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NQP Awards \$595,000 to Seven Community-Based Organizations

The Nassau-Queens Performing Provider System (NQP) is providing a total of \$595,000 to seven Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) in Nassau County and Queens to enhance connections to healthcare services for Medicaid/vulnerable populations.

This is the second round of funding that NQP has provided. Earlier this year, NQP announced that it would begin distributing a total of \$460,000 to 23 CBOs in Nassau County and Eastern Queens. This initial phase enabled the contracted CBOs to conduct health-related forums in their neighborhoods, report on healthcare referrals, and participate in trainings related to New York State's shift to value-based payment. These activities are critical to bolstering CBOs' role in transitioning to person-centered care.

Robert Hettenbach, Executive Director of NQP, noted, "If a person with diabetes is also homeless their priority will be to access shelter and food; they will be less concerned about getting to routine medical appointments. Left unchecked, diabetes can have a serious negative impact on one's health." Hettenbach further explained, "It makes sense for healthcare systems to partner with CBOs to meet basic needs. Stable housing and a supply of nutritious food can provide the foundation that allows the client to then work on health issues such as diabetes."

Based on performance during the first phase, NQP chose the following seven agencies to receive an enhanced level of funding: First Jamaica Urban Community Development Corporation, Gateway Youth Outreach, Haitian American Family of Long Island, Long Island Coalition for the Homeless, Ocean Bay Community Development Corporation, Queens Library, and the Rockaway Waterfront Alliance. Each organization will hire additional staff, expand services, and focus on connecting the people they serve to appropriate healthcare services.

John Jarvis, the Director of Behavioral Health for NQP indicated that the distribution of the funds helps to support the state's efforts to transition the healthcare community towards value-based payments (VBP). He said, "At the end of the DSRIP grant period, these seven agencies will each have a successful model. Having proved their value, they will be encouraged to contract with hospitals, health plans, and Independent Practice Associations (IPA's) in larger VBP arrangements."

In addition to their performance during the initial phase, the agencies were also chosen because they serve key NQP communities including Far Rockaway, Jamaica, Hempstead, Elmont, Uniondale and Freeport. The NQP Community Needs Assessment had previously indicated that these neighborhoods had a high percentage of Medicaid recipients who tend to utilize hospital emergency services instead of seeking routine care in the community.