

**OFFICE OF PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND NEIGHBORHOOD AFFAIRS
FISCAL YEAR 2027 BUDGET TESTIMONY**

INTRODUCTION

Good morning, Council President Johnson and Members of City Council. I am Anton Moore, Executive Director. I am pleased to provide testimony on the Office of Public Engagement and Neighborhood Affairs' Fiscal Year 2027 Operating Budget.

DEPARTMENT MISSION & PLANS

Mission: The mission of the Office of Public Engagement and Neighborhood Affairs (OPENA) is to operationalize the Mayor's vision of a City government that people can see, touch, and feel. OPENA brings vital government services directly into neighborhoods, with a deliberate focus on residents most impacted by barriers to access. Through Neighborhood Community Action Centers, community meetings, and strategic initiatives serving diverse constituency groups, OPENA resolves neighborhood challenges, listens to residents' concerns, and connects people to essential services. The Office empowers communities through proactive outreach — both Citywide and within underserved neighborhoods and constituencies — by making government more accessible, responsive, and accountable to the people it serves.

Plans for Fiscal Year 2027:

The Office of Public Engagement and Neighborhood Affairs (OPENA) will continue its essential work to bring vital government services directly to Philadelphia's neighborhoods in Fiscal Year 2027. To support this work, starting in FY27, the Office of Constituency Engagement, which supports focused engagement with youth, women, Black men, Latino communities, faith-based and Muslim communities, and students and leaders connected to Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), will transition from the Mayor's Office to the OPENA. This transition will bring the engagement offices under one umbrella and streamline efforts to provide effective services on behalf of the people of Philadelphia. Over the life of the FY27-31 Plan, the Constituency Engagement program will strategically shift from primarily event-based outreach to outcome-driven projects that produce measurable impacts. The program will prioritize sustained engagement with neighborhoods and residents in high-poverty areas across Philadelphia, aligning programming with Mayor Parker's economic mobility and workforce development priorities.

Over the next five years, the OPENA's Neighborhood and Community Action Center (NCAC) program will operate at least 10 Neighborhood Community Action Centers, also known as Neighborhood City Halls, to deliver a new level of government directly to Philadelphia's residents — a government that people can see, touch, and feel. These centers will serve as accessible, neighborhood-based hubs where residents can seek assistance with any residential issue. NCAC will assign clear deadlines for resolution, provide consistent follow-up, and maintain a resolution rate of at least 75 percent at any given time. The program will prioritize expanded outreach and services for the city's most vulnerable populations, ensuring fair access to City resources. NCAC will continue to host at least one community meeting every five weeks in each district, bringing City departments directly into neighborhoods to hear resident concerns and identify solutions. In addition, NCAC will convene monthly Neighborhood Advisory Board meetings, where each district holds a volunteer advisory board that meets

OFFICE OF PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND NEIGHBORHOOD AFFAIRS

monthly to help Action Centers identify and prioritize community challenges and to request speakers and topics for upcoming community meetings.

We take a highly collaborative approach to working with members of City Council, including both District Council Members and At-Large Members. Our Action Center staff holds monthly meetings with each District Council Member's staff to ensure consistent communication and alignment. Through these meetings, we keep Council informed about our operations and ensure that our community meetings remain responsive to the priorities and concerns raised by Council.

In addition, all Council Members are encouraged to bring forward constituent issues where they would like our support. For each case, we assign a clear deadline and maintain ongoing follow-up until the issue is fully resolved.

OFFICE OF PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND NEIGHBORHOOD AFFAIRS

PROPOSED BUDGET OVERVIEW & OTHER BUDGET DRIVERS

General Fund Financial Summary by Class				
	FY26 Original Appropriations	FY26 Estimated Obligations	FY27 Proposed Appropriations	Difference: FY27 Proposed-FY26 Estimated
Class 100 - Employee Compensation	\$2,585,304	\$2,607,269	\$3,454,081	\$846,812
Class 200 - Purchase of Services	\$624,300	\$624,300	\$913,339	\$289,039
Class 300/400 - Materials, Supplies & Equipment	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$112,000	\$12,000
	\$3,309,604	\$3,331,569	\$4,479,420	\$1,147,851

**OPENA was created in FY26 and prior fiscal year data is not applicable.*

Contracts Summary (Professional Services only)			
	FY26	FY26 YTD (Q1 & Q2)	FY27 Projected
Total amount of contracts	\$400,000	\$99,972	\$660,539
Total amount to S/LBE	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total amount to M/W/DSBE	\$400,000	\$99,972	
S/LBE* Participation Rate	N/A	N/A	N/A
M/W/DSBE Participation Rate	100%	100%	

**OPENA was created in FY26 and prior fiscal year data is not applicable. FY26 spending through Q2 was delayed due to the finalization of an RFP process. S/LBE not yet available as the City works to build the S/LBE registry and begin setting small and local business participation goals.*

Total S/LBE Contract Participation Goal (Public Works; Services, Supplies & Equipment; and Professional Services combined)			
	FY25	FY26	FY27 Projected
S/LBE Contract Participation Goal	N/A	N/A	N/A

**S/LBE not yet available as the City works to build the S/LBE registry and begin setting small and local business participation goals.*

OFFICE OF PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND NEIGHBORHOOD AFFAIRS

Proposed Funding Request:

The proposed Fiscal Year 2027 General Fund budget totals \$4,479,420, an increase of \$1,147,851 over Fiscal Year 2026 estimated obligation levels. This increase is primarily due to the transition of the Office of Constituency Engagement from the Mayor's Office to the Office of Public Engagement and Neighborhood Affairs (previously Neighborhood Community Action Centers). This transition will bring all of the engagement offices under one umbrella, streamlining efforts and enabling effective services on behalf of the people of Philadelphia.

The proposed budget includes:

- \$3,454,081 in Class 100, an \$846,812 increase over FY26 estimated obligations. This increase is primarily due to the transition of the Office of Constituency Engagement from the Mayor's Office to the Office of Public Engagement and Neighborhood Affairs. This funding will support staffing at the Neighborhood Community Action Centers and for the Constituency Engagement offices as they prioritize sustained engagement with Philadelphia residents.
- \$913,339 in Class 200, a \$289,039 increase from FY26 estimated obligations. This increase is primarily due to the transition of the Office of Constituency Engagement from the Mayor's Office to the Office of Public Engagement and Neighborhood Affairs. This funding will support OPENA's professional services, especially related to public outreach.
- \$112,000 in Class 300/400, an increase of \$12,000 over FY26 estimated obligations. This increase is primarily due to the transition of the Office of Constituency Engagement from the Mayor's Office to the Office of Public Engagement and Neighborhood Affairs. This funding will supply OPENA with the materials, supplies, and equipment needed for daily operations.

OFFICE OF PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND NEIGHBORHOOD AFFAIRS

STAFFING LEVELS

The department is requesting 46 budgeted positions for FY27, an increase of eight positions over FY26. This increase is attributed to the transition of the Office of Constituency Engagement from the Mayor’s Office to the Office of Public Engagement and Neighborhood Affairs.

Employment Levels (as of November 2025)			
	FY26 Budgeted	Filled as of November 2025	FY27 Proposed
Number of Full-Time Positions	38	28	46
Number of Exempt Positions	38	28	46
Number of Executive Positions (deputy level and above)		1	
Average Salary of All Full-Time Positions		\$70,376	
Median Salary of All Full-Time Positions		\$59,270	

NEW HIRES

New Hires (from 7/1/2025 to November 2025)	
	Total Number of New Hires
Black or African American	4
Total	4

OPENA had one hire between November 2025 and April 2026.

VACANCY RATE AND ALLOWANCE

Vacancy Rate Summary (General Fund)						
	FY25 Actual Vacancy Rate	FY26 Budgeted Vacancy Allowance	FY26 Vacancy Rate	FY26 Budgeted Vacancy Allowance Rate	FY27 Budgeted Vacancy Allowance	FY27 Budgeted Vacancy Allowance Rate
Departmental Total	N/A	(\$72,600)	26.3%	2.8%	(\$63,245)	2.8%

**OPENA was created in FY26 and prior fiscal year data is not applicable.*

OTHER BUDGETARY IMPACTS

Federal and State (Where Applicable)

N/A

OFFICE OF PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND NEIGHBORHOOD AFFAIRS

CONTRACTING EXPERIENCE

M/W/DSBE Participation on Large Professional Services Contracts											
Top Five Largest Contracts, FY26											
Vendor Name	Service Provided	Dollar Amount of Contract	RFP Issue Date	Contract Start Date	Ranges in RFP	% of M/W/DSBE and SBE Participation Achieved	\$ Value of M/W/DSBE and SBE Participation	Total % Participation - All DSBES	Total \$ Value Participation - All DSBES	Local Business	Waiver for Living Wage Compliance?
The Elevation Project	Canvassing	\$400,000	12/30/2025	2/10/2026	MBE: BGFE	100%	\$400,000	100%	\$400,000	Yes	No
					WBE: BGFE	0%	\$0				
					DSBE: BGFE	0%	\$0				
					S/LBE: BGFE	0%	\$0				

**Non-Profit vendor information is not applicable.*

OFFICE OF PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND NEIGHBORHOOD AFFAIRS

PROGRAM BASED BUDGETING:

Program Name: Neighborhood Community Action Centers

Program Number: 01

FY27 Proposed General Fund: \$3,338,891

Program Description: The Neighborhood and Community Action Center program (NCAC) aims to create a government that people can see, touch, and feel by bringing City services directly into Philadelphia’s neighborhoods through Neighborhood Community Action Centers and community meetings — making the city safer, cleaner, and greener, and expanding access to economic opportunity for all.

