

Peer Learning: Approach



Traditional: Expertise/content flows outwardly; relationships primarily with T.A. providers



Collaborative: Expertise/content flows in multiple directions; supportive relationships and mentoring with others doing similar work



Blog Series: Conveners for Health and Equity in Six New York Communities

Intro

1.26.22



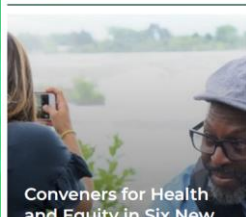
Introducing: Conveners for Health and Equity in Six New York Communities

In 2021, the New York State Health Foundation's Healthy Neighborhoods Initiative grant program came to its official end, but not without leaving an important imprint on six conveners and their communities. Over the coming weeks, we will feature these local leaders on our blog.

[READ MORE](#)

Niagara Falls

3.29.22



Conveners for Health and Equity in Six New York Communities: Community Convener Brian Archie – Create a Healthier Niagara Falls Collaborative

Check out our latest blog featuring one of six community conveners across the state of New York. Learn the story of how this community came together to create healthy opportunities for its residents.

[READ MORE](#)

Lower East Side

4.5.22



Conveners for Health and Equity in Six New York Communities: Community Conveners Jennifer Vallone & Michele Rodriguez – University Settlement

In our latest blog, we highlight another one of six community conveners working with the Healthy Neighborhoods Initiative across the state of New York. Find out how these conveners worked to create a community more educated about healthy eating.

[READ MORE](#)

Clinton Co.

4.12.22



Conveners for Health and Equity in Six New York Communities: Community Convener Mandy Snay – Clinton County Health Department

With the help of the Healthy Neighborhoods Initiative, this health department in Clinton County, New York invested in partners throughout the county. As a result community residents became advocates making an impact.

[READ MORE](#)

East Harlem

4.19.22



Conveners for Health and Equity in Six New York Communities: Community Conveners Arlen Zamula and Caitlin Falvey – Department of Health & Mental Hygiene

With the help of the Healthy Neighborhoods Initiative, organizations in East Harlem were able to get funded during the pandemic. Read more in this blog.

[READ MORE](#)

Syracuse

4.26.22



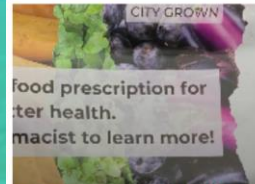
Conveners for Health and Equity in Six New York Communities: Community Convener Leah Russell – Syracuse Peacemaking Project, Center for Court Innovation

Learn how the Center for Court Innovation, with the support of the Healthy Neighborhoods Initiative, improved access to healthy food in Syracuse, New York.

[READ MORE](#)

Brownsville

5.3.22



Food prescription for better health. Pharmacist to learn more!

Conveners for Health and Equity in Six New York Communities: Community Convener Linda Bryant- Project EATS

With the help of New York State Health Foundation's (NYSHealth) Healthy Neighborhood Initiative, Project EATS is creating opportunities for the youth in Brooklyn while growing organic produce.

[READ MORE](#)

Professional / Org Growth

“It was life-changing professionally. The project reframed the way I see my work as an agent of systems change, period...We began to view our justice system work through the lens of public health and explore the intersections between public safety, justice system involvement, community health, and wellness. Rather than being solidly in one field or the other, we should be working at that intersection. It’s been a real paradigm shift.” - Leah Russell, Center for Court Innovation, Syracuse

“It changed how we recruit and what we’re looking for in people. We saw an impact on our team’s confidence within the health department. And when we can empower our partners with the skills we have, or take on this work themselves, it means we can revisit other unaddressed public health problems.” - Mandy Snay, Clinton County Health Department

Challenges

“COVID-19 hurt us in every aspect. Two team members had to be pulled off the healthy neighborhoods work to respond to the crisis. COVID turned out as an extreme example of trying to balance the needs of the community, the funder, and our own group, a governmental organization.” - Arlen Zamula DOHMH, East Harlem

“Sometimes, it’s necessary to have uncomfortable conversations with partners. Competitiveness is unproductive and corrupts what we are all trying to achieve. It’s important that we work that out.” - Linda Bryant, Project EATS, Brownsville

Peer Learning

“Listening to our colleagues from other communities shaped the work we did. We distributed Health Bucks to participants to purchase more fruits and vegetables, and we tried to improve what the local food pantry offered. The Foundation brought a remarkable group of people together for learning.” - Michele Rodriguez and Jennifer Vallone, University Settlement, Lower East Side

“Even within our own department, our work is often misunderstood, so whenever we got together in peer learning sessions or even virtual calls, it was just so motivating and reassuring to see and hear about the work that other coordinators were doing that was very similar to ours. It meant that we weren’t just these ‘misfits’.” – Mandy Snay, Clinton Co.

On Community Resilience

“When the pandemic hit, we learned we are a well-organized community. The social infrastructure is there to absorb the blows that come our way. We still have a long way to go, but we were able to increase residents’ capacity. They now have the knowledge and confidence to speak up and to get paid work, too.” – Leah Russell

For more, go to...

<https://healthyplacesbydesign.org/blog/page/2/>

