



NEW DESTINY HOUSING'S 2026 NEW YORK STATE PRIORITIES



AFFORDABLE HOUSING IS LIFESAVING FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SURVIVORS

Across the state, more than [1 in 3 New Yorkers](#) will experience abuse by an intimate partner in their lifetime, and as they try to flee, countless will face an impossible choice between homelessness or staying in a life-threatening situation. According to the most recent data, [1 out of every 6 homicides](#) in New York State is domestic violence-related, where the victim was either an intimate partner or a family member.

New York has the [highest demand for domestic violence services in the country](#), yet not all survivors are able to access resources and services, especially when it comes to permanent housing. In fact, 1 in 2 unmet service requests from domestic violence survivors in New York State is housing related.

Affordable housing, paired with support services, is critical for domestic violence survivors to rebuild their lives. While Governor Hochul and the New York State Legislature have increased funding levels for critical programs, more must be done to ensure the long-term stability of survivors and their children.

1. PROTECT SURVIVORS IN SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

a. Invest \$62.1 million in NYSSHP

Supportive housing is one of the safest and most cost-effective housing solutions for survivors of domestic violence healing from the double trauma of abuse and homelessness. The New York State Supportive Housing Program (NYSSHP), the oldest program of its kind in the nation, had been virtually flat-funded for nearly four decades until last year, when the state increased funding by \$17.8 million — a historic investment, but only a fraction of the \$32 million needed for year one of a five-year modernization plan.

Supportive housing combines permanent, affordable housing with voluntary support services.

New Destiny operates 5 NYSSHP buildings with 177 apartments serving hundreds of children and adults impacted by domestic violence. Last year's funding increase is allowing us to hire additional staff and reduce an unsustainable case management ratio of one staff member for every 56 residents, but the contract rate still falls short in providing much needed security coverage for our families.

Governor Hochul's Fiscal Year 2027 budget proposes only a 4% increase for NYSSHP, far short of what's needed. We urge our state leaders to increase NYSSHP funding by \$62.1 million this year (year two of a five-year plan).

b. Increase ESSHI funding for existing projects

The Empire State Supportive Housing Initiative (ESSHI) is the primary vehicle for creating new supportive housing across the state, providing both operating and service funding so tenants pay only 30% of their income in rent. Last year, the state increased the annual per unit rate to \$34,000 in New York City and \$31,000 elsewhere — but only for future projects. Existing and in-development sites, including some that received awards below the previous \$25,000 rate, have been left behind.

New Destiny's McLean Place project, currently under construction and expected to open in 2027, received an ESSHI rate of \$25,000 per unit annually — meaning it will open with a funding gap of up to \$9,000 per unit compared to projects awarded today. McLean Place will house 72 households, most of them domestic violence survivors with children who will depend on on-site services to rebuild their lives. Without rate parity, New Destiny will face an immediate structural deficit upon opening, jeopardizing the staffing and services that survivors deserve.

We urge our state leaders to include an additional \$82 million in the Fiscal Year Enacted Aid to Localities NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) budget to bring all existing and upcoming ESSHI units to parity with current rates. We also request that language be added to the Governor's \$300 million appropriation directing any excess ESSHI funds to increase service and operating rates for existing sites.

2. INCREASE HHAP FUNDING TO \$281 MILLION AND MODERNIZE APPLICATION PROCESS AND REPORTING

Since 1983, OTDA's Homeless Housing Assistance Program (HHAP) has provided critical capital funding for supportive housing, new construction, and preservation — and remains the only such source in many regions. Yet demand for HHAP vastly outstrips available funding. This fiscal year, more than \$400 million in requests came in against a \$128 million allocation — meaning only one in three projects received an award. Over the first three months alone, requests exceeded twice the available funding, forcing the program to close its application window early for the second consecutive year.

We urge our state leaders to double the main program allocation from \$128 million to \$256 million and continue the \$25 million supportive housing stabilization set-aside, for a total of \$281 million. We also call on the administration to modernize the application process and eliminate redundant reporting.

3. EXPAND HAVP TO \$250 MILLION, MAKE IT PERMANENT, AND INCLUDE SURVIVORS FLEEING ABUSE

The Housing Access Voucher Program (HAVP) launches this spring with just \$50 million — enough to serve only a fraction of households in shelter or on the streets. Survivors fleeing domestic violence who are not in shelter, and New Yorkers at risk of eviction, are excluded entirely.

We urge our state leaders to allocate \$250 million for HAVP in Fiscal Year 2027, make the program permanent, and adopt the [federal definition of homelessness](#) for eligibility — ensuring survivors fleeing life-threatening situations can access safe, affordable housing.

4. CREATE A \$250 MILLION HAPI FUND

New York's supportive housing providers are in financial distress. Doubled insurance costs, utilities up 25%, and mounting arrears have forced deferred maintenance, property sales, and closures — shrinking the affordable housing stock that vulnerable tenants depend on.

We call on the Senate and Assembly to establish a \$250 million Housing Access and Preservation Initiative (HAPI) Fund within the Low-Income Housing Trust Fund, overseen by NYS Homes and Community Renewal. It would provide forgivable loans for arrears relief and operating support, plus capital funding for repairs — preserving affordability and keeping our most vulnerable tenants, including domestic violence survivors, housed.

5. INVEST IN A TII OF 2.7% FOR OTDA AND ALL HUMAN SERVICES CONTRACTS

Domestic violence service workers have long been excluded from state contract increases — and the Governor's FY2027 proposal continues that pattern, offering only a 1.7% targeted inflationary increase (TII) while leaving OTDA programs out entirely.

We support the #JustPay campaign's call for a 2.7% TII for all human services workers, and Senator Persaud's S3669B, which would ensure no state-contracted program is left behind. As New Destiny's Program Director Thaisia Johnson recently wrote for [amNY](#), without a living wage, domestic violence service workers are often forced to rely on the same public programs as the clients they serve.

We urge the Senate and Assembly to adopt the full 2.7% TII and include OTDA and all human services contracts.

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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