



## HIV Housing for NY

### We can and must end homelessness among New Yorkers with HIV

New York State must ensure the FY26 budget affords all unstably housed New Yorkers with HIV equal access to New York State HIV Shelter Allowances currently available only in New York City.

### Housing assistance is cost effective HIV health care – saving lives and money

- Evidence shows that safe, stable housing is necessary to benefit from HIV treatment, sustain optimum health for people with HIV, and stop HIV transmission.<sup>1</sup>
- NYS data show that unstable housing is the single strongest predictor of failed HIV treatment, driving racial disparities in NYS HIV health outcomes.<sup>2</sup>
- Housing assistance improves rates of viral suppression and overall health, generating Medicaid savings from avoided crisis care and new infections that more than offset its cost.<sup>3</sup>
- OTDA estimate \$3M spent in FY25 for Statewide HIV housing will generate \$4M in Medicaid savings, with Medicaid savings exceeding housing costs by as much as \$12.7M in out years.

### New Yorkers with HIV living outside NYC are denied access to State HIV rental assistance

- Since 2015, NYS's historic Blueprint for Ending the Epidemic has called for housing supports as an HIV health care intervention.
- EtE Blueprint housing recommendations were fully implemented in NYC in 2016, where income eligible PWH can access fair market rate rental assistance under the State's HIV Emergency Shelter Allowance,<sup>4</sup> and the 30% rent cap for PWH passed by the State in 2014.
- But in the rest of the State—Upstate and on Long Island—as many as 2,700 low-income PWH are denied this assistance and continue to experience homelessness or housing insecurity.
- Only NYC exercises the State-authorized option to approve meaningful rents (in line with Section 8) in excess of the \$480/month set by the 1980's-era NYS HIV Shelter Allowance regs.

### It's time to enact a FY26 budget that ensures equal access to HIV housing assistance

- Amend the AID to Localities Budget to:
  - Provide PWH experiencing homelessness or housing instability in any social service district access to HIV Emergency Shelter Allowances up to 110% of HUD FMR.<sup>5</sup>
  - Extend the 30% rent cap affordable housing protection to PWH outside NYC who rely on disability benefits or other extremely low income.
  - Recognize the fiscal reality of communities outside NYC by providing NYS funding to support 100% of these HIV rental assistance costs.
- Enact ELFA Article VII language to amend relevant provisions of the Social Services law.

**The ongoing inequity of failing to meet housing needs of New Yorkers with HIV who live outside NYC undermines individual health, HIV prevention efforts, and our Ending the Epidemic goals.**

**Let's make a cost-effective investment to end homelessness among New Yorkers with HIV!**

**For more information visit: [HIVhousingforNY.com](http://HIVhousingforNY.com)**

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<sup>1</sup> Aidala, et al (2016). *American Journal of Public Health*, 106(1): e1–e23.

<sup>2</sup> Feller & Agins (2017). *Journal of the International Association of Providers of AIDS Care*, 16(1): 23-29.

<sup>3</sup> Basu, et al. (2012). *Health Services Research*, 47(1 Pt 2): 523-543.

<sup>4</sup> 18 NYCRR 352.3(k)

<sup>5</sup> In line with NYC HIV Shelter Allowances, Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers, and other low-income housing programs