



Testimony to the NYC Council
Committee on Housing & Buildings
FY26 Preliminary Budget Hearing
March 25, 2025

Submitted on Behalf of the Supportive Housing Network of NY

Good afternoon, Chair Sanchez and members of the Committee. My name is Joelle Ballam-Schwan with the Supportive Housing Network of NY, a membership and advocacy organization representing over 100 nonprofits operating more than 40,000 units of supportive housing in New York City. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on the FY26 budget. I also want to thank the amazing supportive housing tenant advocates who testified earlier for their powerful testimonies who underscored the critical importance of our asks.

We'd like to thank the Council for its support of our NYC 15/15 reallocation proposal, and we ask that you work with us to codify and fund the proposal in FY26 and beyond. The city has exceeded its 7,500-unit target for congregate housing, but scattered site has fewer than 1,500 units awarded—leaving over 6,000 units left. Our proposal calls for reallocating the majority of these units to develop and preserve congregate supportive housing and are seeking **\$307 million in capital** to develop and preserve congregate units and **\$72.6 million** for the service and operating for both new and existing units operating under the program.

We also ask the Council to hold the administration accountable for late contract payments, especially as federal funding remains uncertain and paused for many providers. While we appreciate the proposals in the Speaker's State of the City, the urgency cannot be overstated—right now, five of our largest supportive housing providers are owed over \$318 million in late payments, including \$165 million from prior fiscal years. This funding gap puts providers at risk of closure, jeopardizing housing stability for formerly homeless individuals.

Additionally, the Network joins housing advocates in voicing our strong concern about a significant decrease in housing capital funding post 2026 proposed in the preliminary budget and recommend **continuing a baseline funding level of \$4 billion in housing capital**.

Finally, we ask the Council to continue supporting:

- \$4.8M in additional funding for the Justice-Involved Supportive Housing program (JISH)
- \$4.5 million in baseline funding for peer responders on B-HEARD teams to ensure compassionate, community-driven support for individuals in crisis.
- \$22M for Intensive Mobile Treatment (IMT) teams, to provide care for the waitlist of people seeking vital mental health support.