



Fund for
Public Health NYC

HEALTHY *Partnerships*

Health is everybody's business.

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



Sara W. Gardner, MPH
April 2025

Dear friends,

No person is an island, especially when it comes to public health. With a central aim to promote and protect the health of people and communities, public health relies on partnerships that bring together the public and private sectors to respond to challenges.

The Fund for Public Health NYC (FPHNYC) is the dedicated nonprofit partner of the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (the Health Department). We bolster the reach and impact of the Health Department's work by facilitating new and expanded partnerships that leverage the strengths of the private sector, government, and civil society.

Over the last two decades, FPHNYC has built strong partnerships with funders, including foundations and corporations, who recognize our expertise in launching and managing public health initiatives. Private funding helps the Health Department respond quickly and nimbly, often making it possible for public dollars to go further and have a greater impact.

Partnering with community-based organizations (CBOs) is essential for public health initiatives to succeed. A key feature of FPHNYC's work on behalf of the Health Department is identifying and contracting with hundreds of qualified CBOs to implement vital public health programs.

Our model of cross-sector partnerships is more critical than ever during this time of seismic change in the public health landscape. FPHNYC is currently managing more than 100 projects in partnership with the Health Department and CBOs. We continue to focus on reducing health inequities and protecting, improving, and extending the average lifespan of all New Yorkers, which is the primary goal of the City's HealthyNYC campaign.

To all our partners – organizations and individuals – thank you for recognizing that New York City is stronger and healthier when we work together. Through partnerships comes progress.

Sincerely,



Sara Gardner
Chief Executive Officer



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Michelle Morse, MD, MPH

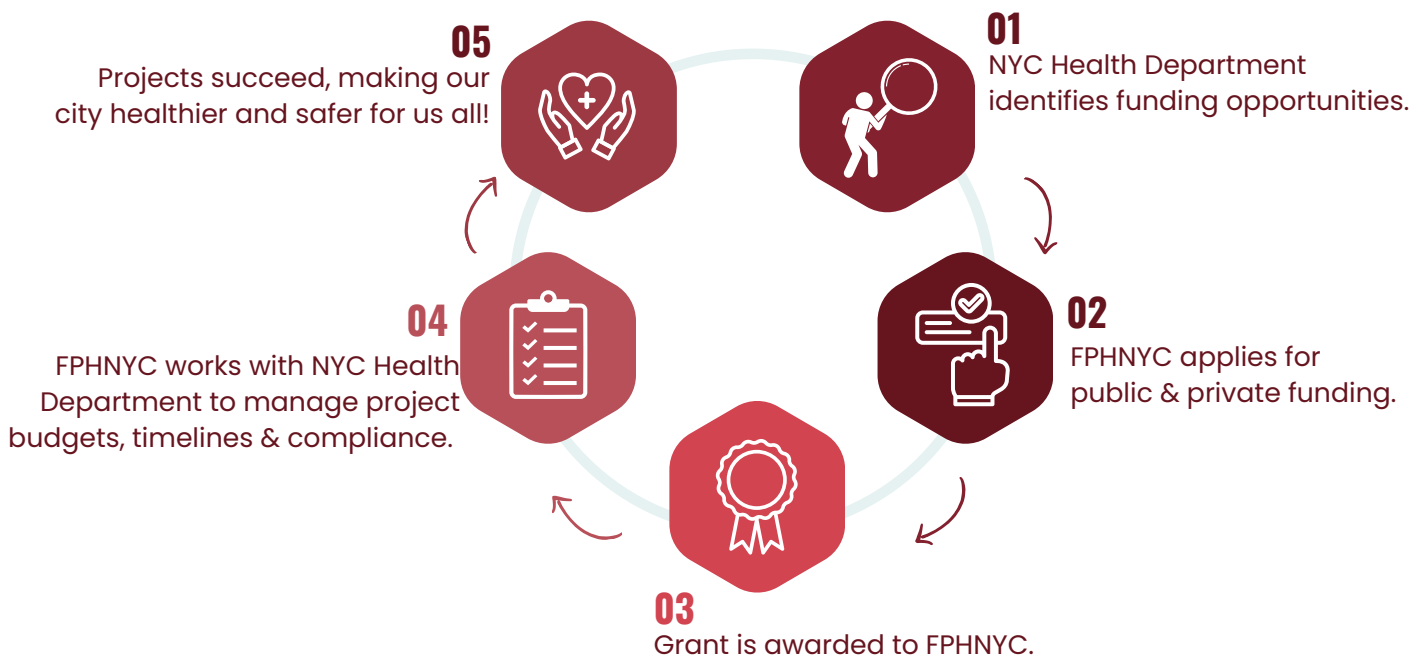
*Acting Commissioner, New York City
Department of Health and Mental Hygiene*

