This September, the NYC Civic Engagement Commission (CEC) will be launching The People’s Money – NYC’s first-ever citywide participatory budgeting process! All New Yorkers age 11 and up, regardless of citizenship or incarceration status, will be able to decide how to spend $5 million in expense projects.

What is Participatory Budgeting?
Participatory budgeting (PB) is a democratic process in which community members decide how to spend part of a public budget. PB originated in Porto Alegre, Brazil in 1989 as an anti-poverty intervention. Since then, it’s been implemented in over 10,000 municipalities across the world to help residents directly decide budgets for states, counties, cities, housing authorities, schools, and other institutions.

The History of PB in NYC and the CEC
PB was brought to NYC in 2010 by four City Council Members – Brad Lander, Melissa Mark-Viverito, Jumaane Williams, and Eric Ulrich. Since then, over 33 City Council districts have invited their residents to decide how to spend public funds in a process called PBNYC.

In November 2018, close to one million New Yorkers voted in a citywide referendum proposed by the 2018 Charter Revision Commission for a ballot initiative creating the CEC and mandating it to implement a citywide participatory budgeting program. This mandate can be found in Chapter 76 of the NYC Charter.

Phases of the Citywide Participatory Budgeting Process

Phase 1: Idea Generation [September 19, 2022 - November 9, 2022]
- Conversations will be held across the city to learn about the city budget cycle, identify community needs, and brainstorm ideas for expense projects. You can view events as they are scheduled on our website. Residents can also propose ideas online at our website: participate.nyc.gov

Phase 2: Project Vetting and Development [November 10, 2022 - April, 2023]
- Ideas will be measured against criteria and selected ones will be placed onto ballots.

Phase 3: Voting [May 2023 - June 2023]
- Residents (age 11 or older regardless of immigration or incarceration status) vote online, by paper ballot, or by phone. Winning projects are announced and funded.

Phase 4: Project Implementation [July 2023 - June 2024]
- Winning projects are funded and implemented

Stay Connected with The People’s Money
- Create an account on participate.nyc.gov to receive updates
- Follow @NYCEC on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram