



2021-2026

ENGAGING CREDIBLE MESSENGEERS

Community-Based Awardees

Bureau of Health Equity and Community Engagement



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INTRODUCTION

This yearbook highlights the powerful work of a select group of community-based organizations in New York State (NYS). The New York State Department of Health (the Department), through its partner Health Research Inc. (HRI), received a \$33 million grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The grant's purpose is to address health disparities that were made worse by the COVID pandemic.

The Department used a significant portion of this historic investment to fund 200 community-based organizations across the state (excluding New York City, which received its own grant). One-time funding valued at just under \$50,000 was given to 181 smaller organizations. Of these organizations, 80% were new partners and had not worked with the Department. Nineteen larger organizations were each awarded \$250,000 with at least \$75,000 allocated to a grassroots partner in their community. The organizations' work reached every county in NYS, outside of New York City. This book gives a brief description of each organization's wellness project and provides links to get more information about the organizations' broader work and mission.

“I absolutely feel that this is one project where we have been trusted. We have been ... given the autonomy to lead the work the way that makes most sense for our community.”

— Small Wellness organization

Along with the funding, organizations received extensive technical assistance and training about public health with the goal to be better able to access future funding opportunities. The Department piloted a new outreach model, Equitable Procurement Consultants, using community consultants to help small organizations overcome barriers when applying for funding.

The Department also invested in a Community Health Workers Community of Practice, and six mobile health vehicles to give community members ease of access to health services, especially in rural areas.

The Department is taking steps to transform the way it partners with communities. It has made a commitment to be more equitable in the process of distributing funds and to co-design and authentically partner with community organizations that know their communities best.

We offer our deepest thanks to our community partners for the amazing work they do and share our commitment to engaging and connecting with them as partners.

Sincerely,

Kirsten Siegenthaler, Wilma Alvarado-Little, and Karen Madden
Principal Investigators

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The COVID Health Disparities Programs are intended to prevent the spread of COVID and reduce COVID health disparities in underserved, marginalized, under-resourced, and rural communities in New York State, outside of New York City. The COVID Health Disparities Programs are funded under the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Center for State, Tribal, Local and Territorial Support under grant OT21 2103 (June 1, 2021–May 31, 2026) administered by HRI. The content of this directory is that of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official position of, or endorsement by, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The work that is represented in this book would not be possible without the dedication and hard work of the staff of: the Bureau of Health Equity and Community Engagement within the Division of Family Health, the larger Center for Community Health in the Department of Health, as well as staff from the Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities Prevention, the Office of Rural Health, and the Public Affairs Group.

COHORT 1, SMALL WELLNESS MINI-BID AWARDEES

“The wellness project benefited the most vulnerable living in our community, including BIPOC* youth and their families, those at risk of homelessness, veterans, justice-involved individuals, new and soon-to-be parents, the uninsured, and others struggling with financial instability.”

— Small Wellness organization

“Many community members mentioned never having had a safe space to ask questions about some of these [health] topics ... especially in their own language. Having the additional options in Spanish and Haitian Kreyol opened up a lot of discussion around [health] issues not usually spoken about in many of our immigrant households.”

— Small Wellness organization



518 FREE STORE

(Fiscal Agent - The Accomplis Collective, Inc.)

Improve access to food, personal care and baby items for under-resourced individuals in BIPOC and LGBTQIA+ communities.

County Served: Schenectady

[Website](#) • [Facebook](#)

Shalonda Faircloth, s.fair5309@gmail.com

A TINY HOME FOR GOOD

Create safe and healthy living spaces, including healthy air quality, for individuals transitioning from housing insecurity. Distribute masks, home test kits, and COVID educational information to tenants. Provide individualized wellness referrals to primary care and other needed services.

[Website](#) • [Facebook](#)

County Served: Onondaga

Katie Weaver, kweaver@atinyhomeforgood.org



ALBANY COLLEGE OF PHARMACY AND HEALTH SCIENCES: THE COLLABORATORY

Provide chronic disease self-management program to patients in underserved neighborhoods of the Capital Region who are diagnosed with hypertension or type 2 diabetes. This includes supportive activities for healthy foods and COVID health literacy information.

[Website](#) • [Facebook](#)

County Served: Albany

Sabrina Howard, sabrina.howard@acphs.edu

ARDENT SOLUTIONS INC.



Hold Family Fun and Fitness Pop-Up Events. Also deliver evidence-based programming for chronic disease self-management for people living with chronic illness, diabetes, and/or hypertension.

[Website](#)

Counties Served: Allegany, Cattaraugus, Steuben

Helen A. Evans, evansh@ardentnetwork.org

BABY B.A.C.K. INC.

Provide culturally tailored outreach and education resources about COVID, offer Long COVID support groups, and hold vaccination events.

[Facebook](#)

County Served: Onondaga

Gerald Seals, g.seals@babybackinc.com

BLACK NURSES COALITION INC.

Hold community events conducted by registered nurses in neighborhoods that experience health disparities for diabetes, hypertension and heart healthy lifestyle, to include COVID vaccination education.

[Website](#) • [Facebook](#)

Counties Served: Albany, Rensselaer, Schenectady

Dr. Brenda Robinson, Blacknursescoalition@gmail.com



BRIDGES OUT OF POVERTY, LEWIS

Provide *Getting Ahead in a Just Gettin'-By World* and *Staying Ahead* sessions with people experiencing poverty. The goal is to create positive social connections and build resources. Conduct Bridges Out of Poverty trainings for community partners.

[Facebook](#)

County Served: Lewis

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Stephanie Houser Fouse, bridgeslewiscounty@gmail.com



BRING ON THE SPECTRUM COMMUNITY SPACE AND SENSORY GYM

Deliver movement, fitness and recreation opportunities for K-12 students in rural areas across a spectrum of abilities and diversity, including neurodiversity.

[Website](#) • [Facebook](#)

Counties Served: Albany, Columbia, Fulton, Greene, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Ulster, Warren, Washington

.....
Lisa Audi, Lisa@BringOnTheSpectrum.org

BUFFALO GO GREEN INC.

Provide access to urban farm markets, as well as healthy food and nutrition education through cooking demonstrations for all ages.

[Website](#) • [Facebook](#)

Counties Served: Erie, Niagara

.....
Allison DeHoney, mrodgers@buffalogogreen.org



CAPITAL DISTRICT LATINOS INC.

Conduct chronic kidney disease prevention program tailored for Latinos that provides education, testing, and promotes wellness activities (exercise, yoga, Zumba, etc.)

[Website](#) • [Facebook](#)

Counties Served: Albany, Rensselaer, Schenectady

Israel Soto de Bovee, isoto@capitaldistrictlatinos.org



CARE MANAGEMENT COALITION

Improve intake and referral system, inclusive of a social determinants of health assessment, serving low-income and families of color in the Broadway-Fillmore neighborhood of Buffalo; follow up with integrated case management to connect families with what they need.

[Facebook](#)

County Served: Erie

Tara Burgess, burgessst@epicforchildren.org

CAYUGA COMMUNITY HEALTH NETWORK INC.

Conduct street outreach with individuals at risk of homelessness. Provide 1:1 intensive supports and linkages to housing, health care, and referrals to services. Develop and implement a financial literacy program.

[Website](#) • [Facebook](#)

County Served: Cayuga

Dr. Shari Weiss, sweiss@cayugahealthnetwork.org



CENTER FOR SELF ADVOCACY INC.

Create easy-to-understand training videos, and work with those who have disabilities on how to improve their skills in navigating online medical portals and other telehealth programs. Through a peer-led model, we'll work one-on-one with people to help them learn how to maintain access to medical care.

[Website](#) • [Facebook](#)

Counties Served: Erie, Niagara

Sam Mattle, Smattle@center4sa.org



CHENANGO HEALTH NETWORK

Support a rural LGBTQ+ Resource and Education Specialist to provide training and education to businesses, schools, and other nonprofits. The goal is to expand inclusivity and safety for LGBTQ+ people, including safe access to health resources.

[Website](#) • [Facebook](#)

Counties Served: Chenango, Delaware, Otsego

Mikayla Jones, mikayla@chenangohealth.org



CHILDREN'S HEALTH & RESEARCH FOUNDATION

Deliver support services to pregnant people, focusing on the social determinants of health. Services are provided collaboratively between community health workers and doulas.

[Website](#)

Counties Served: Rockland, Westchester

Dr. Angela Campbell, campbella@lhvpn.net



CHURCH OF LOVE FAITH CENTER

Convene health and wellness forums for individuals, including seniors, to address the impact of COVID with attention on health, mental health and healthy lifestyles to prevent chronic disease.

[Website](#) • [Facebook](#)

County Served: Monroe

Dennis Copeland, denniscopeland15@gmail.com



CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION OF SUFFOLK

Provide educational mental health programs and resources to parents of school-aged children.

[Website](#) • [Facebook](#)

County Served: Suffolk

Cara Sultan, caw10@cornell.edu

CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SCHOHARIE & OTSEGO COUNTIES

Expand the reach of existing nutrition education resources and services into unserved areas, strengthen collaboration and data collection.

[Website](#) • [Facebook](#)

Counties Served: Montgomery, Otsego, Schoharie

Elizabeth A. Callahan, eac283@cornell.edu



CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Conduct a trauma-informed art therapy program for people living with mental illness and housing insecurity to support their well-being and to reduce isolation.

[Website](#) • [Facebook](#)

County Served: Oneida

Cathy Marsh, silversinger47@yahoo.com



EAST HILL MEDICAL CENTER

Create and distribute wellness toolkits to patients with diabetes/prediabetes to build health literacy, self-management skills; facilitate referrals to supportive programs.

[Website](#) • [Facebook](#)

County Served: Cayuga

Abby Gunger, agunger@easthillmedical.com

EXERCISE EXPRESS

Provide wellness, fitness, and socialization sessions with predominantly BIPOC seniors experiencing mental health/substance use challenges.

[Website](#) • [Facebook](#)

County Served: Monroe

Latisha McCray, lmccray@theexerciseexpress.com



FAMILY SERVICE SOCIETY INC.

Provide youth mentoring program in collaboration with law enforcement for youth at risk of: juvenile justice/child welfare system involvement, substance abuse, and/or mental health issues.

[Website](#) • [Facebook](#)

County Served: Chemung

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Cynthia Gee, geec@familyservicesociety.org



FRASSTI EATS

Deliver COVID prevention supplies, meals, and mental wellness support to people experiencing homelessness, people experiencing substance use disorders, and people over age 65.

