



VIRAL HEPATITIS INITIATIVE ADVOCACY UPDATE

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BUDGET TIMELINE





VIRAL HEPATITIS PREVENTION INITIATIVE (VHI)

- Since 2014, the Viral Hepatitis Prevention Initiative has been funded by City Council to promote hepatitis B and C screening, treatment, and prevention.
- On June 30, 2024, the NYC Council published the [FY2025 Adopted Expense Budget](#).
- The NYC Council designated \$2,158,190 to Viral Hepatitis Prevention Initiative providers and will designate an additional \$89,264 post-adoption via transparency resolution.



FY25 VIRAL HEPATITIS PREVENTION INITIATIVE DESIGNATIONS

- VHPI received flat funding from last year, and most organizations received the same designation amounts as last year.

NYC Council Health Initiative	FY2024	FY2025
Viral Hepatitis Prevention	\$2,247,454	\$2,247,454
Ending the Epidemic	\$9,373,342	\$9,373,342
Faith Based HIV/AIDS	\$1,966,311	\$1,966,311
Access Health	\$3,620,210	\$3,620,210



FY25 VIRAL HEPATITIS PREVENTION INITIATIVE DESIGNATIONS

- Most providers received flat funding, but ACQC, Housing Works, Positive Health Project, Safe Horizon, and VOCAL received a funding increase of about \$9,500 each.
- Four organizations also received member items related to hepatitis B and C under the City Council Speaker Initiative or Local Initiative funding:
 - Charles B Wang Community Health Center
 - BMS Family Health and Wellness Centers
 - BronxCare
 - Hepatitis C Mentor and Support Group



VHI ADVOCACY FY24 RECAP

- Educational Briefing provided an overview of the New York City Council's innovative Viral Hepatitis Prevention Initiative (VHI)
 - Over 50 community partners and local government officials attended
- Preliminary Budget Hearing on Health – in person & virtual testimonies from organizations part of the VHI
- Hepatitis Awareness Month Event at City Hall



LESSONS LEARNED FY24

- We should begin Advocacy season earlier – look out for ways to get involved in early September.
 - Host the educational briefing in February, before budget hearings.
- Building relationships with your Council Member is effective for building support for our initiative.
 - Please thank your Council Members
 - Invite Council Members to visit your sites over the summer



WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

- Join the Advocacy Leadership Committee
- Join upcoming Advocacy Projects:
 - NYC Council Educational Briefing
 - Support providers in completing the funding application for FY26
 - Budget Advocacy and Testimonies
 - Hepatitis Awareness Month



VIRAL HEPATITIS LEADERSHIP TEAM

- Check Hep C: Kenia Liriano, [Community Health Action of Staten Island](#)
- Check Hep B: Julie Yoshimachi [Charles B Wang Community Health Center](#)
- Emily Li, [Korean Community Services](#),
- Hep C Peer: Jose Martinez, [National Harm Reduction Coalition](#)
- Training: Joy Cambe, [Empire Liver Foundation](#); Mike Selick, [National Harm Reduction Coalition](#); Robert Desrouleaux, [Hepatitis C Mentor and Support Group](#)
- Advocacy: Meg Chappell, [Empire Liver Foundation](#)
- Advisor: Ronni Marks, [Hepatitis C Mentor and Support Group](#)



QUESTIONS

Contact Meg Chappell at:

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