

2025 ANNUAL REPORT



**CONNECTING
COMMUNITY
RESOURCES
FOR A
HEALTHIER
FUTURE**



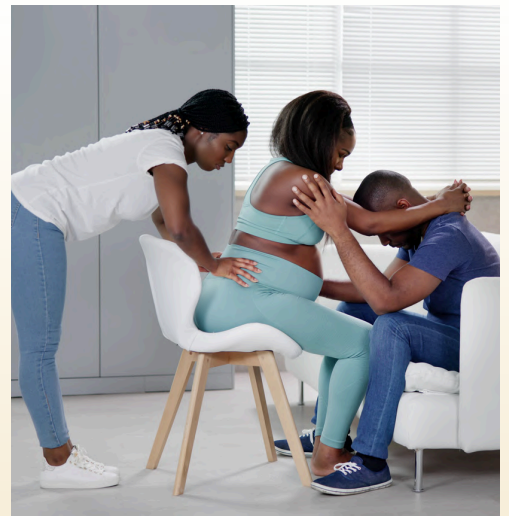
**EXPANDING
ACCESS TO
QUALITY,
AFFORDABLE
HEALTH
CARE**



**IMPROVING
ACCESS TO
FOOD &
NUTRITION**



**IMPROVING
MATERNAL
AND INFANT
HEALTH
OUTCOMES**



FROM OUR LEADERSHIP

Dear Partners and Community Stakeholders,

As we reflect on 2025, the Health and Welfare Council remains steadfast in its mission to advance equity, strengthen community well-being, and ensure that individuals and families—especially those most impacted by systemic barriers—have access to the supports they need to thrive. This year was one of both action and preparation, marked by meaningful programmatic launches, deepened partnerships, and deliberate planning in anticipation of significant federal policy shifts.

In 2025, we launched and expanded several initiatives designed to translate policy into real-world impact:

- **Integrated Health and Social Support Initiatives (HEALI)**, strengthening referral pathways between health systems and community organizations to address food insecurity, housing quality, and environmental health risks.
- **Community Education and Navigation Efforts**, providing beneficiaries with clearer, culturally responsive information about public benefits, eligibility requirements, and recertification processes.
- **Data and Impact Capacity Building**, improving our ability to measure outcomes related to stability, utilization of preventive care, and reductions in crisis-driven interventions.
- **Provider and Partner Training**, equipping frontline staff with the tools to respond to policy changes affecting SNAP recipients, mixed-status immigrant families, and other vulnerable populations.
- **Maternal Health Advancement through HWCLI**, with a particular emphasis on increasing and supporting community-based doulas as a critical workforce for improving maternal and infant health outcomes, strengthening care coordination, and addressing disparities in birth experiences and outcomes, especially for Medicaid-covered and historically marginalized populations.

These launches reflect our belief that sustainable progress requires both service delivery and systems change.

A significant focus of 2025 was preparation for the potential implementation of HRI and related federal policy proposals. Recognizing that changes to eligibility rules, work requirements, and reporting processes could have downstream effects on individuals and families, HWCLI prioritized readiness and mitigation.

Our preparation efforts focused on a comprehensive and proactive approach to anticipated policy changes. We assessed the potential impacts on SNAP beneficiaries, with particular attention to households experiencing unstable employment, caregiving responsibilities, or limited access to transportation and technology. In parallel, we collaborated closely with partners to anticipate increases in administrative burden and to identify strategies that could prevent unnecessary loss of benefits. We also supported community-based organizations in planning for increased demand for services, including nutrition assistance, legal referrals, and benefits counseling. Throughout this process, we elevated community voices and lived experience to ensure that advocacy efforts and implementation strategies were informed by the realities facing those most affected.

As we move into 2026, the Health and Welfare Council is focused on implementation, adaptation, and continued advocacy. We will build on the groundwork laid this year to monitor policy impacts, support our partners, and center equity in all that we do.

We are deeply grateful to our staff, funders, and community partners for their dedication and collaboration. Together, we are shaping a future where policies work for people—and where health and well-being are achievable for all.

With Appreciation,



**VANESSA
BAIRD-STREETER**
President/CEO



COLLEEN MERLO
Chair, Board of Directors

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Colleen Merlo, Board Chair

Chief Executive Officer
Association for Mental Health and Wellness

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President | Chief Executive Officer
HWCLI

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MSL (Global)

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Chief Executive Officer
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Kimberly Jean-Pierre

Co-Founder | Partner
Strategic Pathways Group

Patricia Miller

Partner
Praxis Communications, Inc.

Donna Mulligan

Vice President of Human Resources
Broadridge Financial Solutions

Bedel Saget

Graphic and Multimedia Editor
The New York Times

Dr. Timothy Sams

President
SUNY Old Westbury

DID YOU KNOW?

HWCLI has been proudly
serving Long Island for

78
YEARS

HOW YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE



Your support fuels our mission to strengthen the health and well-being of Long Island's communities.

Every donation helps us provide critical resources, advocate for equity, and create lasting change. Join us in making an impact—give today and be a part of the solution.

Visit www.HWCLI.com to make a gift today. For planned giving, sponsorships and other opportunities, please contact connect@hwcli.com or call 516-483-1110.

Every contribution, regardless of size, plays a crucial role in advancing HWCLI's mission and expanding our programs and direct services to better serve our communities. Your generosity enables us to create lasting impact and drive meaningful change. HWCLI is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

OUR MISSION

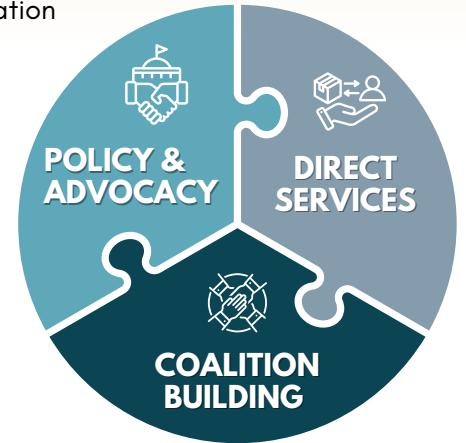
Established in 1947, the Health & Welfare Council of Long Island (HWCLI) is a regional, nonprofit umbrella organization for health and human service providers. We are dedicated to improving the lives of Long Island's most vulnerable residents by responding to their needs through the promotion and development of public policies and direct services.

