

OBT Highlights: [Job Openings](#) and the Summer 2009 Edition of [Lines of Opportunity](#).**Inside this Issue**

New York at a Glance. Unemployment in New York City skyrockets to match national rate.

Legislative Updates. The Capitol unveils three new initiatives to get workers trained and back in the workforce.

In the News. The rocky economy hits human services nonprofits the hardest—when they are needed most.

In the Neighborhood. The news from our communities: Sunset Park and Bushwick/Bed-Stuy.

Newly Released Reports. Cliff notes on the reports that shape us.

New York at a Glance**Unemployment Rate In New York City**

The unemployment rate is determined by the number of individuals actively seeking work. Here are the seasonally adjusted unemployment rates for 2008-2009:

Month 2008-2009	NYC	US
July	5.0%	5.7%
August	5.8%	6.1%
September	5.8%	6.1%
October	5.7%	6.5%
November	6.3%	6.8%
December	7.4%	7.2%
January (2009)	6.9%	7.6%
February (2009)	8.1%	8.1%
March (2009)	8.1%	8.5%
April (2009)	8.0%	8.9%
May (2009)	8.9%	9.4%
June (2009)	9.5%	9.5%

Provided by the New York State Department of Labor

The unemployment rate surged up to 9.5% to match the nationwide unemployment rate this month. This is the highest unemployment rate in since 1992. [More.](#)

Legislative Updates

RAISE UP Act Introduced in Senate. The Reengaging Americans in Serious Education by Uniting Programs Act (RAISE UP) provides targeted support to youth who have dropped out of high school, so they can attain a diploma, a post-secondary credential, and a family-supporting career. [More.](#)

Administration Unveils New Community College Plan. On July 14th President Obama announced his new American Graduation Initiative, a \$12B investment to expand the capacity of the nation's community colleges. [More.](#)

Federal Adult Education and Economic Growth Act. The legislation would increase the scope and effectiveness of adult education, literacy, and workplace skills programs to ensure adult Americans are prepared for the jobs of the future. The AEEG Act enhances the use of technology, increases funding to meet the growing demand for adult education services, and adjusts the federal funding formulas to better meet the needs of states. [More.](#)

In the News

Job Losses Show Wider Racial Gap in New York. Black New Yorkers have lost their jobs at four times the rate of white New Yorkers, a study by the Comptroller's office shows. The racial gap in unemployment exists nationwide, but is much more severe in New York City. [More.](#)

Facebook Overtakes MySpace. In the past year, Facebook's popularity has doubled while MySpace's has dropped 5% ([more](#)). To keep up with the times, OBT now has it's own facebook page. To become a fan of OBT, click [here](#).



OBT Battle of the Badges
Charity Event 2009
Saturday
September 26, 2009
[More information](#)
[Buy Tickets](#)

In the News

English Under the Arches. McDonald's started teaching English to its employees through partnerships with community colleges. The company says that data from its early versions of the program show significant gains in workers' English skills that ultimately may help participants transition to postsecondary opportunities ([more](#)). Locally, OBT recently launched GED classes for workers in the Boar's Head Factory in Williamsburg.

Charitable Giving Drops 2% in 2008. Human Services are hit much worse – with a 12.7% decline. [More](#) and [more](#).

In the Neighborhood

Whole Foods on Hold. They are still planning to build on the Gowanus site, someday. When is anybody's guess. [More](#).

Williamsburg Littered With Stalled Construction. Eighteen of the city's 143 vacant lots and rusting steel frames are in Williamsburg. [More](#).

TMI Food Group Continues to Succeed. The business continues to expand at 15% to 20% per year and is an internship site for OBT's Young Adult Internship Program. [More](#).

Newly Released Studies and Reports

How Can We Build Better Programs for Disconnected Youth? MDRC, May 2009. Nearly one in seven 18- and 19-year-olds is disconnected from the worlds of school and work. In a labor market that values education and skills, these young people are at a serious disadvantage. How can we build on the early promise of several current youth programs? For the full report, click [here](#).

Manhattan's Declining Share of Private Sector Jobs. Center for an Urban Future, June 2009. The report finds that Manhattan has seen a steady decline in private sector jobs since 1958, while other boroughs have seen a slow but steady increase. The report also states that Manhattan has recently "taken a disproportionate and perhaps permanent hit" with the loss of financial sector jobs and predicts Manhattan will rebound from the hit but is not likely to see as large of a share of jobs as it did decades ago. For the full report, click [here](#).

NYC is Green Collar Ready. The Political Economy Research Institute at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst (PERI), Center for American Progress (CAP), Green For All, and the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), June 2009. The reports show how investments in clean-energy economy could positively impact the American economy, creating more jobs for lower-income workers in addition to lowering energy and transportation costs. As clean energy and climate legislation moves through Congress, new data show that a \$6.7 billion investment in New York City would create 62,949 new jobs. For the full report, click [here](#).

Laying a Solid Foundation: Strategies for Effective Program Replication. Public/Private Ventures, July 2009. The replication of proven social programs is a cost-effective and efficient way to achieve large-scale, positive social change. Yet there has been little guidance available about how to approach program replication and limited development of systems—at local, state or federal levels—to support replication efforts. This report clearly lays out the key structures that should be in place before wide-scale replication is considered, as well as the steps needed to ensure the replication's success. With details on when in a program's life to replicate, where the replication should take place, and the staff resources needed, Laying a Solid Foundation can help capitalize on proven programs' successes. For the full report, click [here](#).

Audit Report on the Department of Education's Calculation of Graduation Rates. Comptroller's Office, July 2009. A new report accuses the Bloomberg administration of inflating high school graduation rates, claiming the city failed to track and verify school records. The audit sampled 197 students and found that of that sample 18 percent received credit for passing the same course twice. The Bloomberg administration released a rebuttal, which defends its graduation rates and says the comptroller raised "unfair suspicions." For the full report, click [here](#).

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