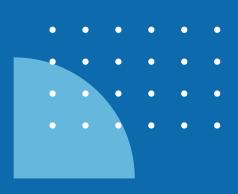
#### TESTING PROVIDER PARTNERSHIP ACTIVITIES & OUTCOMES



#### **REPORT PREPARED BY**

The Maimonides Department of Population Health and Community Care of Brooklyn

#### **GRANT FUNDING**

Provided by the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygene

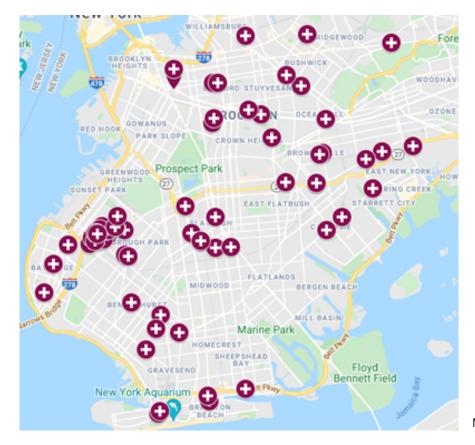




# THE TPP GRANT

In December 2020, The Maimonides Department of Population Health entered into a one-year grant from NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) to expand and increase COVID-19 testing by 20% of our baseline period. This baseline period, June through November 2020 resulted in an average of 17,492 tests performed monthly. Using this data, we planned to increase to 20,990 COVID-19 tests performed per month.

Community Care of Brooklyn (CCB) PPS, a network of community partners begun under DSRIP by the Maimonides Department of Population Health, took a multipronged approach to accomplish this goal, incorporating vaccination promotion initiatives along with testing efforts wherever appropriate, grouped into three main levels of engagement: provider, community, and patient.



## PROVIDER-LEVEL ENGAGEMENT

Building off of existing partnerships, **47 provider** organizations agreed to engage with CCB in this work including hospitals, FQHCs and private practices, *13 of which had never performed tests before*.

CCB received, organized, and distributed PPE and test kits sourced directly from the City stockpile and delivered them directly to our partners. For every test a provider performed, they received another test kit and all associated PPE, free of charge.

Over four rounds of distribution, we provided:

- 502,526 gloves
- 9,721 gowns
- 9,736 face shields
- 29,915 face masks
- 46,457 PCR tests
- 20,550 rapid antigen tests

CCB assisted in forging relationships between our providers and the Pandemic Response Lab which provided a <24-hour turnaround time for PCR test processing.

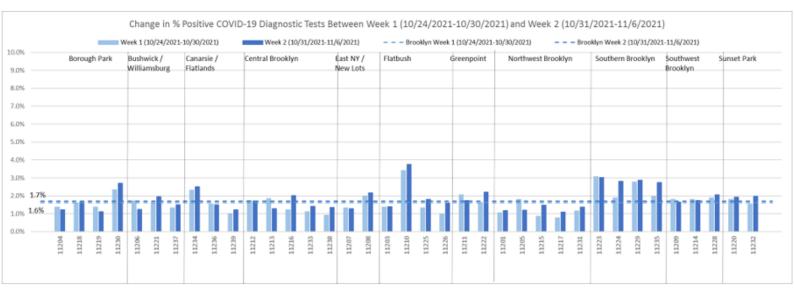
Each provider received \$10,000 to offset additional staffing and administrative support to manage increased numbers of patients tested in this endeavor.

## COMMUNITY-LEVEL MONITORING

The Maimonides Department of Population Health's data analytics team ran weekly surveillance of Brooklyn for "hotspots", noting which zip codes fall into the "trifecta of concern", including:

- Low COVID-19 diagnostic testing saturation
- HighCOVID-19 diagnostic test positivity rate
- Low COVID-19 vaccination rate

This hotspot data was shared with clinical and CBO partners participating in these initiatives to more precisely prioritize outreach, testing, and vaccination efforts.



Community level hotspot data by zip code

## COMMUNITY-LEVEL ENGAGEMENT

In order to learn more about the range of barriers to testing and vaccination, and the most effective ways of communicating about testing and vaccination, we successfully activated Participatory Action Research (PAR) youth researchers to survey 1,600 Brooklynites between January 27 and February 2, 2021.The seven-question survey tool was designed by CCB and Maimonides Health with input from community stakeholders.

Among other demographic questions, respondents were also asked in an open-ended format about how they would improve the testing experience. The majority expressed a need for better accessibility to, and efficiency at, testing centers.

- Of those who had not yet been vaccinated, 40.1% of respondents indicated that yes, they did plan to be vaccinated while 59.9% either did not plan to be vaccinated, or were unsure.
- These findings guided our actions and strategies our COVID response initiatives.

In February 2021, we awarded funds to 13 community-based organizations located throughout Brooklyn to engage community members most at risk for contracting COVID-19, in a manner tailored to each community. Over \$130,000 was paid out to these organizations for this instrumental effort.

#### COMMUNITY-LEVEL ENGAGEMENT

In November 2021, CCB partner and non-profit organization Brooklyn Communities Collaborative awarded nearly \$1,000,000 to 14 organizations through their Strong Communities Fund. These CBOs are working to improve outreach around and access to COVID-19 testing and vaccines.

Examples of CBO engagement activities:







## PATIENT-LEVEL ENGAGEMENT

CCB launched a telephonic effort to reach out to Brooklynites to encourage regular COVID-19 testing with our partner providers and vaccination education when appropriate.

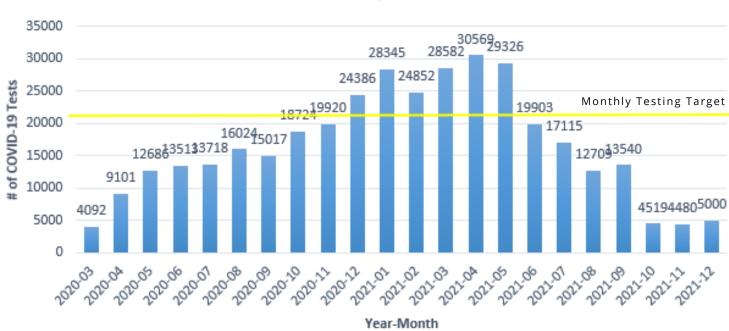
Partnering with Amazon Web Services (AWS), we sent over 330,000 text messages encouraging testing and vaccination to members of the community over the lifetime of the grant.





# CONCLUSIONS

By the end of the grant, CCB was able to draw down over \$1.3 million in 2021, with total funding under the program anticipated to be \$1.66 million. We achieved our goal of expanding testing by 20% for six of the 12 grant-funded months, shown in the summary graph below:



Total Monthly COVID-19 Tests Conducted By TPP Participants

We want to thank our partners at Healthix and Amazon Web Services for their support in these efforts.

We also want to thank our internal partners at the Maimonides Department of Population Health -Brooklyn Communities Collaborative, The Brooklyn Health Home, and Community Care of Brooklyn IPA.