HOUSING WORKS COVID-19 RESPONSE

When news of the coronavirus hit Housing Works, we acted quickly to ensure the safety and support of our staff and clients. While we had to shut down our brick & mortar retail operations, our healthcare, housing, and advocacy kicked into full gear to respond to the pandemic.

As Federally Qualified Health Centers, Housing Works Community Healthcare serves low-income New Yorkers disproportionately affected by COVID-19.

We rolled out telehealth and virtual support options for clients. We also are responding to food shortages with emergency food delivery to our housing clients.

• We successfully advocated New York City to take better care of homeless New Yorkers during this pandemic. This led to us operating an emergency homeless COVID-19 shelter.

Housing Works CEO Charles King Opens Coronavirus Homeless Shelters, New York Post

New York City Is Teaming Up With Nonprofits to Get COVID-Positive Homeless Folks into Medically Managed Hotels, The Body

HIV Nonprofit Housing Works Opens COVID-19 Homeless Shelters, Poz Magazine

• We also teamed up with longtime Housing Works donor Rhonda Roland Shearer to make PPE available to frontline workers!

New York's patron saint of PPE went $600,000 in debt to outfit workers — and hospitals keep turning her down, Washington Post

• And we continue to advocate for better housing and care for our most vulnerable New Yorkers.

Virginia Shubert, the co-founder of Housing Works and a longtime homeless advocate, said that Covid-19 only throws into sharper relief what has been clear since at least the AIDS epidemic: that housing is health care. Cuomo and de Blasio, Shubert said, are "afraid of establishing a precedent where the people's right to housing is acknowledged and the fact that homelessness is a public health emergency is acknowledged."

Mayor Bill de Blasio says New York City can't afford hotel rooms for the homeless – but FEMA could actually fit the bill, The Intercept

BUT OUR WORK IS FAR FROM OVER. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!