The work of the NYC Health Department creates an invisible shield that keeps New Yorkers safe. The Department has been working to keep New Yorkers safe from public health crises since our founding 220 years ago, but we know that public health works best as prevention. Accomplishing this requires not just the efforts and resources of government but also those of civil society, the private sector, and philanthropy – especially now when we face uncertain federal funding for public health and possible changes in federal public health guidance.

The NYC Health Department is fortunate to have the Fund for Public Health NYC as its dedicated partner. FPHNYC successfully fosters and manages partnerships aligned around a clear goal: making New York City a place where every person can thrive regardless of who they are, where they are from, and where they live. Our joint commitment to health equity in all we do drives this work forward. Working together we accomplish more!

PHILANTHROPY & FUNDING

FPHNYC is the only organization dedicated solely to mobilizing public and private sector resources to support the work of the New York City Health Department. Our Development Department works with foundations, corporations, and generous individuals on initiatives to reduce health inequities and achieve better health outcomes for everyone. We also assist the Health Department in securing and administering federal and state grants for new and/or additional funding to scale effective public health programs.



Our development team works closely with the Health Department to prepare grant applications, provide expert guidance on tailoring proposals to meet funding opportunities, and help ensure that project and budget narratives are clear, compelling, and well-structured. FPHNYC applies for funding on behalf of the Health Department and manages grants from pre-award to close-out, providing the fiscal and administrative oversight and compliance monitoring that funders require.

Funders appreciate FPHNYC's longstanding partnership with the Health Department. The New York Health Foundation has awarded several grants to FPHNYC on behalf of the Health Department over the past decade. Much of this funding has been for programs supporting the health and wellness of residents of East Harlem. In response to the high rates of chronic disease in East Harlem, the Health Department has designed and implemented programs to improve residents' access to fresh foods and opportunities for exercise and recreation.

One such program, the **East Harlem Food Voucher Program**, has **helped more than 500 people** who identified as food insecure. After receiving food vouchers, these individuals reported notable improvement in food security, reduced financial stress, and overall self-reported better health. In 2024, the New York Health Foundation awarded FPHNYC funding to assess the impact of a longer program duration on food security, economic stability, diet quality, and mental and physical health in the households of Spanish speakers not born in the U.S. Additionally, the grant is making possible an assessment of best practices from three of the City's nutrition benefit programs.

"The New York Health Foundation is committed to improving the health of all New Yorkers, including fighting food insecurity. Access to nutritious food improves individual health and helps reduce neighborhood-level health disparities. The Fund for Public Health NYC and the NYC Health Department continue to be our partners in connecting New Yorkers with the food they need to thrive."

*-David Sandman, President and CEO,
New York Health Foundation*



RESULT



Reduction in
financial stress



Improvement in
food security



Overall better
health

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT & SUPPORT

As a strategic partner of the Health Department, FPHNYC provides essential administrative, fiscal, and project management support to implement a wide range of innovative public health programs quickly and effectively. **We have over 20 years of experience** assembling teams, developing detailed project plans, and providing administrative support to ensure successful outcomes on the ground.

Our Strategy and Implementation Team manages federal, state, city, and private grant funding from pre-award to close-out, ensuring compliance and successful project implementation. We manage the entire subcontract lifecycle, including issuing requests for proposals, identifying subcontractors, securing agency approval, performing vendor integrity checks, and risk assessments. **Since 2015, FPHNYC has managed over 1,000 subcontracts for the Health Department.**



Administration & Fiscal Support

FPHNYC's Finance Department provides financial oversight for an annual grant portfolio exceeding \$100 million, tracking programs by funding source, expense type, and service provider to ensure fiscal compliance.



