

**Department of Homeless Services
Manhattan Budget Consultation
September 11th, 9:30am
255 Greenwich Street, Room 51&2, Manhattan**

Opening Remarks

The Department of Homeless Services (DHS) serves New York City's most vulnerable population of individuals and families with children who are either at risk or have become homeless. Our system provides a safety net for New Yorkers who are escaping domestic violence; who have been evicted because they're unable to keep up with rent payments in the sky-rocketing housing market; who suffer from mental illness; who live in unstable housing or overcrowded living quarters; who have been recently released from prison; or who are runaway LGBTQ youth trying to avoid social stigma, discrimination, and disapproval from their families.

When the City considers methods to reduce the number of homeless families and individuals in New York, we look at innovative, effective measures to prevent evictions, actively look to increase the number of affordable and supportive housing units, increase the minimum wage, and provide rental subsidies. Much of this work requires inter-agency collaboration—with HPD, the Department of Corrections, HRA, DOE, and others. The number of homeless people in our system is emblematic of wider social inequality issues and DHS needs collaboration and assistance to prevent homelessness and help New Yorkers in need.

To that end, we have recently been working closely with the Mayor's Office and other agencies on the "NYC Safe" program to support clients experiencing mental health challenges while ensuring the safety and security of other clients

Questions submitted by CBs

1. How much have the numbers of homeless families and individuals increased since January 2014?

and the surrounding communities.

Aside from our work with other government agencies to achieve our goals, DHS works very closely with elected officials and community residents for the purpose of destigmatizing homelessness. Living in shelter is not an ideal situation for anyone. As such, we work to facilitate compassion and understanding among community residents, to demonstrate that shelter residents are New Yorkers just like the rest of us who have fallen on hard times.

Average Monthly Census (Households and Individuals)

	FWC Households	SA Households	AF Households	Total Individuals
January 2014	10,611	10,172	1,882	51,470
July 2014	11,361	10,474	1,951	54,305
January 2015	12,136	11,526	2,159	58,485
July 2015	11,621	11,954	2,128	55,930

From January 2014 to July 2015, the shelter census has increased from 51,470 to 55,930, including an expected seasonal increase of 6% from January to July 2014. The opposite occurred from January 2015 through July 2015; rather than the seasonal increase that is typically observed, the shelter census **decreased by 4%**. We attribute the decline in the shelter census to LINC and other rental subsidy programs, along with our prevention efforts. Since August 2014, DHS has moved approximately **15,000** people out into permanent housing with this and other rental subsidies.

<p>1a. How are the increases reflected in the capital budget?</p>	<p>1a. The increase in the budget from FY15 to FY16 is primarily due to our new initiatives, including our rental assistance program, LINC, our new Shelter Repair Squad, NYC Safe, expanding our Homebase homelessness prevention program and offices, all of which we will discuss further in the remaining questions.</p>
<p>2. For FY'16 and FY'17, what is the capital budget for maintenance and development of transitional shelter for families and individuals?</p> <p>2a. How many facilities and beds citywide?</p> <p>2b. How many in Manhattan?</p>	<p>2.DHS' Capital Plan is \$42M. DHS is working on the following capital projects in FY16 in Manhattan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Bellevue Elevator and Diversion (CB6) = \$5.5M b. George Daly (CB3) Roof = \$87k c. East 119th Street, Vet's SRO (CB11) = \$220k d. E 3rd St (CB3) Kitchen = \$140 e. LIFE Windows (CB3) = \$200k f. Regent Electricity, Fire Safety, and stairs (CB7) = \$908k <p>Additionally, DHS is part of an inter-agency Shelter Repair Squad to expedite inspections and repairs in shelters citywide. We are collaborating with DOHMH, FDNY, DOB, HPD, DDC and the Law Department, having received \$12.5M through FY16 to ramp up these efforts. DHS has developed a Scorecard, available on our website, that tracks our progress in providing safer, higher quality shelters.</p> <p>2a. 254 shelters; 22,145 beds/units</p> <p>2b. 73 shelters (29% of shelters city-wide); 6,913 units/beds (including 124 cluster units in Manhattan)</p>
<p>3. Does this capital funding include renovation of SRO's run by non-profits?</p> <p>3a. If yes, what is the amount for FY'16 and FY '17?</p>	<p>3. DHS only receives funding for renovations to SROs that are city-owned. There are 6 city-owned SROs city-wide, and 2 in Manhattan [VOA at 331 East 12th Street (CB3) and the Vet's residence at 22 East 119th Street (CB11)].</p> <p>3a. The total capital budget for FY16 for SROs in Manhattan (East 119th St Vets) is \$220k for a sewer project. This is a multi-year project; thus, the costs are spread out across fiscal years, the total cost is \$1.1M.</p>
<p>4. What is the projected funding for the LINC program for FY'17?</p>	<p>4. DHS funding for LINC is \$9.1M in FY16 and \$10M in FY17.</p>

