



Corporate Philanthropy and Community Impact in New York City

New York City's business community is a civic force as much as an economic engine. Partnership for New York City (Partnership) member companies support organizations and initiatives across the city: from schools and food pantries to cultural institutions and workforce programs. Their civic and philanthropic efforts span a wide range of needs and reflect the many ways businesses contribute to the city beyond jobs, tax revenue, and economic activity.

To better understand that engagement, the Partnership, in collaboration with Oliver Wyman, surveyed its member companies in July 2026.¹ The findings are based on 108 company responses and 10 interviews with business and civic leaders. What follows is a snapshot of its scale, reach, and focus.

Findings²

- **More than \$355 million in annual contributions**
- **More than 489,000 hours of volunteer and skills-based service**
- **More than 2,400 organizations and programs supported**

While these figures are conservative, and come from survey respondents alone, they demonstrate the scale and breadth of the business community's commitment to New York City.

What Members Told Us

For Partnership members, philanthropy and community investment are part of a broader commitment to New York City. Alongside funding, many contribute expertise, leadership, technology, and other resources to strengthen community organizations and address civic challenges. The survey and interviews show that this commitment extends beyond financial support, is concentrated in key areas of community need, remains durable even as local footprints change, and is accompanied by strong interest in exploring opportunities for collective action. Members also emphasized the importance of working through trusted community partners, providing sustained support that allows organizations to grow, and identifying opportunities where business capabilities can complement public and nonprofit efforts.

Members contribute more than financial support.

Nearly all respondents (93%) pair financial contributions with in-kind support, providing employee expertise, executive leadership, facilities, technology, operational know-how, and long-standing civic relationships. Together, these resources can strengthen organizational capacity and extend the impact of financial support.³

Member investments are focused on four areas of community need.

Members support a wide range of causes, but when asked to name their top priorities, they overwhelmingly chose the same four areas:

Education and learning

(78% of respondents reported this as a top three priority)

Focal areas: K-12 education, Higher education, Scholarships

Workforce development

and economic opportunity (74%)

Focal areas: Career pathways and job readiness, Job training and apprenticeships, Entrepreneurship

Housing, homelessness, and basic needs

(66%)

Focal areas: Food security, Homelessness services, Emergency assistance

Arts and culture (65%)

Focal areas: Cultural institutions, Arts programming, Public art and cultural events

The concentration of member support in these areas suggests potential opportunities for collaboration around shared priorities.

Corporate giving often outlasts changes in local footprint.

Many respondents expect their charitable giving in New York City to remain steady or only shift somewhat if their local footprint changes, reflecting a commitment that extends beyond local operations. By contrast, employee engagement activities, such as volunteering, are more closely tied to where employees live and work. Among NYC-headquartered respondents, only 37% expect their giving to decline if their local footprint decreases, compared with 53% of companies headquartered elsewhere.

"Vision is closely linked to academic success—and one in four children in the U.S. needs glasses to see clearly. Through Pupils Project, Warby Parker's school-based vision program, we partner with New York City to bring free vision screenings, eye exams, and glasses directly into public schools. We launched the program here in 2015 and our focus is now on reaching even more students in the city and beyond, so every child has the glasses they need to succeed."

Neil Blumenthal, *Co-Founder & Co-CEO, Warby Parker (Chair, Partnership Fund for New York City)*

97% of members express interest in doing more together.

Respondents expressed broad interest in collective action, with most (83%) indicating that they would like to learn more about opportunities for collaboration, while 19% expressed interest in participating and 14% expressed interest in shaping future initiatives. How and where members engage will likely depend on alignment with existing priorities: 70% cite business strategy and 54% cite employee interests as important

factors shaping contribution decisions. When asked where collaboration may be most valuable, respondents most frequently identified workforce development and economic opportunity, education and learning, community development and revitalization, and housing, homelessness, and basic needs.

“Food insecurity is a universally understood challenge, but solving it at scale requires collaboration across business, government, nonprofits, and community organizations.”

Sophie Rifkin, Senior Director, Impact Partnerships, Chobani

In addition to issue-based collaboration, interviews with business and civic leaders highlighted opportunities for business leaders to strengthen nonprofit capacity and help advance solutions to emerging civic challenges.

“Our greatest impact came from spotting a gap early, convening philanthropic funders and public sector partners to elevate the issue, doing the work, and ultimately, seeing the city adopt the issue as a priority.”

Alessandra DiGiusto, Head of CSR Americas and Executive Director, Deutsche Bank Americas Foundation

Looking Ahead: Exploring Collective Action

The findings point to real momentum for collective action. Members are already investing in many of the same areas of community need, and nearly all respondents expressed strong interest in exploring opportunities to do more together. The next phase of this work will explore where member priorities, community needs, and business capabilities most closely align and where working together could have the greatest impact.

“Arts and cultural organizations need more than funding to succeed in an increasingly competitive environment. They need an infusion of expertise in long-term strategy, operations, and technology.”

Torrence Boone, Vice President – Global Client Partnerships, Google

Collaboration could take many forms. Some opportunities may be organized around shared community needs, while others may draw on business expertise to help nonprofit and community organizations build capacity and expand their reach.

Opportunities for Further Exploration:

- **Workforce Readiness and Economic Mobility:** Opportunities to expand pathways into good jobs through training, mentoring, and workplace experiences that help New Yorkers build skills that are recognized across employers.
- **Nonprofit Leadership and Governance:** Opportunities to connect business leaders, corporate networks, and professional expertise with nonprofit organizations seeking governance and leadership support.
- **Food Security and Basic Needs:** Opportunities to improve coordination among businesses, community organizations, and trusted service providers working to address food insecurity and related challenges.
- **Emergency Preparedness and Community Resilience:** Opportunities to better coordinate business resources, expertise, and logistics in advance of future emergencies.

Respondents identified several ingredients for successful collaboration: clear objectives, strong data on needs and impact, flexible opportunities for engagement, and the ability to work with peers. Civic leaders also emphasized the importance of understanding local priorities, identifying trusted partners, and creating clear opportunities for the private sector to contribute. Building on these findings, the Partnership will work with interested members to identify where collective action could create the greatest value for New York City.

Endnotes

- 1 Oliver Wyman, a Marsh company, is a member of the Partnership for New York City
- 2 Survey respondents reported annual monetary giving and volunteer hours using ranges. Where companies provided actual contribution figures through follow-up outreach, those amounts were used; all other responses were estimated using the median of the selected range. Because the highest giving (\$5 million+) and volunteer-hour (50,000+) categories had no upper bound, reported totals likely understate actual contributions.
- 3 "Beyond-the-Grant Support," Center for Effective Philanthropy, November 20, 2025.