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New York City Department of Youth & Community Development Awards \$340,000 to YWCA of Queens for Literacy Programs

Flushing, New York (February 6, 2014) – YWCA of Queens, a leading educational agency in NYC known for exceptional program quality and innovation, was awarded three funding contracts from the New York City DYCD on February 6, 2014 totaling \$340,000.

“We are excited that DYCD supports the impact of our programs in NYC,” said Executive Director Helen J. Kim “and we want to recognize the role that our community of individual donors has in allowing our doors to remain open and our students to have a place to learn. DYCD has provided us initial resources, but the success of our programs has always and will continue to rely on our supporters.”

Bids for these funding contracts were highly competitive: The YWCA of Queens is one of only nine agencies in New York City to receive a highly sought out contract to help students achieve their HSE (High School Equivalency), previously known as GED; and one of only fourteen agencies to receive an ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) contract. The funding was issued through the DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) Initiative that targets undocumented students who need these classes to meet the education requirement to apply.

These awards are integral for the YWCA of Queens to continue its longstanding HSE and ESOL programs. The YWCA of Queens has been providing HSE classes for 15 years and ESOL classes since the organization first launched in 1978 (35 years). In the last three years, The YWCA of Queens had a 77% HSE passing rate compared to New York State’s average of 59% passing rate.

Stacy McKelvey, Director of the recently launched Center for Education and Career Services, stated, “We are thrilled to continue growing our education and employment services to our students. The expanded department will now include career services that offer job readiness workshops, job placement services, college counseling, and computer workshops.”

The expanded program will have additional morning and evening HSE classes, as well as a Spanish HSE class. The ESOL program will also provide a wider range of classes. With the help of the funding, the YWCA of Queens plans to annually serve 600-700 individuals with no cost to the student.

For more information, please visit www.ywcaqueens.org or call at (718) 353-4553.

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About the YWCA of Queens

The YWCA of Queens, founded in 1978, is a multi-tiered social service organization known for innovative and quality programs housed in five departments --The Center for Education & Career Services, Center for Arts & Culture, Center for Seniors, Center for Social Services, and the Y Evergreen Care. More information can be found at www.ywcaqueens.org

for every woman