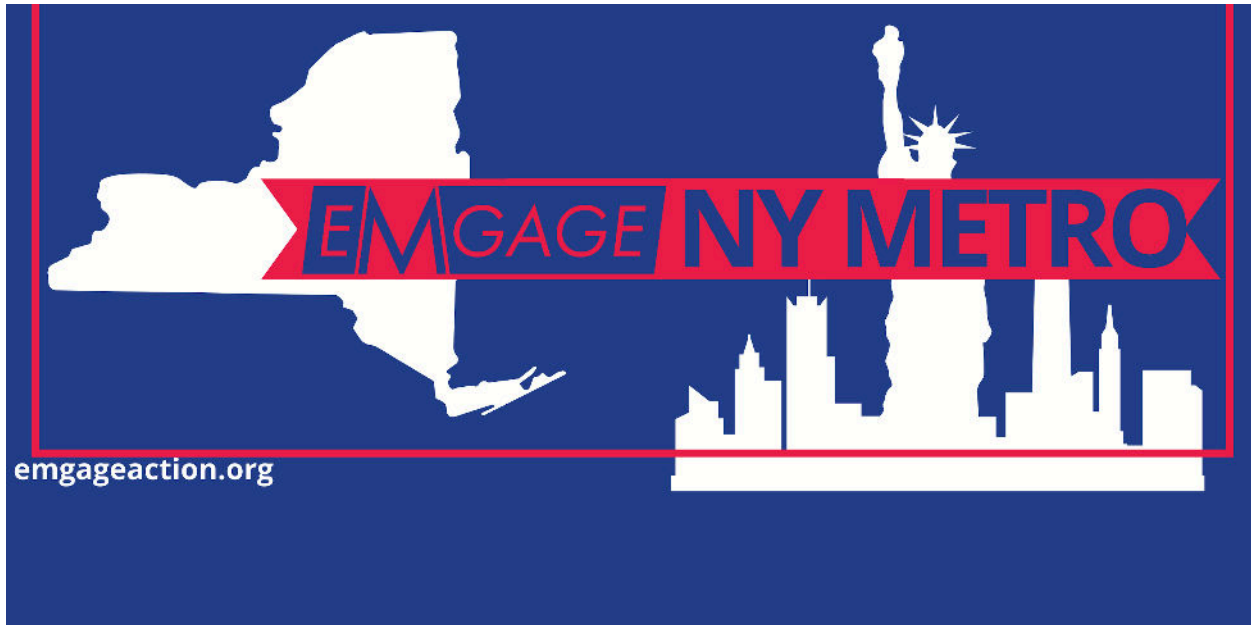


Muslim Day at City Hall

Briefings Folio



Emgage NY Metro

Website: <https://emgageusa.org/>

Mission: Emgage seeks to educate, engage and empower Muslim American communities through educational events, voter initiatives, and leadership development for the purpose of creating a community of equitable, knowledgeable, and motivated citizens.

We understand the importance of bridging the gap between elected officials and their constituents. We strive to build the political awareness and capacity of Muslim Americans to engage on key policy issues that affect all of us as Americans, but especially as Muslims. Are you concerned by the Muslim Ban? Do you feel that our elected officials are not always well informed about our community? Bringing the change we need requires proactive and consistent civic participation. Engagement requires an understanding of the political process, how to engage with elected officials, and how to form partnerships with other constituencies in support of common policy positions. Emgage is a 501c(3) that implements an ecosystem of programs to develop the capacity of the Muslim voter to ensure that our narrative is part of the American fabric. Our programs include civic educational events such as issue forums and town halls, voter initiatives including Get Out The Vote (GOTV), and specific programs for the youth in order to mentor and support the next generation of leaders.

Muslim Day at City Hall: Our Vision

Muslim Day at City Hall (MDCH) is an annual day of activism and civic engagement for Muslim community leaders, members, and Muslim Day at City Hall (MDCH) Coalition Partners. As New Yorkers, it is our duty to work for justice and equity.

New York City is home to around one million Muslims. Our collective strength, the challenges faced by our communities, and the potential we have to solve them is remarkable. We hope that MDCH 2024 will spark renewed and continuing interest and investment into our communities.

City Council members had the opportunity to hear about issues and recommendations from MDCH 2024 Coalition Partners affecting Muslim communities. We also outlined recommendations that can help address these issues. This was a wonderful way for the Council to hear from organizations that understand the real-world challenges of Muslim constituents and how to help solve them.

Our deepest gratitude goes out to all the MDCH 2024 Coalition Partner organizations who work tirelessly each day to serve communities across the City.

Thank you to all the City Council members who co-sponsored this year's Muslim Day at City Hall. Thanks to Majority Leader Amanda Farías (D8), Althea Stevens (D16), Rita Joseph (D40), Alexa Aviles (D38), Lincoln Restler (D33), Chi Ossé (D36), Shekar Krishnan (D25), and their staff members.

A special thank you to our primary sponsors Council Members Yusef Salaam and Shahana Hanif. We also extend our thanks to members of their team Mufazzal Hossain, Jordan Wright, Steven Ileke, Mussarat Lamia, and Michael Whitesides for their support.

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Participating Organizations

Arab-American Association of NY

Executive Director: Marwa Janini

Address: 7111 5th Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11209, Bay Ridge-South Brooklyn

NYC Council Districts: 43

Website: <https://www.arabamericanny.org/>



**The Arab American
Association of
New York**

Mission:

The mission of the Arab American Association of New York (AAANY) is to support and empower the Arab Immigrant and Arab American community by helping them adjust to their new home and become active members of society. Our aim is for families to achieve the ultimate goals of independence, productivity, and stability.

