



Major Endorsements For Affordable Housing!



It has been almost two years since the House Our Future NY (HOFNY) campaign launched. A campaign led by advocates, service providers, elected officials and people with the lived experience of homelessness asking Mayor De Blasio to increase the number of truly affordable housing units purposefully built to move people out of shelters. Currently, the administration has benchmarked 5% of the Housing New York 2.0 plan be set aside for people experiencing homelessness, which is only 15,000 units, most of which will be preservation units. HOFNY is asking that the woefully inadequate number be raised to 10% of the total plan, or 30,000 units, with a heavy emphasis on new construction units (24,000 total). In the two years we have held marches, town halls, overnight vigils, press conferences, advocacy days and numerous conversations with elected officials to garner

support for a policy that would make a significant impact in reducing the number of people experiencing homelessness in NYC.

To build on these efforts, one year ago, Bronx Councilmember Rafael Salamanca proposed a bill, Intro 1211, that would mandate all development projects that receive city subsidies to set aside 15% of their units for our homeless neighbors. In January of this year, Councilmember Salamanca received support from 34 councilmembers giving the bill a veto proof majority. And last week, at a press conference at City Hall, Speaker Corey Johnson endorsed the bill, along with Comptroller Scott Stringer and Public Advocate Jumaane Williams. All resounding endorsements for legislation that would put us well on the path towards constructing 24,000 new affordable housing units for homeless New Yorkers. The administration has pushed back against this legislation, but Salamanca has proven that it works. In his district he has been able to get developers to set aside 121 units of affordable housing in eight projects. A number that puts us well on the path to achieving the HONFY goal.

As Comptroller Stringer said, "the only way to solve this crisis is for the administration to finally recognize that you cannot manage the homelessness crisis, you've gotta fix the homelessness crisis." We know that bad policies created homelessness, thus better policies can end it. As advocates, we must push elected officials to believe that with the right policies, directed at the right interventions, we can end homelessness. De Blasio has often said that he is "comfortable" with his current affordable housing plan. "Comfortable" with over 60,000 individuals living in shelters and thousands more living on the streets and doubled up. Instead what he should be "comfortable" with is taking a decisive approach to realizing that truly affordable housing is a key component to ending homelessness. As a City we must commit to increasing the standard of living for the thousands of homeless adults and children living in our shelters and on our streets.

If you want to ask the Mayor to support this campaign, you can send him a letter at, City Hall, New York, NY 10007 or submit a letter online [here](#). If you want to join the House Our Future Campaign, follow [this link](#) and sign up for up to date information as we continue our fight end homelessness!

Domestic Violence and Homelessness

Domestic violence has long been recognized as a leading cause of housing instability for families in the United States. Last month, during domestic violence awareness month, NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer issued an in-depth [report](#) looking at the rise in domestic violence (DV) incidents and subsequent housing insecurity in New York City. The report looks at data from 2014 to 2018 that shows an upward trend of DV as the leading cause of homelessness for families residing in the Department of Homeless Services (DHS) shelters. Notably, the report offers several policy recommendations aimed at strengthening protections for

Domestic violence and homelessness cont'd ...

survivors in order to increase housing stability and prevent homelessness.

