Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg appointed Jeanne B. Mullgrav as Commissioner of the New York City Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) in April 2002. As New York City’s lead agency for administering youth and community programs, DYCD invests public funds in experienced community-based organizations that provide after-school programs, train young people for jobs, help immigrants achieve citizenship, and enhance individuals’ literacy skills, among other goals.

Since becoming Commissioner of DYCD, Ms. Mullgrav has steered the organization through a period of significant growth and capacity building, initiating several innovative programs. Under her leadership, DYCD launched the nation’s largest Out-of-School Time Program, providing social, emotional, and academic enrichment to 60,000 youth after school, on weekends, during vacations and in the summertime. In conjunction with the Mayor’s Center for Economic Opportunity (CEO), she also implemented Teen ACTION (Achieving Change Together in our Neighborhoods), a service learning program that encourages civic engagement among young people living in low-income communities.

On the youth employment front and in collaboration with CEO, Commissioner Mullgrav created the Young Adult Internship Program, which gives disconnected youth the opportunity to gain employment experience and reconnect with educational and vocational opportunities. She enhanced the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) by enriching the work experience with a series of educational training and leadership sessions. In 2006, DYCD introduced a redesigned system for Runaway and Homeless Youth Services, which features a Drop-In Center in every borough, a continuum of care with short and longer-term residential options, and specialized services for Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual, Transgender and Questioning (LGBTQ) youth, pregnant and parenting youth, and sexually-exploited youth.

In the fall of 2007, the agency launched Ladders for Leaders, a collaborative effort with the Commission on Women’s Issues to offer teens private sector experiences and a curriculum of employment preparation and workshops. Through the Beacon Community Centers’ middle school initiative, Ms. Mullgrav has led an effort to engage youth during a crucial moment in their development. The adolescent literacy program she pioneered supplements classroom reading with innovative literacy activities in the afterschool setting. Ms. Mullgrav also shaped the DYCD Fatherhood Initiative, which encourages increased father-child engagement by offering non-custodial fathers conflict mediation, parent-child reunification, and educational and employment support. Finally, in 2009 DYCD launched the Cornerstone Initiative, offering year-round services for youth and adults in 25 New York City Housing Authority Community Centers.
In overseeing more than 2,500 human service contracts, Ms. Mullgrav emphasizes the values of transparency, accountability, and technical assistance. Data collection and formal evaluations have become integral elements in driving program quality. To support DYCD-funded providers to achieve this quality, Ms. Mullgrav established DYCD’s Capacity Building unit to ensure that community-based organizations receive the technical assistance they need to produce their desired outcomes.