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OneCity Health Awards \$4.3M to Address Food, Housing Insecurities

Jennifer Henderson / Crain's New York Business

OneCity Health, the New York City Health+Hospitals Performing Provider System under the Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment program, has launched two programs to address food and housing insecurities among H+H patients.

The Food and Nutrition Service Networks and Housing Navigation Network will connect patients to services that have traditionally been fragmented and difficult to navigate, OneCity Health said. BronxWorks, Public Health Solutions and RiseBoro, three community-based organizations, were awarded a total of \$4.3 million to organize a network of 26 smaller organizations to help with outreach and referrals.

BronxWorks was awarded about \$250,000 to help housing insecure patients in the Bronx access mobile vans that will take them to Safe Haven beds. Public Health Solutions was awarded \$2.6 million to deploy its [successful Food and Nutrition Service Bundle model](#) in H+H facilities in the Bronx, Manhattan and Queens. RiseBoro was awarded \$1.4 million to helm efforts in food and nutrition, as well as housing navigation, in Brooklyn.

In the first week of efforts at H+H/Woodhull in Brooklyn, 120 people met with RiseBoro food navigator Alba Redrovan. One participant, an 80-year-old man, told Redrovan that he came to the program because he was having to choose between buying healthy food and medication.

Services provided on-site include connecting patients with local food pantries, congregate meals and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits, as well as providing healthy cooking classes, Redrovan said. Bringing those kinds of resources to hospitals will help patients improve their health and avoid complications.

"We really think that these types of investments are the key investments that could help write a new page of health care for our city," said Israel Rocha, CEO of OneCity Health and vice president of H+H. NowPow, a Chicago-based social service directory and referral platform, will be used to help navigators match and connect patients with the community resources that best meet their identified needs.

NowPow's founder, Dr. Stacy Lindau, said it's promising to see that 26 community-based organizations have signed on to digitally receive referrals. Having the right data and technology behind work to address social determinants of health is critically important for the health care industry, Lindau said. The OneCity Health contracts will run through December.