



POLICY and ADVOCACY AGENDA TO END HOMELESSNESS

Care For the Homeless supports health care, human services and housing for all people experiencing homelessness. We advocate for policies to ameliorate, prevent and end homelessness, including:

- **Better Comprehensive Medical and Mental Health Care:** Homelessness is a health crisis that shortens lives, aggravates medical and mental health conditions, and causes preventable disabilities and deaths. Even with expanded access, many New Yorkers experiencing homelessness do not get adequate or appropriate medical and/or mental health care, or other supportive services. Meeting the health care needs of people experiencing homelessness is a specialty and access to such adequately funded services by every homeless or at-risk of homelessness New Yorker is a necessity, a basic human right and a prerequisite for effectively preventing and ending homelessness. We strive to make the health system responsive to the needs of people experiencing homelessness.
- **Stable Housing:** We support efforts to effectively prevent homelessness and provide housing, or a means to obtain and maintain stable housing, for all homeless people. This includes Housing First strategies, supportive housing for those who need it, an effective rent subsidy program for people experiencing homelessness, public housing priorities for unstably housed people and a robust aftercare and support program for people transitioning from homelessness to housing. We support affordable housing for *all*, but recognize the special needs of extremely low-income New Yorkers and people living in deep poverty.
- **Equity and Social Justice:** We support efforts to challenge the roots of oppression and injustice that have created inequitable opportunities and outcomes for marginalized communities. We understand that the systemic causes of homelessness, such as poverty and structural racism, are too often perpetuated and upheld by poor public policies and narrow social opinion. We recognize that the significant health disparities associated with homelessness are part of a much larger pattern of injustice in the United States. We strongly oppose the criminalization of poverty and the stigmatization of homelessness. We support the rights and franchise of people with the lived experience of homelessness and strive to engage those directly affected by homelessness in efforts to improve public policies impacting their daily lives.

For more info, please contact us at: policy@cfhnyc.org or www.careforthehomeless.org