

NEW DESTINY HOUSING'S 2026 NEW YORK CITY PRIORITIES



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IS THE #1 CAUSE OF FAMILY HOMELESSNESS IN NEW YORK CITY

Domestic violence pushes [more families into shelter](#) than evictions. Because permanent housing is scarce, and the effects of abuse are long-lasting, survivors can linger in shelter for years. In 2025, [only 8.5% of survivors moved](#) from a Human Resources Administration (HRA) domestic violence emergency shelter into a permanent home, while more than half were forced into another shelter at the State-mandated 180-day limit.

One in 4 survivors and their children landed in the massive Department of Homeless Services (DHS) system — losing the anonymity and specialized services of HRA domestic violence shelters and facing potential safety risks. There, families with children stay for over a year on average, at nearly [\\$100,000 per year](#) — more than the cost of the rental assistance and supportive services that would keep them stably housed.

With no certainty of when they will find a safe home, survivors face an impossible choice: homelessness or staying with an abuser. From 2015 to 2024, [1 in 6 homicides](#) in New York City were domestic violence-related, with the victim an intimate partner or family member. Nearly 1 in 5 of those domestic homicide victims were children under 10. Housing is lifesaving for survivors.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Plan for Contingencies for Federal Funding Cuts and Leverage CoC Provider Expertise

- Direct DSS to plan contingencies that keep survivors and other New Yorkers who rely on CoC-funded rapid rehousing programs stably housed
- Leverage the expertise of CoC rapid rehousing providers — who specialize in moving households out of homelessness quickly and keeping them stably housed — as a proven resource in the City's broader efforts to address homelessness

In June 2026, HUD opened its FY2026 Continuum of Care (CoC) Program funding competition with major policy shifts to the largest federal funding source for homelessness services — capping renewals and steering money away from permanent housing. The National Alliance to End Homelessness estimates the changes will cut at least \$1.23 billion in permanent housing funding nationally. In New York City, more than 8,000 households who rely on CoC programs could lose their housing, including people with disabilities, seniors, and domestic violence survivors.

New Destiny's two CoC-funded rapid rehousing programs — a lifeline for about 350 survivor-led

households and a third of our budget — are among the NYC CoC programs at risk. While we and our coalition partners urge Congress to protect the CoC, the City and the Department of Social Services (DSS) must plan now to keep these New Yorkers housed. More broadly, the City can leverage the expertise of CoC rapid rehousing providers as a proven resource in its broader efforts to address homelessness.

2. Create a CityFHEPS Lifeline for NYCHA EHV Households

- Extend CityFHEPS eligibility to NYCHA EHV participants and fund it in the FY2027 Budget, as part of the program's larger expansion

The Emergency Housing Voucher (EHV) program — a federal subsidy created in 2021 to house 70,000 households nationwide — is ending years ahead of its 2030 schedule. In NYC, the Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) is transitioning its roughly 2,000 EHV households to HOME Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (TBRA), a temporary federal subsidy. But the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA), which administers 5,200 EHV households — including 1,144 domestic violence survivors and 600 formerly homeless youth — has offered only one option so far: transfer within its portfolio. That means uprooting families who have finally found safety — and with only about 700 PACT units available, there aren't nearly enough.

While NYCHA waits for HUD's approval to allocate 1,700 HOME TBRA coupons for EHV households, that still leaves about 3,000 families without any option. CityFHEPS is the obvious solution: extending eligibility keeps families in the homes where they rebuilt their lives, prevents a wave of homelessness, and preserves the rent stream for thousands of landlords.

3. Fix CityFHEPS and Implement the Expansion Laws

- Comply with the 2025 court ruling and implement the 2023 CityFHEPS expansion laws
- Adopt the operational fixes in New Destiny's Fixing CityFHEPS Recommendations to speed move-ins

CityFHEPS is a lifeline, but delays, glitches, and red tape prolong shelter stays and frustrate landlords. Implementing the 2023 expansion laws would reduce the number of households entering shelter — saving shelter costs and the lives of survivors with no shelter history. Current rules still exclude many survivors, particularly those without a DHS shelter history. New Destiny's [Fixing CityFHEPS Recommendations](#) detail the operational fixes — from housing navigation (at \$4,250 per placement, roughly 4% of the annual cost of sheltering a family) to technology and faster inspections — that would get survivors home faster.

4. Invest \$10 Million in the HOME+ Program

- Fund HOME+ flexible funding at \$10 million in the FY2027 Budget — enough to reach about 3,800 survivor-led households

Launched by ENDGBV in July 2024 under Local Law 112 of 2022, HOME+ helps survivors stay safely housed through flexible-funding grants, pendant alarms, and lock changes and repairs. It works: between July 2024 and June 2025, 426 survivors received grants averaging \$2,055, disbursed within 19 days on average — most preventing eviction or shelter entry. But it reaches a fraction of the need: in 2025, 15,362 survivors visited the City's Family Justice Centers and 2,988 used their

housing services, yet flexible funding served just 426. The gap is resources, not need — the FY2025 flexible-funding budget was just \$1.2 million. As the EHV program ends and pushes countless survivors toward displacement, demand for the prevention resources HOME+ provides will only rise. After an 8% administrative set-aside and four full-time staff in each borough, \$10 million would leave about \$7.8 million for direct grants and services, reaching roughly 3,800 survivor-led households — at a fraction of the cost of shelter.

5. Strengthen Our Space and Expand NYC 15/15 for Single Survivors

- Implement the expansion of HPD's Our Space program to survivors in HRA domestic violence shelters and let specialized providers support survivors' transition
- Expand NYC 15/15 supportive housing eligibility to single adult survivors

The Adams administration announced changes to open HPD's Our Space program to survivors in HRA domestic violence shelters, but they have yet to be implemented. We urge the Mamdani administration to carry them out — and to let specialized service providers support survivors through the move from shelter to permanent housing and provide aftercare. With that specialized support guiding the transition, more survivors reach permanent housing and stay there.

Supportive housing is one of the most effective interventions for survivors with complex health and trauma needs. After years of advocacy, the City made domestic violence survivors eligible for its largest supportive housing program, NYC 15/15 — but only survivors in families. Half of all NYC domestic violence hotline callers are single survivors — including LGBTQIA+ survivors, trafficking survivors, and older adults — who rarely access shelter or permanent housing. NYC 15/15 eligibility must include single adult survivors.

NEW DESTINY HOUSING

New Destiny Housing is a New York City-based nonprofit founded on the principle that survivors of domestic violence need safe, permanent homes in which to rebuild their lives. For over 30 years, we have been creating homes for survivors as a developer and service provider, pioneering new models of housing assistance, and advocating for greater resources for a historically underserved population, often hidden from view.



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