

NYC CoC Newsletter

December 7, 2020

Issue No. 22

NYC Continuum
CoC of Care



Workforce Opportunities, City Resources, December Trainings, and Community Spotlight

CoC Updates

CoC Community Announcements

West End Residences and their True Colors Housing Programs are now **Homeward NYC**. To learn more, [please visit their new website](#) and follow them on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

Please send your announcements for the CoC community to nycccoc@dss.nyc.gov if you would like them to appear on the CoC monthly newsletter.

Don't want to miss: The newest 'Community Spotlight' article at the bottom of the newsletter.

New Funding Availability, Workforce Development Opportunities

New Funds Available for Veteran Homelessness

The Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA) has released a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for the Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) Program to begin in October 2021. Applications are due on **February 5, 2021 by 4 p.m. ET**. To view the notice and learn more, [please](#)

NYC CoC 2021 Annual Evaluation:

[All Evaluation materials are posted on the CoC website](#) and several updates have been made, including fillable pdf forms, Evaluation timeline, and list of audited projects.

The preliminary 2021 Annual Evaluation results will be posted on December 18, and invitations to a debriefing session will be sent out in advance.

CoC Bylaws

Updates and edits to the NYC CoC Bylaws were approved by the Steering Committee on December 2. Updates incorporated to address Youth Action Board aging-out, HUD SNAPS Office review, and Committee Co-Chair eligibility. To view and download the updated bylaws, [please view the CoC website](#).

CoC Tip of the Month:

[click here.](#)

HOPE Program Workforce Opportunities

The HOPE Program empowers New Yorkers to build sustainable futures through comprehensive training, jobs, advancement, and lifelong support. The HOPE Program offers full-time job training and transitional work for adults in all sectors with a special emphasis on construction, maintenance, and the green sectors.

Upcoming Programs:

- **HOPEworks on December 14**

HOPEworks helps participants succeed in the job market and navigate careers in various fields through cover letter and resume writing, computer skills, interview prep, basic math and English literacy, and workplace soft skills such as public speaking and conflict resolution. To learn more about HOPEworks, [please view the attached flyer](#).

- **Sustainable South Bronx on January 18**

Sustainable South Bronx prepares jobseekers for careers in the green infrastructure and maintenance field through classroom-based learning, industry-recognized certifications, hands-on community greening projects, and job application skills. To learn more about this program, [please view the attached flyer](#).

[Visit the HOPE Program's website](#) and check out the upcoming program flyers to learn how HOPE can support you in building your career.

New HUD & FEMA Resources

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Resources

The following resources are for organizations with programs currently serving persons experiencing homelessness.

[HUD's Winter Planning Resources page](#) contains important guidance on how homeless service systems and providers can prepare for winter in the face of the pandemic.

As noted in the most recent HUD Office Hours Series on December 4, HUD published **NEW** COVID-19 Informational Flyers (including Spanish Versions). [Please](#)

Contracting - All renewing CoC contracts awarding 2019 must be signed by the end of the year (December, 2020).

Job Openings related to the NYC CoC

NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD)

HPD seeks a Deputy Director of CoC Training and Compliance to provide oversight and management of the CoC grant monitoring process, promote understanding and implementation of CoC program rules amongst internal and external stakeholders, and assist with grant administration duties including HUD monitoring and Single Audit. The successful candidate will have knowledge of and experience in understanding Federal Regulations and the CoC program administration. To learn more about the job, please view the [NYC Jobs site](#) (Job ID 454715).

Please send job postings your organization has to nyccoc@dss.nyc.gov if you would like them to appear on the CoC monthly newsletter.

Events in the CoC Community

Please send homelessness and housing related events you would like advertised to the CoC community in the monthly newsletter to

[visit the HUD Exchange](#) to view and download the resources listed below:

- What to Do in a Shelter When Someone Shows COVID-19 Symptoms
- Facility Layout: You Know You're Ready When You Have
- Cleaning Activities: You Know You're Ready When You Have
- Help Stop the Spread of COVID-19 by Watching for These Possible Symptoms

Additional New HUD Resources:

- [Staff Capacity: Considerations for Scaling Up](#) (pdf)

Additional Federal Resources

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA): [COVID-19 Healthcare Resource Roadmap](#)

New York City Resources

Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP)

[Home Energy Assistance Program \(HEAP\)](#) helps eligible households meet the cost of heating their homes. The benefit can pay for fuel, utility source, heating equipment replacement, and repairs. The benefit is paid either directly to the heating vendor or utility company. You can apply for HEAP every year when the program is open. **The deadline to submit applications is March 15, 2021.**

As a reminder, applications for HEAP can be accessed by calling 212-331-3126 or are [available for download here](#). To learn more and for further instructions, [please visit the NYC Human Resources Administration's \(HRA\) website](#).