Services:

1. Immigration - AAANY provides DOJ-accredited immigration case management and navigation services to help community members with their naturalization, citizenship, asylum, green card, and other immigration applications. We work with the New York Legal Assistance Group, Office of New Americans, and Immigrant Justice Corps to provide these services, host an on-site immigration attorney, and have robust referral partnerships for more difficult/complicated immigration applications/requests.
2. Social Services - AAANY offers one-on-one mental health counseling and social services case management to thousands of clients annually. Since the onset of COVID-19, we have also scaled up our food-relief and distribution significantly to serve tens of thousands of community members in need.
3. The Arab-American/Muslim community that AAANY serves has historically stigmatized DV, in part because of its patriarchal roots and in part due to a lack of accessible education surrounding the issue. Our DV program addresses this stigma through one-on-one case management and counseling, a robust community education campaign, and the facilitation of support groups for young women and survivors of domestic and intimate partner violence.

Issues and unmet needs:

1. Muslim Ban and other federal policies wreaked havoc on our communities driving up the need for immigration services. With the recent policy reversals by the Biden administration, we expect an influx of application requests and are preparing to significantly ramp up our service delivery.
2. Lack of access to linguistically and culturally-competent services
3. Prevalence of disinformation/misinformation campaigns around rights and services
4. Fear of systemic bias from law enforcement professionals
5. Ongoing hate crimes against Muslims and Arabs with minimal accountability/city response
6. Prevalence of DV and stigma surrounding it

Asks / Recommendations:

1. Increased funding for mental health services
2. Arabic translation services at polling locations and for accessing city resources
3. Meaningful police reform and accountability

Applying for City Council Funding: AAANY is applying for City Council funding for mental health services, youth programs, DV support and for education related to prevention of hate crimes



Arab-American Family Support Center

Interim Executive Director: Mark Foggin

Address: 150 Court Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201

NYC Council Districts: All

Website: www.aafscny.org

Social Media Handles: Instagram: @aafscny; Twitter: @aafsc

Mission & Services:

The Arab-American Family Support Center (AAFSC) is a non-profit, non-sectarian organization established in 1994 to provide culturally and linguistically competent, trauma-informed social services to low-income immigrant and refugee communities. While our doors are open to all, with over 30 languages represented across staff, AAFSC has developed cultural and linguistic expertise serving members of NYC's Arab, Middle Eastern, North African, Muslim, and South Asian (AMENAMSA) immigrant and refugee communities.

Issues:

1. AAFSC expanded our domestic violence case management services by 30% in the last year as we responded to high demand from survivors who are seeking safety while simultaneously navigating housing insecurity and legal issues.
2. Public benefits programs made available by city, state, and federal sources too often leave behind low-income immigrant communities. AAFSC works to address this gap through linguistically accessible and culturally tailored benefits navigation services, distribution of halal food and other essentials, and through an emergency fund, which has distributed \$1M in aid.
3. AAFSC is on the ground supporting the influx of newly arrived migrants, in particular the growing population of Muslim asylum seekers from countries in North Africa. Our ESOL classes, food pantry, legal services program, and financial assistance efforts are a first touch point for many new arrivals experiencing acute need.
4. We are observing and responding to a rise in discrimination and hate crimes against our communities, including Islamophobia, anti-Arab discrimination, and Anti-Asian discrimination.
5. Linguistically accessible mental health care is critical and underfunded. AAFSC is maximizing our capacity to serve an active caseload of 100 clients, but we have a wait list of 137 people seeking mental health counseling and there are not sufficient places to provide external referrals.

Unmet Needs: We are actively responding to the issues above but anticipate funding gaps amid the challenging budget season. As the NYC Muslim population grows, and needs escalate due to rising economic insecurity, we are seeking support to ensure we can sustain our critical linguistically accessible services.

Asks/Recommendations:

1. Investment in the development/implementation of restorative justice responses to gender-based violence in community-based settings.
2. Investment in linguistically accessible and culturally responsive mental health programs.
3. Expansion of language access initiatives that are responsive to NYC's growing and diverse Muslim population.
4. Reform of rental relief programs and other city benefit programs to expand eligibility and expedite processing.

Applying for City Council Funding: AAFSC has applied for City Council funding and is counting on this support to sustain our essential programs to 16,000 New Yorkers annually.



African Communities Together

Executive Director: Amaha Kassa

Address: 127 West 127th Street, Suite 221, New York, NY 10027

Website: <https://africans.us/>

Mission:

African Communities Together is an organization of African immigrants fighting for civil rights, opportunity, and a better life for our families here in the U.S. and worldwide. ACT empowers African immigrants to integrate socially, get ahead economically, and engage civically. ACT mobilizes African immigrant communities to speak out on the issues that affect our lives and the lives of our families. We work on the local, state, national, and international level on issues including fair immigration reform, jobs in the African community, and language access.

Services:

1. ACT helps African immigrants find free or low-cost assistance with immigration, jobs, and other needs
2. ACT provides free referrals to trustworthy nonprofit and government agency partners
3. ACT connects African immigrants to critical services
4. Through our Monthly Membership Meetings, Leadership Committees, and trainings, ACT gives African immigrants tools and information they need to become leaders on the issues that matter to them
 - a. Members engage with civic and political leaders, participate in political education, and plan ACT campaigns and actions

Issues:

1. Housing, Immigration, Language Access, Access to Health for undocumented individuals, Food Security, Education Assistance, and Employment Assistance.
2. Staff using time to interpret for community members in city agencies.

Unmet Needs: Community members missing vital information or not being able to access city services due to Language barrier. Worker-Cooperative, and Language Access Bank for those in need of translation and interpretation services.

General Asks/Recommendations:

1. \$2.25 million over two years for the NYC Community Interpreter Bank.
2. \$1.8 million over two years to support the launch of three language services worker-owned cooperatives--one for African LLDs, one for Asian LLDs, and one for indigenous Latin American LLDs (\$300,000 per co-op per year).

