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The <u>Supportive Housing Network of New York</u> (the Network) released the following statement on the historic passage by the City Council this week of the City of Yes for Housing Opportunity initiative:

"We commend everyone who worked to enable this week's passage of the City of Yes for Housing Opportunity initiative – from Mayor Adams and Speaker Adams to Governor Hochul and the City Council. This marks a significant step forward in addressing the affordable housing crisis in every corner of every borough.

We are particularly grateful to the Speaker and Council for negotiating key elements of the City of All initiative into the final plan. These provisions will bolster the efforts to build much-needed additional supportive and affordable housing units.

Notably, we welcome the \$137 million in new capital funding that will support the NYC 15/15 Initiative, which aims to create 15,000 units of supportive housing over 15 years; and the Justice Involved Supportive Housing (JISH) program, which provides service and operating funding for providers of scattered-site and congregate housing for homeless individuals with behavioral health needs who have histories of cycling through the criminal legal system. The Network was instrumental in securing this historic investment.

This funding represents a vital step in addressing the intersecting and compounding effects of the homelessness, mental health, and substance use crises that are disproportionately impacting some of our most vulnerable neighbors. We know that high-quality, affordable housing is a critical foundation on which long-term success and optimal health is built.

Equally important is the inclusion of 200 new staff positions to strengthen housing agencies' capacity, which will enable the Department of Housing Preservation and Development to expand its development, planning, and enforcement functions. We look forward to collaborating with the Council and the Adams administration to ensure these funds are allocated to serve New Yorkers with the lowest incomes and greatest needs."