HOMELESSNESS

AT A CROSSROADS

Turning the Tide on

Record Homelessness in

New York City in 2017
required.

Therefore, that the shelter census in New York City has continued to climb.

Therefore, the two largest State budget initiatives to address homelessness.

Supplements related to the allocation of Youth Facilities Reimbursement

Last year I reported to you that none of the new JP Morgan Settlement

Economic problems that cause homelessness.

and policies that prevent and address homelessness and the socio-

Coalition for the Homeless in Albany to secure State support for programs

Thank you for inviting us to testify at this important hearing. My name is
This is an unsustainable situation in so many ways. Today, I am going to focus on New York City—it is the epicenter of the crisis. This is a population.

The population of Glen Cove wore to move into a shelter next year. Pittsburgh moved into a shelter this year, and two-thirds of the homeless shelter last year, and everyone living in

Nineteen thousand! That is as if everyone in Oswego moved

each year.

People enter homelessness each year than exit homelessness Housing and Urban Development (HUD) that over 19,000 more

New York State informed the United States Department of

meaning:

I want to make sure that this fact sinks in—many of you have heard it before, but it is just so crucial that we not lose the
Number of Homeless People Each Night

In the NYC Shelter System, 1983-2016

Another record year in NYC with over 62,000 men, women and children in shelters—equal to the population in Utica.
more than the population of Smithtown
between 2002 & 2016 to over 127,000 -
Unduplicated number of people using NYC shelters rose 52%
NYC Shelter System, December 2016

Number of Homeless People Each Night in the NYC Shelter System

62,674 Population

23,744 Single Adults = Adults in Families

14,854 Children

24,076 Children in Shelters – Largest Subset of the NYC Homeless Population

Source: City of New York, NYC.gov
School Children in Double-up Families

- Staten Island: 1,762
- Manhattan: 11,339
- Queens: 12,451
- Brooklyn: 16,418
- Bronx: 21,405

Source: NYS-TEACHS

A little more than the population of White Plains doubled-up families (2015-16) - their companions at school were the 63,375 children living with...
Night in NYC Shelter System, 1983-2016

Number of Homeless Families Each

Roughly the population of Binghamton or Niagara Falls

- Half in regulated shelters

Nearly 16,000 homeless families in December
New York City Shelter System, 1983-2016

Number of Homeless Single Adults Each Night in NYC Shelter System

- About half the population of Poughkeepsie
- Some now in hotels - too few shelter beds for newly homeless
- Record number of single adults in shelters

DEC 2016: 14,854

Source: NYC Department of Homeless Services and Human Resources Administration and NYCStat, Shelter Census Reports
Population Growth Outpacing Population Projections

Rising Housing Cost Burdens

Suddenly Spiky in Unemployment

Reduced Supportive Housing Placements

Rising Shelter Demand due to Domestic Violence

Tenants Persistently High Rates of Eviction Without Legal Representation for

Cumulative Deficit in Number of Federal Housing Placements

Why new record after new record?
In FY 2016, the number of such placements was only 2,612.

The shelter census then was about half its present size.

Therefore these families rarely return to shelters.
These are by far the most stable housing placements and
homeless families then averaged about 5,000 per year.
The number of public housing and Section 8 placements for

The last multi-year decrease in the New York City shelter

Cumulative Deficit in Number of

Federal Housing Placements
FY 1999 - 2016
(Public Housing and Section 8)
Number of Homeless Families Placed in Federal Housing

Still down by half compared with 2004-5

Result: Federal housing placements
The accumulated deficit is 31,935 fewer federal housing placements made over the nine-year period of the Bloomberg administration. On average, 3,448 fewer homeless families received stable housing placements over 9 years. From FY 2006 to FY 2014, only a few hundred units per year were provided. From 1999 to 2005 NYC provided an average of 3,989 Federal homelessness: as we reported in our recent policy brief on family The Lost Decade
Since 1999 to FY 2016, the number of families provided stable placements has doubled. 31,935 fewer Federal housing placements over nine years: Shelter census-doubled.
Shelter Demand due to Domestic Violence Persistently High Rates of Eviction & Rising
2013

The number of families returning to shelters by 15 percent since
the increase in stable housing placements has helped decrease
administration's last four years in office.
with the fewer than 1,300 placements made in the prior
first two-and-a-half years of the current mayoral term, compared
NVC provided 10,000 stable housing placements for families in the
since 2004.
NVC now places more families into stable homes than any year
Our recent brief found:
initiatives have begun to slow the rate of increase.
the growth in homelessness even as new City housing
demand due to domestic violence contribute significantly
Persistently high rates of eviction and rising shelter
Like the shortage of federal housing placements, this contributed to a

rising shelter census.

Like the shortage of federal housing placements last year compared with 2014,

there were 545 fewer people in homeless shelters who received

placements in 2016.

This dropped off to just over 1,600 in 2016.

An average of 1,802 supportive housing placements per year were

made from 2010 – 2015 in New York City for single adults.

Supportive housing placements per year were

pace that better matches the magnitude of the need:

pace needed to continue building supportive housing on a scale and at a

scale needed to continue building supportive housing, and operating programs

funding commitments for the capital, services, and operating programs

left an urgent need for the State and City to implement long-term

The expiration of the New York/New York III Agreement last year has

Source: NYC Department of Homeless Services

Reduced Supportive Housing Placements
New Yorkers in October than in June
35,000 more unemployed

Sudden Spike in Unemployment

Source: NYS Department of Labor
2016 NYC Employment

Source: NYS Department of Labor

Only a third of jobs lost recovered by December

Drop in employment left 129,000 out of work
The vacancy rate for the city's rental housing is 3.45 percent, and for low-rent units, it is just 1.8 percent.

