

FY 2023 Borough Budget Consultations

Manhattan - Human Resources Administrations

Meeting Date

AGENDA ITEM 1: General Agency Funding Discussion

The purpose of holding the Borough Budget Consultations is to provide Community Boards with important information to assist in drafting their statement of District Needs and Budget Priorities for the upcoming fiscal year. As you know, Community Board Members are volunteers who may not be familiar with the budget process and how agencies' programs are funded. At the same time, Community Board members are very knowledgeable about local service needs.

This year's Manhattan agendas have three sections:

I. Agencies previously faced unprecedented cuts and new funding requirements due to COVID 19. The Federal Government recently provided relief funds to states and municipalities as part of COVID relief stimulus.

1. What programs are restored by this funding for the current fiscal year and what further change are planned for FY 23 when an estimated \$4 billion budget gap reemerges?
2. What changes in federal funding have been instituted for FY 22? Will those changes continue into FY 23? What portion or percentage of the FY 21 and FY 22 budgets consisted of non-recurring federal funding?
3. What is the overall budget increase or decrease for FY 22 adopted budget compared to FY21 budget? Does the Agency anticipate a budget shortfall for FY 22, FY 23 or further out years after the non-recurring federal funding has been exhausted?

II. Then, the agenda continues with Community Boards asking about program funding.

1. What programs will see a significant increase or decrease in funding? To what extent, if any, is the increase or decrease in funding related to non-recurring federal funding allocations?
2. Which programs will be new or eliminated entirely?
3. What are your benchmarks for new and existing programs and what are your benchmarks/key performance indicators for measuring success?
4. What are your priorities, operational goals, and capital goals for FY22 and projected priorities, operational goals, and capital goals for FY23?
5. What expense or capital needs would HRA recommend or encourage Community Boards advocate be funded or expanded?

III. Lastly, the agendas include Boards' requests on district-specific budget questions. We request that the agency respond in writing, but have any further discussions on these items with the Community Boards outside of the consultation.

For the first section, please present on the four topics below for 10-15 minutes at the beginning of our Consultation. Also, please provide written responses or even a PowerPoint presentation that we can use to fully and accurately educate our Board Members.

1. Which Manhattan community districts will see the largest increases or decreases in applied operational or capital funding for programmatic goals in FY 22 and FY 23?
 - a. What indicators do you use to direct these funds according to perceived need?

AGENCY RESPONSE:

I. Agencies previously faced unprecedented cuts and new funding requirements due to COVID 19. The Federal Government recently provided relief funds to states and municipalities as part of COVID relief stimulus.

1. What programs are restored by this funding for the current fiscal year and what further changes are planned for FY 23 when an estimated \$4 billion budget gap reemerges?

See answers to #2 below.

2. What changes in federal funding have been instituted for FY 22? Will those changes continue into FY 23? What portion or percentage of the FY 21 and FY 22 budgets consisted of non-recurring federal funding?

The total DSS-HRA FY22 Federal budget, as of Adopt 2022, is \$1.8B, with the majority residing in the following programs: Public Assistance (\$879M), Adult Services (\$153M), Home Energy (\$38M), Legal Services (\$68M), Emergency Foods (\$34M), Homelessness Prevention (\$228M), and Administration (\$115M).

Federal Aid Changes:

Federal money, as part of the American Rescue Plan and other COVID-related relief, was added to the DSS-HRA budgets in the Exec and Adopt 22 Plan to bolster key Administration priorities, such as Legal Services, Rental Assistance, among others.

Federal Aid spending highlights include:

- \$329M for Rental Assistance and Rehousing programs residing in DSS-HRA's budget.
- \$42M to deliver fresh produce and shelf stable food as part of HRA's Food Assistance program
- \$30M for the citywide Clean Up Corps initiative
- \$42M for the Indirect Cost rate implementation

Medicaid Adds:

In the Exec 22 Plan there were several large increases to the Medicaid budget, including:

- \$265M in FY21 to account for the delayed timing of enhanced FMAP savings from the State.
- \$186M in FY21, \$640M in FY22, and \$580M in FY23+ that shifts funding from H+H's City subsidy to the Medicaid budget to cover increased Medicaid expenditures related to a series of new Medicaid initiatives.

3. What is the overall budget increase or decrease for FY 22 adopted budget compared to FY21 budget? Does the Agency anticipate a budget shortfall for FY 22, FY 23 or further out years after the non-recurring federal funding has been exhausted?

