



POLICY MATTERS
Care for the Homeless

Celebrate Housing Success on the Summer Solstice

This summer Care for the Homeless will be launching its pilot Summer Solstice Success Celebration, an event to recognize the successes of formerly homeless New Yorkers. A counterpart to National Homeless Person's Memorial Day, the Summer Solstice Success Celebration will highlight those who overcame obstacles and the adversity of homelessness and successfully got and maintain stable housing.

So often the fight against homelessness is marked by tragedy; join Care for the Homeless in recognizing the triumphant individuals that make it through the tragedies.

While we celebrate those who made it into stable housing, we're advocating for a rental subsidy to move people from shelter to housing, targeted use of NYCHA public housing for those in shelters and more affordable housing for extremely-low income New Yorkers who need it most.

You're invited, too! Please join us for food, entertainment, celebration and advocacy during the Summer Solstice, Saturday, June 21 at 1:30 p.m. at Broadway Presbyterian Church, 601 West 114th Street, in Manhattan. Questions? Please email us at policy@cfhnyc.org.



Advocating for NYC Municipal ID Legislation



Care for the Homeless joined a broad range of advocacy groups, in April, supporting City Council legislation introduced by Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito, Immigration Committee Chair Carlos Menchaca and Education Committee Chair Daniel Dromm to create a municipal ID card. The ID would be available to New York City residents as an official government card establishing residency and guaranteeing access to all city services.

City Council rolled out the program releasing statements of support from 8 community leaders including CFH Executive Director Bobby Watts. On Wednesday April 30, CFH Policy Director Jeff Foreman testified at the City Council Immigration Committee hearing advocating for the ID legislation.

Become an advocate today! Join us on Facebook and on Twitter for up-to-the-minute info.



Housing Just Isn't Affordable for Far Too Many NYers

A new National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC) is a CFH advocacy partner we've worked with advocating for affordable housing for extremely-low income Americans) study reports the average hourly wage a fulltime (40 hour-a-week, 52 week a year) required to afford an average two-bedroom apartment is \$18.92 an hour.

In a more expensive housing market, finding affordable housing in New York City is much harder. Two-thirds of New Yorkers rent (the national average is about one-third, so affordable rent is more critical here).

One-third (1 million) of city tenant households are "rent-burdened" according to HUD (they define households spending over 30% of gross income on housing as "rent-burdened" - their housing isn't affordable for them). More staggering, 600,000 New Yorkers (20% of all renters) pay over 50% of household income for housing (HUD defines that as "severely rent-burdened"). Several recent studies document New York rents are rising much faster than income.

Most shocking, among extremely-low income New Yorkers (for example a family of 3 earning up to \$22,450 - which includes households with both a fulltime and half time minimum wage worker) 88% are rent burdened. Even among very-low

income tenant households at up to \$37,350 annual income, 81% are rent-burdened.

Mayor de Blasio is releasing a plan to save or create 200,000 units of affordable housing over a decade. That's more, at a faster pace, than ever before in New York City or anywhere in the United States. City Council has proposed more affordable housing funding, including specific new funding resources.

This week Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer proposed still more funding, including a program to move some Department of Homeless Services funding to affordable housing as the city can close emergency shelters by moving people experiencing homelessness to newly created stable housing.

All three plans include two major CFH policy agenda items: a robust, flexible rental subsidy to move people from city shelters to stable housing and reinstating a plan to use about one-third of Section 8 housing vouchers and NYCHA public housing units targeted to people living in city shelters.

These are important steps on the journey to end homelessness as we know it.



A New York Goal: Virtually Eliminate New AIDS Cases By 2020

NY State Health Commissioner Nirav Shah told AIDS activists and advocates lobbying in Albany that New York is committed to virtually eliminate new AIDS cases 2020. Shah said "...In 1993, at the height of the epidemic, 15,000 New Yorkers were diagnosed with HIV. In 2012, that number had shrunk to 3,400. By 2020, we want to see that number shrink even smaller to fewer than 700..." He said access is the key to reducing new infections, including having both treatment and anti-retroviral medications available universally to everyone who needs it.

CFH is a major provider of rapid HIV/AIDS testing and treatment. We even have a client leader board of CFH consumers living with HIV/AIDS. So the New York state goal is music to our ears.

You can reach your Representative and Senators through the Congressional switchboard, toll-free, at 1-800-828-0495. Please don't delay. These decisions are being made in Congress now!

Join Care for the Homeless at the AIDS Walk in NYC on May 18. Email policy@cfhnyc.org to sign up.