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City Connects Partners with the Children’s Aid Society to Deliver Student Support in New York City

Implementation will be in a community school in the Morrisania neighborhood of the South Bronx

November 4, 2013—Chestnut Hill, MA—[City Connects](#) has partnered with [the Children’s Aid Society](#) of New York City to pilot the delivery of optimized student supports to the [C. S. 61 Francisco Oller elementary school](#), a community school in the Morrisania neighborhood of the South Bronx, beginning in January 2014.

This collaboration is made possible in part by a \$300,000 “[Collective Impact](#)” award given to the Children’s Aid Society and [Phipps Community Development Corporation](#) (Phipps CDC) by the [JPMorgan Chase Foundation](#). The award supports a cradle-through-college pipeline initiative in Morrisania, where 65 percent of children are born into poverty. The goal is to use multi-sector collaboration to establish a continuum of services that will ultimately lead to college graduation.

“We are pleased to be partnering with the Children’s Aid Society, an organization that has such deep experience serving the children and families of New York City,” says [Mary E. Walsh](#), Ph.D., Executive Director of City Connects and the Kearns Professor at [Boston College’s Lynch School of Education](#). “Research shows that factors outside of school like hunger, homelessness, or a lack of access to enrichment activities are responsible for two-thirds of the achievement gap, and these factors are especially persistent and challenging for students living in poverty. Our collaboration will allow us to address these factors and help Morrisania students come to school ready to learn and thrive.”

City Connects is a student support system that uses an evidence-based approach to collaborate with teachers and school staff in identifying the strengths and needs of every child. Each student is then connected to a tailored set of prevention, intervention, and enrichment services in the community or school. Students in City Connects schools experience significant improvement in academic achievement and thriving, including a decreased likelihood of dropping out of high school.

“For more than 20 years, Children’s Aid has brought a wide array of support services to public schools in New York City,” said The Children’s Aid Society President and CEO [Richard R. Buery, Jr.](#) “For a collective impact initiative to be effective, exactly the right supports must be brought to each student at the right time. With City Connects, we will be better able to assess, monitor, and connect children to the services they need. We are very pleased to pilot this adaptation in the Bronx and hope that it can be brought to scale across the city.”

Since 1992, The Children’s Aid Society has partnered closely with the NYC Department of Education to develop a network of community schools in New York City. As the lead partner in 16 schools in the city, Children’s Aid organizes the resources of the school and community in support of students and families. Community schools offer a comprehensive, integrated approach to education and healthy development that extends the hours, services, and relationships of traditional public schools.



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With this Collective Impact award, Children's Aid and Phipps CDC are partnering to leverage their resources and those from different sectors in the Bronx, including city government, the school district, the health department, universities and other education, youth development and advocacy groups. The initiative aims to mobilize any and all actors in the South Bronx with a stake in student success to help achieve large-scale social change through shared goals and accountability.

About [City Connects](#)

Developed at Boston College's Lynch School of Education in 2001, City Connects is an evidence-based system of student support active in 50 public and private schools that ensures that all children engage and learn in school by connecting each child with a tailored set of prevention, intervention, and enrichment services. By leveraging the resources of community agencies, City Connects works efficiently within the existing framework of schools and society to alleviate barriers to learning, especially those barriers posed by poverty. Read the City Connects blog at blog.CityConnects.org or follow City Connects on Twitter [@CityConnects](https://twitter.com/CityConnects).

About [The Children's Aid Society](#)

The Children's Aid Society is an independent, not-for-profit organization established to serve the children of New York City. Our mission is to help children in poverty to succeed and thrive. We do this by providing comprehensive supports to children and their families in targeted high-needs New York City neighborhoods. Founded in 1853, it is one of the nation's largest and most innovative non-sectarian agencies, serving New York's neediest children. Services are provided in community schools, neighborhood centers, health clinics and camps. For additional information, please call Anthony Ramos at (212) 949-4938/(917) 204-8214, email anthonyr@childrensaidsociety.org.

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