Homeless New Yorkers, Community Groups and Advocates Call on Governor Cuomo to Keep Supportive Housing Promise

Campaign 4 NY/NY Housing Continue Holding Weekly Rallies Outside Governor’s Office Until Cuomo Makes Good on Commitment to Build 20,000 New Supportive Housing Units

New York, NY— As part of an ongoing effort in partnership the Campaign 4 NY/NY Housing, homeless New Yorkers and advocates convened outside Governor Cuomo’s New York City office to call on the Governor to exercise his leadership and sign an MOU with the State legislative leaders to release $1.9 billion in the New York State budget to fund 6,000 units of supportive housing statewide over the next five years. Today’s rally was a part of a series of rallies sponsored by the Campaign to bring visibility to the needs of homeless New Yorkers.

“Supportive housing is the best, long-term solution to help homeless New Yorkers get off the streets and into permanent homes. If Governor Cuomo were serious about solving New York’s homeless crisis, he would make good on his promise to build 20,000 new supportive housing units immediately. We will be back week after week until he signs the MOU and fulfills his commitment to homeless New Yorkers,” said Charles King, President and CEO of Housing Works, and a member of the Campaign 4 NY/NY Housing steering committee.

Governor Cuomo promised in his January 13 budget address that the State would create 20,000 new supportive housing units, and the budget approved in April set aside $1.9 billion for supportive and affordable housing. However, those funds are subject to an as-yet-to-be-completed MOU between the Governor, Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie and Senate Majority Leader John Flanagan. By the time the legislative session ended in June, the State leaders approved a last-minute deal to release only $150 million – leaving the rest of the funds sitting unused at a time when 80,000 New Yorkers statewide are homeless.

Supportive housing breaks the cycle of homelessness by pairing the stability of a permanent home with on-site services to support people with mental illness, addiction, HIV/AIDS, chronic illness, disability or other special needs. Research proves that supportive housing:

- Solves homelessness
- Improves neighborhoods
- Saves tax dollars

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