Applying for City Council Funding: Yes

ACT FY2023 Discretionary Funding



American Pakistani Advocacy Group Cares (APAG Cares)

Executive Director: Malik Hashim

Address: 159-16 Union Turnpike Fresh Meadows, NY 11366

NYC Council Districts: 24

Website: www.apagcares.org

Social Media Handles: Instagram & Twitter @apagcares; Facebook: facebook.com/apagcares

Mission & Services:

APAG Cares offers culturally competent and linguistically accessible services so that our community people can thrive in their new home country. Our approach comes from listening directly to what our community needs, and conducting a well-rounded assessment of the impact of the resources we provide

We focus on diversity and inclusiveness, supporting social justice principles and policies in the conduct of mentorship and community service and improving the livelihood of marginalized and under-resourced immigrant communities by providing social and economic empowerment services required to achieve self-sufficiency.

Services include: Language Accessibility, Food Drives, Youth Empowerment, Financial Literacy, Health Literacy, Digital Literacy, After School, Job Assistance and Voter Education

Issues:

1. Digital literacy and language access barriers
2. Health care and access to linguistically and culturally responsive health services
3. Food insecurity and the need for Halal food
4. Lack of youth programs and services
5. Lack of funding for cultural and community events
6. Barriers for Immigrant empowerment, citizenship and voter education
7. Lack of culturally sensitive services for senior

Asks/Recommendations:

1. Funding and resources for community organizations that are actually doing the groundwork and assisting the underserved and underrepresented communities.
2. Ongoing engagement with elected official and community organizations

Applying for City Council Funding: Yes



Asiyah Women's Center

Executive Director: Dania Darwish

Address: 120-55 Queens Blvd Suite 325, Queens, NY 11424

NYC District: All

Website: <https://asiyahwomenscenter.org/>

Social Media Handles: @asiyahwomenscenter | www.facebook.com/AsiyahCenter/

Mission and Services:

Our mission is to provide temporary housing for victims of domestic violence and women facing eviction, and/or homelessness. By connecting under resourced women in our community to job opportunities, a range of mental health and medical services, permanent housing facilities, health insurance and legal assistance, we hope to empower women to get back on their feet and overcome their deeply traumatic personal circumstances. The two short years since its founding, the Asiyah Women's Center has played a crucial role in transforming the lives of domestic violence survivors and victims of homelessness. Since we've opened up our doors, we've served over 175 women and children; 94% of our clients identify with the Arab, Middle-Eastern, Muslim, South Asian (AMEMSA) and/or the Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) population. The Asiyah Women's Center is equipped with the cultural competency capacity to holistically provide AMEMSA & BIPOC survivors with access to: a safe, secure, and comfortable living space; counseling and therapy services; assistance with obtaining order of protections, checkups provided by physicians and licensed mental health professionals; immigrant, asylum-seekers, and refugee services; job-readiness programs and employment assistance; access to a fully stocked pantry of food, clothing and toiletries; enrollment assistance with GED programs, community colleges, and four year colleges; and support through our court accompaniment project.

Issues:

1. Only 0.5% of City funding is allocated for Muslim faith-based organizations representing 10% of city population
2. Language access
3. Lack of Educational and financial literacy in women who face IPV
4. Inadequate staff and training resources needed to meet meaningful tangible community needs

Asks/Recommendations:

1. Increase language staff to fill in language access gaps, especially underrepresented languages.
2. Increase city funding to accurately represent the Muslim Population of New York City

Applying for City Council Funding: Yes



Brooklyn Emerge

Executive Director: Zakaraya Khan

Address: 1001 Newkirk Avenue, Suite LL Brooklyn New York 11230

Website: <https://brooklynemerge.org/>

Mission & Services:

To educate and advocate for a more just society, a strong vibrant Brooklyn through the fair distribution of resources, collaboration and mutual understanding.

Issues:

1. Food insecurity and hunger prevention
2. Adult Education: empowering the immigrant communities with specialized educational programs such as TAASC, ESL and computer literacy. Providing citizenship classes.
3. After School Programs for school homework help and tutoring to more than 100 students Monday through Friday from 3 to 6 pm.
4. Brooklyn Muslim Youth Club: A proactive and intensive youth program every Saturday from 2 to 9 pm providing sports activities, group discussions, Game nights, Movie nights, youth grooming, mentoring and career development. Providing youth leadership initiatives and preparing the next generation of young Muslim leadership poised both in Academic sciences and religious expertise.
5. Immigration Services: free consultations and Pro Bono immigration Attorney Services to eligible individuals and families.
6. Mental Health Clinics for mental health education and consultations to youth especially dealing with post pandemic issues.
7. Interfaith Harmony: Our homegrown young religious scholars are building bridges with other religious communities to make Brooklyn a better home for all religious groups.
8. Voter registration and political awareness: Educating the immigrant communities about the importance of voting, voter registration and raising awareness about political involvement.

Unmet Needs: More resources to come up with solutions for the growing problems of our youth both male and female. Senior social programs and community involvement. More youth programs to address generation gaps and help reduce domestic violence.

Asks/Recommendations:

1. Increased funding and resources for nonprofits and community organizations;
2. Funding for our HALAL MEALSHARE and food pantry to continue serving the underserved communities in Midwood and Kensington areas and beyond.
3. We need more resources to expand our youth program and young women empowerment programs.
4. More Resources for student programming such as Mental Health Clinics and Immigration Clinics to help reduce mental health issues and immigration problems.
5. Funding for annual community events such as Eid Celebration, Family Day,
6. Women History Month Celebration, back to school supplies, Job and Resource Fair.
7. Funding for our Social Impact programs such as community mobilization and social awareness and Voter registration year round.

