded pest control programs. We desperately need property owners to be vigilant about keeping sidewalks in front of their buildings clean, which the Department of Sanitation can assist with by aggressively enforcing sanitation codes. The Department of Sanitation can further assist by collecting garbage frequently and responsibly, and keeping streets and public areas litter-free and clean.

Relatedly, CB11 has been fighting to hold the Department of Sanitation accountable for its failure to fulfill a key commitment under the 2017 East Harlem Points of Agreement ^[15]: the construction of a permanent, dual-district sanitation garage for Manhattan Sanitation Districts 10 and 11. Instead, the City provided an inadequate "interim" facility on East 127th Street—over the formal opposition of CB11 and the Manhattan Borough President—while other districts have received hundreds of millions of dollars for new, permanent facilities ^[16]. This inequity has compounded East Harlem's quality-of-life challenges, leaving the neighborhood with inadequate infrastructure and substandard sanitation services.

The neighborhood also continues to confront the interconnected challenges of drug use in public spaces, homelessness, and untreated mental illness. Open-air drug use and dealing remain visible in certain corridors, often accompanied by discarded syringes, drug paraphernalia, and trash left on sidewalks, playgrounds, and in front of homes. Residents are frustrated by the sight of people publicly under the influence of narcotics on the street, and by the steady accumulation of litter that leaves blocks looking neglected and uncared for. These conditions not only undermine public safety but also chip away at neighborhood pride and confidence in the City's willingness to provide basic services. The 2021 opening of OnPoint's overdose prevention center—the first of its kind in the nation—has further complicated this landscape. OnPoint has undoubtedly saved lives and provided critical support to individuals in crisis, and many in the community recognize the importance of its mission. At the same time, the facility's presence has generated concerns about loitering, unsafe conditions near the site, and the lack of sufficient consultation or mitigation for surrounding blocks. More broadly, the concentration of social services in East Harlem leaves our community bearing a disproportionate share of the City's crisis response, even as individuals in distress continue to cycle between the streets, shelters, hospitals, and jails without sufficient or consistent care. CB11 has requested expanded outreach services, stronger coordination among the Department of Health & Mental Hygiene, the Human Resources Administration, and NYPD, and greater investment in preventive health and nutrition programs to relieve this burden.

Beyond these immediate concerns, East Harlem faces long-term health and environmental challenges. Air quality remains worse here than in many other neighborhoods, contributing to elevated rates of asthma and respiratory illness. Access to fresh, affordable, and healthy food is limited, forcing many families to rely on low-quality options that undermine public health. These conditions are not inevitable—they reflect decades of underinvestment and inequitable distribution of City resources that continue to shorten lives in our community. On the Upper East Side, residents enjoy among the highest life expectancies in Manhattan with 87.4 years, but if you cross north on 96th Street into CD11, life expectancy drops to just 77.9 years [17].

The Environmental, Open Space & Parks Committee and the Health & Human Services Committee of CB11 have worked to keep these concerns central by documenting problem areas, engaging with the community, and organizing educational programs. Quality-of-life issues are often less dramatic than violent crime or large-scale housing policy, but they shape how safe, healthy, and dignified it feels to live in East Harlem. Addressing them requires a comprehensive approach that invests not only in enforcement and maintenance, but also in the social infrastructure that sustains community well-being.

[15] <https://council.nyc.gov/land-use/wp-content/uploads/sites/53/2017/11/East-Harlem-Cover-Letter-and-POA.pdf>

[16] <https://ibo.nyc.ny.us/iboreports/point53-of-east-harlem-poa-and-dsny-capital-spending-on-sanitation-garages-march-2024.pdf>

[17] <https://www.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/vs/2022sum.pdf>

5. SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY DISTRICT NEEDS AND BUDGET REQUESTS

HEALTHCARE AND HUMAN SERVICES

Manhattan Community Board 11

Most Important Issue Related to Healthcare and Human Services

Mental health and substance abuse treatment and prevention programs

The City's current siting policy with addiction treatment and prevention programs in CD11 is irresponsible to the individuals in need of care but also to host communities navigating their own community specific issues. As a result, there is an oversaturation of addiction treatment and prevention programs in CD11 which has created a strain on community resources and contributed to a range of quality of life and public safety concerns.

CB11 has called on the New York State Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS) and other regulatory agencies that have oversight over such programs, to implement an immediate moratorium on the siting of any new drug rehabilitation, chemical dependency, or treatment centers to be located in CD11 and require all existing OASAS-authorized drug rehabilitation, chemical dependency, and treatment centers, to come before CB11 prior to all reauthorizations and/or expansion of services or service capacity.

CB11 recognizes the need for treatment and support services but maintains that these should be equitably provided and not concentrated in low-income communities such as East Harlem. A condition of the contracts for providers of these services must be that they are engaged with community stakeholders including this board, to work together to address community concerns related to the center operated by the provider and its clients.

The City should aim to establish a crisis intervention program with a dedicated emergency call number for responses to mental health crises, which pairs peers with lived mental health experience and emergency medical technicians, to de-escalate mental health crises. Such a program would relieve the police department of responding to such cases for which they are not trained and do not require law enforcement engagement. However, police officers must be trained to assist on mental health crisis calls where law enforcement is requested.

The City must establish a comprehensive mental health services infrastructure across the city so that individuals living with mental illness can more dependably access the range of services they require. Much of the street homeless population is living with untreated mental illness often because of a resistance to care but also because of the lack of accessibility of care. It is imperative that the City prioritize providing accessible mental health care and support services, as well as special needs housing throughout the city and not just mostly in lower-income communities of color where resources are already stretched thin and so many other challenges are pervasive.

Community District Needs Related to Healthcare and Human Services

Needs for Health Care and Facilities

Since the publication of the previous Statement of District Needs, new public health data and on-the-ground observations have revealed several urgent issues that continue to deepen East Harlem's longstanding health inequities. East Harlem remains one of the neighborhoods most affected by drug overdose deaths in New York City, with rates more than double the citywide average. This public health crisis has strained emergency services and intensified concerns around

safety, mental health, and access to treatment. To address these issues, additional investments are needed in community-based harm reduction, outreach, and treatment programs, including street-level peer support teams and overdose prevention specialists.

East Harlem also continues to experience disproportionately high rates of depression and psychiatric hospitalization, underscoring the need for greater access to mental health care in schools, NYCHA developments, and community settings. Expanding the number of licensed social workers and culturally competent behavioral health professionals in the district is critical to reducing stigma, improving access to care, and preventing avoidable hospitalizations.

Children's health disparities also remain significant, particularly around asthma. Pediatric asthma-related emergency department visits in East Harlem are more than twice the citywide rate, driven largely by environmental factors such as pests, mold, and poor housing maintenance. Increased funding for programs that conduct home environmental assessments, connect families to remediation services, and expand community asthma education is essential to reducing preventable hospital visits.

In addition, health literacy continues to emerge as a major barrier to care. Many residents lack the knowledge and confidence to navigate health systems or interpret medical information, which leads to higher rates of chronic illness and medical complications. Funding should support the development of school- and community-based health literacy initiatives that equip residents with tools to access, understand, and apply health information effectively.

Finally, equitable access to nutritious food must be considered a core health issue. East Harlem residents still face some of the lowest supermarket-to-resident ratios in Manhattan and limited hours for farmers' markets. Expanding the number and operating hours of local farmers' markets, mobile food vendors, and culturally appropriate nutrition programs would address food insecurity and help prevent chronic diseases such as diabetes and hypertension.

Collectively, these interventions—spanning behavioral health, overdose prevention, asthma management, health literacy, and food access—represent a holistic strategy to improve health outcomes in East Harlem and reduce preventable deaths, illnesses, and disparities across Community District 11.

There is also a need to develop more interventions to promote weight loss and prevent diabetes. City agencies such as the Department of Youth & Community Development (DYCD) and the Human Resources Administration should collectively devote more resources to develop physical education programs for all local schools and expand organized athletics. It is also recommended that HPD and NYCHA host a series of workshops to educate tenants and landlords on the various indoor triggers for asthma and how they can be mitigated, including pest control. Funding should be increased for pest extermination and mold remediation services throughout NYCHA developments. Funding should be allocated towards education and awareness for children and families suffering from the symptoms of illness that can directly and/or indirectly be traced to conditions in public housing.

Needs for Older NYs

According to the Furman Center, seniors aged 65 and older now account for 16.5% of East Harlem's population and 34.5% of our community's seniors are living in poverty^[18]. In addition, seniors in East Harlem also face high rates of social isolation, and have many concerns about safety in the community, which compounds the isolation issue. Almost 32% of East Harlem seniors are mobility-impaired compared to 26.5% citywide; in-home delivery of services are critical and senior facilities and programs need to be accessible to those with mobility concerns. There is also a need for culturally appropriate, multilingual social work and case management; increased access to dietary and religiously appropriate food options through Meals on Wheels and other services; and the need to expand home check-in and home healthcare hours so those who are too afraid to leave their apartments for wellness visits.

According to the DoHMH's Surveillance Annual Report 2023, East Harlem suffers among the highest HIV diagnoses, prevalence, and age-adjusted mortality rates in NYC^[19]. Senior citizens are especially an overlooked population when it comes to addressing the HIV/AIDS epidemic, as individuals 50 and older accounted for 14.2% of total new HIV diagnoses as of December 2023, and 60% of diagnoses overall. The report further shows that the same demographic had the highest rate of any age group for concurrent new HIV/AIDS diagnoses in NYC (23.2%) as of December 2023. This indicates that senior citizens are not getting tested early enough for HIV. CD11 has a high death rate from HIV/AIDS, and more targeted interventions and campaigns are needed to address this issue. Senior centers and assisted care facilities should be educating their residents about safe sex practices to reduce the risk of infection.

As East Harlem's senior population continues to grow, with over 34.5% of residents aged 65 and older living below the poverty line, the need for expanded senior services is increasingly urgent^[20]. Many older adults face overlapping barriers, including chronic illness, limited English proficiency, and unstable housing, which heighten their risk of isolation and poor health outcomes. To address these issues, additional funding should be allocated to expand senior center programming in East Harlem, with a focus on multilingual caseworkers (Spanish and French/Haitian Creole), in-home care support, and culturally sensitive services that enable seniors to age in place with dignity. Moreover, dedicated resources should support outreach services to homebound older adults, ensuring faster transitions from hospitals to home care, increased home healthcare and meal delivery, and consistent case management follow-up to reduce hospital readmissions and maintain independence.

^[18] <https://furmancenter.org/neighborhoods/view/east-harlem#demographics>

^[19] <https://www.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/dires/hiv-surveillance-annualreport-2023.pdf>

^[20] <https://furmancenter.org/neighborhoods/view/east-harlem#demographics>

Needs for Low Income NYs

East Harlem's housing insecure and low-income residents are at great risk of homelessness with 2023 real median gross rent (RMGR) calculated at \$1,228 (a 29.1% increase from the RMGR of 2010), while approximately 30.7% of family incomes are below the federal poverty line^[21].

Currently, 31.1% of renter households in East Harlem are severely rent burdened, spending more than 50% of household income on rent; and 55.4% are moderately rent burdened, spending more than 30% of household income on rent^[22].

Furthermore, there is a growing disparity between the RMGR, and real median household income (RMHI) in CD11. Since 2006, RMGR saw significant increases above 40%; while RMHI remained relatively stagnant though with significant declines (up to -20%) during periods of economic recession.

The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated pre-existing racial and economic inequities and highlighted the need to protect and expand the City's social safety net. Cash assistance, rental assistance, and eviction prevention programs, anti-tenant harassment and code enforcement should also be prioritized as key components of the fight against displacement of our lower income residents.