HWCLI serves the interests of Long Islanders, representing and supporting the organizations that serve them by:

- Illuminating the issues that critically impact them
- Organizing community and regional responses to their needs
- Advocacy, research and policy analysis
- Providing services, information and education

OUR APPROACH

At HWCLI, we take a comprehensive, interconnected approach to addressing suburban poverty and advancing equity across Long Island. Through a combination of direct services, policy advocacy, and sector-wide convening, we work to strengthen the systems that impact our region's most vulnerable residents.



DIRECT SERVICES

We operate a series of programs and direct services that tackle critical challenges such as nutritional security, access to healthcare, affordable health insurance, and economic stability. Alongside our network of nonprofit partners, we provide a crucial safety net for individuals and families who earn too much to qualify for federal assistance but struggle to meet the high cost of living on Long Island.

POLICY & ADVOCACY

Simultaneously, **we engage with local, state, and federal government agencies to advocate for and drive policy solutions** that prioritize the needs of Long Islanders. By bringing together nonprofits, business leaders, and lawmakers, we foster collaboration and drive innovative solutions to our region's most pressing challenges.

GRASSROOTS COALITION BUILDING

At the core of HWCLI's approach is our role as a convener. **Through coalition building and grassroots organizing, we bring together community stakeholders**, uniting all voices around our shared challenges. By creating spaces for open dialogue and collaborative problem-solving, we amplify our collective voice and drive meaningful change across Long Island. We recognize that together, our sector is stronger, more resilient, and better equipped to serve our communities.

OUR TEAM

At the heart of HWCLI's success is the incredible team of individuals who bring passion, expertise, and commitment to our mission. As we reflect on another year of growth and achievement, we are proud to highlight the diverse talents and contributions of our staff. Their hard work and dedication are what drive our continued progress, and together, we look forward to another year of making a meaningful impact.

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP



»» **Vanessa Baird-Streeter**
President/ CEO



Lori Andrade
*Executive Vice President,
Operational Lead of HEALI*



HWCLI MANAGEMENT



Herberth Reyes
Fiscal Director



David Levine
Director of Development



Stephanie D'Haiti
Healthcare Access Manager



Jazmine Brown
Client Services Manager



Randalle Lewis
Advocacy & Coalitions Manager



Angela Porwick
Communications & Events Manager

HEALI PROGRAM MANAGEMENT



Marissa Hiruma-Markgraf
Senior Director of Programs



Mary Emerton
Senior Director of Provider Partnerships



Alexandra Karaev
Senior Director of Fiscal and Contracts



Meagan Kelly
Senior Director of Operations

60 HWCLI EMPLOYEES 

“ My interactions with the entire team at HWCLI have consistently been both positive and productive. They have always been extraordinarily helpful and effective. This organization is not only doing vital work for the community, **their heart is in the game.** ”



David, Healthcare Client



DID YOU KNOW?

43% of HWCLI staff is **BILINGUAL**

OUR 2025 NETWORK



HWCLI's ability to serve Long Island is powered by our network of dedicated nonprofit partners, whose invaluable collaboration drives our mission forward. These committed allies demonstrate a steadfast dedication to supporting Long Island's most vulnerable residents.

WHO WE ARE



HWCLI is a collaborative network of nonprofit agencies, dedicated individuals, and supportive corporations committed to addressing regional challenges and implementing innovative solutions.

AS A NETWORK PARTNER, YOU WILL GAIN ACCESS TO:

- **Timely Insights:** Stay ahead with the latest news in health & human services
- **Advocacy Opportunities:** Shape policy at the national, state, & local levels
- **Exclusive Events:** Experience inspiring gatherings featuring dynamic, influential speakers
- **Collaborative Forums:** Connect with peers to drive groundbreaking initiatives
- **Capacity Building:** Access targeted trainings & other resources designed to empower your organization & strengthen your skills