As of the 2022 Adopted budget, the FY22 DSS-HRA budget is \$11.2B (\$8.7B City) and 13,634 positions (10,032 City funded). This is an increase of \$1.1B in total funds and \$1.2B in City funds compared to FY21. The increases are almost entirely due to enhanced Federal Medicaid revenue related to the Affordable Care Act and to Pandemic Relief that reduced State and local costs for Medicaid.

II.

1. What programs will see a significant increase or decrease in funding? To what extent, if any, is the increase or decrease in funding related to non-recurring federal funding allocations?

New funding included in the Adopted budget: \$40M in FY22

- CityFHEPS Vouchers (\$34M; FY22): Raises CityFHEPS voucher rate to Section 8 FMR levels.
- Federal Emergency Housing Voucher Administration (\$4.8M; FY22)
- Tenant Protection Hotline (15 HC, \$1.6M ; FY22+)
- Bridge Program for Workforce Dev (\$1M; FY22)
- Human Services Provider One-Time Payments (\$3M)

Council Initiatives (FY22 only): \$41M

- \$41M in City Council initiatives was added in FY22.

Other Funding Adjustments:

- HRA Clean-Up Corps: \$1.1M in federal funds in FY22 for contract fringe and overhead in addition to \$29M added in the Executive budget for the program.
- Medicaid Funding Adjustments: several initiatives result in a net add of \$136M in City funds in the Medicaid budget.

2. Which programs will be new or eliminated entirely?

The agency has not eliminated any programs.

3. What are your benchmarks for new and existing programs and what are your benchmarks/key performance indicators for measuring success?

The agency produces key statistics and performance matrixes. Please see the 2021 Mayor's Management Report below.

https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/operations/downloads/pdf/pmmr2021/2021_pmmr.pdf

4. What are your priorities, operational goals, and capital goals for FY22 and projected priorities, operational goals, and capital goals for FY23?

Some of the Department's priorities and goals are:

- Increasing access to public benefits and assistance through increased use of technology, such as the ACCESS HRA platform, which allows clients to manage/apply for benefits remotely via an easy to utilize online application.
- Continue to provide support services for eligible vulnerable children and adults and for children and adults with disabilities.
- Continue to provide homelessness prevention benefits and services to eligible children and adults.

5. What expense or capital needs would HRA? recommend or encourage Community Boards advocate be funded or expanded?

None at this time.

III.

1. Which Manhattan community districts will see the largest increases or decreases in applied operational or capital funding for programmatic goals in FY 22 and FY 23?

The direct service offices operated by DSS-HRA program areas are broken down by borough and community district. Identified is the community district of their location, although many of the direct service offices serve multiple community districts and/or multiple boroughs.

- a. What indicators do you use to direct these funds according to perceived need?

The agency produces key statistics and performance matrixes. Please see the District Resource Statement below for additional information.

<https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/hra/downloads/pdf/facts/drs/District-Resource-Statement-2019-2020.pdf>

MEETING NOTES:

AGENDA ITEM 2: Legal Services and Eviction Prevention

The last two years we have asked about funding for eviction prevention legal services. HRA responded that free legal assistance for New Yorkers facing eviction and displacement had been expanded, increasing funding for free legal services for tenants more than 20-fold, from roughly \$6 million in FY13 to more than \$120 million in FY20.

Considering the economic crisis brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic and its resulting financial hardship for countless NYC households:

1. What is the level of funding for free legal services in the Adopted FY 22 budget and projected for upcoming years in comparison to FY 21? Is HRA able to recruit and hire the necessary number of lawyers?
2. Is this funding sufficient to meet the increased need due to the ongoing economic crisis? If not, what measures are being implemented to mitigate the hardship of renters?
3. Does HRA have funding to provide free legal services to anyone facing eviction in NYCHA as was stated in your report last year? If so, what the amount of funding allocated for these services?

AGENCY RESPONSE:

Fiscal Year 2022 includes the largest annual investment ever by a Mayoral Administration in civil legal services. The Office of Civil Justice's (OCJ) FY2022 budget for legal services for tenants facing eviction, harassment and other forms of displacement and housing instability is **\$166 million**, which includes funding for full implementation of the City's right-to-counsel (RTC) law for tenants facing eviction proceedings in NYC Housing Court and NYCHA administrative termination of tenancy proceedings. Funding for tenant legal services supports these services for all eligible tenants, including those who live in NYCHA housing. There is no separation between funding for NYCHA and non-NYCHA tenants, and all of OCJ's legal provider partners across the city provide legal services for tenants facing eviction in NYCHA administrative termination of tenancy proceedings as well in NYC Housing Court.

