



END-OF-YEAR REPORT

Making a Difference for NY - 12

CONGRESSWOMAN NYDIA VELÁZQUEZ



CONGRESSWOMAN NYDIA VELÁZQUEZ

Making a Difference for New York's 12th District

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Congress of the United States
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Washington, D.C. 20515

Official Business

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(Union Bug)

M.C.
PRESOR T STD


Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Dear Neighbors,

As you know, Democrats had an ambitious agenda for this Congress and already it has been extremely productive. At a time when our country is faced with many challenges, progress was made for New Yorkers.

Through our work, we are expanding access to education, responding to the global warming crisis and keeping New York's children safe. The American dream, which has been out of reach for so many working families, is finally being restored through increased career opportunities, better wages and a chance at prosperity for everyone, not just the privileged few. This past year's accomplishments will provide real and lasting results.

However, there is no doubt we still have work to do. Our service men and women must be out of harm's way and return home immediately from the war in Iraq. There needs to be relief from the rising health care costs and help for those struggling with high credit card debt. Moving forward, New Yorkers need increased economic certainty. As Chair of the Small Business Committee, I am determined to making sure entrepreneurs keep fueling our local economy. Your priorities are my priorities, and in 2008 I will continue to fight for what matters most to the people of Brooklyn, Queens and the Lower East Side.

I am honored to be your voice in the United States Congress. Working together we can achieve our goals and make a better New York.

Sincerely,
Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



Congresswoman Velázquez speaks at the inauguration of the Floating Pool at the Brooklyn Bridge Park Conservancy

CONGRESSWOMAN NYDIA VELÁZQUEZ

Making a Difference for New York's 12th District

A New Direction for America; A New Direction for NY

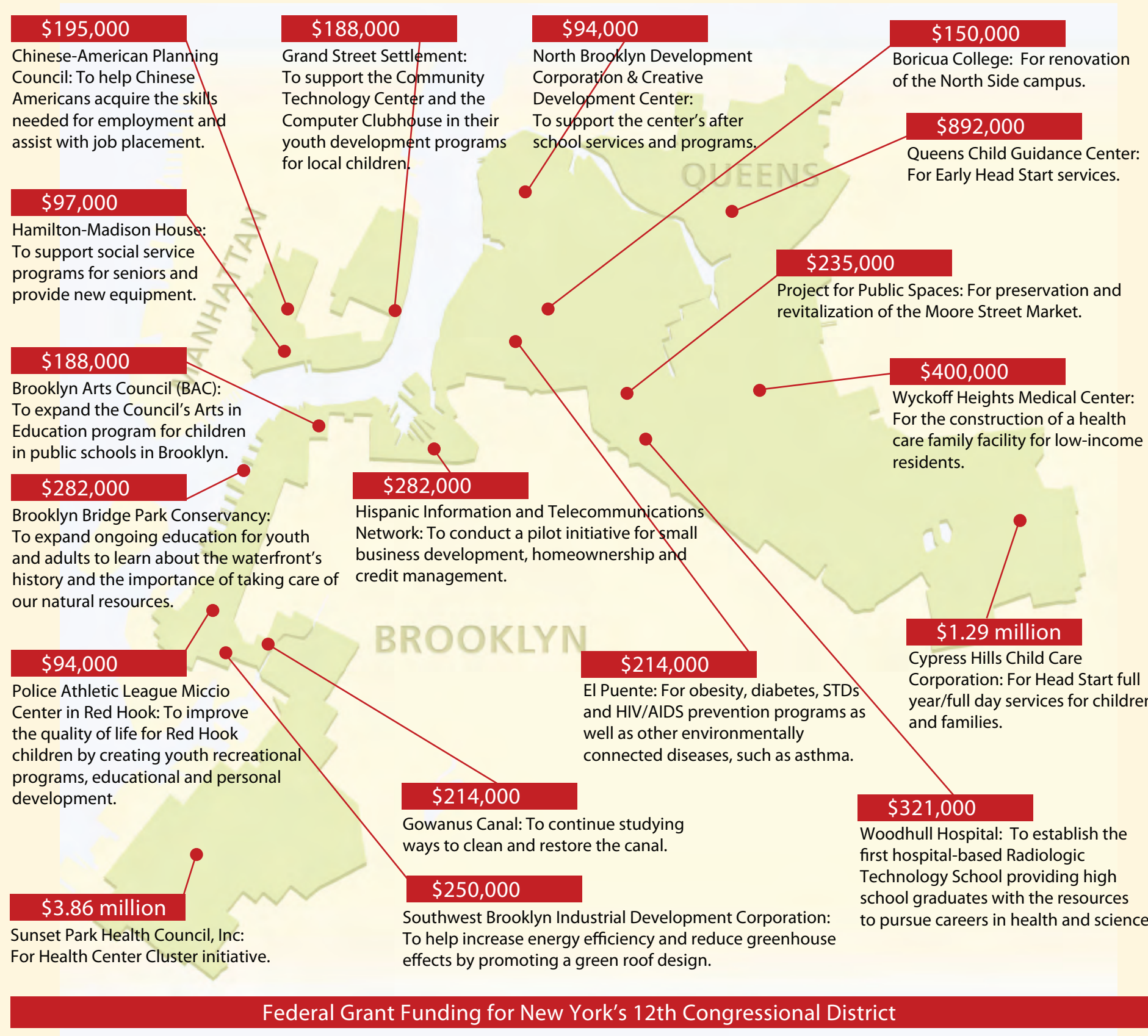
Congresswoman Nydia Velázquez made a difference for New Yorkers on the toughest challenges we face.

- Raising the minimum wage for the first time in 10 years, bringing a pay increase to over 274,000 New York City residents.
- Successfully worked to help pass the largest investment in college financial assistance in over 60 years that will make college more affordable by cutting student loan interest rates in half.
- Strengthening Head Start by supporting legislation to improve classroom and teacher quality, increasing the ability of children from working families to begin kindergarten ready to succeed.
- Through the work of Rep. Velázquez and her colleagues, New York's veterans are receiving increased health benefits, including greater mental health services.

Fighting for New Yorkers

Congresswoman Velázquez continues to stand up against the President when he is wrong for New York.

- Fighting to ensure the over 400,000 children in New York from low-income working families and the 10 million nationwide have quality health coverage.
- Insisting the Administration provide New York's 2.5 million seniors with affordable prescription medication.
- Demanding our troops return home safely and soon by establishing a clear timeline for their immediate withdrawal from Iraq.



Federal Grant Funding for New York's 12th Congressional District

Making Housing More Affordable

A top priority for Congresswoman Velázquez is making sure New Yorkers are able to find and access housing at an affordable price.

- Working to stop dishonest lending practices that are threatening many New Yorkers dream of homeownership.
- Increasing the number of low income families that receive affordable housing assistance.
- Spearheading the largest affordable housing expansion in decades resulting in over 1.5 million additional homes in the next ten years.
- Fostering a partnership with all levels of government to ensure quality and accessible public housing for New Yorkers.

Providing Results for New York Small Businesses

Under Chairwoman Velázquez's leadership, New York small firms had more of their concerns addressed this year than any other in the history of the Small Business Committee.

- Passed historic legislation enhancing small business energy efficiency and tools for New York's entrepreneurs to develop energy efficient technologies.
- Increasing access to capital by working to make small business loans accessible and affordable, specifically for minorities, veterans and women.
- Expanding contracting opportunities for New York small firms by securing the passage of legislation enabling them to fully participate in the \$400 billion dollar federal marketplace.

Visit my website at www.house.gov/velazquez