WANT TO JOIN OUR NETWORK? VISIT WWW.HWCLI.COM, EMAIL CONNECT@HWCLI.COM OR CALL 516-483-1110

- Abilities Inc. at the Viscardi Center
- **Alzheimer's Association Long Island***
- American Diabetes Association
- **American Red Cross on Long Island***
- **Association for Mental Health and Wellness (MHAW)***
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Long Island Inc. (BBBSLI)
- **Bradley & Parker***
- **Bridge Back to Life Center***
- **Bridgehampton Child Care & Recreation Center Inc.***
- Cast Northfork
- **Catholic Charities***
- Catholic Health
- **Central Nassau Guidance & Counseling Services Inc.***
- **Centro Corazón de María***
- Cerini & Associates LLP
- **Chanel's Comforting Doula Care***
- **Charles Evans Center***
- **Child Care Council of Nassau, Inc.***
- **Child Care Council of Suffolk, Inc.***
- Choice for All
- Colonial Youth & Family Services
- **Community Development Corporation of Long Island (CDCLI)***
- **Community Housing Innovations***
- **Community Mainstreaming Associates***
- **Development Disabilities Institute (DDI)***
- **Docs for Tots***
- **EAC Network, Inc.***
- **Eager To Serve, Inc.***
- **East End Disability Associates Inc.***
- **ECLI-VIBES***
- **Edgewise Energy***
- Empire Justice Center
- **Economic Opportunity Council of Suffolk, Inc.***
- **EPIC Family of Human Services***
- **Episcopal Ministries of Long Island***
- **Family & Children's Association (FCALI)***
- **Family Residences & Essential Enterprises, Inc. (FREE)***
- **Family Service League***
- **FourLeaf Federal Credit Union***
- **Gurwin Healthcare System***
- **Hands Across Long Island***
- **Harbor Child Care***
- **Harmony Healthcare Long Island (HHLI)***
- HELP Suffolk (Shelter)
- Hempstead Hispanic Civic Association, Inc.
- Hispanic Brotherhood Inc.
- **Hispanic Counseling Center***
- Hope Floats LI Inc.
- **Hope for Youth (HFNY)***
- Housing Help, Inc.
- **Huntington Youth Bureau Youth Development Research Institute Inc.***
- **Island Harvest***
- **Jewish Association Serving the Aging (JASA)***
- **Labor Education & Community Services Agency (LECSA)***
- **Legal Services of Long Island***
- **Little Flower Children and Family Services of New York***
- Long Beach COAD
- Long Island Adolescent & Family Services, Inc (LIAFS)
- **Long Island Advocacy Center (LIAC)***
- **Long Island Against Domestic Violence Inc. (LIADV)***
- **Long Island Cares Inc. - Harry Chapin Food Bank***
- Long Island Council of Churches (LICC)
- Long Island Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (LICADD)
- **Long Island Federation of Labor- AFL-CIO***
- **Long Island Housing Services, Inc. (LIHS)***
- The Lend a Hand Project
- **Long Island Volunteer Center (LIVC)***
- **The Mental Health Association of Nassau County (MHANC)***
- Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
- **MercyFirst***
- **Mercy Haven Inc.***
- **Middle Country Library Foundation***
- **Mill Neck Family of Organizations***
- Molloy University
- NAMI Queens Nassau
- Nassau Library System
- **Nassau Suffolk Hospital Council, Inc. (NSHC)***
- **Nassau-Suffolk School Board Association (NSSBA)***
- **National Association for Drug Abuse Problems***
- The National Center for Suburban Studies at Hofstra University®
- New York Committee for Occupational Safety & Health (NYCOSH)
- Northwell Health
- **Options for Community Living, Inc.***
- **Outreach (OPINY)***
- **Pal-O-Mine Equestrian, Inc.***
- Planned Parenthood Hudson Peconic, Inc.
- **RiseWell Community Services***
- **SCO Family of Services***
- **Sepa Mujer***
- **Services for the Underserved (SUS)***
- **Society of St. Vincent de Paul Long Island***
- **Supporting Our Youth & Adults Network Inc. (SOYAN)***
- **The Interfaith Nutrition Network (INN)***
- The LGBT Network
- The Retreat, Inc.
- The Salvation Army Greater New York
- The Solidarity Group Inc.
- Transitional Services Of New York For L.I. Inc. Haven House/ Bridges, Inc.
- **United Cerebral Palsy Association of Long Island***
- **United Way Long Island***
- **U.S. Green Building Council - Long Island Chapter (USGBC-LI)***
- Visiting Nurse Services of New York (VNS Health)
- **WellLife Network***
- **Wyandanch Homes & Property Development Corporation (WHPDC)***
- Youth Enrichment Services (YES)

LONG ISLAND BY THE NUMBERS



POPULATION OF **2,928,347**

NASSAU 1,392,438

SUFFOLK 1,535,909

968,356 COMBINED HOUSEHOLDS

BASED ON ESTIMATES OF THE 2024 AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY



2 COUNTIES

2 CITIES

13 TOWNS

97 VILLAGES

128 SCHOOL SYSTEMS



354,716 HOUSEHOLDS



LIVE BELOW THE ALICE THRESHOLD BUDGET FOR SURVIVAL

BASED ON UNITED WAY OF LONG ISLAND 2025 ALICE REPORT

WHO IS ALICE



ALICE is an acronym for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed.

ALICE is a hardworking member of the community and earns above the federal poverty level, yet does not earn enough to afford a bare-bones household budget, or "household survival budget."



240,470 LONG ISLANDERS

INCLUDING 

44,520 CHILDREN

*BASED ON THE 2025 FEEDING AMERICA "MAP THE MEAL GAP" STUDY

FACED NUTRITIONAL INSECURITY IN 2025

ONLY 
69,858
HOUSEHOLDS
RECEIVE
SNAP BENEFITS*



LONG ISLAND HAS AN ANNUAL FOOD BUDGET SHORTFALL OF \$188,373,000

THE TOTAL DOLLAR AMOUNT LONG ISLANDERS REPORTED NEEDING, ON AVERAGE, TO PURCHASE JUST ENOUGH FOOD TO MEET THEIR NEEDS*




123,395 LONG ISLANDERS DO NOT HAVE HEALTH INSURANCE

BASED ON ESTIMATES OF THE 2024 AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

HWCLI BY THE NUMBERS


SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP)



SERVED
35,832
LONG ISLANDERS


PRESCREENED
13,981
HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS FOR SNAP BENEFITS


PROVIDED
6,586
INDIVIDUALS WITH SNAP APPLICATION ASSISTANCE


HEALTHCARE ACCESS AND COMMUNITY HEALTH ADVOCACY

ENROLLED
4,891
CLIENTS IN AFFORDABLE HEALTH PLANS




COMPLETED
1,132
FEBAD APPLICATIONS

386%
INCREASE FROM 2024


ASSISTED
512
COMMUNITY HEALTH ACCESS CLIENTS



SAVED
CLIENTS
\$277,166
IN MEDICAL COSTS


MATERNAL HEALTH ADVOCACY

IN 2025, HWCLI'S DOULA INITIATIVE REACHED KEY MILESTONES:

- 77** NY DOULAS ENROLLED IN MEDICAID

- 50%** OF LI DOULAS ACTIVE ON DOULA NOTES


HEALTH EMPOWERMENT ALLIANCE OF LI (HEALI)

NETWORK OF MORE THAN 100 SYSTEM PARTNERS


SCREENED MORE THAN 50,000 MEDICAID MEMBERS


IN 2025, HEALI DELIVERED OVER

- 10,000** NAVIGATION & CARE MANAGEMENT SERVICES

- 7,000** NUTRITION SERVICES

- 580** HOUSING SUPPORTS


OUR PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES

HEALTH EMPOWERMENT ALLIANCE OF LI (HEALI)

The Health Empowerment Alliance of Long Island (HEALI) brings together social care providers, healthcare providers, MCOs, and other stakeholders to ensure equitable health and life outcomes for all Long Islanders through cross-sector partnerships, innovative funding strategies and improvements in the health and human service delivery system.



In 2024, HEALI was named the **Social Care Network (SCN)** for the Long Island region as part of the New York Health Equity Reform (NYHER) 1115 Waiver Demonstration Amendment. With HWCLI as its lead entity, HEALI launched with the mission of building a regional infrastructure to integrate social care and healthcare to deliver whole-person care to Long Islanders.



