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Ontario County Board Of Supervisors

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Thursday-evening

Good evening,

Hello again, for those who haven't met me before, My name is Jacob Welch. I firstly want to thank you for giving me this time to communicate directly with you. I would like to briefly talk to you tonight about the proposals you all have received through email.

These proposals address the rising crisis of homelessness in our community and across the state of New York. Based on my research and searching the internet, Ontario county has 205 cases since 2019 that are known and reported of Ontario County residents being homeless and or unsheltered. Since the inflation of goods, gas, and the intensified rise in housing rent and house mortgages. I'm sure there has been a significant increase in homelessness and or evictions, making families unsure of how they are going to keep a roof over their heads.

NYC

In 2015

Age:

- In 2015 there was 4% who were under the age of 18 years old who were homeless
- 44% between the ages 18 to 20- who were homeless
- 52% between the ages of 21-24 who were homeless

Gender:

- 52% identified as male
- 38% identified as female
- 1% identified as transgender female
- 2\$ identified as transgender male

Race and Ethnicity:

- 38% Identified as african American
- 25% Identified as Hispanic
- 8% Identified as white
- 20% Identified as 2 or more races

Sexual Orientation

- 51% identified as Straight
- 44% identify as LGBTQ

34% cite physical, mental, or sexual abuse as a reason for homelessness in NYC

34% cite fighting frequently with parents as a reason for homelessness in NYC

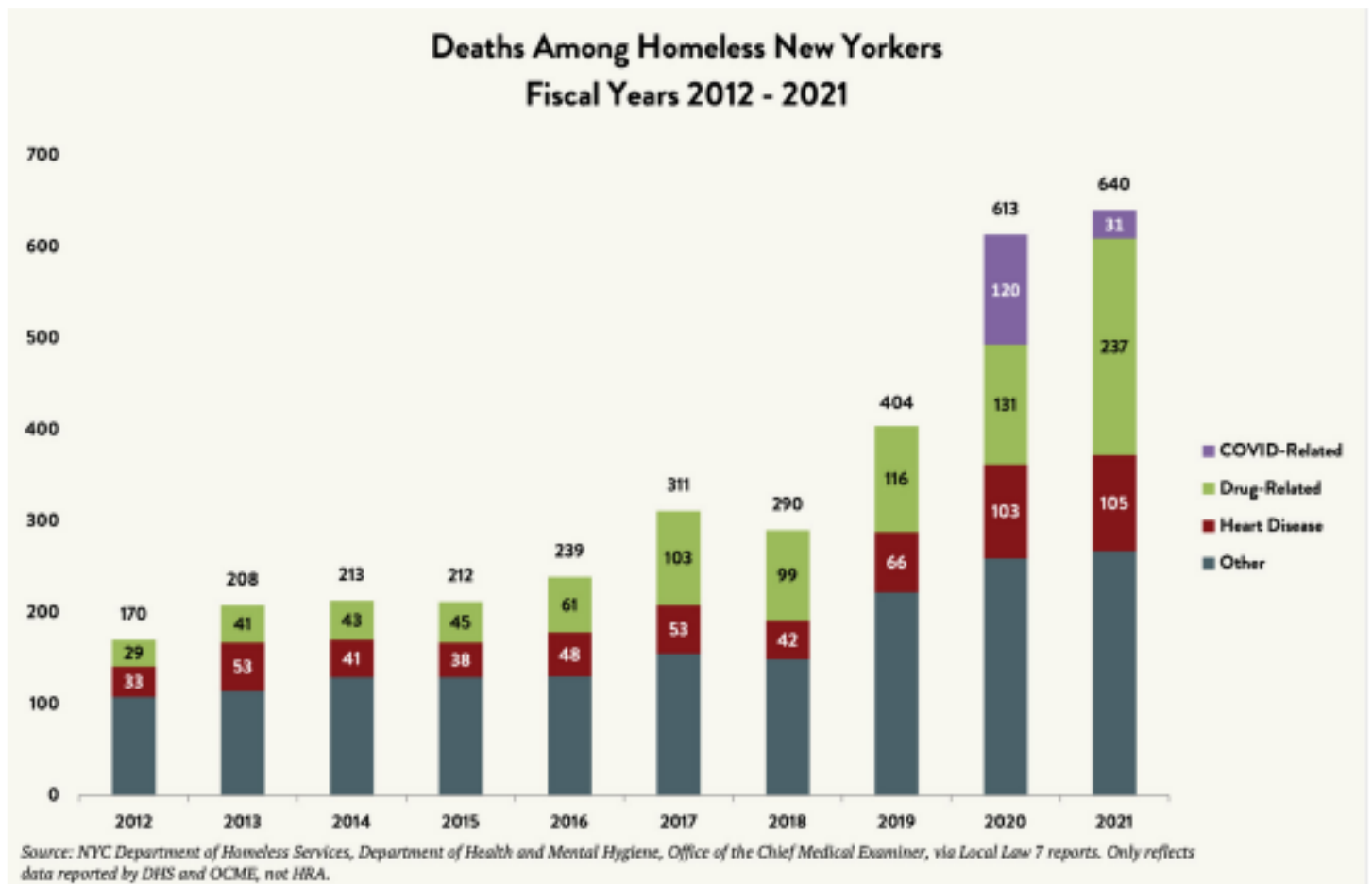
31% city being kicked out of home as a reason for homelessness in NYC

26% cite neglect, and parents not meeting basic needs as a reason for homelessness in NYC

20% city not willing to live by their parents' rules as a reason for homelessness in NYC

“Youth homelessness is often underreported and extremely difficult to track”.