The shelter allowances that are far below the actual cost of housing.

Shelter subsidies are at serious risk of becoming homeless due to

Roughly half of those receiving shelter allowances without other

three, is $1,637 per month.

a family of

cost of housing for a two-bedroom apartment, suitable for a family of

assistance shelter allowance is just $400 per month, but the actual

For a household of three including children, the NYC public

severely rent-burdened in 2014, paying over half their income for rent.

Seventy-three percent of low-income households in NYC were

last May.

an alarming 7.8 percent. Up dramatically from 6.1 percent

homelessness is concentrated more than any other borough, reached

homelessness is concentrated more than any other borough, reached

The August unemployment rate in the Bronx, where family

Source: Coalition for the Homeless Family; Homelessness in NYC; www.homesideysupport.com

Low vacancy rates, spurred increases in homelessness,

Sudden job losses combined with rising cost burdens,
for widespread alarm. In 2015, as the crisis of homelessness again became a cause, homelessness emerged as a serious problem, to 40.9 percent. That has grown from 12.2 percent in 1980. When modern mass percentages of all income going to New York City's top 1 percent

According to the Fiscal Policy Institute's budget analysis, the

New York is such a city.

specification falls out of the housing market altogether. Inequality, the people at the lowest end of the income spectrum with low vacancy rates, high housing costs, and extreme

A fundamental of the economics of homelessness is that in

Rapidly rising Income inequality causes housing instability and homelessness.

Source: Fiscal Policy Institute
Income Inequality in NYC: Worst in nation

Source: Fiscal Policy Institute
Growth to acknowledge it and adjust accordingly: Population
A critical metric has changed, and too little is being done
stands to get worse before it gets better.
presept crisis of homelessness, this vexing problem
the scale and pace of the State and City responses to the
Unfortunately, absent some very substantial changes in

Population Projections
Population Growth Outpacing
N.Y.C. population reached level projected for 2020 early in 2015.

Sources: New York City Planning Image from New York Memory Project.
Housing must be built to accommodate this rapidly growing population, and the investments for this must take place now.

As my projection shows, should this rate of population growth continue, the 2025 NYC census could exceed the projected census by over 580,000 - 9.28 million rather than the 8.7 million originally forecast.

Would be more than 350,000 above the forecast for 2020. That 8.5 could top 8.95 million by 2020 if not earlier. That grew at nearly 71,500 per year between 2010 & 2015 to 8.55 million by 2020.

The NYC population was projected to grow 480,000 between 2015 and 2040. NYC may have 350,000 more residents then projected by 2020.

Sources: Newyorkmims.com, NYC.gov, Fanning
Based on recent rate of growth

NYC Census & Population Projections

Sources: NewYork.gov, NYC.gov Planning & Housing for the Homeless
New York's recently increased its number of reported Homeless Deaths among NYC Homeless Deaths.

Over 2,000 individuals & families moved into shelters from the streets.

Source: NYC Department of Homeless Services, New York City Council.
are one group among several who are at increased risk of hypothermia.
who were homeless in New York City between 2002 and 2012. Seniors
York Daily News found a 55 percent increase in the number of seniors
demographic characteristics of homeless adults are changing. The New
One of the reasons we are so concerned about this is that the

support shelters to operate 24 hours a day during inclement weather.
the state adequately
threshold that will truly protect people, and that the state adequately
We are urging that the regulation be modified to use a temperature

according to health experts, including the State Health Department.
hypothermia which can affect people at much higher temperatures
That is too low to protect our most vulnerable homeless neighbors from

or below including wind chill.
regulation last month. Unfortunately it relies on a temperature threshold
policies during cold weather expired and was replaced by an emergency
As you are likely aware, last year’s Executive Order Regarding Shelter

Code blue and shelter inspections
major repairs needed at some of the older facilities. capital investment to address many of the long-outstanding improvements statewide. We have no doubt that there is a need for all facilities are inspected and that conditions in shelters regard and is deploying the necessary resources to see that We are pleased that the State will play a greater role in this.

health and safety we all agree are required. temporary housing accommodations up to the standards of State, and shelter operators to bring all shelters and other families, we are pleased to work hand in hand with the City for NYC. As the court-appointed monitor of shelters for adults in New

repairs by the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance. As we indicated last year, the Coalition also welcomes the
Too often, on the streets. We can and must do better. Thank you.

We ask that Governor Cuomo and the legislative leaders release the $2 billion: Homeless New Yorkers have been waiting since 2014 for the promised funds to materialize and to move out of shelters into permanent supportive housing. Each year that passes, as we were recently reminded, the number of families in shelters grows.

We ask that Government Cuomo and the legislative leaders release increased financial stability for public assistance households.

We ask that the New York City Council and the legislative leaders provide $1 million for the Client Advocacy Program to support service providers.

We ask that the legislative provide $1 million as well.

We support the Executive's provision of $1 million in general funds for emergency homeless needs.

We ask that the New York City Council and the legislative leaders restore the $1 million in TANF line for emergency homeless needs for groups with specialized expertise.

We support this continued investment, but these investments must be released and put to work.

Executive: $15 million for NYC to support rent supplements to prevent and address homelessness, as added initially by the Assembly two years ago.

Recommendations