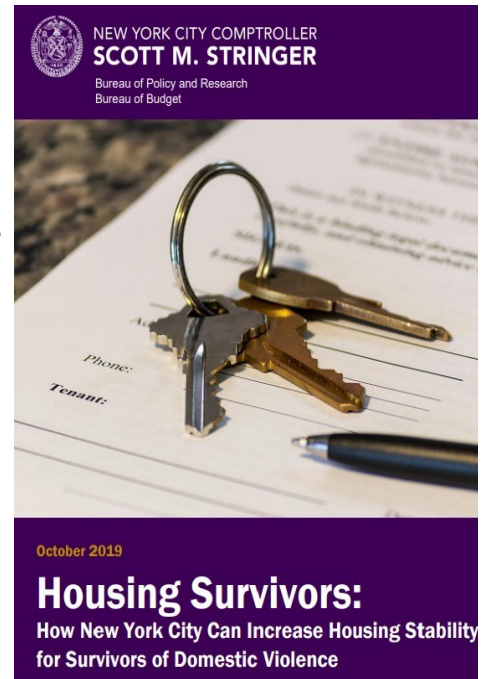
According to the report, in fiscal year (FY) 2018, DV accounted for 41% of families entering the DHS shelters, up from 30% in FY 2014 (this number does not include the separate 2,514 DV shelter beds run by the Human Resources Administration (HRA)). In this same period the number of families entering shelters annually due to DV rose by 44%. The demographics are overwhelmingly young women of color, often with children, who have limited income and education and, as a result, find it difficult to support a family and retain housing. Also, the neighborhoods of origin accounting for the most DHS shelter entries due to DV are from the Bronx and Brooklyn, 38% and 30% respectively.

New York City has robust services and protections for survivors of DV. But, as the numbers show, the current protections are not enough to address the growing need. Furthermore, a lack of safe alternative housing is a barrier and consequence of leaving an abusive situation and is made even worse with the scarce availability of affordable housing in NYC.

The report offers recommendations intended to build on current programs and strengthen protections for survivors of DV to ultimately help prevent homelessness. Some of the recommendations are the following:

- Increasing financial assistance offered to survivors to access stable housing, including supportive housing placements. This includes creating a "Survivor Housing Stability Fund", targeted at survivors who may not have immediate access to financial resources.
- Increasing the capacity of the HRA DV shelter system in order to ensure that those who need confidential emergency shelter in service rich facilities can access it. Also, extending the time limit of 180 days in DV shelters in order to prevent families from having to move into the DHS shelter system, or into unsubsidized housing.
- Strengthening legal protections for survivors, including an early lease termination policy which currently applies only to survivors who have obtained an order of protection. The current legal requirements are onerous and unnecessarily complex and often beyond the abilities of those who must struggle to comply.
- Expanding the Family Justice Center model to target communities with the highest level of DV survivors entering and DHS and HRA shelter facilities. Also, expanding the right to counsel to capture the zip codes of origin for the families entering the shelter system in order to help prevent homelessness.

The report offers a well-developed and lucid examination of the problems and the numerous barriers currently facing survivors of DV. It offers a series of logical and important modifications and changes to current law that would be of great value and importance to DV survivors. Modifications that would lead to significant reductions in the population of DV survivors experiencing homelessness.



Source: Comptroller.nyc.gov

Remembering Our Neighbors We Lost in 2019

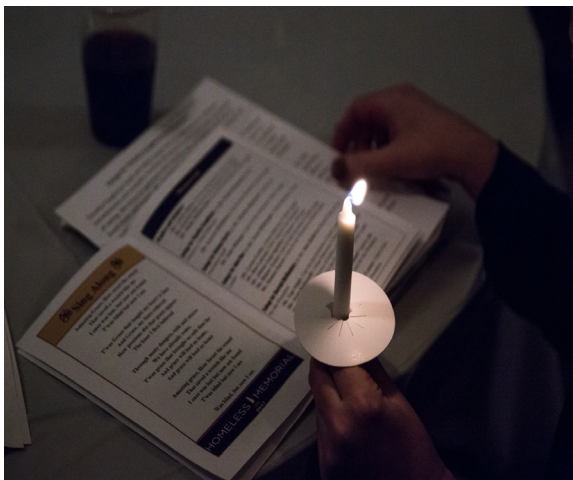


Photo Credit: Sharlene Morris

Care For the Homeless (CFH) and Urban Pathways (UP) will be holding our annual Homeless Persons' Memorial Day (HPMD) observance, a nationwide solemn day of remembrance and mourning for our neighbors who passed away in New York City in 2019 without stable housing. The observance will be on Thursday, December 18th at Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church, 7 West 55th Street in Manhattan. The Memorial will start with a meal at 4:30 p.m., followed by the program at 5:30 p.m. It is free and open to the public.