<p>4a. Has this funding increased from the last FY?</p> <p>4b. Does DHS plan on funding any additional programs to house the homeless?</p>	<p>4a. Yes, we started LINC in the fall of 2014.</p> <p>4b. We are always exploring innovative ways to reduce the number of people in shelter or sleeping on the street, including increasing the number of affordable and supportive housing units in the city, increasing the minimum wage, and preventing eviction. We're working with HPD, HRA, landlords, non-profits, and all stakeholders to collectively reduce the number of homeless New Yorkers.</p> <p>TBRA For example, we are partnering with HRA on the Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA), a rental assistance program designed to assist approximately 1,250 families in shelter, with one household member on SSI or SSD, having resided in shelter for over 120 days. It is a two year program with an optional two year extension. Families contribute 30% of monthly income toward rent.</p> <p>NYCHA The Mayor's housing plan recognizes the important role that public housing can have in addressing homelessness. Public housing is a critical public source of permanent affordable housing for more than 400,000 low-income New Yorkers, but vacant apartments are scarce and always in demand. The City wants to be fair in the distribution of scarce housing resources. DHS has been allotted placement for 750 families with children a year, for a total of 3,000 over four years to NYCHA housing.</p> <p>SEPS The Special Exit and Prevention Supplement (SEPS) will be available to limited number of single adults and adult families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, including veterans, adults who are residing in DHS shelter who have lost or are losing housing as a result of an eviction proceeding, a foreclosure proceeding, a City agency vacate order, or for health and safety reasons, and adults recently affected by domestic violence. It is a one year program with an option to renew up to four times. Rental amounts range from \$1,213 to \$1,515. Clients</p>
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<p>5. Large shelters put stress on NYPD and DHS peace officers. An increase in security is necessary. What is the projected funding for DHS peace officers for FY'17?</p> <p>5b. Has this funding increased from the last FY?</p>	<p>contribute 30% of their monthly income toward rent.</p> <p>As part of NYC Safe, a new public safety and mental health program, DHS, in conjunction with NYPD, DOHMH, and HHC, is working to ensure that all New Yorkers, housed and homeless, are in a safe space that fosters well-being. NYC Safe will offer assistance to those who have mental health challenges, to ensure those most at risk do not cause harm to themselves or others. This \$5M plan will target those most at risk in the streets and in our shelters. The unprecedented level of interagency cooperation and investment brings together law enforcement and clinical treatment.</p> <p>All too often, there is a stigma attached to having mental health issues, and there shouldn't be. Furthermore, the rhetoric used around the issues is often problematic; homelessness is not synonymous with mental illness and criminality. Not everyone who is mentally ill is homeless, just as not everyone who is homeless is mentally ill. The NYC Safe plan will foster solutions aimed not only at serving those in need but also dismantling the misperceptions attached to those with mental health challenges, and we encourage compassion and destigmatization of both homelessness and mental illness.</p> <p>Additionally, DHS is increasing the number of peace officers at 4 sites in Manhattan, which allows NYPD more time to be on the streets. Each site will receive 1 sergeant and 5 officers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ft. Washington - CB12 Ebenezer Smith • Parkview Inn – CB10 Andrew Lasalle • New Providence- CB6 Dan Miner <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Also has 10 FJC guards per shift <p>Two shelters will receive more peace officers than they already have.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30th Street- CB6 Dan Miner (also has FJC) – 13 more officers • Help Sec on Ward's Island—CB11 Angel Mescain <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Will receive an additional 1 lieutenant, 4 sergeants, and 17 officers to cover access control <p>5b. Yes, this is a new initiative, with a budget of \$5M citywide.</p>
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<p>6. The First Lady, Michelle Obama, has a goal to place a social worker at every homeless service site. Will this initiative be funded by DHS in FY'17 or any subsequent FY?</p> <p>6a. Besides, or in addition to this initiative, is there funding and plans for expanding necessary DHS services at current Manhattan shelters?</p> <p>6b. Has this funding increased in FY'16 and what is the projected funding for FY'17?</p>	<p>6. New York City's First Lady, Chirlane McCray, has a goal of putting licensed social workers in all shelters. The budget provides \$5.3 million in FY16 and \$8.9 million in FY17 to place licensed clinical social workers in all family shelters. This initiative will provide 8,900 families with access to clinical mental health services. At full implementation, the program provides for \$27.2 million annually in mental health clinical services for families living in shelter (city funds and state matching funds).</p> <p>6a. The following initiatives and dollar amounts are citywide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shelter Repair Squad: \$12.5M • LINC: \$9.1M in FY16 and \$10M in FY17 • NYC Safe/Security enhancements: \$5M • Street Homeless Outreach: \$6.8M for safe havens and stabilization beds capacity expansion • Rapid Rehousing from 30th Street: \$500k • Mission Home: \$1.5M for street homeless vets <p>6b. LINC, the Shelter Repair Squad and NYC Safe are new programs, so yes, their budgets have all increased. The Homebase budget doubled last year from \$22M to \$44M as we opened 9 new offices city-wide, including the new office on Henry Street. As we approach the winter months, it is vital that we have available safe haven capacity for folks coming in from the streets.</p>
<p>7. What programs, if any, under the DHS's scope have been discontinued?</p> <p>7a. How has this impacted the budget for FY'16 and FY'17?</p>	<p>7. We have only expanded our programs, as listed above. This administration has invested over \$1 billion in new funding over four years to address homelessness in New York City, with a focus on preventing homelessness, improving conditions in shelter, and helping New Yorkers move from shelter into permanent housing.</p> <p>7a. Our expense budget was \$1.04B in FY14, \$1.17B in FY15 and \$1.08B in FY16 year to date.</p>
<p>8. What is the projected funding for the Homebase program for FY'17?</p>	<p>8. Homebase funding for FY16 is \$44M. New York City taxpayers saved more than \$1.37 for every City tax levy dollar invested through the program. Besides these financial savings benefits, families with their young children avoid the trauma of unstable housing, moving schools, and are able to remain in their community with</p>

