

BronxWorks, Montefiore, Citizens' Committee for Children of NY get \$5M grant to study health interventions

BronxWorks, the Albert Einstein College of Medicine and Montefiore and the Citizens' Committee for Children of New York have received a five-year, \$5 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to work with Bronx community members and study how interventions can create more equitable health outcomes, the organizations announced Tuesday.

Eileen Torres, the executive director of BronxWorks, said many children in the Bronx are on a path of “forever having to try to catch up to their peers” because of health and economic disparities in the borough that begin before they enter school. To that end, the organizations will work with tenants in public housing developments and child care partners on a community-led project to understand the health interventions they believe would help their kids and families, Torres said—including providing access to child care.

Giving people access to free and safe care for kids who are not yet school-age can improve health outcomes for children and caregivers, she added. Therefore, the study aims to create a deeper understanding of how that intervention could help people.

The first phase of the project will involve convening residents and hosting focus groups so the community can discuss what residents need before the organizations help connect them to child care, Torres added. The Citizens' Committee, Einstein and Montefiore will add their research and data analysis expertise to assess the outcomes of the project, which can be adjusted over five years through community engagement, she said.

The collaboration is one of 26 awards the NIH made through its Common Fund Community Partnerships to Advance Science for Society program to community organizations that total about \$171 million over five years.

BronxWorks has worked in the borough since 1972 and provides services for people experiencing homelessness, chronic illness and health care management and supportive housing. The Citizens' Committee for Children of New York aims to advance kids' well-being and equity in the city through advocacy, research and civic engagement. — J.N.

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