Today, HEALI **unites more than 100 community-based organizations, healthcare partners, managed care organizations, and other community stakeholders into a coordinated system.** HEALI serves as the administrative backbone for this network to screen Medicaid members for unmet health-related social needs, like food or housing insecurity, and then to navigate eligible members to Medicaid-reimbursable services that help meet those needs. HEALI oversees data security and privacy, compliance, contracting with community partners, reimbursement for provided services, training and technical assistance, and the distribution of capacity building resources. Since launching, HEALI has built and strengthened its structure to develop a network of service providers working in coordination to serve Medicaid members.

HEALI and its partners work to ensure that even our most vulnerable neighbors have access to the basics we all need to be healthy, one screening, one food box, one set of keys at a time. In 2025, HEALI **screened more than 50,000 Medicaid members and delivered over 10,000 navigation and care management services, 7,000 nutrition services, and 580 housing supports.** By connecting thousands of Medicaid members to the essential supports they need for greater stability and improved health outcomes, HEALI and its partners are demonstrating what is possible when a community aligns around the mission of improving access to care.



HEALI's partnership with Island Harvest illustrates exactly how this model of coordination strengthens social care across Long Island. HEALI's digital screening and warm-referral system makes it possible for Island Harvest to identify Medicaid members with nutrition, housing, and other social needs and connect them not only to food but to integrated services across the network.



Together, HEALI and Island Harvest have increased Long Islanders' access to programs such as home-delivered, medically tailored meals, reaching individuals who may never have benefited from these services through traditional pantry models.

For families navigating complex health conditions or serious illness, the right support at the right time can make all the difference. Jaime, a mother of two facing terminal cancer, was connected to the food and nutrition support she needed to take care of her young family. Using HEALI's screening and referral system, providers quickly arranged for Jaime and her family to receive medically tailored meals delivered to their home. Jaime shared, *"I am grateful for how quickly I got help and for everyone working together to support me and my kids."* Jaime's experience demonstrates how integration across HEALI's Social Care Network translates into the social supports that families need.



**IN 2025,
HEALI
DELIVERED
OVER**

10,000 
**NAVIGATION & CARE
MANAGEMENT SERVICES**

7,000 
**NUTRITION
SERVICES**

580 
**HOUSING
SUPPORTS**

HEALTH CARE ACCESS

HEALTH INSURANCE ENROLLMENT

In partnership with Central Nassau Guidance & Counseling Services, HWCLI assisted Long Islanders in enrolling in quality, affordable health insurance plans through the **New York State of Health (NYSOH) Marketplace**. HWCLI Certified Navigators provide education on available health plans to help clients select coverage that best meets their health needs. All plans include free preventive care services, such as annual screenings and vaccines, as well as other essential health benefits.



ENROLLED
2,627
CLIENTS IN
AFFORDABLE
HEALTH PLANS

Through partnerships with New York State of Health (NYSOH), our Certified Navigators connected food pantry visitors with health insurance resources, expanding access to coverage throughout Long Island.

Additionally, HWCLI collaborated with the Department of Labor to facilitate Health Insurance Rapid Response Sessions for laid-off workers at risk of losing employer-sponsored coverage. In total, **HWCLI staff enrolled 2,627 clients in affordable health plans** through the NYSOH Marketplace.



PROVIDING ACCESS & CHANGING LIVES

After working closely with HWCLI's Healthcare Outreach Specialist for over a year, our client, Cris, was ultimately approved for Medicaid. **This coverage has been life-changing**, enabling her to better manage chronic health conditions and access essential medications that were previously out of reach due to cost. Through consistent advocacy and support, Cris gained the stability and healthcare access she needs to focus on her health and overall well-being.

COMMUNITY HEALTH ADVOCACY (CHA)

HWCLI's **Community Health Advocacy** program is rooted in supporting Long Islanders as they navigate New York's complex healthcare system. Community Health Advocates work in partnership with community members to help them understand and use their health coverage by connecting clients to in-network providers, guiding them through the appeals process, and offering education on Medicare and other essential health programs. Advocates also assist individuals facing surprise medical bills, a widespread challenge that places significant financial strain on many families.

SERVED
512
CLIENTS

SAVED
CLIENTS
\$277,166
IN MEDICAL
COSTS

In addition to direct client support, HWCLI remained actively engaged in key statewide and regional advocacy initiatives by participating in monthly meetings with the New York State of Health (NYSOH) Downstate team, the Medicaid Matters NY Coalition, the End Medical Debt Coalition, and the Medicare Savings Program Coalition. This ongoing involvement helps ensure the CHA program stays informed and responsive to upcoming policy and program changes that impact the community. In 2025, HWCLI's **Community Health Advocates served 512 community members**, primarily from underserved populations, helping remove barriers to care through trusted advocacy, education, and hands-on support. Through this work, advocates **helped families save approximately \$277,166.03 in medical costs**, easing financial strain and promoting greater healthcare stability across the community.



FINANCIAL RELIEF THROUGH ADVOCACY

When **Ana, a 43-year old Caregiver** and mother to a 4-year old daughter, was hit with a **\$27,252 medical bill** for a procedure her insurance refused to cover, she turned to HWCLI's CHA helpline for support. After her initial financial assistance application was denied, HWCLI advocated on her behalf, challenging billing discrepancies, requesting documentation, and working directly with the hospital. Months later, Ana's application was approved, eliminating the overwhelming debt. Through HWCLI's advocacy, Ana gained financial relief and peace of mind for her family. **Overcome with relief, Ana shared, "I can finally go to bed and not worry about this bill."**

HEALTH CARE ACCESS

FACILITATED ENROLLMENT FOR THE AGED, BLIND AND DISABLED (FE-ABD)

COMPLETED

1,132



FEABD APPLICATIONS



386%

INCREASE FROM 2024



In 2025, HWCLI's **Facilitated Enrollment for the Aged, Blind, and Disabled (FE-ABD)** program continued to serve the Long Island region by providing free health insurance enrollment assistance to aged (65+), blind, and disabled community members. The FE-ABD team significantly expanded its outreach efforts, launching multiple campaigns to increase awareness of the program across the region.