<p>8a. Has this funding increased from the last FY?</p> <p>8b. How many families and individuals have avoided homelessness in the past two years because of this program?</p>	<p>their network of family and community connections.</p> <p>8a. The budget expanded in FY15, nearly doubling from \$22M to \$44M opening 9 new offices in the last year, including the new Homebase office in CB3, on Henry Street. The budgetary expansion was mirrored in the number of families and people we served, as it nearly doubled from 10K families/34K individuals in FY14 to 17K families/59K individuals in FY15.</p> <p>8b. Research shows that Homebase intervention reduces the likelihood of applying to shelter nearly by half. 95% of clients served by Homebase do not enter shelter within 12 months. Among the small percentage of Homebase families who do enter shelter, the number of days that families spend in shelter is reduced by 30 days due to the stabilizing effect of a client's connections to his/her community. Additionally, the presence of a Homebase office in a community reduces the overall shelter entries from that community.</p>
<p>9. What is the anticipated FY'17 budget for outreach and community engagement?</p>	<p>9.DHS' Office of Communications & External Affairs respond to inquiries from a variety of local and national media outlets, and serves as a liaison between the agency and all 59 community boards, residents, and elected officials, to inform neighborhoods of relevant issues and concerns as they transpire.</p> <p>For example, we organize and attend regular Community Advisory Board meetings (background: 9 total in Manhattan) that brings together elected officials, community boards, faith leaders, neighbors, non-profit organizations, and other city agencies, including DOH, DOT, ACS, DSNY to remedy issues that may arise from shelters. Our CAB protocol is in your folder.</p> <p>Our unit attends District Service Cabinet meetings, the Manhattan Borough Service meetings, Community Board Committee meetings, especially the Housing and Social Service Committees, where we invite Homebase to present. We also convene task forces like the one with Harlem's CB11 and Speaker Viverito, and the Upper West Side's CB7 around street homelessness in their districts. We've identified</p>

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<p>9a. Will there be funding to inform residents when an emergency shelter, temporary or permanent, is placed (whether it be before or after the shelter is placed) in their respective communities?</p>	<p>20 "hot spot" locations in Manhattan where we are partnering aggressively with NYPD, DSNY, DOH and other city agencies to ensure street homeless individuals are offered shelter options that meet them where they're at, like safe havens that have a higher staff to client ratio, more privacy, and connections to employment, substance abuse and mental illness treatment.</p> <p>On Saturday, June 20th, we coordinated a Homebase Day of Action, to spread the word about our prevention services across 14 communities citywide. DHS and Homebase staff, along with elected officials, including Manhattan Borough President Brewer, canvassed neighborhoods with high rates of evictions to educate New Yorkers on how to access housing support services that will keep them housed in their communities and out of shelter.</p> <p>Our intent is to raise awareness about the issue of homelessness and how we can collectively turn the tide against homelessness in the five boroughs.</p> <p>9a. Last summer, DHS committed to notifying the community board and elected officials 7 days in advance of opening any new emergency shelter. Once we instituted this policy, we succeeded in meeting these standards during every shelter opening in Manhattan. Our 7 day notification process is included in your packet.</p>
<p>10. What capital and expense priorities do the agency want the Manhattan Community Boards to support in the FY'17 NYC Budget?</p>	<p>10. We need a bold move from the State: to raise the minimum wage, to reform our rent-regulation laws to preserve our supportive and affordable housing, and to adequately fund homelessness programs, like the LINC rental subsidy. The city is using every tool that we can to address the problem and now it's time for the state to join the fight.</p>