

# MY CITY, MY NEWS



City of  
Philadelphia

One Philly, A Connected City.

January 20, 2026

## Achieve your New Year's Resolution with the City of Philadelphia

By the **Office of Human Resources**

Did you know City employees have access to a wide range of benefits that can help you meet your 2026 resolutions? Whether you're thinking about continuing your education, considering your financial options, spending more quality time with your family, or prioritizing your wellbeing, there's a City of Philadelphia employee benefit that can help you get there.



### Continue your education

Ready to take the next step in your education? **The Mayor's Returning to Learning Partnership** offers City employees—and in some cases their spouses, domestic partners, and dependents—tuition discounts for participating colleges and universities. **[View the list of participating schools and discounts offered.](#)** For more information, email **Talent.Success@phila.gov**.



### Get to know your financial options

Did you know that City employees are eligible to enroll in a **[Deferred Compensation Plan](#)**? Employees who choose to contribute a portion of their pay per pay period to the Deferred Compensation Plan could benefit from investment earnings that compound over time. If you are curious about deferred compensation and want to learn more, **[schedule a free appointment with a Retirement Specialist.](#)** To enroll in deferred compensation, visit **[philly457.com](#)**.

\*This material is not a recommendation to buy or sell a financial product or to adopt an investment strategy. Investors should discuss their specific situation with their financial professional.



### Get the support you need at home

Caregiving comes in many forms—from raising children to supporting an aging parent or loved one—and it can be overwhelming. With Wellthy's Care Concierge, benefits-eligible City employees get free, hands-on support from a dedicated Care Coordinator who can take over stressful administrative tasks like scheduling appointments, handling insurance claims, finding in-home care, and more—so you can focus on quality time with your loved ones.

**[Learn more about this free benefit, and activate your Wellthy account today!](#)**

\*Employees employed by the **First Judicial District** are not eligible to enroll in Wellthy Concierge.



### Prioritize your health and wellbeing

- City employees have free access to **[On the Goga](#)**, a Philadelphia-based online wellness platform offering tools to support your whole wellbeing. Explore workshops, fitness and mindfulness resources, stress management tools, and tips for healthy communication, boundaries, and everyday living—all in one place. **[Create your free On the Goga account today!](#)**
- CAP employees also have free access to **[ComPsych](#)**, an online platform offering real-time, confidential support for life's challenges. Take advantage of 24/7 access to Guidance Consultants who can help address a wide range of concerns, interactive live support groups and webinars addressing **[topics from estate planning to GLP-1 use](#)**, and easy-to-use self-care tools to support your mental, emotional, and overall wellbeing. To create your free account, register using **WebID: CAPCares**.

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# 2026 in Philadelphia

2026 is a landmark year for Philadelphia. As the nation celebrates its 250th birthday, our city will take center stage—hosting major events, festivals, and moments that will draw visitors from across the country and around the world. In each issue of the employee newsletter, we'll keep you updated on upcoming can't-miss celebrations, all designed to help you experience the energy and spirit of 2026 right here in Philly. Check back often—there's plenty of fun on the way!



*In 2026, the Philadelphia Historic District Partners will celebrate the nation's 250th with 52 Weeks of Firsts—weekly "Saturday First-ivals" showcasing the innovations, institutions, and traditions that began in Philadelphia and shaped its legacy. You can expect live performances and family-friendly activities. Each Saturday First-ival takes place from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.*



## **First Professional Basketball League: 1898**

Dribble, pass, and shoot into history! Philadelphia tipped off the very first professional basketball league, setting the stage for the sport we love today.

**Where:** Xfinity Mobile Arena, 3601 S. Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA



## **First Public Girl Scout Cookie Sale: 1932**

Philadelphia was the site of the very first public Girl Scout cookie sale featuring commercially baked cookies, launching a sweet tradition that still supports girls nationwide. Once again, Philly took the first bite.

**Where:** PECO Building, 2301 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA



*Find out which celebrations, activities, and events you can look forward to this year!*

## • **Mummers String Band Spectacular at the Linc - Tickets On Sale Now**

After high winds forced the postponement of the judged portion of this year's Mummers Parade, the Philadelphia Mummers String Band Association brings the 2026 String Band Spectacular to Lincoln Financial Field on **January 31, 2026** at 2 p.m. This special event ensures the string bands receive the full competitive spotlight they deserve, complete with elaborate costumes, choreography, and the iconic sound of Philly's most beloved New Year's tradition. Tickets are available now, with general admission options starting around \$12.50 according to recent reports.

