

MY CITY, MY NEWS



City of
Philadelphia

One Philly, A Connected City.

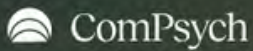
August 4, 2025



It's National Wellness Month!

By the **Office of Human Resources**

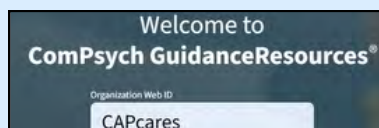
August is National Wellness Month! Check out the **free resources** available to City of Philadelphia employees to help you manage your physical, mental, emotional, and occupational health.



City employees have free access to **ComPsych**, an online resource for real-time solutions to the challenges in your life. Through the City of Philadelphia EAP, employees can access:

- **Confidential Counseling and Support:** 24/7 access to Guidance Consultants who can help address a wide range of concerns, including emotional well-being, mental health, legal, and financial issues.
- **Personalized Wellbeing Planning:** Complete a wellbeing assessment to create a customized plan tailored to mental, physical, and emotional health goals.
- **Interactive Huddles and Webinars:** Join small-group virtual Huddles or listen to Huddle Webinars on your own schedule. Topics range from managing caretaker responsibilities to improving work-life balance, and more!
- **Daily Self-Care Practices:** Access short, guided Huddle Practices like mindfulness, stretching, and relaxation exercises to support wellness throughout the workday.

To create your free account, register with Web ID: CAPcares



The City has partnered with Philadelphia-based online platform **OntheGoga** to bring free tools and resources to support your wellness journey. Through their wellness hub, you can access:

- **Workshops and Virtual Coaching:** Participate in interactive sessions on emotional, physical, nutritional, financial, and community wellbeing.
- **Lifestyle Wellness Tools:** Find workout playlists, guided meditations, nutritious recipes, expert advice, and exercises to help manage stress, improve resilience, and support emotional health.
- **Communication and Boundaries Support:** Learn effective strategies for communicating and setting healthy boundaries at work and at home.
- **Healthy Living Tips:** Discover ways to build healthier spaces—both personally and professionally—with tools to enhance your overall lifestyle.

Click [HERE](#) to create your free account!



Look out for our **Wellness Wednesday** emails to learn about upcoming events and resources to help you navigate your life in and out of work!

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Contact us with HR questions

hrhelpdesk@phila.gov or 215-686-0880



Sadie T.M. Alexander Statue Contest Winner Announced

By *Creative Philadelphia*

On July 30, Mayor Cherelle L. Parker and Creative Philadelphia announced that artist Vinnie Bagwell was selected to design a permanent statue honoring Dr. Sadie Tanner Mossell Alexander, an African American civil rights pioneer and native Philadelphian whose life and work helped reshape the fields of law, economics, and social justice in America.

Bagwell's winning proposal, titled "Philadelphia's First Lady of the Law, Sadie Tanner Mossell Alexander," will be installed at Thomas Paine Plaza near the Municipal Services Building. This statue will be one of the first three permanent public artworks in the City's collection to honor a historic African American woman—marking a significant step toward greater representation in public art.

Dr. Sadie Tanner Mossell Alexander (1898–1989) was a trailblazer whose legacy continues to inspire. She was the first African American to earn a Ph.D. in Economics in the United States, the first Black woman to graduate from the University of Pennsylvania Law School, and was appointed by President Truman to his Committee on Civil Rights. In Philadelphia, she became the City's first Black female Assistant City Solicitor and co-founded the Philadelphia Commission on Human Relations.

The artist was chosen through a competitive process that started in November 2024 and was led by the Sadie T.M. Alexander Statue Selection Committee. In June 2025, Creative Philadelphia hosted a virtual Public Design Presentation Meeting where five finalists presented their concepts to the public. The presentations included visual renderings and artist statements followed by a Q&A session.

Public input played a key role in the selection process. More than 1,000 people participated in a public survey that evaluated each proposal on artistic excellence, emotional impact, educational value, and overall site appropriateness. Bagwell's proposal earned the highest scores in all seven survey categories.

Fabrication of the statue will begin in Fall 2025, with installation expected by Spring 2027. The City of Philadelphia and Creative Philadelphia are proud to honor Dr. Alexander's enduring contributions to justice, equality, and civic life.



