



One Philly, A Connected City.

May 19, 2025



## Honoring Correctional Employees

*By the Department of Prisons*

From May 4–10, the **Philadelphia Department of Prisons (PDP)** celebrated **National Correctional Employees Week**, honoring the dedication and essential work of correctional staff.

Recognizing the vital role these employees play in maintaining safety and supporting rehabilitation, PDP has taken significant steps to improve working conditions and address staffing shortages. Recent initiatives include opening a new Wellness Center, offering correctional officers access to fitness equipment to enhance both physical and mental health, and hiring a wellness coordinator to design, implement, and promote health and wellness programs for the PDP workforce.

Additionally, PDP recently unveiled the Academy of Correctional Excellence (ACE), a new and improved training facility with expanded classrooms and updated technology.

PDP's investment in its workforce is already showing results. In April, the department welcomed its largest correctional officer cadet class to date, and the rate of officer departure without replacement has reached a record low for the year.

As PDP continues to invest in its employees and modernize its facilities, it reinforces its commitment to building a kinder and more equitable correctional system. By prioritizing staff wellbeing and enhancing training opportunities, PDP is helping to shape a safer, more humane environment for everyone involved.

These efforts reflect a broader vision of making Philadelphia a city that values dignity, respect, and opportunity—both for those who serve within its correctional system and those working toward a second chance.

**Mayor Parker delivered the keynote address at the Correctional Employees Week Opening Ceremony. [Watch here!](#)**

### This Month We Recognize:

Mental Health Awareness Month, American Stroke Awareness Month, Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, Jewish American Heritage Month, and more!

**Follow us on Social Media**

@PhilaOHR

**Submit something to the newsletter**

[bit.ly/philaCitynews](https://bit.ly/philaCitynews)

**Contact us with HR questions**

hrhelpdesk@phila.gov or 215-686-0880



## A Message from the **Office for People with Disabilities**



This certificate is proudly presented to:

**City of Philadelphia**

This location is certified as a trained and trusted advocate for those with sensory needs. Thank you for your commitment and dedication to our program. We are honored to be partnered with you.

Awarded on May 5th, 2025  
Valid 1 year



Thank you to all City employees who took the 2025 Sensory Inclusion training offered by KultureCity. As of today, over 13,000 employees have completed and passed the training. As a result, the City of Philadelphia has officially been recertified as a sensory inclusive city thanks to all your hard work. The final winner for the training will be notified by email. I look forward to conducting this training next year!

Sincerely,

Khalia Jackson (She/Her)  
*Constituent Services Administrator*





# Celebrating **National Nurses Week**

During National Nurses Week, which ended on May 12, we honor and uplift the extraordinary individuals who serve as the heart of our healthcare system—our nurses. Nurses, like RNs, LPNs, and Medical Assistants, can be found in several City departments and throughout the many healthcare organizations within Philadelphia. Across the City of Philadelphia, and especially within our City departments, nurses serve our communities with healthcare proficiency and compassion. Whether providing direct clinical care, driving healthcare policies and practices, or coordinating public health initiatives and patient support services, our City nurses exemplify the highest ideals of service and care.

The theme for this year's National Nurses Week was "The Power of Nurses." Every day, nurses use that power to help people seeking life-saving care, people not feeling great, and people who just need support. In many ways, they are the engine—the power—that drives and sustains our healthcare system. It is impossible to describe the work that a nurse does as each day brings a new challenge and is completely different from the last. Nursing is far more than a profession—it is a calling that bridges the gap between clinical intervention and the human experience of healing. At every level, nurses bring care, comfort, and continuity to patients by recognizing and responding not only to physical ailments but to the social, emotional, and environmental factors that influence health outcomes.

To every nurse: thank you. Thank you for every skilled intervention, every moment of reassurance, every act of advocacy, and every quiet gesture that reminds us all that care is both a science and an art. You are often the first to respond and the last to leave. Your dedication strengthens our communities and brings healing in ways both visible and immeasurable.

Again, thank you for all that you do.

Palak Raval-Nelson, PhD, MPH  
*Health Commissioner*





## PHILA2050 – SEEKING PARTNERS

The Philadelphia City Planning Commission seeks applications for Community Partners. This paid opportunity will help the City gather and organize feedback from community partners to update the City's comprehensive plan – we're calling it Philadelphia2050.

