



Mayor Bloomberg and City Council Agree on Budget that Includes Key Restoration to HASA Supportive Housing

On Monday evening during a press conference in the City Hall rotunda, Mayor Michael Bloomberg and City Council Speaker Christine Quinn announced a \$59.4 billion budget agreement. The deal restored the key budget cut prioritized by the Network: restoring funding for HIV/AIDS Services Administration (HASA) supportive housing case management services provided by nonprofit agencies (\$1,876,000). The budget also included \$491,000 for a critical nutrition program for people with HIV/AIDS, a program that the Network and many other advocates also pushed hard to get restored. The agreement did not restore funding for the HASA Scattered Site 2 program.

By restoring the HASA case management cuts, the Mayor and City Council will maintain core services for more than 4,000 people living with HIV/AIDS living in scattered site and congregate apartment buildings throughout New York City's neighborhoods. Nonprofit HASA case managers play a vital role in maintaining the housing stability of some of the city's most vulnerable citizens. This restoration will keep HASA eligible for \$1.876 million in state matching funds.

The budget agreement relies on revenue generated from tax proposals – a .5% increase in the city's sales tax and a sales tax on clothing over \$110 – that must be approved by the State Legislature, but the Mayor expressed confidence that state leaders will “do what's right for our citizens.”

For months Network staff and members have been meeting with City Council members and staff, as well as agency staff from HRA and HASA to express our concerns about these cuts. We are immensely grateful to Speaker Quinn for her leadership and to Council Members Gale Brewer and Bill de Blasio who carefully examined these cuts and the impacts they would have on HASA tenants and argued for their restoration in the General Welfare Committee and on borough budget negotiating teams.

We would also like to thank Council Members Robert Jackson and Melissa Mark Viverito from Manhattan; Council Members Maria del Carmen Arroyo, Helen Foster, and Joel Rivera from the Bronx; and Council Members Mathieu Eugene, Lewis Fidler, and Albert Vann from Brooklyn who met with us on the floor of the Council chamber and in meetings to discuss the HASA cuts. We appreciate the diligence and attention of City Council staff from the General Welfare committee, Finance division, and Policy division. We recognize that HRA Commissioner Robert Doar and his staff were forced to make difficult choices in a

challenging economic time, and we thank the Mayor for working with the Council to reach this agreement.

Finally, we are grateful to all the Network members and supportive housing tenants who joined us in meetings, attended hearings, and called Council Members. We are fortunate to work alongside passionate colleagues from the New York City AIDS Housing Network, Housing Works, and Human Services Council who joined us in efforts to restore service cuts to core programs.