Click [HERE](#) to learn more about the Sadie T.M. Alexander statue proposal process.

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Congratulations, Graduates!

By the **Office of the Chief Administrative Officer**

Congratulations to the nine dedicated Streets Department employees who graduated from the **Surveyor I Upskilling Program** on Wednesday, July 16! Hosted by the City College for Municipal Employment (CCME), the ceremony celebrated months of hard work and a major step forward in their City careers.

Program graduates gain hands-on training and support from the Office of Human Resources to prepare for civil service exams and future placement. The Surveyor I Upskilling Program is a powerful example of how the City is investing in its workforce—offering current employees a clear path to higher-paying, technical roles. We commend these graduates for taking the initiative to grow their skills and take advantage of opportunities to advance their careers with the City of Philadelphia. Click [HERE](#) to read more about the ceremony and speakers!



Law Department Hosts 31st Annual CLE Conference

By the **Law Department**

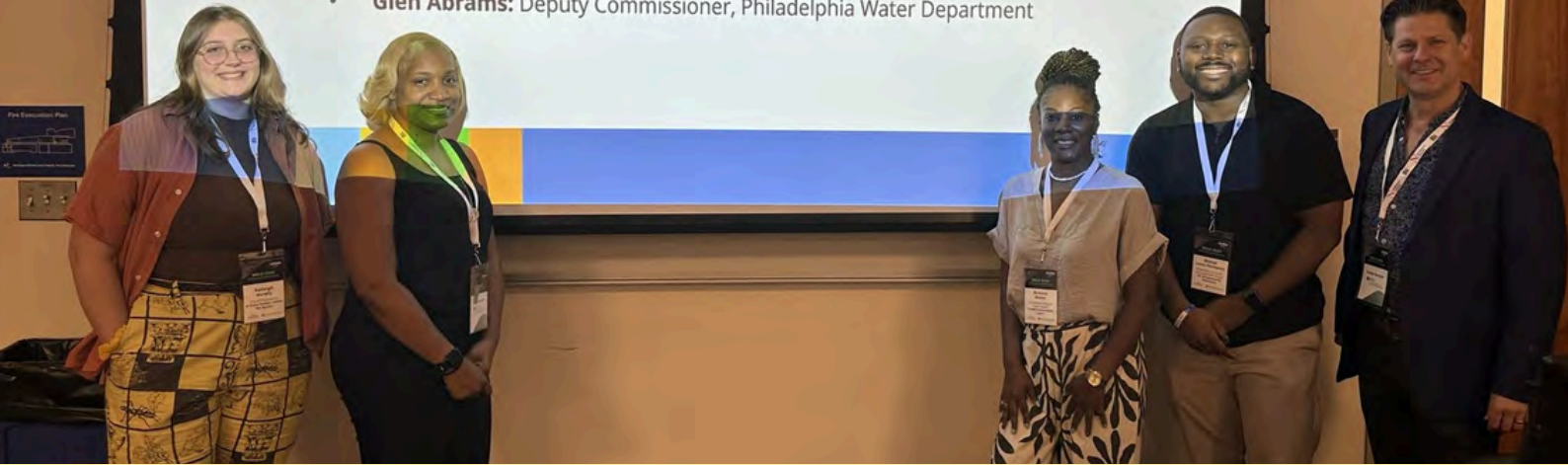
On July 24 and 25, hundreds of attorneys and legal professionals gathered for the 31st annual Life in the Big City Continuing Legal Education (CLE) Conference, hosted by the Law Department. The annual program provides attorneys with the opportunity to obtain their mandated annual CLE credits through courses curated by their colleagues.



Panelists included legal experts from across the industry and featured The Honorable Arianna J. Freeman, Judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, and Mayor Cherelle L. Parker as speakers. Click [HERE](#) to read more about the conference and the Law Department awardees.

The Team

- **Blaine Lewis-Thompson:** Director of Community Resources, Office of Community Empowerment and Opportunity
- **Robin Walker:** Deputy Executive Director of Place-Based Initiatives, Office of Community Empowerment and Opportunity
- **Kaileigh Murphy:** Senior Policy Analyst, Water Revenue Bureau
- **Ayanna Moore:** Livable Communities Coordinator, Philadelphia Department of Public Health Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention
- **Glen Abrams:** Deputy Commissioner, Philadelphia Water Department



Who is working *successPhilly*?

