



NYC Council Viral Hepatitis Initiative Fact Sheet

How does the New York City Council allocate funds to community-based organizations?

The NYC Council allocates [discretionary funding](#) to not-for-profit organizations to meet local needs and positively impact constituents. Every year, the Council establishes local and citywide budget initiatives, which are subject to change from year to year but always seek to improve the health of New Yorkers.

What is the history of the NYC Council Viral Hepatitis Initiative? Between 2010 and 2014, community groups began advocating for the Council to fund programs working to educate, support, and link to care people at risk of or living with hepatitis B and C. Health professionals, patient advocates, and hepatitis B and C community groups met with City Council Members and attended Health Committee hearings to make the case for the citywide need to fund viral hepatitis programs. Staff from the Hepatitis C Mentor and Support Group, Charles B. Wang Community Health Center, Housing Works, Treatment Action Group, the Harm Reduction Coalition, Empire Liver Foundation, and others joined forces to advocate for funding.

In 2014, thanks to the leadership of former City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito, Health Chair Corey Johnson, and Council Members Margaret Chin and Peter Koo, the NYC Council responded by establishing the Viral Hepatitis Initiative, which funds community organizations to support programming and services designed to help people at risk for hepatitis B and C overcome barriers to testing, care, and treatment.

In the same year, Council Members signed a NYC Council [proclamation](#) naming July 21-27th as NYC Hepatitis B Awareness Week and sponsored a [bill](#) to amend the NYC administrative code to require the NYC Department of Health to publish an annual report on hepatitis B and C. The NYC Council passed the bill in 2015 and it was signed by Mayor Bill de Blasio.

In an [interview](#) about the legislation, former NYC Council Health Chair Corey Johnson said, "Getting real scientific data was a key step in helping to combat HIV/ AIDS after it broke out in the '80s, and we should be using a similar model for hepatitis B and C."

Council Member Chin said, "Too many New Yorkers are unaware of their status, risk factors, or where they can go for help and further support. It is vital that we shine light on this deadly disease, and ensure that our communities, especially immigrant communities and communities of color, can talk openly and honestly about the toll hepatitis is taking on our families, friends, and loved ones."

What are the components of the Viral Hepatitis Initiative?

Since 2014, the NYC Council has funded the Viral Hepatitis Initiative and the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene has published an annual report on hepatitis A, B, and C in New York City, which includes Viral Hepatitis Initiative programmatic outcomes and trends in hepatitis A, B, and C surveillance data.

The NYC Council's Viral Hepatitis Initiative has four distinct programmatic components:

- **The Check Hep B Patient Navigation Program.** Hospitals, health centers, and community organizations provide patient navigation to people living with chronic hepatitis B. Check Hep B patient navigators help patients complete hepatitis B testing, evaluation, and treatment.
- **The Check Hep C Patient Navigation Program.** Community health centers and hospitals provide patient navigation to people living with chronic hepatitis C. Check Hep C patient navigators help patients complete hepatitis C testing, evaluation, and curative treatment.
- **The Hep C Peer Program.** NYC Syringe Service Programs (SSPs) provide peer and patient navigation services to people at risk for hepatitis C. Peers with lived experience are recruited to conduct outreach, prevention, and linkage to care.
- **Health Care Provider Training and Workforce Development.** Community-based organizations that specialize in clinical and community education are funded to train peer and patient navigators, case managers, health educators, nurse, physicians and staff who work at HIV/ADIS and substance use programs in hepatitis B and C prevention, testing, linkage to care, evaluation, and treatment.

Information about NYC Council Viral Hepatitis Initiative program outcomes can be found in the annual reports since 2014. The most recent data can be found on pages 36 to 42 of the [2022 NYC Viral Hepatitis Annual Report](#).

Viral Hepatitis Initiative Funding Over Time

Viral Hepatitis Initiative funding is designated through the annual NYC Council [discretionary funding process](#) and organizations must apply for these funds on an annual basis.

In FY2015, the NYC Council designated \$750,000 to the Viral Hepatitis Initiative-funded organizations. In FY2024, the NYC Council designated \$2.24 million for the Viral Hepatitis Initiative.

FY 15	FY 16	FY 17	FY 18	FY 19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY 24
\$750k	\$975k	\$1.18M	\$1.42M	\$1.9M	\$1.9M	\$1.6M	\$1.9M	\$2.3M	\$2.24M

Funding for the Check Hep B Program

- Between FY15 and FY24, the Check Hep B Program added five new program sites, and overall funding for Check Hep B increased.

- The average amount of funding per Check Hep B funded organization was \$37,807 in FY15 and increased to \$60,325 in FY24.

Funding for the Check Hep C Program

- The Check Hep C Program expanded between FY15 and 2024, but most of this increase was due to adding new Check Hep C navigators at hospitals and syringe service programs.
- The Check Hep C Program added eleven new organizations between FY15 and FY24, and overall funding for Check Hep C increased. The average amount per Check Hep C-funded organization increased from \$52,704 in FY15 to \$56,964 in FY24.

Funding for the Check Hep C Program

- The Hep C Peer Program included the same fourteen NYC syringe service programs between FY15 and FY24.
- In 2024, six syringe service programs received additional funding for Check Hep C patient navigation services.
- The average funding per Hep C Peer Program-funded organization increased from slightly more than \$10,000 in FY 15 per organization to nearly \$33,200 per organization in FY 23.

Funding for the Training and Education Programs

- Funding for the Training and Education Program increased from \$148,000 to \$336,000 between FY15 and FY24.
- Most of the increased funding came from adding the National Harm Reduction Coalition and Hepatitis C Mentor and Support Group as additional education and workforce development programs.

New York State Matching Funds

In addition to the City Tax Levy (CTL) dollars designated by the NYC Council, Viral Hepatitis Initiative-funded organizations have received state matching funds, which have increased the overall contract amounts. Under Article 6 of the New York State Public Health Law, the state is obligated to partially reimburse local health departments for expenses related to certain public health services. In FY15, NYS provided 36% Article 6 matching funds to all Viral Hepatitis Initiative contracts. In the FY20 NYS enacted budget, the Article 6 match for New York City was reduced to 20%, which significantly decreased the amount of state matching funds for NYC organizations across many health initiatives. Organizations funded by the NYC Council successfully [advocated](#) for Mayor Bill de Blasio to include funding in the FY20 NYC budget to “backfill” funding to keep contracts maintained at the same level.

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