

## **Local Law 119 of 2024 Report (October 2024)**

In September 2024, the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (Health Department) released a new Request for Proposals (RFP) for adult clubhouses. In line with *Care, Community, Action: A Mental Health Plan for New York City*, the Health Department's goal is to keep as many New Yorkers as possible with serious mental illness connected with a community that offers real rehabilitative opportunities, and treatment and housing – reflective of the three key pillars of home, healthcare, and community - that ensure stability, prevent crises, and improve health. These new contracts extend the benefits of clubhouse services to more adults experiencing serious mental illness in NYC and will achieve better outcomes for longstanding clubhouse members as well as those newly engaged through this expansion initiative.

Seven providers were awarded contract to operate thirteen clubhouses. Out of the seven providers awarded, six new sites will open in the coming months and seven of the current sites are continuing to provide services with some proposed level of expansion of capacity. Five additional clubhouse sites are also being funded through FY25 through City Council designations.

The Health Department is focused on clubhouse expansion and quality. Regarding expansion, a key goal is to build capacity to serve at least 8,750 members, nearly doubling the current capacity that clubhouses serve. There is also expansion of clubhouse presence in high need communities because of our focus on priority neighborhoods. Raising the standard of quality requires ensuring programs have the capacity to guarantee every member a broad range of rehabilitative opportunities that are associated with positive health outcomes. Programs must also now track how well they are supporting their members – relevant metrics include prevention of hospitalization, homelessness, and contact with law enforcement, in addition to positive measures of function, isolation and wellbeing. None of these data were collected or reported on in the past, which should not be acceptable.

Clubhouses under the new contracts will bring great benefits to people experiencing serious mental illness in NYC such as improved quality of life, social inclusion, and self-efficacy – particularly in high need neighborhoods that were prioritized in this process.