

# HOUSING WORKS COVID-19 RESPONSE

• As Federally Qualified Health Centers, Housing Works Community Healthcare serves low-income New Yorkers disproportionately affected by COVID-19.



• We successfully advocated New York City to take better care of homeless New Yorkers during this pandemic. This led to us operating emergency homeless COVID-19 shelters and housing for folks being released from prison.



[Housing Works CEO Charles King Opens Coronavirus Homeless Shelters](#), New York Post

[New York City Is Teaming Up With Nonprofits to Get COVID-Positive Homeless Folks into Medically Managed Hotels](#), The Body

[HIV Nonprofit Housing Works Opens COVID-19 Homeless Shelters](#), Poz Magazine

• We also teamed up with longtime Housing Works donor Rhonda Roland Shearer to make PPE available to front line workers!



[New York's patron saint of PPE went \\$600,000 in debt to outfit workers — and hospitals keep turning her down](#), Washington Post



• We rolled out Community testing at our Clinics and at public housing sites throughout New York City.



• We continued to advocate for better care for our most vulnerable New Yorkers.

[Mayor Bill de Blasio says New York City can't afford hotel rooms for the homeless — but FEMA could actually fit the bill](#), The Intercept

Virginia Shubert, the co-founder of Housing Works and a longtime homeless advocate, said that Covid-19 only throws into sharper relief what has been clear since at least the AIDS epidemic: that housing is health care.

[Lawsuit alleges feds' failed response to COVID-19 pandemic is unlawful](#), NY Daily News

[Healthcare Providers Warn of Looming Changes to Drug Discount Program](#), Gay City News

[New York Expands Vaccine Access to People Living with HIV](#), Gay City News

Charles King, the CEO of Housing Works, a community health center focused on people living with HIV and experiencing homelessness, praised the expansion but warned that the process must become more equitable.

“Data from the New York State Department of Health shows that people with HIV who are diagnosed with COVID-19 have much higher rates of hospitalization and mortality than people without HIV,” King said in a written statement. “Expanding the eligibility requirements will mean nothing, however, if better attention is not given to making the vaccine readily accessible to those who face other barriers, including those who unstably housed, living with mental illness, or who lack the technology and time resources currently required to find and schedule an appointment.”

• We negotiated with government agencies to expand mobile vaccination teams for New Yorkers experiencing homelessness.

• And Housing Works Community Healthcare has begun the work of distributing the vaccine.



• We rolled out telehealth and virtual support options for clients. We also are responding to food shortages with emergency food delivery to our housing clients.



**BUT OUR WORK IS FAR FROM OVER.  
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