Our continued outreach efforts resulted in a measurable increase in inquiries and a higher volume of application submissions, strengthening engagement with eligible individuals and expanding access to critical benefits. Beyond outreach, the FE-ABD team hosted a series of community based "Lunch & Learn" sessions focused on Medicaid and Medicare Savings Programs, in addition to tabling events and community workshops. These engagements strengthened community connections, increased program visibility, and contributed to enhanced team productivity throughout the year. In total, in 2025, HWCLI's FE-ABD team **completed 1,132 Medicaid and Medicare Savings Program applications.**



BREAKING BARRIERS TO HEALTHCARE FOR AGING ADULTS

Martha, a 72-year-old grandmother, lost her Emergency Medicaid coverage and was struggling to manage her diabetes. Facing language barriers, financial distress, and unfamiliar healthcare systems, she turned to HWCLI. Over 6 months, HWCLI worked across multiple agencies, submitted formal reviews, and challenged eligibility determinations. Martha was ultimately approved for Medicaid Managed Care coverage, allowing her to finally access the care she needed. **Her perseverance highlights the daily challenges many undocumented seniors face when navigating healthcare systems alone.**

In 2025, HWCLI provided Healthcare Access outreach and enrollment assistance across a wide network of trusted community sites, ensuring services remained accessible and locally rooted.



- Babylon Public Library
- Branches of Long Island
- Brentwood Library
- Comsewogue Public Library
- Connetquot Library
- Elwood Public Library
- Family Service League (Bayshore)
- Family Service League (Huntington Station)
- Long Island Cares (Hampton Bays)
- Long Island Cares (Huntington Station)
- Longwood Public Library
- Patchogue-Medford Library
- Peconic Pediatrics
- Rogers Memorial Library
- Sachem Public Library
- South Country Public Library
- Wyandanch Community Center

NUTRITIONAL SECURITY

SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP)

NAVIGATING A CHANGING LANDSCAPE



In 2025, HWCLI's Food Insecurity (SNAP) Team advanced its mission to reduce hunger across Long Island by expanding access to benefits, strengthening community partnerships, and adapting outreach strategies in response to shifting policies and community needs. Throughout the year, the team **provided SNAP education, application assistance, and client navigation support to 35,832 Long Islanders** while prioritizing client safety, trust, and the dissemination of accurate, culturally responsive communication, particularly for mixed-status households navigating increased uncertainty.

A central focus of the team's work was **strengthening partnerships** with community-based organizations to expand outreach and connect clients to reliable information and services. Through these critical collaborations, HWCLI reached community members who might otherwise be hesitant to engage with public benefits systems while equipping partners with up-to-date guidance on SNAP eligibility and enrollment pathways, client rights, and safe access to benefits during periods of uncertainty. As a result, HWCLI was able to **prescreen 13,981 household members** for SNAP benefits and **provide application assistance to 6,586 individuals** throughout 2025.

SERVED
35,832
LONG ISLANDERS

PRESCREENED
13,981
HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS FOR SNAP BENEFITS

The team also expanded targeted outreach on nutrition resources, including **Summer Meals** and **Summer EBT**, ensuring families were aware of available supports during school closures. In parallel, staff increased virtual enrollment support and refined outreach approaches to respond to changes in engagement patterns at traditional outreach sites.



ADVOCACY & COALITION LEADERSHIP



HWCLI remained actively engaged in local, state, and national advocacy efforts related to food insecurity and SNAP policy. In collaboration with partners such as **Hunger Solutions New York** and the **Food Research & Action Center (FRAC)**, the team contributed to coalition efforts that promoted informed policy discussions, countered misinformation, and supported

coordinated responses to legislative changes affecting SNAP access. As policies evolved, the team placed increased emphasis on client education and coordination with service providers to help minimize disruptions in benefits and ensure continuity of services.

PROVIDED
6,586

INDIVIDUALS WITH SNAP APPLICATION ASSISTANCE



NOURISHING OUR NEIGHBORS

Amid unexpected federal SNAP funding delays that left many without benefits just weeks before Thanksgiving, HWCLI identified an urgent need to support seniors. In response, HWCLI visited the Magnolia Gardens Senior Center alongside Senator Siela Bynoe and Legislator Viviana Russell to **distribute \$10,000 in Stop & Shop gift cards to SNAP recipients**. Funded by a generous corporate sponsor, the initiative provided critical relief while strengthening access to long-term supports, reinforcing HWCLI's commitment to protecting and uplifting vulnerable Long Islanders.

PROVIDED
\$10,000
IN GIFT CARDS TO SENIORS

NUTRITIONAL SECURITY

SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP)

FOOD AS MEDICINE

Partnership-driven work remained a cornerstone of the SNAP program. As part of a Food as Medicine pilot program, HWCLI partnered with Harmony Healthcare Long Island to provide **nutritional counseling** and grocery gift cards to purchase nutritional foods to 28 patients managing diabetes and other chronic conditions.

The pilot demonstrated measurable health gains: **73% of participants** showed **improved A1C levels**, **60% reduced BMI**, **55% improved lipid levels**, and approximately **75% showed improvements in at least one clinical measure**. The results reinforced that pairing SNAP access with consistent nutrition support can improve both food security and health outcomes.



FOOD AS MEDICINE

PARTICIPANTS IN THIS PILOT SHOWED MEASURABLE HEALTH GAINS:

75% IMPROVED IN AT LEAST ONE CLINICAL MEASURE 

73% HAD IMPROVED A1C LEVELS 

60% SHOWED REDUCED BMI 

55% SHOWED REDUCED LIPID LEVELS 

BUILDING STRONGER SYSTEMS

To strengthen program delivery and long-term sustainability, the team continued to prioritize advancements in our internal systems and data infrastructure. Developments included continuation of our CRM platform, a critical investment in strengthening data quality and reporting, as well as the creation of new prescreening tools, including a general prescreen form and a student eligibility prescreen. These improvements supported more efficient service delivery and allowed the team to better respond to evolving eligibility requirements and community needs.