Applying for City Council Funding: Brooklyn Emerge has applied for FY22 discretionary funding and asked for funding and resources for all above mentioned programs and services.



Gambian Youth Organization (GYO)

Executive Director: Salim Drammeh

Address: 214 E 181st Bronx, NY 10457

Congressional District: 15

Website: thegyo.com

Social Media Handles: (Instagram) @thegambianyouthorganization

Mission & Services:

Mission: Educating our community members to be responsible, tolerant and vibrant members of society. Located in the 15th congressional district of The Bronx, the Gambian Youth Organization has been proudly serving thousands of neighbors with many programs such as back to school drives, spelling bees, tutoring services, mentoring, coat drives, food drives, toy drives, immigration info sessions, and much more.

Issues:

1. Access to housing options
2. Funding and programming for community engagement
3. Funding and programming for civic engagement

Unmet Needs: Currently GYO's unmet needs are: workshops that give community members the knowledge of their rights around housing, programs and incentives that target the youth to be more active in their community, and workshops that inform folks in the community of the importance of being civically engaged.

Asks/Recommendations:

1. Funding that allows quarterly workshops that give people the knowledge of their rights in regards to housing.
2. Funding that allows quarterly workshops and activities to be given to underserved populations, especially the youth.

Applying for City Council Funding: Yes



LAAL

Executive Director/Co-founder: Sanjana Khan

Address: 249 E Mosholu Pkwy N, Bronx, NY 10467

NYC Council Districts: 11

Website: <https://www.laalnyc.org>

Social Media Handles: (Facebook) <https://www.facebook.com/laalnyc>

Mission & Services:

Laal provides resources Bengali womxn need to live healthy, engaged, joyful lives --- Services: Bengali womxn in norwood, language access (ESL), Immigration services (Citizenship Prep), Wellness (Yoga & Exercise), Reproductive Justice, Mental Health, Community Garden

Issues:

1. Lack of mental health care professionals and services
2. Lack of services and support for GBV survivors
3. Lack of support for sexual and reproductive health information for community members that is culturally and linguistically competent

Unmet Needs: Bengali speaking counselors, DV shelters for Muslim/South Asian women, culturally nuanced education on reproductive rights

Asks/Recommendations:

1. Resources be put into Norwood for access to culturally competent mental health resources.
2. More resources be put in place for DV survivors.
3. Resources for CBOs such as Laal to hold workshops in partnership with North West Bronx hospital.

Applying for City Council Funding: Yes

Malikah Organization



Executive Director: Rana Abdelhamid

Address: 25-61 Steinway Street, Astoria, NY 11103

NYC Council Districts: Citywide; Significant Presence in D22, D26, D27, and D47.

Website: www.malikh.org

Social Media Handles: (Instagram) @wearemalikh @malikhcenter ; (Facebook)

<https://www.facebook.com/wearemalikh/>; (Twitter) @wearemalikh

Mission & Services:

Malikah is a grassroots community organization advocating against gender and hate based violence through self-defense training, healing justice, economic empowerment, and community organizing for safety and power. Our movement is committed to a human rights framework that amplifies the leadership of the most marginalized women in our communities, women who have been carrying all of us all along. Through our train-the-trainer model, we equip women and girls in our communities with our four programmatic pillars 1) healing 2) self-defense 3) organizing and 4) financial literacy. We host intensive weekend long bootcamps, movement summits, recurring weekly healing sessions and one-off programs to scale access to our curriculum through organizers and trainers.

Here are some of our 2023 highlights:

- Provided over 5,000 services in NYC, including case management for asylum-seekers and training to Muslim women in self-defense, organizing, financial literacy, and healing justice
- Hosted 108 Malikah Workshops
- Opened our first office in the heart of Little Egypt: Astoria, Queens
- Hosted an exhibit at [MOMA PS1](#)
- Featured on [CNN](#) and [News12](#)

Issues:

1. Stark increase in hate based violence impacting Muslims and Arabs over the past four months
2. Difficulty accessing government and community resources (unfamiliarity with processes, language barriers)
3. Barriers to access for legal and housing services for asylum seekers and immigrants

Unmet Needs:

1. Resources for survivors of gender and hate based violence (vouchers, housing, halal food security, government assistance access)
2. Prioritization in policymaking and CBO funding opportunities
3. Lack of data due to data disaggregation challenges (i.e. MENA as “White”)

Asks/Recommendation:

1. Funding to hire bilingual Malikah staff to organize and support with direct service work in new neighborhoods serving immigrant working class communities to provide programming in (1) self defense (2) healing justice (3) financial literacy (4) organizing to address gender and hate based violence experienced in the community.
2. Opportunities to inform policies impacting North African, Muslim and Southwest Asian people across NYC, including, but not limited to, access to halal food, data disaggregation and housing security for survivors of gender-based violence.

Applying for City Council Funding: Yes

Muslim Community Network

Executive Director: Husein Yatabarry
Address: 110 Wall St, New York, NY 10005
NYC Council Districts: Citywide
Website: <https://mcnny.org/>



Mission & Services:

The mission of the Muslim Community Network is to use civic education and leadership development to shape the public narrative about what it means to be a Muslim in the United States of America. Our Civic Education training equips the Muslim community with the resources to actively take part in civil society, including: voter education, civic advocacy, self-defense workshops, and cultural programming. We shed light on questions about our faith and community through diversity education workshops. We engage all community members - Muslim and non-Muslim - in service through volunteering as well as providing our community with services. "MCN hosts monthly food drives in different districts to address food insecurity. Muslim Women Empowerment Program and Youth Civic Fellowship afterschool program to encourage civic engagement amongst youth and adult women."

