

RCS NEWS

REACHING OUT COMMUNITY SERVICES..KEEPS THE GOOD GOING!



<https://parentu.schools.nyc/>

Education Resources

Education Resources – Wide Open Schools

Wide Open School, powered by Common Sense, is a NYC DOE-approved website focused on empowering families to be advocates in their children’s learning by providing high quality & culturally relevant learning activities for students. Activities are free and available for all subjects for preschool - grade 12.

Families can find support for learning at home, like tips for keeping children focused and helpful information about using online learning tools. Families can also find an overview of the units their children are studying throughout the year in grades K-8, with high school coming soon. There are [Family Fun activities](#) for Summertime too. To learn more about Wide Open School’s tools and resources, visit nyschools.wideopenschool.org.

Summer Rising Grades K-8

Summer Rising is New York City’s free summer program for any City child in grades K–8, including students with disabilities, who wants to participate. Families can sign up through the [Discover DYCD website](#).



And the winner is...

RCS ranks top 4 for Impact 100 NYC Grant

Who We Are and What We Do
Impact 100 NYC is a chapter of the premier, global women-led philanthropic movement to “give where we live”.

We are 100+ women united by a collaborative approach to charitable giving. By aggregating individual donations, we make significant, high-impact grants to nonprofits endeavoring to improve the lives and communities in the five boroughs of New York City. Working together, we draw from our professional and personal experiences to operate the organization and learn from each other to become energized and educated change-making philanthropists.

Reaching Out Community Services was proud to have been chosen as a “top 4 finalist” considered for a programmatic grant from Impact 100 NYC. While this was their 1st year of grant funding in NY this foundation by no means is new to being transformational in helping organizations make an IMPACT in their communities. We were among solid competition and although we did not find ourselves in the top spot we were far from left behind. In addition to a check we gained a relationship with amazing women who have certainly made us feel like family! They have made it abundantly clear the support does NOT stop here. This is a network of women who are looking to help organizations make a difference through their strengths and skills by offering their financial support, know how, years and variety of entrepreneurship and let me tell you there is strength in numbers because they are certainly the most welcoming women we have ever met!

Learn more about what they do at:

<https://impact100nyc.org/about-us>

COLLEGE PREP

Brooklyn College Educational Talent Search

BC provides summer workshops free to the community

Brooklyn College Educational Talent Search project, is a federally funded TRiO program that serves low-income, first-generation, and under-served middle and high school students in Brooklyn and the surrounding boroughs. They operate from Brooklyn College and work with local middle and high school students to prepare them for college.

As schools across the city are wrapping up another year of remote learning and social distancing, they are reaching out to local community organizations and sharing some new opportunities coming available with Brooklyn College TRiO, this summer.

In planning a summer program, they have been careful to ensure that they were providing services that met the need of students in these difficult times. After more than a year of online learning and social distancing, it is expected students will be fatigued with this form of learning.

While the program is fully remote this summer, they feel student choice is paramount.

So, they are offering weekly workshops for four weeks that will cover topics such as college and career readiness, social and emotional learning, financial literacy, financial aid, scholarship search, enrichment programs, personal statement writing, and of course test prep.

The TRiO summer program will operate from **Monday, July 12th through Thursday, August 5th**. There is a wide array of workshops so students would have a choice in how they want to share their time. Students have the opportunity to participate in as little or as much as they would like; and allow them the opportunity to meet other demands such as summer work, school, camps, or other programs.

TRiO is committed to serving students who are low-income or first-generation. Therefore, if you are working with students who fit the criteria and require college and career prep, please do not hesitate to share this information with them. Please scan the flyer below to allow any family to complete the application and choose the workshops they desire. You may also refer students and parent directly via email at lavern.maison@brooklyn.cuny.edu, or her office number at (718) 951-5593. They are there to help in any way they can.

SOCIAL SERVICES

June 1, the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance has opened an application for the New York State **Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP)**. This program will provide **significant economic relief** to help **low and moderate-income households** at risk of experiencing homelessness or housing instability by providing **rental arrears, temporary rental assistance and utility arrears assistance**. Here is a [link](#) that states who is eligible, what groups of people will be prioritized, and what benefits households that qualify for the ERAP program will receive.

