

NEW YORK STATE SUPPORTIVE HOUSING PROGRAM (NYSSHP)



What is NYSSHP?

An innovative program **created in 1987** that funds **on-site social services** for **people who experienced homelessness**, helping them remain **stably housed** and **connected to care**.



The Problem

- **Decades of State underfunding**, combined with unprecedented **threats to Federal housing programs**, place thousands of New Yorkers at risk of becoming homeless again.
- NYSSHP is the **sole source** of supportive services funding for nearly **10,000 supportive housing households**.
- About **7,400 NYSSHP units** also lack dedicated **rental assistance**, leaving residences with **steep operating deficits, deferred maintenance**, and unacceptable **deteriorating housing conditions**.
- **4,410 NYSSHP households** rely on **Federal funding** for supportive housing rental assistance, which is currently at **serious risk of elimination**.



Proposed Solutions



Increase Investment: Invest \$62.1M in FY 2026-27—year two of a **five-year plan**—to **create parity** among supportive housing units statewide.



Improve Efficiency: Replace NYSSHP's five-year competitive procurement with a **streamlined renewal process**, similar to ESSHI, **reducing administrative burden** and **preventing service disruptions**.

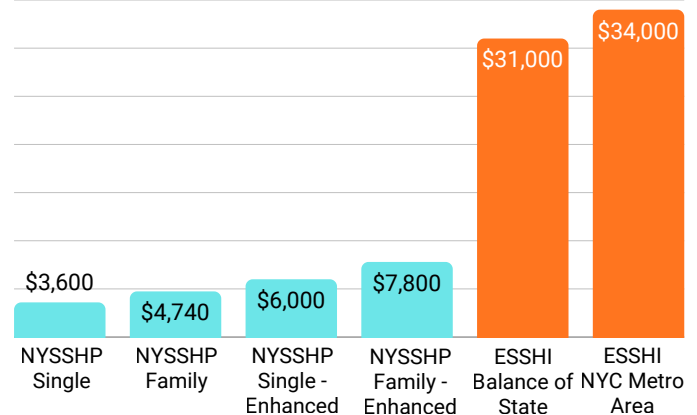


Allow Flexibility: Allow NYSSHP funds to **support both services and operating costs**, as appropriate, to ensure safe, well-maintained housing and effective services.

NYSSHP vs. ESSHI

The **Empire State Supportive Housing Initiative (ESSHI)**, created in 2016, is the State's newer supportive housing program that is **better funded** and **more comprehensive**. **NYSSHP**, despite serving thousands of households, has **not kept pace**.

Funding per Unit



	NYSSHP	ESSHI
Services covered	Social services only	Social services and rental assistance
Contract escalator	None	Annual built-in 2%
Renewal process	Competitive RFP every 5 years	Automatic renewal

A Step Forward—But Not Enough

- A **\$17.8M increase** achieved last year **expanded the NYSSHP base rate** and **created new enhanced rates** for a limited number of at-risk projects (see chart above).
- Still, dozens of **NYSSHP units were lost** this year and enhanced NYSSHP **rates remain below ESSHI levels**.



NYSSHP: A DEEPER LOOK



Who Does this Affect?



Social Service Workers: Chronic underfunding has led to **low wages** and **high turnover** among social service workers. Across the state, supportive housing programs report **vacancy rates of 20-30%**, **undermining service quality** and **tenant stability**.

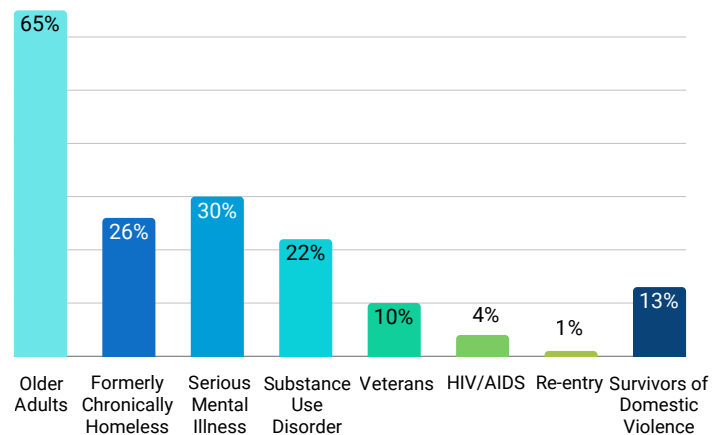


Nonprofit Supportive Housing Providers: Since 2003, **1/3 of NYSSHP providers** have **closed, merged, or exited the field** entirely due to **chronic underfunding**.



Tenants: NYSSHP tenants live with **multiple barriers to housing stability**, such as **SMI, SUD**, and **survivors of domestic violence**. The majority of tenants are **older adults**, and **Black/African American** and **Hispanic/Latino** tenants are **overrepresented**, exemplifying the **housing and health disparities** experienced by these groups and underscoring the **urgent need for sustained, equitable investment**.

NYSSHP Populations



NYSSHP: Case Studies

New enhanced rates are making a meaningful impact, but chronic underfunding continues to put programs at risk and force closures.



St. Lawrence County: Two SRO buildings with **33 total units** for single adults **closed in 2025**. Another building in the county, **40+ years old** with **32 units** for formerly homeless families with children, **will be shutting down** its program and is **now for sale**.



Albany: A **125 year-old** SRO with **32 units** for chronically homeless adults with disabilities applied and **did not receive enhanced funding**. The program relies on **HUD rental assistance** through the **Continuum of Care**, which is **under assault** from the Federal government.



Bronx: A **50-unit family residence** for grandparents raising grandchildren **applied for and received enhanced funding**. The building formerly ran a deficit and had insufficient services, but now has funding to support **three full-time social workers**, including one who is bi-lingual and one dedicated to young adults.



Cattaraugus County: A **120+ year-old** building with **22 SRO units** for formerly homeless aging tenants **applied for and received enhanced funding**, which will help cover full funding for **support staff**, partial funding for **property management staff**, **monthly professional cleaning** for shared spaces, and **winter/snow maintenance**.