NCACs serve as neighborhood city halls in each District, helping residents with City-related issues. NCAC staff document each complaint or inquiry they receive, providing a snapshot of the issues most frequently experienced across neighborhoods. Constituents visit NCACs to:

- File a complaint about issues like graffiti, potholes, or abandoned cars;
- Find resources and support for their business;
- Resolve a problem with a City agency; and,
- Get connected with benefits.

FY27 Strategic Goals:

- NCAC will replace the 1st and 9th District Neighborhood Community Action Center locations with sites that are more accessible to the public.
- NCAC will increase the number of complaints serviced through NCACs by 20 percent in FY27, from 200 to 240 weekly, through increased visibility, outreach, and in-person engagement.
- NCAC will strengthen communications and its on-the-ground presence by expanding social media capacity, highlighting before-and-after photos of issues reported and completed, and increasing the number of neighborhood walks, which are block-by-block canvassing efforts throughout a District to identify community issues, connect residents to services, and resolve neighborhood concerns.

OFFICE OF PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND NEIGHBORHOOD AFFAIRS

FY27 Performance Measures:

Measure	FY25 Actual	FY26 Target	FY27 Target
Percentage of reported constituent issues resolved via assistance at an NCAC	85%	≥ 75%	≥ 75%
Community engagement meetings and events	232	230	230

OFFICE OF PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND NEIGHBORHOOD AFFAIRS

PROGRAM BASED BUDGETING:

Program Name: Constituency Engagement

Program Number: 02

FY27 Proposed General Fund: \$1,140,529

Program Description: The Constituency Engagement program advances the Mayor’s vision of a City government that people can see, touch, and feel by designing and delivering targeted initiatives that expand access, opportunity, and participation for under-resourced communities across Philadelphia. Through focused engagement with Black men, women, Latino communities, faith-based and Muslim communities, and students and leaders connected to Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), the program connects residents to government, resources, and pathways to economic mobility.

Constituency Engagement initiatives are aligned with the Mayor’s commitment to a safer, cleaner, greener city with access to economic opportunity for all. The program prioritizes expanding access to government for the most vulnerable residents while creating pathways to employment, education, workforce development, and neighborhood revitalization. Through partnerships with City agencies, community-based organizations, educational institutions, and employers, Constituency Engagement supports efforts to strengthen communities, connect residents to services, and improve quality of life at the neighborhood level.

The program also convenes constituency engagement meetings that bring together all Constituency Engagement offices to surface resident concerns, gather feedback, inform mayoral briefings, and develop implementation plans that are responsive to community needs. Through these efforts, Constituency Engagement ensures that residents are not only heard, but that their input translates into coordinated action, measurable outcomes, and long-term opportunity.

FY27 Strategic Goals:

- **Office of Latino Engagement:** The Office will work to increase engagement with the Latino community by strengthening culturally responsive outreach, connecting residents to City programs and resources.
- **Mayor’s Office of Youth Engagement & Philadelphia Youth Commission:** The Commission will work to empower young people in the spaces of economic opportunities, career development, entrepreneurship, and employment.
- **Office of Black Male Engagement (OBME):** OBME will work to change the narrative for Black men and boys in the city of Philadelphia by allowing them to share their experiences, feedback, and expertise through engagement opportunities, mentorship, and relationship-building.
- **Office of Muslim Engagement:** The Office will work to increase community engagement by strengthening advocacy efforts that elevate Muslim voices and advance policies responsive to the community’s needs. This includes building inclusive participation pathways to help residents connect with City agencies and community-based organizations.

OFFICE OF PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND NEIGHBORHOOD AFFAIRS

- **Mayor's Office of Women Engagement:** The Office will work to help organize women from across the city to collaborate and promote community-driven initiatives that will address their concerns and create a platform for women to share their unique experiences.
- **Faith-Based and Interfaith Affairs:** Faith-Based and Interfaith Affairs will focus on creating dialogue and understanding among diverse communities and promoting collaborative efforts amongst different agencies.

FY27 Performance Measures: *The Constituency Engagement Program will work with the Budget Office to develop performance measures for this program in FY27.*