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Columbia's \$76M for Harlem unsnarled

By ISABEL VINCENT and MELISSA KLEIN

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The troubled West Harlem nonprofit in charge of a \$76 million community windfall can finally start writing checks after a lengthy probe.

The West Harlem Local Development Corp. will dole out \$2 million worth of grants soon, director Kofi Boateng told The Post.

Columbia University agreed in 2009 to establish a \$76 million fund to ease the strain of its \$6.3 billion expansion into the area.

The funding was jeopardized by mismanagement. Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer in 2010 charged that the organization had failed to establish guidelines for distributing the cash and ensuring accountability. Several board members resigned over concerns that the nonprofit was becoming a "slush fund" for Manhattan politicians, who have representatives on its board.

The nonprofit and its directors were cleared of theft and misappropriation accusations.