Issues:

1. Language inaccessibility
2. Lack of civic engagement education, diversity education, and mentorship program
3. Lack of fresh Halal food
4. Lack of City Hall resources on rent-assistance programs
5. Res 1257- The number of anti-religious hate crimes in schools and public institutions continues to increase. MCN has been conducting a hate crime prevention survey Religious Diversity Education in NYC Public Schools and professional development training for staff in this area to encourage religious and cultural inclusion/acceptance and reduce the number of anti-religious hate crimes.

Unmet Needs:

1. immigration related issues, especially undocumented-related questions.
2. Lack of culturally sensitive and accessible Halal options and funding for professional development training.
3. Community center to educate the society on Islam as a religion and Islamic traditions, and cultures, and to serve as a center for Muslim youth, and community members to access resources, services and host programs such as the civic fellowship and women empowerment programs.
4. Funding for CBOs to provide cash assistance to support vulnerable women esp. those with children.

Asks/Recommendations:

1. Increased funding and resources for nonprofits and community organizations
2. Particularly organizations providing food distribution services, specially Halal and Ethnic food
3. Funding for civic engagement education, diversity education, and a mentorship program
4. MCN needs to advocate further on issues ranging from ending family separation, ending the Muslim travel ban, making city institutions more inclusive for Muslim Americans, and more
5. MCN Hate crime Prevention initiative to help combat hate crimes in Muslim Community - \$100,000. Pass Res 1257 to address anti-religious hate crimes in NYC public schools
6. Increase funding for Muslim CBOs to provide summer and after school programs. MCN Youth NYC Civic Leadership program \$200,000 for youth civic leadership training.
7. Fund Community and Human services programs to address poverty. MCN is asking for \$200,000 to continue providing humanitarian relief to Muslim New Yorkers impacted by food insecurity, poverty and more.

Applying for City Council Funding: MCN is applying for City Council funding.



Muslim Sisters of Staten Island (MSSI)

Executive Director: Safiyyah Abdul-Qawiyy

Website: <https://muslimsistersofsi.com/>

Mission & Services:

Muslim Sisters of Staten Island is a diverse group of people who believe in playing an active role in our community. Our goal is to provide activities, resources, advocacy, and support, to promote community awareness, civic engagement and equity primarily for the underserved women and children of the community while helping to strengthen the foundation of the family. For the past 4 years, we have been instrumental in creating programs, services, activities, and supports and fosters community engagement and relations.

History: MSSI was founded through the collaboration of a group of Muslim women, who saw the need in their community for programs involving faith, family relations, and creativity.

Activities that promote community engagement:

1. Advocating For Programs And Services Primarily For Women And Children, In underserved areas.
2. Operating a daycare center.
3. Any other charitable, religious, and educational purposes the Board of Directors deem fit and proper.

Our vision is to become one of the leading faith-based organizations on Staten Island that drives change with integrity, and who promotes equity for all the members of the community.

We hope to accomplish this through:

1. Creating an environment that promotes community engagement.
2. Advocating for programs and services that benefit all women and children in the community.
3. Reinforcing the foundation of family values.
4. Embracing our varied cultures and ethnicities in our community, and empowering our families through education and support. We believe in.
5. Having integrity and transparency in all we do
6. Fostering self-empowerment of women and children and families in our communities.
7. Providing professionalism, excellence, and commitment to all services we provide.
8. Trust, honor and respect for all

Muslim Volunteers For New York Inc.



Board: Sahar Husain, Mubeen Siddiqui, Sanober Khan, Dr. Hina Irshad, and Dr. Saima Saad.

Project Coordinators: Saira Khan, Farah Siddiui, and Faiza Mawjee

NYC Council Districts: All

Website: www.mv4ny.org

Mission & Services: Muslim Volunteers for New York, Inc. (MV4NY) is a registered 501 (c)(3), non-profit. It is a community-based organization engaged in charitable and volunteer-based initiatives in support of the Greater New York area. Established in early 2015, its objective is to engage Muslim-Americans along with the greater community in a variety of grass roots efforts to give back to the City. M4NY seeks to strengthen the sense of social responsibility and thereby build bridges between diverse groups and across generations. Its key platforms are (a) Alleviation of hunger and poverty, (b) Environmental Stewardship, (c) Education (d) Health, wellness and community. It curates volunteer programs and conducts drives across all its platforms throughout the year.

Platforms/Programs:

1. **Environmental Stewardship:** MV4NY was appointed as a Partnering Steward for Ruppert Park in Manhattan by NYC Parks in 2017. It conducts multiple park beautification as well as free community engagement events annually, engaging hundreds of volunteers in planting & cleaning the park and providing free, family-friendly activities. It also advocates for safeguarding and improving city parks through education and awareness. [This platform is supported, in part, by Council Member Discretionary Funding. MV4NY has currently applied for 2024 funding.](#)
2. **Alleviation of Hunger and Poverty:** MV4NY curates volunteer opportunities and organizes multiple food drives annually to serve as many NYC deserving communities as possible across all boroughs including the frail, homebound seniors. They work in concert with agencies like the West Side Campaign Against Hunger (WSCAH), the New York Common Pantry (NYCP) and Citymeals on Wheels (CMOW). It provides halal meals on wheels to CMOW clients for special occasions such as Eid-ul-Fitr and Eid-ul-Adha. MV4NY also hosts book and pajama drives for needy and deserving children served by the Pajama Program and Room to Grow. It also conducts feminine hygiene products, linen and other basic necessities drives to support struggling women served by Housing Plus.
3. **Education & Youth Services:** MV4NY works closely with over 25 NYC schools and faith-based Sunday schools and engages students and staff to lead its community service projects at their schools. It champions students to assume leadership roles and serve as Student Ambassadors for MV4NY with projects like the MV4NY Ramadan School Food Drive, MV4NY's card-making drive for homebound seniors served by CMOW, MV4NY's Musical Instrument Drive to benefit Education Through Music (ETM) etc. They take volunteer groups to support Project Cicero in book sorting and cataloging to help deserving schools. MV4NY also does special projects such as co-hosting Eid-ul-Fitr Around the World at the Children's Museum of Manhattan attended by approximately 750 people, and establishing a library at PS 191, a title 1 school on the UWS.
4. **Health, Wellness and Community:** MV4NY provides monthly, halaal, zabeeha meals to all the families residing at the Ronald McDonald House (RMH) NYC. Since the start of the pandemic, they have also been providing sahoor (breakfast) and iftar (tea) items and food supplies to the muslim families residing at RMH.

