

SUPPORTIVE HOUSING NETWORK OF NY NYC POLICY PRIORITIES



Invest in NYC 15/15 Reallocation

- **\$307M in capital** to **develop and preserve** NYC 15/15 units in FY26
- **\$45M for services and operating** for NYC 15/15 reallocated units
- **\$27M to increase existing congregate units** to sustainable levels
[Read our NYC 15/15 fact sheet here.](#)



Support housing opportunities for individuals with justice involvement

- **\$4.8M** more in annual funding for **Justice Involved Supportive Housing (JISH)** for **homeless individuals with behavioral health needs and a history of incarceration.**
- **Support Intro 1100:** This bill would require DSS to **amend eligibility parameters** for any existing supportive housing program funded by the City to include **justice involvement in the last 12 months to count as homeless time.** [Read more here.](#)



Invest in a peer-led mental health crisis response system

\$4.5M baseline funding for competitive compensation for Peer Specialists to staff the city's mental health crisis response teams. This would include the expansion of peer responders within the B-HEARD program to ensure **compassionate, community-driven support** for individuals in crisis.



Support Intro 514: Interest to be paid on late contract payments to non-profit contractors

This bill would **require interest to be paid on late payments** under City contracts with non-profit organizations. Supportive housing providers often deliver critical services long before contracts are registered or invoices approved, leading to **financial strain** from **costly loans** and **unreimbursed interest expenses.**
[Read more here.](#)

NYC 15/15 FACT SHEET



What is Supportive Housing (SH)?

- Affordable, permanent housing with support services
- Helps people break the cycle of homelessness

Supportive Housing Models



Congregate

A building with on-site services; adds affordable units to the housing stock



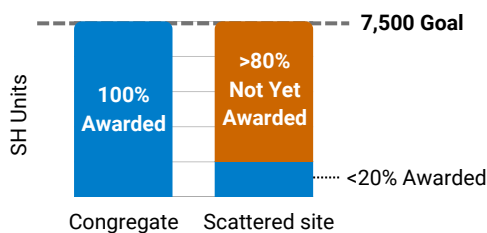
Scattered site

Relies on scarce, unaffordable units in the private rental market

What is NYC 15/15?

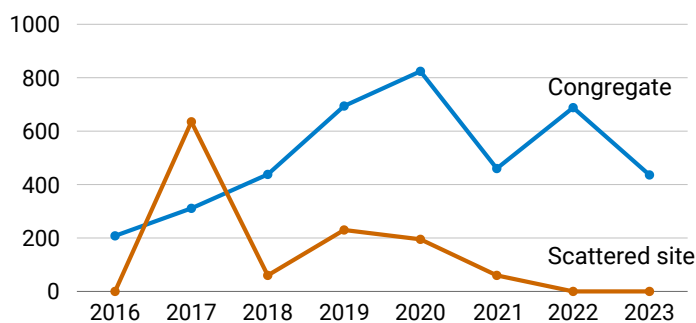
In 2015, NYC made a commitment to develop 15K total units over 15 years.

NYC 15/15 Development Progress



If NYC does not prioritize more congregare units, it risks failing to reach the 15K-unit goal by 2030.

NYC 15/15 Units Developed Since 2016



Source: SHNNY Reimagining NYC 15/15 Report

Supportive Housing Need

- In FY24, there were **9.6K households** living on the streets or in shelter who were eligible for SH, but only 2K units were available
- The need for SH is almost **5 times** the supply

To meet this demand, we must develop more congregare units.



THE PROBLEM

There are not enough units to meet demand



THE SOLUTION

Reallocate scattered site awards to congregare

Recommendations

1

Move away from the scattered site model under the NYC 15/15 Initiative

The city cannot rely on the volatile private rental market to meet the needs of homeless New Yorkers.

2

Reallocate a portion of the remaining scattered site units to congregare

The congregare model is more sustainable and adds affordable housing to the rental market.

3

Preserve older units in higher-opportunity neighborhoods

Without preservation efforts, the city risks losing existing supportive housing units, so it should reallocate a portion of the unawarded scattered site units to maintain and preserve older supportive housing stock.



City of Yes expands SH development

Modernizing zoning and allowing buildings to be 20% larger with permanently affordable units support NYC 15/15's goal of 15K SH units by 2030.

Expand Justice Involved Supportive Housing

WHAT IS JUSTICE INVOLVED SUPPORTIVE HOUSING?

