



## Call-In to Support Health Center Funding!

**#REDALERT4CHCS**

**12.20.19**



**HEALTH  
CENTER  
Advocacy  
NETWORK**

Source: [Fourthstreetclinic.org](http://Fourthstreetclinic.org)

Congress has officially passed another Continuing Resolution (CR) that will keep the government funded until December 20, 2019. Funding for the Community Health Center (CHC) Fund, National Health Services Corps (NHSC), and Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education (THCGME) were all included in this CR.

Community Health Centers (CHCs) provide services to 28 million vulnerable patients nationally at 11,000 delivery sites across the country, including the 7,000+ unstably housed people Care For the Homeless serves at our health centers in four of the five boroughs of New York City. CHCs have consistently been rated as the most cost-effective local solution to our most pressing national health care problem: providing comprehensive quality primary and preventative health care to the people most in need and often with the least access.

Federal grants, known as 330 grants, provide at least 70% of our CHC funding. Obviously, our CHCs cannot operate as they do today without these federal grants. Congress has provided us with another temporary fix, but it is imperative that we keep up the pressure in order to ensure CHCs remain a funding priority.

We must remain laser focused on three important asks:

- Long-term funding for health centers, greater than the two years we are currently funded at;
- An increase to the CHC Fund that would allow for new sites, more staff and providers, and expanded services; and
- Passage of an extension bill before the December 20th deadline.

The Health Center Advocacy Network is hosting a call-in competition. Let's represent for health centers in New York City and call our Congressional representatives to make long term funding for CHCs a priority in their negotiations. Our consumers are counting on us to keep the pressure on our elected representatives. Instructions to call in are [here](#). We have until Friday, December 6th to represent NY in this competition! But don't let that stop you from calling in after this date, any contact with our representatives will go a long way in keeping our ask front and center.

## Recognizing Manhattan Community Board 4

For the last three years, *Coalition for the Homeless* has presented a Compassionate Communities Award meant to highlight the extraordinary efforts of community members who treat their homeless neighbors with kindness and respect, rather than the knee-jerk resistance that often occurs when a shelter opens nearby. This year CFH nominated Manhattan Community Board 4 (MCB4) in order to recognize their partnership in fostering a collaborative dialogue with several community stakeholders in preparation for the opening of our new women's shelter in the area. MCB4 represents a community that understands the value and necessity of providing services to our most vulnerable neighbors and we are delighted that they were recognized with the award this year.

CFH Executive Director, George Nashak, said, "In our current environment of fear of homeless people and intolerance of homeless services, it is a great pleasure to recognize Manhattan Community Board 4 and the neighbors of CFH's west midtown women's center with the Compassionate Communities Award. Our experience with the west midtown community was the opposite of NIMBY. They constructively worked with CFH as partners to ensure that our program and the surrounding community can co-exist, understanding that they are participating in improving the lives of our most vulnerable neighbors. The board, staff, and clients of CFH will always remember the warm welcome we received."

MCB4 continues to be an integral component of our community engagement efforts by participating in our quarterly Community Advisory Board meetings, a forum that updates the community on the operation of the shelter as well as encourages feedback from all those involved. Also, one of the community board members, Delores Rubin, has started conducting financial literacy classes for the women at the shelter in order to teach financial skills such as



Source: [Coalitionforthehomeless.org](http://Coalitionforthehomeless.org)

saving, budgeting, banking and credit. All important tools that ensure independence for the residents after they exit the shelter system.

A big thank you to MCB4 for welcoming Care For the Homeless into their community. If you would like to read more about MCB4 and the award, please click [here](#). Also, AmNY wrote a piece that can be found [here](#).

## Homeless Persons' Memorial Day



As we approach the winter solstice, the start of winter and the longest night of the year, communities across the United States observe Homeless Persons' Memorial Day (HPMD), a solemn day of remembrance for people experiencing homelessness that passed away that year. At these memorials, we remember those who have passed away, and we strengthen our resolve to work for a world where no life is lived or lost in homelessness.

During these memorials, we want to raise awareness about the trauma and the severity of experiencing homelessness. Many studies have confirmed the relationship between a lack of housing and increased mortality rates. People experiencing homelessness are 3-4 times more likely to die prematurely as compared to the general population, losing an average of 20 years as compared to their housed counterparts. The difficulty of getting rest, maintaining medications, eating well, staying clean and staying warm prolong and exacerbate illnesses, sometimes to the point where they are life threatening. Conditions among people

who are homeless are frequently co-occurring, with a complex mix of severe physical, psychiatric and substance use problems. High stress, unhealthy and dangerous environments, and an inability to control food intake often result in visits to emergency rooms and hospitalization which worsens overall health.

Our HPMD program is a concerted effort by Care For the Homeless and Urban Pathways to involve service providers, advocates, people with the lived experience of homelessness, elected officials, and community members in compiling a list of unstably housed individuals who lost their lives in 2019. **For many cases, this Memorial will be the only commemoration they get.**

We want to bring attention to the tragedy of homelessness, a crisis that we have the tools to end with the right policy changes. The memorial focuses attention on collectively recommitting efforts to prevent and end homelessness. Understanding that any solutions to end homelessness must be grounded in greater access to affordable housing and supportive services to help individuals not only meet their basic needs but thrive in their community.

Please join us as we memorialize those have passed away this year without stable housing on Wednesday, December 18th at Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church, 7 West 55th Street in Manhattan. The Memorial will start with a meal at 4:30 p.m., followed by the program at 5:30 p.m. It is free and open to the public. You can RSVP [here](#).

**Care For the Homeless is a leader in advocating for high-quality patient-centered health care, robust human services and affordable housing opportunities for people experiencing homelessness.**

**If you would like to support CFH's Policy and Advocacy work, please consider donating by clicking the button below and choosing "Strengthen Policy and Advocacy Work."**

[Please Click Here to Donate](#)

## The Busy Advocate's December Calendar

*December is the Health Observance and Awareness Month*

**Mon., Dec. 9th, 10:00 a.m., Oversight joint meeting on the City's Effort to Prevent and Address HIV and Hepatitis** by the Health and Hospital Committee, City Hall Council Chambers, New York, NY, 10007.

**Tue., Dec. 10th, 1:30 p.m., NY City Council Stated Meeting**, City Hall Council Chambers, New York, NY, 10007.

**Thur., Dec. 12th, 10:00 a.m., Oversight joint meeting on Senior Affordable Housing** by the Housing and Building and Aging Committees, City Hall Council Chambers, New York, NY, 10007.

**Wed., Dec. 18, 4:30 p.m., Homeless Persons' Memorial Day**, join us as we commemorate those who passed away this year while unstably housed. Meal begins at 4:30 p.m., program begins at 5:30 pm. Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church: Bonnell Hall, 7 West 55th Street, New York, NY 10019. RSVP [here](#).

**Thur., Dec. 19th, 1:30 p.m., NY City Council Stated Meeting**, City Hall Council Chambers, New York, NY, 10007.

**Mon., Dec. 31, New Years Eve.**

**Tue., Jan. 1, Happy New Year, Welcome 2020.**