

Addressing Unacceptable Inequities: A Chronic Disease Strategy for New York City

Fiscal Year 2025 Progress and Milestone Update

“[Addressing Unacceptable Inequities: A Chronic Disease Strategy for New York City](#)” sets a shared foundation for action to address the structural and environmental conditions that impact health. Included in the report are 19 proposals that City agencies would like to advance through fiscal year 2026 (FY26) and beyond, which will serve as the foundation for a longer, crucial effort to change the trajectory of chronic disease and reduce racial inequities in premature mortality. The following table outlines key updates for milestones related to each of these proposals through June 30, 2025.

Key

- = in progress or anticipated to be initiated
- * = contingent upon additional resources
- = not applicable (N/A)

		FY25			FY26
	Lead agency	FY25 status	On track for FY25	Status update	FY26 plans
Addressing material needs					
Proposal 1: Provide Guaranteed Income for Better Health: A Pilot Program for Diabetes in the Bronx					
Milestone 1a: Develop implementation and evaluation plan for guaranteed basic income pilot	Health Department	In progress	Yes	Further developed the program and evaluation plan, including responding to input from academic consultations.	●
Milestone 1b: Recruit 250 eligible participants		■	■	■	*
Milestone 1c: Launch study protocols providing 250 participants \$500 per month for 12 months over two years		■	■	■	*
Milestone 1d: Begin data collection to analyze data and increase understanding of best practices; disseminate findings in the future		■	■	■	*

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Proposal 2: Address New Yorkers' Financial Security and Uplift Households					
Milestone 2a: Co-locate Financial Empowerment Center services in NYC Health and Hospital (H+H) facilities	Department of Consumer and Worker Protection	Complete	Yes	Eight NYC H+H sites have agreed to host Financial Empowerment Center services (Bellevue; Elmhurst; Gotham Health, East New York; Gotham Health, Gouverneur; Gotham Health, Tremont; Kings County; Jacobi; and Queens), representing an expansion of services to H+H sites.	●
Milestone 2b: Provide more New Yorkers with Financial Empowerment Center services		In progress	Yes		●

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Proposal 3: Advocate for Changes to Benefits Cliffs					
Milestone 3a: Identify potential NYC benefits programs and policies appropriate for restructuring	Mayor's Office for Economic Opportunity	In progress	No	The focus of initiative is shifting in line with evolving context around public benefits access. Reassessing what recent federal cuts to the safety net (for example, Medicaid and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program [SNAP]) means for this goal and exploring a new research project to collect more data and personal accounts about how New Yorkers receiving public benefits are impacted by benefits cliffs and how it affects people's employment choices.	N/A
Milestone 3b: Conduct landscape assessment to understand best practices from other jurisdictions and assess opportunities for local action and where federal or state advocacy is required					*
Milestone 3c: Prioritize cliffs and eligibility concerns to address					*
Milestone 3d: Advocate for state or federal policy changes, or execute NYC policies to eliminate risk of prioritized cliffs					*

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Proposal 4: Increase SNAP Enrollment Among NYC Health + Hospitals Patients					
Milestone 4a: Assess disclosure and regulatory requirements and secure legal approval to move forward	NYC H+H	Complete	Yes	Conducted an assessment of disclosure and regulatory requirements and developed a strategy to identify NYC H+H patients not yet known to the NYC Department of Social Services (and therefore not enrolled in SNAP).	N/A
Milestone 4b: If legal approval is secured, develop data-sharing agreement between NYC H+H and Human Resources Administration or Department of Social Services and implement ongoing data match		In progress	Yes	Finalized a data integration process, using a Worker Connect use case, to facilitate ongoing data sharing. The first run of the data match is anticipated to be completed in July. Assessing options for outreach and SNAP application assistance for FY26.	●
Milestone 4c: Conduct outreach and assist newly identified patients in SNAP, as feasible					●