Despite the challenges of 2025, the Food Insecurity Team continued to advance its mission to reduce hunger across Long Island and Queens. By remaining adaptable, strengthening partnerships, and grounding their work in the lived experiences of the communities served, the team helped ensure continued access to food assistance during periods of uncertainty. Looking ahead, **HWCLI remains committed to expanding outreach, refining systems, and advocating for policies that protect and strengthen SNAP for the individuals and families who rely on it.**



In 2025, HWCLI provided SNAP outreach and enrollment assistance across a wide network of trusted community sites, ensuring services remained accessible and locally rooted.

- Baby Blessings (Helping Hand Recessue Mission)
- Brentwood Library
- Comsewogue Public Library
- Fidelis Care - Jackson Heights
- Fidelis Care - Rego Park
- Fidelis Care - Westbury
- Freeport Library
- Harmony Healthcare - Freeport
- Harmony Healthcare - Roosevelt
- Harmony Healthcare - Westbury
- HealthFirst - Hampton Bays
- HealthFirst- Patchogue
- Helping Hand Rescue Mission
- Housing Help, Inc
- Middle Country Library
- Office of Hispanic Affairs
- SEPA Mujer
- St. John the Evangelist Catholic Parish



ADVOCACY AND COALITION BUILDING

MATERNAL HEALTH

BUILDING A MEDICAID-ALIGNED DOULA INFRASTRUCTURE

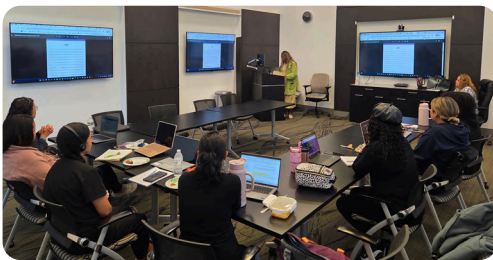
In 2025, HWCLI accelerated efforts to expand the doula workforce, increase Medicaid-enrolled-doulas, and build coordinated referral systems that improve maternal health outcomes across Long Island. Following New York State's 2024 expansion of Medicaid coverage for doula services, HWCLI created a dedicated doula referral pathway within our social care network, HEALI. While coverage improved affordability, a coordinated infrastructure was still needed to connect families to providers. By leveraging HEALI, HWCLI streamlined referrals between Medicaid members and community-based doulas, ensuring eligible families could access culturally responsive, life-saving support more efficiently.



DoulaNotes

In April 2025, HWCLI launched Doula Notes, a first-of-its-kind digital platform designed to support Medicaid-enrolled doulas by reducing administrative burden and improving care coordination. Developed in partnership with Soter Technologies and informed by local doulas and midwives, the platform provides a secure, user-friendly system for tracking client appointments, birth outcomes, and demographic data in one centralized location. By streamlining documentation and billing processes, Doula Notes enables providers to dedicate more time to compassionate continuous client care. Doula Notes not only streamlines day-to-day operations but also generates data to guide future advocacy and policy efforts aimed at strengthening maternal health services across NYS.

STRENGTHENING DOULA REFERRAL SYSTEMS AND WORKFORCE CAPACITY



During implementation of our Doula referral system, HWCLI identified a significant service gap: most clients seeking doula support were Spanish-speaking, yet only five Medicaid-enrolled doulas identified as Spanish-speaking, and only three were fully fluent. In response, HWCLI partnered with Stony Brook University to pilot a culturally and linguistically responsive doula training program. In 2025, **eight new doulas completed training**, with translation support. HWCLI continues to provide mentorship and Medicaid enrollment guidance to strengthen long-term workforce sustainability, **increasing the number of New York State Medicaid-enrolled doulas** from just **3 to 77** in 2025.

Through five information sessions reaching approximately **250 doulas**, HWCLI introduced providers to Doula Notes, supported Medicaid enrollment, and identified systemic credentialing barriers within Managed Care Organizations. In response, HWCLI elevated these concerns and partnered directly with Healthfirst and Anthem to remove enrollment barriers for Medicaid-enrolled Doulas. These reforms improved credentialing processes, reduced payment delays, and strengthened Medicaid participation across the region. HWCLI also expanded referral pathways by conducting outreach to 17 community-based organizations across Long Island, establishing new partnerships to support future maternal health collaboration.



HWCLI also began foundational work to establish a WIOA-funded doula training pipeline in partnership with the Suffolk County Department of Labor and the Workforce Development Board. This initiative will expand access to free doula training beginning in 2026, further strengthening the doula workforce.



IN 2025, HWCLI'S DOULA INITIATIVE REACHED KEY MILESTONES:

77 NY DOULAS ENROLLED IN MEDICAID

50% OF LI DOULAS ACTIVE ON DOULA NOTES

NOW ACTIVE IN



COALITION LEADERSHIP & REGIONAL COORDINATION

MATERNAL HEALTH ADVOCACY & COALITION LEADERSHIP

Beyond direct program implementation, HWCLI advanced maternal health reform through statewide policy advocacy and coalition leadership. As Co-Chair of the Women's Diversity Network Maternal Justice Coalition, HWCLI helped guide strategic priorities and statewide engagement efforts. Through monthly convenings and 3 in-person regional events with **more than 200 combined attendees**, we strengthened collaboration among advocates, providers, and community leaders. Communications included five newsletters distributed to more than **500 subscribers**, sharing research, policy updates, advocacy opportunities, and continuing education resources to support an informed and responsive maternal health workforce.



HWCLI also served on the Suffolk County Maternal Morbidity and Mortality Task Force, supporting the recruitment of birthing individuals to share lived experiences and ensuring community voice informed clinical practice improvements and county-level policy recommendations. As a member of the NY Coalition for Doula Access, HWCLI participated in the final review committee for the Hospital Doula Friendliness Initiative Guide, helping ensure Long Island representation in the 2026 pilot program.



DISASTER PREPAREDNESS & REGIONAL COORDINATION



HWCLI continued its leadership as the Long Island Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (LIVOAD), strengthening cross-sector coordination among nonprofit, government, and emergency management partners. As a key regional partner of the New York Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (NYVOAD), HWCLI supported statewide coordination efforts and improved service delivery for Long Island communities impacted by disasters.

