



Hep Free NYC Advocacy Update

NYC Hep B Coalition Meeting

September 23, 2026, 2pm to 4pm

Julie Yoshimachi, DNP, FNP-BC

Director of Hepatitis B Program

Charles B. Wang Community Health Center

Check Hep B Advocacy Lead



Recap: New York State Budget Restores NYC Article 6 Funding

On May 28, 2026, Governor Kathy Hochul announced the New York State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2026-27 Enacted Budget.

The enacted budget:

- Included level funding for hepatitis C
- Did not include hepatitis B-specific funding
- Restored New York City's Article 6 public health reimbursement rate, which reports estimate would restore \$90 million in annual funding to support core public health services and chronic disease prevention

Source: New York State Division of the Budget, FY 2027 Enacted Budget Bills (May 28, 2026), available [here](#); Health Beat New York, Health leaders, Advocates Applaud Partial Restoration of Article 6 funding for NYC Public Health Services (Feb. 23, 2026), available [here](#).



Recap: NYC Budget and NYC Council Viral Hepatitis Prevention Initiative Funding

- On June 30, 2026, the NYC Council voted to approve a \$125.8 billion budget for FY 2027 and released a summary of NYC Council discretionary funding.
- The NYC Council designated \$2.247 million in funding to the Viral Hepatitis Prevention Initiative, reflecting level funding from the previous year.
- Based on an analysis of past NYC Council Viral Hepatitis Prevention Initiative funding, hepatitis B receives significantly less funding compared with hepatitis C programs or HIV programs, even though there were an estimated 304,821 people with chronic hepatitis B in NYC in 2023.

Source: NYC Council, Fiscal Year 2027 Adopted Expense Budget Adjustment Summary (Jun. 30, 2026), available [here](#); NYC Health Department, Hepatitis A, B, and C Surveillance Annual Report 2024 (Feb. 2026), available [here](#).



Ways to Get Involved

1. Identify your [City Council Member](#) and create a plan for outreach
2. Sign up or share the [Hep B Storyteller Workshop](#)
3. Join one of our committees | [Advocacy](#), [Communications](#), Hepatitis Awareness Day Planning
4. Review the [VHI](#) Ask from last year!



Viral Hepatitis Advocacy Leadership Team

- **Check Hep C:** Advocacy Lead needed for Check Hep C Program
- **Check Hep B:** Julie Yoshimachi, Charles B Wang Community Health Center; Eunice Han, Korean Community Services
- **Hep C Peer Program:** Hiawatha Collins, National Harm Reduction Coalition; Kenia Liriano, Community Health Action of Staten Island
- **Training:** Joy Cambe, Empire Liver Foundation; Mike Selick, National Harm Reduction Coalition; Robert Desrouleaux, Hepatitis C Mentor and Support Group (HCMSG), Jeannine Garriga, HCMSG
- **Advocacy Leads:** Meg Chappell, Empire Liver Foundation; Ellie Goldfarb, Housing Works
- **Advisors:** Ronni Marks, HCMSG; Anthony Feliciano, Housing Works



Questions

Contact Julie Yoshimachi at:

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or Meg Chappell at:

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or Ellie Goldfarb at

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