



**Testimony to NYC Council Committees on  
Finance, Housing and Buildings  
FY25 Executive Budget Hearing, May 14, 2024**

Hello Chairperson and members of the New York City Council. My name is Tierra Labrada and I am with the Supportive Housing Network of New York. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today and thank you for your support of the human services workforce and reinstating the annual COLA increases. Thank you also to the Council for including \$6.4M to expand the Justice Involved Supportive Housing Program in your preliminary budget response.

And, a huge thank you to Council for supporting the Network's NYC 15/15 reallocation proposal by signing on to the Dear Colleague letter circulated by Mental Health Chair, Linda Lee. NYC 15/15 is the primary mechanism for supportive housing development in the city, and it is failing to meet its target. This means that critical units are not being brought online. Our proposal also seeks to expand NYC 15/15 eligibility to include those exiting institutional settings and survivors of domestic violence.

With that, we are very concerned about the capital budget, which decreased in funding from \$2.6b to \$2.1b, which could result in a 32% decrease in affordable housing units financed by the City. This level of funding will impact the most vulnerable populations including those exiting homelessness and low-income seniors.

We are also concerned about the reductions in the Mayor's Office of Contract Services. Nonprofits are under significant financial strain due to the City's failure to reimburse them for contractually mandated services in a timely manner. Some providers are still awaiting payment for services provided in 2018, with millions of dollars in arrears. As proposed, the Executive Budget's significant reductions would exacerbate this already untenable situation. We urge the Council and Administration to restore funds to personnel and non-personnel services to avert further harm.

The Network is also a member of Correct Crisis Intervention Today (CCIT) – NYC, a coalition advocating for a peer-led, nonpolice mental health crisis response system. The current pilot program, B-HEARD, omits peers. We ask that Council adopt best practices of CCCIT-NYC's model and focus on placing trained peers on B-HEARD response teams, as well as *fully* restore prior B-HEARD PEG cuts. With the recent tragic killing of Win Rosario, we must say enough is enough, and fully invest in/build out a true peer-led mental health crisis response program in our city.