County Served: Westchester

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Sheenadahara Sierra, Sheena.sierra93@gmail.com

GENESIS HEALTH PROJECT NETWORK

Provide financial literacy education for African American individuals within Black churches and the wider community, highlighting link between financial wellness and health.

[Website](#) • [Facebook](#)

County Served: Onondaga

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Maria Brown, mbrown08@syr.edu



GOUVERNEUR VOLUNTEER RESCUE SQUAD INC.

Paramedicine follow-up visits to patients with chronic conditions post-discharge from hospital to reduce hospital readmissions.

[Website](#)

County Served: St. Lawrence

Mark Deavers, markdeavers@gvrs-ems.org



HEALTHY COMMUNITY ALLIANCE INC.

Develop a culturally responsive outreach and messaging campaign to address food security and access to healthy foods, targeted to reach underserved, rural, WIC-eligible families. Activities include strategic outreach plan, community outreach events, and media campaign.

[Website](#) • [Facebook](#)

County Served: Cattaraugus

Ann Battaglia, abattaglia@hcanetwork.org



HOOD'S HOUSE OF HOOPS

Conduct wellness, fitness, and recreation programs for youth, with a gun violence prevention education component.

[Website](#) • [Facebook](#)

Counties Served: Albany, Rensselaer, Schenectady

Jamil Hood Sr., jlhoodsr@yahoo.com



HUMAN SERVICE DEVELOPMENT

Provide community health navigation/outreach worker services to underserved persons in need of linkages and referrals for care and support, including healthy food access, and COVID information.

County Served: Chemung

Kathy Carpenter, kathy.carpenter@humanservicedevelopment.com



IBERO-AMERICAN ACTION LEAGUE

Provide health and wellness education workshops for Spanish-speaking seniors in rural areas to reduce social isolation spurred by COVID.

[Website](#) • [Facebook](#)

Counties Served: Fulton, Montgomery

Lucia Colindres, lucia.colindres@iaal.org



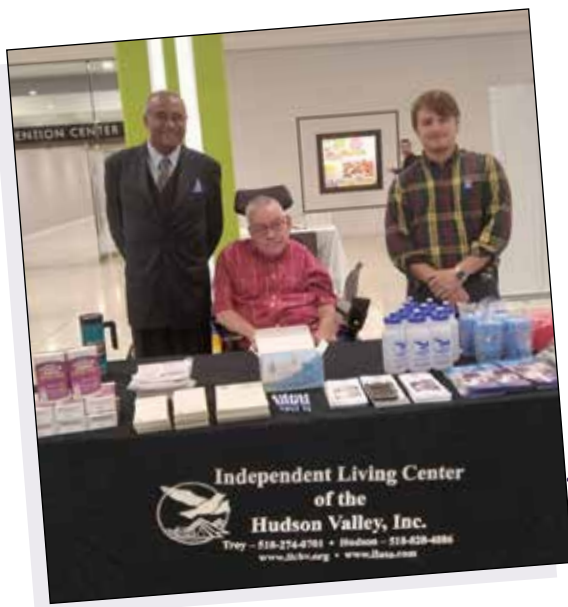
INDEPENDENT LIVING CENTER OF THE HUDSON VALLEY

Expand accessible wellness classes for individuals with disabilities, focused on physical activity, nutrition, and emotional well-being.

[Website](#) • [Facebook](#)

Counties Served: Albany, Columbia, Franklin, Fulton, Greene, Herkimer, Montgomery, Oswego, Rensselaer, St. Lawrence, Saratoga, Schenectady, Warren, Washington

Denise Figueroa, dfigueroa@ilchv.org



INTERDENOMINATIONAL HEALTH MINISTRY COALITION

Convene educational symposiums for communities of color on men’s and youth health, addressing the impacts of COVID on wellness and education on social determinants, health disparities, and health equity. Enhance access to free counseling services for BIPOC families.

[Website](#) • [Facebook](#)

County Served: Monroe

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Cathy Q. Little, ihmcroc@gmail.com



MADISON COUNTY RURAL HEALTH COUNCIL INC.

Deliver the evidence-based *Eat Healthy-Be Active* curriculum to reach participants with low health literacy levels.

[Website](#) • [Facebook](#)

Counties Served: Chenango, Madison

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Christine Paul, christine.paul@mcruralhealthcouncil.org

MECHANICVILLE AREA COMMUNITY SERVICES CENTER

Expand housing safety and housing insecurity prevention programs, leveraging enhanced community partnerships. Develop and provide new programs for senior citizens and essential workers focused on nutrition outreach, substance use disorders, mental health, and health literacy.

[Website](#) • [Facebook](#)

Counties Served: Rensselaer, Saratoga

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Megan Quillinan, mquillinan@mechanicvilleacsc.org



MIND, BODY, SPIRIT MARRIAGE & FAMILY THERAPY

Conduct community mental health workshops tailored for Black and Latino families; promote mental health care accessibility.

[Website](#) • [Facebook](#)

Counties Served: Erie, Monroe, Onondaga

Rhea Parks, rheap@mbsmft.com



NEW YORK RESEARCH EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY HEALTH

Provide health literacy and COVID education sessions in Spanish and English; conduct symposium to build diverse health care workforce, drawing participants from underserved communities.

[Website](#) • [Facebook](#)

County Served: Westchester

Isimar Lopez, ILopez@Essenmed.com

NNLB UNITED

Conduct culturally competent anti-poverty initiative to include virtual education training, symposium for marginalized community members, and a culturally competent website.

Counties Served: Broome, Chenango, Monroe, Suffolk

Keris Lové, keris@nnlbunited.com



NORTH COUNTRY HEALTHY HEART NETWORK INC.

Expand delivery of evidence-based, chronic disease self-management programs via the development of service agreements with partners in order to meet growing need across a large rural region.

[Website](#) • [Facebook](#)

Counties Served: Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Hamilton, St. Lawrence, Warren, Washington

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Ann Morgan, amorgan@heartnetwork.org



NYCEMOVES

Expand athletic clinics for underserved young athletes ages 13-21 on financial, health, and mental health literacy.

[Website](#)

Counties Served: Albany, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady

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Isaiah Norman, Nycemoves@gmail.com

ORANGE PRIDE PARENT-ALLY COALITION

Expand wellness events and supportive resources for LGBTQ+ youth and families.

[Facebook](#)

County Served: Orange

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Lisa Ruiz, Lisar Ruiz549@gmail.com

PARKER JEWISH INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH CARE AND REHABILITATION

Expand telehealth wellness programs to underserved populations with chronic health conditions that were neglected during COVID. Provide interpretation during sessions. Focus on healthy lifestyle, including nutrition, and COVID education.

[Website](#) • [Facebook](#)

Counties Served: Nassau, Suffolk

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Lorraine Breuer, lbreuer@parkerinstitute.org



PEACE OF THE CITY

Conduct programs for K-12 students experiencing poverty to help them engage with school. Focus on educational technology support, physical health, nutrition, and trauma-informed counseling for children affected by grief and loss due to COVID.

[Website](#) • [Facebook](#)

County Served: Erie

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Diann Takens, dtakens@peaceofthecity.org



PEEKSKILL NAACP

Address mental health effects from the COVID pandemic through stress management workshops for youth, seniors, Black/African American, LGBTQ+ and Latinx individuals, focusing on coping techniques, resiliency education, mindfulness, mental health awareness, and self care.

[Website](#) • [Facebook](#)

County Served: Westchester

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Valerie Eaton, PeekskillNAACP@gmail.com



PROYECTO FARO

Proyecto Faro conducted a series of *Community Wellness Workshops* focusing specifically on our Spanish- and Haitian Kreyol-speaking community members in Rockland County. We covered the topics of general health, women's health, mental and emotional health, heart diseases and diabetes, and COVID/RSV/flu and how to be prepared. We also had guest speakers from local government agencies and insurance companies that also shared how to increase accessibility for our diverse community members in terms of language, culture, and documentation status.

[Website](#) • [Facebook](#)

County Served: Rockland

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Maria Marasigan, info@proyectofarorockland.org



RESTORED BALANCE TEAM ESTEEM YEP

Conduct restorative justice and mentorship program with youth at risk of juvenile justice system involvement, covering topics such as gun violence, trauma, youth empowerment, COVID health literacy, cultural health literacy, nutrition education, healing, mental health, and non-violence strategies.

[Facebook](#)

County Served: Albany

Adrienne Kisse, teamesteemyep@gmail.com



RURAL HEALTH NETWORK OF SCNY INC.

Expand delivery of existing evidence-based chronic pain self-management and Mental Health First Aid programs in targeted rural communities, leveraging outreach, and partnerships.

[Website](#) • [Facebook](#)

Counties Served: Delaware, Tioga

Mary Maruscak, mmaruscak@rhnscny.org



SENECA SCIENTIFIC SOLUTIONS+

Develop and conduct culturally tailored training with Tribal Nations on COVID health information. Provide technical assistance to Tribal Nations on how to develop an emergency operations center. Provide technical assistance to Tribal Nations for creation of emergency response plans. Implement interactive resource to help vulnerable or elderly Indigenous people access COVID treatment and health care.

[Website](#) • [Facebook](#)

Counties Served: Allegany, Cattaraugus, Cayuga, Chautauqua, Erie, Franklin, Niagara, Onondaga, Orleans, St. Lawrence, Seneca, Suffolk, Wyoming

Dean Seneca, thundereagle1042@gmail.com



SER WEALTH MANAGEMENT DBA ELISA PLAN

Conduct community-based, culturally competent financial literacy program with Black, Latino and immigrant community members (many nurses) to support physical health and mental health.

[Website](#) • [Facebook](#)

Counties Served: Erie, Monroe, Onondaga

Ruth Elisa Simmons, info@elisaplan.com



SEVEN VALLEYS HEALTH COALITION

Deliver Chronic Disease Self-Management and *Eat Healthy-Be Active* workshops, enhancing the workshops with 1:1 prevention programming, and extra supports.

[Website](#) • [Facebook](#)

County Served: Cortland

Jackie Leaf, jackie@sevenvalleyshealth.org

SOULJOY WELLNESS LLC.

Provide dance fitness program with the Black faith community to reduce stress/anxiety and improve physical and mental well-being.

[Website](#) • [Facebook](#)

County Served: Nassau

Joy Williams, joy@souljoywellness.com



SOUTH ASIAN FUND FOR EDUCATION, SCHOLARSHIP, AND TRAINING INC.

Conduct health literacy and healthy lifestyle workshops with individuals in South Asian immigrant neighborhoods, such as exercise classes for seniors, young mother activity groups, and empowering topics such as socio-economic development, parents' rights, and violence prevention. Provide linkages to services addressing social determinants of health.

