

Community Programs & Initiatives

Improving the health and well-being of our neighbors



Columbia University Irving Medical Center (CUIMC) is committed to contributing to the health and well-being of our neighbors. CUIMC offers more than 30 community programs and initiatives, spanning college prep programs for youth, school-based dental clinics, community-based participatory research, and clinical home visits for our community's most vulnerable residents. The Office of Community Service Programs works to connect our local community with the valuable resources available at CUIMC. Each year, these programs serve tens of thousands of community residents. These programs include:

Columbia Student Medical Outreach Program (CoSMO): This free primary care clinic provides uninsured and uninsurable residents of Washington Heights and Northern Harlem with comprehensive services that address the physical, social, and behavioral aspects of health. It involves CUIMC students studying medicine, nursing, physical therapy, public health, and social work.

State Pre-College Enrichment Program (S-PREP): Hosted by the Office of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs at the Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons, the program is a free high school and college preparatory program designed for students who are interested in pursuing a career in medicine or related STEM fields.

Community Dental Programs: Columbia's College of Dental Medicine is the major provider of oral health care services to underserved populations in Harlem, Inwood, and Washington Heights through clinics and a variety of services, including school-based clinics and a mobile dental center.

Nurse Practitioners Home Visit Program: Columbia School of Nursing's Nurse Practitioner Group offers comprehensive in-home primary care for elderly and homebound patients in the Washington Heights and Inwood neighborhoods.

Project STAY (Services to Assist Youth): Project STAY is part of the Harlem Health Promotion Center based at Columbia's Mailman School of Public Health. The Project provides medical and psychosocial services at its Washington Heights clinic for adolescents and young adults living with HIV/AIDS in and around New York City. The STAY team is comprised of medical providers, social workers, and health educators.

"Partnerships with our surrounding communities of Washington Heights, Inwood, Harlem, and the Bronx provide a range of health education programs in addition to mentoring and clinical services for community residents."



– Rafael Lantigua, MD, founding director of the Office of Community Service Programs and Associate Dean for Community Service, Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University

Below is an extensive, but by no means inclusive, list of community-related programs and initiatives*

Pipeline Programs Exposing Students from Underrepresented Communities to Health Sciences

- **State Pre-College Enrichment Program (S-PREP):** A free high school and college preparatory program
- **Summer Health Professions Education Program (SHPEP):** A free six-week summer program for college students
- **NERA MedPrep Academy Program:** A summer enrichment program for youth wanting to attend medical school
- **Summer Program for Underrepresented Students (SPURS):** A program to expose undergraduate students to careers in biomedical research
- **Summer Public Health Scholars Program (SPHSP):** A program for undergrads interested in science
- **Summer of Translational Aging (STAR U):** Mentorship and training to young scientists to pursue careers in scientific research
- **Columbia University Neuroscience Outreach (CUNO):** Science-related activities for local youth and the public
- **Lang Youth Medical Program:** A six-year science program to prepare young adults for science and medicine careers**
- **America Reads Program:** A program for local elementary schools to help children read independently and at grade level
- **Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP):** Youth are placed in Medical Center departments to gain first-hand experience
- **Young Docs:** A program to attract minority students to the medical field
- **Summer Research Program for Science Teachers:** Teachers get first-hand experience in the practice of science

Community Clinics Health Education and Outreach

- **Community DentCare Network:** A College of Dental Medicine program that provides dental services to Northern Manhattan's low-income, underserved, uninsured, and uninsurable residents. It includes:
 - School-Based Clinics
 - Mobile Dental Center
 - ElderSmile Program
- **Columbia Nursing Opioid Overdose Training:** The program trains local residents and community organizations in the use of Narcan
- **Project STAY (Services to Assist Youth):** The program provides medical and case management services to people with HIV, STI, and Hep C**
- **Turn 2 Us:** A mental health promotion and prevention program for local elementary schools**
- **CHALK (Choosing Healthy and Active Lifestyles for Kids):** A program designed to reduce the prevalence of childhood obesity**
- **WIN for Asthma:** Provides culturally sensitive support and education to children with asthma and their caregivers**
- **Columbia Harlem Homeless Medical Partnership (CHHMP):** A clinic that provides medical care to the homeless or uninsured
- **Columbia Student Medical Outreach Program (CoSMO):** A clinic that provides primary health care to the uninsured
- **Columbia University Harm Reduction Clinic:** A clinic that provides free medical care and screening to drug users and sex workers
- **VP&S Human Rights and Asylum Clinic:** A clinic that provides medical evaluations to those seeking asylum

* These programs are run by different departments and offices within CUIMC (the Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons, College of Dental Medicine, School of Nursing, and the Mailman School of Public Health)

** A NewYork-Presbyterian program which involves CUIMC faculty, staff, and/or students

- **Q Clinic:** A clinic that provides primary care services, screenings, and PrEP to the LGBTQ community
- **Young Men's Clinic:** The clinic focuses on male sexual and reproductive health issues**
- **APOYO:** A program for pregnant adolescents
- **Healthy Haven:** A yearly event to promote health and wellness in our community

Community-Based Participatory Research and Community Grants

- **CTSA-Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR) Scholars and Awards Program:** A program for local not-for-profits to foster community-engaged research
- **All of Us:** CUIMC is the lead partner of *All of Us* Research Program, which gathers data from one million people in the U.S. in order to understand the human genome
- **Washington Heights/Inwood Columbia Aging Project (WHICAP):** Works to identify risk factors for aging and Alzheimer's disease
- **Northern Manhattan Study (NOMAS):** A research study of stroke and risk factors
- **Medical Center Neighborhood Fund (MCNF):** The Fund raises money from CUIMC, NYP and NYSPH employees for local nonprofit organizations

Community Space

- **Community Space Use:** CUIMC provides access to its facilities for community groups
- **Haven Plaza:** Haven Plaza provides an open public green space for the surrounding community. CUIMC applied for the plaza through the City Department of Transportation's plaza program