MEETING NOTES:

AGENDA ITEM 3: SNAP Benefits

1. What percent of eligible people are registered for SNAP benefits?
2. Is your outreach program to reach unregistered eligible people sufficiently funded for FY 22? Has this funding been expanded in to meet increased demand due to the economic crisis? Many impacted households, unfamiliar with public benefits, will be newly eligible and will require targeted outreach.

AGENCY RESPONSE:

Our 2019 estimated Manhattan SNAP participation rate is 70.8%.

Our 2019 estimated citywide SNAP participation rate was 74.7%, an increase from 72.6% in 2018. A small decline in the SNAP caseload was outpaced by a larger decline in overall poverty rates in NYC, which resulted in a decline in the total number of New Yorkers eligible for this assistance.

(see <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/hra/downloads/pdf/facts/snap/SNAPParticipationNYC.pdf>)

In FY2021, there were a total of 235,607 SNAP clients in Manhattan.

The DSS Community Outreach team is dedicated to working closely with NYC's robust network of community-based provider organizations. Particularly during the pandemic, these CBOs have served as a vital link to community members looking for more information or support in accessing SNAP benefits. Over the last five months, we have trained more than 3,200 community-based providers to assist clients with SNAP applications and case management through ACCESS HRA and the ACCESS HRA Provider Portal. We have fully transitioned our trainings for community providers online. We are also offering remote, online SNAP presentations for community providers and the general public.

Since the start of the COVID-19 crisis, DSS Commissioner Banks has held weekly calls with community partners to provide briefings on important updates to HRA and DHS programs and services and to answer related questions from community stakeholders. Following these calls, we send a weekly communication to nearly 6,000 community and government partners detailing updates and compiling past information to ensure that information on SNAP and other key benefits and services is widely available and up to date. Our website continues to be updated weekly with key information about SNAP benefits, including a dedicated SNAP FAQ page outlining how to manage and apply for these benefits.

We continue to provide outreach and support to community-based organizations serving our shared clients in accessing and maintaining SNAP benefits, and our funding for outreach services has remained constant from FY21 to FY22. Resources are being allocated in new ways to strategically engage current clients and first-time applicants, while at the same time helping to make sure that clients are able to maintain benefits as easements provided during the pandemic are ending. In FY22, we will continue identifying and exploring new ways to reach and engage SNAP-eligible New Yorkers.

MEETING NOTES:

AGENDA ITEM 4: HIV/AIDS Services Administration (HASA)

HASA- all NYC residents with HIV or AIDS who meet financial need requirements are now eligible for HASA services. Last year you reported an increase in staffing of 18 people for this area.

1. Has there been additional staff increase and is an increase projected for FY 23 to continue to meet the increase of people eligible for services? Providers report need both for capital (cost of acquisition and construction) and expense for operating/services.
2. Please discuss planned funding for this.

AGENCY RESPONSE:

1. Has there been additional staff increase and is an increase projected for FY 23 to continue to meet the increase of people eligible for services?

HASA staffing is re-estimated regularly based on local law ratios and the actual number of eligible HASA cases.

2. Please discuss planned funding for this.

The total OTPS budget for HASA in FY22 is \$255.6M. The total PS budget is \$66.9 million.

MEETING NOTES:

AGENDA ITEM 5: Eviction Vulnerable Tenants and Buildings

Please give an update on the success of universal right to legal representation for tenants below the poverty line facing eviction.

1. How is the success of this program being measured? If there are metrics being used, what are they?
2. What is the FY 22 and projected FY 23 funding for nonprofits to provide ground level organizing education with tenants as well as other outreach and **pre**-litigation services?
3. What is the FY 22 and projected FY 23 funding for the Anti-Harassment and Tenant Protection program, which provides tools to empower tenants in areas of high displacement and provides opportunities to address crucial landlord-tenant issues without waiting for numerous summary eviction proceedings to be commenced against the various tenants as individuals?

