



Brooklyn Communities Collaborative Releases 2021 Annual Report

Report Highlights How Grants and Initiatives Helped Brooklynites Respond to Health Disparities Exacerbated by COVID-19

Brooklyn, NY (February 22, 2022) – [Brooklyn Communities Collaborative](#) (BCC) – a non-profit focused on strengthening health, leadership, and economic mobility in Brooklyn – released their 2021 Annual Report detailing the important work that’s been done to combat the pandemic and support Brooklyn’s most vulnerable communities amid the worst public health crisis in recent history.

Since 2019, BCC has convened community-based organizations, corporations, government, and advocacy groups in Brooklyn to improve the wellbeing of Brooklynites through grants, partnerships, and community engagement. Through these efforts BCC advances its anchor mission approach, calling on large institutions to fully harness their economic power through hiring, purchasing, and investing in Brooklyn to benefit the long-term health and wealth of the local communities in which they are rooted.

“COVID-19 underscored the reality that underserved communities in Brooklyn experience disproportionate adverse health outcomes, driven by decades of systemic discrimination and under-investment in community infrastructure,” said **Shari Suchoff, Executive Director of BCC**. “We are committed to improving access to quality health care and wealth building opportunities in Brooklyn. Last year we made major strides towards achieving these goals, and we’re just getting started.”

In 2021, BCC led countless initiatives to advance long-term efforts and combat the impact of COVID-19, including:

- Distributed nearly \$4 million in grants to 46 community-based projects meeting the complex source, testing and care needs brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Surveyed more than 1,600 Brooklynites about COVID-19 in an effort to drive testing and vaccination.
- Supported and sponsored over 100 community events – both virtual and in-person – to encourage testing and vaccination.
- Conducted an analysis of procurement data at anchor institutions to identify opportunities for increased economic opportunity for residents.
- Building upon BCC’s 2020 Health and Housing Participatory Action Research by launching the Health, Housing and the Built Environment Campaign in Fall 2021 and partnering with East Brooklyn Call to Action to engage residents and support advocacy efforts.

Through BCC's [Strong Communities Fund](#), which launched immediately after the pandemic to provide needed financial support directly to community-based organizations, BCC's grantees have:

- Distributed more than 500,000 pounds of food.
- Supported enrichment and community events for more than 700 youths.
- Provided over \$72,000 in emergency cash grants to families in need.
- Enrolled or referred 13,000 Brooklynites for legal services, health and unemployment insurance, SNAP, and job placement.
- Provided 400+ phones/tablets and data plans.

For more information about the BCC Annual Report, please visit www.brooklyncommunities.org.

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About Brooklyn Communities Collaborative

Brooklyn Communities Collaborative (BCC) is a not-for-profit based in New York that works with local institutions and stakeholders to address longstanding health inequities in the borough. BCC was founded in 2019 with the goal of leveraging the financial power of anchor institutions and community resources to address the economic factors that improve the social determinants of health – whether it's supporting housing stability, advancing economic empowerment, expanding care management services, or strengthening CBOs in the area. BCC builds upon years of collaborative efforts with anchor institutions and community partners in Brooklyn, which have helped connect 80,000 complex-need patients to care management services, produce 30,000 pounds of fresh produce annually, and develop 3,400 units of housing. Visit <https://brooklyncommunities.org/> for more information.