Applications are accepted until May 30. Please share with your networks.

[Learn more!](#)



## TAKE THE CLIMATE RESILIENCE PUBLIC SURVEY

Join our community engagement process! Share your feedback to help shape Philadelphia's Climate Resilience Plan, policies and programs, and other citywide climate efforts.

The Office of Sustainability is taking on a citywide initiative to update the City's Climate Resilience Plan. As part of our process, we'll follow equitable practices to engage residents in our decision making.

[Take the survey!](#)

**You can sign up at any time.**

-  **No monthly cost**
-  **Unlimited access on SEPTA**
-  **Easy to enroll**



## FREE SEPTA KEY RENEWED THROUGH 2026

Good news! The City's SEPTA Key Advantage Program has been extended through June 30, 2026. Eligible employees can still ride all SEPTA modes for free!

If you are already enrolled, you don't need to enroll again! You can use the same SEPTA Key Card and continue to ride for free.

If you are not yet enrolled, contact your HR team or click below to learn how you can take advantage of free SEPTA transportation for City employees!


[Learn more!](#)

**Welcome to the new IT Help Desk**

When you request services through our Service Catalog, your request is automatically routed to the relevant team so we can get right to work.

Before submitting a ticket, check out our knowledge base of topics to see if instructions for what you are looking for already exists.

[KNOWLEDGE BASE](#)



## NEW IT HELP DESK WEBSITE

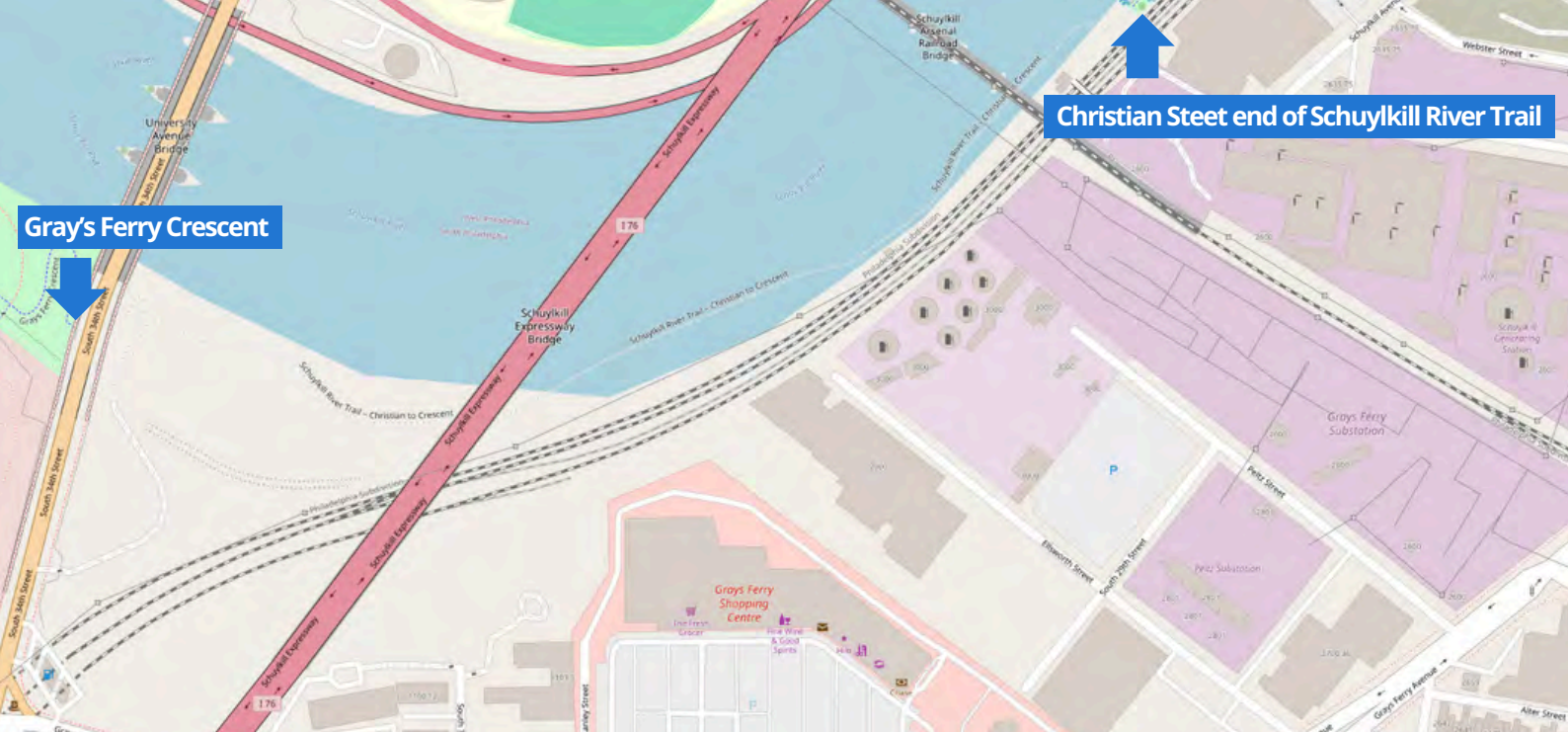
The Office of Innovation and Technology's Support Center has a new IT Help Desk website. Now you can submit a ticket, monitor the ticket's status, and find answers to FAQs in one convenient place.

