

**VIRAL HEPATITIS INITIATIVE  
ADVOCACY UPDATE**

# VIRAL HEPATITIS INITIATIVE FUNDING

- Funded by City Council since 2014
- Funds are discretionary and require annual advocacy effort
- Need to educate Council Members about this important initiative
- New for FY 24:
  - Maintain funding for Hep C Programs
  - Increase funding for Hep B Programs to same level as Hep C

## WHY ARE WE HERE?

- More than 300,000 people in NYC living with Hep B and C
- People with chronic Hep B and C are at risk of liver damage, liver cancer and premature death
- In FY 23, NYC City Council funded 37 organizations to connect people at risk of hepatitis B and/or hepatitis C to prevention, testing, care and treatment and to provide clinical and non-clinical education.

# ADVOCACY SEASON SCHEDULE

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- Intro to City Council Funding for Viral Hep Training
  - November 9, 2022 @ 3:00-5:00PM
- City Council Application: How to Apply Training
  - December 5, 2022 @ 3:00-5:00PM
  - January 11, 2023 @ 3:00-5:00PM
- FY 2024 Application opens January 2023
- Office Hours – January – February 2023
  - To assist organizations with completing their VHI application
- VHI Training – Preparing Testimony & Calling Council Members
  - March TBD

## WHAT'S NEXT? TAKE ACTION!

Call, email and meet with City Council members. Why?

- To raise awareness (particularly among the new City Council members and the Health Committee members) about the importance of funding and supporting the Viral Hepatitis Initiative.
- To strengthen support and organize efforts among viral hepatitis partners to sustain and increase City Council funds.

# QUESTIONS?

## Viral Hepatitis Advocacy Leadership Team:

- **Check Hep C Leads:** Suzanne Robinson Davis ([Sdavis@bsfhc.org](mailto:Sdavis@bsfhc.org)); Kenia Liriano ([Kenia.Liriano@chasiny.org](mailto:Kenia.Liriano@chasiny.org))
- **Check Hep B Lead:** Paul Lee ([plee@kcsny.org](mailto:plee@kcsny.org))
- **Hep C Peer Lead:** Jose Martinez ([martinez@harmreduction.org](mailto:martinez@harmreduction.org))
- **Training Leads:** Joy Cambe ([joycambe@empireliverfoundation.org](mailto:joycambe@empireliverfoundation.org)); Mike Selick ([selick@harmreduction.org](mailto:selick@harmreduction.org))
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