Issues and unmet needs: MV4NY is focused on the pressing problems surrounding hunger, poverty, education, health, wellness and community and environmental sustainability. While their efforts and initiatives make a difference, all the above stated needs are acute and growing in our unserved communities especially amid the pandemic.

Asks/Recommendations:

1. More funding and resources.
2. Simplify the funding application process and reduce the procedural time to reimburse non-profits.
3. Space for hosting events.
4. Expanding our reach through introductions and partnerships where we can leverage our volunteer base.



SAFEST

Executive Director: Mazeda Uddin

Address: 88-74 195th St , Hollis NY 11423

NYC Council Districts:

Website: <https://safest15.org>

Mission & Services:

South Asian Fund for Education, Scholarship and Training, Inc is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization serving the South Asian community throughout the City of New York. It is a non-political, bipartisan, and community-based organization dedicated to improving the lives of South Asian immigrants by offering training and guidance to maximize one's potential, encouraging and facilitating civic participation, and advocating to protect community values and interests.

Since its inception in 2015, SAFEST staff and volunteers enroll new immigrants in English and basic computer classes, counsel victims of domestic violence, lead youth leadership and women's empowerment sessions, teach citizenship classes, register new voters, and help families in need with food assistance and access to public services. SAFEST lobbies for halal and kosher meals in New York City's public schools, housing rights, and criminal justice reform. But SAFEST not only on providing essential aid and resources, but in promoting civic engagement and volunteerism among the South Asian community. Highlights of SAFEST's advocacy work include promoting language access in education/health care/voting (Bangla language ballot and voter registration), GOTV motorcade, and Bangladeshi Complete Count Committee to ensure all immigrant community members are counted for the 2020 Census.

Issues:

1. Language access for gov services
2. Interfaith culturally sensitive domestic violence support and shelters

Unmet Needs: Language access for government services, interfaith culturally sensitive domestic violence support and shelter

Asks/Recommendations

1. Interfaith non-judgmental culturally sensitive services to domestic victims from South Asian and the Middle East in the five boroughs of New York City.
2. Education and direct support on anti-Asian bias and islamophobic hate crimes.
3. Direct support in-language workshops and one-on-one consultations to disseminate critical information on available opportunities to assist South Asian residents and businesses in need in the post-pandemic environment.

Applying for City Council Funding: Yes

Sakhi for South Asian Women

Executive Director: Kavita Mehra

Address: Confidential

NYC Council Districts: All

Website: <https://www.sakhi.org/>



Mission & Services:

Sakhi for South Asian Women exists to represent the South Asian diaspora in a survivor-led movement for gender, justice, and to honor the collective power of all survivors of violence. Sakhi is committed to serving survivors through a combination of efforts including—but not limited to—direct services, advocacy and organizing, technical assistance and community outreach. In 2022, this commitment manifested in numerous ways, including but not limited to: An expansion of our helpline, which is now available from 10AM-10PM during weekdays and Saturday; Our trauma-informed solidarity grants; Flexible and responsive training and programmatic efforts, as evidenced in the measures we have taken to restructure Sakhi’s Food Justice Program and develop our ESL, digital skills, and financial literacy classes; The inclusion of significant rental assistance funding within our Housing Program, which helps survivors leave behind abusive situations without the existential fear of losing shelter or other forms of stability; A robust youth mental health counseling program that amplifies the impact of our existing Youth Program via individual and group sessions. These projects and initiatives, as well as many more service changes oriented toward survivors’ needs at all stages of healing, are key components of our long-term strategy for moving beyond crisis recovery and toward sustained well-being.

Issues:

1. Limited knowledge and access to services, insufficient technology, food insecurity, economic hardship and/or abuse, and undocumented status for DV survivors.
2. The pandemic and economic downturn has made it difficult to launch and sustain a small business.
3. Individuals experiencing abuse may also be isolated and/or have limited access to technology

Unmet Needs: The unmet needs of Sakhi for South Asian Women focus around economic abuse, limited access to knowledge, and insufficient pro bono resources. The COVID-19 pandemic has also furthered the need for technology and Internet services.

Asks/Recommendations:

1. We ask that the NYC Council recognize Muslim women, youth and seniors affected by domestic violence as a special group and set aside funding to meet their growing needs.
2. The number of DV related incidents and crimes have spiked during the pandemic. Muslim women have been facing insurmountable challenges and need our support.
3. Community-based nonprofits providing culturally/religiously sensitive services must get more funding to meet the challenges they confront on a daily basis.

Applying for City Council Funding: Sakhi for South Asian Women is applying for the same funds received in FY20.