[Website](#) • [Facebook](#)

Counties Served: Nassau, Suffolk

Mazeda Uddin, safestusa@gmail.com



ST. CATHERINE'S CENTER FOR CHILDREN

Expand street outreach program, including use of mobile Care-A-Van, for people at risk of being homeless to connect them to health care and address other social determinants of health.

[Website](#) • [Facebook](#)

Counties Served: Columbia, Greene

Alyson Bingham, sccsm@st-cath.org



SULLIVAN ALLIES LEADING TOGETHER INC.

Enhance community outreach efforts to connect people to services, especially those affected by the opioid crisis, and address social determinants of health, including housing, nutrition, and access to health care.

[Website](#) • [Facebook](#)

County Served: Sullivan

Martin Colavito, salt@saltcares.com



TABERNACLE OF PRAISE

Provide health and wellness workshops for families and caregivers on self-care, mental health, and physical health stability. Conduct wellness assessments with families and linkages to services/resources.

[Facebook](#)

County Served: Nassau

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Pastor Elena Mayfield, Tabofpraises@gmail.com

THE MARY IMOGENE BASSETT HOSPITAL DBA BASSETT MEDICAL CENTER

Expand the reach of chronic disease self-management programs by enhancing recruitment, engagement, participation and support of adults who have recently been hospitalized.

[Website](#) • [Facebook](#)

Counties Served: Chenango, Delaware, Herkimer, Madison, Montgomery, Oneida, Otsego, Schoharie

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Wendy Brunner, wendy.brunner@bassett.org



THE SALVATION ARMY – JAMESTOWN

Provide trauma-informed community-based counseling services, interventions, and outreach services for rural families who are at high risk of family abuse or who have experienced family abuse, sexual assault or child abuse.

[Website](#)

County Served: Chautauqua

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Jeremy Swanson, jeremy.swanson@use.salvationarmy.org



THE SALVATION ARMY – UTICA

Enhance capacity of drop-in recovery center and its partners to serve people with substance use issues through a trauma-informed lens.

[Website](#) • [Facebook](#)

County Served: Oneida

John Creaser, john.creaser@use.salvationarmy.org

THE TRADING POST (Operating under Revive Wesleyan)

Expand emergency relief and wellness programs to address food insecurity and other social determinants of health in an underresourced rural community.

[Website](#) • [Facebook](#)

Counties Served: Chautauqua, Erie, Wyoming

Peggy Austin, paustin@revivewesleyan.com



THE VINEYARD FARMS INC.

Wellbeing Navigators conduct focused outreach to individuals in low-income housing to address social determinants of health needs: food security, healthy food, chronic disease, physical and mental health, housing, employment, among others.

[Website](#)

County Served: Monroe

Sister Marsha L. Allen, Gonowforjesus@aol.com

TRUTH PHARM

Use Community Health Navigators to assess and support any unmet social, health and wellness needs of people dealing with substance use challenges. Provide overdose recognition and response training to community members.

[Website](#) • [Facebook](#)

County Served: Broome

Kathy Staples, kathys.rainmaker@gmail.com



UNITED TENANTS OF ALBANY

Increase capacity of homelessness prevention and rental assistance staff to assess and effectively address social determinants of health; implement enhanced assessment and referral process.

[Website](#) • [Facebook](#)

Counties Served: Albany, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady

Canyon Ryan, canyon@unitedtenantsalbany.org



UNITED WAY OF THE DUTCHESS-ORANGE REGION INC.

Enhance existing community wellness programs (crisis response, food access, financial literacy, emergency mental health, etc.).

[Website](#) • [Facebook](#)

Counties Served: Dutchess, Orange

Melissa Clark, mclark@uwdor.org



VALLEY CENTRAL PARENTS FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

Deliver multicultural wellness sessions for BIPOC, school-aged children and their parents focused on COVID education, physical fitness, art therapy, mental wellness, and nutrition.

County Served: Orange

Lisa Ruiz, LisaRuiz549@gmail.com



WARRIOR HOUSE OF WNY

Conduct social-emotional support program for parents/caregivers of young children to promote COVID health literacy, and enrich veterans and community members throughout Western New York through supported services that promote social and emotional development and empower use of local resources to address social determinants of health (e.g., food, health access).

[Website](#) • [Facebook](#)

Counties Served: Genesee, Orleans, Wyoming

Susan Zelif, warriorhouseofwny@gmail.com



WATCH US CHANGE US

Deliver community wellness sessions for youth on topics including nutrition, physical activity, mental balance, dental hygiene, COVID/public health, summer skin safety, asthma/food allergies, bee allergies, swimming safety, financial literacy, and housing navigation.

[Facebook](#)

County Served: Broome

Kashif Summers, lilka202002@yahoo.com



WAYNE COUNTY ACTION PROGRAM INC.

Expand reach and retention rate of chronic disease self-management programs (chronic illness, falls prevention and diabetes) for economically disadvantaged seniors.

[Website](#) • [Facebook](#)

Counties Served: Ontario, Seneca, Wayne

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Donna Johnson, donna.johnson@waynecap.org



WESTERN NEW YORK INTEGRATED CARE COLLABORATIVE INC.

Increase number and diversity of trained peer leaders and expand language capabilities to deliver chronic disease self-management programs (chronic illness, diabetes, chronic pain).

[Website](#) • [Facebook](#)

Counties Served: Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Niagara, Orleans, Wyoming

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Nikki Kmicinski, nkmicinski@wnyicc.org



WESTERN NEW YORK RURAL AREA HEALTH EDUCATION CENTER

Develop and launch self-paced, online course for rural health care workforce focused on social determinants of health in rural communities. Course includes interviews with health care professionals in Western New York, interactive slides, and helpful information about social determinants of health.

[Website](#) • [Facebook](#)

Counties Served: Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Orleans, Steuben, Wayne, Wyoming, Yates

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Sara Longhini, slonghini@r-ahec.org



WHOLE ME INC.

Deliver comprehensive supports to serve the needs of the deaf and hard of hearing community. Supports include educational workshops and care coordination to address social determinants of health needs, such as financial literacy, housing needs, access to communication, health care. Educational sessions are held with businesses or community organizations who are unfamiliar with the deaf and hard of hearing community.

[Website](#) • [Facebook](#)

County Served: Onondaga

Joelene Orlando, jorlando@wholemeinc.com



WOMEN OF PEARLS' HEALTHY, EMPOWERED, AND LOVED (HEAL) INITIATIVE

Healthy, Empowered, And Loved (HEAL) is an initiative designed specifically for BIPOC women, focusing on improving their health and well-being. HEAL is a holistic approach that empowers Black women to build sustainable habits and prioritize their well-being across Seven Dimensions of Wellness.

[Website](#) • [Facebook](#)

County Served: Onondaga

Babette Baker, bbaker@paivdeiapm.com



YOU ARE BEAUTIFULLY MADE LLC.

Conduct community engagement events tailored for Black women (mothers-daughters) to provide education on physical well-being, mental health, COVID, and nutrition.

[Facebook](#)

County Served: Monroe

Ronieka Burns, ubeautifullymade@gmail.com



COHORT 2, SMALL WELLNESS MINI-BID AWARDEES

“Many people in our community feel that poverty is a personal issue alone, and not a structural one. Members of our community now understand the many intersections of health disparities, health literacy, and lack of resources.”

— Small Wellness organization

“In rural communities, we battle a lot of misinformation and challenges to public health information. There was some resistance to [COVID] information in the beginning because of this. It took time to develop trust and relationships with our community members and with that came a willingness to consider the information we were providing.”

— Small Wellness organization

4TH FAMILY INCORPORATED

Hold financial literacy and housing sessions for BIPOC youth.

Counties Served: Albany, Schenectady

[Website](#) • [Facebook](#)

Jahkeen I. Hoke, jhoke@4thfamily.org

50 FORWARD MOHAWK VALLEY

Conduct health literacy, healthy aging, and falls prevention workshops for older adults.

[Website](#)

County Served: Oneida

Kari Johnson, kjohnson@50forwardmv.org



ABUNDANT LIFE FAITH CENTER INC.

Conduct nutrition and cooking demonstrations in conjunction with the Common Ground Health Blood Pressure Project for BIPOC seniors.

[Website](#) • [Facebook](#)

County Served: Monroe

Sharon Murrell Dilbert, sharonlavoice@live.com



ACCESS OF WNY

Develop culturally-tailored health workshops and community engagement events for people experiencing poverty.

[Website](#) • [Facebook](#)

County Served: Erie

Talib Abdullah, abdullaht@accesswny.org



ACCESS TO INDEPENDENCE OF CORTLAND COUNTY INC.

Hold health literacy workshops focused on COVID, financial education, nutrition, and health and wellness for people with disabilities, LGBTQ+, and low-income residents.

[Website](#) • [Facebook](#)

County Served: Cortland

Jadelyn Phillips, jphillips@aticortland.org



AENON MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

Conduct wellness workshops and seminars for underserved youth and young adults, with a focus on COVID, physical fitness, healthy eating, health education, mentorship, and community engagement.

[Website](#) • [Facebook](#)

County Served: Monroe

Karen Lee Byfield, kleebyfield@gmail.com



AMERICAN CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Conduct community health workshops and *Know Your Rights* sessions for new immigrants and refugees, to include COVID vaccine clinics, navigating health care coverage, education, and finances.

[Website](#) • [Facebook](#)

County Served: Broome

Francesca Bove, fbove@americancivic.com

ARC GLOW

Conduct healthy-movement-based sessions for people with developmental disabilities in rural areas. Provide accessible healthy eating cookbooks and shopping guides.

[Website](#) • [Facebook](#)

Counties Served: Genesee, Livingston, Orleans, Wyoming

Mallory Diefenbach, MDiefenbach@ArcGLOW.org

ATLANTIC STATES LEGAL FOUNDATION INC.

Conduct wellness workshops - *Reimagine Greenspace for Healthy Living* - focusing on nutrition, gardening, and healthy cooking for people experiencing poverty.

[Website](#)

County Served: Oswego

Dylan Seaver, dseaver@aslf.org

AZEEM FAMILY FOUNDATION

Conduct the *Health, Wealth, and Wellness* series with a focus on financial education, Zumba®, wellness, and life skills for marginalized youth and their families. Held a two-day *Healing through Art Wellness* event to bring awareness to mental health and support healing from gun violence.

[Facebook](#)

County Served: Erie

Zaheera Hemphill, azeemfamilyfoundationinc@gmail.com



BABY SAFE SLEEP COALITION

Conduct *Baby Safe Sleep Health and Wellness* summit for underserved parents and caregivers experiencing limited resources, including how to address COVID-related traumas, mental health, and financial stress.