With the full implementation of the City's Right to Counsel legislation, all cases that are moving forward in Housing Court will be assigned lawyers regardless of tenants' income, zip code, or immigration status. Still, the legislation is limited to tenants brought to housing court by their landlords due to non-payment. There is a need for pre-emptive legal services for tenants in need of building repairs.

In addition to housing instability, East Harlem continues to face intersecting challenges that place its most vulnerable residents—including undocumented individuals, LGBTQ+ residents, survivors of domestic violence, and low-income families—at heightened risk of displacement and insecurity.

Funding should be directed toward expanding housing assistance, legal aid, and healthcare services for undocumented residents, as well as language access, mental health care, and vocational training to support economic integration. Increased investment is also needed to strengthen community-based domestic violence programs and LGBTQ+ service providers that offer culturally competent housing, legal, and mental health support.

Food insecurity remains a critical issue for low-income residents, with rising grocery costs, supermarket closures, and delays in SNAP benefits limiting access to affordable, nutritious food. Additional funding should support the expansion of food pantries and farmers' markets across East Harlem, extending hours and locations to reach working families and residents in NYCHA developments.

Finally, community safety remains central to improving quality of life for low-income residents. East Harlem continues to experience higher rates of gun violence and other violent crime compared to the citywide average. Funding should support youth violence prevention programs, trauma-informed community outreach, and employment pathways for at-risk youth to reduce violence and increase neighborhood stability.

^[21,22] ACS 5-year estimate, 2019-2023, <https://popfactfinder.planning.nyc.gov/explorer/cdtas/MN11?acsTopics=all&source=acs-current>

HEALTHCARE AND HUMAN SERVICES

Note: Please see Section 7 for the full content of each request. Requests are prioritized by agency.

CAPITAL BUDGET REQUESTS

The Community Board did not submit any Budget Requests in this category.

EXPENSE BUDGET REQUESTS

Agency	Priority	Title
DFTA	1 / 3	Provide additional funding to connect more older adults to in-home case management services
DFTA	2 / 3	Expand senior center programming
DFTA	3 / 3	Increase case management capacity
DOHMH	1 / 8	Funding for additional social workers
DOHMH	2 / 8	Expand vaccination outreach, education, and access
DOHMH	3 / 8	Increase access to fresh, healthy, and affordable food options
DOHMH	4 / 8	Provide 24-hour public access to safe and legal syringe/needle drop-off boxes
DOHMH	5 / 8	Programs that addresses root causes of severe childhood asthma
DOHMH	6 / 8	Fund Community and School Health Literacy Capacity Building Program
DOHMH	7 / 8	Animal and pest control requests including reducing rat and mosquito populations
DOHMH	8 / 8	Funding for specialized medical staff and peer support workers
HRA	1 / 8	Funding for domestic violence prevention and assistance programs.
HRA	2 / 8	Modify eligibility criteria for the NYC 15/15 supportive housing program
HRA	3 / 8	Housing assistance for domestic violence survivors
HRA	4 / 8	Specialized services for the LGBTQ+ community
HRA	5 / 8	Expand housing assistance, legal aid, and healthcare services for migrants
HRA	6 / 8	Legal representation for tenants
HRA	7 / 8	Expand food assistance
HRA	8 / 8	Expand caseworker availability to meet the linguistic and cultural needs

YOUTH, EDUCATION AND CHILD WELFARE

Manhattan Community Board 11

Most Important Issue Related to Youth, Education and Child Welfare

After school programs

After school programs support social, emotional, cognitive, and academic development, reduce risky behaviors, promote physical health, and provide a safe and supportive environment for children and youth. After school programming also supports working parents, especially single parents, who might otherwise have to choose between earning income and taking care of their children. In CD11, more than 50% of families with children under 18 are headed by a single mother/female householder^[23]. About 40% of families with children under 18 years old live below the poverty level; 32% of those families are single-parent households (2023 ACS)^[24].

Additionally, East Harlem youth face safety concerns due to the high rates of violence and gang activity, especially in public housing. To address the unique challenges, the community and City must work together to improve after-school programs, provide opportunities for youth employment, and increase extracurricular educational services. Job training and placement programs and other youth activity initiatives should target public housing developments and other areas with high gang activity to encourage positive development and prevent negative outcomes. DYCD should expand after-school and evening programming, provide viable alternatives to disconnected and at-risk youth and target older teenage students with evening recreational activities.

Also more programs need to be created that protect and encourage our LGBTQ+ youth. This vulnerable population is very underserved in our community with most of the nearest after school programs being located in downtown Manhattan. According to the Trevor Project, more than 1 in 10 LGBTQ+ young people reported attempting suicide in 2024 and 49% of LGBTQ+ youth reported being bullied in school^[25]. Research shows that these programs can be life saving. If an LGBTQ+ youth has at least one supported adult in their life their risk of committing suicide is cut in half. Distance should not prevent youth from accessing these services.

Finally, there is a lack of physical spaces for youth to spend constructive and safe time in during after-school hours, weekends and summertime. Developers should be incentivized to work with nonprofits to build these needed facilities and provide programming.

^[23, 24] <https://popfactfinder.planning.nyc.gov/explorer/cdtas/MN11?acsTopics=all&;source=acs-current>

^[25] <https://www.thetrevorproject.org/survey-2024/>

Community District Needs Related to Youth, Education and Child Welfare

Needs for Youth Education

Students in East Harlem struggle academically. According to the Citizens' Committee for Children of New York ("CCC"), 53.6% of students in East Harlem (3rd through 8th grade)^[26] are passing their reading^[26] exams, while only 35.9% of students are passing their math exams^[27]. This places CD11 at 39th and 41st in reading and math respectively, of the 59 Community Districts in New York. Challenges for students were exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic, especially for homeless students, students with disabilities, and students with other special needs. As of the most recent available data, CCC further reports that there are 9,079 children living in poverty (2.8% of citywide)^[28] and 1,790 students are living in temporary housing (1.8% of citywide)^[28].

As of 2021, 5,985 of our students receive Individualized Education Programs (IEPs), the 3rd highest of any community district city-wide^[29]; while approximately 23,635 individuals over the age of 5 years are of limited English language proficiency (1.3% of citywide)^[30]. The Department of Education (DOE) must dedicate additional resources, including special education teachers, on-site mental health care providers, and other tools to overcome language barriers for our students with special needs and their families to ensure their academic and socio-economic success. We should expect these needs to gain higher priority due to the current influx of asylum-seeking families with students.

East Harlem's low academic performance can partially be attributed to our district's rate of chronic absenteeism. With 31.1% of District 4, and 39.5% of District 5 students considered chronically absent, East Harlem's chronic absenteeism rate is higher than the rate for NYC overall (26.5%)^[31]. Furthermore, the rate of absenteeism is considerably higher for our students with disabilities at 40.4% for District 4, and 47.7% for District 5 (37.3% for NYC overall). Missing too many days of school can cause students to fall behind, increasing their risk of dropping out, and further harming their quality of life.

Low educational attainment contributes to a cycle of unemployment and poverty that becomes increasingly difficult to change with each generation. Educational attainment in East Harlem begins to fall behind as early as nursery and preschool. We argue that the earlier our children are able to start their education, the further it will improve the educational attainment within this district.

The Department of Education should continue to expand its focus on STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) and include more arts, music, culture, local history, special education programs, financial education and vocational training. Considering East Harlem's diversity in population, it's important that East Harlem schools place "culturally responsive-sustaining education (CR-SE)" at the center. CR-SE embraces students' identities, placing aspects of their race, social class, gender, language, sexual orientation, nationality, religion, or ability at the center of their education. According to DOE, students that learn using CR-SE are more active in class, achieve higher grades, and graduate more often.

School facilities face significant capital and capacity limitations, which can lead to overcrowding, large class sizes, and increased competition between schools for resources. DOE and the School Construction Authority continue to make important upgrades and advancements to facilities in the district, but more remains to be done. Some Pre-K, daycare and after-school program facilities need repairs, while others lack access to a diversity of spaces for different types of activities.

^[26] <https://data.cccnewyork.org/data/map/109/reading-test-scores-3rd-through-8th-grades#109/a/3/174/127/111/7>

^[27] <https://data.cccnewyork.org/data/map/114/math-test-scores-3rd-through-8th-grades#114/a/3/189/127/111/a>

^[28] <https://data.cccnewyork.org/data/map/1282/students-living-in-temporary-housing#1282/a/3/1489/127/111/a>

^[29] <https://data.cccnewyork.org/data/map/1278/students-with-disabilities-iep#1278/a/3/1608/127/111/a>

^[30] <https://data.cccnewyork.org/data/map/1256/limited-english-proficiency#1256/210/3/1446/131/111/a>

^[31] <https://data.cccnewyork.org/data/map/1340/chronic-absenteeism#1340/a/5/1571/62/a/a>

Needs for Youth and Child Welfare

Children under 18, make up 19.4% of East Harlem's population. Unfortunately, a disproportionate amount of youth in East Harlem live in poverty, with 40.2% of residents under the age of 18 living below the poverty level ^[32]. Children raised in poverty encounter a number of disadvantages that impact their ability to perform well in school, including food and housing insecurity, poor physical and mental health, and reduced concentration and motivation. Our families need resources and services to reinforce the positive development of their children.

Childcare is crucial for both the development of young children and for the economic stability and mobility of working parents, however access to affordable childcare is out of reach for many of our families. According to the CCC, only 5.6% of East Harlem families with children under 5 spend less than 7% of their annual income on infant and toddler childcare; most East Harlem families spend approximately 33.8% of their annual income on childcare, while the cost of child care is even more burdensome for single parents (71.4% of annual income). If the City's elected leaders intend to promote equity and excellence for all students regardless of family income, race, nationality, disability, or language spoken at home, then they must start with expanding child care assistance for working parents in need of support.

Finally, services and opportunities for youth must not be limited to youth in school. Approximately 54.6% of East Harlem teens (16-19 years old) are unemployed, the 4th highest of the 59 community districts citywide ^[33]. The City not only must expand programs like Advance & Earn that target disconnected youth, but also dedicate additional resources and time to improve access to education and employment.

^[32] <https://furmancenter.org/neighborhoods/view/east-harlem>

^[33] <https://data.cccnewyork.org/data/map/81/teen-unemployment-16-to-19-years#81/a/3/125/131/111/a>

YOUTH, EDUCATION AND CHILD WELFARE

Note: Please see Section 7 for the full content of each request. Requests are prioritized by agency.

CAPITAL BUDGET REQUESTS

Agency	Priority	Title
SCA	1 / 2	Renovate interior building component
SCA	2 / 2	Renovate interior building component

EXPENSE BUDGET REQUESTS

Agency	Priority	Title
DOE	1 / 7	Workshops and violence prevention services and resources for youth
DOE	2 / 7	Access to educational opportunities for students with disabilities
DOE	3 / 7	Assign more non-teaching staff, e.g., to provide social, health and other services
DOE	4 / 7	Funding for Gender Sexuality alliances (GSA)
DOE	5 / 7	Sex education resources for youth
DOE	6 / 7	Adult education programs
DOE	7 / 7	Education support focused on implementing trauma-informed programming tailored to LGBTQ+ youth
DYCD	1 / 5	Other youth workforce development requests
DYCD	2 / 5	Other youth workforce development requests
DYCD	3 / 5	Services for runaway and homeless youth
DYCD	4 / 5	Services for migrant youth
DYCD	5 / 5	Comprehensive, evidence-based interventions to address gun violence

PUBLIC SAFETY AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

Manhattan Community Board 11

Most Important Issue Related to Public Safety and Emergency Services

Crime prevention programs

In our public outreach, members of the community have been generally concerned about crime in East Harlem. Numerous high-profile incidents, including the killing of Robin Wright by a stray bullet in broad daylight in August 2025, have left residents fearing for their safety in the community, despite statistics indicating that rates of violent crime are falling. Rather than merely punishing crime after it occurs or increasing police presence and enforcement throughout the neighborhood, the community has indicated support for preventive services—including youth services, after school programming, job training, and mental health services, to address the root causes of crime. Programming for high-risk youth and their families should be expanded throughout the district and should include late-night and weekend programming. Resources should be funneled toward combatting the socioeconomic determinants of crime, particularly toward improving educational attainment, employment, and poverty. Local organizations that offer these resources should be supported.

