SUPPORTIVE HOUSING ADVOCATES, RELIGIOUS LEADERS, AND ADVOCATES FOR THE HOMELESS RESPOND TO THE GOVERNOR’S PROPOSED BUDGET

Executive Budget Proposal Includes $250 Million for Production of New Supportive Housing to fund 6th Year of Governor’s 15-Year Supportive Housing Commitment

Supportive Housing Provides Permanent Affordable Housing with On-Site Services for Formerly Homeless People, a Key Tool In Addressing the Homelessness Crisis

NEW YORK, NY – Governor Andrew Cuomo’s budget proposal for the 2021-22 fiscal year commits $250 million toward the construction of new supportive housing in New York State. The decision to fund more supportive housing, which provides permanent affordable homes with on-site services for homeless people, comes amid rising homelessness in communities across New York as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.

The $250 million will fund the sixth year of Governor Cuomo’s historic 2016 commitment to create 20,000 new units of supportive housing statewide over 15 years.

The Campaign 4 NY/NY Housing – a coalition of supportive housing advocacy groups, policy experts, developers, religious leaders, and advocates for homeless people – has been urging the Governor for a multi-year commitment to fulfill his original pledge. The Campaign appreciates the Governor’s recognition that this is a critical investment despite the state’s fiscal challenges.

In response to the proposed budget, Laura Mascuch, Executive Director of the Supportive Housing Network of New York and founding member of the Campaign 4 NY/NY Housing, stated:

“Given the state’s COVID-related budget crisis and the uncertainty around federal relief, we are pleased that Governor Cuomo included funding to continue developing the state’s best answer to chronic homelessness: supportive housing. Governor Cuomo’s inclusion of funding for the sixth year of his historic 20,000 unit, 15-year supportive housing initiative in his executive budget proposal, along with his renewed commitment to the entire 20,000 units, is heartening in these difficult times. As New York struggles with record homelessness, we will continue to advocate for full funding of this commitment and echo Governor Cuomo's call for additional funds from Washington.”

“With his promise to continue to create new supportive housing, Governor Cuomo is keeping his commitment to house some of New York’s most vulnerable populations,” said Association for Community Living (ACL) Executive Director, Sebrina Barrett. “For decades, ACL has fought for adequately funded community-based housing programs for individuals with severe and
persistent psychiatric disabilities, the needs for which have never been more necessary than now, as highlighted during the pandemic.”

“We are grateful to Governor Cuomo for recognizing the critical role supportive housing plays in solving the crisis of homelessness. With the long term economic impact of COVID-19 still unknown and adult homelessness on the rise, we need every tool at our disposal to provide people struggling with homelessness and other challenges the chance to be stably housed,” stated Catherine Trapani, Executive Director of Homeless Services United. “This commitment will ensure housing production can continue this year and keep us on track to fulfill the commitment to build 20,000 new units of supportive housing in New York. We look forward to continued progress and full funding for the balance of all in the plan in coming years.”

"Given the budgetary constraints brought on by a once-in-a-century pandemic, we are pleased to see that Governor Cuomo has kept his promise to fund year six of his commitment to producing 20,000 units of supportive housing over 15 years,” stated Marc L. Greenberg, Executive Director of the Interfaith Assembly on Homelessness and Housing. “We stand with people of faith across our great and good state in the hope and expectation that next year's budget will secure a multiyear commitment to reach this much needed goal.”

“Supportive housing is crucial to ending chronic homelessness, and in these unprecedented times, we need to continue to develop it now more than ever,” said Lorraine Collins, Senior Director, Enterprise Community Partners. “We thank Governor Cuomo for his ongoing commitment, in word and in deed, to creating housing with the supportive services necessary for stability, and for including this critical investment in his executive budget.”

“The New York State Council of Churches is pleased that there is an allocation in the Executive Budget to make sure we fund another round of supportive housing as part of the 15 year plan to build 20,000 dwellings,” said Rev. Peter M. Cook, Executive Director of the New York Council of Churches. “Our homeless and precariously housed citizens need and deserve this kind of quality housing and we are grateful that resources have been provided to take another step forward towards meeting this critical need.”

“CSH is pleased to see the $250MM in the Governor’s annual budget for supportive housing, another step forward in his commitment to create 20,000 new units of this housing,” stated Kristin Miller, Director of CSH. “We look forward to the legislature approving this money so that organizations can continue to develop this much-needed supportive housing across New York State.”

“One day after learning that COVID-19’s impact on homeless New Yorkers has been even more devastating than previously understood, we are heartened that Governor Cuomo’s proposed budget prioritizes new supportive housing investments. We are grateful for his continued support of one of the most effective tools we have to save lives and reduce homelessness. This 15-year initiative will provide thousands of homeless New Yorkers with the housing and services they need to achieve long-term stability and well-being — more important than ever as New Yorkers continue to face this devastating pandemic. Our homelessness crisis won’t be solved overnight,
but this continued support will help the neediest homeless New Yorkers obtain stable, permanent housing,” said Shelly Nortz, Deputy Executive Director for Policy, Coalition for the Homeless.

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