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**SUPPORTIVE HOUSING ADVOCATES FIGHT IN ALBANY FOR VULNERABLE
NEW YORKERS AT RISK OF RETURNING TO HOMELESSNESS**

Nonprofit Providers, Tenant Advocates, & State Lawmakers Called for Additional Funding to Preserve Critical Existing Units & Services, More Investment in the Supportive Housing System, & Just Pay for Essential Workforce Amid Affordability Crisis

ALBANY, NY – Supportive housing advocates from across New York traveled to Albany today to push for additional investment in supportive housing programs in the 2026-2027 state budget. More than 200 supportive housing tenants, nonprofit providers, and employees rallied alongside lawmakers who have long served as champions of the supportive housing community at the Capitol’s Million Dollar Staircase.

This year’s Lobby Day took place against the backdrop of unprecedented federal attacks on the supportive housing community and significant proposed cuts. In New York alone, more than 14,000 households will be impacted by potential reductions and eligibility changes to the Continuum of Care (CoC) Program that is the subject of ongoing litigation.

“We are gathering at a moment of extraordinary federal instability in Washington, where sweeping cuts and policy shifts have threatened the federal housing programs that serve people experiencing homelessness,” said **Pascale Leone, Executive Director of the Supportive Housing Network of New York (the Network) and emcee of the event.** “We are proof positive that when we are united, clear-eyed, and unapologetic in telling HUD to keep its hands off housing, we win. And when we organize around a simple, profound truth—that housing is a basic human right—we win.”

Given the turmoil and uncertainty in Washington, D.C., Lobby Day attendees and their lawmaker allies called on Governor Hochul and the Legislature to exercise strong state leadership by investing in New York’s supportive housing programs to protect vulnerable New Yorkers at the state level.

The executive budget’s proposed four percent increase to the New York State Supportive Housing Program (NYSSHP), which had not seen a significant funding boost until last year, is well short of the \$62.1 million the Network has identified as necessary to stabilize at-risk homes and bring allocations in line with modern-day standards and costs.

Attendees also called for additional funding for the Homeless Housing Assistance Program (HHAP), which received no increase in the governor’s budget, despite its critical role in supportive housing development and stabilization, as well as a 2.7% targeted inflationary

increase across human services contracts to help sustain nonprofit operations and their essential workforce.

Governor Hochul and state lawmakers have demonstrated their understanding that supportive housing is a proven approach to combating chronic homelessness. Last year's final state budget included a \$17.8 million increase for NYSSHP – the largest in the program's history and the first significant boost in almost four decades. Now is the time to build on this foundation through deliberative action and major commitments to supportive housing.

"As Washington continues to step away from people in need, we must continue strong state investments in supportive housing which keeps vulnerable New Yorkers housed and connected to care and other essential supports," said **Senator Roxanne J. Persaud, SD-19, Chair of the Senate Social Services Committee**. "We need proportionate and equitable increases for ESSHI and NYSSHP, and stronger capital investments in homeless housing programs that serve New Yorkers with complex needs."

"Supportive housing has been the key to keeping some of our most vulnerable community members safe, healthy and housed, but federal funding cuts could push thousands of New Yorkers back into homelessness," said **Assemblymember Linda B. Rosenthal, AD-67, Chair of the Assembly Committee on Housing**. "People battling complex physical and mental health problems, veterans, domestic violence survivors and others have long relied on supportive housing to escape homelessness, but a strong investment in these programs will be necessary to combat decisions made by the Trump administration and overcome years of chronic underfunding. I am proud to partner with the Supportive Housing Network of New York to deliver an increase in our upcoming state budget that will protect and modernize supportive housing in our state for years to come."

"Supportive housing is a proven solution that stabilizes lives and strengthens communities. As Chair of the Assembly Social Services Committee, I will fight to fully fund supportive housing in the State Budget and bringing parity to the providers who deliver this vital care. These organizations do essential, frontline work, and they must have the resources needed to continue serving New Yorkers with dignity and stability," said **Assemblymember Maritza Davila, AD-53, Chair of the Assembly Social Services Committee**.

"The NYS Supportive Housing Program (NYSSHP) is a crucial mechanism in the continuum of care for our neighbors -- keeping thousands of families and children housed, safe, and able to thrive in their communities. While we continue to see the defunding and undermining of these programs in Washington, it's our moral imperative to stand with those on the frontlines like SHNNY to protect New Yorkers," said **Assemblymember Andrew Hevesi, AD-28, Chair of the Assembly Children & Families Committee**. "I'm extremely proud to stand with SHNNY and my colleagues to support the full allocation of this additional \$62.1 million for NYSSHP, while also making sure we're providing coverage that allows them flexibility to cover services as

well as operating costs. Further, we need an extension to target HHAP stabilization funds to rescue aging and at-risk properties, and to adopt Article VII budget language that will authorize better contracting guidelines for NYSSHP. This is how we fully uphold this year's Supportive Housing Modernization goals, and stabilize our housing network during this incredibly challenging moment. I am truly grateful to SHNNY for their efforts and will continue to provide my committee's full support."

"Supportive housing stabilizes lives, strengthens communities, and reduces strain on our healthcare and criminal justice systems," said **Assemblymember Brian Cunningham, AD-43**. "I was proud to help secure funding for NYSSHP in last year's state budget, and remain committed to advancing that progress with my colleagues this year. As federal support grows more uncertain, New York must lead with stable, long-term investments—in our housing stock. We need to continue to build more housing and make substantive improvements to the housing we do have."

"Supportive housing is one of the most effective ways to keep people stably housed and connected to the services they need. While last year's investment was an important step forward, the loss of NYSSHP-funded homes shows why sustained funding has to be a priority in this budget," said **Assemblymember Steven Raga, AD-30**. "As negotiations continue, New York must fully invest in supportive housing so tenants, providers, and neighborhoods have the long-term support they need. This is about keeping people housed and making sure our housing system works for the communities it's meant to serve."

"The supportive housing that I'm in is a godsend. This works. The program works. To underfund it, you're going to put people in the street, prison, jail," said **supportive housing tenant James Emmick**. "The cost of living is going sky high. The rent is sky high. We have things going up every day. It's uncontrollable. We need a voice."

"This is my second time [at the Network's Lobby Day]," said **supportive housing tenant Sharike**. "I want to let you know that I'm not going to stop coming to be here to lend my voice so that you know what my situation is like in a New Destiny building, and how they take care of me as a tenant, and what we will need to ensure that other tenants have been taken care of."

"Here I am now, because of scattered sites and Breaking Ground, somebody that took the time out of their lives," said **supportive housing tenant Clifton Clark**. "[Supportive housing workers] dedicate their lives and take time out to give something back because they care. There are people that are dying out there and when they see me, I'm a living witness that you can do it. You can do it if you try."

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