THE NETWORK'S NYC POLICY PRIORITIES

DEVELOP & PRESERVE 2K UNITS of SUPPORTIVE HOUSING EACH YEAR

NYC currently creates 1,000 units of supportive housing a year. With need growing and old buildings deteriorating, the City should double its annual commitment to 2,000 units, including the preservation of existing residences. The City should provide additional supportive housing units to those who do not qualify due to the chronic homelessness requirement, including people leaving jails, prisons and hospitals. The new commitment should prioritize ground up development by mission-driven nonprofits.

STREAMLINE DEVELOPMENT AND PLACEMENT

The City should invest in our Coordinated Assessment and Placement System (CAPS), ensure all agencies identify underutilized sites, tighten review timelines, utilize hotels as feasible, coordinate approvals centrally, and modify the zoning resolution.

#JUSTPAY OUR STAFF

The supportive housing workforce – which is mostly Black, people of color, and women-led -- was woefully underpaid before COVID-19. Providers are currently facing staff vacancy rates around 20%. Their pay is directly tied to City contracts. We urge the City to increase contract funding and implement a $21/hr minimum wage for human service workers.

VALUE NONPROFITS

Nonprofit organizations provide life-saving services yet have to wait years for contracts to be registered and paid. The City must pay on time. Additionally, City agencies should engage nonprofits in the design and implementation of programs and policies that impact their work.

PROTECT OUR PEOPLE

Supportive housing tenants are the subject of 911 mental health crisis calls handled by NYPD, sometimes resulting in injury or death, and predominantly impacting people of color. The Network joins Correct Crisis Intervention Today (CCIT-NYC) in calling on the City to remove police officers as first responders from mental health crisis response and instead create a “health only” response.