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Proposal 5: Expand Nutrition Security and Plant-Forward Food Access					
Milestone 5a: Continue Health Bucks	Health Department	Complete	Yes	Distributed over \$2.2 million worth of Health Bucks between July 2024 and June 2025, funded by local government; secured funding to operate the SNAP incentive year-round in FY26.	●
Milestone 5b: Continue Groceries to Go		Complete	Yes	Continued to operate the program. As of May 7, 2025, a total of 2,214 New Yorkers were enrolled in the program during FY25. Secured \$10 million to continue the program in FY26 with plans to start new enrollment in July.	●
Milestone 5c: Implement More Veggies		In progress	Yes	Launched the program in March 2025. As of July 17, 2025, 190 participants were enrolled and accessing the program benefits. In addition to formal data collection processes, some participants have anecdotally shared ways in which they are experimenting with new fruits and vegetables for their families or feeling able to enjoy a healthy dinner that otherwise would not be possible for them.	●
Milestone 5d: Develop recommendations to improve food access in NYC through food access workgroup	Mayor's Office of Food Policy (MOFP)	Complete	Yes	<p>Launched the NYC Food Affordability and Access Workgroup in June 2024, which met on a monthly basis through December 2024. This workgroup included a number of key stakeholders from City agencies, community organizations, and academia.</p> <p>In June 2025, the MOFP published "Setting the Table: NYC's Research Framework to Enhance Food Affordability and Access," a collaborative set of research priorities focused on food pricing, food retail, and food choice and behaviors.</p>	N/A

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Proposal 6: Launch a Neighborhood Stress-Free Zone (NSFZ) in Brooklyn					
Milestone 6a: Develop implementation and operations blueprint for NSFZ; identify neighborhood for first NSFZ based on high volume and percentage of Black, Medicaid-insured birthing persons	Health Department	In progress	Yes	Developing workflows, policies, and procedures for implementation. Identified Brownsville as the initial location.	●
Milestone 6b: Establish NSFZ in one Brooklyn neighborhood (staff, space, health information technology, vendors)		In progress	Yes	Planning a soft launch in Brownsville in fall 2025.	*
Milestone 6c: Engage and obtain buy-in from stakeholders		In progress	Yes	Engaged potential NSFZ partners (notably social care network leads) to discuss opportunities for coordination and collaboration.	●
Milestone 6d: Advocate and propose designation of “Neighborhood Stress-Free Zone” via legislation or additional pathways through New York State		In progress	No	Researched similar designations that facilitate value-based payment. Next steps are on hold until FY27.	N/A

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Addressing commercial determinants of health					
Proposal 7: Reduce Marketing, Promotion, and Influence of Harmful Products and Their Producers					
Milestone 7a: Pursue policy restricting sponsorships with producers of products that are leading contributors to chronic disease	Health Department	In progress	No	Met with City stakeholders and conducted research to inform specific policy approach.	●
Milestone 7b: Explore MTA sugary drink advertisement prohibition policy and implement technical assistance to support policy compliance		In progress	No	Initiated exploratory research.	●
Milestone 7c: Expand Shop Healthy program into the South Bronx to include additional neighborhoods and report out on data from this area		In progress	Yes	<p>Provided technical assistance (product placement); changed the ratio of healthy ads versus unhealthy ads; assessed price, quality, and availability in 114 food retail stores across 10 ZIP codes in the South Bronx (65 bodega and delis, 39 supermarkets, two fruit and vegetable stores, and seven ethnic stores).</p> <p>Posted 2,108 healthy print materials (shelf inserts, refrigerator decals, and other signage) across food retail stores to counter existing predatory marketing. The most common ad type countered was sugar-sweetened and alcoholic beverages.</p>	●
Milestone 7d: Convene stakeholders on approaches to address exposure to food marketing, especially for children	MOFP and Health Department				●

