



new destiny  
housing

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### **New Destiny Statement on the New York State Budget**

New Destiny is deeply disappointed that the Assembly, Senate, and Governor Hochul chose, again, not to provide adequate funding for the New York State Supportive Housing Program (NYSSHP) or create the Housing Assistance Voucher Program (HAVP) in the State's FY25 Budget. New York's leaders have reneged on their promise to ensure the wellbeing of survivors of domestic violence and other vulnerable New Yorkers facing housing instability.

20,000 households across the state rely on NYSSHP to remain safe and stably housed, including thousands of domestic violence survivors and their children. Yet the program has barely received funding increases since it was created nearly 40 years ago, leaving NYSSHP unable to provide adequate services for these at-risk families. And this year, the State's budget has only allotted an additional \$2.8 million for the program, a negligible amount that will force thousands of New Yorkers to continue to live in underfunded and unsustainable supportive housing units.

This lack of resources is indefensible. The \$32 million for NYSSHP included in the Senate's initial one-house budget would have brought the program in line with the Empire State Supportive Housing Initiative, New York's newer supportive housing program, an eminently reasonable demand for a government that has professed to care about the needs of survivors and others who lack permanent housing. The decision to only provide NYSSHP with less than one-tenth of the resources it needs is truly astonishing, especially given the demonstrated support from Social Services Committee Chair Davila, Housing Committee Chair Rosenthal, and Children and Families Committee Chair Hevesi, who [issued a joint letter of support to Speaker Heastie](#) in February. It is a mistake that will not only harm survivors everywhere, but also put an immense financial burden on the nonprofit organizations that run NYSSHP housing.

We also condemn in the strongest terms the Legislature and Governor's decision to deny funding for the establishment of the Housing Access Voucher Program. With the requested \$250 million in funding, HAVP would have provided up to 13,000 vouchers and helped as many as 30,000 New Yorkers leave shelter or avoid the trauma of homelessness. HAVP would have helped to expand equitable access to housing for domestic violence survivors, regardless of immigration status, and eased the burden on our shelter system. Housing groups from across New York have called HAVP a common-sense solution to the epidemic of housing instability that faces many of our state's communities, and the failure of our elected leaders to act to stem this crisis belies their claim to be acting in the best interest of both domestic violence survivors and low-income New Yorkers.

We know supportive housing and rental assistance programs provide domestic violence survivors with the tools they need to survive, heal, and thrive as they navigate their lives free from abuse. The decision to cast aside HAVP and leave NYSSHP woefully underfunded will leave tens of thousands of households across the state in housing limbo. Supportive housing advocates and domestic violence survivors alike are furious about these twin policy failures.

New Destiny and its partners will continue to advocate for solutions to these issues, especially in light of Albany's abdication of their duty to vulnerable populations.