

Grant Outcome Report

Safe and Affordable Health Services on Staten Island for Young Adults

The Problem

On Staten Island, a lack of accessible reproductive health services and deep concerns about privacy prevent many young people from seeking sexual and reproductive health services, including contraception, sex education, and screening and treatment for sexually transmitted infections (STI). The New York State Health Foundation (NYSHealth) awarded a grant to Planned Parenthood of New York City (PPNYC) to address these issues and expand access to safe and affordable reproductive health services for young people on Staten Island. PPNYC collaborated with Community Health Action of Staten Island (CHASI) to establish a PPNYC extension center clinic on Staten Island to provide comprehensive family planning services and help clients access health care coverage. The clinic serves a target population that closely mirrors CHASI's existing population, which resides in two low-income neighborhoods of Staten Island and is approximately 40% black, 30% Hispanic, and 25% white. This project served as a pilot for assessing whether this service model could effectively address gaps in health care services among underserved youth in other communities.

Grant Activities and Outcomes

With funding from NYSHealth, PPNYC collaborated with CHASI to ensure delivery of health services to underserved young people and others on Staten Island. First, sexual and reproductive health services were provided on Staten Island via PPNYC's mobile medical unit one day per week. Between September 2010 and September 2011, the mobile medical unit made 44 visits to Staten Island, where 397 clients were seen and provided with a range of services (birth control, emergency contraception, free pregnancy testing, HIV testing and counseling, and public insurance enrollment). PPNYC subsequently transitioned its services from the mobile medical unit to establish the only existing permanent Staten Island center, which officially opened in October 2011.

PPNYC's Staten Island center provided further comprehensive family planning services, including birth control counseling and provision; gynecological exams; cancer screening; HIV/STI screening, counseling, and testing; emergency contraception; and male services, which typically included STI and testicular cancer screenings. PPNYC also offered on-site public insurance screening and enrollment services, easing the

KEY INFORMATION:

GRANTEE

Planned Parenthood of New York City

GRANT TITLE

Safe and Affordable Health Services on Staten Island for Young Adults

DATES

December 2008 – December 2011

GRANT AMOUNT

\$53,538

FUNDING

Special Projects Fund

enrollment process for clients and protecting their confidentiality in the process. Its staff helped eligible clients enroll in public benefit programs, enabling them to access sexual and reproductive health services and other types of health care as needed from PPNYC and other health care providers.

To publicize the mobile medical unit and the Staten Island center, CHASI distributed materials developed by PPNYC and shared information with agencies, local coalition groups, and schools. In addition, CHASI referred existing clients in need of comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services to the center. Through coalitions and other venues, PPNYC and CHASI also reached out to other social service agencies to connect their underserved clients with sexual and reproductive health services at the center. PPNYC developed materials in English and Spanish to advertise the services available via the mobile medical unit, and updated materials also were created for the center.



The Future

During the first full year of operations, sexual and reproductive health services were provided three days per week to an estimated 16 clients per day. Expenses of the Staten Island center that are not covered by patient care revenue are subsidized by a New York City Council allocation and individual donors. PPNYC also received additional Title X funding to help subsidize the cost of services for its sliding scale clients at the Staten Island center during the 2011–2012 year.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

ABOUT THE GRANTEE

Planned Parenthood of New York City provides information and health care so that individuals may make independent, informed decisions about their sexual and reproductive lives. The organization provides the following services in Manhattan, Brooklyn, the Bronx, and Staten Island: birth control; emergency contraception; pregnancy testing and options counseling (including adoption referrals); surgical abortion and medication abortion (abortion services not being provided at the Staten Island center); gynecological care, including cervical and breast cancer screening; colposcopy; male reproductive health exams; testing, counseling, and treatment for sexually transmitted infections; HIV testing and counseling; and help in obtaining public insurance. PPNYC also promotes public policies that make those services available to all.

GRANTEE CONTACT

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