Benefits

Households approved for ERAP may receive:

- Up to 12 months of **rental arrears payments** for rents accrued on or after March 13, 2020.
- Up to 3 months of **additional rental assistance** if the household is expected to spend 30 percent or more of their gross monthly income to pay for rent.
- Up to 12 months of electric or gas **utility arrears payments** for arrears that have accrued on or after March 13, 2020.

Payments will be made directly to the landlord/property owner and utility company on behalf of the tenant. Tenant applicants will be notified of the amounts paid on their behalf. If a landlord is difficult to locate or does not otherwise provide information needed to complete the application, funds will be held for up to 180 days to allow sufficient time to locate the landlord and collect required information as well as to provide tenant protections and maximize landlord participation.

To date RCS has assisted the community in processing nearly \$250,000 in rental arrears applications through this program.

Free Tax Prep at RCS

Reaching Out Community Services has tried to maintain as many community services as possible during the COVID-19 pandemic. While the tax season has come to a close we are proud to have assisted in nearly \$900,000 in returns for our low-income community members in need. We know how vital this service is to our neighbors and are relieved that even during crisis we were able to make it work.



If you are thinking about suicide and in need of immediate support, please call the TrevorLifeline at 1-866-488-7386 or select TrevorChat below to connect with a counselor. <https://www.thetrevorproject.org/get-help-now/#sm.001nez1ntfdec7z118e2qi4gsgcsy>

COMMUNITY STATISTICS

The Purpose of Vital Resources to the Community

Access to affordable and nutritious food is one of the cornerstones of good health. Without this, individuals and communities are at a higher risk of food insecurity and serious chronic diseases, including obesity, diabetes, and heart disease. To improve the health of New Yorkers, we must recognize that each neighborhood has a distinct food environment.

Purpose

These Foodscape reports provide a community-level snapshot of a community’s food environment, including data on healthy and unhealthy food consumption, food access, and diet-related diseases. Additionally, the reports detail a comprehensive guide of the many food-related resources available to residents within their neighborhoods to support them in eating healthier.

GREENTHUMB GARDENS:

There are over 600 [GreenThumb community gardens](#) across the city, and any resident can join a garden. There are **no GreenThumb gardens in Southwest Brooklyn**. Find the most up-to-date list of gardens using [GreenThumb’s searchable Garden Map](#).

Statistics:

Reaching Out Community Services services the Southwest portion of Brooklyn, NY. These neighborhoods average 12% higher than most in persons with Diabetes in NYC, 26% of the adults on average have hypertension and 21% are obese while sadly 14% of their children are as well. Almost a quarter of all residents in these neighborhoods are SNAP recipients and a large contributing factor may be that the median household income falls at least \$10,000 below that of the average New Yorker.

The extreme housing burden is over 5% higher than the rest of the city at large which just makes thriving in these communities extremely difficult. This causes the needs of the constituents to become budgetary, widens the food gap in these neighborhoods which is 4,955,978 currently and makes decisions like affording fresh produce or necessary medication or bills a daily struggle. RCS has become a beacon of hope for many by providing fresh fruits and vegetables along with ongoing access to benefits through our social services department that helps our in need neighbors gain knowledge of available programs, benefits they may be eligible for and assistance in the application process beginning to end so they may become empowered and more self-sustained.



FOUNDATIONAL SUPPORT

Keeping the GOOD GOING..

Guru Krupa Foundation Inc. continues to nutritiously support the community

The Guru Krupa Foundation has been an annual supporter of RCS providing ongoing funds specifically for fresh produce. This allows Reaching Out the opportunity to provide the community with an abundance of fruit, strawberries, blueberries etc. as well as vegetables that are otherwise difficult to purchase when on a fixed or limited budget and promote healthy eating habits within the community. The Guru Krupa Foundation has also been a vital resource this year, along with other donors, during the pandemic in being part of ensuring that our Home Bound clients were able to receive vital groceries through our Mobile Food Pantry Program. This program has successfully brought over 20 thousand meals to seniors, those under quarantine, immune compromised persons, the disabled and anyone unable to leave their home during these difficult times. Ongoing support like this is what allows us to continue the work we do so tirelessly to fulfill our mission.