The potential for strong collaboration between the police and local groups exists, but more extensive neighborhood-specific training, deeper local partnerships and increased community policing approaches are needed in order to make efforts work properly. Many individuals in East Harlem have a negative view of the police and law enforcement needs to continue to work to rebuild trust within the community. The Public Safety & Transportation Committee is especially proud of its annual Safety Awareness For East Harlem Conference, where organizations, government agencies, elected officials, members of the public, and other stakeholders convene to discuss safety in the community. CB11 is grateful to our local community partners, the Manhattan District Attorney's Office, the Legal Aid Society, the NYPD, the FDNY, and the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice for supporting our initiatives, but all agencies and partners must go further to ensure that residents of East Harlem feel safe.

The incarceration rate in East Harlem is one of the highest in the city. According to the Prison Policy Initiative, the incarceration rate in East Harlem is nearly triple the rate for the rest of Manhattan. Incarceration has a devastating effect on the futures of those incarcerated, as well as on families and the larger community. People who have been incarcerated are more likely to experience mental and physical health problems, and may also have trouble finding employment and housing. New York City should expand targeted reentry support for neighborhoods with high incarceration rates. Although recent criminal justice reform has contributed to a decline in incarceration and fewer people being held in jail awaiting trial, there is a lack of resources to prevent recidivism and provide support for justice-impacted community members, often leading them down the same paths that led to their interactions with the criminal legal system in the first place.

In addition to addressing socioeconomic determinants of crime, we ask the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice to expand the Mayor's Action Plan for Neighborhood Safety to cover all NYCHA developments, where crime rates are particularly high. We also request additional resources to address open-air drug dealing throughout our community, particularly in high-priority corridors specified in our expense budget requests.

Community District Needs Related to Public Safety and Emergency Services

Needs for Public Safety

Safety and security are major concerns in East Harlem, where we want a neighborhood to live, work, travel, and raise our children with peace of mind. Though residents reported the need for increased police presence, the demand for police accountability, transparency, and respect for residents remains paramount while mitigating our crime rate. With this point in mind, we thank the New York City Police Department, specifically our 23rd and 25th Precincts, for their commitment to building relationships to improve the quality of life in our community. Unfortunately, there is also a pervading distrust of the police department for many members of the community. As an example, in April 2025, representatives of the NYPD gave a presentation on the department's Community Camera Sharing Program, which allows property-owners and businesses to share security camera footage directly with the NYPD. Despite extensive community outreach and an expressed need for increased policing from the community, only one business had enrolled in the program with the 25th Precinct. The NYPD needs to continue to work to build trust within the community.

The potential for strong collaboration between the police and local groups exists, with more extensive neighborhood-specific training, deeper local partnerships and increased community policing approaches are needed in order to make efforts work properly. Similar programs benefit our youth, as well as the officers who conduct these training to improve relationships with our youth. Funding these endeavors will reinforce outreach programs and aid in building trust. Through these programs, relationships will evolve as officers and East Harlem build more bridges improving relationships through genuine cooperation.

The community is eternally grateful for the dedicated work of the FDNY. We ask for additional opportunities to build connections with the FDNY, to educate members of the community on fire safety, first-aid, public safety, as well as to set positive examples for at-risk youth. We also request that the FDNY facilities receive the resources they need to thrive, including repairing broken security cameras, streetlights, and maintaining structures and vehicles.

PUBLIC SAFETY AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

Note: Please see Section 7 for the full content of each request. Requests are prioritized by agency.

CAPITAL BUDGET REQUESTS

The Community Board did not submit any Budget Requests in this category.

EXPENSE BUDGET REQUESTS

Agency	Priority	Title
FDNY	1 / 1	Additional FDNY resources to address quality-of-life and safety concerns
NYPD	1 / 3	Increase resources for youth crime prevention programs
NYPD	2 / 3	Increase resources for NYPD narcotics enforcement
NYPD	3 / 3	Provide resources to train officers, e.g. in community policing

CORE INFRASTRUCTURE, CITY SERVICES AND RESILIENCY

Manhattan Community Board 11

Most Important Issue Related to Core Infrastructure, City Services and Resiliency

Cleanliness/trash collection

Residents overwhelmingly identified cleanliness and trash collection as their most important issue. Overflowing corner bins, lack of corner bins, canine waste, clogged catch basins, vacant lots, and illegal dumping all contribute to unsanitary conditions and increased rodent activity throughout the district. DSNY should continue to work to identify problem intersections and introduce rodent-resistant corner bins to each identified problem area in CD11. The agency should increase the frequency of litter basket collection and sanitation enforcement of illegal dumping and canine waste laws.

Community District Needs Related to Core Infrastructure, City Services and Resiliency

Needs for Water, Sewers, and Environmental Protection

As an identified Environmental Justice Area, East Harlem has been and continues to be more vulnerable to potential environmental injustices and intersectional health equity complications due to factors including a history of systemic racism and inequitable resource distribution.

According to the Community Health Profile 2023, the child asthma emergency room visit rate in East Harlem is more than double the citywide average^[34]. The adult asthma hospitalization rate is nearly triple the NYC average^[35]. Many pollutants within East Harlem, such as the two sanitation garages, proximity to the FDR Drive and other large highways and a lack of green spaces, contribute to high levels of particulate matter in the air.

The Vision Plan for a Resilient East Harlem highlights East Harlem's vulnerability to climate change. The vast majority of CD11 lies in an evacuation zone, with many large public housing complexes located in Zone 1—the most vulnerable area. Our neighborhood is particularly vulnerable to flooding from extreme rain, sea level rise, and storm surge; managing inland drainage is a critical priority as water is easily trapped in low-lying areas. As such, East Harlem suffered severe flooding during Hurricane Sandy in 2012 and Hurricane Ida in 2021. East Harlem also experiences high average summertime surface temperatures, due to a variety of physical factors including high density and lack of green space.

CD11 needs significant investment in hard and soft infrastructure, including centralized and decentralized stormwater management interventions, cisterns, bioswales, streetscape interventions, living shorelines (oyster beds, marshes, berms), as well as community education around climate change and emergency preparedness to prepare residents for future disasters. Bold interventions, on the waterfront and in the neighborhood's interior, although costly, are necessary to combat the dangers of climate change and ensure the livability of our neighborhood for generations to come. Former Mayor Bill de Blasio announced that NYC Parks would receive \$284 million to renovate segments of the East River Esplanade in need of repairs. It's crucial that the City continue to invest in and install green infrastructure throughout the esplanade as part of the repairs, including the gap in funding for this project from 107th to 116th streets.

^[34] <https://www.cb11m.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/NYC-D-CHP.pdf>

^[35] https://a816-dohbesp.nyc.gov/IndicatorPublic/neighborhood-reports/east_harlem/asthma_and_the_environment/

Needs for Sanitation Services

Community District 11 currently hosts three Department of Sanitation facilities: the Manhattan District 11 (M11) garage is "temporarily" located on East 127th Street and Second Avenue, adjacent to an elementary school, a heavily utilized public park, and a newly opened cancer treatment facility. It is now our understanding that even with the M11 relocation, DSNY intends to maintain the East 99th Street site as part of its operations, resulting in there being FOUR DSNY facilities in this district.

The Manhattan District 10 (M10) garage which serves Central Harlem is located at 132nd Street and Park Avenue, just five blocks from the new M11 garage. Because of the poor condition of the M10 garage building, most of the sanitation equipment is parked in the street and under the Metro-North railroad viaduct.

The Manhattan Lot Cleaning Unit currently utilizes a surface parking lot on East 123rd Street between Lexington Avenue and Third Avenue. This site was identified in the 2017 East Harlem Rezoning Points of Agreement for the development of affordable housing and its redevelopment is a high priority for our board. However, DSNY has indicated no intention of moving off the site and so its redevelopment remains an open question and a commitment unkept.

To resolve this underserved burden on our community, CB11 has long proposed funding be allocated for the construction of a new state-of-the-art consolidated facility to house the M11 and M10 garages. This request was incorporated in the 2016 East Harlem Neighborhood Plan and the subsequent 2017 East Harlem Rezoning Points of Agreement (POA) which states that the City would "working with community stakeholders, plan for the development of an enclosed consolidated DSNY sanitation facility for M10 and M11, which meets LEED gold standards", further that "DSNY will immediately begin planning for a permanent, long-term facility to serve District 11 sanitation needs, which includes the following goals:

Explore options for a permanent consolidated facility that could house multiple garages, including: District 11, District 10, District 9, and/or the Manhattan Lot Cleaning Unit;

Assess suitable sites for the permanent facility that will serve residents for the next 100 years. Explore all City-owned sites and appropriate privately-owned sites in Manhattan Community Boards 9, 10, and 11, as well as potential acquisition of the entire Block 1792.

CORE INFRASTRUCTURE, CITY SERVICES AND RESILIENCY

Note: Please see Section 7 for the full content of each request. Requests are prioritized by agency.

CAPITAL BUDGET REQUESTS

Agency	Priority	Title
DEP	1 / 1	Water delivery infrastructure for community gardens
DSNY	1 / 1	Provide new or upgrade existing sanitation garages or other sanitation infrastructure

EXPENSE BUDGET REQUESTS

Agency	Priority	Title
DSNY	1 / 3	Provide more on-street trash cans and recycling containers
DSNY	2 / 3	Increase funding and resources for enforcement of canine waste laws
DSNY	3 / 3	Enforcement of dirty sidewalk/dirty area/failure to clean area laws

HOUSING, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND LAND USE

Manhattan Community Board 11

Most Important Issue Related to Housing, Economic Development and Land Use

Affordable housing preservation

Community District 11's housing landscape is heavily reliant on regulated and subsidized housing, which is essential for supporting low- and moderate-income households. Only 22 percent of units in CD11 are currently unregulated, highlighting the district's dependence on affordable housing programs. Yet this foundation is increasingly at risk. According to the Furman Center, over 6,000 subsidized or rent-stabilized units may lose affordability in the next 15 years as regulatory agreements expire. While CD11 was one of only four Manhattan districts to record a net increase in stabilized housing between 2007 and 2020—adding over 6,000 units despite losing roughly 4,300—the net gain remains fragile amid rising rents, stagnant wages, and persistent landlord harassment^[36]. Preserving existing regulated units, particularly senior housing, is critical to maintaining the social and economic stability of the district. Seniors, who are often on fixed incomes, are especially vulnerable to displacement and require targeted protections.

Given the financial struggles many residents face, preserving affordable housing in Community District 11 is more important than ever. According to the Furman Center, the average median household income in 2023 for East Harlem was \$46,950, 41 percent less than the citywide median. Additionally, the poverty rate for East Harlem in 2023 was 29.4 percent compared to 18.2 percent citywide^[37].

Ensuring housing preservation requires a coordinated and proactive approach. Strengthened tenant protections, including eviction safeguards and guaranteed access to free legal representation, are essential to shield residents from harassment and displacement. Preservation efforts should also include expanded housing-preparedness initiatives, such as credit counseling, application assistance, and multilingual outreach, delivered in partnership with trusted community-based organizations. These programs can help residents maintain their housing stability, navigate regulatory requirements, and access programs such as the Affordable Neighborhood Cooperative Program (ANCP), which allows for conversion of eligible buildings into limited-equity cooperatives while keeping units permanently affordable. Creating home ownership opportunities in CD11 is essential to preserving affordable housing. According to the Furman Center in 2023 the home ownership rate in East Harlem was 9 percent compared to 32.5 percent citywide^[38]. HPD must move more swiftly to advance ANCP conversions and provide clear, consistent guidance to residents on eligibility, documentation, and cooperative formation to ensure preservation benefits reach those who need them.

