



## **Brooklyn Communities Collaborative Awards Haitian American Community Coalition A Special Community Grant to Combat the COVID-19 Pandemic Through Vaccine & Testing Outreach**

*Grants from BCC's Strong Communities Fund will support COVID-19 testing and vaccination efforts throughout Flatbush/East Flatbush neighborhoods*

**Brooklyn, NY (February 7, 2022)** – In November 2021, [Brooklyn Communities Collaborative](#) (BCC) – a non-profit focused on strengthening health, leadership, and economic mobility across Brooklyn communities – announced nearly \$1M in grants to 14 community-based organizations (CBOs) working to improve outreach around and access to COVID-19 testing and vaccines.

This funding is the [second](#) grant awarded to the [Haitian-American Community Coalition](#) through BCC's Strong Communities Fund. Since its inception in 2020, the Fund has provided a total of nearly \$4M to CBOs serving Brooklyn neighborhoods and residents most impacted by COVID-19.

The Strong Communities Fund grant will help support HCC's community wide outreach efforts and social media promotion that will address vaccine hesitancy, offer navigation support for obtaining the vaccine and vaccine boosters, and provide culturally appropriate education about vaccine facts, transmissibility, and general information about COVID-19 in the Flatbush community.

On Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022, the FITBK™ fitness program will host the **2022 SWEAT Africa Fitness and Wellness Expo**, an all-day free community event to create excitement, engagement and interest around vaccinations, regular testing, and staying healthy and fit, at a time where it is critically important to give priority to building a healthy and safe community. **SWEAT Africa Fitness and Wellness Expo** will feature 4-hours of high impact cardio fitness and African dance classes led by our FITBK™ instructors and special certified guest instructors from Africa and NYC area exercising and dancing to live drumming, followed by an African-theme inspired arts and crafts corner, vendors, live entertainment, prizes, giveaways, and healthy food stations. The annual SWEAT AFRICA fitness event reaffirms FITBK™'s powerful, ongoing commitment to bringing health education and awareness to communities of color, immigrants and low-income residents in Flatbush/East Flatbush and illustrates the notion that education, screening, and testing make us stronger.

"We are very excited and grateful to be receiving this special grant from Brooklyn Communities Collaborative. The staff at HCC has been on the ground since the height of the pandemic in 2020 doing all we can to support our community and go above and beyond to provide resources to anyone who is in need," said Dr. Andre K. Peck, Executive Director of Haitian-American Community Coalition. "Now that we have vaccines and testing available, we have to do our part to help people stay safe and protected. Nobody knows what the future holds, so we must stay diligent, educated and aware at all times. We look forward to strengthening our partnership with BCC and working together to end this pandemic."

For more information about the BCC, please visit: <https://brooklyncommunities.org/>

For more information on HCC and the FITBK™ program, please visit: [www.hccinc.org](http://www.hccinc.org)

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### **About Haitian American Community Coalition**

The Haitian Centers Council, Inc DBA as Haitian American Community Coalition (HCC) is a multi-service, nonprofit organization, which has provided comprehensive services to nearly one million low-income, underserved, and at-risk New Yorkers with a primary focus on Brooklyn's immigrants and communities of color. HCC's mission is to champion the well-being of its constituents through advocacy, empowerment, health education and supportive services. These services include but are not limited to HIV/AIDS education and prevention, health screenings and testing, domestic violence prevention and education, immigration advocacy, and supportive housing. HCC is a community-based organization that has created an environment that is supportive for all people but more specifically Caribbean immigrants. HCC primarily serves communities of color, but our doors are open to everyone. Today, we provide mental health services, supportive housing, prevention education, healthcare coordination, and other social support services to nearly 4,000 clients of under-served racial and ethnic minorities communities each year across Brooklyn.

### **About Brooklyn Communities Collaborative**

Brooklyn Communities Collaborative (BCC) is a not-for-profit based in New York that works with local institutions and stakeholders to address longstanding health inequities in the borough. BCC was founded in 2019 with the goal of leveraging the financial power of anchor institutions and community resources to address the economic factors that improve the social determinants of health – whether it's supporting housing stability, advancing economic empowerment, expanding care management services, or strengthening CBOs in the area. BCC builds upon years of collaborative efforts with anchor institutions and community partners in Brooklyn, which have helped connect 80,000 complex-need patients to care management services, produce 30,000 pounds of fresh produce annually, and develop 3,400 units of housing. Visit <https://brooklyncommunities.org/> for more information.

#### **Media Contact:**

Spencer Casseus

[scasseus@hccinc.org](mailto:scasseus@hccinc.org)