



## **FY16 Budget Priorities**

FPWA advocates for budget initiatives that support its vision of building a city of equal opportunity. Through the following initiatives, we aim to reduce poverty, advance upward mobility and create shared prosperity.

### **Worker Cooperative Business Development Initiative**

**Enhance the Worker Cooperative Business Development Initiative to \$2.34 million.** The New York City Worker Cooperative Coalition greatly appreciates the City Council's investment of \$1.2 million in the Worker Cooperative Business Development Initiative in the FY 2015 adopted budget. We urge the City Council to enhance the funding to \$2.34 million for FY 2016. This investment will have a positive impact on long-term unemployment as well as the growing numbers of underemployed individuals. This enhancement will provide for the start-up of 29 new worker cooperative small businesses with positions for 295 new worker-owners, assist 30 existing cooperatives, and provide for outreach to 1,560 cooperative entrepreneurs.

*For more information, please contact Michael Paone at [mpaone@fpwa.org](mailto:mpaone@fpwa.org) or (212) 801-1336.*

### **Day Laborer Workforce Initiative**

**Invest \$365,000 into the expansion and development of day laborer centers across the five boroughs.** The Day Laborer Workforce Coalition estimates that there are currently 8,000-10,000 day laborers in New York City. Investment in this initiative will support the expansion of the existing four day laborer centers to provide services in all five boroughs. These services include dignified physical space for day laborers to meet, referrals to jobs or support services, legal services to address issues such as wage theft, as well as workforce training and development.

*For more information, please contact Alexis Posey at [aposey@fpwa.org](mailto:aposey@fpwa.org) or (212) 801-1376.*

### **Social Services Career Ladder Development Initiative**

**Invest \$4.7 million in a comprehensive education and training system for over 1,450 social service sector employees.** Many front-line social service workers, a majority of whom are women of color, are underpaid and without real opportunities for career advancement. Pervasive low wages serve as a barrier that prevents many social service sector employees from returning to school and obtaining the credentials needed to advance in their careers and earn the higher wages necessary to support their families. This funding will support the development and implementation of an education and training system designed to provide the financial assistance and support services (e.g. connection to child care, elder care and counseling services) necessary to ensure the successful completion of educational programming.

*For more information, please contact Emily Miles at [emiles@fpwa.org](mailto:emiles@fpwa.org) or (212) 801-1393.*