

New York City-Based Care For the Homeless Wins National Award for Innovative Care in Vaccine Delivery

Award from Direct Relief and The Pfizer Foundation includes \$242,606 to improve access to infectious disease care in the United States

New York, NY — August 29th — Care For the Homeless (CFH) today announced it has received the Innovation Award in Community Health: Addressing Infectious Disease in Underserved Communities.

CFH was among 19 community health centers and free and charitable clinics in the U.S., which received the award from The Pfizer Foundation and Direct Relief. This award recognizes programs that are improving access to education and treatment for vaccine-preventable infectious diseases among medically underserved communities across the United States.

CFH received \$242,606 to support a two-year program to provide quality care to at-risk populations. Specifically, CFH will use the award grant for its Vaccine Equity and Access Project (VEAP).

Through the project, CFH will provide an array of activities and educational opportunities to New Yorkers experiencing homelessness or unstable housing. This includes increased access to a full range of vaccines, including COVID, flu, pneumonia, hepatitis A and B, HPV, and others for transmissible diseases.

CFH will also hire a Vaccine Coordinator to manage the project and engage AmeriCorps interns who will work with our Population Health team, assisting with outreach events and information dissemination.

"As trusted members of their communities, safety-net providers play a crucial role in expanding access to care, particularly in medically underserved communities," said Caroline Roan, President of the Pfizer Foundation and Chief Sustainability Officer, Pfizer Inc. "We are proud to continue supporting Direct Relief and its network of health centers, which are pioneering innovative approaches to infectious disease care and advancing health equity by dismantling barriers to better health."

"These awardees already provide essential health services for their communities, and these funds, generously provided by The Pfizer Foundation, will enable even more innovative work to take place," said Thomas Tighe, CEO and President of Direct Relief. "The dedication and commitment of these health providers, who work tirelessly, often with minimal recognition, is inspiring to all of us."

"We are honored to be selected for this prestigious award that is giving us the opportunity to further expand our vaccine outreach to our patients and residents," says CFH President and CEO, George Nashak. "We are grateful for the leadership of the Pfizer Foundation for providing the financial support for all 19 projects, each of which will have a measurable and positive impact on the lives of all we serve."

For more information about the Innovations in Care Award winners, including project information and photos, please visit: <https://www.directrelief.org/partnership/pfizer/#innovation>

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About Care For the Homeless

Care For the Homeless (CFH) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit and is committed to providing individuals experiencing homelessness with high-quality medical and behavioral health care services. In addition, CFH actively advocates for policies to prevent and end homelessness. CFH currently operates Susan's Place and the 52nd Street Women's Center, transitional shelters for women with behavioral health needs, as well as a safe haven in the Bronx, serving people who are unsheltered. CFH also operates twenty-five health centers across all five New York City boroughs. For more information, visit www.careforthehomeless.org.

About Direct Relief

A humanitarian organization committed to improving the health and lives of people affected by poverty and emergencies, Direct Relief delivers lifesaving medical resources throughout the U.S. and world to communities in need—without regard to politics, religion, or ability to pay. For more information, visit <https://www.DirectRelief.org>.

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