HOUSING IS HEALTH CARE



deaths remained the leading cause of death among homeless New Yorkers, consistent with citywide and national trends,¹ increasing by 81 percent, from 131 in Fiscal Year 2020 to 237 in Fiscal Year 2021. This underscores the urgent need for additional harm reduction services and the expansion of overdose prevention centers to more neighborhoods. Amidst the ongoing pandemic, 31 homeless New Yorkers died due to COVID-19 in Fiscal Year 2021, 27 of whom were shelter residents.

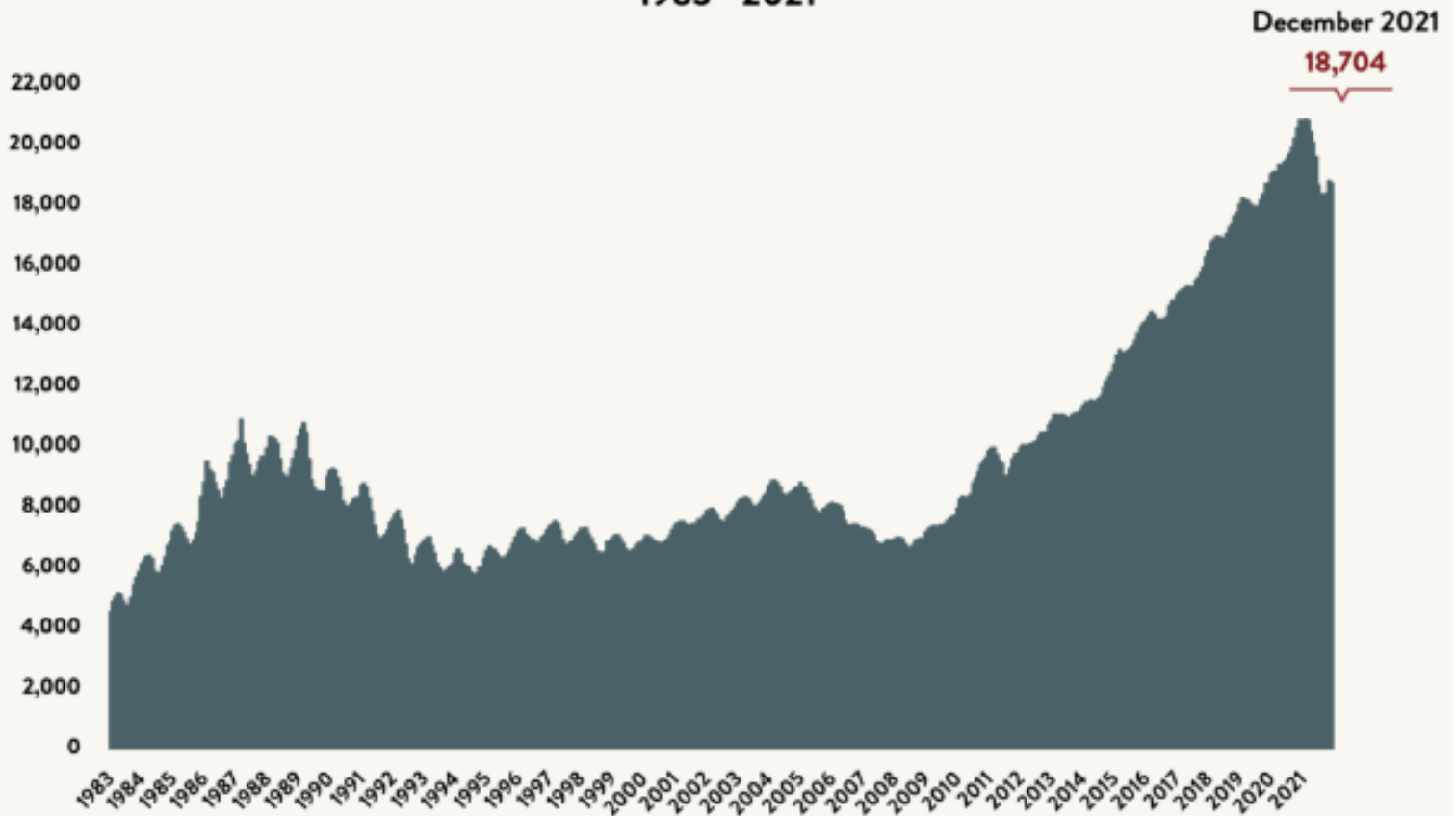
We can see from the chart listed above, that the rate of homeless deaths are increasing year by year.