SAPNA NYC

Executive Director: Diya Basu-Sen

Address: 2348 Waterbury Ave. 1st Floor, Bronx, NY 10462

NYC Council Districts: All, based in CD18

Website: <http://sapnanyc.org/>

Social Media Handles: Instagram @sapnanyc; Twitter @Sapna_NYC; Facebook @SapnaNYC

Mission & Services:

Sapna NYC transforms the lives of South Asian immigrant women and families by improving health, expanding economic opportunities, creating social networks, and building a collective voice for change. The organization offers a wide range of programs and services around health and empowerment all centering South Asian immigrant women's needs and experiences. Sapna NYC focuses on improving the mental and physical health of our communities by increasing access to linguistically accessible and culturally competent health education and services. The organization addresses barriers to integration and independence through ESOL, digital literacy programming, citizenship classes, benefits assistance, job readiness and college success programs, and more. Recent expansions include Mukti, our mental health initiative (both clinical and non-clinical services) and food insecurity work..

Issues:

1. Low English proficiency leading to struggles finding employment, less effective medical care, and less access to emergency services (food, GBV, etc)
2. Low digital literacy coupled with lack of linguistically accessible digital literacy programs and insufficient access to technology
3. Rising domestic violence with insufficient support for survivors leaving situations of abuse, particularly mental health and legal services.
4. Lack of knowledge of US systems, i.e., eligibility for benefits, college access, workers rights, etc.
5. High rent burden and lack of affordable housing; unsafe housing situations
6. Mental health struggles and lack of affordable, linguistically accessible, and culturally competent services.

Unmet Needs: Sapna NYC sees unmet needs in areas of digital literacy & access, mental health, domestic violence survivor support, and workforce development for the AAPI community. These areas of need have been demonstrated both in needs assessments Sapna has conducted, as well as in current waitlists or coverage in Sapna's work in this area. The overarching area of unmet need is quality linguistic accessibility in Bengali, Hindi, and Urdu impacting how our communities interact with all programs and services. This is paired with insufficient services that center low-income LEP immigrant women.

Asks/Recommendations: We ask that NYC Council recognizes AAPI New Yorkers as an underserved & high-need group and continues to reserve special funding accordingly through the AAPI Community Support Initiative. Lack of affordable and accessible mental health services paired with the stigma that exists in immigrant communities means that access to and utilization of mental health services are extremely low. We ask that NYC Council increases funding to AAPI CBOs providing these mental health services by expanding the Mental Health Services for Vulnerable Populations Initiative. The AAPI community is 18% of the NYC population yet receives very little in social service contract dollars. We ask the NYC Council to create a more equitable budget by investing in smaller, AAPI-led and AAPI-serving CBOs.

Applying for City Council Funding: Sapna NYC is applying for Access Health, AAPI Community Support, Digital Inclusion & Literacy, Mental Health Services for Vulnerable Populations, DOVE, and Immigrant Health.



Street Vendors Project

Executive Director: Mohammed Attia

Address: 40 Rector Street 9th FL New York NY 10006

NYC Council Districts: All

Website: streetvendor.org

Mission & Services:

The Street Vendor Project is a membership-based project with more than 2,000 vendor members who are working together to create a vendors' movement for permanent change. We reach out to vendors in the streets and storage garages and teach them about their legal rights and responsibilities. We hold meetings where we plan collective actions for getting our voices heard. We publish reports and file lawsuits to raise public awareness about vendors and the enormous contribution they make to our city.

Issues:

1. Caps on permits for food vendors and licenses for merchandise vendors
2. Lack of educational programs for street vendors to support them with business compliance.
3. Lack of financial support for street vendors as small businesses.
4. Lack of resources offered by the city to street vendors such as small business trainings, financial literacy, and other resources available for other small businesses.

Unmet Needs:

1. There is a need for permits and licenses to formalize the vending industry for thousands of street vendors, most of whom are Muslim immigrants.
2. The vendors community is in desperate need of resources as the smallest businesses and the most marginalized in NYC

Asks/Recommendations:

1. Lift the caps on permits and licenses and decriminalize street vending in NYC to bring all street vendors into the formal economy and regulate their businesses.
2. Create programs in SBS to serve the vendors such as trainings, workshops, small business coaching, and financial support.
3. Create and fund educational campaigns to address the needs of the vendor community who are only receiving excessive enforcement by several agencies.

Applying for City Council Funding: SVP applied this year for funding from Chamber on The Go initiative, to expand its capacity in the education outreach program and small business consultation program.



Sauti Yetu

Executive Director: Zeinab Eyega

Address: 3112, New York, NY 10163

New York City Districts: All

Website: sautiyetu.us

Social Media Handles: [facebook.com/SautiYetuCenterforAfricanWomen/](https://www.facebook.com/SautiYetuCenterforAfricanWomen/)

Mission and Services:

At Sauti Yetu, our mission is to mobilize low income or "no income" African immigrant women to improve the quality of their lives, strengthen their families and develop their communities in the United States, starting in New York City.

Issues:

1. Violence Against Women and Girls
2. Early Forced Marriage
3. Reproductive Justice
4. Female Genital Cutting
5. Education and Schooling
6. Youth and Migration

Applying for City Council Funding: Yes

Turning Point for Women and Families (TPNY)

Executive Director: Robina Niaz

Address: Confidential

NYC Council Districts: All

Website: <https://tpny.org/>

Social Media Handles: (Twitter & Instagram) @TurningPointNY



Mission & Services:

TPNY focuses on advocacy, domestic violence education, and anti-bullying and youth leadership workshops. The organization specifically focuses on crisis intervention, short-term rental assistance, and other counseling services. TPNY provides emotional support and counseling to senior Muslim women and an ESOL and Citizenship Prep Class for senior citizens.

Issues:

1. Virtual participation/education, access to housing and healthcare, limited access to technology, and limited resources for financial support.
2. Lack of culturally sensitive DV service providers and funding for basic necessities. There are also language barriers and limited access to public benefits.

Unmet Needs:

It is difficult to find access to safe spaces for Muslim youth, opportunities to learn from leaders and mentors, information about domestic violence, survivors' rights, and other support services. There are limited Halal food pantries, affordable opportunities, and culturally sensitive shelters.

