



The Mayor's Youth Leadership Council

The Mayor's Youth Leadership Council (MYLC) is a partnership with Coro, the Mayor's Office and the Department of Education to prepare a diverse group of young people to serve as a critical advisory resource to City Hall while developing their own leadership skills. The MYLC offers an important vehicle for youth input into City policymaking; provides young people with leadership training and opportunity, potentially sparking interest in careers in government; creates a body of youth ambassadors to serve as liaisons to their peers and their communities; involves young people as valued and active participants in city policies that shape their every day lives; and, telegraphs positive and inspiring images of young people.

Program Components

There are two critical components to this program. The first will focus on the leadership development of 20 students and their understanding of current youth policy issues and how city government works to address them. The second part is mobilizing them into service as the Mayor's Youth Leadership Council following successful completion of the training component.

Coro's training approach for each of its leadership training programs is inquiry-based and experiential. Coro uses New York City as a classroom to investigate current public policy dilemmas, gather information from multiple stakeholders, listen to diverse voices, and extract strategies to effect change in the community. A typical Coro program involves face-to-face interaction with public, private and non-profit decision-makers, group governance activities, communication skills development, community building, and focused reflection. In this way, employees of city government will help to educate the young people about the issues and the policy choices they are making.

The **leadership training component** will be delivered during the school year beginning in October. Scheduling permitting, we will develop an intensive 2-3 day opening retreat and the group will meet regularly throughout the school year through monthly Saturday training sessions, weekly after school training session, and school breaks/holidays as needed.

At the start of the program, youth ambassadors will engage in training and knowledge building experiences designed to develop specific personal skills, group skills, city and policy understanding. They will conduct field research (community assessment) on specific aspects of one key issue that affects New York City youth. This knowledge and experience will serve to inform policy making for future improvements for this issue as well as to guide the development and implementation of a service project in May. The service project will be designed to improve the conditions of a specific youth policy that involves reaching out to diverse stakeholders to understand multiple perspectives, review previous efforts and current realities, and create policy recommendations

A final report will be provided to City Hall in June regarding their final policy recommendations and results of their service project.

Upon successful completion of the first phase in June, students will be prepared to serve in an **advisory component** to the Mayor's Office. This council will work with an advisor at City Hall and their Coro program director to regularly convene as an advisory body to inform policy-making on the needs of New York City youth and the strategies to best address these issues. This council will also support the development of the cohort of students who are selected for the next program cycle.

Graduation day is not the end of the participants' engagement with Coro, but rather an opportunity to implement their new strategies for developing innovative and effective solutions to challenges facing their communities and organizations. Coro continues to support alumni through collaboration within the Coro community and across sectors as graduates engage in public issues and civic life. Graduates also enjoy the full array of benefits of the Coro Alumni community, who stay engaged through ongoing peer-to-peer learning, educational and networking opportunities, and electronic newsletters and listservs.

Coro New York Leadership Center

Coro is New York City's premier leadership training program and a community of 2,000 alumni across business, government, schools and non-profits that is shaping the city's future. For nearly 30 years Coro has used the city as its classroom, teaching students and executives, activists and entrepreneurs how New York City works so that they can make it better.

Coro programs provide participants with a deeper understanding of how policy is shaped, the skills to effectively engage in civic life, and a network of engaged and influential alumni to help them reach their goals.

Coro runs five other leadership training programs, each serving a different constituency at different points on their educational and career paths:

EXPLORING LEADERSHIP equips high school students in central Brooklyn with the skills to identify and tackle issues vital to the success of their schools and empowers them to continue to lead change in their communities.

The **CORO FELLOWS PROGRAM** immerses young professionals in public affairs through intensive training and full-time consulting placements with government, labor, business, non-profit, and a political campaign.

In partnership with the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs, One Nation and The New York Community Trust, the **IMMIGRANT CIVIC LEADERSHIP PROGRAM** strengthens immigrant communities by enhancing the capacity of their emerging leaders.

LEADERSHIP NEW YORK challenges experienced professionals from across sectors to wrestle with complex urban policy questions and develop their leadership skills to bring about change in their organizations and/or communities.

NEIGHBORHOOD LEADERSHIP provides individuals working to strengthen New York City's commercial corridors with the tools, experiences, and networks they need to develop new ways to lead change in their organizations and neighborhoods. This program was launched in 2011 in partnership with the NYC Department of Small Business Services and Association for a Better New York.