



DFOY Healthy Village Initiative is an offshoot of our collaboration, Claremont Healthy Village Initiative, which seeks to reduce the health inequities and access disparities to Claremont (South Bronx) residents. The initiative took off this year and has four components: 1. Youth Urban Ambassadors: 36 middle and high school, DFOY participants, who are trained in public advocacy and research. The work with Community Health Worker and doctors from the Bronx Lebanon Hospital and the City University of New York to learn about health and nutrition issues, resources and best practices. They conduct workshops for their peers, community residents to promote healthy living 2. Athletic program: an expansion of DFOY's existing program, we added the DFOY-Claremont Biking program and the DFOY Fencing program. These new program components provide mountain bikes to middle school youth who tour the Bronx and Randall's Island on bicycle every Saturday and alternating Fridays (weather permitting) 3. Parks and Healthy spaces initiative is a collaborative effort with the NYC Parks and Recreation program, City Harvest and the Foodbank of New York which provides garden space, free fruits and vegetables and cooking classes for both DFOY youth and parents at our neighborhood Community Center. In addition to gardening the youth participate in workshops with NYC Parks Educators to learn about the local geographic and agricultural landscape within NYC and the South Bronx 4. A longitudinal study in collaboration with our institutional to gauge the mental and physical health obstacles and outcomes of South Bronx Residents.

Goals:

- The Urban Ambassadors Youth Council (UAH) is derived from the need to assist addressing disparities in general health, healthy food access, health education, cleaner environment and open spaces
- To provide forums where youth can harness their energies to produce and promote positive sustainable change in their community in an effective manner
- To provide youth with facilitators/staff to intervene and assist in the lives of the students/participants they are charged to guide
- To provide youth with the skills that will allow them to become qualified representatives of their communities
- Provide youth with skills training to enable them to be confident effective public speakers/youth educators/agents of change
- To enable youth to exercise self-determination through logic, critical thinking, communication and decision making
- To conduct informational and skills related bi monthly Town Hall Meetings

Strategy: Youth Engagement and Advocacy

Activities:

- Ambassadors of Hope Youth Council engages Claremont youth in the identification of social and environmental issues resulting in youth led solutions.
- 45 youth recruited from CNC, Butler Community Center, and Beacon for leadership and advocacy training. Curriculum is focused on advocacy, leadership and Service Learning.
- Following training, youth engage in advocacy and paid/unpaid internships service projects year round.
- UAH Youth Council Member Description
- Urban Ambassadors of Hope (UAH) Council Members must attend trainings twice a week for (2) hours each session and attend (2) Saturday town hall meetings. Urban Ambassadors of Hope consists of young people from the Claremont Village community to serve as a critical advisory to city officials, community leaders, and organizations. The program will bring together three different youth councils from the Butler Houses Community Center, Beacon Center 219 and the Claremont Neighborhood Center, Inc. to providing them with leadership training, communication skills, and self –advocacy tools and various internship opportunities

Milestones: Leadership training prepares youth to:

- Facilitate meetings (Rules of Order),
- Develop Effective Time Management
- Collaborate within Team Environment
- To become familiar with language used to describe community work and strategies for positive community engagement
- Advocate on issues effective their community
- Partner with CHVI Adult leadership on community engagement activities
- To develop and manage community engagement projects
- To identify and analyze community’s resources and needs affecting Adult, Youth & Senior challenges or issues within the Claremont Community
- The group will work on various community engagement projects such as the beautification of the Claremont Village area as well as resource mapping of community, local food alternatives, etc.