



## PRESS KIT

<b>Established</b>	1974
<b>Chief Executive Officer</b>	Cal Hedigan
<b>Senior Management Team</b>	Michelle des Roches, Chief Program Officer Chris Lacovara, Chief Financial Officer and General Counsel John Williams, Chief Development and Communications Officer Morenike Williams, Chief People Officer
<b>Employees</b>	380
<b>Operating Budget</b>	\$37 million – serving over 3,000 people annually
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.communityaccess.org">www.communityaccess.org</a>
<b>Instagram</b>	<a href="https://www.instagram.com/communityaccessinc">Instagram.com/communityaccessinc</a>
<b>Facebook</b>	<a href="https://www.fb.com/communityaccess">www.fb.com/communityaccess</a>
<b>Twitter</b>	<a href="https://www.twitter.com/ca_nyc">www.twitter.com/ca_nyc</a>
<b>Press Contact:</b>	John Williams, Chief Development and Communications Officer (212) 780-1400, ext. 7772 <a href="mailto:jwilliams@communityaccess.org">jwilliams@communityaccess.org</a>



## MISSION STATEMENT

Community Access expands opportunities for people living with mental health concerns to recover from trauma and discrimination through affordable housing, training, advocacy, and healing-focused services.

We are built upon the simple truth that people are experts in their own lives.

## VALUES

- **Human Rights:** We challenge and lead the mental health system towards greater rights-based policies and practices.
- **Peer Expertise:** We are dedicated to a workforce where at least 51% of our employees identify as having a personal experience using mental health services. We ensure that the voices and wisdom of individuals who have used mental health services have a visible and active presence in all aspects of our work.
- **Self-Determination:** We defend the right of all individuals to create lives of their own choosing.
- **Harm Reduction:** We embrace policies and practices that promote dignity, wellbeing and access to health care.
- **Healing and Recovery:** We seek out and promote culturally relevant, trauma-informed and research-based opportunities for individual and community wellness.

# SERVICES



## Housing

Community Access leads the fight against New York City homelessness – as a provider of quality supportive housing, and through sustained advocacy for more housing. We have developed over 1,315 units of supportive housing in New York.



## Education & Job Readiness

Person-centered and empowering, our award-winning education and job readiness programs combine research-based methods with the bedrock principles of peer expertise and self-determination. To date, the Howie the Harp Advocacy Center has over 1,000 graduates.

# SERVICES



## Crisis Services

Community Access has spearheaded the creation and rollout of citywide alternatives to hospitalization, by opening NYC's first crisis respite center and first peer-operated support line. These models help to improve health outcomes for thousands and save millions of tax dollars within the Medicaid Managed Care system. Since it opened in 2013, the Crisis Respite Center has served over 500 people.



## Health & Wellness

We recognize that there are many dimensions of health – emotional, intellectual, spiritual, social, financial, communal, and physical. Our staff members help participants access primary care, nutritious meals, and information and resources that help them make informed decisions about their well-being.



## Advocacy

Community Access advocates for improving the splintered mental health and criminal justice systems. We train and empower people living with mental health issues to engage in activities that help shape policies and system-wide change. Community Access has a goal of 51% of its staff being individuals living with mental health concerns.





## Cal Hedigan, Chief Executive Officer



Cal Hedigan has dedicated her career to creating environments where people living with mental health concerns can live with dignity, access connection and community, and find allies who will support them in their journeys.

Cal joined Community Access in 1999 as Director of Policy and Program Evaluation, and subsequently served as Director of Corporate Compliance. From 2011 to July 2019, she worked as Community Access' Deputy CEO leading many agency initiatives including those focused on formalizing data analysis and measuring the impact of our work, program development, expanding participant health and wellness initiatives, and strengthening organizational systems to support our mission.

"After years of working in the field, I finally found a home when I came to Community Access in 1999," Cal says. "I was drawn to the mission and philosophy of the agency because I too held a belief that all people are experts in their own lives. Over the years I have grown with the agency and have worked hard to realize this goal, shaping the services we provide by listening to the voices of those that we serve. Our work will always be rooted in our commitment to human rights and self-determination, and as we grow and develop as an agency, our mission and values will continue to guide everything we do."

Cal lives the Community Access ethos of health and wellness on a daily basis. Rain or shine, she can be spotted on her trusty folding bike going to meetings at any one of the agency's 23 locations. She has completed yoga and meditation teacher trainings and strives to live mindfully. Cal is also an avid cook and enjoys preparing meals that celebrate the healing properties of whole food.

Born in Wales to Irish parents, Cal began her work in the field of mental health in 1985 at the Richmond Fellowship in the UK, a non-hierarchical model where staff and participants live and work together in the community. Inspired by this experience, she went on to hold a variety of positions in residential mental health programs, working in case manager, intake coordinator, supervisor, and director roles. Prior to her tenure with Community Access, she worked as Director of Planning at the Bowery Residents' Committee in New York. Cal received her undergraduate degree from Brown University and completed graduate studies in social work at Hunter College. She is also a graduate of the National Council of Behavioral Health's Executive Leadership Program. Please feel free to contact Cal at [chedigan@communityaccess.org](mailto:chedigan@communityaccess.org).

## RECOGNITION & AWARDS

- 2016:** National Council for Behavioral Health Advocate of the Year Award
- 2014:** Finalist, New York Community Trust Nonprofit Excellence Awards
- 2013:** Christian Science Monitor profiles Community Access in cover story on national health care reform
- 2011:** Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH) honors CA with national award for excellence
- Finalist, New York Community Trust Nonprofit Excellence Awards
- 2008:** Robin Hood Foundation “John F. Kennedy, Jr. Hero Award”
- 2006:** Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce Award for Excellence in Affordable Housing Development