Please note, the HEAP application cannot be submitted through ACCESS HRA at this time. All HEAP applications need to be completed, signed by the applicant or their authorized representative, and returned by mail or dropped off at a designated HEAP assistance location (HEAP assistance locations can be found on HRA's [COVID 19 Community Updates page](#)). There is no need to come in to a Center.

The completed application can be mailed back to HRA at:
NYC DSS/HRA/HEAP
PO Box 1401
Church Street Station

nyccoc@dss.nyc.gov

**Housing &
Homelessness
Advocacy
Opps**

The National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC):

Learn more and act on the [National Federal Eviction Moratorium](#), in particular, sign a petition to advocate [to extend the federal eviction moratorium](#).

View NLIHC's Disaster Housing Recovery Coalition [full list of recommendations](#).

**Please click
the icons
below to learn
more:**

**STAY HOME TO STOP THE
SPREAD OF CORONAVIRUS.**



Click here to

Grab and Go Meals

Despite the temporary closing of in-person school, the grab-and-go meal locations in schools will remain open. All of the over 1,100 Department of Education (DOE) schools that have been open for children learning in person or remotely will continue to distribute meals from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. daily.

All of the over 260 DOE schools that have been community hubs distributing meals for the general public, including those serving kosher and expanded halal options, will continue to distribute meals from 3 p.m. - 5 p.m. daily.

During the holidays when schools are not in session, there will be grab-and-go meal service available on the following dates from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m.:

- December 24 (Christmas Eve)
- December 28-31 (Including New Year's Eve)

There will be no meal service available on the following dates: December 25 (Christmas Day) and January 1 (New Year's Day).

For more information, [please visit the DOE's website](#).

Pandemic EBT Benefits (P-EBT):

With schools temporarily closed again, as we have reported previously, the continuing appropriations bill passed by Congress in September funds the continuation of Pandemic EBT benefits (P-EBT) for the 2020-21 school year.

Benefits will be provided for days when students are not physically in the school building, whether on a hybrid schedule or engaged in fully remote learning, even if students are receiving grab-and-go meals.

The bill extends Pandemic-EBT benefits through September 2021, and also expands the program to include younger children who might have received meals at daycare programs that are closed or operating on reduced hours. For more information, [please see informational flyers on P-EBT online in 13 languages](#).

Project Parachute – Eviction Prevention and Rent Relief

Project Parachute is a coalition of property owners,

nonprofits, and City agencies committed to helping vulnerable and underserved New York residents stay in their homes as the COVID-19 crisis continues, through its program FASTEN (Funds and Services for Tenants Experiencing Need), which offers eviction prevention services and financial resources, including rent relief.

FASTEN services are being delivered by HRA's eviction prevention Homebase providers - BronxWorks, CAMBA, Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens, Catholic Charities Community Services, HELP USA, RiseBoro Community Partnership (RiseBoro), and Services for the UnderServed (S:US). Individuals and families served by FASTEN must: Have income that is not more than 50% of the area median income (AMI); be experiencing housing instability, such as inability to pay rent fully; and have experienced negative COVID-related financial impacts, such as loss of income or an increase in expenses. Anyone who meets these requirements can receive assistance regardless of immigration status or employment status (e.g. temporary, intermittent, part-time, day labor, and contract workers) through non-profit Homebase providers.

Tenants can be referred by landlords, referral partners, and agencies or reach out directly to their respective Homebase provider which they can identify by calling 311 or [visiting the Homebase Locator webpage here](#).