## • **FIFA Fan Fest is FREE in Philly**

As Philadelphia prepares to host six FIFA World Cup 26™ matches, the city will also welcome fans from around the world to the FIFA Fan Festival™, a free and open-to-the-public celebration at Lemon Hill in Fairmount Park. The festival will serve as the heart of the World Cup experience in Philly, offering giant screens for live match broadcasts, food and beverage options, interactive games, cultural programming, and world-class entertainment.

## **PHAMBASSADORS**

*The Phambassador program — led by the Philadelphia Visitor Center — is still welcoming new volunteers who want to represent the city during its historic 2026 celebrations. The initiative aims to recruit 5,000–10,000 Philadelphians to help welcome visitors, share local knowledge, and amplify the city's pride during major events like March Madness, the MLB All-Star Game, and the FIFA World Cup. Becoming a Phambassador is simple: sign the pledge, choose your level of involvement, and join a movement of residents committed to showcasing the best of Philadelphia through storytelling, community engagement, and citywide events.*



*Find out how the Free Library is bringing America's 250th celebrations to Philadelphia all year long!*

As the nation marks the anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, the Free Library invites all of Philadelphia to explore creative events, exhibits, and civic dialogues that reflect on our shared history to imagine a better future together. **Read about Philly250 at the Library!**

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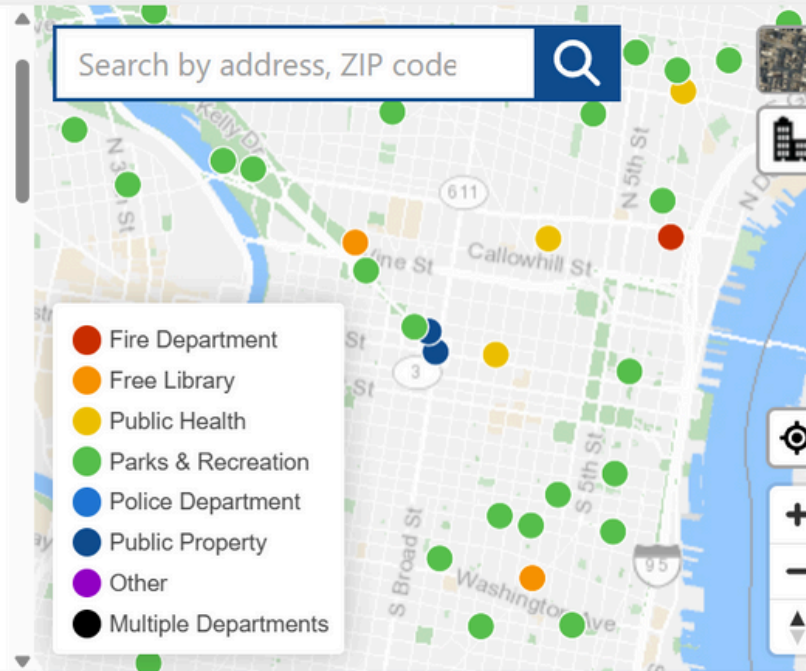
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## FILTER

### Using the Capital Projects Resource Finder

Use this finder to locate capital projects taking place at City-owned facilities across Philadelphia. For example, you can find active projects at:

- Parks and recreation centers
- Health centers
- Libraries
- Fire and police stations
- Other City-owned facilities and infrastructure



## Who is working successphilly?

### Capital Program Office

The Capital Program Office (CPO) has launched the City's first-ever public Capital Projects Dashboard—a new tool designed to improve transparency and help residents better understand the work happening in their neighborhoods.

For the first time, residents can explore high-level information on active and recently completed capital projects citywide through a centralized, map-based platform. Users can enter an address to see nearby projects and filter by location, Council district, project status, and project type—from libraries and recreation centers to health facilities, public safety buildings, and infrastructure.

The Capital Projects Dashboard displays Citywide capital project data in one accessible, public-facing resource, making it easier to understand, share, and engage with City investments—and reinforcing the City's commitment to transparency, accountability, and public service.

**Read the Capital Program Office 2025 Report to learn more about capital projects in the city.**



# Winter 2026 Employee Training Catalog



## WINTER 2026 TRAINING CATALOG

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

The success of our employees within their public service careers is important for the success of our residents and our city. Click below to view the list of trainings offered through [LMS/SmarterU](#).

[2026 Winter  
Training Catalog](#)



## SHARE WITH YOUR NETWORKS: 2026 VISION ZERO AMBASSADOR APPLICATION

The Office of Transportation and Infrastructure Systems (OTIS) is looking for outgoing and motivated people to become Vision Zero Ambassadors this spring and summer and help spread the word about Vision Zero and traffic safety.

