



# **VIRAL HEPATITIS INITIATIVE ADVOCACY UPDATE**

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# 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.



# ADVOCACY COMMITTEE RETREAT

- On September 4, Hep Free NYC community partners met for a retreat on hep b and C advocacy in NYC.
- 27 people attend in-person and virtually.
- We participated in advocacy capacity building exercises, a Strengths, Problems, Weaknesses and Threats (SPOT) analysis of existing hep B and C efforts and goal setting for FY26.



# ADVOCACY COMMITTEE RETREAT



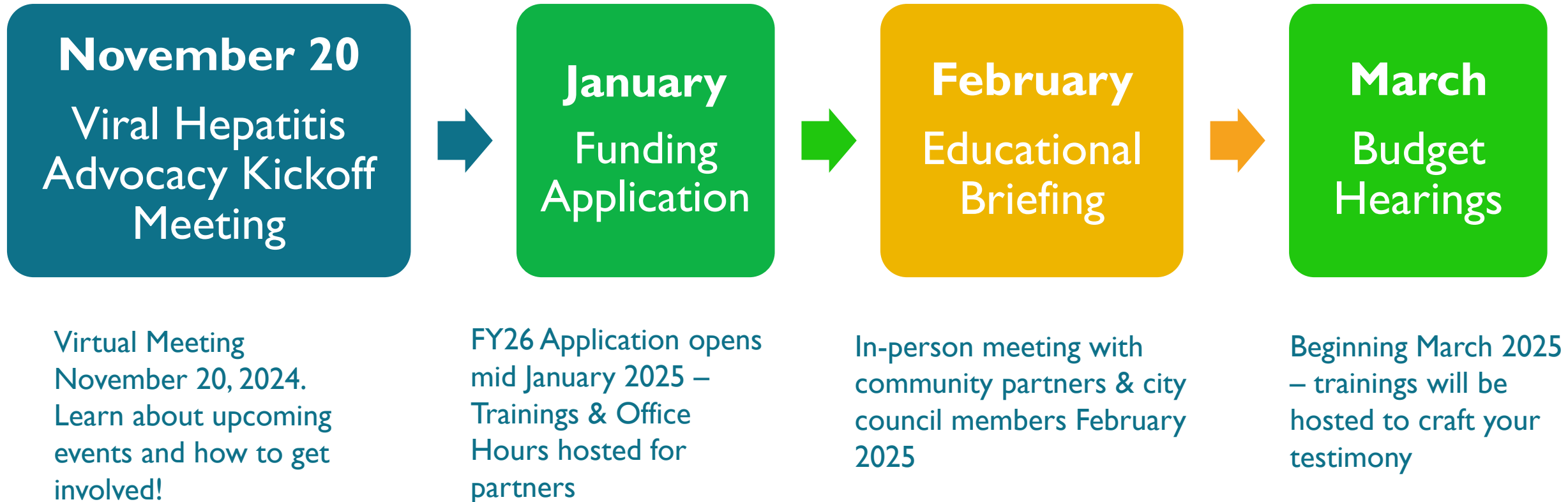


# WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

- Put upcoming advocacy events on your calendars.
- Outreach to your City Council Members early and often.
- Build power! Get community members involved in advocacy.
- Identify new funding needs for Hep B.
- Identify policy changes that would support Hep B elimination goals.



# MAJOR VIRAL HEPATITIS ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES FOR FY25





# 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 Navigation: 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](#); Anthony Feliciano, [Housing Works](#); Ellie Goldfarb, [Housing Works](#)



# QUESTIONS

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