



The Hope and Healing Fund, a joint effort between Brooklyn Community Foundation and United Way of New York City, will support local nonprofit organizations working with New York City's Haitian-American communities to provide services to families and individuals affected by the January 12, 2010 earthquake in Haiti. The Fund seeks to respond to the local impact of this natural disaster, and to be a flexible source of grant funding to local nonprofit organizations as more becomes known about the direct needs of individuals, families and the City's Haitian communities.

In general, the Fund will focus on building strength locally in nonprofit organizations so they can most effectively serve the anticipated increased number of people needing assistance with immigration, grief and trauma counseling, acculturation, English language acquisition and educational services. Over the coming months and years, the need for culturally competent, sensitive and attuned neighborhood services and leadership will increase dramatically and the Fund anticipates helping develop those resources. Organizations will be invited to apply for support of specific program activities and for modest assistance to support organizational development initiatives that strengthen programmatic outcomes and accountability.

Integral to the Fund's work will be the creation of an Advisory Committee comprised of a select group of leaders from various disciplines within the Haitian communities of New York City, experts in the long-term effects of disasters on local communities and other accomplished leaders from the human service and related fields. The Advisory Committee will meet with program staff from Brooklyn Community Foundation and United Way regularly to vet and guide the Fund's programmatic approach and to continually identify local issues, needs and those organizations working towards their resolution. In this way, the Fund will ensure a maximum coordination of resources—whether provided by community-based groups, government or through other funding sources—to promote efficient, effective grant making.

Further, the Fund will invite institutional funding partners that contribute \$25,000 or more to participate in a grant making working group. The Brooklyn Community Foundation program staff will lead the grant making process with colleagues from United Way of New York City by soliciting, reviewing and conducting due diligence on proposals from nonprofit organizations in the fields identified below. The Fund will then present recommended proposals to the grant making working group whose feedback will be incorporated into a final funding decision by Brooklyn Community Foundation.

Specifically, the Fund's initial programmatic focus will be on:

- Case management: Many local organizations require additional case management staffing to meet the increased needs of those affected by the earthquake. The 'case management' model has the greatest potential to quickly deliver services to individuals and families by dedicating culturally competent staff at neighborhood nonprofit groups to connect those seeking services with existing resources that address immigration, family reunification and adoption, housing, financial assistance and public benefits, grief and trauma counseling, and job training and placement.
- Legal services: To support Haitians and people of Haitian descent seeking help securing Temporary Protective Status or facing other immigration issues in the United States will require a major effort to coordinate existing legal services, to expand the availability of those services and to make sure they are widely available in neighborhoods and communities. The Fund will coordinate these activities closely with the efforts in this area of the City of New York and legal service providers.
- Healing: To support the grief stricken of all generations in the immediate and longer term will require both access to culturally competent individual and group counseling as well as creative, community-based responses that unify and encourage the expression of grief and offer a positive way for both adults and young people to move through their grief and come together in supportive, loving environments. The Fund anticipates that the arts and arts organizations may play an important role in the healing process.
- Education: For both young people and adults, educational services will be an essential component of recovery. For young people whose lives have been disrupted, catching up at school, learning English, securing services and/or attending a high-quality enrichment program will be critical to their future success. For adults seeking work or entrepreneurial opportunity learning the English language or becoming more proficient in English will be a necessary precondition to financial security. The Fund will seek to connect people with existing resources and programs, including those supported by the City's Department of Education, the Department of Youth and Community Development and the workforce development efforts of the Department of Small Business Services.