



VIRAL HEPATITIS INITIATIVE ADVOCACY UPDATE

Jeannine Garriga
CHC Patient Navigator, Boom!Health
Hep Free NYC Advocacy Committee, Check Hep C Co-Lead



VIRAL HEPATITIS PREVENTION INITIATIVE (VHI)

- Since 2014, the Viral Hepatitis Prevention Initiative has been funded by the NYC Council to promote hepatitis B and C screening, treatment, and prevention.
- On June 30, 2025, the NYC Council published the [FY2026 Adopted Expense Budget](#).
- The NYC Council designated \$2,247,454 to the Viral Hepatitis Prevention Initiative.



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 & C.
- Identify policy changes that would support Hep B & C elimination goals.



HEP FREE NYC

MAJOR VIRAL HEPATITIS ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES FOR FY26

Viral Hepatitis Community Meeting

October 7,
2025

In person meeting on Oct. 7, from 4PM-6PM, to build partnerships, network, and share community resources.

Advocacy Season Kickoff

November
2025

Virtual meeting to learn about upcoming events and how to get involved.

Funding Application Training

January 2026

NYC Council FY27 application opens mid January 2026. Training in early January with office hours for further assistance.

NYC Council Educational Briefing

January 2026

In-person meeting with community partners and NYC Council members in February 2026.

Health Committee Hearing

March 2026

A virtual training in March 2026 to support crafting Health Committee testimony.



HEP FREE NYC

OCTOBER 7 COMMUNITY MEETING

HepFree NYC Community Meeting

JOIN THE HEPFREE NYC ADVOCACY LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE FOR AN IN PERSON COMMUNITY MEETING. THE PURPOSE OF THIS GATHERING IS TO MEET NEW PEOPLE AND NETWORK, IDENTIFY NEW PARTNERSHIPS AND LEARN ABOUT NEW RESOURCES! SPACE LIMITED.



Tuesday, October 7, 2025
4:00PM-6:00PM



National Harm Reduction Coalition
22 W 27th Street, 5th FL
New York, NY 10001



Refreshments provided!



VIRAL HEPATITIS LEADERSHIP TEAM

- Check Hep C: Kenia Liriano, [Community Health Action of Staten Island](#), Jeannine Garriga, [Boom!Health](#),
- Check Hep B: Julie Yoshimachi, [Charles B Wang Community Health Center](#), Eunice Han, [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 Committee Chair: Meg Chappell, [Empire Liver Foundation](#)
- Advisors: Ronni Marks, [Hepatitis C Mentor and Support Group](#); Anthony Feliciano, [Housing Works](#); Ellie Goldfarb, [Housing Works](#)



QUESTIONS

Contact Meg Chappell or Joy Cambe at:

megchappell@empireliverfoundation.org or
joycambe@empireliverfoundation.org