Report Card

CITY AND STATE
REPORT CARD

	NEW YORK CITY	NEW YORK STATE	
Meeting the Needs of Unsheltered New Yorkers			
Equipping Outreach Teams with Necessary Resources	D	D-	
Access to Low-Barrier Shelters	C+	F	
Access to Psychiatric Services	D	F	
Housing for Unsheltered Individuals	D	F	
Restroom Access for Unsheltered Individuals	F	F	
Protecting the Rights of Unsheltered Individuals	D	F	
	Shelters for Single Adults	Shelters for Adult Families	Shelters for Families with Children
The Shelter System			
Access to Shelters	C+	D-	D-
Shelter Conditions and Enforcement	D	D-	D-
Shelter Design	F	D	B
Services in Shelters	D+	D+	C+
Housing Search Assistance	D	F	D
	NEW YORK CITY	NEW YORK STATE	
Housing			
Affordable Housing for Extremely Low-Income and Homeless New Yorkers	F	F	
Supportive Housing and Licensed Housing for Adults with Serious Mental Illnesses	C	D	
Housing Vouchers and Stability	B	D+	
Enforcement Against Discrimination in Housing	C+	C-	
	NEW YORK CITY	NEW YORK STATE	
Homelessness Prevention			
Rental Assistance	B+	C+	
Eviction Prevention	A	C-	
Institutional Discharge Policies	C-	F	

Number of Homeless Single Adults Sleeping Each Night in DHS Shelters 1983 - 2021



Source: NYC Department of Homeless Services and Human Resources Administration; Local Law 37 Reports

Image Description: A graph labeled “Number of Homeless Single Adults Sleeping Each Night in DHS Shelters 1983-2021.” The vertical axis lists numbers 0 to 22,000 in increments of 2,000. The horizontal axis lists the years 1983 through 2021. A gray shaded area stretches along the horizontal axis and shows small peaks and troughs before a large incline followed by a slight decline leading to a point labeled “December 2021 18,704.”

“Homeless families with children now spend roughly one and a half years on average sleeping in a shelter before finding their way out, and in the Fiscal Year 2021, 1,121 babies were born to parents in DHS shelters – meaning these newborns came “home” from the hospital to a municipal shelter.”

Shelter Census

“In December 2021, an average of 18,704 individuals slept each night in the DHS shelter system for single adults – an increase of 91 percent in 10 years.¹⁵ The single adult shelter census has increased dramatically since 2007 and reached new highs during the pandemic, mirrored by a visible increase in the number of unsheltered single adults, and highlighting the scarcity of permanent housing options for this population.”

