



THE COUNCIL  
OF  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
**TIFFANY CABÁN**  
COUNCIL MEMBER 22-DISTRICT QUEENS



To the Attention of Committee Leadership and Members:

Thank you for holding today's important oversight hearing. I wanted to apprise you of our efforts to support survivors of Domestic and Gender-Based Violence here in New York City, in hopes that it will bolster aligned efforts in Albany.

Local Law 22 of 2022 created the Housing Stability Support Program, a first-of-its kind program that provides low-barrier grants to survivors of domestic, sexual, and gender-based violence. Though these microgrants were a top priority for the Women's Caucus during budget negotiations, we were disappointed that the adopted FY24 budget allotted just \$1.2 Million for the program – less than  $\frac{1}{4}$  the required \$6 Million.

Please consider how quickly and efficiently such programs have spent down their funds in the past:

- When, in partnership with the Mayor's Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence, Sanctuary for Families administered a privately-funded \$500,000 microgrant program for survivors, program funds were depleted in less than two months.
- In 2021, when the federal government allocated \$1 Billion via the Pandemic Emergency Assistance Fund to the NYS Office of Children and Family Services for survivors of gender-based violence, the funds were fully distributed within six months.

Additionally, please consider the following findings from a recent [study](#) conducted by Free Form:

- Survivors overwhelmingly stated that direct cash assistance was their most urgent need, hence the success of programs like the Housing Stability Support Program.
- On average, nation-wide survivors need \$730 to address urgent safety needs, and given our city's high cost of living, New York's survivors clearly need more.

Lastly, please consider this program's implications for our city's services for New Yorkers experiencing poverty and homelessness:

- Many survivors are just one health scare or missed paycheck away from a financial crisis, and while existing support programs provide survivors with a critical lifeline, they are neither immediate nor do they provide families with the flexibility they need (to name a few examples, survivors cannot use vouchers to purchase food, furniture, clothing or medical supplies).
- Gender-based violence is among the leading causes of homelessness. While anyone can be a victim of gender-based violence, [women – particularly Black and Latina women – are disproportionately impacted](#). Individuals that identify as LGBTQIA+ are 21% more likely to experience poverty than their cisgender heterosexual [counterparts](#) and are additionally disproportionately impacted by gender-based violence.

We have the potential to provide immediate, critically needed direct support to help survivors access safety and economic stability.

With an infusion of \$6 million, including a 15% set aside for administrative costs, we could reach 2,550 households at an average of \$2,000/household. 2,550 survivors account for more than 50% of the families and single adult survivors in our city’s shelter system on any given night. Without that infusion, how many New Yorkers are we failing?

Please consider me your enthusiastic partner on addressing this critical issue to enhance our city’s public safety.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'TCA', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Council Member Tiffany Cabán  
Chair, Women & Gender Equity Committee