



The BronxWorks August 2025 Newsletter



FEATURED STORY

New and Exciting Updates at BronxWorks

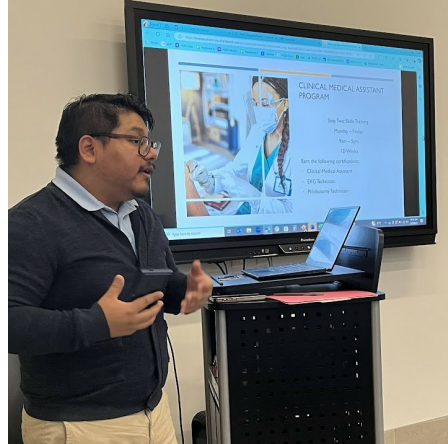
We are excited to share some new changes the organization has gone through recently! Throughout our history, BronxWorks has continuously implemented new programs, locations, and structures to better support the community. We opened a brand new location in the Bronx dedicated to our Tenant Defense Program. Additionally, BronxWorks Train & Earn, a workforce development program assisting young adults start a career in healthcare, is celebrating the first cohort's completion of the program. BronxWorks has also recently welcomed new senior leadership who have taken on key positions. We are proud of our continued commitment to meet the evolving needs of our neighbors.

Train and Earn Program

The first cohort of the BronxWorks Train & Earn program have completed their internships! Train & Earn is a workforce development program for

young adults who are eager to start or advance their careers in community healthcare. The program, provided in partnership with the NYC Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD), supports adults 18-24 years old who are unemployed and not currently enrolled in college. Participants train to become a Certified Clinical Medical Assistant and earn valuable industry certifications. The six-month program includes career development workshops, financial coaching, 12 weeks of medical theory and hands-on training, and a 150-hour paid internship.

By the end of the program, the participants have the skills and experience to enter the healthcare industry and pursue the next steps in their careers. Participants receive individual assistance from a BronxWorks Job Developer to find employment in the field, apply for college, or begin other advanced training.



"Healthcare is one of the largest growing industries in America... it's a really viable field for folks to come in at entry level and then find their path towards a viable job."

Deshana Hamid, Program Director



Marie Edwards, Associate Vice President of Workforce Development, and Deshana Hamid, Program Director of the Train & Earn Program, recently joined Gary Axelbank for BronxTalk on BronxNet to talk about youth workforce development programs at BronxWorks.

[Click here to watch the segment.](#)

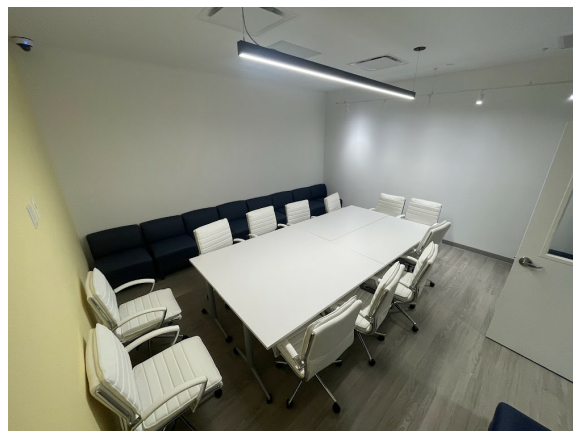
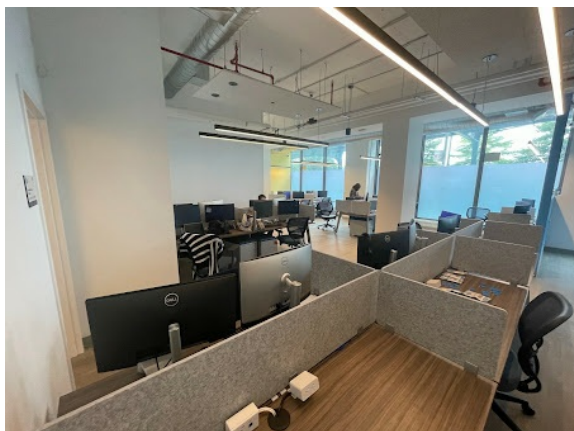
The Tenant Defense Program Office Is Now Open!

BronxWorks is excited for the opening of our newest location, an office dedicated to our Tenant Defense Program! In October of 2024, BronxWorks expanded our Legal Services department to include a Tenant Defense Program, offering Right to Counsel services to the Bronx. Universal Access to Counsel is a New York City initiative introduced in 2017 that ensures the right to free legal representation for low-income New Yorkers facing eviction in housing court.

The Tenant Defense Program, comprised of over a dozen attorneys and support staff, will work out of the new office at 818 River Avenue in the Bronx. This site is located in a green-energy, mixed-use development in the midst of the 161st Street commercial corridor. Other BronxWorks legal department services, including Immigration, Crime Victims, and Domestic Violence, continue to work out of BronxWorks offices throughout the community. Visit our [Legal Services page](#) for more information.

Since opening our doors in 1972, BronxWorks has supported our community members facing housing instability, and the Tenant Defense Program is the newest of many programs at the organization providing eviction prevention services to the Bronx.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE NEW TENANT DEFENSE PROGRAM OFFICE



New Senior Leadership at BronxWorks

BronxWorks is thrilled to welcome new senior leadership staff members to the organization! Alexandra Francis, Executive Vice President of Supportive Housing and Homeless Services, and Gregory Adams, Director of Security, have joined the senior leadership team this year in critical roles. Alex and Greg will join their colleagues in supporting the continued expansion of the organization.

