



**POWER 100**

## **The 2021 Nonprofit Power 100**

*Recognizing the nonprofit leaders who are serving the most vulnerable New Yorkers.*

In a year filled with unprecedented need, nonprofits have stepped up to ensure continued support for vulnerable New Yorkers. Organizations transitioned programs online and continued to maintain food pantries, domestic violence shelters and residential facilities for those struggling the most during the COVID-19 pandemic. And they met that surging demand for cash assistance, food and other support despite an immense strain on their budgets from canceled fundraisers, declining government funding and limited philanthropic support. The 2021 Nonprofit Power 100 acknowledges the influence of major nonprofits across New York, providing essential social services and advocating on behalf of the sector and the communities it serves. (The list does not include philanthropic institutions and arts organizations.) City & State is proud to present this year's list of movers and shakers within the nonprofit community.

### **1. Sheena Wright** **President and CEO, United Way of New York City**



Sheena Wright – who took the reins at United Way of New York City right as Hurricane Sandy hit New York City – has led the organization's efforts to boost funding for local community organizations providing food, remote learning support for students, and other relief throughout the pandemic. Wright is also heading efforts to promote COVID-19 testing and vaccine awareness alongside prominent Black clergy members in New York City and beyond.

## 2. Donna Lieberman Executive Director, New York Civil Liberties Union



*New York Civil Liberties Union*

Donna Lieberman will celebrate her 20th anniversary of leading the New York Civil Liberties Union this year. The latest accomplishment for Lieberman and the NYCLU: playing a major role in police reform efforts following protests against systemic racism and police brutality this past year. The organization published a database of newly released misconduct complaints against New York City Police Department officers and filed lawsuits on behalf of Black Lives Matter protesters who said they were mistreated.

## 3. Jennifer Jones Austin CEO and Executive Director, FPWA



*Jennifer Jones Austin ( Delphine Diallo )*

Fighting poverty in New York is a priority for FPWA, which represents more than 170 human services and faith-based organizations. Jennifer Jones Austin leads its advocacy efforts by pushing for better funding for human services and advancing policies such as a universal basic income and expanded early childhood education with the goal of supporting communities of color. Jones Austin is also advising New York City on its efforts to reform its police department.

## 4. Lisa David President and CEO, Public Health Solutions



*Lisa David ( Anita Kanoje/Public Health Solutions )*

Lisa David and Public Health Solutions played a major role in supporting the NYC COVID-19 Rapid Response Coalition, made up of members of the private and nonprofit sector committed to helping New York City throughout the pandemic by providing emergency meals, access to personal protective equipment, testing and outreach to New Yorkers. Among her responsibilities during the pandemic, David has spearheaded efforts for grant support for more than 200 community-based organizations. With David at the helm, PHS also provides health services to vulnerable families and grant support for more than 200 community-based organizations.

## 5. Christine Quinn President and CEO, Win



Christine Quinn

Former New York City Council Speaker Christine Quinn is in her sixth year of leading Win, one of New York City's largest shelter and supportive housing providers. Throughout the pandemic, Quinn has pushed the city to rectify its remote learning failures in city shelters, where homeless students often lack access to Wi-Fi for online classes. That's on top of the organization's other efforts to get the city to provide more rental assistance and build more affordable housing.

## 6. James Sheehan Charities Bureau Chief, State Attorney General's Office

As head of the New York State Attorney General's Charities Bureau, James Sheehan has helped spearhead major litigation against nonprofits. He has played a key role in New York's recent high-profile efforts to dissolve the National Rifle Association because of alleged financial mismanagement. Previously, his involvement was key in the landmark case against the Trump Foundation, which dissolved as a result of the office's investigation..

## 7. Janet Sabel Attorney-in-Chief and CEO, The Legal Aid Society



Janet Sabel ( Spencer Lee Gallop )

Janet Sabel, who has been with The Legal Aid Society for more than 25 years, has led its response to the COVID-19 pandemic by pushing for New York to open up vaccine distribution to prisoners, filing a lawsuit against New York City to ensure Wi-Fi access for homeless students in shelters, and advocating for eviction protections. She previously served as chief deputy attorney general in the state Attorney General's Office.

## 8. Steven Banks Commissioner, New York City Department of Social Services



New York City Department of Social Services Commissioner Steven Banks ( NYC HRA )

Steven Banks spent 33 years at The Legal Aid Society – where he led a landmark lawsuit that forced New York City to guarantee shelter for all homeless families – before moving over to the public sector. He now oversees the city’s approach to housing homeless New Yorkers and other public assistance programs for people in need, although the city has struggled to stem rising homelessness during his tenure.

## 9. Jeremy Kohomban President and CEO, The Children's Village



Jeremy Kohomban ( The Children's Village )

Jeremy Kohomban leads two child welfare organizations founded in the 19th century: The Children’s Village and Harlem Dowling. Together, the two nonprofits serve 15,000 children and families each year. Kohomban has been an advocate for reforming the child welfare system by reducing reliance on residential facilities for foster youth and prioritizing more placements with family or foster parents.

## 10. Sheila Poole Commissioner, New York State Office of Children and Family Services

Sheila Poole leads the state’s Office of Children and Family Services, which manages initiatives on child care, juvenile justice and child welfare. Before joining the agency in 2007, she served as commissioner of the Albany County Department for Children, Youth, and Families. During Poole’s tenure, she’s been integral to the implementation of the state’s Raise the Age law and is now supporting the state’s compliance with the federal Family First Prevention Services Act.

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