The old platform, SysAid, couldn't fully support the growing range of services OIT provides. On the new IT Help Desk, you can browse the full list of services offered by OIT teams and submit detailed service requests with clear requirements upfront.

[ithelp.phila.gov > Client Portal](https://ithelp.phila.gov)

## Coming Soon!

The Municipal Services Building (MSB) Concourse SEPTA entrance will reopen in early June 2025! The Department of Public Property in conjunction with other stakeholders have been working to take the appropriate steps to reopen the concourse doors. Soon, the doors which have been shuttered since the pandemic will open, adding an additional choice for traveling in and out of MSB.



## Who is working successPhilly?

### Celebrating the **Department of Streets**

On May 17, the Department of Streets celebrated the opening day of the Christian to Crescent section of the Schuylkill River Trail. This extension connects what was the end of the Schuylkill River Trail on Christian Street to the Gray's Ferry Crescent Trail and Park to the south.

The new trail section, on the river's east side, adds 2,812 feet to Schuylkill Banks and features a 650 foot bridge that offers scenic river views and lighting for nighttime safety. It also includes a tunnel to Grays Ferry Crescent and a link to the 34th Street Bridge.

The completion of the Christian to Crescent section of the Schuylkill River Trail marks a major step toward a greener and better connected Philadelphia. By closing a critical gap in the trail and offering a safe, car-free route for pedestrians and cyclists, this project encourages sustainable transportation and reduces reliance on vehicles.



With its thoughtful design and accessible features, the new trail segment not only enhances connectivity but also promotes a healthier, more environmentally friendly city for all.

**[Learn more!](#)**



# Making It Happen: Upcoming Events!

## LGBTQ+ CRG Meeting

*Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion*

May 21, 2025 | 12 p.m.

Virtual - Zoom

Join the LGBTQ+ CRG on Wednesday, May 21 from 12–1PM as we welcome Tyrell Brown, the new Director of LGBTQ+ Affairs! Hear about their vision, goals, and upcoming PRIDE Month events. All are welcome—whether you're a regular or it's your first time, we hope to see you there! [Register here!](#)

## Supporting Children's Mental Health – A Virtual Discussion with Dr. Samantha Matlin

*Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual disAbility Services*

May 21, 2025 | 12 p.m.

Virtual - Zoom

May is Mental Health Awareness Month. DBHIDS invites you to a virtual discussion on how parents and caregivers can support their children's mental health. Join us as Dr. Samantha Matlin, a psychologist at CHOP, shares evidence-based insights, practical strategies, and answers your questions during this interactive session.

[Register today!](#)

## Civic Engagement Academy (CEA) Centering Accessibility and Inclusion

*Office of Community Empowerment and Opportunity*

May 21, 2025 | 6 p.m.

Virtual - Zoom

The Civic Engagement Academy (CEA) Learning Series provides community members with the tools to create lasting positive change. The trainings encourage local problem-solving and prepare residents to become community leaders, organizers, and activists. In this training, we'll offer guidance on how organizations can ensure that every unique individual feels welcomed and empowered to participate.