[Website](#) • [Facebook](#)

County Served: Monroe

Jeannie Slaughter, jslaugh1@rochester.rr.com

BANGLADESHI AMERICAN SOCIAL & CULTURAL ORGANIZATION WNY INC.

Provide community health seminars and community outreach events for South Asian, non-United States born and religious minority populations with a focus on health literacy, health care access, how to stop smoking, nutrition, mental health, child development, and autism awareness.

[Website](#) • [Facebook](#)

County Served: Erie

Anwar Chowdhury, anwar.chowdhury@gmail.com





BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES NORTH INC.

The Healthy Families New York (HFNY) North Country Program held health and safety workshops for underserved families in the rural North Country region.

[Website](#) • [Facebook](#)

Counties Served: Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Hamilton, Warren

Esther I. Piper, epiper@bhsn.org

BEYOND THE SANCTUARY INC.

Conduct social determinants of health and COVID training program to prepare the launch of the Referral Team and Peer Educators community resource navigation service.

County Served: Monroe

Carmen Allen, beyondthesanctuary20@gmail.com



BIG BIG TABLE COMMUNITY CAFE INC.

Conduct wellness events in the community cafe with a focus on COVID education, nutritional health, mental health, and physical health for individuals experiencing homelessness, mental illness, and poverty.

[Website](#) • [Facebook](#)

County Served: Erie

Maddie Collins, maddie@bigbigtable.org

BLACK ABOLITIONIST DIRECTIVE

Develop a culturally relevant referral portal that contains materials and resources for Black and LGBTQ+ communities with limited access to health care, housing, employment, and resources. Conduct community events and activities for the Raising Awareness of Black Abolitionist Directive.

[Facebook](#)

Counties Served: Albany, Schenectady

Kasey Charles, bad@blackabolitionistdirective.com



BLACK BOYS READ TOO

Conduct *Barbershop Literacy* events for Black youth, their caregivers, mentors, and community members in the Buffalo area.

[Website](#) • [Facebook](#)

Counties Served: Erie, Niagara

Jelicia Jimenez, info@blackboysreadtoo.org



BLACKWELL CHAPEL BABY CAFÉ

The Baby Café is a baby-friendly environment for navigating services and providing support, in addition to providing COVID education. It works with breastfeeding teens and pregnant mothers with a concentration on the BIPOC and marginalized communities to assist and encourage mothers to breastfeed for longer periods of time, for a healthier infant/baby.

[Facebook](#)

County Served: Chautauqua

Blackwell Chapel Baby Cafe, blackwellchapelbabycafe@yahoo.com

BLOW DRY LOUNGE LLC.

Conduct *New Beginnings* & *A Fresh Start* workshops, and hair care educational clinics for BIPOC people with disabilities, individuals experiencing poverty, and women and children affected by domestic violence.

Counties Served: Erie, Monroe, Onondaga, Oswego

Falicia Garries, Blowdrylounge@gmail.com



BLUEPRINT GENEVA INC.

Provide a series of financial literacy and fitness workshops, as well as healthy cooking demonstrations and a community health fair to address chronic health issues and food insecurity for under-resourced rural persons.

[Website](#) • [Facebook](#)

County Served: Ontario

Dr. Jacqueline Augustine, jackie@blueprintgeneva.org

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF NORTHERN CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY

Conduct community wellness programs for underserved school-age youth and their families with a focus on COVID education, healthy foods, health literacy, and educational mentoring.

[Website](#)

County Served: Chautauqua

Jeannie Gallaway, jeannieg.bgc@gmail.com



BOYS ON THE RIGHT TRACK

Conduct regional wellness programs in rural areas for boys and their families focused on COVID, physical fitness, healthy eating, health education, emotional well-being, communication, leadership, and conflict resolution.

[Facebook](#)

Counties Served: Allegany, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Orleans

Juliet Meade, julietmeade@boysontherighttrack.org



BREAST CANCER NETWORK OF WNY INC.

Conduct *Day of Renewal* workshops to address health and wellness, focusing on health information, support, and COVID education for cancer survivors and their families.

[Website](#) • [Facebook](#)

Counties Served: Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Niagara

Rob Jones, rob@bcnwny.org

THE BREASTURANT

Conduct culturally-relevant wellness sessions reaching Black and Brown pregnant and parenting people and their partners. The sessions focus on COVID literacy and promote healthy practices to prevent maternal mortality.

County Served: Erie

Alexcia R. Harrod, CD MPA, thebreasturant@gmail.com



BREWSTER CARES

Provide sessions of *Brewster Cares*, a comprehensive program for people experiencing homelessness that focuses on financial literacy, navigating social programs and health care, substance issues, and survival/de-escalation skills. Link people to vaccination clinics.

[Website](#)

County Served: Putnam

Juliann Noce, juliannoce@comcast.net



BRIDGE THA GAP RESOURCE & OUTREACH INC.

Provide mental and emotional health support services for the BIPOC community, individuals experiencing housing insecurity, and immigrant youth and young adults. Approach includes: identifying strengths in each individual through social determinants of health assessments, assisting in transportation and handoff of resources, and providing linkages to community providers and on-site support groups.

[Facebook](#)

Counties Served: Albany, Rensselaer, Schenectady

Eva Bass, bridgethagapcommunity@gmail.com

BSB – BEAUTIFUL SHADES OF BROWN

BSB is dedicated to nurturing the social enhancement and life skills development of youth and young adults ages 10 to 25, providing them with mentorship, workshops, and sessions that foster strong social skills, support, and meaningful relationships. The organization works to create an environment where every young person feels empowered, supported, and connected, enabling them to navigate life's challenges with confidence and resilience.

County Served: Monroe

Christine Richards, EdD, bsob2017@gmail.com



CAPITAL DISTRICT CENTER FOR INDEPENDENCE INC.

Conduct the *Benefits Navigation and Assistance Program* (BNAP) for older adults and individuals with disabilities to help them access resources.

[Website](#) • [Facebook](#)

Counties Served: Albany, Schenectady

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Laurel Kelley, laurelk@cdciweb.com



CAPITAL DISTRICT RECOVERY CENTER

Provide health literacy workshops for people with addiction and their families. The curriculum will include presentations on various topics by partnering with health care providers.

[Website](#)

Counties Served: Albany, Saratoga, Schenectady

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Deborah Eley, albanygrantwriter123@gmail.com



CATHOLIC CHARITIES STEUBEN/LIVINGSTON

Conduct economic stability educational sessions for people at risk of homelessness living in rural areas, including screening for social determinants of health needs.

[Website](#)

Counties Served: Livingston, Steuben

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Sally Ressue, Sally.Ressue@dor.org



CATSKILL HUDSON AREA HEALTH EDUCATION CENTER INC.

Conduct a series of health literacy trainings for the health care and human services' essential workforce who serve under-resourced populations.

[Website](#) • [Facebook](#)

Counties Served: Columbia, Delaware, Dutchess, Greene, Orange, Otsego, Rockland, Schoharie, Sullivan, Ulster

Megan Deichler, mdeichler@chahec.org



CELEBRITIES BARBERSHOP

Hold after-school community wellness sessions for underserved, BIPOC youth.

[Facebook](#)

County Served: Albany

Luis Williams, Celebritiesbarbershop1@gmail.com



CHRISTINA FECIO CONSULTING LLC.

Conduct *Building Joyful Classrooms* and *Wellness Wednesday* workshops for essential workers in rural areas to address mental health challenges.

[Website](#) • [Website](#) • [Facebook](#)

Counties Served: Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Niagara, Wyoming

Christina Fecio, christina.fecio@gmail.com



COLUMBIA COUNTY SANCTUARY MOVEMENT

Hold mental health resource workshops tailored for the needs of immigrants in this county.

[Website](#) • [Facebook](#)

County Served: Columbia

Noah Eckstein, noah@sanctuarycolumbiacounty.org



COMMUNITIES PROMOTING READING

Conduct wellness workshops for youth and young adults, people 65 and older, and those experiencing homelessness, mental illness, or poverty with a focus on COVID health literacy, financial literacy, fitness, family mental and physical health, and nutrition.

[Instagram](#)

County Served: Putnam

Elease Wiggins, elease@afarewelltowelfare.com



COMMUNITY ACTION OF ORLEANS AND GENESEE

Conduct *Mental Health First Aid* for adults and *Teen Mental Health First Aid* sessions focusing on mental health awareness and education. Hold *Skills and Recreation* activity sessions for individuals with family members experiencing mental illness focusing on healthy behaviors and wellness strategies.

[Website](#) • [Facebook](#)

Counties Served: Genesee, Orleans

Renee M. Hungerford, rhungerford@caoginc.org



COMMUNITY CAREGIVERS INC.

Provide one-on-one outreach services to older adults who are experiencing poverty and/or have a disability to identify their unmet needs and provide supportive services, including grocery services, transportation, and supportive phone calls. Conduct health education sessions about COVID.

[Website](#) • [Facebook](#)

Counties Served: Albany, Rensselaer

Meredith Osta, Meredith@communitycaregivers.org



CONFIDENT GIRL MENTORING PROGRAM INC.

Conduct *E3 Menstrual Health Equity Project* community pop-up events that support Black and Hispanic youth and young adults experiencing poverty in rural parts of the counties. Facilitate youth-led community conversations to tackle social determinants.

[Website](#) • [Facebook](#)

Counties Served: Erie, Niagara

Tiffany R. Lewis, tlewis@confidentgirlmentoring.com



CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION OF COLUMBIA AND GREENE COUNTIES

Conduct cooking demonstrations and personal wellness workshops for under-resourced parents and youth experiencing food insecurity in rural areas.

[Website](#)

Counties Served: Columbia, Greene

Rebecca Polmateer, rp328@cornell.edu



CULTIVATING HEALING AND JUSTICE INITIATIVE SUPPORT SERVICES INC.

Provide educational workshops on prostate cancer to include COVID health literacy. Conduct outreach, referral, and peer education with individuals with prostate cancer and intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (IDD).

[Facebook](#)

Counties Served: Dutchess, Orange, Rockland, Ulster

Karen Abramson, info@chjisupportservices.org



CULTRUE INC.

Conduct *Healing Buffalo Through the Arts* workshops to promote emotional wellness and healing for the BIPOC community.

[Website](#)

Counties Served: Erie, Niagara

Alexa Wajed, cultruelife@gmail.com

CULTURES LEARNING TOGETHER INC.

