

Disabilities nonprofit gets \$850K grant for mobile health center

Adapt Community Network, a nonprofit serving New Yorkers with disabilities, has received \$850,000 from the state Department of Health to fund the purchase of a vehicle that will allow it to provide mobile health and telehealth services.

In the next year the nonprofit will buy and outfit the vehicle so it is accessible to people with varying degrees of mobility. It will begin offering psychiatric counseling in the mobile health center next summer, said Edward Matthews, CEO of the nonprofit, which was formerly known as United Cerebral Palsy of New York City.

The vehicle will visit residential facilities, where people with disabilities can board it and access telepsychiatry care provided by physicians employed by StationMD.

"Our vision is that we will have appointments scheduled and go location to location," Matthews said. "This has got a lot of benefits to the entire system in terms of cost savings and improving access."

The five-year grant also will fund research to determine whether the mobile health center results in lower health spending and fewer emergency room visits.

"One of our goals is to decrease the number of missed appointments, especially for psychiatric services," said Mariette McBride, Adapt's senior vice president of strategic initiatives and integrated solutions.