Progress Tracking & Reporting

An example of a complex program managed in part by FPHNYC is the School Mental Health Expansion Project. In 2023, more than 40% of NYC schools had no identified mental health or supportive services onsite. However, with a change in New York State Medicaid policies, the Health Department's Office of School Health saw an opportunity to maximize government reimbursement for clinic services.



Project Management

To open new school-based clinics and advance the process of getting them licensed and approved for Medicaid reimbursement, **FPHNYC sought and received funding from the Robin Hood foundation and the Carmel Hill Fund.**



Grant & Contract Administration

These funders' support allowed FPHNYC to request proposals from community-based organizations (CBOs) to operate the new clinics. The funding also supports program evaluation and ongoing technical assistance to mental health providers.



Financial Oversight



Risk & Compliance Monitoring



Subcontract Management

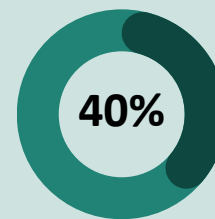


Four CBOs are now opening mental health clinics in schools chosen by the Office of School Health and the Department of Education. In turn, **5,000 students in grades K-12** will soon have new access to mental health services and support.

“Every child deserves direct access to mental health services in their community. We are proud to partner with FPHNYC and the NYC Health Department to expand access to mental health services to thousands of kids attending schools that would otherwise lack the necessary resources to offer these services. This innovative model emphasizes collaboration through shared staffing, and leverages technology to ensure kids can thrive. We believe the model could be adopted on a broader scale across the city, state, and beyond.”

-Adena Hernandez, Director, Health and Mental Health, Robin Hood, and Hazel Guzman, Program Officer, Adolescent Mental Health, Carmel Hill Fund

PROBLEM



In 2023, **over 40%** of NYC schools lacked on-site mental health services, impacting **100,000+ students**.

SOLUTION

FPHNYC secured funding through a proactive grants from **Robin Hood and the Carmel Hill Fund** for the School Mental Health Expansion Project.

IMPACT

The expansion is projected to serve **5,000+ students (K-12)** across **10- 12 schools**.



5,000+ students

PARTNERING WITH COMMUNITY- BASED ORGANIZATIONS



*CHWs from Neighborhood Housing Services of Brooklyn in Prospect Park.
(photo: S. Thompson/DOHMH)*

In concert with the Health Department, FPHNYC works with hundreds of community-based organizations (CBOs) to advance public health goals by leveraging the trust CBOs have earned through their on-the-ground presence. FPHNYC's experience managing grants and subcontracts allows us to facilitate multi-partner collaborations with CBOs, helping enhance the Health Department's ability to implement public health initiatives effectively and at scale.

To help CBOs enhance their capacity to implement public health initiatives, FPHNYC provides technical assistance for project and financial management. We facilitate clear communication with CBOs through regular check-ins and document progress to ensure the collection of valuable data

and performance metrics for the Health Department and our funding partners. FPHNYC and the Health Department also use program analysis to identify key learnings, which we disseminate to help CBOs adopt best practices. Our work with CBOs also channels funding to communities and supports local workforce development.

An example of a multi-partner collaboration between the Health Department, CBOs, FPHNYC, and philanthropy is the Community Support Network (CSN). Part of the HealthyNYC Campaign, the CSN is a pre-crisis healthcare referral campaign connecting New Yorkers to physical and mental health resources via CBOs. **FPHNYC secured funding from The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust to take CSN engagement beyond brick-and-mortar settings outside into communities and reach more people.** To do this, we contracted with three CBOs with mental health and housing services expertise: BronxWorks, NHS Brooklyn, and VIP Community Services.

Community health workers (CHWs) from the three organizations received training to initiate guided, compassionate conversations with people. They then went out to 'meet people where they are' -- at major transportation lines, shopping and commercial districts, learning centers, houses of worship, senior centers, parks, and housing developments in Brooklyn and the Bronx.



The most frequent topics people spoke to the CHWs about were psychosocial and emotional issues, concerns about substance use, physical health, housing, career, education, and access to healthy and affordable food. Between August 2023 and July 2024, the CHWs made 6,981 referrals to health and social services (individuals, on average, received more than one service referral at a time).

