

Campaign **4** NY/NY Housing

Hon. Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor
Executive Chamber
New York State Capitol
Albany, New York 12224

February 3, 2015

Dear Governor Cuomo:

In November the *Campaign 4 NY/NY Housing* wrote a letter to you and Mayor de Blasio seeking a new City-State agreement to create 30,000 units of supportive housing – including new construction of 15,000 units – over the next 10 years for families and individuals with disabilities and other special needs.

We are pleased that in your *Executive Budget* presentation you acknowledged the tragedy of record homelessness in New York City, and we are grateful that both the City and State have signaled the intention to develop additional NY/NY housing.

However, given the historically large number of disabled and special needs New Yorkers who are homeless, we are most disappointed that the NY/NY IV proposal in the *Executive Budget* falls so far short of the well-documented need. The number of NY/NY IV units proposed is less than half of the number of State-funded units under NY/NY III, and just one-sixth of what is recommended by the *Campaign 4 NY/NY Housing*.

In fact, the appropriation for NY/NY IV is only \$66 million from the J.P. Morgan settlement funds – not the widely reported \$183 million, which includes other pre-existing programs (not all of which are targeted to homeless individuals, worthy as they are of receiving funds).

These funds are to be obligated over a period of five years for the State share of the service and operating costs, with the needed capital assumed to come from the baseline funds appropriated for the Homeless Housing Assistance Program (HHAP) and the Housing Trust Fund (HTF).

Further, the HHAP program is scheduled to be reduced from \$63.5 million this year to \$57.5 million in each of the subsequent years through 2020 according to the *Capital Plan*. The full occupancy of these units is planned to be complete by the end of 2022, or seven years out. By contrast, NY/NY III included a \$211 million capital appropriation in the Office of Mental Health budget – in addition to capital resources from HHAP and HTF baseline appropriations.

Our recommendation of 3,000 State and City units per year for ten years represents a substantial increase over the 900 State and City units per year provided for in the *NY/NY III Agreement*.

The Executive Budget proposes fewer than 300 State-funded units and 300 City-funded units per year for New York City as part of a statewide plan for State and local supportive housing development of 5,000 units. Further, It proposes a significantly reduced State contribution to

the service and operating costs of the NY/NY IV units in New York City (50%) compared with the prior agreements (80%).

Each year in New York City, 20,000 applications for supportive housing are approved, but **only one-in-six applicants receive a supportive housing unit.** As NY/NY III comes to a close, it is time to raise production up to a level that begins to responsibly meet the staggering need, not to reduce production by half. The lives and well-being of tens of thousands of fragile New Yorkers depend on bringing this proven solution to homelessness to scale in New York.

Note that Mayor de Blasio's ten year capital plan includes 12,500 supportive housing units. We understand that 7,500 are available for inclusion in a *NY/NY IV Agreement* (an average of 750 units per year), consistent with our recommendation for supportive housing capital investment by both the City and State.

NY/NY III is in its final year and provided an average of 900 State - and City-funded housing units per year NY over ten years. When the agreement was signed in September of 2005, there were 32,000 people in New York City's homeless shelters. **Tonight, there are 60,000.**

Yet the *Executive Budget* proposal for NY/NY IV provides for fewer than 600 State and City units per year in New York City over seven years. This constitutes one-third **fewer** proposed units per year, while the number of individuals and families in shelters has nearly **doubled** over the last decade.

Knowing of your deep commitment to ending the scourge of homelessness for all New Yorkers in ways that demonstrate compassion, efficacy, and fiscal responsibility, we write to urge you to amend the budget and fully fund the State share of our NY/NY IV proposal (enclosed). The proposal has been endorsed by nearly 200 organizations and businesses that support, build and manage the finest supportive housing in the nation.

Thank you for your leadership in initiating the State response to the need for a *NY/NY IV Agreement*. We all stand ready to work with you to bring our shared vision for addressing homelessness to fruition.

Very truly yours,



Mary Brosnahan, President and CEO
Coalition for the Homeless



Donna Colonna, Chief Executive Officer
Services for the Underserved, Inc.



Steve Coe, Chief Executive Officer
Community Access



Jennifer A Flynn, Executive Director
VOCAL-NY



Marc L. Greenberg, Executive Director
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Tony Hannigan, President and Executive
Director
Center for Urban Community Services



Judith Kende, Vice President & New York
Market Leader
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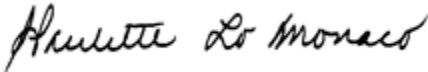
Charles King, President/CEO Housing
Works



Antonia Lasicki, Executive Director
Association for Community Living, Inc.



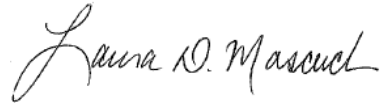
Geoffrey Lieberman, Executive Director
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Sister Paulette LoMonaco, Executive
Director
Good Shepherd Services



Tori Lyon, Executive Director
Jericho Project



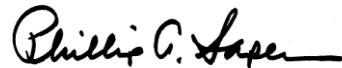
Laura Mascuch, Executive Director
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