Widening the TOGETHER safe space into the community through wellness workshops and educational field experience activities that focus on mental health support, access to health care, and cultural learning. Breaking linguistic barriers by meeting the needs of the immigrant and migrant farmworker population through English and Spanish classes.

[Website](#)

Counties Served: Livingston, Wyoming

Beth Adams, bethadams@cultureslearningtogether.org



DRESS FOR SUCCESS BUFFALO

Conduct health literacy workshops to support women living in poverty.

[Website](#)

County Served: Erie

Michelle Barron, buffalo@dressforsuccess.org



ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM INC.

Conduct educational workshops addressing social determinants of health (behavioral health, nutrition, RSV, SNAP, exercise, and more) for traditionally under-resourced persons in rural areas.

[Website](#)

Counties Served: Chemung, Schuyler

Briana Storch, bstorch@cseop.org

EMPOWERING PEOPLE MOVEMENT

Conduct *Healthy Healing* workshop sessions for low-income Black, Latino, and Asian youth and young adults focusing on mental health, healing from trauma, job preparation, time management, managing emotions, and financial literacy.

[Website](#)

Counties Served: Erie, Monroe, Onondaga, Oswego

Falicia Garries, empoweringpeoplemovement@gmail.com

ENCOMPASS RECREATION

Conduct inclusive wellness events for youth with disabilities and their families, with a focus on COVID, physical fitness, healthy eating, health education, mentorship and community engagement.

[Website](#) • [Facebook](#)

Counties Served: Jefferson, Lewis

Kylie Schell, kylie@encompassrec.com



EVERY BOTTOM COVERED INC.

Expand enrollment of pregnant persons experiencing poverty in the *From the Womb Case Management* program, and provide wraparound support and follow-up case management, including referral-driven resources: health and wellness workshops, information about doula care, health care and mental health access, healthy eating tips, support groups, and financial literacy.

[Website](#) • [Facebook](#)

County Served: Allegany

Raziya Hill, raziyahill@everybottomcovered.org



EXODUS TRANSITIONAL COMMUNITY

Exodus provides reentry services and gun violence prevention activities in Newburgh and surrounding areas. They also conduct wellness workshops with a focus on how health is affected by poverty, racism, and incarceration. Workshops focus on the long-lasting impact of COVID, healthy eating, mindfulness, mental health, harm reduction (alcohol and tobacco), financial literacy, and health care for non-United States-born residents.

[Website](#) • [Facebook](#)

County Served: Orange

Nora Reissig, nreissig@etcny.org

FAMILY PROMISE OF WAYNE COUNTY

Conduct COVID health literacy presentations for individuals experiencing homelessness and/or living in poverty. Connect individuals to the Family Promise of Wayne County program.

[Website](#) • [Facebook](#)

County Served: Wayne

Evonne Pomerantz, Evonne.Pomerantz@waynecap.org



FAMILY SERVICE ASSOCIATION OF GLENS FALLS INC.

Provide one-on-one support sessions for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Conduct *Outreach Day* events to support individuals' well-being and connect them to community organizations and human services agencies.

[Website](#)

Counties Served: Saratoga, Warren, Washington

Kim Sopczyk, fsa150@outlook.com



FOSTERING GREATNESS INC.

Conduct *Mirroring Greatness* workshops for foster youth and younger foster care alumni that focus on building life skills, self-care, mental health, and accessing community resources and support.

[Website](#) • [Facebook](#)

Counties Served: Erie, Genesee, Niagara, Orleans

Leah Daniel, leah@fosteringgreatnessinc.org



FRANKLIN COMMUNITY CENTER

Hold community wellness events focused on topics, such as COVID, diabetes, influenza, and nutrition education for low-income individuals.

[Website](#) • [Facebook](#)

County Served: Saratoga

Mary Beth McGarahan, marybeth@franklincommunitycenter.org



FREE FOOD FRIDGE ALBANY

Offer healthy cooking workshops for youth and young adults, people experiencing poverty, BIPOC, and LGBTQ+ individuals in underserved communities with a focus on COVID literacy, wellness, and nutrition. Distribute COVID and healthy lifestyle educational materials through the community fridge network and community events.

[Website](#)

Counties Served: Albany, Schenectady

Jammella Anderson, freefoodfridgealbany@gmail.com

GARDENSHARE

Conduct nutrition and food accessibility and sustainability sessions for rural youth experiencing food insecurity, as well as engaging with rural schools and community organizations to implement these sessions.

[Website](#)

County Served: St. Lawrence

Carlene Doane, office@gardenshare.org



GALACTIC TRIBE INC.

Conduct *Superior Potential in Emotional & Athletic Recreation* (S.P.E.A.R.) workshop sessions to promote awareness of the value of physical and mental health with Black and Brown youth.

[Website](#)

County Served: Erie

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Tyrell Ford, ford@voicebuffalo.org



GKNY MENTOR LEAGUE

Conduct wellness events for youth and young adults in BIPOC communities, focusing on COVID, physical fitness, health education, mentorship, and community engagement.

[Instagram](#)

County Served: Albany

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Gerald Kenneth Malcom, gkmpublishing@hotmail.com

GLOVERSVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Conduct *Queer by Nature* intensive wellness sessions (mental, physical, and social) for hard-to-reach LGBTQ+ people living in poverty in rural areas.

[Website](#)

Counties Served: Fulton, Montgomery

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Valerie Acklin, vacklin@mvlis.info

GLYS WESTERN NEW YORK

Conduct social emotional support sessions for rural LGBTQ+ youth at residential behavioral health sites as well as at a central drop-in center.

[Website](#) • [Facebook](#)

Counties Served: Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Niagara, Orleans, Wyoming

Jack Kavanaugh, executive@glyswny.org



GOODMAN RUSSELL CONSULTING CORP.

In response to the ongoing impact of COVID and the rising concern of childhood obesity, conduct community-wide wellness events that promote fun movement, healthy nutrition, and COVID education through sports activities, gardening, nature walks, and group exercise sessions.

[Facebook](#)

County Served: Nassau

Beatrice Goodman, goodmanbeatrice@gmail.com



GREATER HARVEST CHURCH MINISTRY

Conduct wellness workshops focusing on chronic disease and mental health, reaching a range of individuals, and ensuring that the sessions reach Black or African American people. Tailor some workshops for youth on healthy eating and exercise.

[Website](#)

County Served: Monroe

Tamikyo Taylor, tamikyotaylor@gmail.com



HEARTS AND HANDS: FAITH IN ACTION INC.

Conduct workshops for caregivers of older adults, focusing on increasing elder mobility, and setting boundaries to ensure senior citizens are treated with care and respect, Hands-Only CPR, Mental Health First Aid, and wellness programming to prevent burnout (e.g., chair stretching, laughter yoga, meditation/wellness techniques).

[Website](#) • [Facebook](#)

Counties Served: Erie, Niagara

Aaron Carlson, acarlson@heartsandhandsfia.org

HOME BENEATH OUR FEET (HBOF)

Conduct *Enhanced Mentorship Through Fitness* programs that incorporate COVID literacy, fitness activities, and healthy cooking demonstrations for parents and youth with limited resources. Link families to educational role model leaders.

[Website](#)

County Served: Erie

Dr. Clement Kwakye, Clemkwakye@gmail.com

HOUSE OF PSALMS 23 INC.

Conduct supportive sessions that focus on coping skills, self-esteem, empowerment, personal growth, resilience, trauma, addiction, and mental health for women who are incarcerated and affected by domestic violence.

[Facebook](#) • [Website](#)

County Served: Onondaga

Ashlee Haste, houseofpsalms23@gmail.com



HUDSON MOHAWK AREA HEALTH EDUCATION CENTER

Hold panel discussions for community members experiencing social isolation to promote social and emotional well-being. Convene cross-county workgroups to develop a community plan of action for addressing social isolation.

[Website](#) • [Facebook](#)

Counties Served: Albany, Fulton, Saratoga, Warren

Kelly Owens, kowens@hmahec.org



HUDSON VALLEY HEALTH LITERACY COALITION

Conduct *Emotion Commotion*© – COVID Edition, trauma-informed *Social Emotional Reading Program* (SERP) workshop sessions featuring Dr. Valerie Williams-Sanchez, her Valorena Online, LLC, and Cocoa Kids Collection® books (pictured) that include learning around the social determinants of health for youth ages 6-8 and their families/caregivers. Hold *Poetry, Prose and the Pandemic* writing workshops to help process COVID experiences and build health literacy with different focus populations of underserved individuals. The workshops feature poet H.E. Fisher and *Say Ah!*'s health literacy curriculum.

[Website](#) • [LinkedIn](#)

Counties Served: Rockland, Westchester

Anna Allen, allen@say-ah.org

Dr. Valerie Williams-Sanchez, Valerie@ValorenaOnline.com



HUSTLE FOR HEALTH PROGRAMS

Conduct wellness workshops for underserved individuals in the BIPOC community with a focus on COVID education, physical fitness, healthy eating, health education, cardiovascular disease, and harmful effects of smoking.

[Website](#) • [Facebook](#)

Counties Served: Erie, Monroe

Jennifer R. Williams, hustleforhealth@gmail.com



INTERFAITH COMMUNITY CO-OP @ 324

Conduct wellness events and health cooking demonstrations for people facing food and housing insecurity, substance use, and mental health challenges.

[Website](#) • [Facebook](#)

County Served: Onondaga

Galyn Murphy-Stanley, outreach@uumcsyracuse.org

IOTA ETA ETA INC. OF CHI ETA PHI SORORITY INC.

Conduct family wellness workshops for Black and Brown individuals to combat diabetes, hypertension, and obesity.

[Website](#) • [Facebook](#)

County Served: Erie

Dr. Kafuli Agbemenu, kagbemenu@yahoo.com

JAMESTOWN YMCA

Conduct *Walk with Ease* programs for persons in the aging population dealing with mobility issues.

[Website](#) • [Facebook](#)

County Served: Chautauqua

John Barber, jbarber@jamestownymca.org



JSAY STRATEGY SOLUTIONS

Conduct *Cage Your Rage* mental health workshop sessions for Black and Brown youth who have limited access to resources.

[Website](#)

County Served: Monroe

Shelby E. Boyd, shelby.boynsb@gmail.com

JUDAH HOUSE OF DELIVERANCE INC.

Conduct *Health and Wellness Seminars* focusing on nutrition, chronic disease education and exercise for Hispanic and African American individuals.

[Facebook](#)

County Served: Suffolk

Carmen Rice, judahhouseofdeliverance@gmail.com

KEEPING OUR PROMISE INC.