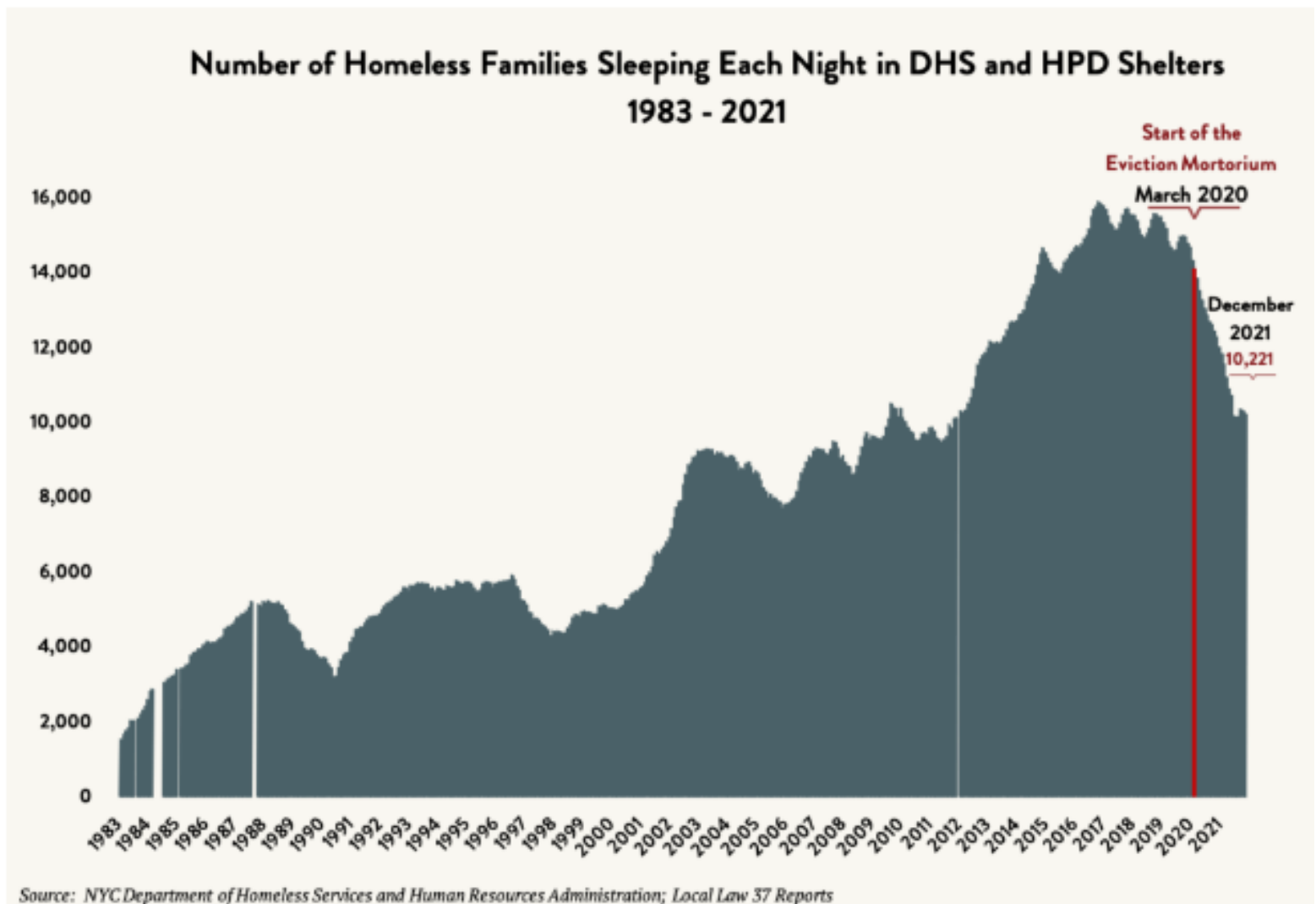
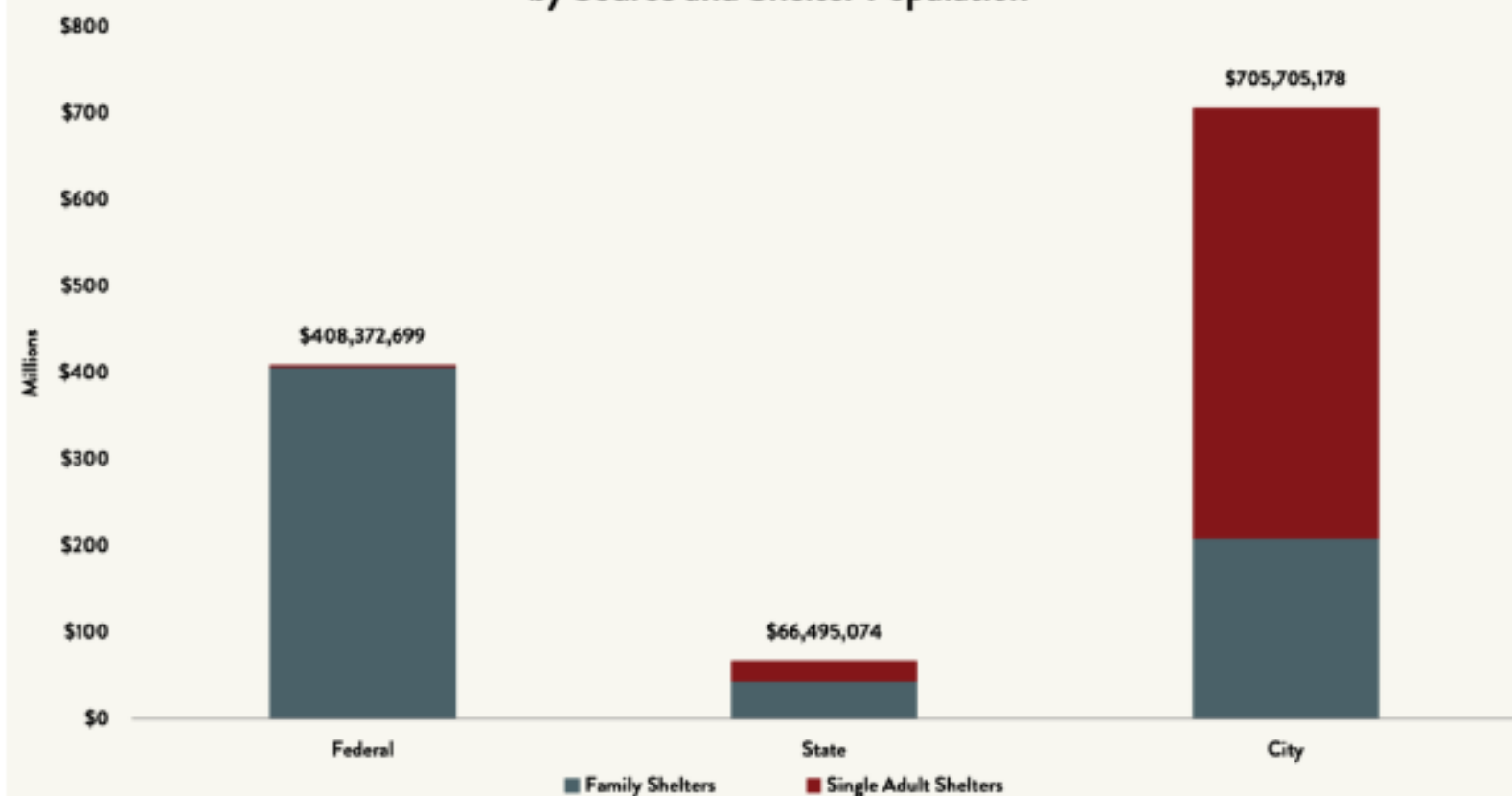


