

Community Engagement & Grassroots Outreach Initiative

Startup and Capacity-Building Phase (2026)

Program Overview:

The Community Engagement & Grassroots Outreach Initiative represents the foundational launch phase of The Lantern Vanguard, designed to establish the organization's presence, build community trust, and create the relationships, systems, and infrastructure necessary to support long-term impact throughout New York City and surrounding communities.

Before large-scale programs can transform lives, meaningful relationships must be built where people live, work, and gather. This initiative places The Lantern Vanguard directly in the community through intentional, boots-on-the-ground engagement focused on listening, connecting, organizing, and building a network of individuals and institutions committed to expanding opportunity, advancing equity, and supporting individuals affected by systemic barriers.

The initiative serves as the organization's first major community mobilization effort, creating the foundation for future programs such as the Reentry & Digital Equity Empowerment Initiative. Through direct engagement with residents, community leaders, service providers, educational institutions, employers, and civic organizations, The Lantern Vanguard will identify critical needs, develop strategic partnerships, and establish itself as a trusted resource for communities seeking pathways to empowerment and advancement.

Purpose:

The purpose of the Community Engagement & Grassroots Outreach Initiative is to build the organizational foundation required for sustainable community impact by increasing public awareness, developing strategic alliances, identifying community priorities, and creating a comprehensive framework for future service delivery.

The initiative will:

- Establish The Lantern Vanguard as a recognizable and trusted community organization.
- Engage directly with residents and community stakeholders to understand challenges, opportunities, and resource gaps.

- Develop a citywide network of partners committed to supporting justice-impacted individuals, underserved populations, and communities facing barriers to opportunity.
- Create the operational infrastructure necessary to successfully launch and expand future programs.
- Build a pipeline of participants, volunteers, advocates, mentors, donors, and community supporters.

Core Activities:

Community Listening & Needs Assessment –

The Lantern Vanguard will conduct direct community engagement activities designed to understand the experiences, challenges, and priorities of residents. Through listening sessions, surveys, focus groups, and community conversations, the organization will gather meaningful data to guide program development and ensure services are aligned with actual community needs.

Neighborhood Outreach & Community Presence –

The initiative will establish a visible presence throughout New York City through grassroots outreach, informational events, community partnerships, and public engagement activities. The organization will meet people where they are by participating in community gatherings, educational forums, neighborhood events, and collaborative initiatives.

Strategic Partnership Development –

The Lantern Vanguard will build relationships with organizations that share a commitment to community empowerment, including:

- Community-based organizations.
- Faith-based institutions.
- Educational institutions.
- Workforce development organizations.
- Reentry service providers.
- Technology organizations.
- Social service agencies.

- Civic and philanthropic partners.

These partnerships will create a coordinated network of resources and opportunities for individuals seeking support.

Volunteer, Mentor & Community Ambassador Recruitment –

The initiative will establish a foundation of community involvement by recruiting individuals who believe in the mission of The Lantern Vanguard. Volunteers, mentors, and community ambassadors will help expand outreach efforts, provide guidance to participants, and strengthen connections throughout the communities served.

Community Resource Network Development –

The organization will develop referral pathways connecting individuals to critical resources, including employment opportunities, education and training programs, technology access, legal support services, housing resources, financial education, and other supportive services.

Public Awareness & Digital Engagement –

The initiative will develop the organization's public identity through strategic communications, educational materials, digital outreach campaigns, community storytelling, and online engagement designed to increase awareness of The Lantern Vanguard's mission and programs.

Organizational Infrastructure Development –

During this foundational year, The Lantern Vanguard will establish the systems required for future growth, including:

- Participant intake procedures.
- Program evaluation frameworks.
- Data collection systems.
- Volunteer management processes.
- Partnership tracking systems.
- Grant development strategies.
- Donor engagement initiatives.
- Financial compliance and reporting protocols.
- Community outreach and advocacy frameworks.
- Risk management and governance policies.
- Board formation and advisory structure.

2026 Strategic Outcome:

By the conclusion of 2026, The Lantern Vanguard will have established the foundation necessary for large-scale program implementation beginning in 2027. The initiative will create a connected network of residents, organizations, supporters, and community partners positioned to advance the organization's mission throughout New York City and beyond.

The Community Engagement & Grassroots Outreach Initiative is the first step in building a lasting movement centered on empowerment, opportunity, digital inclusion, and successful pathways forward for communities that have historically faced barriers to advancement.

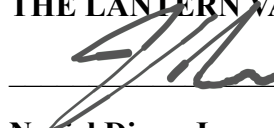
Certification of Approval

The Community Engagement & Grassroots Outreach Initiative represents an official program of The Lantern Vanguard, Inc. and has been developed as part of the organization's strategic commitment to community empowerment, equitable access to opportunity, and long-term social impact.

This program framework is hereby approved and authorized for implementation as a foundational initiative supporting the organization's growth, community engagement efforts, and future program expansion.

Approved and adopted as of this 5 day of August, 2026.

THE LANTERN VANGUARD, INC.



Nurriel Dizyn Jamar-Mamon X
Chairman, President & Executive Director

Date: 08/05/2026

Acknowledged by:

Board of Directors

The Lantern Vanguard, Inc.

Date: 08/05/2026

