



One Philly, A Connected City.

April 6, 2026

City of Philadelphia AI Training and Policy

Microsoft Copilot
Chat is here!

By the **Office of Innovation and Technology**

The Office of Innovation and Technology is excited to launch a new **Microsoft Copilot Chat Training** designed to help employees use AI tools more effectively, confidently, and responsibly.

This training will cover the basics of:

- How Microsoft Copilot Chat works
- How to develop better prompts to get more useful results
- How AI can support everyday tasks like writing, planning, and problem-solving
- How to safely utilize the Microsoft Copilot Chat and safeguard City data

Whether you're brand new to Microsoft Copilot Chat or already experimenting with chat tools, this training will provide practical skills you can apply immediately to save time and work smarter.

Please note: Microsoft Copilot Chat is the City of Philadelphia's preferred and approved enterprise AI tool. City employees should not enter City data into any commercial AI platforms such as ChatGPT, Claude.ai, Gemini, etc. When unsure whether a specific use is appropriate, employees should consult OIT before proceeding.

For more information, please read the **City's AI Policy** and review the **AI guidelines**.

This Month We Recognize:

Autism Acceptance Month, National Child Abuse Prevention Month, Sexual Assault Awareness Month, and more!

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Contact us with HR questions

hrhelpdesk@phila.gov or 215-686-0880

2026 in Philadelphia



Download 2026 Access Philly App!

Philadelphia's biggest moment is here and it's happening in your neighborhood.

Download the 2026 Access Philly app to see what's happening across the city in real time, from America's 250th events to neighborhood festivals and local experiences.

Know what's happening near you. Plan your next move. Stay connected to your city.

Available in the [Apple App Store](#) and [Google Play](#).

Download the Access Philly app.



Applications Open for Block Party Bonanza!

Applications are now open for Block Party Bonanza, a citywide summer initiative designed to bring neighbors together and celebrate community across Philadelphia.

The program will support 250 neighborhood block parties with free themed kits filled with decorations, games, and activities to help create a fun and engaging experience for all ages. Participating blocks will also receive additional support for food and refreshments, making it easier than ever to host a memorable event. [Read the Block Party Bonanza blog post](#) to learn how to apply!

Visit the 2026 Resource Hub

The City is working to ensure residents, businesses, and visitors are prepared to experience [Philadelphia's 2026 special events](#) and celebrate America's 250th birthday. On the 2026 Resource Hub page, you'll find helpful resources, major event details, and public safety guides.

We'll keep this page updated regularly with the latest information and resources.



April 11 First Circus Performance in America: 1793

Step right up! The thrills, the acrobatics, the spectacle... America's first circus performance wowed crowds in Philly. Celebrate the art of awe at the place where center ring first stole the show.

Where: Philadelphia School of Circus Arts, 6452 Greene Street, Philadelphia, PA

April 18 First Botanical Garden: 1728

Rooted in curiosity, Bartram's Garden was America's very first botanical garden, a living laboratory where science bloomed and Philly's green thumb took root.

Where: Bartram's Garden, 5400 Lindbergh Boulevard, Philadelphia, PA

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Calling City Employees!

Employee Survey for Top Workplace Awards Coming Soon!