Conduct wellness workshops focused on health care navigation, health insurance information, making provider appointments, trauma-informed care, and emotional support resources for new immigrants from Afghanistan.

[Website](#) • [Facebook](#)

County Served: Monroe

Ellen Smith, ellen@keepingourpromise.org

KENMORE VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY

Conduct *Conversation Club* health and wellness workshops to address and decrease social isolation for seniors.

[Website](#)

County Served: Erie

Melissa Foster, melissa@villageofkenmore.com



LA'MOVEMENT FITNESS LLC.

Conduct sessions of the *Rollin' Healthy* wellness program with a focus on heart health, access to quality health care, protecting oneself from COVID, mental health, and community and state resources for individuals in the BIPOC community.

[Website](#)

Counties Served: Erie, Niagara

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Lancia Woods, lamovementfitness@gmail.com



LEKIA TECH LLC.

Conduct *Powerful Voices* interactive workshops for BIPOC and/or LGBTQIA+ youth and young adults focusing on positive connections and relationships, health equity and social justice, as well as developing self-awareness and confidence, and empowering participants to speak up about community public health issues. Hold *Community Virtual Navigation Seminars* to inform and connect community members to social, physical, and mental health community resources.

[Instagram](#)

Counties Served: Monroe, Onondaga, Oswego

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Lekia K. Hill, Lekia@lekiatechllc.com



LITERACY VOLUNTEERS CAPITAL REGION

Provide health literacy programs for English Language Learners (ELL), providing each person with individualized, customized support.

[Website](#)

Counties Served: Albany, Rensselaer

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Nancy Benz, nbenz@lvcapreg.org

LONG BEACH LATINO CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Conduct wellness workshops for youth and their families who are Hispanic, Latino or Latinx, and non-U.S.-born individuals, with a focus on COVID, physical health, mental health, health literacy, and financial literacy.

[Website](#)

County Served: Nassau

Helen Dorado Alessi, lbtatinocivic@yahoo.com



LOUDFORCHANGE

Provide wellness workshops for youth identifying as BIPOC, LGBTQ+, or from minority religions with a focus on COVID, mental health, emotion regulation, conflict resolution, stress management and coping strategies.

[Website](#)

Counties Served: Albany, Columbia, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady

Yacuba Sangare, loudforchange@gmail.com



MAKE A PLAY

Develop and hold *Wellness Initiatives* workshops for underserved BIPOC youth and young adults, facilitated by trained peer mentors, promoting fitness, mental and physical health, stress control, and healthy sleep.

[Website](#)

Counties Served: Albany, Schenectady

Sean Brown, sbrown@makeaplay.org



MELODY'S

Conduct wellness workshops for Black or African American, Hispanic, Latino or Latinx people, and those experiencing poverty, focusing on COVID, well-being, mental health, physical health, sexual health, nutrition, and self-care, including community fitness classes.

[Website](#)

Counties Served: Cayuga, Onondaga, Tompkins

Melody R. Johnson, melodyscny@gmail.com



MOVING FOR LIFE (Kingston, NY)

Conduct *Moving for Life* wellness sessions that include exercise, dance, and wellness activities to support older Hispanic, BIPOC, LGBTQ+ individuals, and persons living with disabilities, chronic illnesses, caregivers, and cancer survivors.

[Website](#) • [Facebook](#)

Counties Served: Delaware, Dutchess, Greene, Putnam, Sullivan, Ulster

Martha Eddy, info@MovingForLife.org

NEW YORK STATE PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION

Provide wellness workshops with a focus on COVID education, nutrition, gardening, and financial literacy for non-U.S.-born individuals and those experiencing poverty and homelessness. Work with community partners to secure and distribute Period Pantry feminine hygiene products to those in need.

[Website](#)

County Served: Albany

Erin Sinisgalli, info@nyspha.org

OLA OF EASTERN LONG ISLAND INC.



Conduct health literacy outreach to undocumented Latino immigrants and U.S.-born Latinos. Provide bilingual webinars addressing social determinants of health, including health care access and health education, and wellness programs focusing on fitness, movement, and overall wellness.

[Website](#)

County Served: Suffolk

Minerva Perez, mperez@olaofeasternlongisland.org

OSSINING PADRES HISPANOS

Conduct trauma-informed mental health awareness programs for low-income and non-U.S.-born individuals and families with school-aged children, with a focus on promotion of family bonding, socialization, and trust-building.

[Website](#)

Counties Served: Putnam, Westchester

Ana Guzman, ana@ossiningpadreshispanos.org



OUR MOMMIE VILLAGE INC.

Conduct sessions of *Mother Blessings* and *Mommy Meet-ups* for pre- and postpartum People of Color (POC) to support health and wellness.

[Website](#)

County Served: Erie

Shyana Broughton, ShyanaBroughton@ourmommievillage.org



PARLOR BEAUTY INC.

Conduct *Community Mastermind* program sessions that support the BIPOC community to address heart disease, healthy eating, diabetes, and mental health issues. Provide educational clinics on hair care for BIPOC community members to include hair care services for youth and teens and hair care education for parents and caregivers.

[Website](#)

Counties Served: Erie, Monroe

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Chiquita Gordon, chi@parlorbeautyinc.com



PARTNERSHIP FOR ONTARIO COUNTY

Conduct *Wellness Weekends* for youth aging out of the foster care system with topics that include mental health, trusting community partners when in crisis, nutrition and healthy eating/cooking, fitness/physical health, and financial literacy.

[Website](#)

Counties Served: Ontario, Wayne, Yates

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Karen Guidarelli, Karen@Partnershipoc.org



PLANT POWERED METRO NEW YORK

Conduct healthy cooking programs for low-income older adults living with chronic diseases, with a focus on COVID education, healthy diet, nutrition, and including educational shopping tours to grocery stores.

[Website](#)

County Served: Westchester

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Lianna Levine Reisner, lianna.levine.reisner@ppmny.org

POSITIVE ABOUT POSSIBILITIES INC.

Conduct mental health and well-being workshops for seniors with a focus on stress management, mindfulness, and emotional well-being. Provide fitness and nutrition programs to support management of diabetes, hypertension, and/or chronic illness. Sessions include exercise, low-impact aerobics, stretching tailored to the needs of each senior, and nutrition education and meal planning.

[Website](#) • [Facebook](#)

County Served: Dutchess

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Debra K. Long, debrakayelong@gmail.com

POWEREDBYASHLEY LLC.

Provide diabetes and hypertension education and wellness workshops for BIPOC seniors and persons experiencing poverty.

Counties Served: Albany, Rensselaer, Schenectady

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Ashley Foster, afost1920@gmail.com



PROJECT MONA'S HOUSE INC.

Conduct sessions of the *Young Women's Empowerment Academy* program to improve health and wellness of girls who are at risk for human trafficking. Program sessions include mentorship, health and wellness, and culturally-tailored cooking classes.

[Website](#)

County Served: Erie

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Kelly Diane Galloway, kelly@projectmonashouse.com

PROJECT STORK INC.

Conduct *Happy Moms, Healthy Babies* program to support low-income parents and caregivers. Program includes mental health screenings, providing information and education about navigating the postpartum period, and providing referrals to community services.

[Facebook](#)

Counties Served: Genesee, Orleans

Jenny Staebell, projectstorkinc@gmail.com



REACH CNY INC.

Conduct health literacy and social support sessions for parents and caregivers that include education on COVID, vaccinations, how COVID affects missing school and daycare, and strategies to improve their children's health.

[Website](#)

Counties Served: Onondaga, Oswego

Kathleen Harter, kharter@reachcny.org

ROOTED IN LOVE INC.

Expand accessible community garden to promote nutrition education, mental health, and physical health for under-resourced, low-income families.

[Website](#)

Counties Served: Erie, Niagara

Tesha Parker, tesha@rootedinloveinc.com

RUPCO INC.

Conduct *Housed & Healthy* education workshops for people at risk of homelessness, substance use disorders, food instability, severe mental illness, seniors, and those without family support. Provide information on housing independence, COVID vaccination, farm-to-table opportunities, HIV/AIDS education, community mental health supports, and body movement classes, such as Tai Chi and Reiki.

[Website](#)

County Served: Ulster

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Emma Hambright, ehambright@rupco.org



SAFE SPACE CNY

Conduct peer-run support group sessions and community pop-up events to support mental health for BIPOC, LGBTQ+ individuals, and essential workforce.

[Website](#)

Counties Served: Onondaga, Oswego

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Jessica Eckerlin, jeseschneider@gmail.com



SARATOGA BLACK LIVES MATTER

Hold *Mental Health First Aid* workshops for Black, Hispanic, LGBTQ+ youth and young adults. Conduct *Art-Based Workshops* that provide outlets for self-expression and healing for youth and young adults.

[Website](#)

County Served: Saratoga

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Lexis Figuereo, lexisfiguereo@saratogabl.org



SARATOGA REGIONAL YMCA

Deliver the *Cancer Survivorship* program to low-income individuals. The sessions are designed to empower cancer survivors to improve their quality of life through exercise and building positive social relationships.

[Website](#)

Counties Served: Warren, Washington

Lisa Camp, lisa.camp@srymca.org



SECOND CHANCE FOODS

Provide *Community-Supported Nutrition Box Program (CSN)* to low-income individuals experiencing food insecurity. The boxes include fresh food, information about healthy meal preparation, COVID, and making community connections to address social determinants of health (SDOH) needs.

[Website](#)

County Served: Putnam

Martha Elder, martha@secondchancefoods.org

SOMAR LUNA JE LLC.

Conduct wellness workshops and healthy cooking classes for people living with mental illness and experiencing housing insecurity.

[Website](#) • [Facebook](#)

County Served: Erie

Jasmine S. Ramos, somarlunaje@gmail.com



SRGMF/ALIVE + WELL

Conduct the *Alive + Well Program* for young adults utilizing a mentorship model. Sessions focus on financial literacy, mental and physical health, and wellness.

[Website](#) • [Website](#)

County Served: Monroe

Shawn Goburn, shawn.gee@srgmf.com



STRENGTH 2 SAY

Provide a range of programs to support the well-being of individuals experiencing poverty: *Order My Steps Literacy* program, *Family Page Turn Literacy* workshops, and *Changing the Game* nutrition education sessions.

[Website](#)

County Served: Monroe

Clianda Florence, authorcliandaflorence@gmail.com



SUFFOLK COUNTY BLACK NURSES ASSOCIATION

Conduct workshops on cardiovascular disease, and maternal health for African American, Hispanic, Latino or Latinx women. Provide health education workshops for migrant workers on infectious diseases, chemical and pesticide-related diseases, heat-related and respiratory illnesses.