AGENCY RESPONSE:

- **DSS-HRA has expanded Right-to-Counsel legal services citywide:** When the COVID-19 emergency began in March of 2020, HRA's Office of Civil Justice (OCJ) shifted from a ZIP code-based implementation plan to expand services citywide, regardless of ZIP code, to make eviction defense legal services available to tenants across the city facing eviction in Housing Court under the City's Right-to-Counsel (RTC) law. Before March of 2020, OCJ's RTC legal services were accessible in courtrooms, through judge referrals, via courthouse walk-ins and through community law offices. With courthouse operations reduced because of COVID, OCJ immediately designed and pivoted to a new operational model in partnership with the NYC Housing Court and our contracted legal services provider partners to create new pathways to connect tenants with free legal services:
 - **Increased funding for legal services for tenants, including fully funding NYC's RTC law:** this Administration has aggressively expanded free legal assistance for New Yorkers facing eviction and displacement, increasing funding for free legal services for tenants from roughly \$6 million in FY13 to \$166 million in FY22 and the outyears.
 - **Notice to tenants of availability of RTC legal services:** OCJ worked with the Office of Court Administration (OCA) to ensure that tenants receive information about how to access free legal services if they receive court papers such as eviction petitions or motions to enforce eviction warrants.
 - **Assignment of counsel for tenants with eviction cases in court:** OCJ and OCA partnered to establish designated virtual calendars for the assignment of legal counsel to unrepresented tenants in pending eviction proceedings when those cases are ready for processing/hearing by the Housing Court, staffed by a rotation of OCJ's legal provider partners, ensuring that all tenants, regardless of ZIP code, have access to free legal services if they are facing an eviction case in court.
 - **Housing Help legal hotline:** OCJ worked with the Mayor's Office and legal providers to establish a legal advice hotline accessible via the City's Tenant Helpline and OCJ's nonprofit partner Housing Court Answers. Tenants with housing legal issues or questions about landlord-tenant law, including those without cases in court, have access to free legal advice and guidance, regardless of income or ZIP code.
 - **Outreach and access for those at risk of eviction:** OCJ has conducted outreach campaigns to households at risk of eviction during COVID, including a broad postcard campaign to tenants across the city and targeted mail campaigns aimed at tenant households who may be facing pre-pandemic court-ordered eviction warrants and tenants who need to respond to pending eviction filings to avoid defaulting, providing information about how to access free legal assistance through OCJ. OCJ is launching additional tenant outreach and education services in partnership with community-based tenant organizing groups to provide tenants at risk of eviction with information about their rights in NYC Housing Court and connect tenants in need of assistance with services.
- **Nearly 450,000 New Yorkers facing eviction and other housing-related legal challenges have received City-funded free legal assistance since 2014.** Despite the near-closure of

New York City Housing Court and other courts and administrative proceedings in early 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, OCJ's tenant legal services providers assisted over 92,000 New Yorkers in housing matters in FY20, including approximately 63,000 tenants in eviction proceedings through the City's right-to-counsel law.

- **Legal representation in Housing Court for tenants has increased to historic levels:** Increases in legal services for tenants have led to substantially higher rates of legal representation citywide and specifically in areas targeted for assistance:
 - In 2013, 1% of tenants in eviction cases in NYC Housing Court had legal representation, according to state court officials. As of the end of 2019, before COVID, nearly 40% of tenants facing eviction cases in Housing Court had representation.
- **Evictions down:** In 2019¹, there were fewer than 17,000 residential evictions by marshals, a 41% decrease compared to 2013, when there were close to 29,000 such evictions.
- **Tenancies preserved: The rate of success for OCJ-funded eviction defense attorneys in protecting the homes and tenancies of their clients remains high.** For the second year in a row, in Housing Court eviction cases resolved by OCJ-funded legal services providers in FY20, 86% of households represented in court by OCJ-funded lawyers were able to remain in their homes.

MEETING NOTES:

AGENDA ITEM 6: Family Housing Eviction Protection Supplement (CityFHEPS) Rent Supplement (Referred to HRA by DHS)

Last year, you explained that “the CityFHEPS program had replaced all of the Living in Communities (LINC I, II, III, IV and V) programs, along with the Special Exit and Prevention Supplement (SEPS), and City Family Eviction Prevention and Exit Plan Supplements (CityFEPS) with a single unified rental assistance program to simplify the process of identifying and securing permanent housing opportunities that enable New Yorkers experiencing housing instability to exit shelter or avoid entering shelter altogether”.