The New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) remains the single largest source of regulated affordable housing in CD11, including many senior housing units. Preserving NYCHA's affordability and protecting residents' rights is critical to overall district housing stability. Programs such as the Permanent Affordability Commitment Together (PACT), under the federal Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) framework, offer opportunities to secure funding for rehabilitation while maintaining permanent affordability. The success of these initiatives depends on transparent communication, strong tenant engagement, and clear guidance from management entities to ensure that residents—including seniors—understand their rights and feel secure throughout any transitions. When effectively implemented, preservation programs for NYCHA developments can protect tenants, sustain long-term affordability, and reinforce the stability of the district's existing housing stock.

CD11 is home to a significant concentration of social services and supportive housing. Programs like the NYC 15/15 Supportive Housing Initiative^[39] must be adapted to reach additional populations in urgent need of stable and affordable housing—particularly single-parent families with young children who are homeless or at risk of homelessness and who are not suffering from a serious mental health illness or a substance abuse issue. More than 146,000 New York City students—about one in every eight children enrolled in public schools—experienced homelessness during the 2023–24 school year, marking the ninth consecutive year in which over 100,000 students were identified as homeless^[40].

^[36] https://friends-ues.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/FUES_Fall2024_Newsletter_redux.pdf

^[37, 38] <https://furmancenter.org/neighborhoods/view/east-harlem>

^[39] <https://www.nyc.gov/site/hra/help/15-15-initiative.page>

^[40] <https://advocatesforchildren.org/policy-resource/student-homelessness-data-2024/>

Community District Needs Related to Housing, Economic Development and Land Use

Needs for Land Use

In Fiscal Year 2027 and with the recent approval of the City of Yes Citywide rezonings, the focus on land use, development, and preservation are of critical importance to ensure an equitable East Harlem and New York City. CB11 looks forward to the successful completion of the 2017 Points of Agreement, including significant portions of land in the neighborhood that has been designated for the construction of deeply affordable housing that is desperately needed in East Harlem. In addition to pushing for the creation of new housing, CB11 asks that attention be given to preservation, vacant properties, and underutilized buildings in the neighborhood, which in high concentrations can detract from the social and economic cohesion of the neighborhood.

While MIH will be triggered in any new residential development taking advantage of the increased density, it does not go far enough to address the need for housing that is truly affordable to East Harlem residents. We call upon HPD and HDC to identify and commit additional funding sources to provide both (a) capital subsidies to reduce construction costs and (b) ongoing rental subsidies to both extend the term of affordability for affordable units in mixed-income buildings and to enable deeper levels of affordability while still allowing for a diversity of income. We further ask that the City identify additional subsidies to allow for the development of affordable homeownership opportunities and to provide a deeper level of affordability in new development, both on City-owned and privately-owned property.

Needs for Housing

Affordable Housing Preservation

See top issue for Housing, Economic Development & Land Use above.

Affordable housing creation

The City must prioritize the completion of its remaining commitments in the 2017 East Harlem Rezoning Points of Agreement and develop affordable housing on the city-owned lot currently being utilized by the Department of Sanitation's Lot Cleaning Unit at East 123rd Street. Further, the City must act to restart any stalled large scale residential development projects including the remaining commitments for the East 125th Street Development, the proposed Harlem African Burial Ground Memorial Mixed-Use Development, as well as the prioritizing redevelopment of any remaining publicly owned sites in CD11 for affordable housing including any potential leveraging of public sites to facilitate mixed-income developments with private developers.

Condition of Public Housing

Community District 11 is home to the largest concentration of public housing in Manhattan, providing an essential source of affordable housing for low- and moderate-income residents, including seniors. According to the Manhattan Borough President's 2023 Housing Manhattanites report^[41], as of 2023, the total number of residential units in CD11 was 54,738 of which 15,199 of those were public housing units spread across 19 public housing campuses in the district^[42] representing nearly a third of the district's total residential units^[43]. Decades of federal, state, and city underinvestment have left NYCHA with a capital repair backlog of around \$80 billion^[43], resulting in deferred maintenance, building deterioration, and ongoing challenges to residents' health, safety, and housing security. The impacts of chronic underfunding are both immediate and long-term, undermining the integrity of the housing stock and placing residents at risk of displacement.

The Permanent Affordability Commitment Together (PACT) program, administered under the federal Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) framework, offers a pathway to secure private and public capital for necessary rehabilitation of NYCHA residential units while preserving permanent affordability. At the same time, NYCHA must identify and implement additional strategies to address urgent repairs and maintenance needs in developments not currently slated for PACT conversion, ensuring that all residents have safe and habitable homes.

While maintaining the condition of tenants' residential units and the integrity of NYCHA's underlying infrastructure—including water and sewer piping, gas lines, and electrical systems—is of paramount importance, NYCHA must also prioritize the upkeep of shared outdoor spaces throughout its campuses. Many walkways and common areas are marred by cracked pavement, potholes, and other hazards that pose serious safety risks—particularly for seniors and young children. NYCHA must be held accountable for proactively engaging local elected officials to secure funding for these and all other needed repairs, especially when internal resources are insufficient.

Prioritizing these investments and safeguards—both within NYCHA's residential units and across its common grounds and campuses—is essential to preserving the agency's housing stock, maintaining long-term affordability, and protecting the health, safety, and well-being of its residents.

^[41] <https://www.manhattanbp.nyc.gov/initiatives/housing-manhattanites/>

^[42] <https://www.manhattanbp.nyc.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Housing-Report-02.02.2023.pdf>

^[43] <https://council.nyc.gov/press/2025/05/14/2870/>

Needs for Economic Development

CD11 continues to face disproportionately high unemployment and labor force disengagement compared to Manhattan and New York City overall. Local commercial corridors—particularly East 116th Street and East 125th Street—are essential engines of neighborhood identity and economic activity, yet they struggle with elevated retail vacancies, disinvestment, safety concerns, and the impending disruption from Phase II of the Second Avenue Subway construction. There is an urgent need to transition from poverty maintenance to poverty alleviation and economic empowerment through targeted investments in training, employment, entrepreneurship, and reentry pathways.

There is an urgent need for targeted investment in workforce development, small business stabilization, and entrepreneurship. A significant portion of our residents rely on public assistance, lack access to workforce pipelines, or are disconnected from labor markets due to structural barriers. Current policies largely maintain poverty rather than promote mobility. Residents require paid training programs linked to real employment pipelines, particularly in hospitality, healthcare, construction, and emerging industries. Strategies must include wage subsidies for local employers, union-backed apprenticeships, and business ownership support—especially for NYCHA residents

and justice-involved individuals. Economic revitalization must be rooted in poverty alleviation, not maintenance, by promoting long-term financial mobility, local hiring, storefront retention, and corridor marketing through SBS and EDC collaboration.

As New York City moves away from policies that have historically contributed to mass incarceration, there is a deep responsibility to support residents returning from the criminal justice system. These individuals often face the greatest barriers to employment, including limited education, gaps in work history, and unaddressed health needs. Fair hiring practices must be enforced, and reentry services expanded to include vocational training, mental health and substance use support, and structured pathways into apprenticeships and living-wage careers. Successful reintegration is not only a moral imperative but a vital strategy to reduce recidivism and strengthen families.

Some of the greatest challenges that formerly incarcerated individuals face when returning back into the workforce are: experience, low levels of education or vocational skills, and many health-related issues, ranging from mental health needs to substance abuse histories. When these challenges remain, it affects our neighborhoods and families which in turn, feeds a cycle of crime and poverty.

Local hiring boosts the local economy by creating jobs and providing hands-on training/experience opportunities that wouldn't otherwise be available would strengthen our community. This can be accomplished by providing funding for a local workforce development provider that identifies, screens, and refers local residents to appropriate employers. Labor unions should also build pre-apprenticeship programs and work to ensure apprentices are moving up through the system to earn a living wage.

A thriving local economy requires renewed investment in our commercial corridors. Small businesses are the backbone of our community, and they need targeted support to compete and grow. The Department of Small Business Services should expand assistance in branding, marketing, and merchant organizing, while offering free financial literacy and entrepreneurship education—particularly within NYCHA developments. These efforts would promote economic independence and encourage local ownership. In particular, CB11 urges City and State partners to prioritize and expedite the projects identified in the 2023 East Harlem Downtown Revitalization Initiative Strategic Investment Plan^[44].

CD11 is also anticipating significant disruption with the commencement of Phase Two of the Second Avenue Subway project. Without proactive intervention, small businesses along the construction corridor may suffer long-term harm. It is essential that the MTA, SBS, and EDC work collaboratively with business and property owners to plan ahead, offering financial mitigation, marketing support, and technical guidance to ensure business continuity.

^[44] https://www.ny.gov/sites/default/files/2024-05/DRI_6_East_Harlem_Strategic_Investment_Plan.pdf

HOUSING, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND LAND USE

Note: Please see Section 7 for the full content of each request. Requests are prioritized by agency.

CAPITAL BUDGET REQUESTS

Agency	Priority	Title
EDC	1 / 3	Other capital budget request for EDC
EDC	2 / 3	Invest in infrastructure that will support growth in commercial business districts
EDC	3 / 3	Other capital budget request for EDC
HPD	1 / 4	Provide housing at deeper levels of affordability
HPD	2 / 4	Provide, expand, or enhance loan programs to rehabilitate multiple dwelling buildings
HPD	3 / 4	Housing for seniors
HPD	4 / 4	Other capital budget request for HPD
NYCHA	1 / 1	Repair damaged walkways within NYCHA developments

EXPENSE BUDGET REQUESTS

Agency	Priority	Title
DCP	1 / 1	Catalog all existing vacant lots and vacant residential properties
EDC	1 / 1	Invest in planning for transportation-oriented infrastructure
HPD	1 / 5	Provide, expand, or enhance rental subsidies programs
HPD	2 / 5	Provide, expand, or enhance programs for housing inspections to correct code violations
HPD	3 / 5	Other expense budget request for HPD
HPD	4 / 5	Provide, expand, or enhance community outreach on HPD programs and services
HPD	5 / 5	Other expense budget request for HPD

TRANSPORTATION AND MOBILITY

Manhattan Community Board 11

Most Important Issue Related to Transportation and Mobility

Traffic safety and enforcement (cars, scooters, ebikes, etc.)

Traffic Safety and Enforcement remains the most pressing transportation concern for East Harlem residents. Our district has many major traffic corridors, as well as access routes and bridges off of the Island of Manhattan, resulting in elevated vehicle traffic relative to other neighborhoods in the City. This has been exacerbated by the implementation of the Congestion Relief Zone south of 60th street, causing more vehicles to travel through Northern Manhattan to avoid the tolls, when feasible. Using aggregated and normalized data from the NYC Open Data Portal - NYPD Motor Vehicle Collisions, and John Krauss's NYPD Crash Data Bandaid, there have been 662 total crashes within this district between July 2022 and July 2023 (a 5.9% decrease from July 2021 - July 2022; and 1.6% of total NYC crashes between July 2022 and July 2023). These crashes resulted in 2 fatalities, and 853 injuries, including 125 cyclists, 184 pedestrians, and 580 motorists.

The leading contributing factors—including driver inattention/distraction, improper passing or lane usage, unsafe speed, and failure to yield right-of-way—are largely preventable through sensible traffic mitigation measures. CB11 calls for continued funding to install targeted measures throughout the district with the goal of totaling no more than 1% of all crashes in NYC each fiscal quarter, on our way to Vision Zero^[45].