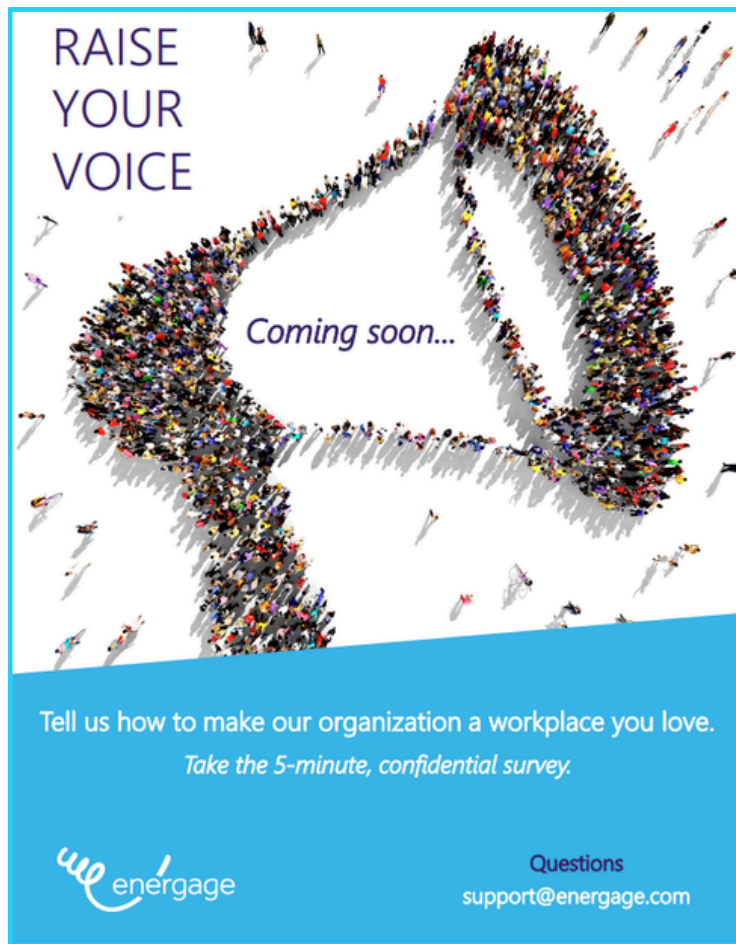
By the **Office of Human Resources**

The City will soon launch a short employee survey through Energage.

This is your chance to share what's working and show how we measure up against other workplaces. The survey is confidential and takes 5-7 minutes to complete.

Watch for more details soon, including how to access the survey online or at your worksite.

Get a first look at the survey layout!



RAISE YOUR VOICE

Coming soon...

Tell us how to make our organization a workplace you love.
Take the 5-minute, confidential survey.

energage

Questions
support@energage.com

Bring Sensory Inclusion Training to Your Team

By the **Office for People with Disabilities**

Employees in the field play a critical role in creating a welcoming city for all. If your team doesn't regularly use computers, you can schedule an in-person group training for KultureCity Sensory Inclusion Certification—now through May 17.

This training builds awareness of sensory needs and gives practical tools to better serve residents, coworkers, and visitors of all abilities.

To host a group training:

- Email Khalia.Jackson@phila.gov to receive registration forms and training materials
- Administer and grade the quiz
- Scan and return completed quizzes and registration forms

Help keep Philadelphia a leader in inclusion—bring this training directly to your team!



PhilaCor: Building Skills, Saving Costs, and Strengthening Reentry through Smart City Investment

By the **Philadelphia Department of Prisons**

Philadelphia's government works best when it invests in solutions that are both practical and impactful—and PhilaCor is a strong example of that balance in action. Operated through the Philadelphia Department of Prisons, PhilaCor provides high-quality vocational training in furniture manufacturing, culinary arts, and printing services. These programs not only produce professional-grade goods and services for City agencies, but also create meaningful opportunities for the incarcerated individuals who participate in them.



Check out the PhilaCor products and services catalog!

Buying through PhilaCor supports hands-on job training for incarcerated individuals, helping make reentry a success!

[Read the PhilaCor blog post](#) by the Philadelphia Department of Prisons to learn more about the program.



SPRING 2026 TRAINING CATALOG

Attached below is the 2026 Spring Training Catalog. It contains new training resources for City employees to include REQUIRED trainings.

HR Professionals: Please make sure you provide access to the training catalog to all of your employees. Contact TalentSuccess@phila.gov if you have questions.

The success of our employees within their public service careers is important for the success of our residents and our city. Check out the list of trainings for Spring 2026!

[Spring 2026 Training Catalog](#)



WATCH LOCAL ARTISTS PERFORM AT WEEKNIGHTS LIVE

The Department of Commerce's Nighttime Economy Unit has launched Weeknights Live, a year-round program to energize early-week evenings on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday through live performances from local artists at hospitality businesses in participating areas across the city.

The Weeknights Live program is an expansion from the successful pilot initiative at participating hotels on Tuesdays to now also including Mondays and Wednesdays **from 6 - 9 p.m.** in neighborhood commercial corridors.

