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Brooklyn Communities Collaborative Launches Second Healthcare Workforce Training Program for Justice-Involved Individuals

Ten-week environmental service worker training pilot aims to place participants who have experience with the criminal-legal system in facilities positions at hospitals across Brooklyn

Brooklyn, NY - Today, Brooklyn Communities Collaborative (BCC) announces the launch of its Environmental Service Technician Training Pilot Program that provides comprehensive workplace training and employment opportunities for justice-involved individuals, facilitating their integration into the healthcare workforce in New York.

The pilot is the second workforce development program launched through BCC's Advancing Healthcare Workforce Opportunities for Formerly Incarcerated Individuals (AOFI) program. The first cohort of 18 certified community health workers graduated in January 2024, with more than 70% of participants securing employment in the healthcare sector to date.

"At BCC, we are committed to creating pathways to economic stability and career advancement through positions in health care," said **Shari Suchoff, Executive Director of Brooklyn Communities Collaborative**. "The Environmental Service Technician Training Pilot offers a pathway to stable employment and long-term economic opportunity for Brooklynites affected by the justice system. By working directly with healthcare partners to identify staffing needs as well as with community members and training partners, we're addressing staffing shortages and ensuring opportunities for program graduates."

With funding provided by Affinity Legacy, Inc., BCC is leading development, delivery, and job placement in partnership with [Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation](#), a Brooklyn-based community development corporation. BCC is also partnering with [STRIVE](#), a leading nonprofit specializing in job training and career development services, for the program's training curriculum.

Further, BCC will work with Brooklyn healthcare anchor institutions such as Maimonides Health and Downstate Health Sciences University to offer employment opportunities to program graduates.

"We are pleased to continue our partnership with BCC as we work towards our shared goals of community empowerment and economic revitalization," said **Blondel A. Pinnock, President and CEO, Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation**. "Together, we are opening doors to sustainable employment opportunities and fostering change in Brooklyn neighborhoods."

"Through comprehensive training and personalized support, we aim to empower individuals to thrive in the healthcare sector," said **Ayesha George, STRIVE New York Executive Director**. "We are excited to be collaborating with BCC and Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration on this pilot."



Environmental Service Technicians fulfill general cleaning tasks crucial to maintaining hospital hygiene standards. Through the program, the participants will undergo a comprehensive training curriculum, including four weeks of career readiness, three weeks of occupational skills development, and three weeks of referral services and job placement assistance. Upon completion of the training, participants will be equipped to take on various health care facilities roles. Soft skills training, such as resume writing and mock interviews, will also be provided to support participants' employment process. All program costs are covered by BCC, and participants receive a stipend of \$1,000.

For more information about the BCC and Advancing Healthcare Workforce Opportunities for Formerly Incarcerated Individuals (AOFI), please visit <https://brooklyncommunities.org>.

About Brooklyn Communities Collaborative

Brooklyn Communities Collaborative (BCC) (<https://brooklyncommunities.org>) 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. Visit for more information.

About Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation

Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation is the nation's first community development corporation. created in 1967 by Senators Robert F. Kennedy and Jacob Javits and community leaders. Restoration is committed to racial equity and closing the Black wealth gap in Central Brooklyn. Restoration offers a suite of economic mobility programs in workforce development, business acceleration, financial inclusion, affordable housing, weatherization and arts and culture to 60,000 clients annually.

About STRIVE

STRIVE (www.strive.org) is a national workforce development leader that for 40 years has successfully provided services to populations facing significant societal barriers to employment. STRIVE moves students into careers that lead to upward mobility and economic empowerment. Headquartered in East Harlem, New York and with operations in 14 locations, STRIVE has helped over 85,000 individuals through employment programs geared toward adults of all ages including those with involvement in the justice system.

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