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Proposal 8: Launch Office of Healthcare System Strategy and Accountability					
Milestone 8a: Establish and maintain a public website with care navigation and price shopping, allowing New Yorkers to compare prices of common procedures across hospitals (NYC Care Navigation Tool)	Health Department	In progress	Yes	Identified a vendor to help build the NYC Care Navigation Tool and advanced efforts to plan for a public-facing tool.	●
Milestone 8b: Release annual report on health care pricing and safety net stabilization for City and state leadership		Complete	Yes	Released the inaugural Healthcare Accountability Report in compliance with Local Law 78 on March 21, 2025. The report provides background information on key health care accountability topics, examines the community benefit spending of the City's hospitals, and includes detailed analyses of hospital and payer price transparency data, as well as City spending on health care for employees, retirees, and their dependents. In FY26, we will refine analyses and strengthen expertise to publish another annual report.	●
Milestone 8c: Conduct stakeholder engagement regarding policy opportunities	Health Department and City Hall	In progress	No	Identified subject matter experts and stakeholders to begin informal stakeholder engagement. Initiated planning for ongoing stakeholder engagement efforts and hired staff to support this work.	●

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Proposal 9: Raise Awareness of Alcohol and Cancer Risk					
Milestone 9a: Publish Vital Signs data report	Health Department	In progress	Delayed	Completed drafting of the Vital Signs report; developing a plan for the release in FY26.	●
Milestone 9b: Launch awareness campaign					●
Milestone 9c: Complete public health detailing campaign in priority neighborhoods					●

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Addressing opportunities for healthy living					
Proposal 10: Launch the NYC Center for Nutrition, Sustainability, and Culinary Excellence in Food Service					
Milestone 10a: Update NYC Food Standards to further promote healthy, delicious, sustainable plant-forward diets	MOFP and Health Department	In progress	Delayed	The release of updates to the NYC Food Standards for Meals and Snacks Purchased and Served is planned for summer 2025.	●
Milestone 10b: Increase nutrition software access and develop menu building program		In progress	Yes	A City contract was established to provide recipe and nutrition software analysis to the NYC Department of Corrections (DOC), the NYC Department of Homeless Services (DHS), the NYC Administration for Children's Services (ACS), and the Health Department.	*
Milestone 10c: Provide routine technical assistance and data monitoring to agencies to comply with the NYC Food Standards, especially with culturally appropriate offerings		In progress	Yes	Convened two Food Standards working group meetings with agencies and met with agencies individually to review menus and provide individual support. Conducted tailored Food Standards trainings for three agencies and developed new and updated existing example product lists.	●
Milestone 10d: Provide expanded support to agencies to comply with the NYC Food Standards, including increased site visits, nutrition analysis, and culinary trainings		In progress	Yes	Completed program menu reviews for the DHS and conducted recipe nutrition analysis for the DOC to support integrating new scratch-cooked plant protein menu items. Provided culinary training on scratch cooking plant protein recipes for all ACS and DOC cooks. Published an updated implementation guide for the NYC Food Standards for Cafeterias and Cafes to support adoption of the standards in retail venues.	*
Milestone 10e: Provide menu support and technical assistance for non-City agencies to voluntarily adopt the NYC Food Standards					*

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Proposal 11: Lead the Next Era of Active Design					
Milestone 11a: Issue Active Design Guidelines (ADG) 2.0 and develop policy to advance active design guidelines	Health Department	In progress	Delayed	Made progress on the publication of ADG 2.0, which is now slated for FY26.	●
Milestone 11b: Create Director of Health and Active Design within NYC	Health Department and City Hall				*
Milestone 11c: Create ADG 2.0 Coordinator to develop ADG 2.0 trainings, provide technical assistance to agency partners, and organize annual convening	Health Department				*
Milestone 11d: ADG 2.0 trainings, dissemination, and annual convening		In progress	Yes	Hosted an event previewing ADG 2.0 for partners and collaborators on June 24, 2025.	*