View the Weeknights Live schedule to learn where and when you can experience a Weeknights Live performance.

[Weeknights Live Schedule](#)

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SUMMER 2026 LIFEGUARD APPLICATIONS OPEN NOW

Working poolside is one of the best summer jobs in Philadelphia — with pay starting at \$16.85/hour and free lifeguard training through Parks & Rec.

Even better? The \$1,000 end-of-season bonus is back for qualified lifeguard applicants! Apply by April 15, 2026, and work 200 hours this summer to qualify for the full bonus.

Free swim skills training is available to help interested applicants pass the required screening, and Red Cross certification is free for applicants ages 16–24 who commit to working at a City pool.

[Learn more about 2026 lifeguard positions](#)



TEAL DAY GROUP PHOTO FOR SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM). Join us on **Thursday, April 9** in Love Park at **1:15 p.m.** for a group picture for Teal Day. Wear something teal, the color of sexual assault prevention and intervention as we show solidarity with survivors of sexual assault.

Read the SAAM blog post by the Office of Domestic Violence Strategies to learn more about events to be held in Philadelphia for Sexual Assault Awareness Month.



[SAAM blog post on phila.gov](#)



FIFA WORLD CUP 2026 PHILADELPHIA: SAFETY AND EVENT INFORMATION

The city will host six FIFA World Cup matches in June and July, including a Round of 16 match on July 4. We are a part of history as the United States celebrates its 250th birthday, right here in the city that started a nation!

The Office of Emergency Management has created a resource page for residents and visitors to stay informed about stadium guidelines, FIFA Fan Fest, public transit, and more!

[Read about World Cup safety and event info](#)



REPORT ABANDONED BIKES FOR THE PHILLY SPRING CLEAN

In the coming weeks, the City's Office of Transportation and Infrastructure Systems will run a **Spring Abandoned Bike Sweep** to clear sidewalk clutter and open up bike parking.

Bikes left in public areas with two or more missing or damaged parts will be tagged and removed. Bikes that can be fixed will be donated to a local nonprofit so they can be used again.

Click the link below to learn how to report abandoned bikes in Philadelphia.

[How to report abandoned bikes](#)

Making It Happen: Upcoming Events!

Meditation Club for Adults (Virtual)

Free Library of Philadelphia

April 7, 2026 | 5:30 p.m.

Whitman Library, 200 Snyder Ave

Let's meditate together! We will explore various modalities of meditation in this ongoing program. Meditation has many benefits. It can reduce stress, help control anxiety, improve sleep and emotional health, and may reduce blood pressure and help control pain. Our Meditation Club meets weekly and these sessions will take place virtually. Please be sure to have what you need to be comfortable - loose fitting clothing and something to sit on such as a pillow, bolster, or mat. [Click the Meditation Club for Adults Zoom link](#) on April 7 at 5:30 p.m. to join the meeting. [View Meditation Club for Adults \(Virtual\) on the Free Library calendar.](#)

Worker's Rights for Pregnant and Parenting People

Working Parents & Caregivers CRG

April 8, 2026 | 2 p.m.

Virtual - Teams

Join the next Working Parents & Caregivers City Resource Group (CRG) meeting on Wednesday, April 8 at 2pm on Teams. Hillary Shah, Esq., from Community Legal Services will be presenting about Worker's Rights for Pregnant and Parenting People.

[Register for the Working Parents & Caregivers CRG Meeting on April 8](#) to receive the Teams meeting invitation.

CEA Learning Series - Government 102 (What's on Your Ballot?)

Office of Community Empowerment and Opportunity

April 15, 2026 | 6 p.m.

Zion Baptist Church, 3601 N Broad St

The Civic Engagement Academy (CEA) is a free training program that provides community members with the tools to create lasting positive change. In this training, you will learn how the federal, state and local government works at this month's Civic Engagement Academy! This training will be facilitated by our friends at the Committee of 70 and they'll give special attention to helping us know what's on the ballot leading up to the spring primaries and why our votes matter. This training will take place in-person at Zion Baptist Church, and light refreshments will be served. [Register for CEA Learning Series - Government 102 \(What's on Your Ballot?\).](#) [View the April CEA Training flyer.](#)

Special Collections Open House in the Print and Picture Collection

Free Library of Philadelphia

April 16, 2026 | 2 p.m.

