



Judith Zangwill, MSW
Executive Director

September 13, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of Sunnyside Community Services (SCS), I am pleased to submit this letter of support for Queens Together to partner with the Department of Small Business Services.

SCS is a community-based nonprofit centered on the belief that every person deserves meaningful support to achieve their aspirations – especially struggling families and individuals. For more than 40 years, SCS has provided a range of services and programs to people of all ages. We serve more than 16,000 each year. When Covid-19 hit, we found ourselves pivoting in new ways to help many Queens residents deal with the pandemic's impact. Food access quickly rose as a top need as people lost jobs and seniors sheltered at home with senior centers closed.

SCS quickly opened two temporary food pantries, and to date, we have distributed 20,000 food packages. The food we gave out was made possible by donors and community partners like Queens Together. There were multiple occasions when we were not sure if our pantry would be able to continue. Every time we reached out to Jonathan Forgash and Queens Together, they were able to help by directing food boxes to our pantry and connecting us to transportation services to move food between sites. Queens Together also provided hot meals from local restaurants, which provided income and employment when these businesses were suffering. SCS and Queens Together partnered to hold a press conference at NYCHA's Woodside Houses to bring awareness to the food crisis. The event was attended by several television and print news outlets, elected officials, and many community members.

Queens Together has been a tremendous resource to SCS and the people of Queens. The organization distributed food, raised funds, helped local restaurants keep their doors open and their staff employed with their innovative model. We believe they would make an excellent partner for the Department of Small Business Services.

Sincerely,



Judy Zangwill
Executive Director