^[45] <https://www.nyc.gov/content/visionzero/pages/>

Community District Needs Related to Transportation and Mobility

Needs for Traffic and Transportation Infrastructure

Overall, street infrastructure must be improved to better protect pedestrians, cyclists, and seniors, and to ensure accessibility for residents with disabilities. Cracked sidewalks, uneven curb cuts, and poorly maintained intersections raise concerns of accessibility and pose risks to our residents with disabilities and mobility issues, especially along 3rd Avenue and 124th street between 1st and 2nd Avenues. Additional resources and investments are needed to sufficiently address these conditions throughout the neighborhood.

Street lighting continues to be one of the most common concerns in East Harlem. In 2016, the Block by Block: Walking for a Healthier East Harlem report found that 57% of surveyed residents rated the street lighting as fair, poor, or very poor^[46]. This echoed sentiments in city data – in 2022, East Harlem residents submitted 1,065 complaints to 311 about streetlight conditions, the highest of any Manhattan district and 15.6% of all such complaints borough-wide. While lighting and pedestrian improvements at the East 125th Street Plaza underneath the Metro-North station have made a difference, persistent "dark spots" remain, especially beneath the Park Avenue viaduct in segments that have not yet undergone track replacement and improvements, as well as on East 117th street between Lexington and Madison Avenues, and 124th street between Park and 3rd Avenues. East Harlem requests the necessary funding to repair, or install additional resilient light fixtures in these areas, including bulbs with brighter lumens that will not pose a significant impact on energy consumption.

CB11 also urges DOT to implement traffic and safety improvements along 5th Avenue between 96th and 102nd streets, and on Pleasant Avenue and 116th street near the East River Plaza, where heavy vehicle volumes create unsafe pedestrian crossings and slow MTA bus performance.

This board continues to advocate for further efficient traffic flow and effective enforcement, to curb delinquent on-road behavior such as those perpetuated by all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) and motorbike users; including illegal scooter and cycle use on sidewalks. DOT, in partnership with NYPD Traffic Enforcement, must consider expanding punitive measures for placard abuse and errant parking behavior in pedestrian crossings, bike lanes, traffic-restricted areas, and throughout the Park Avenue Viaduct tunnels.

As the City continues to implement and improve Congestion Pricing, signage identifying the "Toll Congestion Relief Zone South of 61st" has been installed at East Harlem's southern boundary. CB11 urges DOT to closely monitor traffic flow, preventing idling and bottlenecking, and ensure that redesigns do not increase harmful emissions in a neighborhood already suffering from the highest asthma and respiratory illness rates in the city. While daylighting tools and pedestrian safety enhancements have been welcomed, residents remain concerned about certain redesigns, including on 116th street and on 3rd Avenue, which may inadvertently increase congestion, reduce parking availability, disrupt economic activity, and alter the character of the neighborhood. CB11 continues to request that DOT consult the community in the early planning stages of any redesigns.

^[46] <https://www.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/dpho/block-by-block-east-harlem.pdf>

Needs for Transit Services

East Harlem's public transit network is indispensable to daily life but remains strained. Residents report frequent delays, overcrowding, and major safety concerns, especially at 116th street and at 125th street. Although the Lexington Avenue line station at 125th Street has an elevator, residents report that it often does not function correctly and needs repairs. The 110th Street station recently received accessibility upgrades, the same is needed at the 116th Street station. All stations in our district are in desperate need of more frequent cleaning, and a persistent police presence.

CB11 reiterates its strong support for the completion of Phase 2 of the Second Avenue Subway. As stated by Congressman Adriano Espaillat, "Second Avenue Subway is our nation's largest transit equity project that reaffirms our commitment to empowering working-class New Yorkers and improving the quality of life for over 300,000 people across the region" ^[47].

Many residents also rely on bus service to travel to, from, and within the district, yet service remains unreliable due to congestion and inconsistent enforcement of bus lanes. CB11 calls on the MTA and DOT to work collaboratively to improve bus speeds and reliability, particularly along Madison, Lexington, and 3rd Avenues. The MTA should consider expansion and re-routing of bus routes in order to mitigate the unintended negative impacts of congestion pricing. We also request that the MTA consider adding an adjusted route of the M1 bus north of the Queensboro Bridge, to provide improved service to East Harlem without being impacted by downtown congestion.

We also continue to request an accelerated renovation of Pier 107, in the hopes that it will enable ferry service to and from East Harlem. Equitable ferry service will make East Harlem more accessible from Brooklyn, the Financial District, Queens, and Randalls and Ward Islands.

TRANSPORTATION AND MOBILITY

Note: Please see Section 7 for the full content of each request. Requests are prioritized by agency.

CAPITAL BUDGET REQUESTS

Agency	Priority	Title
DOT	1 / 3	Street lighting
DOT	2 / 3	Sidewalk infrastructure
DOT	3 / 3	Repair of damaged sidewalks surrounding NYCHA developments

EXPENSE BUDGET REQUESTS

Agency	Priority	Title
DOT	1 / 1	Improve parking operations

PARKS, CULTURAL AND OTHER COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Manhattan Community Board 11

Most Important Issue Related to Parks, Cultural and Other Community Facilities

Access to and quality of park programming

East Harlem's parks serve a critical role in the health, well-being, and quality of life of our residents, however many of our parks need better maintenance, staffing and capital upgrades. Access to equitable park space is a key component to the health and wellbeing of East Harlem residents. As work continues on the East River Esplanade projects, East Harlem looks forward to equitable park space for CD11 on the waterfront. Funding is needed to ensure the completion of the East River Esplanade gap from 107th to 116th streets, which is pivotal to the overall design and future success of the protected edge for coastal resiliency. As the community celebrates the funding of the Harlem River Greenway and its restroom facility, the board also maintains the position that the park, upon its completion, should be named Richard Toussaint Park to celebrate our former board member's advocacy for this soon-to-be actualized project.

Community District Needs Related to Parks, Cultural and Other Community Facilities

Needs for Parks

On a basic level, the amount of open space in East Harlem is insufficient. While New York City has a standard of 1.5 acres of open space per 1,000 residents, New Yorkers for Parks has set a higher goal of 2.5 and has found that there are 2.9 acres of open space per 1,000 residents city-wide. Without Randall's Island or Central Park, East Harlem falls well below this benchmark with only 0.77 acres of open space per 1,000 residents (East Harlem Neighborhood Plan). In the case of Randall's Island, Harlem River Park and the waterfront esplanade, there is a need to create better access to recreational spaces, in addition to ensuring that additional green spaces are created wherever possible.

DCP's Capital Planning Explorer tool highlights a considerable number of our parks, gardens, and historical sites located in flood hazard zones; due to the risks and our history of extreme flood events, improvements to parks should be required to include climate protection and resiliency features as well as additional greenery and landscaping to assist with the retention and slow release of water.

According to the Vision Plan for a Resilient East Harlem, the average surface temperature in East Harlem in August is over two degrees higher than that of NYC overall. Key contributing factors include East Harlem's lower than average vegetation cover, as compared to NYC overall. Parks and trees are one of the most effective ways to combat extreme heat. Excess heat not only causes illnesses and higher risks to children and the elderly, but also contributes to increases in violence.

Finally, our parks perform a vital function in building social cohesion and resilience. NYC Parks should increase public programming to meet the specific needs of youth in our district, with a focus on working with the community and CB11 to help guide and conceive of projects at all scales.

Needs for Library Services

East Harlem is home to two branches of the New York Public Library (NYPL), the 125th Street Library and the Aguilar Library. Two other branches are located across from our district boundary lines and regularly used by residents of CD11, the East 96th Street Library and the Harlem Library located on West 124th Street. Our libraries are heavily used by the local community and are an especially valuable resource to our low-income residents. In addition to supporting literacy, libraries are community hubs that offer job skills training, computer and language classes, cultural competency, arts appreciation, and community building.

The Aguilar Library is currently closed for much needed capital improvements and modernization. While this library is closed it is vital that NYPL offer extended hours and services at the neighboring branches and also provide satellite library services throughout our district. NYPL should pursue partnerships with local educational and cultural institutions and community-based organizations to house temporary floating collections, offer library programming, skills training and other classes. Funding must be increased so that NYPL branches can remain open until at least 8pm on weekdays, offer full day service on weekends and continue to expand its collections, programming, and staffing.

Needs for Community Boards

The operating budget for community boards should be increased to reflect the vital role they play in planning and quality of life advocacy for neighborhoods all across the city. Increased funding would allow boards to hire additional professional staff to support the boards engagement of the community planning and development, municipal budgeting and legislative processes impacting their districts and the city at-large. There has not been any significant increase to community board budgets despite labor costs increasing and inflation.

With the return to the in-person meetings, post Covid-19 State of Emergency, community boards now conduct their meetings in a hybrid format which allows the public to continue to attend and participate via video conference as they have since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic and resulting shutdown. However, our budgets have not been adjusted to reflect this new reality and status quo for public bodies in New York State. Funding is essential for community boards ability to meet the promise of continued remote accessibility for the public and offset the costs for videography services and utilization of suitable offsite meeting spaces.

PARKS, CULTURAL AND OTHER COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Note: Please see Section 7 for the full content of each request. Requests are prioritized by agency.

CAPITAL BUDGET REQUESTS

Agency	Priority	Title
DCLA	1 / 1	Renovate or upgrade an existing cultural facility
DPR	1 / 10	Renovate the Mae Grant Playground
DPR	2 / 10	Renovation of Cherry Tree Park
DPR	3 / 10	Improve access to a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)
DPR	4 / 10	Renovation of the green turf at Marx Brothers Playground
DPR	5 / 10	Install Canine waste bag dispensers
DPR	6 / 10	Upgrade fitness equipment at Pelham Fritz Recreation Center
DPR	7 / 10	Reconstruct or upgrade a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)
DPR	8 / 10	Placement of Evacuation Zone signage
DPR	9 / 10	Improve access to a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)
DPR	10 / 10	Upgrade surface of Marcus Garvey Park dog run

EXPENSE BUDGET REQUESTS

Agency	Priority	Title
DPR	1 / 2	Trimming of trees throughout East Harlem to improve lighting
DPR	2 / 2	Plant new street trees
NYPL	1 / 2	Extend library hours, expand library programs, and enhance library collections
NYPL	2 / 2	Increase expense funding for libraries
OMB	1 / 2	Other community board facilities and staff requests
OMB	2 / 2	Other community board facilities and staff requests

6. OTHER BUDGET REQUESTS

Note: Please see Section 7 for the full content of each request. Requests are prioritized by agency.

CAPITAL BUDGET REQUESTS

The Community Board did not submit any Budget Requests in this category.

EXPENSE BUDGET REQUESTS

Agency	Priority	Title
MOCJ	1 / 1	Other expense budget request for MOCJ
Other	1 / 1	Expand outreach regarding the Senior Citizen Homeowners' Exemption (SCHE) and Disabled Homeowners' Exemption (DHE) tax breaks

7. SUMMARY OF PRIORITIZED BUDGET REQUESTS

CAPITAL BUDGET REQUESTS

Housing Preservation and Development (HPD)

1 of 4	Provide housing at deeper levels of affordability	HPD
Provide more housing for special needs households, such as the formerly homeless		
		Provide funding for the development of affordable rental and cooperative housing at deeper levels of affordability targeting households living under 30% of AMI.
2 of 4	Provide, expand, or enhance loan programs to rehabilitate multiple dwelling buildings	HPD
Provide, expand, or enhance loan programs to rehabilitate multiple dwelling buildings		
Expand the Home Repair and Preservation Financing Multifamily Housing Rehabilitation Loan Program (HRP) in East Harlem. The expansion of HRP will incentivize necessary building improvements while preserving and creating additional affordable housing units.		
3 of 4	Housing for seniors	HPD
Provide more housing for seniors		
Provide funding for the construction of affordable housing for seniors ages 62 and older.		
4 of 4	Other capital budget request for HPD	HPD
Other capital budget request for HPD		
Provide 100% funding to the remaining TIL (Tenant Interim Lease) buildings located in East Harlem pertaining to the existing tenants and potential homeowners of less than 80% of AMI including but not limited to 102 East 98th Street and 2 East 127th Street. This will ensure that these renters become shareholders under the HDFC program.		