[Website](#) • [Facebook](#)

County Served: Suffolk

Jacqueline Winston, suffolkcountybna@hotmail.com



SULLIVAN 180 INC.

Conduct the 3rd Annual MLK Day of Service Youth Summit and the Sullivan Warrior Teens program to inspire informed, passionate teen leaders in the rural community. Sessions focus on mental health, substance use disorder, physical health, food access, and social determinants of health. They also include healthy cooking demonstrations as well as guided discussions with community partners.

[Website](#)

County Served: Sullivan

Kassondra Johnstone, Kassondra@Sullivan180.org



THE GROOM ROOM

Conduct wellness workshops for BIPOC men in underserved rural areas, with a focus on COVID, physical fitness, healthy eating, health education, stress management and coping strategies.

[Facebook](#)

Counties Served: Monroe, Oswego, Wayne

Monique C. Chatman, moniquehasgoals@yahoo.com



THE LOVE QUEST FOUNDATION INC.

Conduct *Introspective Rhythms* workshops, a culturally-relevant mental, social, and physical education program for Black, Hispanic and LGBTQ+ youth.

Counties Served: Dutchess, Orange, Ulster, Westchester

Josayne Anderson-Tejera, alumni@thelovequestfoundation.org



WELLNESS AND WALLETS LLC.

Conduct *Health and Economic Stability* sessions to address COVID health literacy, health care access, equitable resources, and financial wellness for working class and low-income individuals.

Counties Served: Erie, Onondaga, Oswego

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Ruth Simmons, info@wellnessandwallets.com

WESTERN NY COALITION OF FARMWORKER SERVING AGENCIES INC.

Conduct multilingual *Pesticide Safety and Chemical Hazard* education sessions on worksites for hard-to-reach farmworkers.

[Website](#)

Counties Served: Chautauqua, Livingston, Monroe, Orleans, Wayne

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Irene Sanchez, isanchez@wnycfsa.org



WINONA FOREST RECREATION ASSOCIATION

Conduct *Adventure Challenge* winter wellness programs, focused on prevention and management of cardiovascular disease, obesity, and diabetes for low-income individuals living in rural areas.

[Website](#) • [Facebook](#)

Counties Served: Jefferson, Oswego

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Matthew Westerlund, snowshoerace@gmail.com

YATES COMMUNITY CENTER

Conduct *Community Food and Fitness* sessions with a focus on COVID Literacy, exercise, and healthy cooking demonstrations and education for low-income and underserved seniors.

[Website](#)

Counties Served: Ontario, Seneca, Yates

Leigh Berry, Leighberry@gmail.com



YOUTH MAKING CHANGES INC.

Conduct *Social Determinants of Health* workshops for young adults focusing on COVID, wellness, financial stability, education, housing resources, and strategies to secure safe housing.

[Website](#)

County Served: Monroe

Denoris Crisler, youthsmakingchanges585@outlook.com





LARGE WELLNESS PROJECTS

“The major success of this project has been the ... offering of health and wellness information to youth across the county that might not have received this knowledge in the past.”

— Large Wellness organization



ANTHONY L. JORDAN HEALTH CORPORATION

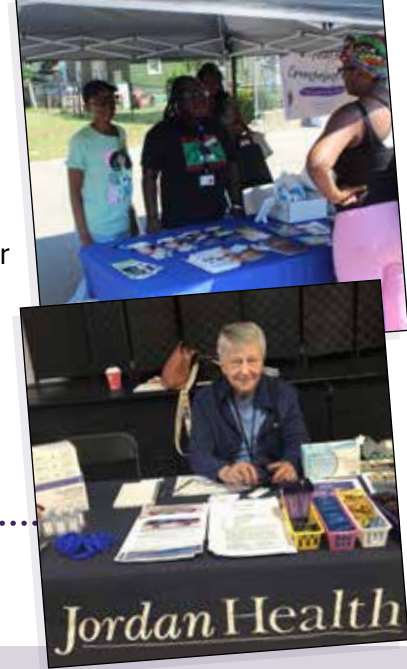
Grassroots Organization: Greater Harvest Church

Address wellness and COVID vaccine hesitation with community members in underserved neighborhoods. Engage community members through door-to-door outreach and community events and fairs focused on topics such as education, health, housing, and jobs. Focus efforts on reaching those who experience medical mistrust due to historical racist treatment.

County Served: Monroe

[Website](#)

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Dr. Linda Clark, lclark@jordanhealth.org



BUFFALO PRENATAL-PERINATAL NETWORK INC.

Grassroots Organization: Literacy Buffalo

Support wellness of Black or African American and Hispanic/Latino fathers, as well as those experiencing homelessness, and those who are incarcerated. Focus efforts on underserved areas hardest hit by COVID. Hold community workshops about healthy cooking, nurturing fatherhood, financial and health literacy, job skills training, and emergency planning. Enhance referrals to community resources.

County Served: Erie

[Website](#)

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Terry Seay, ts@bppn.org



ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION OF NASSAU COUNTY INC.

Grassroots Organization: SoulJoy Wellness LLC.

Provide targeted programming for seniors, adults, and youth focusing on those deeply impacted by COVID. Provide wellness programming tailored for individuals who are Black or African American, American Indian, or new immigrants. Areas include recovery from pandemic trauma, nutrition, financial literacy, fitness - including intergenerational walking groups and 5K runs - and mental well-being/self esteem.

County Served: Nassau

[Website](#)

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MelRose B. Corley, MPA, mcorley@eoc-nassau.org



ERIE-NIAGARA AREA HEALTH EDUCATION CENTER INC.

Grassroots Organization: Calming Nature Doula Services

Conduct community education sessions with women of childbearing age, pregnant and postpartum women and those who support them, and parents of young children within communities of color and low-income areas. Use peer educators to conduct community health literacy sessions. Educate health care providers on incorporating doula services and promote *Black Maternal Health week*.

Counties Served: Erie, Niagara

[Website](#)

Madeline Ackley, mackley@en-ahec.org



FAMILY SERVICES OF CHEMUNG COUNTY INC.

Grassroots Organization: 607 Unity Unlimited

Conduct health and wellness community events, serving Black or African American and Hispanic and Latino individuals in rural areas, with a focus on families and youth experiencing poverty. Expand school-based support programs and care management services. Launch a community exercise program for adults, youth, and families.

Counties Served: Chemung

[Website](#)

Kristen Carpenter, kcarpenter@familyservices.cc

FINGER LAKES PERFORMING PROVIDER SYSTEM INC.

Grassroots Organization: Rochester HOPE

Collaborating with Ibero-American Action League, Huther Doyle, and His Branches, implemented a culturally tailored street outreach program to engage Hispanic and Latino community members providing COVID education and referrals. Leveraged the expertise of bilingual Community Health Workers. Offered Substance Use screening and treatment referrals. Provided social determinants of health screenings and made referrals to community resources.

County Served: Monroe

Keri Hadcock, keri_hadcock@flpps.org



FOODLINK INC.

Grassroots Organization: Partners in Restorative Initiatives

Create and conduct nutritional education with community members at Curbside Market sites to support food security. Recruit and train Curbside Market Ambassadors to provide outreach, improve community engagement, and help individuals access community-based programs and resources.

County Served: Monroe

[Website](#) • [Facebook](#)

Mitch Gruber, mgruber@foodlinkny.org



GOODWILL OF THE FINGER LAKES INC.

Grassroots Organization: Monroe County Family Coalition

Expand critical resources and services to youth and families in the lowest-income ZIP code areas of the region. Focus on financial literacy, navigating mental and physical health services, stress management, and navigating school systems. Connect community members to needed information through workshops/a conference, one-on-one resource support, and provide items for basic needs.

Counties Served: Monroe, Livingston, Ontario, Cayuga, Seneca, Wayne

[Website](#) • [Facebook](#)

Deborah Turner, dturner@goodwillfingerlakes.org



INTEGRATED COMMUNITY ALTERNATIVES NETWORK INC.

Grassroots Organization: Herkimer County HealthNet

Address the lasting impacts of COVID on rural youth to foster a greater understanding of healing from trauma and mental well-being. Provide wellness events and a conference for middle and high school youth and their caregivers, as well as school faculty and staff. Emphasis on physical activity and interactive play to support mental health.

County Served: Herkimer

[Website](#) • [Facebook](#)

Matthew Buono, mbuono@ican.family



JUDICIAL PROCESS COMMISSION INC.

Grassroots Organization: EE Pathways

Hold wellness workshops for youth and adults who were formerly incarcerated and/or justice system-involved, tailoring supports for Black or African American community members and those who are experiencing homelessness and/or substance use disorders. Workshops to include education on post-traumatic stress, trauma triggers, financial wellness, mental health, and using creative arts, such as painting to support wellness. Provide case management, reentry services, and peer coaching.

County Served: Monroe

[Website](#)

Shermond Reid, shermond.reid@rocjpc.org

PARTNERSHIP FOR THE PUBLIC GOOD

Grassroots Organization: Buffalo Immigrant Leadership Team

Coordinate workshops for immigrants and refugees who speak Spanish, Burmese and Karenic, Arabic, Somali, and Swahili languages. Community Health Specialists hold workshops on lead exposure, healthy housing, and mental health. Immigrant Health Navigators provide safe housing information and support to community members. All educational efforts involve participation of trusted voices from the community, lending validation for the information shared.

County Served: Erie

[Website](#)

Andrea O' Suilleabhain, andrea@ppgbuffalo.org



REFUGEE & IMMIGRANT SELF-EMPOWERMENT INC.

Grassroots Organization: Liberian Community of Syracuse

Use newly recruited and trained Community Health Workers (CHWs) to engage non-U.S. born, Asian, and/or Black or African American individuals. Hold community outreach events such as town hall forums and healthy cooking classes. CHWs leverage their linguistic and cross-cultural skills to screen for social determinants of health needs, such as housing, food, public benefits, legal assistance, and childcare. CHWs leverage their relationships with area providers to facilitate referrals to address needs, supporting health and wellness for community members.

County Served: Onondaga

[Website](#)

Haji Adan, haji@refugeeandimmigrant.org



RURAL ULSTER PRESERVATION COMPANY INC.

Grassroots Organization: LYNC Community Foundation

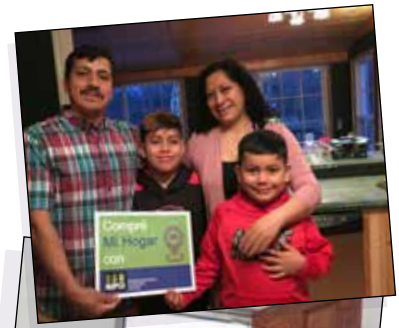
Support community members in healthy and active lifestyles, including those living in affordable housing complexes, youth, seniors, and people with disabilities. Hold community outreach events, violence prevention trainings, and healthy cooking and wellness sessions. Assist with health care access and navigation.

