

BronxWorks gets \$5M grant for housing for domestic violence survivors

BronxWorks has received a \$5 million, five-year grant from the Bezos Day 1 Families Fund to provide housing for survivors of domestic violence, the nonprofit announced Tuesday.

The money will allow BronxWorks to rapidly rehouse children and adults who are experiencing homelessness due to domestic violence. Eileen Torres, the nonprofit's executive director, said the money will help expand its current program that supports survivors, serve more people and offer them a new service: connections to employment.

BronxWorks assisted 156 individuals and families fleeing domestic violence in the last year, Torres said. The grant will help the organization take on an additional 75 families and then work to connect heads of households to jobs.

The nonprofit finds apartments throughout the Bronx and sometimes outside of the borough for families, she said, and utilizes a housing specialist to make sure each unit is suitable for families. The organization aims to keep people in the Bronx—including in neighborhoods they hope to be in—so children stay connected to schools.

Beyond housing for these New Yorkers, BronxWorks offers supportive housing to people living with HIV and AIDS and chronically homeless individuals, including those living with mental illness. It also provides health services such as an opioid overdose prevention program and care coordination. It operates locations throughout the Bronx.

The Bezos Day 1 Fund was launched in 2018 and made a \$2 billion commitment to fund existing nonprofits that work with people experiencing homelessness and create nonprofit preschools in communities with low incomes. The Day 1 Families Fund awarded more than \$117 million to 38 organizations across the country in its 2023 cycle, with BronxWorks receiving one of the largest gifts. —J.N.

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