

# RESILIENCE AND RECOVERY





# A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

Progress is rarely a straight path forward, especially during a global pandemic. The rapid rollout of highly effective vaccines to protect against the worst effects of COVID-19 is progress worthy of celebration. However, as we continue the fight against COVID-19, the parallel pandemics of racism, mental illness, drug overdose, and food insecurity threaten our wellbeing and demand renewed attention.

Our nearly 20-year partnership with the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene has never been more vital. As FPHNYC turns to 2022, we build on years of progress partnering with and serving the public to innovate and scale public health solutions that meet the needs of New Yorkers.

FPHNYC's Board Chair and NYC Health Commissioner, Dr. Dave A. Chokshi, has repeatedly stressed that **New York's recovery from COVID-19 will only be possible if ALL New Yorkers have an equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from our response to the pandemic.**

*cont.*



## Mobilize

We mobilize the philanthropic community and facilitate partnerships between the public and private sectors to develop, test, and launch new projects.



## Innovate

We incubate innovative public health programs in partnership with the NYC Health Department to advance health across the city.



## Collaborate

We collaborate with our partners to expand pilot projects, support agile implementation, and report on success.

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To this end, we are facilitating partnerships for the Health Department with dozens of community and faith-based organizations in all five boroughs to enhance vaccine confidence and broaden access in historically underserved and marginalized neighborhoods.

While these efforts initially focused on increasing COVID-19 vaccinations, we will leverage this network of community organizations to address what Dr. Chokshi terms "slower-moving health disasters," such as diabetes, mental illness, and many other chronic conditions. The health of nearly 9 million New Yorkers is everyone's business, and it is dependent on the strategic collaboration of the public and private sectors.

Thanks to our philanthropic partners, in our 2021 fiscal year, FPHNYC secured funding for more than two dozen projects to protect and improve the health and wellbeing of all New Yorkers. The work of public health cannot function without public trust and cooperation. We are grateful and proud to have yours as we meet the challenges of the moment and work to ensure a safer and healthier life is in every New Yorker's future.



Most sincerely,

Sara Gardner, Executive Director

100+

active programs

8.8 M

New Yorkers served

\$51 M

in donations received  
from private and  
public philanthropy

# COVID-19 RESPONSE AND RECOVERY

## MAKING VACCINE EQUITY A PRIORITY

Widespread vaccination against COVID-19 is New York's path to recovery, and FPHNYC is at the forefront of helping the City of New York provide fair and equitable access to vaccines. FPHNYC brought together federal and private funding and partnered with the Health Department to identify 33 community and faith-based organizations and launch the Vaccine Equity Partner Engagement Project. These partner organizations are serving as trusted messengers about the importance of getting vaccinated in 20 neighborhoods historically underserved due to structural racism and hit hardest by COVID-19.

Partner organizations such as Word of Life International Church in the Bronx have become important conduits for disseminating factual information about COVID-19 vaccines to their communities.

Similarly, in Queens Village, Epicenter-NYC has found that frequent pop-up events in the neighborhood provide opportunities to build trust and strengthen vaccine confidence: **"Some hand-holding/coaxing/just listening goes a long way...those who got vaccinated went home and told their family members, friends and all."**

*"We are fortunate to have so many excellent community organizations that stand ready to meet this moment, and we are further encouraged to be part of a coalition of donors, each doing what they can to help get the pandemic behind us."*

**Tracy Perrizo, New York City Program Officer, Helmsley Charitable Trust**

**The New York Times**

**Oct. 9, 2021**

### ***'A Safe Space': Black Pastors Promote Vaccinations from the Pulpit***

More than 80 percent of adults in New York City have received at least one dose of the coronavirus vaccine, but there are significant racial disparities in the vaccination rate.



Rev. John S. Udo-Onon, pastor of Word of Life International Church in the Bronx, greeted people waiting in a food pantry line and told them to get vaccinated. Thalia Juarez for The New York Times

*New York Times coverage of Word of Life International Church's vaccine outreach*

# COVID-19 RESPONSE AND RECOVERY

## A PUBLIC HEALTH CORPS FOR THE FUTURE



*"In New York City, community health workers have been essential to our COVID-19 response. The vision of the Public Health Corps is rooted in this model, taking advantage of our once-in-a-generation opportunity to reimagine public health and redress inequities."*

**Dr. Dave A. Chokshi, Health Commissioner and FPHNYC Board Chair**

A core part of our approach to confronting COVID-19 disparities includes building capacity at community-based organizations to train and engage more community health workers (CHW). CHWs are frontline public health workers with deep relationships in many underserved communities.

These include neighborhoods with low vaccination rates, New York City Housing Authority properties, and Department of Homeless Services shelters. **CHWs not only focus on increasing local confidence in COVID-19 vaccinations and promoting prevention strategies, but they also work with communities to address long-standing social and health disparities that the pandemic has exacerbated.**

By partnering with community-based organizations and the Health Department to train and deploy more CHWs, FPHNYC is helping to advance COVID-19 recovery, build community resilience, and increase the preparedness of New Yorkers to meet present and future public health challenges.



# A COMMITMENT TO BIRTH EQUITY

FPHNYC and the City of New York are committed to providing all pregnant individuals and all children with the support they need to thrive. In partnership with the Health Department, we are piloting solutions to address inequities and adapting existing programs to assist pregnant New Yorkers and thier babies in NYC's most vulnerable communities.



Central to these efforts is enhancing the capacity of New York's Maternity Hospital Quality Improvement Network. The City created the Network in 2019 after the Health Department released a report exploring why Black women in NYC are eight times more likely than white women to die of pregnancy-related causes.

The Network's vision is that all expectant individuals receive high-quality, respectful, and equitable care throughout their pregnancy, childbirth, and postnatal period. FPHNYC is working with the Health Department and community partners to improve the quality of care in clinical settings and neighborhoods with high rates of "severe maternal morbidity," a life-threatening event during pregnancy or within one year after childbirth.



# RESPONDING TO THE OVERDOSE EPIDEMIC

The overdose epidemic is a complex public health challenge, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and increasingly fueled by the powerful synthetic opioid fentanyl.

In response to this crisis, FPHNYC is helping the City increase its capacity to distribute lifesaving naloxone kits and fentanyl test strips to reduce overdoses. Through our partnerships with community organizations and the Health Department, people with substance use disorder are connected to care and resources by a corps of peers trained as wellness advocates.

NYC's homeless population is especially at risk for substance use and overdose death. With funding from the New York Community Trust, FPHNYC is partnering with the Health Department to provide training, technical assistance, and other support to build the capacity of community organizations providing buprenorphine ("bupe") to homeless persons in need of immediate treatment. Bupe is an effective treatment for opioid dependence, and FPHNYC is involved with a peer-to-peer outreach program among emergency room physicians who offer bupe to their patients.





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\*Ex-officio

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Your investment helps us improve the health of all New Yorkers and  
create a city where everyone can thrive.

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