

2026 Joint Legislative Budget Hearing
Written Testimony of Executive Director Mark Streb
Neighborhood Preservation Coalition
February 28, 2026

Neighborhood Preservation Program (NPP)

For the 2026-27 NYS Budget, an amount of \$20.68M is requested for funding the Neighborhood Preservation Program. Last year the funding level was \$18.8 M, this is a modest increase relative to the incredible exponential growth of need for these services. The Housing Crisis has not ended. New York State is making great strides but this crisis, decades in the making, doesn't get solved overnight.

Neighborhood Preservation Coalition of New York State, Inc. (NPCNYS)

For the 2025-26 NYS Budget, an amount of \$275,000 is requested for funding. This is an additional \$25,000 for the Neighborhood Preservation Coalition. This increase covers inflation from the last three years of flat funding. Due to uncontrollable inflation – flat funding is a cut in funding. This is a carve-out from the total NPP funding.

Established in 1977, The Neighborhood Preservation Program (NPP) was based on a legislative finding that community development organizations relied heavily on voluntary services, short-range funding, and were typically under-financed and understaffed. It

was with Assemblyman Denny Farrell's forward-thinking vision that the program would provide grants to Neighborhood Preservation Companies (NPCs).

NPCs are community-based not-for-profit housing companies committed to revitalizing New York's urban and suburban areas. They serve within their communities every day to help ensure that stable, safe, and affordable housing becomes a reality for low- to moderate-income residents across the state. There are over 130 NPCs in the State.

In 1989, the Neighborhood Preservation Coalition of New York State was formed to provide technical assistance to the NPCs in completing grant applications, training on subjects relevant to the services they provide, and to give the NPCs an opportunity to speak with a unified voice when advocating for programs and funding.

Since 1977, the amount of funding allocated to the NPP has been determined by New York's budget each year. For decades, the executive budget didn't include funding for the NPP. It was only through the forward-thinking legislature, committed to community revitalization efforts, that funds were appropriated in the final budgets.

Though NPP funding has been included in the executive budget in the past several years, the amount proposed was less than the prior years' appropriations.

Governor Hochul's proposed budget, released on January 20, would include a staggering reduction of \$6.5 million from last year's funding, decreasing the NPP funding to \$12.83 million and constituting a drastic cut for each NPC.

Let us be unequivocal: flat funding equates to a cut in real terms, and any decrease is simply unacceptable, demanding steadfast yet decisive action.

NPCs (Neighborhood Preservation Companies) are the bedrock of our communities. They possess an intimate understanding of local needs and dynamics, navigating the ever-shifting landscape with dedication.

The importance of funding for NPCs cannot be overstated. They are the lifeline of our communities, offering vital services that range from housing counseling to eviction protection, from homelessness prevention to mental health support. Particularly in recent years, NPCs have been at the forefront, responding to crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic, the ongoing challenges posed by asylum seekers and the overreach of ICE into our neighborhoods and communities.

They are not merely service providers; they are allies, standing as the last line of defense before individuals are left to fend for themselves on the streets. The level of need within our state has reached a critical juncture. The lack of affordable housing reverberates through every neighborhood.

Consider the alarming statistics: half of renters and a significant portion of homeowners in New York State are burdened by housing costs, with low-income households bearing the brunt of this burden.

We all realize that in addressing this crisis, there is no singular solution. It requires a multifaceted approach, one that acknowledges the complexity of the problem and embraces collaborative solutions within each community. NPCs embody this collaborative spirit, drawing upon decades of experience and a deep-rooted connection to their neighborhoods.

The strength of the NPP lies in its rejection of a one-size-fits-all approach to affordable housing. Instead, it recognizes that each community has unique needs that are best addressed through collaborative solutions within the community itself. This collaborative approach fosters increased understanding, facilitates knowledge transfer, and improves communication among stakeholders.

Operating from a neighborly perspective, where understanding and empathy drive action, NPCs engage with communities on a personal level. This approach builds trust and allows for effective collaboration, as the community feels heard and understood.

Decades of experience and intimate knowledge of their community's position NPCs as invaluable assets in directing funds and programs from various sources to where they are most needed. This grassroots approach ensures that resources are allocated efficiently and effectively, directly benefiting neighborhoods and individuals in need.

They are not mere recipients of funds; they are conduits of change, leveraging resources at a remarkable rate to drive economic growth and community revitalization.

Time and time again, investment in the Neighborhood Preservation Program has yielded tangible results, breathing new life into neighborhoods, and fostering economic

prosperity. Funding for NPCs drives economic growth. NPP funds leveraged other sources at a rate of \$10 for every NPP dollar appropriated.

As we stand on the precipice of a new fiscal year, let us not regress. Instead, let us move forward with determination and vision.

Therefore, we urge you to consider our proposal for a 10% increase over last year's funding, totaling \$20.68 million for the NPP. Additionally, we advocate for the allocation of a \$275,000 carve-out for the Neighborhood Preservation Coalition, ensuring neighborhood organizations receive the support they deserve.

We extend our deepest gratitude to the Senate and the Assembly for your unwavering support of the Neighborhood Preservation Program. Together, we can overcome the challenges that lie ahead and work towards building a future where every individual has access to safe, affordable housing and the support they need to thrive.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.