

Improving HIV Health Outcomes through the Coordination of Supportive Employment and Housing Services

DEMONSTRATION SITE

Gay Men’s Health Center | New York City, NY

PROGRAM NAME

Project Health



GEOGRAPHIC LANDSCAPE

New York City is an urban area with a high-seroprevalence in neighborhoods including Jackson Heights and Jamaica in Queens, the South Bronx, and Brownsville in Brooklyn.



THE CHALLENGE

GMHC does not provide medical services, so connecting clients to our services is challenging. We are dependent upon referrals. Despite comprising only half of NYC’s population, African American and Hispanic people accounted for 78% of new HIV diagnoses in 2015.¹ African American and Hispanic PLWH consistently fare poorly across the HIV care continuum; only 70% of African American PLWH accessed HIV care in the past year, 57% accessed continuous care, and only 55% were virally-suppressed.²



FOCUS POPULATION

GMHC will serve African American and Hispanic PLWH in NYC; these communities consistently experience disproportionate rates of poverty, homelessness, unemployment, and AIDS compared to the general population.



THE MODEL

GMHC will implement Project HEALTH, a comprehensive care coordination program to improve HIV health outcomes with the philosophy that some clients will be more ready to make significant changes than others. By helping clients set goals appropriate for their stages of readiness, GMHC will ensure clients make continual progress towards their service plan goals.



PARTNERS

- **Mt. Sinai:** Medical
- **Callen Lorde:** Medical
- **Boom!Health:** Housing
- **Fedcap:** Education & Vocation Readiness
- **Fortune Society:** Employment



IMPACTS

- **Impact 1:** Identify and address clients’ practical, clinical, and structural barriers to consistent engagement in care
- **Impact 2:** Connect clients with a full suite of programs for which they are eligible and help them maximally benefit from housing and employment services, Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program care, and other resources

1. New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. (2014). *HIV Epidemiology and Field Services Program*. Retrieved from NYC Health website: <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/dires/2013-hiv-surveillance-annual-report.pdf>

2. Garcia, D., Betancourt, G., & Scaccabarozzi, L. (2015). *The State of HIV/AIDS among Hispanics/Latinos in the US and Puerto Rico*. Retrieved from the Latino Commission on AIDS website: https://www.latinoaids.org/publications/HIVbrief2015_Eng.pdf

This project is supported by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary’s Minority AIDS Initiative Fund under grant number U90HA31449 and the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)’s HIV/AIDS Bureau (HAB), Special Projects of National Significance (SPNS) program Initiative Improving Health Outcomes Through the Coordination of Supportive Employment & Housing Services for \$700,000. No percentage of this program was financed with non-governmental sources. This information or content and conclusions are those of the author and should not be construed as the official position or policy of, nor should any endorsements be inferred by HRSA, HHS or the U.S. Government.