1. What has been the number of households served? What is the absolute number of households this program has the capacity to serve?
2. After combining rent supplement programs, have you found that a higher percentage of landlords is using this program?

¹ There were 16,996 residential evictions by marshals in calendar year 2019, a 41% decrease compared to 2013, when there were 28,849 such evictions. These downward trends, coinciding with OCJ's continued implementation of right-to-counsel legal services and the enactment of the Housing Stability and Tenant Protection Act of 2019, continued through early 2020, until residential evictions by city marshals were completely halted in March of 2020 because of the COVID-19 emergency. In all, at the end of 2020, only roughly 3,000 residential evictions had been executed by city marshals during the calendar year.

3. What are the penalties for landlords found to not be accepting of households participating in the CityFHEPS program? How many landlords have been so penalized? Does HRA maintain a public database of landlords who are repeat offenders?

AGENCY RESPONSE:

1. What has been the number of households served? What is the absolute number of households this program has the capacity to serve?

Immediately upon taking office, the de Blasio Administration stepped in to fill the gap left by the City and State's cancellation of the Advantage rental assistance program in 2011 (which led to a 38 percent increase in homelessness between 2011 and 2014) by creating and implementing new rental assistance programs as well as reinstating rehousing programs—which to date have helped more than 170,000 children and adults remain in or secure permanent housing, with the vast majority moving out of shelter into housing. We also streamlined a number of these initiatives into a comprehensive rental assistance program, to make it easier for clients and landlords alike to access housing opportunities, and we launched an aggressive, dedicated unit at DSS focused on combatting Source of Income discrimination to ensure landlords are not unlawfully closing doors of opportunity to those experiencing homelessness.

This Administration has also made great progress expanding supportive housing programs across NYC. Since 2014, at DSS, we have helped more than 15,000 New Yorkers residing in NYC DHS shelter transition out of shelter to permanency via supportive housing placements. This also includes the Mayor's aggressive [NYC 15/15](#) program (in addition to our commitment to create 9,000 new supportive housing units as part of the NY/NY III Supportive Housing Agreement) – and we remain on track to achieve the targets in that plan.

Today, the DHS census is below where it was when this Administration took office. After nearly four decades of an ever-increasing homeless population in NYC, the de Blasio Administration broke the trajectory of growth in homelessness and the new programs, reforms, and investments we are implementing are headed in the right direction, holding the DHS census essentially flat year-over-year in 2017, 2018 and 2019, and now reducing it to approximately 45,000. We have specifically made significant progress driving down the number of families experiencing homelessness and residing in shelter on any given night, with the peak number of individuals across those families declining by approximately 18,000 between 2014, (when families in shelter on a given night were comprised of 43,208 individuals), and today, (when families in shelter on a given night are comprised of approximately 25,500 individuals).

The census began trending down pre-pandemic thanks to cluster conversions and our other shelter moveout initiatives, and our work driving down evictions through the right-to-counsel initiative by more than 40%. During the pandemic, the eviction moratorium prevented more families from entering shelter, keeping the census number from growing – but to actually drive it down, we had to continue moving people out. So, the eviction moratorium ensured no additional growth/increase – but the sustained decrease is due to our efforts/programs

The key factor pre- and during the pandemic that has reduced number of people in shelter is helping people find housing and move out of shelter, using every tool we have, including rental assistance programs developed by the City and federal programs like Section 8. Using all of these tools, more than 140,000 NYers have moved out of shelter. In addition to this, nearly 30,000 NYers were able to use these programs to avoid entering shelter in the first place.

Of the more than 140,000 New Yorkers who have moved out of shelter, more than 80,000 used rental assistance programs developed by the City alone – which did not exist before this Administration. For context, of those more than 140,000, approximately 13,000 did so using federal rental assistance like Section 8. Additionally, move-outs remained strong throughout the pandemic thanks to the incredible work/dedication of our essential staff and not-for-profit provider partners who reported for duty every day throughout the crisis and did extraordinary work going above and beyond under unprecedented and challenging circumstances.

2. After combining rent supplement programs, have you found that a higher percentage of landlords is using this program?

As you correctly note, we streamlined a number of rental assistance and rehousing programs/initiatives into a comprehensive rental assistance program, making it easier for clients and landlords alike to access housing opportunities.