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Keeping Everyone Connected

COVID-19 Vaccination Updates

NYC Mobile Vaccine Buses continue to provide vaccines in Brooklyn, the Bronx, Manhattan and Queens. The full schedule of mobile vaccine locations can be found [online here](#). Walk-ups are welcome and you can also book in advance through the [Vax4NYC website](#). New Yorkers ages 12 years and older can continue to receive their COVID-19 vaccine without an appointment. Sites can be found [here](#). New Yorkers are required to provide proof of

COVID-19 Testing

Free testing continues to be available throughout the five boroughs. A schedule of mobile testing locations throughout the City can be found [here](#). Locations of testing sites can also be accessed by texting “COVID TEST” to 855-48. These are no cost testing sites open to all New Yorkers. The Test-and-Trace corps offers the [COVID 19 Wait](#)



age and residency to receive the vaccine. Appointments can still be made by using vaccinefinder.nyc.gov. The in-home vaccination program is continuing. New Yorkers who are 75 years of age or older, have a disability, or are fully homebound can sign up at nyc.gov/homebound or

[Times Dashboard](#), which displays estimated wait times for NYC Health + Hospitals COVID-19 testing locations. This wait time information is updated by site staff every two hours by calling 1-877-VAX-4-NYC.

Community education and information is a part of everyday services at RCS



The Expanded Child Tax Credit (CTC): What New York Families Need to Know

1. What is the Child Tax Credit?



The Child Tax Credit is a benefit that helps families afford the everyday expenses of raising children. The [American Rescue Plan](#), signed into law in March, significantly expands the federal Child Tax Credit for one year and will deliver direct cash payments to many New York families with children. **To receive the Credit, it is extremely important that families file their 2020 tax returns by May 17th – even if they have no income or have never filed taxes before.**

2. How does the American Rescue Plan expand the Child Tax Credit?

The American Rescue Plan temporarily expands the Child Tax Credit in three main ways:

- i. **INCREASES THE CREDIT'S VALUE AND EXPANDS ELIGIBILITY TO 17-YEAR-OLD CHILDREN**
 - Children under 6 will receive a **\$3,600** per child maximum benefit
 - Children ages 6 to 17 will receive a **\$3,000** per child maximum benefit
- ii. **MAKES THE CREDIT FULLY AVAILABLE TO CHILDREN IN THE LOWEST INCOME FAMILIES**
 - The maximum benefit is available from **\$0 in earnings** up through \$112,500 (unmarried filer) or \$150,000 (married filer)
- iii. **PAYS THE CREDIT OUT IN REGULAR INSTALLMENTS**
 - Families will receive half of the Credit in periodic payments starting in July 2021, and the remainder when they file their 2021 tax return (Spring 2022)
 - Children under 6 will receive **\$300 per child per month**
 - Children ages 6 to 17 will receive **\$250 per child per month**



POTENTIAL PAYMENT SCHEDULES	
IF MONTHLY	IF PERIODICALLY
July 2021 (First payment)	July 2021 (First payment)
August 2021	
September 2021	
October 2021	October 2021
November 2021	
December 2021 (Last payment received in 2021)	December 2021 (Last payment received in 2021)
April 2022 (Completion of 2021 payment)	April 2022 (Completion of 2021 payment)

815 2nd Avenue, 8th Floor, New York, NY 10017 p (212) 697-2323 www.cdfny.org

3. Must individuals be employed to receive this Child Tax Credit?

No! Under the American Rescue Plan, the benefit is available to families with no income.

4. Does the Child Tax Credit impact eligibility for other benefits?

No! The Child Tax Credit does not impact eligibility for other federally-funded benefit programs, such as SNAP or Medicaid. Tax credits do not count as earned income.

5. Who can claim a child for purposes of receiving the Child Tax Credit?

Under current law, a child must live with the person claiming the Credit for at least six months of the year and be a child, grandchild, sibling, niece, or nephew of the tax filer. Children whose primary caregivers are more distant relatives or family friends are denied the benefit, as are children who do not spend at least six months in a single household, such as may be the case with children who move between homes of family members.

6. What if a child has split custody?

If a child has split custody, the parent with primary custody will receive the Child Tax Credit. The child must live with the caregiver for at least six months of the year. If a child splits time equally between two parents, the one with a higher annual adjusted gross income (AGI) may claim the child. The IRS will likely administer advanced payments to the parent claiming the child on their 2020 tax return.

7. Does this impact eligibility for the Empire State Child Credit (ESCC)?

The expanded Child Tax Credit does not impact eligibility for the Empire State Child Credit. Full-year New York residents with children ages 4 to 17 will still receive either 33 percent of the federal Child Tax Credit or \$100 per child, whichever is greater (as long as a family's annual income does not exceed \$75,000 for a single filer, \$110,000 for married filers filing jointly or \$55,000 for married filers filing separately.)



