

Media Alert

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Rally and Press Conference: Supportive Housing residents, Homeless New Yorkers, Community Groups and Advocates to Call on Governor Cuomo, Assembly Speaker Heastie, and Senate Majority Leader Flanagan to ‘Get It Done’ on Supportive Housing Promise

**Wednesday, February 8, at 9 a.m.
633 Third Ave (40th Street and 3rd Ave)**

– Campaign 4 NY/NY Housing to Hold 27th Rally Outside Governor’s Office Until Elected Leaders Finalize the MOU to Build First 6,000 of Governor’s 20,000-Unit Supportive Housing Commitment

(New York, NY, 2/7/17) – Homeless New Yorkers, community groups and advocates from the Campaign 4 NY/NY Housing will converge in front of Governor Andrew Cuomo’s NYC office on Wednesday for the 27th time to demand he, Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie and Senate Majority Leader John Flanagan come together to sign an MOU to release \$1.9 billion that was allocated in New York State’s budget to realize the first phase of the governor’s commitment to supportive and affordable housing.

Event Details

What: Supportive housing residents, homeless New Yorkers, community groups, and advocates will converge on Governor Cuomo’s NYC office tomorrow to demand that Governor Cuomo, Speaker Heastie and Majority Leader Flanagan come together to sign the MOU so the Governor can keep his promise to build the first 6,000 units of the Governor’s 20,000-unit supportive housing commitment.

Who: Homeless and Formerly-Homeless New Yorkers
Supportive Housing residents
Community Groups, like Community Access
Campaign 4 NY/NY Housing Members

When: Wednesday, February 8, 9 a.m.

Where: Gov. Andrew Cuomo's NYC Office
633 Third Avenue
New York, NY 10017

"80,000 people are homeless across this state right now, sleeping in unsafe shelters or in cardboard boxes on the street. Supportive housing is a proven method of getting and keeping people with mental health concerns out of homelessness. Supportive housing rebuilds lives by offering a safe place to live as well as free supportive staff," said **Carla Rabinowitz, Advocacy Coordinator at Community Access**. "This Wednesday we will exhibit a prop to show a supportive housing option. And Speakers will explain how supportive housing has helped them rebuild their lives. Now we need the Governor to keep his promise and get the MOU finished to create the first 6,000 new apartments. This will allow 6,000 mental health recipients to get a home of their own and start to build their lives back."

Governor Cuomo promised in his 2016 budget address that the state would create 20,000 new supportive housing units, and the budget approved in April set aside \$1.9 billion for the first 6,000 of those supportive housing units, as well as other affordable housing initiatives.

However, those funds were unnecessarily subjected to an as-yet-to-be-completed MOU between the Governor, Speaker Heastie and Majority Leader Flanagan. By the time the legislative session ended in June, the state leaders approved a last-minute deal to release only \$150 million – leaving the rest of the funds sitting unused at a time when 80,000 New Yorkers statewide are homeless. Governor Cuomo recently signed his proposed version of the MOU but the funds cannot be released until all three parties agree on a final MOU.

Supportive housing breaks the cycle of homelessness by pairing the stability of a permanent home with on-site services to support people with mental illness, addiction, HIV/AIDS, chronic illness, disability or other special needs. Research proves that supportive housing:

- Solves homelessness
- Improves neighborhoods
- Saves tax dollars
- Improves health outcomes for people living with HIV/AIDS

About Community Access:

Community Access' mission is to expand opportunities for people living with mental health concerns to recover from trauma and discrimination through affordable housing, training, advocacy, and healing-focused services. We are built upon the simple truth that people are experts in their own lives. www.communityaccess.org

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