



VIRAL HEPATITIS INITIATIVE ADVOCACY UPDATE

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STEPS OF CITY HALL

- Over 160 people attended the Steps of City Hall on May 19, 2026
- Speakers included people from the viral hepatitis community, clinical providers and NYC councilmembers





VHI ADVOCACY FY26 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 – over 160 people including councilmembers Schulman, Wilson & Maloney



LESSONS LEARNED FY26

- Think about beginning advocacy season in 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 FY27
 - Budget Advocacy and Testimonies
 - Hepatitis Awareness Month



WORLD HEPATITIS DAY EVENTS

- Bronx Anti-Stigma March and Health Fair hosted by Bronx ETE, HepFree NYC & Hispanic Federation on July 28th from 10AM – 3PM. Join for the Anti-Stigma March followed by a Health Fair at the Lou Gehrig Plaza to provide Hep B and C education and screening to Bronx residents. RSVP [here](#).
- Brooklyn Hepatitis Outreach Event
 - July 28th from 11AM – 3PM at Restoration Plaza to provide Hep B and C education and testing to Brooklyn residents. RSVP [here](#).



HEP C AND HARM REDUCTION PANEL

- Need to add details



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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](#)
- Eunice Han, [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](#), Jeannine Garriga, [Hepatitis C Mentor and Support Group](#)
- Advocacy Leads: Meg Chappell, [Empire Liver Foundation](#); Ellie Goldfarb, [Housing Works](#)
- Advisor: Ronni Marks, [Hepatitis C Mentor and Support Group](#); Anthony Feliciano, [Housing Works](#)



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QUESTIONS

Contact Meg Chappell at:

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