See the staff profile section below to learn more about Alex and Greg.



STAFF PROFILES

Alexandra Francis and Gregory Adams New Senior Leadership Staff at BronxWorks

Alexandra Francis

Executive Vice President, Supportive Housing and Homeless Services

Alexandra Francis joined BronxWorks in July of this year with over 25 years of experience in the nonprofit social service sector. In this role, Alex oversees the agency's adult and family homeless services, supportive housing, and other related initiatives. Prior to joining BronxWorks, Alex served as the Chief Program Officer at Lantern Community Services, directing their supportive housing and shelter services. She also spent many years at the Center for Urban Community Services, leading



work in homeless outreach, supportive housing, and benefits for the formerly incarcerated. Alex appreciates the opportunity to work for an agency with such a wide range of services, supporting the community in every facet of life.

"We're not just leaving our own footprint, but working to enrich the lives of those who live in and are from the Bronx."

Alexandra Francis

[Read More About Alex](#)

Gregory Adams

Director of Security



Gregory Adams joined BronxWorks in March of this year as Director of Security, overseeing security and safety operations across all BronxWorks locations. Greg has over three decades of experience in public safety at the city and federal level and has specialized in security policy. He previously served as a Captain for the NYC Department of Homeless Services Police and also worked for the U.S. Department of Justice Federal Bureau of Prisons. Greg transitioned to BronxWorks to make a greater impact on his community, and he is excited to leverage his experiences to elevate the organization's safety as we continue to expand.

"I love to make people feel safe. It's the thing I know how to do best."

Gregory Adams

[Read More About Greg](#)



DID YOU KNOW

The BronxWorks 5K Is Back!

Join Us To Fight Food Insecurity In The Bronx!



Did You Know? Every year, BronxWorks holds the 5K Monster Mash Hunger Dash, a fun run/walk raising funds in support of programs fighting food insecurity. Many of our Bronx neighbors struggle to find fresh and affordable foods, as prices continue to rise citywide and supermarkets are scarce in many areas. A major pillar of the BronxWorks mission is to FEED our neighbors to build a stronger Bronx community. Our annual 5K directly supports food access programs including community food pantries, farm stands, BronxWorks kitchens, and more.

JOIN US on Saturday, October 18 at Orchard Beach in the Bronx to raise critical funds to fight food insecurity in the Bronx!

LEARN MORE AND SUPPORT THE BRONXWORKS 5K



PHOTO ESSAY



Youth Summer Camp Activities

BronxWorks summer camps have been busy with a variety of activities this summer! Our youngest participants learned about taking care of plants, constructed and tested sailboats, and more! Elementary school students worked together throughout the summer on group projects, with themes such as 'Community Heroes' and 'Environmental Changemakers'. They also visited city attractions including the American Museum of Natural History and the Bronx Zoo. Middle school camps enjoyed many different activities, including swimming in the BronxWorks Indoor Pool, learning audio and video production, community service and clean up, and various field trips.



BronxWorks Senior Staff Retreat

BronxWorks senior leadership came together once again for the annual Senior Staff Retreat! The staff spent the day discussing current initiatives and future goals for the organization. They also split into groups and competed in teambuilding activities. Everyone enjoyed the competitive spirit and the opportunity to further connect with their colleagues.



City Councilmember Stevens Visits ESOL Classes

Thank you to City Councilmember Althea Stevens and Executive Director of the Literacy Assistance Center (LAC) Ira Yankwitt for their recent visit to a BronxWorks English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) class. LAC recently worked with BronxWorks on a pilot program to support our ESOL classes and came with Council Member Stevens to see our classes in action. We thank LAC for their support of our programming and the Council Member for her continued advocacy for community-based adult literacy education.



BronxWorks Hosts JobsNYC Hiring Hall

BronxWorks recently hosted a JobsNYC Hiring Hall at our flagship community center. Dozens of employers and resource providers were present to connect with community members in search of employment. Despite the high temperatures that day, the event still had over 350 attendees! Employers shared job openings in healthcare, law enforcement, social services, and more. Several employers, including BronxWorks, interviewed candidates on site.

BronxWorks Cooling Centers

The BronxWorks Classic Cornerstone Community Center and BronxWorks Director of Quality & Compliance Amanda Perez recently featured in a public service announcement by the Bronx Borough President's office about NYC Cooling Centers! When temperatures reach dangerous levels, New York City declares a Code Red and opens designated cooling centers across the city. Several BronxWorks sites operate as cooling centers during a Code Red and have helped thousands of our Bronx neighbors stay cool during heat waves throughout the summer.

[Watch the PSA here.](#)



Market Sprouts Farm Stand

BronxWorks hosted Market Sprouts, a youth-focused small-scale farm stand, for children in our summer camp program! Market Sprouts is designed to encourage healthy eating and increase access to fresh and nutritious food for children. BronxWorks staff assisted students in second through sixth grade with selecting produce and shared the importance of maintaining healthy habits as they continue to grow.



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Support #TeamBronxWorks in the TCS 2025 NYC Marathon! BronxWorks is proud to once again be a charity partner for the TCS NYC Marathon this year. As a charity runner, members of #TeamBronxWorks each have a goal of raising \$3,000 for BronxWorks Children and Youth programs. [Support our runners here.](#)

Here are some other ways you can join BronxWorks and support our mission this year:

- [Make a Monetary Gift.](#)
- Donate essential goods directly to Bronx residents in need through our [Wishlist](#).

You can also follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Bluesky](#), and [X](#) for exciting updates.

For a full list of ways to give to BronxWorks, [visit our website](#).

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