In 2025, HWCLI hosted multiple LIVOAD convenings, providing structured forums for collaboration, information-sharing, and strategic planning. HWCLI also partnered with the Suffolk County Office of Emergency Management to lay the groundwork for the 2026 launch of Crisis Clean Up, an open-source disaster work order management platform designed to expand volunteer-based post-disaster response capacity. Through preparedness planning, workforce training, and coalition coordination, HWCLI strengthened the region's readiness and resilience in advance of future emergencies.



BUILDING STRONGER MENTAL & BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SYSTEMS

HWCLI expanded efforts to grow Long Island's behavioral health workforce and support school-based mental health services. HWCLI supported recruitment for three CareerDay.com mental health career fairs, increasing exposure to behavioral health career pathways and connecting participants to workforce opportunities.

In partnership with the New York State Office of Mental Health, HWCLI **convened more than 30 providers** to advance the expansion of school-based mental health clinics across Long Island. These sessions educated organizations on the benefits of the state-funded initiative and guided providers through the clinic development process.

HWCLI also contributed to the Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association Mental Wellness Workgroup, advancing regional collaboration around student mental health, trauma-informed practices, and cross-sector coordination.



KEY EVENTS & MEETINGS

Throughout 2025, HWCLI hosted and participated in a series of key events and meetings, bringing together partners, stakeholders, and community leaders to drive collaboration, advocacy, and impactful change across Long Island.

NYS BUDGET PREVIEW

JANUARY 7TH, 2025

HWCLI hosted a Pre-State of the State Budget Briefing featuring Celeste M. Johnson, MS, Associate Commissioner and Regional Director of the Metropolitan Area Regional Office (MARO) at the New York State Department of Health. The session highlighted how the 2025 State of the State proposals would impact Long Island. Attendees gained valuable insight into the state's policy priorities and their implications for advancing economic and health equity in our region.



STATE OF WOMEN'S HEALTH CONFERENCE

JANUARY 29TH, 2025

HWCLI, in partnership with the Women's Diversity Network, hosted its 2nd Women's Health Conference at Hofstra University, convening over 100 attendees to address critical issues impacting women's health on Long Island. Panel discussions focused on healthcare access, reproductive and maternal health, mental health, and persistent disparities affecting women's well-being. The conference emphasized comprehensive, systems-level solutions to improve birth outcomes and overall health. The event was made possible through the generous support of Healthfirst, NFP (an Aon company), and the William E. and Maude S. Pritchard Charitable Trust.



ANNUAL NYS BUDGET BRIEFING

MARCH 20TH, 2025

HWCLI hosted its annual Budget Briefing at SUNY Old Westbury with Dr. James McDonald, Commissioner of the NYS Department of Health. The event provided insights on the Governor's priorities, including investments in public health, nutrition, maternal wellness, and economic support for families. Key initiatives discussed included Universal School Meals, expanded WIC access, free diapers for Medicaid-enrolled mothers, and enhanced fertility services under Medicaid. Attendees engaged in discussion on policies shaping New York's health care future, highlighting HWCLI's commitment to transparency, partnership, and regional well-being.



HWCLI | TANGO LONG ISLAND LAUNCH RECEPTION

MAY 8TH, 2025

HWCLI, in collaboration with The Alliance for Nonprofit Growth and Opportunity (TANGO), hosted a launch reception for TANGO on Long Island at the Melville Hilton. Attendees learned about TANGO's complimentary membership benefits aimed at strengthening nonprofit sustainability and growth. This event marked a key step in HWCLI's efforts to build capacity and support the region's nonprofit sector, highlighting the potential of this partnership and the continued engagement of our network.



NONPROFIT JOB FAIR

JUNE 11TH, 2025

HWCLI hosted its 3rd Annual Nonprofit Job Fair at Farmingdale State College. It was a vibrant and impactful event that brought together over 200 job seekers, nearly 40 mission-driven employers, and community partners from across Long Island. This year's fair created a welcoming space for individuals to explore new career paths, gain valuable resources, and connect directly with nonprofits, health organizations, and human service agencies.



STATE OF WOMEN'S HEALTH ON LONG ISLAND

NOVEMBER 15TH, 2025

HWCLI hosted our 3rd State of Women's Health on Long Island Conference at Bridgehampton Child Care and Recreation Center (BHCCRC), bringing together community members, experts, and advocates to address access to care, reproductive and mental health, and maternal health equity. In partnership with Women's Diversity Network, BHCCRC, Suffolk County Department of Health Office of Minority Health, and Hofstra University School of Public Health, the conference featured panels that generated meaningful dialogue and actionable strategies to improve women's health across LI.



NONPROFIT EMPOWERMENT SERIES

JANUARY 30TH, 2025

HWCLI hosted the kick-off to our 2025 Nonprofit Empowerment Series with a Virtual Cyber Security Webinar in collaboration with corporate partner PKF O'Connor Davies to address the growing digital threats facing nonprofits. A cybersecurity expert shared practical strategies for protecting donor data, securing confidential communications, and strengthening overall digital safeguards. The session emphasized proactive risk mitigation to maintain public trust and protect organizational operations in an increasingly digital environment.



JULY 21ST, 2025



HWCLI continued its Empowerment Series with a virtual session, "Empowering Nonprofits Through Smart & Scalable Technology," led by Anil Jagtiani of NAKA Technologies. The session highlighted how technology can enhance nonprofit operations, covering

affordable cybersecurity, grant-focused tech planning, and strategies to maximize donations and efficiency. It reinforced HWCLI's mission to provide nonprofits with practical tools to streamline work and scale impact.

JULY 28TH, 2025

In partnership with PKF O'Connor Davies, HWCLI hosted a virtual session titled "What's New in Nonprofit Accounting & Auditing," covering the latest updates in nonprofit accounting and compliance. The session offered actionable guidance on FASB, AICPA, and OMB requirements to help nonprofits maintain strong financial stewardship and audit readiness.



SEPTEMBER 10TH, 2025

In a response to New York State's Unemployment Insurance benefit changes, HWCLI hosted a virtual session in collaboration with TANGO, NFP, and First Nonprofit, titled "Preparing for Monumental Unemployment Increases".

The session provided insights into the financial impact on nonprofit employers and strategies to mitigate it, reinforcing HWCLI's role in supporting sector-wide financial sustainability.