*Celebrating the **Managing Director's Office Health and Human Services***

The Managing Director's Office Health and Human Services (MDO HHS) team is making a meaningful difference in the lives of residents by addressing a critical barrier to financial stability: unpaid debt. Through two innovative programs, MDO HHS is working to ensure Philadelphians can stay in their homes and have access to equal opportunity and long-term security.

The first initiative, the Water Shutoff Prevention Program, a partnership with the Water Revenue Bureau and the Office of Community Empowerment and Opportunity (CEO), intervenes early to stop service disconnections before they happen. By identifying at-risk households and connecting them with needed resources, this program helps families maintain access to essential utilities while avoiding a cycle of debt that can lead to housing loss and water insecurity.

The second program is a pilot, also supported by CEO and the Office of Public Safety, that tackles criminal justice-related debt. Through the Criminal and Juvenile Justice Debt Relief Program, the City identifies individuals eligible for debt forgiveness based on factors like income and court history. By removing the financial burdens that can prevent people from paying restitution to victims of crime, gaining employment, or disentangling from the criminal justice system, this effort promotes economic equity and public safety.

Both programs reflect MDO HHS's deep commitment to building a healthier, more stable Philadelphia. They demonstrate how strategic coordination, data-driven outreach, and compassion can combine to address root causes of housing instability, water insecurity, and financial hardship.

Together, these programs are not just preventing crisis—they are creating opportunity. MDO HHS continues to lead with innovation, care, and a clear vision for a more just and resilient city.



Click [HERE](#) to read how Housing Security and Poverty VISTA Jonathan Nerenberg has helped expand both programs.



BECOME A PHILLY READING COACH: SIGN UP FOR AN ORIENTATION SESSION

Help young learners in our community discover the joy of reading through weekly one-on-one, hour-long after-school sessions with K-3 students, held between 2:30 and 5:30 p.m.

Let's work together to encourage literacy and confidence, one page at a time! To learn more about Philly Reading Coaches, please sign up for one of our upcoming orientation sessions on **August 6 and 7**.

Sign up for a session!



WATCH COFFEE CHATS WITH THE CAO

The Office of the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) is excited to announce our new video series "Coffee Chat with the CAO" is now LIVE on Youtube and Channel 65 GovTV!

Tune in monthly to hear from Philadelphia's City leaders and Chief Administrative Officer Camille Duchaussee as they chit chat about their work and the ways their departments are making the City of Philadelphia a great place to live, work, and grow!

Watch the series here!



MICROSOFT 365 SKILL BUILDER BACK-TO-SCHOOL SERIES

Back-to-School just got more exciting with the launch of the Office of Innovation and Technology's M365 Skill Builder Back to School Series. If you are looking to POWER your OUTLOOK to EXCEL with your TEAMS, SHARE the WORD because these classes are for you!

Through these courses, you will improve your skills in M365 programs and boost your daily productivity. Check out our flyer **here!**

Register for a course on LMS!



2025 PHILADELPHIA FOOD JUSTICE INITIATIVE GRANTEES

All Philadelphians deserve access to healthy, affordable, and culturally meaningful food. The Philadelphia Food Justice Initiative, a partnership between the Health Department and the Reinvestment Fund, just awarded over \$549,000 to 14 community-led projects advancing food justice across the city.

Click below to see which local organizations are creating a more equitable, resilient food system for all.

Read about the grantees!

We have a new newsletter submission form!

Please use this link for all future newsletter submissions:

bit.ly/mycitynews

Scan the submission
form QR code!



Making It Happen: Upcoming Events!

We Walk PHL Summer Info Sessions

Department of Public Health
Parks and Recreation
August 4, 2025 | 5:30 p.m.
Virtual - Zoom

Curious about We Walk PHL? This free, fun program is for anyone interested in staying active, spending time in Philly parks, and connecting with neighbors. Join us for a 30 minute virtual info session to learn how the program works, where to get updates, and how to get involved. These sessions are open to anyone interested in We Walk PHL, including newcomers, returning walkers, and existing or potential program partners! Click [here](#) to read more about We Walk PHL info sessions!