Image Description: A graph labeled “Number of Homeless Families Sleeping Each Night in DHS and HPD Shelters 1983-2021.” The vertical axis lists numbers 0 to 16,000 in increments of 2,000. The horizontal axis lists the years 1983 through 2021. A gray shaded area stretches horizontally with several peaks and troughs and a large incline followed by a decline leading to a point labeled “December 2021 10,221.” A vertical red line labeled “Start of the Eviction Moratorium March 2020” precedes the final sharp decline.

Increase in Spending on NYC DHS Shelters Between Fiscal Years 2011 and 2021 by Source and Shelter Population

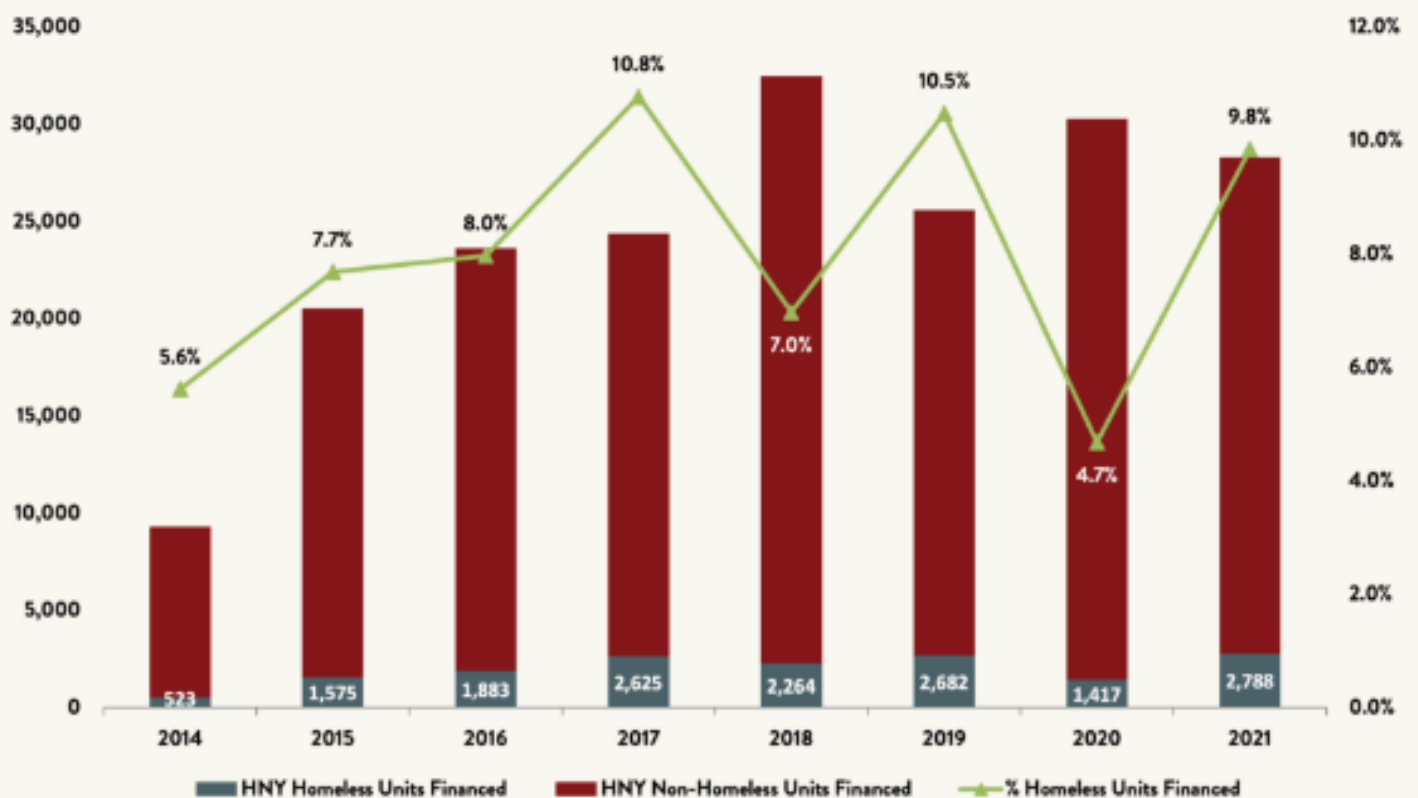


Source: NYC Independent Budget Office. Excludes specific pandemic-related funding.

