

SUPPORTIVE HOUSING NETWORK OF NEW YORK 2023-2024 POLICY AND BUDGET PRIORITIES



1. REALLOCATE THE NYC 15/15 INITIATIVE to accelerate production and preserve older housing stock. NYC 15/15, the City’s 15yr plan to develop 15k units of supportive housing, is currently in its seventh year. However, the initiative is in danger of not meeting its target due to problems with the scattered site model. (Only 17% of the 7,500 scattered site units are awarded, nearly halfway through the program). We recommend immediately shifting a portion of unawarded units into four “buckets”: congregate, traditional scattered site with higher rates, preservation, and non-traditional scattered site (units in City-funded developments with homeless set-asides).

2. ENHANCE SERVICES IN SUPPORTIVE HOUSING by expanding the Intensive Mobile Treatment teams specifically for residents in supportive housing with behavioral and physical health needs. Some supportive housing providers are not funded to provide on-site clinical care, and community-based resources are scarce. We recommend the City immediately expand IMT and target teams toward current and future supportive housing residents.

3. STREAMLINE DEVELOPMENT of supportive housing by ensuring all agencies identify appropriate under/unutilized sites, tighten review timelines, coordinate approvals centrally, and modify the zoning resolution, all with an eye toward creating as much affordable and supportive housing as quickly as possible. The City must prioritize these new developments to mission driven nonprofit providers.

4. #JUSTPAY the human services sector by supporting and funding a 6.5% cost of living adjustment (COLA) across all human services contracts. Most workers in the human services sector are women of color, and deserve fair wages on par with the private sector. The City should immediately fund at least a 6.5% COLA across all human service, increasing wages for essential workers.

5. CORRECT CRISIS INTERVENTION by removing police officers as first responders from mental health crisis response. Supportive housing tenants – current and future – are the subject of 911 mental health crisis calls currently being handled by NYPD, sometimes resulting in injury and death, predominantly impacting people of color. The Network joins Correct Crisis Intervention Today (CCIT-NYC) in calling on the City to remove police officers entirely as first responders from mental health crisis response and instead create a “health only” response.

6. INCREASE ACCESS TO SUPPORTIVE HOUSING FOR INDIVIDUALS LEAVING JAIL OR PRISON:

- **Expand the eligibility of NYC 15/15** to include incarceration stays longer than 90 days to be counted toward time homeless. The “chronically homeless” eligibility criteria adopted by NYC excludes incarceration longer than 90 days from being counted and must immediately be revised.
- **Improve the Justice Involved Supportive Housing Initiative (JISH).** The City’s only housing program targeted to people with justice involvement, JISH, is drastically underutilized due to low service rates and strict eligibility and referral sources. We recommend the City immediately increase JISH rates to at least \$25,600 and expand eligibility and referral sources.