Siempre Salsa - Salsa and Bachata Party

Parks and Recreation
August 8, 2025 | 7 p.m.
Love Park

Siempre Salsa Philly presents their 8th year at Love Park hosting their beloved Salsa and Bachata Dance Party! Come by Love Park **every Friday night** all summer through the end of September for DJs and special live band nights featuring your favorite Latin sounds to get you up and starting your weekend off right! Event is from 7 - 10 p.m.

Nature Walk Saturdays

Parks and Recreation
August 9, 2025 | 8 a.m.
FDR Park

Join our weekly nature walk series! Times and subjects will vary but (weather permitting) there will always be a nature walk in FDR Park on **Saturdays** from April through September. Come out to learn more about butterflies, trees, bats, and wildflowers. Specifics of the walk, including time and subject, will be added to the Friends of FDR Park calendar as it gets closer to the date of walk. Meet at Boathouse. Click [here](#) to learn more about Nature Walk Saturdays.

Southeast Asian Market

Parks and Recreation
August 9-10, 2025 | 10 a.m.
FDR Park

Join us **every Saturday and Sunday** through October 25 for the Southeast Asian Market at FDR Park from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Here you can enjoy many native cuisine dishes, culturally specific produce, plants, clothing and jewelry, as well as services provided by entrepreneurs speaking multiple languages. Click [here](#) to learn more about the Southeast Asian Market!

Latin American Market and Soccer

Parks and Recreation
August 10, 2025 | 8:30 a.m.
FDR Park

Join us on **Sundays** from 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. at an outdoor market showcasing Latin American flavors, art, culture, and more! The Latin American Market is located near the soccer fields at FDR Park. For more information and updates, check out their Instagram [here](#).

Return to Innocence

Free Library of Philadelphia
August 19, 2025 | 5:45 p.m.
South Philadelphia Library, 1700 S Broad St

Are you an adult who misses read-alouds and arts and crafts? If you answered "YES!" join us for an adults-only arts and crafts event where we will read a short story or listen to music while you work on a simple craft and/or coloring page. All materials will be provided. Click [here](#) to view *Return to Innocence* on the Free Library calendar.

Open Mic Night

Free Library of Philadelphia
August 22, 2025 | 5:30 p.m.
Nicetown-Tioga Library, 3720 N Broad St

We are bringing back open mic nights! Join us for an evening of music, poetry, spoken word, and more at our Nicetown Café. Program runs from 5:30 - 8 p.m. and is for ages 21 and older. Dates are: **August 22, September 26, and October 31**. Click [here](#) to learn more about open mic nights! Check out our flyer [here](#)!

Philadelphia Regional Tech Startup World Cup Pitch Competition

Department of Commerce
August 27, 2025 | 2 p.m.
Temple University Science Education and Research Center, 1925 N 12th St

Join us August 27, 2025, from 2 - 5 p.m. at Temple University for the City of Philadelphia's Regional Tech Startup World Cup Pitch Competition! Watch 10 startups vie for \$35K in prizes, including a \$20K first prize and a chance to compete for a \$1M investment at the Startup World Cup in San Francisco. Come out to celebrate Philly's tech talent! This event is free to attend. Click [here](#) to register for the Tech Startup World Cup Pitch Competition!

PHDC Annual Housing Fair

Department of Planning and Development
PHDC
September 27, 2025 | 10 a.m.
Star Complex, 1816 N 15th St

It's that time of year! PHDC is hosting its 3rd Annual Housing Fair! Mark your calendars for September 27, 2025, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. at the STAR Complex. If you are a homeowner, buyer, renter, landlord—anyone interested in resources for becoming a first-time homebuyer, home repair, development opportunities, and so much more – come see us at the fair! Click [here](#) to register for the PHDC Housing Fair!

2025 Park Friends Movie Nights

Parks and Recreation
Various Dates and Times
Various Locations

More than 30 Philly parks are hosting free movie nights this summer and fall—featuring hits like *Moana 2*, *Wicked*, *A Minecraft Movie*, and more! Grab a blanket, bring snacks, and enjoy a movie under the stars. This free programming runs through October—click [here](#) to see what's playing near you and when!



