



**new destiny**  
housing

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## **New Destiny Statement on Expansion of NYC 15/15 Eligibility to Domestic Violence Survivors**

New Destiny Housing applauds Mayor Adams, the Department of Social Services, and the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene for opening the doors of the City's supportive housing program to domestic violence survivors and their families. Initially announced as part of a suite of [policy changes in April of this year](#), the City has now officially amended their 15/15 supportive housing program, removing eligibility criteria that made most survivors – even those with the greatest need for long-term services – ineligible. Now, families that have gone through the double trauma of abuse and homelessness will be able to access the housing and services they need to address the long-lasting physical, psychological, and financial consequences of abuse. This is a monumental step forward in New York's long-term plan to end homelessness for domestic violence survivors.

Supportive housing is permanent affordable housing with voluntary services and one of the safest and most cost-effective housing solutions for domestic violence survivors. Yet, to qualify for city-funded supportive housing, survivors had to have a lengthy shelter stay and a diagnosed disability, such as serious mental illness or substance use disorder. Domestic violence survivors rarely divulge this for fear of losing custody of their children to their abuser, as New Destiny documented in our recent report, [A Crisis Compounded: The Dual Crises of Domestic Violence and Homelessness](#). Alongside advocates, we had called on the City for years to open up its supportive housing program to domestic violence survivors, and we are now eager to work with the City to ensure the change is rolled out quickly and equitably.

Having provided supportive housing for survivors via state contracts, we have seen first-hand how onsite access to resources like counseling, therapeutic activities, and financial coaching have been essential for survivors to regain self-sufficiency and begin to heal after escaping from an abusive relationship. Thanks to this change, we and other providers across the city will be able to significantly expand this much needed resource for New Yorkers impacted by domestic violence. We are incredibly thankful to Mayor Adams, Commissioner Park, Commissioner Sethi, Commissioner Vasan and their staff for making this change, and for their steadfast support of survivors, and look forward to continuing to work with both City and State leaders on improving access to supportive housing for all survivors in need.