[Register today!](#)

## Family Medical Leave: What It's All About

*Silver Collaborative Community Resource Group*

May 22, 2025 | 12 p.m.

Virtual - Teams

Come learn about the Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA). If you want to understand the purpose of FMLA, and how an employee may apply FMLA, come to this informative session, and bring your questions!

Please email [Tracy.Jones@phila.gov](mailto:Tracy.Jones@phila.gov) if you would like to be invited to the Teams Meeting.

## George Floyd Community Remembrance Vigil

*Citizens Police Oversight Commission*

May 22, 2025 | 7:45 p.m.

City Hall North Apron

The Citizens Police Oversight Commission (CPOC) will host a candle light community remembrance vigil to honor the life of George Floyd at City Hall's North Apron. The ceremony will have interfaith leaders of Philadelphia speak along with a spoken word performance. Candles will be provided.

## Civic Views Opening Ceremony

*Mural Arts Philadelphia*

May 23, 2025 | 12 p.m.

City Hall Courtyard

Civic Views is a temporary public art project celebrating the city's municipal employees and their diverse perspectives on Philadelphia through poetic documentation of their office windows. The project represents the culmination of two years of Emilio Martínez Poppe photographing and interviewing staff from an array of Philadelphia civic agencies. The opening ceremony will feature a speaking program and performance by the Municipal Employees Choral Ensemble. Light lunch will be served in celebration of Memorial Day.

[Learn more!](#)

## Manifest Your Destiny

*Women of Color CRG*

May 23, 2025 | 1 p.m.

Virtual

Join the City of Philadelphia Women of Color CRG for "Manifesting Your Destiny"—an inspiring session exploring purpose, growth, and empowerment in public service. Through real stories and bold conversation, we'll dive into vision, resilience, culture, and navigating career growth in the City of Philadelphia. Please contact Brenna Schmidt ([brenna.schmidt@phila.gov](mailto:brenna.schmidt@phila.gov)) to request meeting invite.

## Urban Gardening with Native Plants

*Free Library of Philadelphia*

May 27, 2025 | 4 p.m.

Lovett Memorial, 6945 Germantown Ave.

Join us to learn about the many benefits of native plant gardening with Penn State Extension Master Gardener Barbara Mancini. Barbara will provide beginners and experienced gardeners with practical tips on creating and maintaining a native greenspace of any size. She'll cover basics of gardening, choosing appropriate plants, and sourcing native plants and resources to help you create your special urban garden. [Learn more!](#)

## 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Autism 365 Resource Fair

*Free Library of Philadelphia -*

May 31, 2025 | 10 a.m.

Wynnefield Branch, 5325 Overbrook Ave

The Wynnefield Library is having their 4th Annual Autism 365 Resource Fair for all communities in the City of Philadelphia. There will be 10+ vendors providing information on their organizations. This is a family fun day also, with games and prizes for the kids (or adults if they want to play) and crafts. [Learn more!](#)

## We Walk PHL Spring Season

*Department of Public Health*

*Parks and Recreation*

May 1-June 30, 2025

Various Locations

We Walk PHL is a free walking group that meets several times per week. All walks are led by a team of community volunteers. Launched as a pilot program in 2017 at 3 parks, this program has expanded to over 25 locations at parks and rec centers across Philadelphia. We Walk PHL is a partnership between Fairmount Park Conservancy, the Philadelphia Department of Public Health and Philadelphia Parks and Recreation. [Learn more!](#)



The Office of the Chief Administrative Officer hosted Bring Your Child to Work Day at City Hall, an opportunity for kids to enjoy demos, hands-on fun, and treats all while learning how City departments serve the public.



The Parent & Youth Resource Fair brought together families, dozens of City departments, and community providers to share free to low-cost programs and resources for children, teens, and families.

Follow us on Social Media

@PhilaOHR

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# Employee Resources

## 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](#)

## 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](#).

## 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](mailto:ResidentComp@phila.gov)

## 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](#)

## 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](http://phila.gov) and explore some of the options and details! <https://www.phila.gov/programs/city-college-for-municipal-employment-ccme/>

## 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](#)

## DISCLAIMER

This is a citywide newsletter, distributed to all employees with a [phila.gov](http://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.