

Campaign 4 NY/NY Housing

For Immediate Release

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Advocates for the Homeless, Housing Activists Rally to Thank State Leaders for Historic Investment in Supportive Housing

State Budget Includes \$1 Billion to Build 6,000 Units of Supportive Housing for the Homeless Over Five Years

“Much-needed Funding from the Governor, Senate, and Assembly Will Have a Profound Impact on the Lives of New Yorkers for Years to Come”

ALBANY – Advocates for housing and homeless New Yorkers gathered today at the State Capital to thank State lawmakers for investing a historic \$1 billion to build 6000 homes for the most vulnerable homeless individuals and families over five years. It is a component of the recently passed state budget’s inclusion of \$2.5 billion for affordable and supportive housing. The Governor, Senate and Assembly showed extraordinary leadership in committing to developing housing for those who are homeless and struggling to make ends meet with low incomes at a time of unprecedented need.

Every night, more than 88,000 New Yorkers confront homelessness. Supportive housing – affordable housing linked to onsite services – ends homelessness for those with the greatest challenges. Additionally, supportive housing has been shown to save more than \$10,000 per person in reduced usage of hospitals, shelters, and psychiatric centers. As a result of the model’s thirty years of success, the Governor last year committed to creating 20,000 units of supportive housing across New York State over the next fifteen years – the largest commitment to supportive housing in history.

“Truly momentous! New York once again sets the standard in providing for its neediest families and individuals,” said **Laura Mascuch, Executive Director of the Supportive Housing Network of New York**. “The Supportive Housing Network of New York congratulates Governor Cuomo, Senator Flanagan and Speaker Heastie for their vision and leadership in enacting a bold supportive and affordable housing program.”

“The New York State Council of Churches and the 7,000 congregations we represent, thanks the Governor, Senate, and Assembly for approving \$2.5 billion for supportive and affordable housing,” said **Peter Cook, Executive Director of the New York State Council of Churches**. “The money is a powerful investment in the lives of homeless and precariously housed New Yorkers who long for a safe and affordable place to live where they can take care of themselves and their families and fully contribute to their communities in every part of our great state. We will faithfully work with our political leaders, secular organizations, developers and our churches to ensure this money is well used and does all that it was intended to offer hope and do justice.”

“This is a win for homeless New Yorkers,” said **Shelly Nortz, Deputy Executive Director for Policy, Coalition for the Homeless**. “We are most grateful to Gov. Cuomo, Speaker Heastie, Leader Flanagan, Assemblyman Hevesi, and Senator Golden – as well as all of the state and local lawmakers who have joined together in support of the \$1 billion needed to build the first 6,000 of 20,000 promised supportive housing units, and we urge accelerated implementation of the plan to address record homelessness. The Coalition for the

Homeless thanks our elected officials for releasing an unprecedented \$2.5 billion in vitally-needed funds for supportive and affordable housing."

"With this funding, New York State has demonstrated a historic commitment to those in our state who are most vulnerable," **Marc L. Greenberg, Executive Director of the Interfaith Assembly on Homelessness and Housing**. "We stand with people of all faiths, those with homes and those struggling without them - and particularly those with special needs -- and with all of those who work every day to make ours a more civilized and compassionate society, to applaud our Governor and legislative leaders and celebrate this victory on behalf of all New Yorkers."

"Supportive housing is not a stopgap measure; it's a proven and cost-saving solution that prevents people from becoming homeless ever again," said **Judi Kende, vice president and market leader, Enterprise Community Partners**. "The much-needed funding from the Governor, Senate, and Assembly will have a profound impact on the lives of New Yorkers for years to come. We thank them for their leadership and commitment to ending homelessness statewide."

"Thank you to Governor Cuomo and the entire New York State legislature for supporting \$1 billion to be used to build 6,000 new units of supportive housing over the next five years," said **Toni Lasicki, Executive Director of the Association for Community Living**. "This state-wide initiative, part of a broader commitment to create a total of 20,000 units, will provide housing and supports to some of our most needy citizens. This commitment shows that New York State cares and is committed to ending our homeless crisis."

"Thousands of homeless people who will now realize a stable home and better life cannot be here in person to express their gratitude, but we can," said **Kristin Miller, CSH Director in New York**. "We are thankful to our State leaders because we know this appropriation will end homelessness for the most vulnerable and improve communities throughout New York, large and small. There is no doubt about it, opening more doors to affordable supportive housing will be a game-changer."

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