DECEMBER 10TH, 2025

HWCLI hosted an end-of-year webinar, "Smart Strategies to Lower Your Nonprofit's Technology Spend," in collaboration with Naka Technologies and DDI Capital.

The session offered practical strategies for reducing technology costs, including optimizing contracts, leveraging multiyear discounts, and exploring flexible financing, supporting nonprofit sustainability as 2025 concluded.



HEALI ANNUAL NETWORK MEETING

NOVEMBER 19TH, 2025

On November 19th, HEALI hosted its Annual In-Person Meeting, bringing together over 300 colleagues from 100+ healthcare providers, CBOs, health systems, and MCOs to review Social Care Network progress and plan for sustainability beyond the 1115 Waiver. HWCLI and HEALI leadership opened with a call to action, followed by updates on network performance and strategies for future sustainability, including HEALI's upcoming pilot program. Panels highlighted the critical role of Community Health Workers in integrated care, and attendees engaged in table discussions to support pilot implementation.



ENDLESS SUMMER SOIREE

SEPTEMBER 9TH, 2025

In 2025, the Health & Welfare Council of Long Island (HWCLI) proudly hosted our premier annual gala, the Endless Summer Soirée on the Bay, at The Piermont on September 9th. Set against the Great South Bay, the evening brought together over 250 partners, advocates, nonprofit leaders, business executives, and public sector changemakers for a memorable celebration of impact, leadership, and community.



This year's distinguished honorees reflected decades of dedication, innovation, and service to Long Island. We proudly recognized Jack O'Connell, HWCLI President & CEO (1976-2007), with the Lifetime Achievement Award, honoring his visionary leadership and enduring legacy in strengthening Long Island's health and human services sector. Sammy Chu, CEO of Edgewise Energy, received the Trailblazer Award for his bold leadership and forward-thinking solutions that advance

sustainability and equity. Sun River Health was presented with the Health Care Champion Award for expanding access to quality, community-based healthcare across the region. NFP, an Aon company, was honored with the Corporate Champion Award in recognition of its outstanding corporate partnership and steadfast commitment to community wellbeing.



The evening served not only as a celebration but as a powerful reminder of what is possible when cross-sector leaders unite around a shared mission. Proceeds from the gala directly support HWCLI's ongoing work to advance equity, strengthen nonprofit capacity, coordinate regional responses, and build a more resilient Long Island.



ENDLESS SUMMER SOIREE HONOREES



LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

JACK O'CONNELL | HWCLI CEO (1976-2007)

TRAILBLAZER AWARD

SAMMY CHU | HWCLI BOARD MEMBER (2015-2025)
PRESIDENT AND CEO, EDGEWISE ENERGY

EDGEWISE ■ ENERGY
POWER UNDERSTOOD



CORPORATE CHAMPION AWARD

NFP, AN AON COMPANY



PAMELA WHEELER



ALLISON KAYLOR-FLINK



HEALTHCARE CHAMPION AWARD

SUN RIVER HEALTH



JAMES SINKOFF



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(Mr. Lucas Kole Detor & Ms. Elizabeth Schnepf Detor)

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- Hunger Solutions NY/NYS Office of Temporary Disability Assistance
- Long Island Community Foundation/
New York Community Trust
- Long Island Unitarian Universalist Fund
- M&T Bank
- Manhasset Community Fund – Greentree Foundation
- New York State Assemblymember Kwani O’Pharrow
- New York State Assemblymember Michaelle Solages
- New York State Assemblymember Phil Ramos
- New York State Department of Health
- New York State Health Foundation
- New York State Senator Monica Martinez
- New York State Senator Siela Bynoe
- Pritchard Charitable Trust
- Suffolk County Department of Social Services
- United Way of Long Island



Our work would not be possible without the support of our funders and donors.

To our generous supporters: thank you. Behind every service delivered, every policy advanced, and every life changed is a supporter who made it possible.

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- Supportive Housing Network of New York
- The Calone Family Charitable Fund
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- Unite Us
- Vanguard Foundation
- Welllife Network

2025 FINANCIALS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIALS POSITION

2024

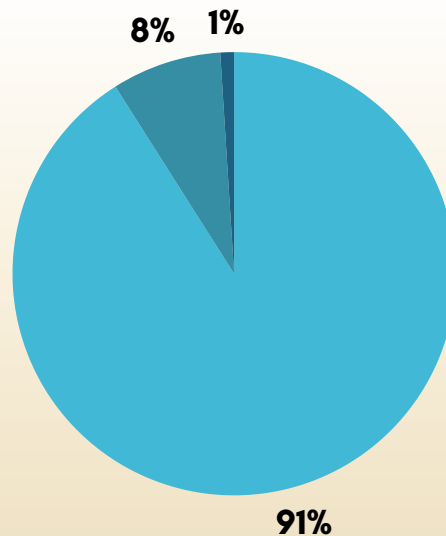
ASSETS	Current	4,494,099
	Non Current	1,066,188
	Total Assessts	5,560,287
LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	Liabilities- Current	465,700
	Current Portion of Operating Lease Payable	139,606
	Operating Lease Payable, Net of Current Portion	813,186
	Net Assets	4,141,795
	Total Liabilities & Net Assests	5,560,287

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITES

2024

SUPPORT & REVENUE	Total Support & Revenue	5,203,347
EXPENSES	Personnel & Fringe	2,472,321
	Non Personnel	2,684,601
	Total Expenses	5,156,922
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	Increase in Net Assets	46,425
	Net Assets- 1/1/24	1,411,147
	Net Assests- 12/31/24	1,457,572
FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES	Program Services	4,715,687
	Management & General	387,585
	Fundraising	53,650
	Total Expenses	5,156,922

● PROGRAM SERVICES	91%
● MANAGEMENT/GENERAL	8%
● FUNDRAISING	1%



ENDLESS SUMMER SOIREE 2026

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FOR

THE HEALTH AND WELFARE COUNCIL OF LONG ISLAND'S

Endless Summer Soiree



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The Health & Welfare Council of Long Island (HWCLI) is a regional, nonprofit umbrella organization for health and human service providers. We are dedicated to improving the lives of Long Island's most vulnerable residents by responding to their needs through the promotion and development of public policies and direct services.



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