Our Homeless Persons' Memorial Day remembers and honors those who have paid the ultimate price for our collective failure to adequately address homelessness. Since 1990, HPMD commemorations have been observed in at least 180 cities in the United States to raise awareness of the profound health impact that homelessness has on people living without a stable place to call home. For some of those individuals, their passing might not be acknowledged, were it not for HPMD.

For more information please contact at: policy@cfhnyc.org or at www.careforthehomeless.org

30 E. 33rd Street Fifth Floor New York, NY 10016 (212)-366-4459

Remembering our neighbors we lost in 2019 cont`d ...

Service providers, elected officials and people with the lived experience of homelessness will participate in this very touching program. We will read the names of those who have passed, light a candle in their honor, play music and read eulogies. Anyone who would like to add a name to the list can email policy@cfhnyc.org. We will also feature a "Wall of Remembrance," where participants can honor those they lost in 2019. There will also be an "Advocacy Center," where attendees can learn about policies that address the systemic failures that cause homelessness and what we can do to fix them. Please [RSVP here](#) to join us as we remember those that we lost in 2019.

Take Action: Unity for Community Health Day



At the end of the federal fiscal year, Congress voted to continue funding for important federal programs at fiscal 2019 levels until November 21st, which includes the Community Health Center Fund (CHCF). We are now nearing the November 21st deadline and funding for Community Health Centers (CHCs) is once again threatened, jeopardizing the operation of federally funded CHCs, like Care For the Homeless. CHCs provide services to 28 million vulnerable patients nationally at 11,000 delivery sites across the country, including the 8,000 unstably housed people Care For the Homeless serves at our health centers in four of the 5 boroughs of New York City.

Negotiations are ongoing and leaders in Washington D.C. are already discussing the possibility of passing another short-term

spending package to fund the government through the beginning of next year in order to avoid a government shutdown. It is too soon to know what this will mean for our efforts to push for robust long-term funding for the Community Health Center Fund, National Health Service Corps, and Teaching Health Centers Program before the November 21st deadline. But, to continue advocating for the important services that CHCs provide in vulnerable communities, CHCs will be participating in a "Unity for Community Health Day" on November 12th, by visiting our Congressional members' local offices and asking for long term funding for CHCs.

You can also all your Congressional representative to advocate for long term funding for CHCs! You can contact your Representatives by calling the Switchboard at (202) 224-3121 or emailing them through the Health Center Advocacy Network found [here](#).

The Busy Advocate's November Calendar

Tue., Nov. 12th – Unity for Community Health Day, a national movement where we visit congressional district and state offices on November 12 to ensure Congress understands why community health centers, like CFH, are so important.

Thur., Nov. 14th, 1:30 p.m., NY City Council Stated Meeting, City Hall Council Chambers, New York, NY, 10007.

Fri., Nov. 15th, 8:15 a.m., City Law Breakfast with NYCHA Federal Monitor, 185 West Broadway, Second Floor, New York, NY 10013. You can [RSVP here](#).

Nov. 16th – 24th, Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week, observed annually to address the problems of hunger and homelessness.

Wed., Nov. 20th, 8:30 - 12:30 p.m., Homeless Service United Symposium, a panel discussion on improving effectiveness of housing subsidies and increasing affordable housing for homeless New Yorkers, 320 Park Avenue, 35th floor, New York, NY, 10022. You can [RSVP here](#).

Tue., Nov. 26th, 1:30 p.m., NY City Council Stated Meeting, City Hall Council Chambers, New York, NY, 10007.

Wed., Nov. 27th, 12:30 - 2:00 p.m., CFH Consumer Advisory Board Meeting, CFH Conference Room, 5th Floor, 30 East 33rd Street, New York, NY.

Thur., Nov. 28th, Thanksgiving.

Sun., Dec. 1st, World AIDS Day.