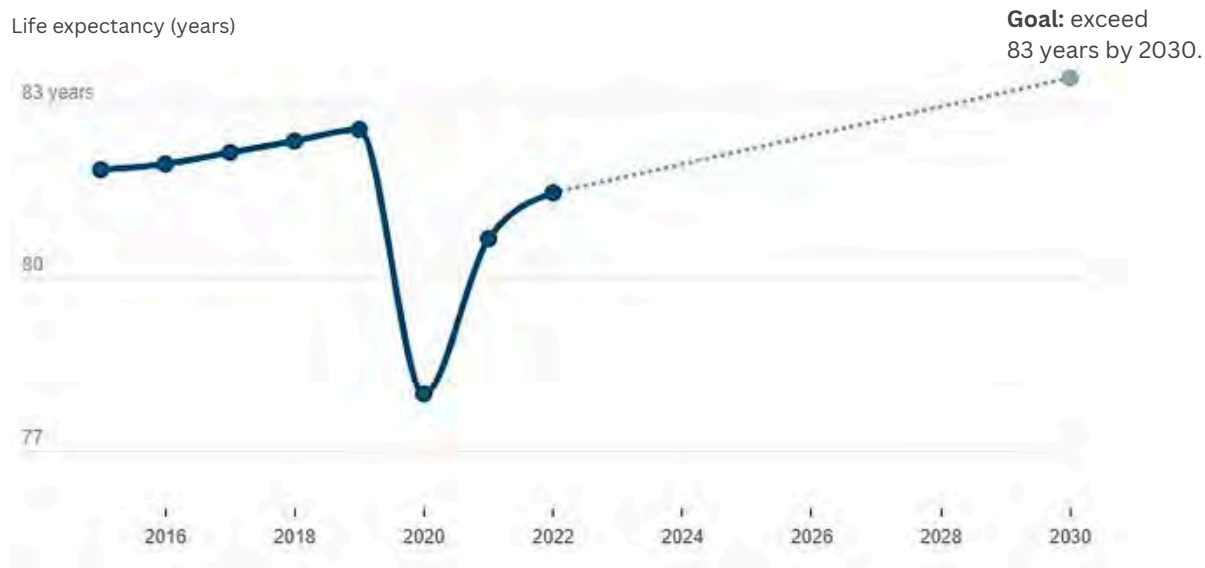
The Community Support Network is an example of how CHWs can help direct people to resources and services before they reach an acute state of need. **FPHNYC and the Health Department believe that CBOs and their CHWs are critical for advancing health equity**, and we will continue to look to contract with more CBOs serving traditionally under-resourced communities throughout New York City.

“VIP Community Services, by collaborating with the Fund for Public Health NYC and the NYC Department of Health, was able to expand its reach to the community and provide essential services. We connected 1,000 participants with vital community resources, including support for physical and emotional health, food, clothing, transportation assistance, career training, and education opportunities. Additionally, we engaged with over 300 organizations—including local businesses, schools, and churches—to establish the CSN Local Partner Network. These collaborations played a key role in disseminating public health information, to ensure the community was well-informed about available local services”.

–Opal Dunstan, Executive Vice President and Chief Operations Officer, VIP Community Services

New York City's groundbreaking public health campaign, HealthyNYC, marked its first anniversary in November 2024. A citywide program led by the Health Department, **HealthyNYC aims to raise the life expectancy of New Yorkers to 83 years by 2030** in partnership with all city agencies.

According to the most recently compiled data (2022), life expectancy for Black individuals in New York City is 76.9 years, 82.1 years for Hispanic/Latino individuals, 82.3 years for white individuals, and 86 years for Asian and Pacific Islander individuals. HealthyNYC's ambitious "reach" goals are to change health outcomes by targeting the major drivers of overall death, excess death, premature death, and extreme racial inequities. **If we achieve all the HealthyNYC goals, we can avert 7,300 deaths in NYC by 2030.**



FPHNYC is engaging the philanthropic community to support public health initiatives that address specific drivers of illness and premature death, a key element of HealthyNYC. FPHNYC and the Health Department organized a roundtable for funders about chronic diseases, previewing new programs to address diabetes, heart disease, and screenable cancers, which together are the number one cause of death for all New Yorkers.

While the most recent data shows improvement in the average New Yorker's life expectancy, primarily driven by the decline in COVID-19 deaths, this is not true for all populations. FPHNYC and the expanding roster of HealthyNYC partners will continue working with the Health Department to address longstanding health inequities and ensure that all New Yorkers can enjoy improved health and a longer life expectancy.

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