Department of Sanitation (DSNY)

1 of 1	Provide new or upgrade existing sanitation garages or other sanitation infrastructure	DSNY
Provide new or upgrade existing sanitation garages or other sanitation infrastructure		
Provide a permanent, state of the art dual district sanitation garage to service Manhattan Community Districts 10 and 11 that allows for the full consolidation of all sanitation uses in the district in one location, should the final site be the former Potamkin site or otherwise. As committed to in the East Harlem Points of Agreement, the new building should meet or exceed LEED Gold standards and be equipped with the most advanced indoor air filtration systems and zero emissions sanitation trucks.		

Department of Cultural Affairs (DCLA)

1 of 1	Renovate or upgrade an existing cultural facility	DCLA
Renovate or upgrade an existing cultural facility		
Provide funding for infrastructure, lighting, sound and handicap accessibility improvements to local theaters such as PS 109 Artspace, Tato Laviera Theater and the Julia de Burgos Community Center. Community theater thrives in this country like no other place in the world. Seeing the positive impact that it can have on our youth, seniors, area businesses and community's identity is an energizing experience. DCLA must allocate funding, invest time and effort in the ongoing challenge to activate the underutilized theaters in East Harlem by allowing them to operate profitably. For example, circulating 3-5 shows a day, at least 3 nights a week can generate untapped revenue that can benefit East Harlem greatly. Together we must continue to raise the bar to have that positive impact that theater		

School Construction Authority

1 of 2 Renovate interior building component

SCA

Renovate interior building component

Funding must be allocated to fully upgrade the bathrooms at The Lexington Academy located at 131 East 104th Street. Currently, the Agency's bathroom initiative renovates only two student restrooms, one for girls and one for boys, however more funding is needed to renovate the other restrooms in need of repair. At the very least, the Agency should consider funding an additional restroom this fiscal year in order to comply with the mandate to provide gender neutral bathrooms. 2nd, 3rd, 5th floors and all staff bathrooms have still not yet been completed.

2 of 2 Renovate interior building component

SCA

Renovate interior building component

Funding must be allocated to fully complete the necessary wiring upgrades at P.S. 146 Ann M. Short. The wiring in the building is original to 1965 and currently only accommodates 2400 amps. However, the building needs to accommodate 4200-4500 amps for the school to sustain all its technology, modern equipment, refrigeration (kitchen) and AC's requirements.

Economic Development Corporation (EDC)

1 of 3 Other capital budget request for EDC

EDC

Other capital budget request for EDC

Provide additional funding to support the advancement of current and future phases in accordance with the 2017 La Marqueta redevelopment vision plan, including any immediate improvements needed for present-day functional operations, and meeting with citywide sustainability goals. https://wxystudio.com/projects/architecture/la_marqueta_feasibility_study

2 of 3 Invest in infrastructure that will support growth in commercial business districts

EDC

Invest in infrastructure that will support growth in commercial business districts

Major investments should be allocated to build a major transit hub on 125th Street, connecting the Lexington Avenue line, future Second Avenue Subway, and Metro North, in a way similar to Fulton Station, Brooklyn's Atlantic Station, or Grand Central in Manhattan. 125th Street is a strategic location that connects the railroad, buses to the airport and multiple lines of subway stations. This structure should also include commercial retail space, performance space.

3 of 3 Other capital budget request for EDC

EDC

Other capital budget request for EDC

Accelerate redevelopment/restoration of Pier 107, enabling ferry service to and from East Harlem. This will make East Harlem accessible from Brooklyn, the Financial District, Queens, and Randall's and Wards Islands. This will bring economic opportunity to the area leading up to the completion of Phase 2 of the 2nd Avenue Subway.

Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)

1 of 1 Water delivery infrastructure for community gardens

DEP

Other capital budget request for DEP

Water delivery infrastructure is needed for the maintenance of the following community gardens in East Harlem: Humacao; Palante; Family Garden by Tiffany & Co.; Rodale Pleasant Park; El Barrio; Los Amigos; La Cuevita; Peaceful Valley; Olga's El Gallo; Corozal Family Garden; 117th Street; and Diamante Garden

Department of Transportation (DOT)

1 of 3 Street lighting

DOT

Repair or provide new street lights

Request better lighting throughout East Harlem (e.g. East 117th Street between Park and Lexington Avenues

2 of 3 Sidewalk infrastructure

DOT

Repair or construct sidewalks, curbs, or pedestrian ramps

Repair sidewalk infrastructure on East 124th Street between First and Second Avenues.

3 of 3 Repair of damaged sidewalks surrounding NYCHA developments

DOT

Repair or construct sidewalks, curbs, or pedestrian ramps

Provide funding for the repair of damaged sidewalks surrounding NYCHA developments. Many of the sidewalks surrounding NYCHA developments are riddled with potholes and other structural defects. These potholes and other structural defects make it difficult for people to navigate safely around NYCHA developments, especially seniors. Furthermore this presents a real safety issue to all NYCHA residents and visitors.

Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR)**1 of 10 Renovate the Mae Grant Playground**

DPR

Reconstruct or upgrade a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)

Renovate the Mae Grant Playground with new surfacing and new water fountains.

2 of 10 Renovation of Cherry Tree Park

DPR

Reconstruct or upgrade a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)

Funding should be allocated for a full renovation of Cherry Tree Park including but not limiting to new play equipment and restoration of the current horses, bathrooms updated, fix the fences, add additional seating around the courts and resurfacing of the entire space, signage of NO SMOKING in different languages

3 of 10 Improve access to a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)

DPR

Improve access to a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)

Funding should be provided to allow for the provision of additional seating, a public restroom, lighting, and gate repair at Wagner Playground.

4 of 10 Renovation of the green turf at Marx Brothers Playground

DPR

Reconstruct or upgrade a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)

Full renovation of the green turf at Marx Brothers Playground

5 of 10 Install Canine waste bag dispensers

DPR

New equipment for maintenance

Install Canine waste bag dispensers at all entrances and along green thumb gardens, parks, and playgrounds in East Harlem that are managed by the Park Department. These locations are often high-traffic areas that serve as gathering spaces for families, seniors, and children. Pet waste left on the ground creates health hazards, sanitation concerns, and limits accessibility for residents. The presence of dispensers would encourage responsible pet ownership and reduce unsanitary conditions.

6 of 10 Upgrade fitness equipment at Pelham Fritz Recreation Center

DPR

Other capital budget request for DPR

Upgrade fitness equipment at Pelham Fritz Recreation Center Weight Room

7 of 10	Reconstruct or upgrade a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)	DPR
Reconstruct or upgrade a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)		

Funding should be allocated to provide a full renovation of the remaining half of PS 155 Playground. While half of the playground has been under construction for renovations, the second half of the playground is in need of refurbishment at the basketball courts and handball courts. The playground consists of a large amount of asphalt, therefor additional planting areas and trees are needed.

8 of 10	Placement of Evacuation Zone signage	DPR
Other capital budget request for DPR		

The placement of Evacuation signage with zones for all parks, playgrounds, community gardens to let the community know where to go to be safe.

9 of 10	Improve access to a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)	DPR
Improve access to a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)		

Funding should be allocated to provide a full renovation of Alice Kornegay Triangle. The playground consists of a large amount of asphalt and paved areas and is in need of the addition of green spaces and additional trees. The playground is in need of refurbishment for the play equipment and programming for large sections of the park that are underutilized.

10 of 10	Upgrade surface of Marcus Garvey Park dog run	DPR
Reconstruct or upgrade a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)		

Upgrade surface of Marcus Garvey Park dog run

New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA)

1 of 1	Repair damaged walkways within NYCHA developments	NYCHA
Other public housing upgrades or renovations requests		

Provide funding for the repair of damaged walkways within NYCHA developments. Many of the walkways within NYCHA developments are riddled with potholes and other structural defects. These potholes and other structural defects make it difficult for people to navigate safely around NYCHA developments, especially seniors. Furthermore this presents a real safety issue to all NYCHA residents and visitors.

EXPENSE BUDGET REQUESTS

Office of Management and Budget (OMB)

1 of 2	Other community board facilities and staff requests	OMB
Other community board facilities and staff requests		

Provide funding for baseline increases to the Personal Services (PS) and Other Than Personal Services (OTPS) budgets of Community Boards

2 of 2	Other community board facilities and staff requests	OMB
Other community board facilities and staff requests		

Provide an annual funding allocation of at least \$20,000 to support community boards ability to conduct hybrid monthly Full Board meetings. With the return to the in-person meeting requirement, post Covid-19 State of Emergency, community boards now conduct their meetings in a hybrid format which allows the public to continue to attend and participate via video conference as they have since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic and resulting shutdown. Funding is essential for community boards ability to meet the promise of continued remote accessibility for the public and offset the costs for videography services and utilization of suitable offsite meeting spaces.

Housing Preservation and Development (HPD)

1 of 5 Provide, expand, or enhance rental subsidies programs

HPD

Provide, expand, or enhance rental subsidies programs

Increase funding for subsidies that help eligible low-income families, seniors, and disabled individuals to rent decent, safe, and affordable housing in Community District 11.

2 of 5 Provide, expand, or enhance programs for housing inspections to correct code violations

HPD

Provide, expand, or enhance programs for housing inspections to correct code violations

Increase funding for specialized enforcement programs, such as the Alternative Enforcement Program, The Program Preservation Program, Underlying Conditions Program, and the Anti-Harassment Unit and inspections to correct code violations.

3 of 5 Other expense budget request for HPD

HPD

Other expense budget request for HPD

Increase funding for affordable housing preservation programs.

4 of 5 Provide, expand, or enhance community outreach on HPD programs and services

HPD

Provide, expand, or enhance community outreach on HPD programs and services

Provide funding to increase awareness of HPD programs and services, particularly DRIE and SCRIE.

5 of 5 Other expense budget request for HPD

HPD

Other expense budget request for HPD

Provide funding for additional vouchers for seniors, returning veterans, and their families.

Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice (MOCJ)

1 of 1 Other expense budget request for MOCJ

MOCJ

Other expense budget request for MOCJ

Provide funding for an expansion of the Mayor's Action Plan for Neighborhood Safety to cover all NYCHA developments in East Harlem.

Department of Sanitation (DSNY)

1 of 3 Provide more on-street trash cans and recycling containers

DSNY

Provide more on-street trash cans and recycling containers

Funding should be allocated to provide an equitable amount of on-street rat-resistant trash cans on every corner of major streets and intersections to reduce the occurrence of overflowing corner bins and garbage on the street.

2 of 3 Increase funding and resources for enforcement of canine waste laws

DSNY

Increase enforcement of canine waste laws

Increase funding and resources for DSNY enforcement of canine waste laws in hotspots (Park Avenue between 111th street and 117th street, 116th street between Lexington and Madison, East side of 5th Avenue between 111th and 115th street) to ensure compliance and maintain cleaner, safer streets. Uncollected dog waste is a persistent quality-of-life and public health concern. Enforcement of existing laws is inconsistent, allowing chronic violations to continue.

3 of 3 Enforcement of dirty sidewalk/dirty area/failure to clean area laws

DSNY

Increase enforcement of dirty sidewalk/dirty area/failure to clean area laws

Increase funding and resources for DSNY enforcement of dirty sidewalk/dirty area/failure to clean area laws in hotspots (Lexington Avenue between 117th and 115th Street, Lexington Avenue between 127th and 124th Street, 125th Street between Lexington Avenue and Madison Avenue, 116th street between 3rd Avenue and Madison Avenue, Lexington Avenue between 109th and 111th Street, Park Avenue between 111th and 116th street)

Department of Transportation (DOT)**1 of 1 Improve parking operations**

DOT

Improve parking operations

Provide funding to study the feasibility of establishing a residential parking permit program in East Harlem.

New York Police Department (NYPD)**1 of 3 Increase resources for youth crime prevention programs**

NYPD

Increase resources for youth crime prevention programs

Further funding is needed for NYPD to prioritize youth crime prevention programs, including the Explorer's Program, as a strategy to mitigate crime in East Harlem.

2 of 3 Increase resources for NYPD narcotics enforcement

NYPD

Hire additional staff to address specific crimes (e.g. drug, gang-related, vice, etc.)

Hire additional staff to address specific crimes (narcotics-related) and increase resources for NYPD narcotics enforcement in high-priority corridors (116th between Lexington and Madison, 125th Lexington and Madison, 124th between Lexington and 3rd, Taino Towers area, 117th between Park and 1st Avenue, 110th between Lexington and Park)

3 of 3 Provide resources to train officers, e.g. in community policing

NYPD

Provide resources to train officers, e.g. in community policing

NYPD should allocate existing resources toward improving police-community relations. Increased accountability, communication, and transparency by NYPD can help to foster trust among East Harlem residents. Programs such as NYPD Explorers benefit our youth as well as officers that train to improve relationships with our youth. This funding will provide training for this and similar programs such as the NYPD Blue Chips mentoring and sports program that will aid building trust by specifically trained officers. Relationships will evolve as officers and community build more bridges improving relationships through genuine cooperation.

New York Public Library (NYPL)**1 of 2 Extend library hours, expand library programs, and enhance library collections**

NYPL

Extend library hours, expand library programs, and enhance library collections

Increase funding for NYPL to add resources and staff, and to expand opening hours to 7 days a week. NYPL is focused on expanding services and resources for children and young adults as well as exploring new programs and services to support adults, seniors, and recently arrived asylum seekers. To effectively serve patrons, NYPL needs to expand digital and in-person collections, build on skills-based and technical programs, and create accessible multi-use community spaces where patrons can learn and form meaningful connections with their branch and broader community.

2 of 2 Increase expense funding for libraries

NYPL

Extend library hours, expand library programs, and enhance library collections

Increase expense funding for libraries, so branches in every neighborhood can maintain existing levels of service while helping to rebuild a more equitable New York.

Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD)

1 of 5 Other youth workforce development requests

DYCD

Other youth workforce development requests

Additional funding to expand pre-existing educational support, professional development, and career-readiness programs for justice-involved and adjudicated youth aged 11-24 in East Harlem. Additional programs are critical for providing opportunities that help young people build skills, pursue meaningful careers, and successfully reintegrate into society. Increased funding will ensure that these youth receive the resources and support needed to break the cycle of justice involvement and achieve long-term success.

2 of 5 Other youth workforce development requests

DYCD

Other youth workforce development requests

Increased funding should be allocated to employ additional youth in the Work, Learn & Grow Program during the 10 months of the school year (September to June) to provide more opportunities for employment and to expand career and college readiness for high schoolers.

3 of 5 Services for runaway and homeless youth

DYCD

Provide, expand, or enhance drop-in center services

We request additional funding to provide, expand, or enhance services for runaway and homeless youth in East Harlem, including street outreach, drop-in center services, and residential support. These programs will be critical for reaching vulnerable youth where they are, offering immediate access to basic needs, counseling, and safety, and providing pathways to long-term stability through residential services. Providing funding for these services will better address the growing needs of homeless and at-risk youth, helping them access essential resources and support systems that promote safety, well-being, and eventual independence.

4 of 5 Services for migrant youth

DYCD

Other services for immigrants and immigrant families requests

We request additional funding to provide, expand, or enhance services for migrant youth in East Harlem, including culturally responsive education, legal support, and access to mental health services. Many migrant youth face barriers such as language differences, trauma, and lack of access to stable housing and healthcare. This funding will support outreach efforts, bilingual counselors, and legal assistance to help navigate immigration processes, ensuring these young people have the resources needed to thrive. By addressing the unique challenges migrant youth encounter, these services will promote safety, integration, and long-term success within their new community.

5 of 5 Comprehensive, evidence-based interventions to address gun violence

DYCD

Other expense budget request for DYCD

Gun violence is a public health crisis in East Harlem, where recent data shows the community is disproportionately affected. A study by Wallace, Chernet, Formica et al. (2023) found that 35 percent of surveyed high school students in East Harlem had personally witnessed gun violence. To address this crisis, funding is needed for comprehensive, evidence-based interventions. These programs should include violence prevention programs for at-risk youth, hiring additional violence interrupters, implementing hospital-based violence intervention programs, developing mechanisms to identify individuals at risk for gun violence, and educating the community on safe gun usage and storage. By investing in these measures, East Harlem can create a safer environment for all residents.

Economic Development Corporation (EDC)**1 of 1 Invest in planning for transportation-oriented infrastructure**

EDC

Invest in planning for transportation-oriented infrastructure

Provide funding for a study into construction feasibility for a Pier at/near East 116th Street for the purpose of expanding Transportation Methods to the public.

Department for the Aging (DFTA)

1 of 3 Provide additional funding to connect more older adults to in-home case management services DFTA

Allocate funds for outreach services to homebound older adults and for programs that allow the elderly to age in place

According to the NYC Department for the Aging, over 16% of East Harlem's population is 65 or older, and many face challenges in accessing necessary care. Additionally, 12-15% of the East Harlem population has a reported disability according to city data. Providing additional funding to connect more older adults to in-home case management services as they return to the community is essential, in tandem with the VNS or other comparable temporary service that provides a recuperative bridge/transition often connected to homecare but not other necessary services that a case management social worker can put in place and/or oversee as the client advocate. This support will reduce hospital readmission rates and ensure that residents have the resources and support needed to maintain their independence and live safely at home. This includes faster service transitions from hospitals to home care, along with in-home healthcare, meal delivery, and social services.

2 of 3 Expand senior center programming DFTA

Other senior center program requests

East Harlem has a rapidly growing senior population, with over 20% of residents aged 60 and older living below the federal poverty line (NYC Department for the Aging, 2022). Many seniors face overlapping challenges including chronic health conditions, limited English proficiency, and unstable housing. Without targeted investment, these barriers increase isolation, worsen health disparities, and reduce quality of life. We request funding to expand senior center programming in East Harlem, with a focus on bilingual caseworkers, (Spanish or French/Haitian Creoles) -home care support, and culturally sensitive services that enable older adults to age in place with dignity.

3 of 3 Increase case management capacity DFTA

Increase case management capacity

Provide funding to expand caseworker availability to meet the linguistic and cultural needs of the community, ensuring no resident is excluded due to language barriers. East Harlem's diverse aging population includes many residents who primarily speak Spanish or French/Creole, necessitating an increase in multilingual caseworkers to address social services needs. According to the NYC Department of City Planning, 35% of East Harlem residents speak Spanish as their primary language, and a growing number speak French/Creole. Culturally competent caseworkers are vital for helping residents access housing, healthcare, and employment services.

Department of City Planning (DCP)

1 of 1 Catalog all existing vacant lots and vacant residential properties DCP

Study land use and zoning to better match current use or future neighborhood needs

Provide funding for a study to catalog all existing vacant lots and vacant residential properties in CD11 which can be developed or reactivated as affordable housing. There exist many formerly occupied residential properties in CD11 that have been warehoused and kept off the market for many years and often decades. If rehabilitated and reactivated these properties could again provide many hundreds of affordable units for East Harlem residents. Similarly, many vacant lots can be redeveloped for the same purpose.

Human Resources Administration (HRA)

1 of 8 Funding for domestic violence prevention and assistance programs. HRA

Other domestic violence services requests

According to the NYPD, East Harlem has a violent crime rate of 10.3 per 1,000, nearly double the Manhattan and citywide averages of 5.5 and 5.3, respectively. The NYC Mayor's Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence (updated 2023) reported that East Harlem has the highest rates of intimate partner violence in the city. Programs that can provide survivors with resources, support, and safety planning are critical. Additional funding is necessary for public health interventions that focus on prevention, education, and community-based outreach to help reduce domestic violence in this community. We are requesting increased funding to community based organizations that provide domestic violence services to victims such as but not limited to Safe Horizon. Additionally, survivors are often unaware of services available to them, which this proposal is requesting funds to increase program visibility in this community and reallocating grassroots efforts specifically to East Harlem.

2 of 8 Modify eligibility criteria for the NYC 15/15 supportive housing program

HRA

Provide, expand, or enhance rental assistance programs/vouchers for permanent housing

Modify eligibility criteria to include single parent families that are homeless or are at risk of homelessness and that are not suffering from a serious mental health illness or a substance abuse issue for the NYC 15/15 supportive housing program. The federal government's new spending plan is slashing public housing funding, which is putting many families in NYC at risk of becoming homeless. Furthermore, in recent years homelessness in NYC has reached its highest levels since the Great Depression. As of July 15, 2025 over 35,000 children were in NYC homeless shelters. Providing eligibility to single parent families that are homeless or at risk of homelessness for the NYC 15/15 supportive housing program will go a long way in reducing homelessness in NYC, especially child homelessness.

3 of 8 Housing assistance for domestic violence survivors

HRA

Other domestic violence services requests

Provide housing assistance for domestic violence survivors. Domestic violence continues to be a critical issue in our community, leaving survivors in urgent need of safe, stable housing to rebuild their lives. As the leading cause of homelessness across the City, Domestic Violence Survivors require specific programs that will provide financial assistance for rent, relocation support, and permanent housing to help survivors transition out of temporary housing/shelters and into secure homes. With a focused effort, we aim to not only offer immediate relief but also contribute to long-term stability and self-sufficiency for survivors.

4 of 8 Specialized services for the LGBTQ+ community

HRA

Other request for services for vulnerable New Yorkers

There is an urgent need for funding to expand and enhance specialized services for the LGBTQ+ community in East Harlem, a community which faces unique challenges related to health disparities, discrimination, and violence. According to a 2022 report by the NYC Comptroller's Office, East Harlem has one of the highest rates of anti-LGBTQ+ hate crimes in the city. In addition, a survey conducted by the NYC Anti-Violence Project (2023) found that LGBTQ+ youth in East Harlem are more likely to experience homelessness and violence than their peers elsewhere in Manhattan, with 40% of respondents reporting housing insecurity and 25% reporting violence based on their gender identity or sexual orientation. Substance use disorders are also disproportionately high within LGBTQ+ communities due to the compounded effects of stigma, discrimination, and mental health challenges. Addressing substance use through targeted mental health services and addiction recovery programs must be a key component of any LGBTQ+ support strategy. LGBTQ+ specific services are critically needed, including mental health support, legal services, housing assistance for at-risk LGBTQ+ individuals, and substance use interventions. Funding should prioritize expanding trauma-informed care, providing culturally competent healthcare, and increasing access to emergency shelters. Additionally, education and awareness campaigns aimed at reducing discrimination and hate crimes must be offered in addition to existing community safety strategies. Developing and strengthening partnerships with existing LGBTQ+ organizations, will be crucial in addressing the specific needs of this community.

5 of 8 Expand housing assistance, legal aid, and healthcare services for migrants

HRA

Other request for services for vulnerable New Yorkers

Provide funding to expand housing assistance, legal aid, and healthcare services for migrants in East Harlem. Programs should prioritize language access services, mental health care, and pathways to work authorization, addressing the specific needs of asylum seekers. Collaborations with organizations should be expanded to provide targeted outreach and comprehensive support. Additionally, funding should support vocational training and ESL programs to help migrants integrate and find employment. East Harlem has seen a significant increase in the arrival of migrants, particularly asylum seekers from Latin America, Africa, and the Caribbean. According to the NYC Department of Social Services, East Harlem has been one of the neighborhoods most impacted due to its high proportion of immigrants and its existing shelter and service infrastructure. The community has seen a dramatic rise in Venezuelan, Honduran, and Haitian asylum seekers, many of whom arrive with limited resources and face difficulties in accessing housing, healthcare, and employment. Migrants arriving in East Harlem face multiple barriers, including language difficulties, lack of legal representation, and limited access to social services. According to the NYC Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs (2023), nearly 30% of East Harlem's population is foreign-born, with a growing number of undocumented individuals and asylum seekers. The shelter system in the neighborhood is overwhelmed, with more migrants in need of housing, legal support for asylum applications, and healthcare services, including trauma-informed care for those fleeing violence or persecution.

