

## Members

Albany  
Amsterdam  
Auburn  
Batavia  
Beacon  
Binghamton  
Boonville  
Buffalo  
Canton  
Catskill  
Cohoes  
Cortland  
Dolgeville  
Dunkirk  
Ellenville  
Elmira  
Geneva  
Glen Cove  
Glens Falls  
Gloversville  
Greenburgh  
Harrietstown  
Herkimer  
Hoosick Falls  
Hornell  
Hudson  
Ilion  
Ithaca  
Jamestown  
Kenmore  
Kingston  
Lackawanna  
Little Falls  
Lockport  
Malone  
Massena  
Mechanicville  
Monticello  
Newburgh  
Newark  
New Rochelle  
Niagara Falls  
Norwich  
N. Tarrytown  
Ogdensburg  
Olean  
Oneida  
Oneonta  
Peekskill  
Plattsburgh  
Port Chester  
Potsdam  
Poughkeepsie  
Rensselaer  
Rochester  
Rome  
Salamanca  
Saratoga Springs  
Schenectady  
St. Johnsville  
Syracuse  
Tarrytown  
Tonawanda  
Troy  
Tuckahoe  
Tupper Lake  
Utica  
Watertown  
Watervliet  
West Carthage  
White Plains  
Wilna  
Yonkers

New York State Public Housing Authorities Directors Association

[www.NYSPHADA.org](http://www.NYSPHADA.org)

President:

William Simmons  
Syracuse Housing Authority  
516 Burt Street  
Syracuse, NY 13202



### Dear Senate and Assembly Housing Committee Members,

I am very appreciative of the opportunity to testify today. The New York State Public Housing Authority Directors Association (NYSPHADA) represents 77 small, medium and large public housing authorities, comprised of 67,176 affordable homes across the State. The Association was created in 1985 to support, promote and protect the public and assisted housing industry in New York State. NYSPHADA members work collectively to craft and implement legislative and regulatory policy strategies to support our significant endeavors, and seek to be involved in all relevant State and Federal policymaking discussions.

We ask that New York State Senate and Assembly recognize the public housing capital needs shortfall caused by federal disinvestment, and support public housing preservation in the FY2021 Budget and pass S. 8488 which would establish a five year affordable housing capital plan.

- **PUBLIC HOUSING** \$50 million for substantial or moderate rehabilitation and/or the demolition and replacement through new construction of public housing authority developments outside of New York City.
- NYSPHADA is partnering with NYSFAFH and the New York housing coalition to secure five year plan (S. 8488) for \$200 million to help modernize current housing and construct new facilities.

In addition, we would like to put forth the following requests:

### **FUNDING RELIEF FOR NEW YORK STATE RUN PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITIES**

New York state run public housing authorities did not receive any funding through the CARES ACT in 2020. NYSPHADA has been in contact with New York State Homes & Community Renewal . Unfortunately, these authorities have not received any funding for COVID 19 related costs they have incurred. We are asking New York State Housing & Community Renewal for funding on behalf of these housing authorities.

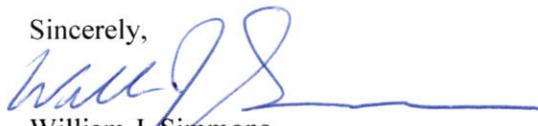
### **COVID RENTAL RELIEF FOR PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITIES**

Many public housing authorities in New York State are running a significant deficit as a result of tenants not being able to pay rent. Federally funded PHA's are reimbursed based on a HUD formula and if the tenant cannot pay their portion of the rent due to COVID 19, the housing authority is then left to carry the debt. Any relief that New York State could provide to housing authorities as a result of this situation would be very helpful.

Using CARES Act funds to cover rental arrears is ineligible and against the regulations. If housing residents have not paid rent, CARES Act funds are not able to cover that debt. Ensuring that public housing authorities receive and are eligible for funding to help fill the gap of rental arrears/unpaid rent is important. After years of disinvestment and financial

burden, an additional 10%, 20% or more of unpaid rent will create further challenges to our ability to provide safe affordable housing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "William J. Simmons", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

William J. Simmons  
President