



new destiny
housing

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New Destiny Statement on Final State Budget

New Destiny welcomes New York's renewed commitment to supportive housing in this year's final budget. We are especially glad to see that the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance's (OTDA's) consolidated homeless service program, which supports the New York State Supportive Housing Program (NYSSHP), received a \$2.8 million increase, bringing it to \$74.2 million and helping preserve the historic investment the state made in NYSSHP last year. We are equally heartened by the \$60 million increase for the Empire State Supportive Housing Initiative (ESSHI), which helps cover last year's rate increases for new projects. Together, these investments sustain the impact of supportive housing, whose combination of affordability, stability, and services makes it one of the most effective resources available for domestic violence survivors to stay housed and rebuild their lives after escaping abuse. We thank Governor Hochul, Speaker Heastie, and Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins for standing with survivors.

These are real wins, which makes our disappointment over the Housing Access Voucher Program (HAVP) all the sharper. HAVP was funded at just \$50 million this year — far below the \$250 million that elected leaders, New Destiny, and housing advocates alike had sought. As leaders across the state have acknowledged, the program can be a powerful tool, but at this scale, it is not yet reaching the New Yorkers facing the most immediate danger.

That danger is the expiration of federal Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHVs) within months. The households relying on EHVs — among them thousands of domestic violence survivors and their families, as well as thousands of other New Yorkers — stand to lose the rental assistance that keeps a roof over their heads.

There is still time to act. Before the legislative session closes, lawmakers must pass S9430 / A10992, which would at least expand HAVP's eligibility criteria to include households at imminent risk of losing their federal rental assistance — like EHV families — so some of them can reach this lifeline before they lose their homes. New Destiny urges the Legislature to pass it without delay, and we will keep fighting to fund HAVP at the level New Yorkers deserve. Thousands of lives and livelihoods are depending on it.