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Proposal 12: Strengthen WorkWell NYC					
Milestone 12a: Develop policy to strengthen WorkWell NYC, build leadership capacity, and continue operating and building awareness of current programming and resources	Office of Labor Relations	In progress	No	Briefed Deputy Mayors on the importance of worksite wellness.	●
Milestone 12b: Develop training program for managers		In progress	Yes	Identified vendor and began developing program curriculum.	*
Milestone 12c: Expand chronic disease education programming					*

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Proposal 13: Implement Place-Based Initiatives for Increased Access to Safe Opportunities for Physical Activity					
Milestone 13a: Collectively designate priority neighborhoods for investment	Department of Transportation (DOT) and Parks	Complete	Yes	Coordinated street improvements and tree planting efforts in the Bronx to plant 55 trees in and around University Avenue, from West 175th Street to West 176th Street. Planted 1,584 street trees across the Bronx in the most heat-vulnerable neighborhoods that also fall within the DOT's priority improvement areas. In Brownsville, Brooklyn (another priority improvement area), the DOT, Parks, and the Health Department have been coordinating and engaging with the community and community-based organizations to make public realm improvements.	●
Milestone 13b: Implement street and public realm capital improvements (bike lanes, plazas, street trees)		Complete	Yes	Two hundred forty-nine street trees were planted within the Brownsville neighborhood by Parks and the DOT.	●
Milestone 13c: Implement place-making projects in priority neighborhoods	Health Department, Parks, and DOT	Complete	Yes	The Health Department supported programming and the development and installation of public art in partnership with local community partners and Parks in Zion Triangle in Brownsville, Brooklyn.	*

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Proposal 14: Prescribe NYC Parks for Improving New Yorkers' Health					
Milestone 14a: Planning and development of pilot program, including establishing target population, determining measurements for success and establishing list of program offerings	Parks and Health Department	In progress	Yes	Held a kickoff meeting with Parks on March 14 to begin planning. Conducted preliminary research, including meeting with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health to learn about their Parks Rx program.	●
Milestone 14b: Engage cohort of providers or school-based health centers to pilot initiative					●
Milestone 14c: Launch program to prescribe Parks programming to patients					*

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Proposal 15: Enhance Outdoor Equity and Wellness in Public Schools					
Milestone 15a: Conduct a planning phase to identify resources and data-sharing opportunities	Public Schools	In progress	Yes	Identified resource and data-sharing opportunities through wellness and sustainability policy alignment work, including preliminary Mayor's Office of Climate and Environmental Justice cross-agency collaborating on open space data.	●
Milestone 15b: Launch Office of Outdoor Learning and Play					*
Milestone 15c: Map funding streams and resources across City agencies					*
Milestone 15d: Secure street closures or additional space around school buildings in zones meeting environmental justice designations					*

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Proposal 16: Expand NYC's Community Health Worker (CHW) Infrastructure					
Milestone 16a: Expand community health workers in order to staff programs offered at four NYCHA developments	Health Department	Complete	Yes	The Health Advocacy Partners Program (HAPP), modeled after the Harlem Health Advocacy Partners program, expanded the place-based CHW initiative to Brooklyn, Bronx, and Queens, serving residents in the Marcy Houses, Butler Houses, Queensbridge North Houses, and Queensbridge South Houses. Secured funding to continue with four NYCHA developments in FY26.	●
Milestone 16b: Engage 250 residents in one-on-one coaching sessions		Complete	Yes	As of April 1, 2025, 357 residents are actively participating in one-on-one, monthly health coaching sessions with a CHW. Health coaching is still in progress and will continue in FY26.	*
Milestone 16c: Engage 450 residents in group health and wellness activities		Complete	Yes	As of April 1, 2025, more than 3,000 residents have engaged with HAPP group health and wellness activities. Activities are still in progress and will continue in FY26.	*
Milestone 16d: Increase awareness of and participation in community resources and programs		In progress	Yes	In a fall 2024 survey (n=108), 85% of HAPP participants reported having more access to social services and programs since starting to work with a CHW. Resource navigation and referrals will continue through FY26.	*
Milestone 16e: Increase collaboration and partnership among community-based organizations, government agencies, and community stakeholder groups		In progress	Yes	Over 25 community-based organizations, government agencies, and community groups have partnered with HAPP to cross-promote programs and services and collaborate on outreach and resident engagement activities. Partnership-building will continue through FY26.	*
Milestone 16f: Increase community health worker workforce by hiring and training new CHWs		In progress	Yes	Secured funding to maintain and train up to 30 HAPP CHWs in FY26.	●