Parkway Central Library, 1901 Vine St

In celebration of America250, we are hosting a Special Collections Open House in the Print and Picture Collection. We are bringing together artifacts, maps, photographs, and documents reflecting upon the people, places, events, and music that have shaped the county since its founding in 1776. Visit us on the second floor of Parkway Central Library to see selections from the Free Library's Special Collections. Drop by anytime between 2-3 p.m. every third Thursday. This Special Collections Open House is open to all! [View Special Collections Open House on the Free Library calendar.](#)

Spring Migration Bird Walk with Expert Birder, Holger Pflücke!

Free Library of Philadelphia

April 18, 2026 | 9:30 a.m.

Parkway Central Library, 1901 Vine St

Please join the Free Library of Philadelphia and Holger Pflücke for a Spring Migration Bird Walk! We plan to stay out for 1-2 hours, depending on the location, and walk mostly on flat and well-traveled paths. All events are open to everyone and all skill levels. Everyone is welcome to stay for as long or as short a time as they like. Restroom access is limited or unavailable. Check the weather and dress for comfort. These events will happen in moderate rain or shine and canceled for downpours and storms. The April 18 walk will begin at the The Children's Department entrance on 20th Street between Wood and Vine. The Free Library loans out Birding Backpacks, containing binoculars, field guides and trail maps at 20 locations, citywide! A limited number of Birding Backpacks will be available at each walk. [View Spring Migration Bird Walk on the Free Library calendar.](#)

Coffee & Conversations: An Open Mic Spoken Word Night

Free Library of Philadelphia

April 28, 2026 | 4:30 p.m.

Walnut Street West Library, 201 S 40th St

Join us for Coffee & Conversations, a monthly open mic and spoken word gathering where poetry, storytelling, and community come together. Each month we explore a new theme, inviting you to listen, reflect, and share words that inspire connection and creativity. The evening features dynamic performances from talented poets, followed by an open mic where community voices shine. Whether you're a seasoned performer or stepping to the mic for the first time, this is a welcoming space to celebrate the power of words. Free coffee and refreshments provided. To [register for Coffee & Conversations](#), click **Check Availability**, and choose the date you would like to attend.

988 5k

DBHIDS

May 17, 2026 | 7 a.m.

MLK Drive & Eakins Oval

[Registration for the 988 5k is now open!](#) Taking place the morning of May 17, in the middle of Mental Health Awareness Month, this free community event calls on Philadelphians to prioritize their emotional well-being and support loved ones in doing the same. Participants and supporters are encouraged to join the event to enjoy a welcoming, family-friendly and pet-friendly atmosphere that includes music, wellness resources, and information about the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline. Community partners will be on site to share tools, services, and guidance for anyone seeking help for themselves or others as we unite to reinforce a simple, powerful message: You are not alone. [Share the 988 5k logo!](#)

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Work ResourcePhilly

YOUR CITY. YOUR MISSION. YOUR FUTURE.

STAY CONNECTED. STAY INFORMED.

Whether you're in the office or out in the field, the City of Philadelphia Employee Website is your one-stop destination for the latest news, tools, and updates that matter to YOU including:

- ✔ Benefits & Open Enrollment Info
- ✔ Training Opportunities
- ✔ Resources to Help You Thrive
- ✔ Payroll Access
- ✔ Employee News
- ✔ Share Your Story

GET TO KNOW YOUR FELLOW CITY EMPLOYEES.

From Water to Parks & Rec, from Licenses & Inspections to Health – we're all on the same team. The Employee Website helps build a stronger, more connected City workforce by sharing stories, spotlighting departments, and celebrating our collective impact.



 City of Philadelphia | *One Philly, for all.*

Visit [EMPLOYEE.PHILA.GOV](https://employee.phila.gov)
Anytime. Anywhere. On any device.

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hrhelpdesk@phila.gov or 215-686-0880

[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 Brenna.Schmidt@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.