6 of 8 Legal representation for tenants

HRA

Other expense budget request for HRA

The City should increase funding for group representation of tenants

7 of 8 Expand food assistance

HRA

Provide, expand, or enhance food assistance, such as Food Stamps / SNAP

Provide, expand, or enhance food assistance. There is a growing number of East Harlem residents who are food insecure or lack access to basic, healthy foods. This has been exacerbated by the rising cost of groceries, delays in SNAP recipients receiving benefits, and the closure of supermarkets within the district. 13.5% percent of respondents to CB11's Public Input Survey for District Needs identified "access to healthy food and lifestyle programs" as their most important health care and human services related issue. According to NYC Department of Health data, East Harlem has a 1:17 ratio of supermarkets to bodegas, the second lowest in Manhattan. Furthermore, according to the East Harlem Community Health Profile, 18 percent of East Harlem residents do not eat at least one serving of fruit or vegetables per day (compared to 10% overall in Manhattan) and 30 percent drink at least one or more 12 oz. sugar drinks per day (compared to 16 percent overall in Manhattan).

8 of 8 Expand caseworker availability to meet the linguistic and cultural needs

HRA

Other request for services for vulnerable New Yorkers

Provide funding to expand caseworker availability to meet the linguistic and cultural needs of the community, ensuring no resident is excluded due to language barriers. East Harlem's diverse population includes many residents who primarily speak Spanish or French/Creole, necessitating an increase in multilingual caseworkers to address social services needs. According to the NYC Department of City Planning, 35% of East Harlem residents speak Spanish as their primary language, and a growing number speak French/Creole. Culturally competent caseworkers are vital for helping residents access housing, healthcare, and employment services.

Department of Education (DOE)**1 of 7 Workshops and violence prevention services and resources for youth**

DOE

Assign more non-teaching staff, e.g., to provide social, health and other services

We request additional non-teaching staff to facilitate workshops and provide resources specifically tailored for young people aged 8-17 on violence prevention, including intimate partner violence, domestic violence, and gun violence. These programs should focus on educating youth about the risks and impacts of violence, equipping them with tools to build healthy relationships, resolve conflicts, and avoid violent situations.

2 of 7 Access to educational opportunities for students with disabilities

DOE

Other educational programs requests

We request funding to ensure equitable access to educational opportunities for students with disabilities in East Harlem, we propose allocating additional funding for specialized support services. Currently, 20% of students in East Harlem public schools have a documented disability. Funding is needed for hiring certified special education teachers, providing equitable education and afterschool activities, and providing individualized learning materials.

3 of 7 Assign more non-teaching staff, e.g., to provide social, health and other services

DOE

Assign more non-teaching staff, e.g., to provide social, health and other services

Additional funding should be allocated to employ additional Social Workers to not only provide therapeutic services but to also provide evidence-based groups and case management services.

4 of 7 Funding for Gender Sexuality alliances (GSA)

DOE

Assign more non-teaching staff, e.g., to provide social, health and other services

Funding should be allocated for Gender Sexuality alliances (GSA) to be established in every school within East Harlem. These programs are important to provide safe spaces for LGBTQ+ youth to express themselves.

5 of 7 Sex education resources for youth

DOE

Assign more non-teaching staff, e.g., to provide social, health and other services

We request additional non-teaching staff to facilitate workshops and provide resources specifically tailored for young people aged 11-21 on comprehensive sex education. These programs should focus on educating youth about sexual health, consent, healthy relationships, and responsible decision-making. The workshops should aim to equip participants with the knowledge and tools they need to understand their bodies, set boundaries, prevent sexually transmitted infections, and avoid risky sexual behaviors.

6 of 7 Adult education programs

DOE

Assign more non-teaching staff, e.g., to provide social, health and other services

We request funding for adult education programs in East Harlem to support initiatives designed to improve literacy, workforce readiness, and digital skills among underserved and street-involved adult populations. These programs should offer flexible learning schedules, including evening and weekend classes, to accommodate working adults and parents. Services needed additional funding include GED preparation, vocational training, and ESL classes to empower residents to pursue higher education or better job opportunities. Increased partnerships with local employers and community organizations would ensure that the curriculum is aligned with market needs, fostering long-term economic mobility and community development.

7 of 7 Education support focused on implementing trauma-informed programming tailored to LGBTQ+ youth

DOE

Assign more non-teaching staff, e.g., to provide social, health and other services

We request funding for LGBTQ+ youth education support in East Harlem to focus on implementing trauma-informed programming tailored to address the unique challenges faced by this community. Funded is needed for additional health education services, peer mentorship, and educational workshops to help reduce stigma, combat substance use, and prevent homelessness. By fostering safe spaces in schools and community centers, the program would aim to reduce bias and discrimination, ensuring that educators and students alike are equipped with tools to create a more inclusive environment. Additionally, the initiative would collaborate with local organizations to provide outreach and resources, emphasizing community resilience and empowerment.

Other**1 of 1 Expand outreach regarding the Senior Citizen Homeowners' Exemption (SCHE) and Disabled Homeowners' Exemption (DHE) tax breaks**

Other

Other expense request

Provide funding to expand or enhance community outreach to increase awareness regarding the Senior Citizen Homeowners' Exemption (SCHE) and Disabled Homeowners' Exemption (DHE) tax breaks are available to eligible homeowners.

Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH)**1 of 8 Funding for additional social workers**

DOHMH

Create or promote programs to de-stigmatize mental health needs and encourage treatment

East Harlem has the highest measured prevalence of current depression in New York City (21.4%), based on a Manhattan neighborhood analysis published in Cureus (2023). Psychiatric hospitalization rates in East Harlem are also nearly three times the citywide average, underscoring both the scale of unmet need and the urgency of preventive, community-based intervention. Bringing services into schools, NYCHA housing, and faith/community centers reduces stigma and transportation barriers. Many NYC programs (e.g., ThriveNYC's mental health clinics in schools) have already shown this model works, so scaling in East Harlem is realistic. Addressing stigma through community-based education and outreach is critical, but lasting change requires more frontline providers. To meet this need, we request funding for additional social workers dedicated to East Harlem, who can expand treatment access, deliver evidence-based interventions, and help reduce avoidable hospitalizations.

2 of 8 Expand vaccination outreach, education, and access

DOHMH

Promote vaccinations and immunizations

East Harlem has historically lower childhood and routine vaccination rates than other Manhattan neighborhoods. Recent NYC Department of Health data (see the Childhood Vaccination Data Explorer at nyc.gov) show coverage for key childhood vaccines in some East Harlem ZIP codes is only in the mid-50% range, while coverage in nearby Upper East Side ZIP codes exceeds 80-85%. These gaps put children and families at increased risk of outbreaks of preventable diseases like measles, whooping cough, and flu, and add to avoidable healthcare costs. We request targeted funding to expand vaccination outreach, education, and access in East Harlem, with a focus on trusted representatives, multilingual communication, and neighborhood-based vaccination sites.

3 of 8 Increase access to fresh, healthy, and affordable food options

DOHMH

Create or promote programs for education and awareness on preventing chronic diseases including quitting smoking, nutrition, physical activity, etc.

Increase access to fresh, healthy, and affordable food options in East Harlem by funding the creation of additional farmers' markets and extending operating hours to better serve residents who work traditional or long-hour schedules.

4 of 8 Provide 24-hour public access to safe and legal syringe/needle drop-off boxes

DOHMH

Other programs to address public health issues requests

Provide 24-hour public access to safe and legal syringe/needle drop-off boxes for New Yorkers who use medical needles for personal or family health care. Outside public access areas of NYC Health + Hospitals facilities, NYC Parks, FDNY Fire Stations, and NYPD Precincts across the five boroughs

5 of 8 Programs that addresses root causes of severe childhood asthma

DOHMH

Create or promote programs to decrease children's emergency department visits for asthma and prevent injuries

Increased funding is needed for programs that directly addresses the root causes of severe childhood asthma and provide services to children's and families with asthma.

6 of 8 Fund Community and School Health Literacy Capacity Building Program

DOHMH

Other programs to address public health issues requests

Fund Community and School Health Literacy Capacity Building Program to embed health literacy training into East Harlem schools and CBOs, leveraging existing structures to reduce health complications

7 of 8 Animal and pest control requests including reducing rat and mosquito populations

DOHMH

Animal and pest control requests including reducing rat and mosquito populations

Provide dedicated funding for comprehensive and proactive rodent mitigation measures, including increased inspections, trash management improvements, and the deployment of advanced pest control technologies. East Harlem continues to struggle with a growing rodent population, which poses significant public health risks. Current funding levels are not adequate as East Harlem continues to experience an exponential increase in the rodent population. Rodent infestations contribute to the spread of diseases and exacerbate sanitation concerns. Additionally, efforts to address mosquito populations, especially in areas prone to standing water, are crucial to prevent mosquito-borne diseases. By investing in consistent and proactive pest control, the city can reduce the health risks and improve the quality of life for residents.

8 of 8 Funding for specialized medical staff and peer support workers

DOHMH

Other programs to address public health issues requests

East Harlem has one of the highest drug overdose death rates in New York City, 56 per 100,000 residents, compared to the citywide average of 21.2 per 100,000 (NYC DOHMH). This crisis is concentrated along the 103rd, 110th, 116th, and 125th Street corridors, where overdoses, public drug use, and frequent emergency responses affect residents, families, and businesses daily. Current services are not sufficient to meet the scale of need, and without targeted community-level interventions, overdose deaths and related harms will remain unacceptably high. To address this crisis, we request funding for additional specialized medical staff and peer support workers in East Harlem, who can provide street-level engagement, connect at-risk populations to treatment, and reduce preventable deaths.

Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR)

1 of 2 **Trimming of trees throughout East Harlem to improve lighting**

Forestry services, including street tree maintenance

DPR

Request trimming of trees throughout East Harlem to improve lighting, particularly at East 117th Street between Park and Madison Avenues, where the untrimmed trees prevent streetlights from illuminating the sidewalk.

2 of 2 **Plant new street trees**

Plant new street trees

DPR

Funding should be allocated to plant new street trees and staff should be provided to maintain existing street trees in CD11. In order to help mitigate the impacts of climate change and to address equity and health concerns, street trees are needed across East Harlem. They also need to be protected from dying by watering and maintaining their pit areas and reducing compaction of the soil. Work with Million More Trees campaign and other advocacy efforts surrounding this request.

Fire Department of New York (FDNY)

1 of 1 **Additional FDNY resources to address quality-of-life and safety concerns**

Provide more firefighters or EMS workers

FDNY

Additional FDNY resources and coordination to promptly address serious quality-of-life and safety concerns related to individuals loitering and "nodding out" in public spaces due to drug use, ensuring both timely medical intervention and reduced disruption to residents and businesses. While NYPD has a role to play, our community seeks to reduce the possibility of escalating and criminalizing behavior that is preferably viewed as a health & safety issue. FDNY and EMS are often the first responders when medical emergencies occur, and their presence and intervention discourages use. High priority corridors include 116th between Lexington and Madison, 125th between Lexington and Madison, 124th between Lexington and 3rd, Taino Towers area, 117th between Park and 1st Avenue, 110th between Lexington and Park.