

# Sexual and Reproductive Justice (SRJ)



## Community Engagement Group (CEG)

### WHO WE ARE

The SRJ CEG is made up of community members, advocates, and nonprofits working in partnership with the NYC Health Department to create respectful, culturally grounded SRJ campaigns that are an authentic means of promoting sexual and reproductive health and justice in NYC. The SRJ CEG meets monthly to plan and implement activities so that all New Yorkers can safely express their sexuality and gender identity with dignity, and have the knowledge, skills and resources to lead healthy and fulfilling lives. For more information, search “SRJ” at [nyc.gov](http://nyc.gov).

### WHY WE EXIST

NYC Health Department allocated 5 years of funding to a sexual and reproductive health initiative that was refocused in response to community feedback to engage centered communities (those identified as being most marginalized in NYC). In July 2015, the NYC Health Department convened the SRJ CEG as a conduit for ongoing community engagement for this initiative.

### SRJ FRAMEWORK

Sexual and reproductive justice exists when all people have the power and resources to make healthy decisions about their bodies, sexuality and reproduction. That means every person has the right to:

- *Choose to have or not have children.*
- *Choose the conditions under which to give birth or create a family.*
- *Care for their children with the necessary social support in a safe and healthy environment.*
- *Control their own body and self-expression, free from any form of sexual or reproductive oppression.*

The term "reproductive justice" was coined by a caucus of black women in 1994. From this caucus, a framework and SisterSong, a collective led by indigenous women and women of color, emerged.

# ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The SRJ CEG, through a collaborative leadership engagement model has launched thought-provoking campaigns, leveraged resources, and built sexual and reproductive justice capacity within marginalized communities. Here are a few of the milestone projects created through this collaboration:

- SRJ Video & Discussion Guide
- Birth Justice Defender & Provider Groups
- Storytelling Training
- Grand Rounds Sessions at Maternity Hospitals
- NYC Standards for Respectful Care at Birth
- Birth Justice Defender Hubs (Brooklyn, pending establishment in other boroughs)

# FUTURE OF CEG

After completing a 5-year pilot, SRJ CEG looks forward to strengthening its membership structure. This will allow targeted involvement of centered communities; increasing community awareness and presence in centered communities; and ongoing development of the community engagement model by continuing to support institutional transformation within NYC Health Department and other government agencies.

# FUNDING PRIORITIES

In the next five years, SRJ CEG is seeking support to:

- Build fiscal capacity to support the administrative responsibilities of SRJ CEG community members who dedicate their time and energy to the community engagement process with the NYC Health Department;
- Educate providers – clinical and social service – on the SRJ framework and best practices; and
- Educate the broader community of leaders, including philanthropy, government, and nonprofit leaders on the importance of using the SRJ framework in program and policy development and grant making.

**For more information, search “SRJ” at [nyc.gov](http://nyc.gov).**