DON'T WAIT! To maximize your family's likelihood of receiving the Child Tax Credit, file your taxes *by May 17th*.

To locate an IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) site near you, visit irs.treasury.gov/freetaxprep or receive free online assistance at getyourrefund.org TODAY!

For more FAQs, check out [Understanding the Expanded Child Tax Credit](#)

Contacts: Kimberley Chin kchin@childrensdefense.org | Melissa Genadri mgenadri@childrensdefense.org

Updated April 26, 2021

THANK YOU



Northfield Savings and The Howard E. Stark Foundation are among some of the few long standing Foundations that annually have contributed to RCS consistently. It is ongoing support from foundations like these that allow us to do the incredible work we do each and every day, without it we just would not exist and the in need community would not be afforded the opportunities and resources we are able to make available to them. Both of these foundations were generous enough, in addition to our annual funding, to give COVID-19 emergency funds to help during the pandemic. We could not be more grateful to these and all of our grantors for all that they do for us and the communities we serve.



CARE SKILLS TRAINING SCHOOL

In collaboration with Reaching-Out Community Service

We invite you to take our Personal Care Aid/Home Health Aid programs.

FREE*
FOR THOSE WHO QUALIFY

- Earn up to \$19 per hour in few weeks after the beginning of the training program.
- We create employment opportunities and assist with job placements for our students upon receiving the certificate.
- High level of job satisfaction from helping those in need to achieve a better quality of life.
- See if you qualify for a FREE course

EARN UP TO \$19 HR IN 1 - 2 WEEKS



SCAN TO APPLY!
OR CALL THE NUMBER BELOW

Se Habla Español





1125 FULTON STREET 3RD FLOOR
BROOKLYN, NY 11238
(718) 504-5757




ONLINE LEARNING

ADULT EDUCATION

IN COLLABORATION WITH REACHING-OUT COMMUNITY SERVICES

FREE
MUST BE 21 YEARS OR OLDER

- All classes are Online
- Basic Education Classes (BE)
- High School Equivalency Diploma Preparation (HSE)
- English as a Second Language (ESL)
- Classes held: Mornings & Evenings (Additional ESL Classes Held on Saturdays)

For more information fill out our contact form at:
<https://tinyurl.com/School6-Contact>



HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY DIPLOMA PREPARATION
- Take online classes that will prepare you to obtain your HSE Diploma
- Learn only subjects you need

LEARN ENGLISH
Учите английский бесплатно
免费学习英语
Aprenda inglés gratis
Aprann anglé gratis
تعلموا الإنكليزية مجاناً
مفت انگریزی سیکھیں





In Partnership With Reaching-Out Community Services

THE ALLIANCE FOR POSITIVE CHANGE

LINKAGE TO INSURANCE

Our dedicated team at Alliance can help New Yorkers enroll in health insurance through the New York State of Health Marketplace.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Individuals who are:

- New York State residents
- 19-64 years old
- Self-Employed
- Immigrants
- Families/Children/Pregnant Women

WHAT'S COVERED?

- Free preventive care
- Inpatient care
- Outpatient services
- Maternity and newborn care
- Emergency services
- Lab and imaging
- Prescription drugs
- Mental health and substance use disorder services
- Wellness and chronic disease management services


Alliance Locations

Midtown Central 64 W. 35th St., NY, NY	Keith Haring (Harlem) 315 East 104th St., NY, NY	CASA (Washington Heights) 2036 Amsterdam Ave., NY, NY
Pelham Grand (Bronx) 1870 Pelham Pkwy, NY, NY	LESHRC (Lower East Side) 35 East Broadway, NY, NY	LLOC (East Village) 150 1st Ave., NY, NY


For more information, contact the main office at (212) 645-0875 or:

Marcia Deer (646) 418-8568	Shanaleigh Mejia (917) 699-3318	James Rivera (917) 882-1368	Diamond Walters (646) 771-6870
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The Alliance for Positive Change



Children's Mobile Crisis Team Rapid Response Crisis Care



VNSNY's Children's Mobile Crisis Team (CMCT) provides rapid response crisis care for children, teens and their families who need:

- Crisis assessment
- Crisis stabilization
- Prevention planning
- Caregiver support

The VNSNY Crisis Team consists of licensed clinical staff with advanced degrees in counseling as well as family advocates.