Image Description: A graph labeled “Increase in Spending on NYC DHS Shelters Between Fiscal Years 2011 and 2021 by Source and Shelter Population.” The vertical axis lists millions of dollars in increments of 100. The horizontal axis lists three categories: Federal, State, and City. Each category has a bar in two parts: A gray section shows the amount spent on family shelters, and a dark red section shows the amount spent on single adult shelters. The total amount is listed on top of each bar, with a value of \$705,705,178 for the City.

All told, the *Housing New York* plan produced fewer than 3,000 newly constructed apartments for homeless households, aside from supportive housing, in the span of nearly eight years. Most of the plan's housing is "affordable" only to people with higher incomes – a glaring failure to leverage City and or county resources to address the daunting housing crisis that causes prolonged homelessness and housing instability among extremely low-income New Yorkers.

***Housing New York* Units and Homeless Set-Aside Units Financed
Fiscal Years 2014 - 2021**



Source: NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development and Mayor's Management Reports

Image Description: A graph labeled “Housing New York Units and Homeless Set-Aside Units Financed Fiscal Years 2014 – 2021.” The vertical axes list numbers 0 to 35,000 in increments of 5,000 on the left, and percentages from 0.0% to 12.0% in increments of 2 on the right. The horizontal axis lists the years 2014 through 2021. At each year are bars in two sections: A gray section shows the number of Housing New York homeless units financed, with a value of 2,788 for the year 2021, and a dark red section shows the number of Housing New York non-homeless units financed. A green line marks the percentage of homeless units financed at each year, with a value of 9.8% for 2021.

STATE	1 EARNER	FAMILY SIZE		
		2 PEOPLE	3 PEOPLE	4 PEOPLE *
ALABAMA	\$52,138	\$63,401	\$70,250	\$85,687
ALASKA	\$67,010	\$90,698	\$108,072	\$108,072
ARIZONA	\$58,462	\$73,262	\$79,110	\$89,741
ARKANSAS	\$48,882	\$61,212	\$70,169	\$71,383
CALIFORNIA	\$65,895	\$87,355	\$97,092	\$111,535
COLORADO	\$70,952	\$92,321	\$100,744	\$120,898
CONNECTICUT	\$72,497	\$94,528	\$108,409	\$137,128
DELAWARE	\$65,072	\$82,516	\$96,841	\$113,626
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	\$74,266	\$138,342	\$138,342	\$182,068
FLORIDA	\$55,681	\$69,884	\$75,057	\$89,206
GEORGIA	\$55,600	\$71,504	\$79,980	\$96,622
HAWAII	\$75,797	\$88,181	\$100,532	\$125,304
IDAHO	\$54,942	\$68,818	\$76,635	\$95,031
ILLINOIS	\$61,456	\$81,190	\$97,067	\$113,649
INDIANA	\$54,785	\$69,505	\$81,783	\$96,083
IOWA	\$54,155	\$75,139	\$85,758	\$100,901
KANSAS	\$55,069	\$75,845	\$88,369	\$98,454
KENTUCKY	\$51,978	\$61,790	\$71,501	\$86,508
LOUISIANA	\$49,719	\$61,042	\$71,371	\$87,472
MAINE	\$57,955	\$72,988	\$87,051	\$97,141
MARYLAND	\$75,214	\$98,840	\$113,994	\$138,054
MASSACHUSETTS	\$75,077	\$96,358	\$117,415	\$148,713
MICHIGAN	\$56,343	\$70,163	\$84,245	\$103,838

MINNESOTA	\$65,514	\$86,358	\$106,445	\$125,753
MISSISSIPPI	\$47,446	\$57,148	\$61,205	\$74,888
MISSOURI	\$53,547	\$69,614	\$80,022	\$94,774
MONTANA	\$57,448	\$71,836	\$79,652	\$86,867
NEBRASKA	\$53,892	\$75,719	\$91,076	\$102,544
NEVADA	\$56,949	\$73,083	\$81,179	\$88,746
NEW HAMPSHIRE	\$75,432	\$87,260	\$113,013	\$135,833
NEW JERSEY	\$75,321	\$92,669	\$117,697	\$140,657
NEW MEXICO	\$49,757	\$60,728	\$66,183	\$70,316
NEW YORK	\$63,548	\$80,784	\$96,854	\$117,706
NORTH CAROLINA	\$53,687	\$70,000	\$76,386	\$94,269
NORTH DAKOTA	\$58,318	\$82,635	\$94,950	\$110,225
OHIO	\$54,877	\$70,209	\$82,734	\$100,693
OKLAHOMA	\$51,435	\$66,786	\$71,397	\$83,157
OREGON	\$64,975	\$77,773	\$93,773	\$106,554
PENNSYLVANIA	\$60,640	\$74,805	\$92,441	\$110,077
RHODE ISLAND	\$67,541	\$84,570	\$101,104	\$114,580
SOUTH CAROLINA	\$52,348	\$67,922	\$75,128	\$90,331
SOUTH DAKOTA	\$54,821	\$74,820	\$87,475	\$96,399
TENNESSEE	\$53,188	\$66,989	\$75,394	\$91,069
TEXAS	\$55,441	\$74,636	\$80,733	\$93,386
UTAH	\$70,425	\$77,219	\$90,629	\$101,146
VERMONT	\$58,728	\$78,009	\$92,628	\$117,750
VIRGINIA	\$67,918	\$86,805	\$102,869	\$121,793
WASHINGTON	\$74,398	\$90,292	\$104,644	\$118,901
WEST VIRGINIA	\$53,244	\$58,126	\$71,757	\$78,008
WISCONSIN	\$57,934	\$76,493	\$92,586	\$109,919

