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**BronxWorks Awarded \$5 Million Bezos Day 1 Families Fund Grant to Help Bronx Families Find Safe Shelter, Housing and Stability**

*Fund grants \$117.55 million to 38 nonprofits across the U.S. making measurable progress on reducing family homelessness*

**NEW YORK – (Nov. 21, 2023):** BronxWorks, a large social service organization dedicated to uplifting the communities of the Bronx, today announced that it has received a \$5 million grant from the Bezos Day 1 Families Fund—one of the largest gifts in the organization’s history. This is the sixth round of annual Day 1 Families Fund grants, which recognize leading organizations doing compassionate, needle-moving work to help families experiencing homelessness secure housing and achieve stability.

“This grant from the Bezos Day 1 Families Fund is a tremendous investment in the most vulnerable families of the Bronx. When families experience homelessness due to domestic violence, they lose not only their homes but also their safety, identity as a family, hope and promise for the future,” said Eileen Torres, executive director of BronxWorks. “This grant will allow BronxWorks to find safe places for these families to build new opportunities and brighter futures.”

This one-time, uniquely flexible grant will support BronxWorks in serving as a critical lifeline to children and adults in families experiencing homelessness, who represent more than a quarter of the homeless population nationally. BronxWorks plans to use its Day 1 Families Fund grant to support efforts to rapidly rehouse families that are experiencing homelessness due to domestic violence and engage those households with comprehensive services including workforce support.

BronxWorks was selected as a Day 1 Families Fund grant recipient by a group of national advisors who are leading advocates and experts on homelessness and service provision. National advisors brought expertise on housing justice, advancing racial equity and helping programs employ resources effectively to assist families out of homelessness.

Over the past six years, the Day 1 Families Fund has provided 208 grants totaling more than \$630 million to organizations around the country working on the frontlines to identify unsheltered families, help families regain housing and connect families experiencing homelessness to vital services. A selection of more than half of the Day 1 Families Fund grantees who received funding between 2018 through 2021 report that, to date, they have used their grants to divert more than 28,000 families from experiencing homelessness, connect more than 30,000 unsheltered families with safe shelter and help more than 75,000 families access the services they need.

This year, the Fund issued a total of \$117.55 million in grants to 38 organizations. The Day 1 Families Fund has now granted this award to organizations in 48 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. New states this year include Arkansas, Vermont and Wyoming. The full list of awardees is available at [bezosdayonefund.org/day1familiesfund](https://bezosdayonefund.org/day1familiesfund).

Launched in 2018, the Bezos Day One Fund made a \$2 billion commitment to focus on making meaningful and lasting impacts in two areas: funding existing nonprofits that help families experiencing homelessness, and creating a network of new, nonprofit tier-one preschools in low-income communities. The Bezos Day 1 Families Fund issues annual leadership awards to organizations and civic groups doing compassionate, needle-moving work to help families experiencing homelessness—including those who are unsheltered or staying in shelters—regain safe, stable housing and achieve well-being. The vision statement comes from the inspiring Mary's Place in Seattle: no child sleeps outside. For more information, visit [www.BezosDayOneFund.org/Day1FamiliesFund](https://www.BezosDayOneFund.org/Day1FamiliesFund).

### **About BronxWorks**

BronxWorks has been helping individuals and families improve their economic and social well-being for over 50 years. From toddlers to seniors, BronxWorks feeds, shelters, teaches, and supports residents to build a stronger Bronx community. The concerted efforts of all the departments within the agency allow BronxWorks to positively influence the lives of 60,000 Bronx residents each year. For more information, visit [www.bronxworks.org/](https://www.bronxworks.org/)

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