Rapid response is available 24/7

CMCT is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to provide rapid responses and crisis management for children and adolescents in active crisis situations. A team will:

- Respond within two hours of receiving a crisis referral
- Provide crisis de-escalation
- Conduct a psychosocial assessment
- Initiate prevention planning
- Collaborate with existing services
- Coach caregivers on how to manage situations and prevent future crisis situations

Initial contact is done with NYC WELL by telephone and follow-up visits are conducted in the home.

Do you have a child or are you a family in need of our services? Speak to a crisis counselor right now at NYC WELL: 1-888-692-9355

FAMILY FUN

Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum open to the public!

Dear families,

With the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum open to the public, we are pleased to start reintroducing in-person programs at the Museum, while keeping some of our virtual programs, too.

Registration is open for the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum's next virtual [Access Family Programs](#) (all ages) on June 20 and July 11. We are also happy to announce the return on on-site, in-person sensory friendly programming! Registration is open for [Sensory Friendly Evening](#) (teens and adults), on June 29, and our [Early Morning Opening](#) (children), on July 24.

As a reminder, the application deadline for [All Access Maker Camp](#) is June 27! More information [below](#).

All family programs are free with advance registration and include pre-visit materials to help participants prepare. Please feel free to share these programs with others!

Virtual Access Family Program – *This Sunday!*

For individuals with developmental or learning disabilities and their families. All ages.

Aircraft Design

Sunday, June 20

11:00am – 12:00pm ET

Creating new types of airplanes involves understanding aircraft design of the past and innovating for the future. Explore *Intrepid's* aircraft collection to hone observational skills, compare different types of airplanes and learn what's new in aircraft design.

Free with advance registration! This program takes place over Zoom and includes an at-home activity packet. For more information and to register, [click here to complete the Google Form](#).

Sensory Friendly Evening – *At the Museum!*

For teens and adults with autism and their friends and families (ages 14+)

Flight Deck

Tuesday, June 29

5:00pm – 7:00pm ET

Visit *Intrepid's* flight deck, where aircraft took off and landed. Explore the many airplanes and helicopters in the Museum's collection and go behind the scenes to take a closer look at some of these amazing aircraft without the crowds.

Free with advance registration! This program will take place outdoors at the Museum. All visitors must follow the Museum's health and safety guidelines. For more information and to register, [click here to complete the Eventbrite form](#).

Virtual Access Family Program

For individuals with developmental or learning disabilities and their families. All ages.

Race to the Moon

Sunday, July 11

11:00am – 12:00pm ET

Learn about *Intrepid's* role in the space race and NASA's plans to send the first woman and next man to the Moon on the scheduled Artemis missions!

Free with advance registration! This program takes place over Zoom and includes an at-home activity packet. For more information and to register, [click here to complete the Google Form](#).



Early Morning Opening – *At the Museum!*

For children (ages 3-18) with autism and their families.

Aircraft Exploration

Saturday, July 24

8:30am – 11:00am ET

Welcome aboard! Explore the Intrepid Museum's historic aircraft at the

first in-person, sensory-friendly Early Morning Opening in over a year! See aircraft from World War II to the Cold War, learn about their similarities and differences, and get up close to a helicopter, all before the Museum opens to the public.

Free with advance registration! This program will take place at the Museum. All visitors must follow the Museum's health and safety guidelines. For more information and to register, [click here to complete the Eventbrite form](#).

All Access Maker Camp – *Applications Due June 27!*

Summer Session 1: August 23-27

The application deadline for the summer session of the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum's hybrid [All Access Maker Camp](#) for first-time campers has been extended to Sunday, June 27! Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis.

All Access Maker Camp is a fun hybrid week of exploring the Intrepid Museum, solving problems, experimenting with new tools and technology, and designing projects! This camp is specifically for children ages 8–14 with developmental disabilities, including autism. The first two days will be virtual and the remaining three in person, at the Museum.

More information is available at [this website](#) and [this bilingual English/Spanish flyer](#). Please share widely!

Intrepid Museum Now Open!

The Intrepid Museum is once again open to the public! The Museum is currently open Thursday-Sunday. Beginning June 21, the Museum will once again be open 7 days per week! Learn more and reserve tickets here: intrepidmuseum.org/Plan-Your-Visit.