

Addiction-treatment network upgrades East Harlem office

Start Treatment & Recovery Centers has purchased 2191 Third Ave. for \$9.1 million to expand its clinic into a larger space for East Harlem patients.

The new clinic will be housed on the ground floor and part of the second floor of the 4-story, 15,765-square-foot building. The site has capacity to care for about 300 people at a time on an outpatient basis through medication-assisted treatment, mental health services, primary care and social services.

The neighborhood has been one of the hardest hit by the opioid crisis. East Harlem had the highest rate of drug overdose deaths in the city last year at 56.1 per 100,000 people, which is nearly triple the citywide rate of 20.5.

Opening a renovated clinic in the newly acquired Third Avenue property creates a "bright, cheerful and modern" environment for patients that is accessible to patients with disabilities, said Dr. Lawrence Brown, CEO of Start, which serves 50,000 people in Brooklyn, the Bronx and Manhattan.

The nonprofit financed the sale by selling its existing clinic at 2195 Third Ave., a 6,000-square-foot-building where Start had occupied the second and third floors, and an adjacent vacant lot for a combined \$5.5 million. The buyer of that property was an limited liability corporation based in Richmond Hill, Queens.