Asks/Recommendations:

1. The needs of Muslim youth and seniors must be kept front and center. We know that elder abuse and abuse of youth (both within homes and outside) is rampant. Funds are badly needed in both these areas if we are to address the isolation and loss of hope among our youth and senior women due to the pandemic.
2. Access to digital devices and computer literacy is critical for survivors of domestic violence and helps to ensure the safety of Muslim women of all ages.
3. Financial support for legal services for domestic violence survivors and culturally competent organizations.
4. Access to safe and affordable housing for survivors.

Applying for City Council Funding: City Council funding from DYCD, DFTA, the DoVE Initiative, the Initiative for Immigrant Survivors of DV, and the AAPI initiative.



Women for Afghan Women

Executive Director: Najia Nasim

Address: 71-19 162nd St Unit CF-D Fresh Meadows, New York 11365

NYC Council Districts: 24

Website: <https://www.yamausa.org/>

Social Media Handles: (Instagram) @womenforafghanwomen; (Twitter) @WAWhumanrights;

(Facebook) <https://www.facebook.com/womenforafghanwomen>;

(TikTok) <https://www.tiktok.com/@womenforafghanwomen>

Mission & Services:

Women for Afghan Women (WAW) is a grassroots civil society organization dedicated to protecting and promoting the rights of disenfranchised Afghan women and girls in Afghanistan and New York. In particular, WAW works to help Afghan women and girls exercise their rights to pursue their individual potential to self-determination, and to representation in all areas of life—political, social, cultural, and economic. WAW relentlessly advocates for women’s rights and challenges the norms that underpin gender-based violence to influence attitudes and bring about change. WAW’s NYCC serves immigrant groups with cultural and language competencies in English, Farsi/Dari, Pashto, Urdu, Hindi, and Spanish. WAW NYCC provides direct, free, side-by-side, confidential, and comprehensive services to immigrant women and families that include: Case Management and In-House Legal Support, Refugee Resettlement and Support, Women’s Circle, Seniors Programs, Adult Empowerment Classes (ESL, Citizenship Classes and Driver’s Education), Youth Leadership Program and Mentorship Program.

Issues:

1. No permanent Housing Options for the survivors of domestic violence.
2. Communication and Language Access: Lack of timely access to interpretation services in the family courts. Many survivor’s court dates get delayed as simply there is no language support provided by the courts on time.
3. Lack of pro-bono immigration attorneys as a great number of the recently arrived Afghans are granted with HP visa which they need attorney’s support to help them get permanent residence in the States. Now, we don’t see many attorneys having expertise in immigration issues and concerns.

Unmet Needs

1. Legal services in Dari/Pashto
2. Comprehensive case management in Dari/Pashto, including access to social services such as SNAP, Medicaid/Medicare access etc
3. Literacy classes and support
4. Dari/Pashto translation/interpretation services

Asks/Recommendations:

1. Expand the Emergency Housing Voucher Program
2. Provide culturally appropriate shelter for survivors of domestic violence
3. Provide more funding for language access needs for survivors GBV
4. Provide funding for training programs for attorneys on immigration issues

Applying for City Council Funding: NYCC’s Women, Youth, and Family Programs, direct funding support from the Queens Delegation or recommendation/sponsorship to the AAPI Community Support Initiative, direct funding support or sponsorship by the Committee on Immigration to the Immigrant Opportunities Initiative, and direct funding support or sponsorship by the Women’s Caucus to the Adult Literacy Initiative.



Yemeni American Merchants Association

Executive Director: Joel Feliciano

Address: 6740 5th Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11220

NYC Council Districts: District 38 and City Wide

Website: <https://www.yamausa.org/>

Mission & Services: The Yemeni American Merchants Association hosts educational workshops on small business issues and advocacy with elected officials on merchant-related matters. The organization offers one-on-one consultation on immigration issues and educational courses. They specifically oversee the distribution and delivery of food produce and rent assistance.

Issues:

1. Immigration Program
 - a. Lack of translators/interpreter services for immigrants that speak all types of Arabic dialects
 - b. Lack of funding
2. Merchant Program
 - a. Inaccessible information in regards to business upkeep and development
 - b. Increase of violence against small businesses.
 - c. Lack of access to updated technology on Point of Sale Systems due to funding
 - d. Lack of funding for refrigerators to provide fresh produce in “food deserts” in NYC.
 - e. Lack of opportunities and assistance for funding applications for vendors & small business owners of immigrant backgrounds.
3. Education program
 - a. Lack of educational opportunities for Arabic speakers
 - b. Lack of networking events for Arab and Muslim educators

Unmet Needs: There is a lack of reliable resources and services for small businesses due to information inaccuracy and language barriers. Immigration advocacy beyond traditional application assistance seldom exists and there is a lack of general legal professionals or staff who can provide assistance. Problems also arise due to non-culturally sensitive classrooms and translation services for grades PreK- 12 and lack of funding for ESL services for Arabic speaking adults, rent assistance, and the availability of Halal food.

Asks/Recommendations:

1. Provide more funding to provide immigration services (specifically application filing)
2. Merchant programs that help small business owners with upkeep and development
3. Provide more funding to provide ESL services for Arabic speaking adults
4. Host city-wide events to connect organizations that provide educational services with the people they aim to serve
5. Provide funding for the “Community and Bodega Violence Prevention Initiative.”
6. Provide funding and training for technological advancement like bringing businesses online and Point of Sale Systems.
7. Require city agencies to provide culturally competent training and outreach for funding certification applications and funding opportunities available to Muslim business owners.
8. Conduct a study on the contract disparity that exists for Arab American Muslims because of their designation as “white.”

Applying for City Council Funding: Yes