

NEWS RELEASE

Henry Street Settlement Responds to the COVID-19 Outbreak

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New York, N.Y. -- Henry Street Settlement is safely providing essential services to our neighbors on the Lower East Side and throughout New York City to help everyone remain healthy and access the resources they need to get through the COVID-19 outbreak. Because this crisis poses a particular threat to the many low-income New Yorkers whom Henry Street serves, the Settlement is actively providing food, connections to needed benefits, crucial information to stay safe, and emotional support. Details follow below.

Henry Street's core services never close. Our four transitional housing residences, two supportive housing buildings, Senior Center, Meals on Wheels, and the Community Consultation Center are continuing to provide essential services to our residents and participants, particularly those who are high risk. We have suspended services that bring large groups of people together and moved others online, from ESOL classes to instrumental music lessons.

“Henry Street Settlement has been opening doors, listening to the needs of our community, and responding promptly and effectively for 127 years,” said David Garza, president and CEO. “From the outset of the COVID-19 outbreak, we have been focusing on the health and safety of the community we serve, the protection and support of the team at Henry Street, and the continuity of our services and operations. Because of our long-standing role in caring for the most vulnerable New Yorkers, we now find ourselves at the epicenter of providing vital services, safety, and stability to our residents, clients, and participants at this critical time. I’m grateful to our dedicated team who are responding with care, thoughtfulness, resiliency,

determination, and courage on a 24/7 basis.”

Here is what Henry Street is doing now:

Transitional & Supportive Housing

Henry Street has so far committed resources to provide 30 days of food for residents of its four apartment-style homeless shelters so that they can stay home. We're quadrupling down on cleaning common areas, educating residents on how to stay safe, and most important, working to ensure that families that rely on school meals for their children have access to healthy meals, as well as social and emotional support.

Senior Services

The Henry Street Senior Center is providing grab-and-go meals on weekdays and Sundays (closed on Saturdays) from noon to 2 p.m. at 334 Madison Street in the Vladeck Houses. Staff and volunteers are checking on isolated seniors and making sure they are connected to health care resources if needed. Our large Meals on Wheels program continues to serve homebound people throughout the city, providing more meals at a time to reduce contact with clients.

Community Consultation Center

Our mental health staff are providing very limited onsite services and moving to an online and telephone counseling model.

Neighborhood Resource Center

Staff are providing phone consultations on public benefits, health care enrollment, case management, and more.

Abrons Arts Center

Our music teachers have begun teaching private lessons online and exploring digital options for other programs.

Advocacy

Henry Street is working closely with our social-service partners to seek clarity from funding sources and ensure that city and state funding streams enable us to continue our work un and adapt to changing organizational needs as this crisis unfolds.

Funding

Many people have asked how they can help Henry Street at this time. The best way to help is by making a monetary donation at henrystreet.org/donate. We expect to incur substantial costs in providing food, increasing maintenance, and making significant modifications to our services to the community.

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