Supportive Housing (SH) is a proven solution that combines permanent affordable housing with tailored support services to help individuals with complex health challenges, such as mental health and substance use disorders, and secure and maintain stable housing. It enhances public safety while **reducing** homelessness and over-reliance on costly and less effective emergency services like shelters, emergency rooms and law enforcement that only provide temporary responses.

In New York City, **Justice Involved Supportive Housing (JISH)** specifically supports people leaving Rikers who would otherwise be homeless and need behavioral health support, aiming to keep them housed and reduce their use of jails, shelters, and other emergency services. People are at their most vulnerable upon their release from incarceration and safe and stable housing with wraparound supports are critical.

FY25 Investment Success

The current JISH providers are grateful for the \$6.4M appropriated in FY25 from the City Council discretionary funds. JISH providers will be able to increase the funding rate for the existing 120 JISH units, which is critical to ensure JISH program participants receive robust services and providers are able to pay their staff a living wage.

PROPOSAL

In 2019, the City committed to funding 500 JISH units, but 380 have never been brought online due to insufficient funding for supportive services in the NYC Health Department's (DOHMH) budget. Despite serving clients with highly complex needs, JISH units receive about \$17,000 less per unit compared to similar supportive housing units citywide, like the 15/15 Young Adult Supportive Housing Program. The funds allocated are insufficient for providers to deliver critical services offered by a sufficient number of qualified staff. However, experienced providers have indicated that they would be interested in operating these new 380 units for people transitioning from Rikers back into the community, if funding levels are brought in line with other supportive housing programs for vulnerable populations.

➡ **Appropriate \$4.8 million more in annual funding for JISH and re-issue the RFP for the 380 new units with service funding levels in line with those of similar supportive housing programs.** This will enable the City to deliver on the Close Rikers Points of Agreement to expand to 500 units.

➡ **Create a JISH line-item in the DOHMH budget** to allow for better tracking moving forward, given the JISH program's importance for public safety.

WHY JISH, WHY NOW?

JISH is currently the only supportive housing program in the City designed specifically to meet the needs of the estimated 2,500 people on Rikers Island who need supportive housing but there are only 120 existing units of JISH housing. To comply with the mandate to close Rikers in August 2027, the City can safely reduce the population in part by bringing 380 additional JISH beds online.

The City needs to properly fund JISH to fulfill the City's commitment of 500 units.

To contact us, please email cassandra.warney@csh.org



Expand Access to Supportive Housing for Justice-Involved People: PASS INTRO 1100



Background

NYC 15/15, the City's primary supportive housing program that launched in 2016, aims to create **15,000 units over 15 years** for individuals with serious mental illness and/or substance use disorder. Despite being City-funded, the program follows **federal chronic homelessness criteria**, requiring **12+ months of homelessness** and disqualifying those incarcerated for **90+ days** by resetting their homelessness status. These barriers **exclude thousands of individuals exiting Rikers and other carceral settings**, preventing access to stable housing and undermining the program's mission. Expanding eligibility is crucial to ensuring NYC 15/15 serves those who need it most.

Additionally, the City's only dedicated supportive housing program for justice-involved individuals, **Justice Involved Supportive Housing (JISH)**, remains **underfunded and incomplete**. As part of the **Rikers closure plan**, the City committed to providing **500 JISH units**, yet only **120 are in operation** due to insufficient funding for supportive services, leaving NYC 15/15 as the only other viable option for supportive housing.

The Problem

By requiring chronicity in order to be eligible for NYC 15/15, the city is forcing people into shelters to generate time as homeless to meet chronicity criteria, perpetuating the cycle of homelessness.

- The average stay at Rikers for individuals with serious mental illness is **287 days**—long enough to reset their homelessness status, disqualifying them from NYC 15/15 upon release. This average length of stay does not include those with a substance use disorder, undercounting the actual need.
- **41–54%** of people leaving NYS prisons have entered NYC shelters each year since 2015, further burdening the system.
- **33% of people admitted to NYC jails in 2023** were unhoused prior to incarceration, demonstrating a clear link between homelessness and jail stays.

The Solution: Intro 1100-2024

This bill ensures that **incarceration stays over 90 days will not eliminate eligibility for NYC 15/15**, allowing those with longer jail and prison stays to qualify. Intro 1100 expands eligibility for city-funded supportive housing to:

- Individuals experiencing or at risk of homelessness.
- Those justice-involved in the past 12 months.