WYOMING	\$60,510	\$76,143	\$88,902	\$106,003
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** Add \$9,900 for each individual in excess of 4.*

COMMONWEALTH OR U.S. TERRITORY	1 EARNER	FAMILY SIZE		
		2 PEOPLE	3 PEOPLE	4 PEOPLE *
GUAM	\$45,332	\$54,202	\$61,766	\$74,744
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS	\$30,442	\$30,442	\$35,417	\$52,091
PUERTO RICO	\$26,146	\$26,146	\$28,484	\$33,905
VIRGIN ISLANDS	\$35,968	\$43,228	\$46,090	\$50,496

** Add \$9,900 for each individual in excess of 4.*

Personal Statement:

When looking at the Data above, it's clear to me, that the bigger local governments and counties are trying to address the humanitarian crisis when it comes to increasing and or maintaining services and resources for the homeless populations. However, the local governments and counties can not maintain the level of resources and services needed, without the State Of New York's year-round financial, and development support, which is clearly lagging behind.

We can see on page 3, based on the report card, NYS needs to get its act together when it comes to improving on providing financial assistance while increasing the level of supportive housing assistance programs across the State for the homeless and low-income population. NYS, will tell you, we are and we have, but the data says something different.

Yes, they have set up programs like HUD, and other forms of low-income housing, but I would argue based on the evidence presented to you tonight that, NYS has made it almost impossible for families to meet basic eligibility to qualify when applying for HUD and or

other low-income housing. While their Homeless programs are almost nonexistent based on the report shown.

I believe that we need to be unified while being very direct when it comes to communicating to the State legislation and State representatives, on what services, funding, and other forms or resources are needed when it comes to creating stability while establishing and increasing services, resources and decreasing the income basic level of eligibility and regulations for the Low-income and homeless population.

Ontario County struggles in providing homeless and temporary housing services, as well as many other small counties. Not because we don't care, but because there are not enough funding, housing temporary assistance, and homeless shelter services to the ratio of community residents looking for these supports. Family Promise Of Ontario County is the only Homeless shelter available throughout Ontario county. Their agency only has one shelter and is often full with no open availability.

Imagine,

someone homeless a few days before Christmas eve, and is looking for support and shelter. They live in Ontario county (Canandaigua NY) in their car. they have nothing as they walk into DSS/ The man explains his situation in hopes to get housing and other supportive services. Then the DSS social worker tells the man that, we have no more open availability for motels, is there any way you, can find an agency, friend, or family member who can take you in for a holiday? (the reason he's there is because he has no one to take him in).

He says no, Dss social worker explains to him, we'll have to see what shelters are available outside the county because Ontario County doesn't have Open availability in shelters. The DSS Social Worker has stated He doesn't qualify for HUD because he receives SSI and SSD in the amount of 1,300.00 and an additional \$600.00 monthly from his part-time job equaling 1,900 as gross monthly income/ housing has increased therefore the one-bedroom policy with HUD with affordable rent is nonexistent.

HUD policy is that he must find a one-bedroom apartment at 760.00 monthly with a possible supplemental shelter allowance of \$350.00 if he meets the basic State, and County eligibility requirements. The shelter Supplement may not apply due to Ontario County not having adequate Open availability in shelters for placement, open emergency Temporary housing availability, and or if he indicates that he has children. The man is now unsure if he'll have emergency housing and a safe environment while awaiting additional resources. On top of that, he's unsure if he'll have the gas to get to work if he's placed outside the county in an emergency shelter.

Ontario County Housing Authority Income Limit

Income Ontario County Basic Eligibility For Public Housing Authority, your household must Meet the net and gross income limits based on the household size, income limits may vary State by State.

Persons in Family/Household	Gross Monthly Income	Net Monthly Income
1	\$1,383 Before Taxes	\$1,064 After Taxes
2	\$1,868	\$1,437
3	\$2,353	\$1,810
4	\$2,839	\$2,184
5	\$3,324	\$2,557
6	\$3,809	\$2,930
7	\$4,295	\$3,304
8	\$4,780	\$3,677

The Ontario County Housing Authority will check your references to make sure you and your family will be good tenants. Housing Authority will only provide admission to any applicant **with good tenant history to maintain a peaceful and quiet experience for other residents.**

This is a prime example that many people who are coming to DSS, looking for emergency shelter Housing face. Many of the Non-profit agencies are in tuff positions because they don't have enough funds to provide for struggling families. Ontario county on top of many other small counties doesn't have adequate shelter and or temporary housing programs to provide for struggling low-income and or homeless families. There needs to be an increase of funding for DSS for their programs, while a decrease in regulations and increase for realistic eligibility requirements for Low income and homeless populations throughout the State of New York.

