



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Project FIND Urges New York City to Give One-Shot Covid-19 Vaccine to Homeless Seniors**

The availability of a one-shot Covid-19 vaccine in New York City simplifies the task of inoculating homeless seniors, Project FIND believes. Instead of trying to schedule two inoculation appointments for seniors living on the street, homeless seniors can get complete protection from the virus in one appointment if they get the one-shot Johnson & Johnson vaccine. Project FIND is therefore urging the city to make this vaccine available to homeless seniors and is willing to help the city's efforts to get these seniors vaccinated.

"As an organization dedicated to providing meals and social services to homeless seniors, we regularly see how difficult it is to schedule help for the homeless," said Mark Jennings, Associate Executive Director of Project FIND. "Anything that simplifies this task should be widely embraced."

Project FIND should know. Project FIND's Woodstock affordable senior residence on West 43<sup>rd</sup> Street has been providing showers, clean clothes, and counseling for homeless seniors for several years. In addition, during the pandemic, Project FIND's Coffeehouse Senior Center on West 42<sup>nd</sup> Street has been providing free grab-and-go meals to homeless seniors in the Times Square area five days a week.

Mr. Jennings emphasized the organization's Woodstock residence has meeting space that is not currently being used that can be easily converted to a vaccine center. In addition, the residence's on-site doctor can help handle vaccinations and its social-services staff can spread the word out on the street.

"The homeless seem to have an effective word-of-mouth network," Project FIND's Associate Executive Director said. "Not everyone is going to want to be vaccinated, but we will use whatever credibility we have with each of them to persuade them to be vaccinated.

"That will help speed the day when this pandemic is finally over," he added.

**For more information**, please contact Kathleen Fitzgibbons at [kfitzgibbons@projectfind.org](mailto:kfitzgibbons@projectfind.org) or 1-973-452-7441.

**About Project FIND:** Established in 1967, Project FIND provides low- and moderate-income and homeless seniors on Manhattan's West Side with the services and support they need to enrich their lives and live independently. Today, Project FIND operates three supportive housing residences that are home to about 600 people and plans to eventually reopen its four senior centers that had over 3,000 members before the pandemic.