Why It Matters

- **Expands supportive housing** access to at least **2,600** individuals detained on Rikers each year, preventing long shelter stays and street homelessness upon release.
- **Saves Money:** Supportive housing for 2,600 people costs ~\$108M/year, vs. \$1.4B for incarceration—a \$1.2B net savings.
- **Immediate Budget Impact:** NYC can save \$150M in FY26 by cutting vacant Dept. of Correction positions, and can reinvest a portion of those resources in supportive housing.

What is Correct Crisis Intervention Today – NYC (CCIT-NYC)?

We are a coalition of community-based organizations working to transform how New York City responds to the 200,000+ annual mental health crisis calls now responded to by the NYPD. In light of the 20 individuals killed by police when responding to mental health crises in NYC since 2015, and the myriad others injured by police and dragged into the criminal legal system, we advocate for a non-police response to mental health crises led by peers (those with lived mental health experience) as the approach that embodies best practices.

What do we envision?

Our proposed peer-led crisis response program will operate 24/7, be citywide, and will pair trained peers with EMT’s who are unaffiliated with FDNY or NYPD. The coordinated crisis response system will include prevention, alternatives to hospitals, and robust follow up from local service providers to avoid future crises.

What is our FY26 budget ask?

Our FY26 budget request includes a baseline allocation of \$4.5 million to ensure competitive compensation for Peer Specialists staffing the city’s mental health crisis response teams. This funding will also support peer responders within the B-HEARD program, thereby strengthening the city’s capacity to provide effective, community-centered crisis intervention.

How can this be adopted?

Our proposal can be adopted in a few ways but our energy is spent trying to amend the New York City based [B-HEARD](#) program and/or passing [Daniel’s Law](#). We believe that B-HEARD can be a true non-police response to mental health crises if it enacts the changes described in the chart below.

Crisis Response Comparison: An Overview	
CCIT-NYC Model	B-HEARD Model
1) Non-police, non-coercive for nearly all mental health calls	1) Police remain the default and continue to receive >80% of mental health calls in pilot precincts.
2) 24/7 operation across the City	2) Operates 16 hours/day in a small portion of the City
3) Peers on teams and providing oversight	3) No role for peers on teams or in leadership
4) Community oversight and engagement	4) No community input and no needs assessment
5) Transparency and in-depth evaluation	5) Limited public data. No focus on key outcomes (housing, criminal legal involvement, stability)
6) Provider partnership	6) No outreach to, or working relationships with, trusted community providers
7) Quality connections and follow-up care	7) No long-term assistance to avert the next crisis; no follow-up care
SOLUTION: <i>Have the B-HEARD program adopt the best practices and features of the CCIT-NYC model to create a peer-led response that prioritizes the experience of the individual in crisis.</i>	

STAY IN CONTACT & FOLLOW US:

Email: info@ccitnyc.org
Website: <https://www.ccitnyc.org/>

SUPPORTIVE HOUSING NETWORK OF NY

OTHER BUDGETARY & LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



BUDGET:

\$22 million for **Intensive Mobile Treatment (IMT) teams**, a 50 percent increase from current IMT funding levels that will help to clear the waitlist of people seeking vital mental health support.

\$7 million for **Forensic Assertive Community Treatment (FACT) teams**, a 50 percent increase from current funding levels that will enable more justice-involved New Yorkers with mental health needs to access care.

\$6 million for **four new crisis respite centers**, two of which must be opened by the end of 2025 per legislation passed in 2023. These centers provide up to 28 days of housing and care for people experiencing mental health crises.

LEGISLATION:

Intro 0267 – Council Member Rita Joseph

A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to making certain bathrooms in city facilities available for public use

This bill would require that the Commissioner of Citywide Administrative Services permit members of the public to use readily accessible bathrooms in public-facing municipal buildings during business hours. It would also require signage to identify each bathroom's location, hours, and accessibility for persons with disabilities. These bathrooms' locations would also be posted to a city website listing all public bathrooms in the City.

Intro 0637 – Council Member Lincoln Restler:

A Local Law to amend the New York city charter, in relation to the disposition of real property of the city.

This bill would require that when the city disposes of land for affordable housing, or for any other public use or purpose, it prioritize not-for-profit developers and community land trusts.

Intro 196 - Council Member Carlina Rivera:

A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to giving qualified entities a first opportunity to purchase and an opportunity to submit an offer to purchase certain residential buildings when offered for sale.

This bill would give qualified entities a first opportunity to purchase and an opportunity to submit an offer to purchase certain residential buildings when offered for sale. The bill would also require building owners to notify the Department of Housing Preservation and Development and a list of qualified entities when their buildings will be listed for sale. The entities would have the opportunity to submit the first offer and match any competing offers for the property.