



new destiny
housing

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New Destiny Statement on New York City Council's Preliminary Budget

New Destiny is grateful to the New York City Council for allocating \$6 million to the Mayor's Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence's microgrant program for domestic violence survivors in their FY25 Preliminary Budget response. The program, also known as Housing Stability, is designed to provide life-saving, low-barrier grants to survivors and connect them to supportive services, with the goal of helping them maintain housing. Flexible funding has a monumental impact on the lives of survivors. As a privately funded pilot program implemented during COVID demonstrated, these grants can significantly improve survivors' financial situation, help them remain housed, and foster financial stability. This increased funding will get the program closer to meeting the high demand for microgrants and ensure that every survivor has the resources to escape violent situations and remain safe.

New Destiny is also thrilled that the Council has called for an increase to the Department of Housing Preservation and Development's capital budget of roughly \$732 million annually, which will allow it to develop more supportive housing through the NYC 15/15 initiative beyond the initial 7,500-unit commitment. Combined with \$145 million for first-year implementation of the CityFHEPS expansion and a call to fill staffing vacancies at important agencies like the Human Resources Administration, these investments will play a key role in helping to end the crisis of homelessness across our city.

Domestic violence is a leading cause of homelessness in New York City, yet survivors are excluded from critical housing resources. The Council can and must do more to specifically help house survivors of domestic violence. While the funding for HPD and additional supportive housing is welcome, the Council's budget response did not include domestic violence survivors as one of the vulnerable populations who will be able to utilize NYC 15/15 housing—this is an oversight we ask the Council to immediately correct. The Council must also call on Mayor Adams to deliver on his promise to expand access to HPD homeless set-aside units for survivors in HRA domestic violence shelters, which is a budget neutral solution that would provide housing and fill vacancies faster. We strongly urge Speaker Adams and the rest of the City Council to include these provisions in the final budget so that survivors across New York City have safe and affordable places to call home.