3. What are the penalties for landlords found to not be accepting of households participating in the CityFHEPS program? How many landlords have been so penalized? Does HRA maintain a public database of landlords who are repeat offenders?
 - Part of the Mayor's *Turning the Tide* plan to address the citywide challenge of homelessness, the Department of Social Services' (DSS) Source of Income Discrimination (SOI) Unit was established in May 2017 to combat illegal practices that prevent New Yorkers from securing housing opportunities. The Unit works to prevent and prosecute instances of housing discrimination based on lawful source of income via a multi-pronged approach that includes education and outreach, pre-complaint intervention, investigations, and filing and prosecuting complaints on behalf of the City alleging a pattern or practice of source of income discrimination. **In 2019, the unit, formerly known as the Source of Income Discrimination Unit, was renamed the Fair Housing Litigation Unit (FHLU).**
 - In New York City, it is illegal for landlords or real estate brokers to refuse to rent to current or prospective tenants because they use any form of government assistance to pay their rent, including Section 8, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), assistance from the HIV/AIDS Services Administration (HASA), the State Family Homelessness and Eviction Prevention Supplement (FHEPS), City Fighting Homelessness and Eviction Prevention (CityFHEPS), among others. It is also unlawful for landlords and housing agents to publish any type of advertisements refusing to accept these programs, including online or print.
 - The DSS Fair Housing Litigation Unit (FHLU) takes action on behalf of renters utilizing government assistance when they encounter discrimination based on source of income, by intervening whenever and wherever those seeking housing may encounter barriers in the housing process, from inquiry and application through lease signing. Where appropriate, the unit will bring actions against landlords and brokers in NYS Supreme Court
 - **During the course of 2020, the DSS FHLU settled its first two cases, filed in the New York State Supreme Court for discrimination based on source of income in June 2018** (when the DSS FHLU was known as the DSS SOI Unit).
 - In the first case, *City of New York v. St. Marks Hamilton LLC and Oxford Realty Group LLC*, property management company Oxford Realty told multiple callers seeking housing that vouchers were not accepted at the Seaview Estates rental apartment complex in Staten Island.
 - **Outcome/ getting results:** Since we filed this case in June 2018, this landlord got the message, opening their doors and providing housing to more than 20 families utilizing vouchers/rental assistance. The case was settled in 2020

- and, as a result of the DSS SOI Unit's work, the landlord and management company are operating under a comprehensive/strict compliance agreement to prevent further discrimination. As part of the settlement and compliance agreement, the DSS FHLU has ensured that the property management company:
- Committed to ensuring compliance with Source of Income Discrimination (SOI) laws at all times
 - Adopted an anti-discrimination policy drafted by the DSS FHLU
 - Ensured that DSS FHLU and related SOI materials are prominently displayed in all of their offices
 - Permitted the DSS FHLU to inspect records (including approved and denied applications) upon request to monitor and ensure compliance
- In the second case, *City of New York v. Everton Campbell, Atlas Realty Associates, Inc.*, DSS initiated an investigation that found advertisements containing discriminatory language for units located in the Bronx being published on multiple real estate websites including apartmentfinder.com, hotpads.com and apartments.com. The discriminatory language included such phrases as: "NOT ACCEPTING ANY VOUCHERS," "NO VOUCHERS ARE BEING ACCEPTED FOR THIS APARTMENT" and "THIS APARTMENT IS NOT ACCEPTING ANY VOUCHERS."
 - **Outcome/ getting results:** Since we filed this case, this broker has gotten the message, helping more than 6 families utilizing vouchers/rental assistance obtain permanent housing, and participating in a mandatory NYC DSS training on source of income discrimination. The case was settled in 2020 and, as a result of the DSS SOI Unit's work, the brokerage company is operating under a comprehensive/strict compliance agreement to prevent further discrimination. As part of the settlement and compliance agreement, FHLU ensured that the brokerage company:
 - Committed to ensure compliance with Source of Income Discrimination laws
 - Adopted an anti-discrimination policy which was drafted by the FHLU
 - Ensured that FHLU and related SOI materials are prominently displayed in all of their offices
 - Permitted the FHLU to inspect records (including approved and denied applications) upon request to ensure and monitor compliance
 - The brokerage company's staff received FHLU training on Source of Income discrimination
 - **In July 2019, the unit filed its third case in New York State Supreme Court for discrimination based on source of income.**
 - In the third case, *City of New York vs. Samson Management LLC, 700 Victory Boulevard LLC, Neuhaus Realty, Inc., and Li Liu AKA Lily Liu*, a unit investigation found that one Lily Lu, the exclusive broker for the Parkview Apartments, a 200+ unit building on Staten Island owned by 700 Victory Blvd LLC and managed by Samson Management LLC., was systematically denying housing opportunities to prospective tenants with vouchers by failing to follow up with them regarding available apartments, while following up with non-voucher holders regarding the same apartments.