Vision Zero Ambassadors must be **18 or older** and will earn a \$1,750 stipend if selected. Applications close on **February 1, 2026**. Please share the application with someone you know who may be interested!

**City employees are NOT eligible to become Vision Zero Ambassadors.**

[Share 2026 Ambassador  
Application](#)



## JOIN THE WORKING PARENTS & CAREGIVERS CRG

The Working Parents & Caregivers CRG is a supportive community and resource network for employees who are balancing work with the responsibilities of parenthood and caregiving. At our most recent meeting, CRG members learned about City-led childcare programs and services from colleagues at the Office of Children and Families and the Mayor's Office of Education.

Email [Brenna.Schmidt@phila.gov](mailto:Brenna.Schmidt@phila.gov) to join the Working Parents & Caregivers CRG and learn more about available resources and upcoming meetings.

[Email Brenna  
Schmidt](mailto:Brenna.Schmidt@phila.gov)



## SHARE WITH YOUR NETWORKS: PHILLY IN A PHOTO YOUTH CONTEST

The Philadelphia Department of Planning and Development is partnering with the Free Library of Philadelphia to host the [Philly in a Photo](#) contest—open NOW through February 14, 2026! This photo contest is a chance for **young people age 12 - 22** to show their talents and win prizes like gift cards and art supplies. It is also an opportunity to show city planners their favorite parts of the city and what should be highlighted and prioritized in the City's comprehensive plan update, [Philadelphia2050: Planning Together](#).

Please help us spread the word about the contest to your friends, family, and networks in Philadelphia! View the Philly in a Photo contest flyer in [English](#) and [Spanish](#)!

[Share Philly in a  
Photo Entry Form](#)

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## APPLICATION FOR THE ACADEMY FOR CIVIC EXCHANGE AND DESIGN NOW OPEN

The Academy for Civic Exchange and Design (formerly the Academy of Municipal Innovation) is launching its 12<sup>th</sup> cohort in March 2026. The Academy, a partnership with Jefferson University, provides City employees with training in design and systems thinking principles, supports participants in applying those principles to their day-to-day work, and facilitates collaboration across departments. The course is a valuable professional development opportunity and provides employees access to interdepartmental connections through the current program and its network of Academy Alumni.

Learn more by attending a virtual information session on **Wednesday, 1/28 at 10 a.m.** or **Wednesday, 2/4 at 1 p.m.**

[Read about the 11<sup>th</sup> Academy cohort](#)



## CITY EMPLOYEES RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT HUMAN TRAFFICKING

On Friday, January 9, City employees and partners gathered to take a group photo and share a message of solidarity with survivors of human trafficking. Employees were also encouraged to take a selfie or team photo and share support for survivors on social media with #wearblueday.

You might hear about trafficking in the news or on social media. For National Human Trafficking Prevention Month, get to know the facts and ways you can help survivors.



[Learn about Human Trafficking Prevention](#)



## PHILLY READING COACHES JANUARY NEWSLETTER

From heartwarming moments shared by our Reading Coaches to literacy news in Philadelphia and beyond, check out Philly Reading Coaches' January Newsletter to see how [Philly Reading Coaches](#) and community volunteers are advancing literacy and civic engagement across Philadelphia.

To learn more about volunteering with Philly Reading Coaches, [fill out our interest form.](#)

[Read the January newsletter](#)

## A Message from the Office of the CAO

The Office of the Chief Administrative Officer would like to thank all departments that participated in **Project Warmth: A CAO Initiative**. With contributions from more than ten City departments, thousands of cold-weather essentials were collected to support individuals experiencing homelessness.

This year, donations were delivered to the Hub of Hope, located on the Sub-Concourse level of the Municipal Services Building, in partnership with Project HOME. The Hub of Hope provides a safe, welcoming space connecting individuals to essential services and long-term housing resources. Employees who wish to support the Hub of Hope beyond City-led donation drives are encouraged to consider making donations throughout the year.

We look forward to continuing donation efforts throughout the year. Please keep an eye out for updates on **Operation Clean Start**, which supports under-resourced Philadelphia classrooms; a new hygiene drive benefiting our unhoused neighbors; and **Project Warmth** returning next year. Departments interested in getting involved or hosting their own donation drive with support are encouraged to contact [Jennifer.Hall@phila.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Hall@phila.gov).

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# Making It Happen: Upcoming Events!

## Falls Writing Group

Free Library of Philadelphia  
January 20, 2026 | 5:30 p.m.  
Falls of Schuylkill Library, 3501 Midvale Ave

Connect with other writers for motivation, accountability, and inspiration via free writing, prompts and writing games, group sharing, feedback sessions, and more. This will be a positive and non-judgmental community open to writers of all genres and skill levels. Meets most Tuesdays from 5:30 to about 6:45 p.m. in the Adult area of the library. [View Falls Writing Group](#) on the Free Library calendar.

## Return to Innocence

Free Library of Philadelphia  
January 20, 2026 | 5:45 p.m.  
South Philadelphia Library, 1700 S Broad St

Are you an adult who misses read-alouds and summer camp style arts & crafts? If you answered "YES!" join us for an adults-only arts & 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. [View Return to Innocence](#) on the Free Library calendar.

## Civic Engagement Academy Learning Series - Building a Recruitment Plan

Office of Community Empowerment and Opportunity  
January 21, 2026 | 6 p.m.  
Virtual - Zoom

The Civic Engagement Academy (CEA) is a free training program that 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, you will learn how to plan and time your outreach to engage the right people and resources. [Register for Building a Recruitment Plan](#), and [view the upcoming CEA Learning Series Training Flyer](#).

## 2026 Philadelphia Tour Guide & Docent Job Fair

Free Library of Philadelphia  
January 23, 2026 | 11 a.m.  
Parkway Central Library, 1901 Vine St

Share this with anyone who may be interested: The 2026 Philadelphia Tour Guide & Docent Job Fair takes place Friday, January 23, 2026, from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. at Parkway Central Library and features on-the-spot interviews and networking with top tour operators and cultural institutions. Admission is free, but **registration is required by Wednesday, January 21, 2026**. [View the 2026 Philadelphia Tour Guide & Docent Job Fair](#) on the Free Library calendar.

## Winter Wonderland for Families with Children Birth to 5 Years

DBHIDS  
January 24, 2026 | 10 a.m.  
Belfield Recreation Center, 2109 W Chew Ave

Philadelphia Infant Toddler Early Intervention, in partnership with our preschool partners at Elwyn ELS and on behalf of the Philadelphia Interagency Coordination Council (PICC), will host **Winter Wonderland for Families with Children Birth to 5 Years** on **Saturday, January 24, 2026**, from **10 a.m. to 12p.m.** at Belfield Recreation Center. Each child in attendance will receive a set of mittens or gloves. Families and partners are asked to RSVP by emailing [marlena.smith@phila.gov](mailto:marlena.smith@phila.gov) or Samantha A. Rosthauser (Elwyn ELS) at [samantha.rosthauser@elwyn.org](mailto:samantha.rosthauser@elwyn.org). Mitten and glove donations are also being accepted at IDS; for donation coordination, please email [stephanie.bey@phila.gov](mailto:stephanie.bey@phila.gov). [View the Winter Wonderland flyer](#).

## Coffee & Conversations: An Open Mic Spoken Word Night

Free Library of Philadelphia  
January 27, 2026 | 4:30 p.m.  
Walnut Street West Library, 201 S 40<sup>th</sup> 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. [View Coffee & Conversations](#) on the Free Library Calendar

## Masculinity & Violence Prevention Summit

Office of Domestic Violence Strategies  
January 28 & 29, 2026 | Various Times  
Virtual - Zoom

This free, two-day virtual summit features speakers discussing the role of men and masculine identifying people in preventing domestic and sexual violence. Anyone can attend to strengthen their knowledge and advocacy for a more peaceful world. Hear from advocates in the anti-violence field, faith communities, and learn how to support accountability for harm. [Register for the Masculinity and Violence Prevention Summit](#).

## The Legacy Lab: Laying the Foundations for Black Genealogy

Free Library of Philadelphia  
January 31, 2026 | 1 p.m.  
Kingsessing Library, 1201 S 51<sup>st</sup> St

Join our new Black Genealogy Club and learn to research your heritage! The Legacy Lab initiative celebrates America's 250th anniversary in 2026 by empowering Black community members to research, document, and share their unique family histories. House of Zamani will lead us in developing genealogical research skills over this six-month program series. [Registration is encouraged](#) but not required. [Learn more about The Legacy Lab: Laying the Foundations for Black Genealogy](#).

## Public (FREE) Ice Skating Hours

Parks and Recreation  
Various Dates | Various Times  
Various Locations

Grab your skates! It's time to carve out some cool fun. Admission for **public skating is FREE** during set hours at all five of Parks & Rec's ice rinks. You are encouraged to bring your own skates. You can also rent ice skates for \$3 to \$5 (price varies by rink). Staff sanitize rental skates after each use. [Find out where and when you can skate for free in Philadelphia!](#)

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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.*

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

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](http://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](mailto: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.