December Webinars & Trainings

HUD SNAPS Youth Collaboration

December 9 and 17, 2020 – 3:00 p.m. EST

HUD's Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs (SNAPS) and technical assistance partner, True Colors United, are hosting two webinars that will focus on enhancing collaboration with youth and young adult partners in your community. The information presented will be a continuation of the Core Principles of Youth Collaboration webinar presented in November 2018.

The following webinars are designed for communities, agencies, individuals, and housing service entities that have already developed an understanding of the core principles of youth collaboration:

- Youth Collaboration 102: This webinar will focus on funding, recruitment and retention, undoing adultism, and leadership from within. [Join the webinar here](#).
- Youth Collaboration 201: This webinar will focus on equity in youth collaboration, Youth Action Board (YAB) governance best practices, YAB

sustainability, and power sharing. [Join the webinar here.](#)

Participants do not need to register in advance. It is strongly recommended that you join the webinar 15 minutes prior to the start time (2:45 PM EST).

Corporation for Supportive Housing's Free Opioid Use Disorder Webinar

December 15, 2020, 1:00-2:30 p.m.

The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the ongoing opioid crisis as well as the stress, mental health, and wellbeing for all of us. People with substance use disorders may be at heightened risk for “return to use” and overdose during this time due to isolation, unstable community treatment, and mental health symptoms and stressors. It is now more important than ever to continue to educate, ensure access to resources, and develop effective practices for tenants living in supportive housing.

In collaboration with the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (NYC DOHMH), CSH is offering a free two-part webinar series targeted to supportive housing staff to provide an overview of opioid use disorder (OUD) and evidence-based treatments, the stigma associated with people who use drugs and certain treatments, addressing stigma within a harm reduction framework, and establishing linkages/partnerships with providers for treatment options.

How Supportive Housing Providers Can Support their Tenants - Part Two (FREE): Introduction to Opioid Use Disorder, Treatment, and Community Resources. [Please register here.](#) After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Please contact [Patricia Hernandez](#) with any questions.

NEW Series: NYC CoC Community Spotlight

New Destiny's HousingLink Program Strives to Exceed Meeting the Needs for Survivors

New Destiny Housing Corporation was founded in 1994 with the mission of ending the cycle of domestic violence and homelessness for low-income families and individuals by connecting them to safe, permanent housing and services. New Destiny builds and manages permanent, affordable housing with on-site services; offers innovative programs that empower domestic violence survivors to

find and retain affordable housing; and educates and advocates to expand access to permanent housing resources for low-income families.

Since its inception, New Destiny has developed 16 residential projects. It currently owns and manages seven affordable housing projects, housing 500 adults and children as well as an emergency shelter. Three additional service-enriched affordable rental projects are under development, yielding an additional 183 units for domestic violence survivors in shelter. Two more projects are in the pre-development phase.



In addition to developing new buildings, New Destiny incubated **HousingLink** an innovative, citywide rapid rehousing program that provides a continuum of services to prevent and reduce shelter use and support housing stability for low-income domestic violence survivors and their children. In collaboration with the Mayor's Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence (ENDGBV) and their five borough-based Family Justice Centers, HousingLink connects domestic violence survivors with apartments across the five boroughs. HousingLink provides skill-building workshops and technical assistance to domestic violence survivors and their advocates to help them overcome obstacles related to finding and maintaining safe housing and increase their knowledge of permanent housing options.

Originally conceived as a pilot project and primarily supported through private dollars, New Destiny was able to institutionalize the program with funding from a Rapid Re-Housing grant from the NYC CoC in 2018. Having a stable funding source allowed the program to expand and serve more survivors. To date, HousingLink has placed 129 survivors and their families into permanent housing with up to two years of aftercare services provided. Of those placed households, 95% remain stably housed within the two-year period.

New Destiny is particularly grateful to the NYC CoC and other domestic violence service providers for establishing the Domestic Violence Special Population Committee to better serve survivors. There are many root causes for

homelessness and no single solution, so New Destiny is proud to be a part of the NYC CoC community that strives to meet the housing needs of fellow New Yorkers.



Photos of New Destiny housing and contributed by New Destiny.

Send Us Your Feedback!

The NYC CoC is committed to providing useful information to the community. We want to hear from community members like you. Follow us at nychomeless.com and let us know what you think about our messaging. Your feedback makes us better.

Thank you.
NYC CoC

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