Counties Served: Ulster, Orange, Greene

[Website](#)

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Emma Hambright, ehambright@rupco.org



SHADES OF INSPIRATION

Grassroots Organization: BABY B.A.C.K.

Support wellness in BIPOC communities with a focus on women who are at risk for cancer, in cancer treatment and/or remission, and their families. Provide outreach, transportation, wellness workshops and community health fairs. Working with partners, give door-to-door service for COVID vaccination clinics and other engagement activities. Expand peer support program and 24/7 support warm line. Build sustainable relationships with area cancer treating programs and providers to strengthen long-term impact.

County Served: Onondaga

[Website](#)

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Katrina Delee, shadesofinspirationsyr@gmail.com



SOUTHERN TIER HEALTH CARE SYSTEM INC.

Grassroots Organization: Interfaith Caregivers

Support rural communities in addressing social determinants of health needs, enhancing daily living skills, and promoting healthy lifestyle changes with activities such as wellness fairs, fitness classes, nutrition workshops, mental health support groups, and healthy cooking classes. Topics include wellness and recreation, mental health, violence prevention, housing navigation assistance, and financial literacy workshops. Develop and launch a health app that supports a *Step into Wellness* challenge and enhances reach to rural members. Enhance volunteer recruitment to support program sustainability.

Counties Served: Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua

[Website](#)

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Donna Kahm, dkahm@sthcs.org



SYRACUSE COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER INC.

Grassroots Organization: Women of PEARLS

Expand and deliver the *Health Empowerment* curriculum to address barriers BIPOC women experience in achieving better health outcomes. Use health coaches and care coordinators to provide monthly check-ins and conduct chronic disease management groups, weekly walking groups, and workshops on nutrition/healthy eating on a budget, mindfulness, sleep and stress, and how to set up health screenings. Host community health events to educate partners and the public on COVID disease risk and its impact on BIPOC communities.

County Served: Onondaga

[Facebook](#)

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Babette Baker, bbaker@syracusecommunityhealth.org

THE INSTITUTE FOR FAMILY HEALTH

Grassroots Organization: Phillies Bridge Farm Project

Enhance year-round distribution of fresh produce to community members, breaking down existing barriers to sourcing fresh produce through the winter months. Provide education and demonstrations on storing and preparing produce; connect participants with health services and chronic disease education.

County Served: Ulster

[Website](#)

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Susanne Callahan, scallahan@institute.org



THE INSTITUTE FOR HUMAN SERVICES

Grassroots Organization: Human Service Development

Provide chronic disease management and chronic pain self-management tools and resources for people in rural areas. Provide screening and referrals through an enhanced helpline and web resources. Conduct in-person community events and offer virtual training and informational support. Use trained health program specialists and health navigators in the workshops, as well as to screen for health-related social needs and support referrals.

Counties Served: Steuben, Chemung, Allegany

[Website](#) • [Facebook](#)

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Belinda Hoad, institute@ihsnet.org • hoadb@ihsnet.org

THE MARTIN LUTHER KING MULTI-PURPOSE CENTER INC.

Grassroots Organization: United Way of Rockland County

Increase provision of culturally appropriate food pantry items, expanding the program's capacity and appeal to the community, and focusing on high poverty areas. Hold healthy cooking demonstrations with culturally relevant ingredients. Evaluate this culturally appropriate food pantry model; disseminate the model's successful components to nearly 20 food pantries across the county.

County Served: Rockland

[Website](#) • [Facebook](#)

Nathan Mungin III, nmungin@mlkmpc.org



EQUITABLE PROCUREMENT CONSULTANTS

Community consultants were selected to support applicants of the Small Wellness Mini-Bid Cohort 2 and Large Wellness funding opportunities. Facilitated by a lead coordinator, the seven Equitable Procurement Consultants broadly promoted the funding opportunities across the state and assisted nontraditional grassroots organizations with navigating the application process.

“As a smaller organization who depends on feedback to understand how we can improve when completing grant applications, [the EPC] was very helpful.”

— Applicant

With the support of Equitable Procurement Consultants (EPCs) in Small Wellness Cohort 2, the number of new partners who had not worked with the Department before jumped up to 92%, compared to 61% in Cohort 1.

AWARDEES

Coordinator: Nancy Warner Associates LLC.

Consultants: Branches Freelancing LLC.

Crews Control Media

Erie County Office of Health Equity

Finger Lakes Performing Provider System

New York State Association for Rural Health Inc.

United Way of Westchester and Putnam

VIA (Visually Impaired Advancement)



COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS – COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

The Department selected nine Community Health Workers (CHWs), who served their communities during the height of the pandemic, to participate in a *Community of Practice*. The *Community of Practice* met monthly for a year to identify the unique needs and challenges that CHWs experienced during the pandemic. Their goal was to improve the Department’s ability to support the CHWs’ response to future public health emergencies.

The CHWs in the *Community of Practice* served the following regions: Central New York, Finger Lakes, Western New York, the Southern Tier, the Tuscarora Nation, the Mohawk Valley, and the Capital District. They served individuals, families with children, women, and youth from a variety of cultures including Sudanese communities, Black communities, Hispanic communities, and the Tuscarora Nation.

The *Community of Practice* concluded:

- The COVID pandemic underscored the vital role of CHWs in safeguarding public health at the local level.
- Investing in CHW training, resources, and well-being is essential to strengthen the health care system’s ability to respond to future public health crises.
- Fostering stronger collaboration between CHWs and health care organizations, and acknowledging CHWs’ contributions, is crucial to creating a more robust and equitable health care system.

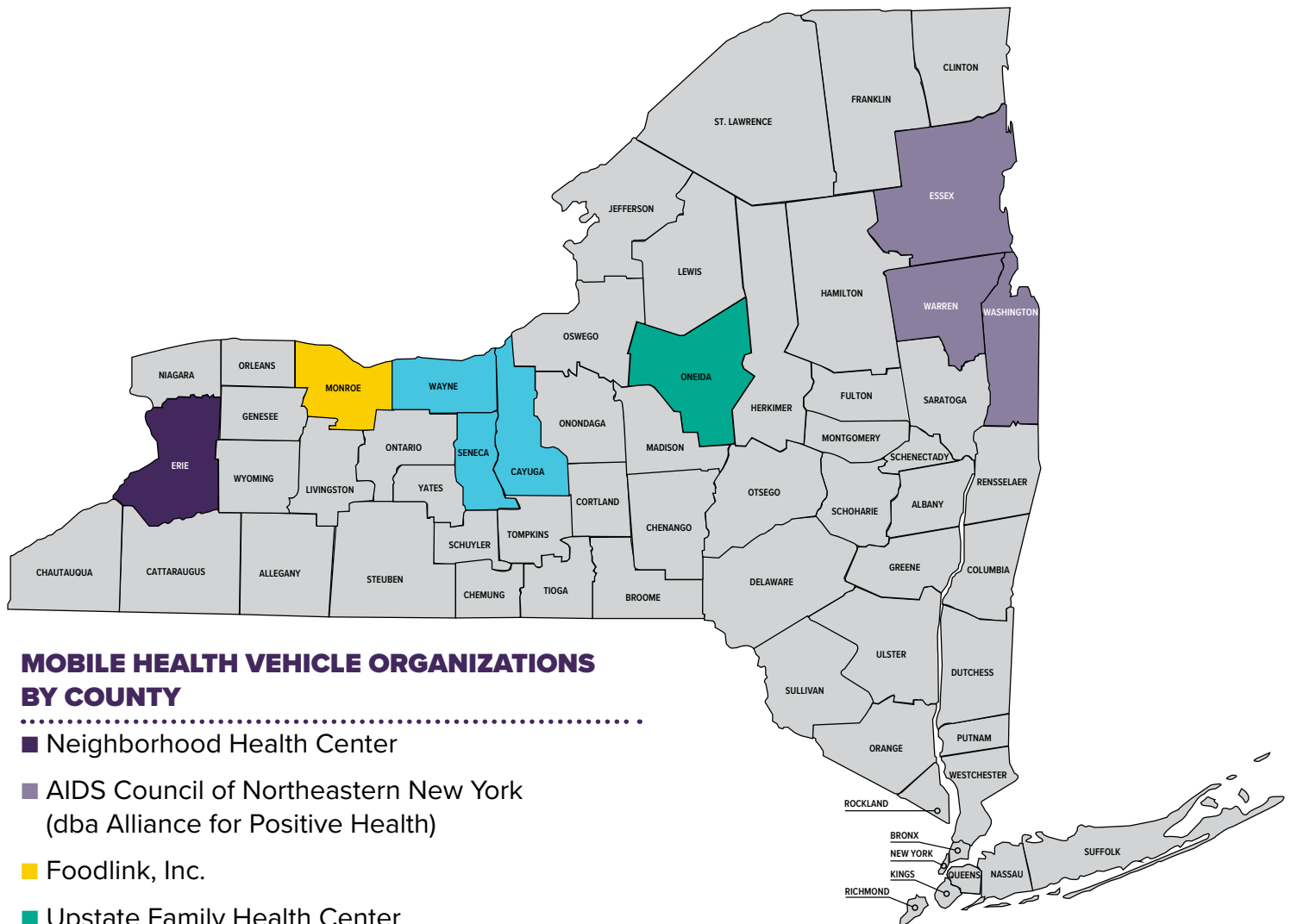
MOBILE HEALTH VEHICLES

Mobile health vehicles serve communities that don't have access to health and community services nearby, including access to COVID education. Mobile health vehicles are particularly critical in rural communities. Funding was awarded to six community-based organizations to purchase – or re-purpose – mobile health vehicles.

During the contract period, mobile health vehicles distributed over 1,197 copies of COVID public health outreach materials.

AWARDEES

- Neighborhood Health Center: Erie County
- AIDS Council of Northeastern New York (dba Alliance for Positive Health): Warren, Washington, Essex Counties
- Foodlink Inc.: Monroe County
- Upstate Family Health Center: Oneida County
- Wayne County Public Health: Cayuga, Seneca, and Wayne Counties



IN CLOSING

The Department realized its fundamental vision and mission for this grant to engage communities directly and authentically. Community-based partners, most of them new to the Department, expertly met the needs of their communities. It is hoped that these organizations, drawing upon the strengths of their communities, will come back to work with the Department for many years to come.

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