Phillies fans gather outside of City Hall to celebrate Philadelphia's 2026 All-Star Declaration.



Ribbon cutting ceremony at newly renovated Napa Street Playground in Strawberry Mansion.

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Employee Resources

[Employee.phila.gov](https://employee.phila.gov)

Employee.phila.gov is a new online resource designed to support City employees. This hub brings together essential information in one easy-to-access location! Need details on benefits, workplace policies, or well-being programs? The hub site has you covered with clear, up-to-date information. The site also provides tools to help you share career opportunities with friends, family, and community members who may be interested in joining the City workforce. [Explore the page!](#)

CITY RESOURCE GROUP MEETINGS

City Resource Groups (CRGs) create employee-led spaces to support diverse communities and allies, helping make the City a more inclusive workplace. CRGs offer networking, leadership opportunities, and skill-building through professional development. Members also collaborate with the Office of DEI to support departmental diversity goals. [Learn more about CRGs](#) or email CRG@phila.gov to join or get involved.

CITYWIDE IT TRAINING

The Office of Innovation & Technology contracts with several vendors to provide information technology training. This is available on site, hands-on, and interactively to all City Departments. The Order Form and the Course Catalog are posted on the Office of Innovation and Technology Intranet, see Forms and Document Page. Please note that all training requires the approval of both the department's authorized personnel and fiscal agent. [VIEW AVAILABLE COURSES](#)

LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

NEW self-care and mental health resources for employees coping with the impact of COVID-19 are now available on the LMS, in addition to a variety of training and career development resources. Simply visit the Knowledge Base on the LMS for more information on COVID-19 Employee Self-Care. [ACCESS THE LMS](#)

LANGUAGE ACCESS PHILLY

All City departments must have a Language Access Plan (LAP) to ensure residents with non-English language preference (NELP) can access services for free.

Language Access Philly connects departments with interpretation and translation services to support multilingual communities. Need help? Contact your Language Access Coordinator or [visit the Language Access Philly resource page.](#)

DISABILITY ACCESS RESOURCES

The City of Philadelphia is committed to making City services accessible to all residents, including people with disabilities. Through policies, programs, and resources, the Office for People with Disabilities works to support inclusion and access. Explore accessible spaces, disability data, systems navigation videos, and key policies. Learn more on [the website](#) and contact the Office for support.

CITY INTRANET

Receive updates and access City resources like central duplication, an updated org chart, and updates on employee benefits and programs! All announcements listed here are also posted to the City's Intranet. Please note, you must be connected to either City Wi-Fi, LAN, or through approved VPN to access. [CHECK IT OUT](#)

SEPTA KEY ADVANTAGE

There's still time to get on board with **SEPTA Key Advantage**. Whether you're already enrolled or thinking about signing up, keep riding with ease. Log in to app.jawntpass.com to register your KeyCard today.

RESIDENT ENGAGEMENT FUND

Resident Engagement Fund: City departments seeking funding to pay residents during community engagement activities can apply through the Resident Engagement Fund, administered by the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer. [LINK HERE](#) or email ResidentComp@phila.gov

READYPHILADELPHIA

Stay connected to the weather forecast and important information from the City, directly to your phone! The city's emergency notification system is now available in 11 languages including American Sign Language. Text READYPHILA to 888777 to receive alerts to your device or sign up with your preferred language by visiting our ReadyPhiladelphia [webpage](#) for phone and text alerts. [SIGN UP FOR ALERTS](#)

CITY COLLEGE FOR MUNICIPAL EMPLOYMENT

Have you seen the new homepage for the City College for Municipal Employment? [Check it out on phila.gov](#) and explore some of the options and details!

DISCLAIMER

This is a citywide newsletter, distributed to all employees with a phila.gov email address. Attendance at events during work hours must be approved by your supervisor. Occasionally, some information you receive may be applicable only to a certain group of employees, like exempts. We will clearly label such information, but if you have questions, please contact your HR administrator. Any special citywide discounts have been approved in advance by the Chief Integrity Officer and are available to all City employees who are interested.

Reference in this newsletter to any specific commercial product, process, or service, or the use of any trade, firm or corporation name is for the information and convenience of City employees, and does not constitute endorsement, recommendation, or favoring by the City of Philadelphia.