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Proposal 17: Improve Equity in Cancer Outcomes Through Data-Informed Collaboration and Action					
Milestone 17a: Publish and publicize report on cancer inequity data	Health Department	In progress	Delayed	Continued analysis and drafting of a cancer inequity report, including making updates to incorporate 2022 data. The publication is estimated to be released in FY26.	●
Milestone 17b: Establish breast cancer task force to identify and address site-specific reasons for inequitable outcomes for Black women and other patients		In progress	Yes	Hired a full-time team member dedicated to building the task force. Currently building out coalition through outreach to breast cancer specialists across the city. Coalition building will continue in FY26, with an initial convening of task force members to be held in fall 2025.	*
Milestone 17c: Increase patient understanding of lung cancer screening through a new graphic novella		In progress	Delayed	Draft completed by artist. Publication planned for FY26.	●
Milestone 17d: Establish lung cancer coalition					*

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Proposal 18: Transform Tobacco Treatment To Reduce Smoking-Related Inequities					
Milestone 18a: Complete public health detailing campaign in priority neighborhoods	Health Department	Complete	Yes	The Public Health Detailing campaign concluded on May 30. Over the course of the campaign, representatives visited approximately 350 sites, with 700 providers detailed (550 providers received two visits). In addition, nearly 700 staff were detailed.	N/A
Milestone 18b: Update NYC H+H and NYC REACH practice workflows and electronic health records		In progress	Yes	Hired a tobacco practice facilitator to work with small practices in Taskforce on Racial Inclusion and Equity (TRIE) neighborhoods, as well as Federally Qualified Health Centers. H+H is finalizing new tobacco treatment workflows and will begin implementation activities in FY26.	●
Milestone 18c: Pilot new community health worker and clinical pharmacist model at treatment programs in priority neighborhoods	H+H and Health Department				●
Milestone 18d: Maintain staffing and expand reach of pilot community-based treatment programs at the Tremont and East Harlem Action Centers, and launch Brooklyn-based program; maintain Smoke-Free NYCHA liaison program	Health Department and NYCHA	In progress	No	Identifying resources and staffing to expand reach of pilot at the Tremont and East Harlem Neighborhood Health Action Centers. Brooklyn-based program on hold due to capacity. Smoke-Free NYCHA liaison program remains in place.	●

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Proposal 19: Expand Hyperlocal Resources and Community Connections To Reduce Diabetes and Hypertension					
Milestone 19a: Train Community Champions and complete Hypertension 101 presentations	Health Department	In progress	Yes	Take the Pressure Off, NYC! has facilitated three Hypertension 101s and eight Train-the-Trainers, reaching 164 people across Queens, the Bronx, Brooklyn, Staten Island, and Manhattan, from July 2024 to June 2025.	●
Milestone 19b: Increase access to blood pressure monitoring		In progress	Yes	Deployed 33 blood pressure kiosks among TRIE ZIP codes across all five boroughs in NYC. These sites included 10 independent pharmacies, seven community-based organizations, and 16 faith-based organizations.	*
Milestone 19c: Expand chronic disease prevention and self-management programs		In progress	Yes	Trained and supported 20 clinical- and community-based organizations across NYC to implement a total of 37 National Diabetes Prevention Programs (NDPPs) and 18 Diabetes Self-Management Programs (DSMPs). Those programs reached 552 individuals (342 individuals with prediabetes and 210 individuals with diabetes). Trained internal staff to implement five DSMP workshops, reaching 51 people with diabetes.	●