As you can see, when reading the information listed above, the Homeless crisis is turning into a humanitarian health crisis concern, regarding, one's health, safety, well-being, and overall growth opportunities. I know this may seem small and out of touch for smaller cities and counties, but take a moment and think about it, once the bigger cities start getting overcrowded and can't find homeless programs to enroll the growing population of homeless people, where do you think they're going to send them, they're going to send them to a location where there is availability for housing.

What's the end Goal: the end goal is to improve and prolong human life while providing adequate services and resource opportunities to the homeless population. While investing and enhancing one's knowledge, education, safety, and overall growth in one's community and home. There are way too many people that are homeless right now, as you even read this email, some because of their own choice, but mostly because of circumstances that they could not control, such as inflation, and the housing crisis, many New Yorkers can not afford housing because of poor government spending, reckless policies, lack of housing services and the choice of having to choose between essentials things such as gas, rent, food and or daycare.

Well working at the VA and At my Organization, I've seen so many of our veterans and civilians suffer financially, emotionally, and even physically because they're forced to go back to work when they shouldn't be because of health reasons or other relative factors. My goal tonight is to obtain this board's support in the State increasing their financial and developmental support in all 62 counties. I have not come here to ask for money but to ask for your help in aiding me to hold hour state and the federal government accountable in participating in providing our county's residents the chance to receive the help they need. My goal is to establish at least one shelter in each county that provides supportive referral services to their community, government, and faith agencies. The New York State

Department Of Housing Services, goal and mission is to be the center hub for the new housing shelter services throughout the 62 counties, while creating supportive funding and contract opportunities for established Shelters, agencies, and DHS programs across the State. Change starts with the ones who care and have the power to do something to change the outcome for the better. That is you as officials, that's me as someone who brings ideas and is eager for change. The state will not allow this idea to move forward unless it has the support of the Ontario County Board Of Supervisors. Change is not easy but together we can make the first step in the right direction.

Ontario County Department Of Housing Services(DHS)- this department would work with Ontario residents that were facing homelessness and or about to be Homeless, due to inflation, and other factors that may play into why Ontario county residents may be struggling, resulting in becoming homeless. While working with our clients based on their needs we would either enroll them in our temporary 24 hours around the clock- 6- 12 month home-like residential Shelter program. where they would obtain supportive assistance through Ontario County Workforce Development, Ontario ARC access VR, Ontario County Department Of Social Services (DSS), and or Case management services. While taking advantage of Community services, food pantries, and other forms of supportive services through other agencies. that can assist them in obtaining rental assistance while having a place to sleep, eat and be safe. While at the shelter they can work with our resource counselors and Program manager for assistance in obtaining referrals to the services they may need well, working with HUD apartment housing outlets services and Case Managers.

If an Ontario County resident can maintain their home, a resource Counselor can support them by assisting a family and or person fill out paperwork to receive rental assistance while referring them to other needed services of their interest, the resource counselor can even go with the family to an agency such as Ontario County Department of social services and or community agency while advocating for there supportive services and needs. The program manager can assist a family if they don't have a car, to and from their service appointments as long it is related to housing and it's a 24-hour notice in advance of a scheduled appointment.

New York State Department); Of Housing Services (DHS) This department would be the center hub for all the shelters under the DHS, throughout the 62 counties within New York State, this department would provide assistance to already established Shelters, agencies, local DHS programs as well as newly built shelters Under the New York State Department Of Housing services. Services this department can offer are funding, Contract opportunities with other Social Services. Human services and community and Governmental Agencies, while building partnership contract relations

with other Federal, State, and county agencies throughout New York about housing Services. The Department of Housing Services hopes to establish at least one shelter in each County for county residents to take advantage of services without feeling ashamed to ask for and receive housing support to reintegrate back into the community into their own homes while having supportive services to utilize should they feel they need additional housing support.

New York/County Department Of Housing Services

Resources:

- <https://www.coalitionforthehomeless.org/state-of-the-homeless-2022/>
- <https://www.safehorizon.org/get-informed/homeless-youth-statistics-facts/#statistics-and-facts/>
- https://www.justice.gov/ust/eo/bapcpa/20220401/bci_data/median_income_table.htm
- <https://www.point2homes.com/US/Neighborhood/NY/Ontario-County-Demographics.html>
- [Ontario County Housing Authority | Benefits Explorer](#)
- [Ontario-SSP.pdf \(empirejustice.org\)](#)
- [Ontario County, NY Homeless Shelters \(shelterlistings.org\)](#)