

Hon. Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor
The State of New York
Executive Chamber
New York State Capitol
Albany, New York 12224

10/5/2017

Dear Governor Cuomo:

As an organization serving homeless and low-income New Yorkers, we are alarmed by the magnitude of homelessness in New York State, and the attendant human and financial costs to our communities. We call on you to initiate a new program to stem the tide of displacement that is driving large numbers of families and individuals into homelessness each and every day.

Specifically, we call on you to establish the Home Stability Support (HSS) program in this year's Executive Budget. HSS will be a new statewide, State and Federally-funded rent supplement program to bridge the difference between public assistance shelter allowances and 85 percent of Federal fair market value rents and also address the high costs of heating borne by families. HSS is designed to assist:

*Each family or individual facing a loss of housing due to formal or informal eviction, domestic violence, or hazardous conditions;

*Those who are already homeless and living doubled-up, in shelters, or outside in places not meant for human habitation.

This is by far the most cost-effective solution for preventing homelessness and ultimately keeping hundreds of thousands of people in their homes. HSS requires Executive action to replace the current inadequate patchwork of local programs that reach only a small fraction of those in need. The problem of homelessness has reached a critical juncture, and the costs to our communities are unsustainable. It is time to boldly and adequately attack the preventable causes of this record homelessness. HSS is the only viable solution to the homeless crisis facing our state, and for that reason our organization strongly urges you to include HSS in the 2018-2019 Executive Budget. Please see detailed recommendations at HomeStabilitySupport.com.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue.

Sincerely,