- Samson Management LLC owns or manages over 5,000 residential units across NYC and has been the subject of multiple federal investigations and class action lawsuits regarding discrimination for decades.
 - In 1993, subject of a federal class action suit for racial discrimination.
 - In 2010, fined \$25,000 by the NYS Attorney General for SOI and age discrimination.
 - In 2018, found responsible for illegal rent overcharge in a regulated apartment in Yonkers, uncovered during an eviction case.
- This case was unit-initiated, developed solely through in-house data mining and testing and then referred to the third-party Fair Housing Justice Center (FHJC) for additional field testing required to initiate litigation.
- **Outcome/ getting results:** litigation is ongoing.
- **In May 2021, the unit filed its fourth case in New York State Supreme Court for discrimination based on source of income.**
 - In the fourth case, City of New York vs. Bruma Realty LLC, Shemaya Haskelwich AKA Shmaya Haskel, Janette Melvin, and Gerald Hierro, a unit investigation found that Shmaya Haskel, Bruma’s principal officer, and two of its salespeople, Janette Melvin and Gerald Hierro, were systematically denying housing opportunities to prospective tenants with housing vouchers by failing to follow up with them regarding available apartments and/or claiming that the available apartments “would not qualify for vouchers” – all while following up with non-voucher holders regarding the same apartments.
 - This case was unit-initiated and was developed solely through in-house data mining and testing.
 - **Outcome/getting results:** litigation is ongoing.

MEETING NOTES:

AGENDA ITEM 7: Domestic Violence Programs

1. Has there been an increase in the demand for DV shelters?
2. What percentage of the demand for DV shelters is currently being met?
3. What funding would be required to meet all perceived DV shelter needs?
4. How is the success of services evaluated?

AGENCY RESPONSE:

- As reported in *Turning the Tide*, domestic violence is consistently one of the drivers of homelessness/reasons that families seek shelter and assistance in NYC. Over the past several years, consistently roughly one-third of all families that come to us in need of shelter each year do so having experienced a history of domestic violence in their lives (this is inclusive of but goes beyond those fleeing an imminent DV threat). For all families who have survived domestic violence, our number one priority is placing them in a location that protects their safety and wellbeing.
- For those survivors whose safety is determined to be at risk, we prioritize their placement within confidential HRA DV shelters. For those who may have experienced DV in the past, but are not at imminent risk, DHS works closely with them to connect them with shelter placements that are safe and secure, including placing them in confidential locations far from those who have abused them in the past.
- This Administration and this Agency have significantly expanded resources and shelter capacity for survivors of domestic violence, with more than 2,500 (2,525) emergency domestic violence shelter beds, which serve both individuals and families, and more than 375 (377) Tier II units currently open systemwide, which more typically serve families.
 - This expansion has included the addition of 300 new emergency domestic violence shelter beds, all of which are open and operational, providing vital services and supports.
 - It also includes a significant expansion of our Tier II unit capacity, with 400 units awarded, of which more than 225 are open and operational, and hundreds more scheduled to open this year and the next.
- In CY 2020, DSS-HRA DV shelters served a total of 9,439 adults and children in emergency domestic violence shelters and Tier II shelters - a decrease from 11,123 in CY 2019.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there was a decrease in the number of requests for placement in DSS-HRA DV shelters for the 2nd quarter of CY 2020, which accounts in part for the decrease in the total number of individuals served in CY 2020.

- Currently, the DSS-HRA DV system is providing shelter to DV survivors seeking assistance and who are willing to accept emergency services.
- Domestic Violence programming, including temporary residential services, is funded by federal, state and local funds in accordance with statutory mandates. The Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) and the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) sets the per diem rate for the cost of providing shelter and DV services in NYS.

As part of DSS-HRA's contract monitoring practices, contract managers conduct annual performance evaluations for all DV program services in accordance with contractual requirements.

MEETING NOTES: