

Social services just a click away on the Web

It's like Google for social workers and their clients.

A new program being tested in Manhattan and Brooklyn by the Greater New York Hospital Foundation lets users detail their needs with variables like location, language and condition.

A Spanish speaker in Bushwick suffering from domestic abuse could do a search and come up with a list of services available in her area.

A social worker assisting homeless veterans in Washington Heights could provide them with a list of area shelters.

"It's not sexy, but it's

very helpful," said Tine Lee, a hospital foundation spokeswoman.

The service, called Health Information Tool for Empowerment or HITE, is sponsored through grants and money from health insurance and pharmaceutical companies.

Organizers say it could become invaluable for those without health insurance, people who need free legal services, and immigrants and others in need of affordable housing.

The service is available at hitesite.org

(Justin Rocket Silverman/am-NewYork)