

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 6, 2016

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**HUMAN SERVICES COUNCIL AND MEASURE OF AMERICA AWARD GRANTS TO LOCAL
NONPROFITS USING DATA TO SOLVE CHALLENGES IN NEW YORK COMMUNITIES**

\$10,000 grants to 14 organizations will fund projects addressing barriers to well-being

NEW YORK (October 6, 2016)—The Human Services Council (HSC) and Measure of America today announced the winners of a grant competition for local organizations using data to solve challenges in New York communities.

HSC, a leading advocate for nonprofits providing human services in New York, will award \$10,000 grants to 14 nonprofit organizations in partnership with Measure of America with funding provided by The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust.

The winning organizations submitted projects that illuminate important issues in their community using indicators from DATA2GO.NYC, a free, online data mapping and visualization tool with 350 indicators of human need and well-being.

The projects will focus on topics including the stigma of mental illness in East New York, factors driving homelessness on Staten Island, the burden of high housing costs in the South Bronx, health disparities in Jamaica, Queens, and access to human services resources in Brownsville and the Lower East Side.

“We were overwhelmed with the quality of the submissions for this competition and we are proud to award these funds to such deserving organizations,” said Allison Sesso, Executive Director of the Human Services Council. “These grants will strengthen communities throughout New York by allowing nonprofits to leverage data in creative ways to address the needs of various populations.”

“We designed DATA2GO.NYC to meet the data needs of nonprofits and policy-makers working to improve the lives of New Yorkers,” said Kristen Lewis, co-director of Measure of America. “These projects showcase exciting ways to use this data for advocacy and social change.”

“DATA2GO.NYC is an incredibly rich resource for understanding the trends and connections of human needs in New York City,” said Tracy Perrizo, Program Officer of the Helmsley Charitable Trust’s New York City Regional Grants Program. “We are delighted to see the user-friendly DATA2GO.NYC tool empowering more people to utilize open data and influence some of the issues that are so critical to the well-being of New Yorkers.”

The grant recipients are:

- Brooklyn Community Services
- CAMBA
- Coalition for Asian American Children and Families
- Downtown Brooklyn Partnership
- Good Shepherd Services
- Grand Street Settlement
- Henry Street Settlement
- JASA
- MercyFirst
- Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty
- Public Health Solutions
- The Committee for Hispanic Children and Families
- Women's Housing and Economic Development Corporation
- YMCA of Greater New York

Each project will inform Measure of America’s forthcoming fall 2017 publication, “A Portrait of New York City,” which will feature data-based policy recommendations for addressing the most pressing human needs in the city.

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About HSC: *The Human Services Council of New York, a leading advocate for nonprofits providing human services, works to strengthen the ability of nonprofit agencies to maximize human potential in communities across New York. Nearly 200 nonprofit agencies throughout New York City and State are HSC members. Visit HSC at www.HumanServicesCouncil.org*

About Measure of America:

DATA2GO.NYC was created by Measure of America, a nonprofit, nonpartisan research and advocacy initiative of the Social Science Research Council. Our mission: to breathe life into numbers by providing easy-to-use yet methodologically sound tools for understanding well-being and opportunity in America.

About the Helmsley Charitable Trust: *The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust aspires to improve lives by supporting effective organizations in health, place-based initiatives, and education and human services. Since beginning its active grantmaking in 2008, Helmsley has committed more than \$1.5 billion for a wide range of charitable purposes. Helmsley's New York City Regional Grants Program seeks to identify and solve specific problems that hinder the region's ability to assist populations in need. For more information on Helmsley and its programs, visit www.helmsleytrust.org.*