



Department of
Social Services

Human Resources
Administration

Department of
Homeless Services

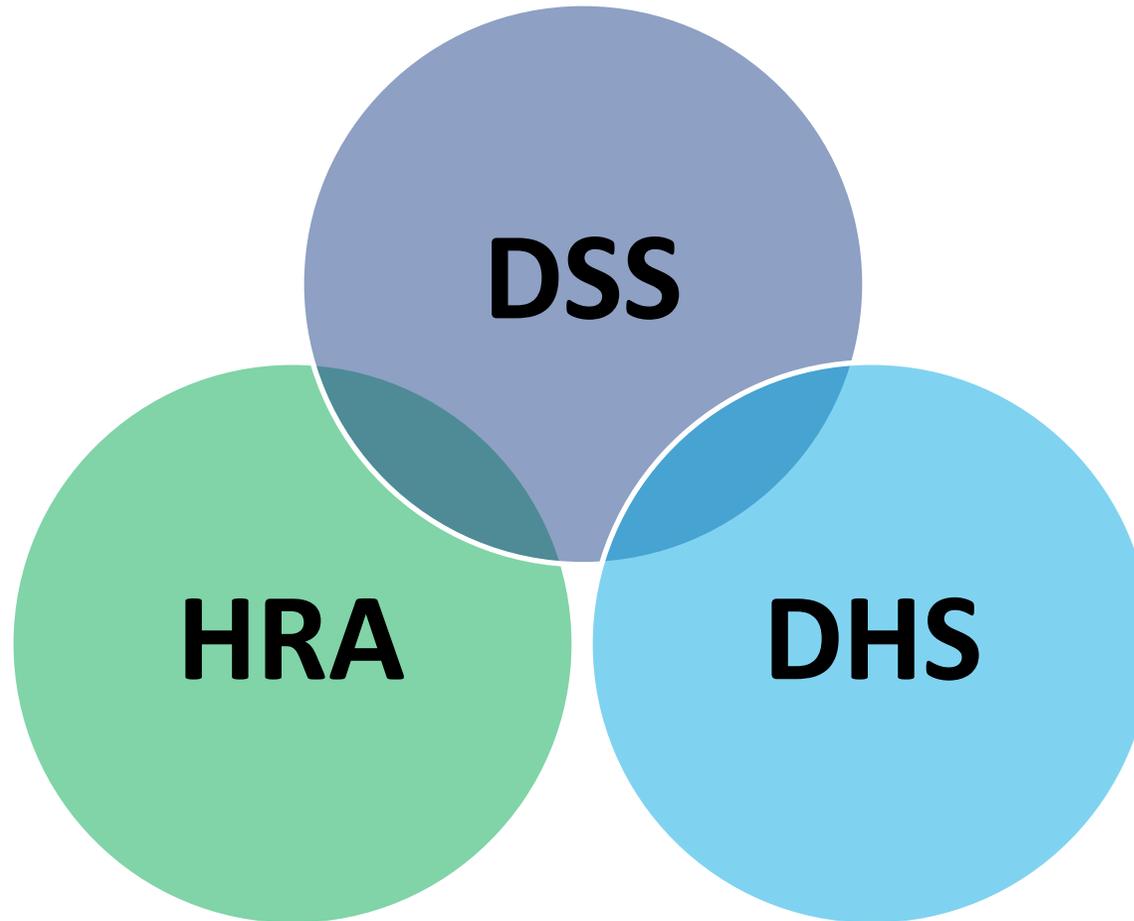
Fiscal 2025 Executive Budget Testimony

Commissioner Molly Wasow Park

May 6, 2024

Agenda

- INTRODUCTION
- DSS/HRA BUDGET
- DHS BUDGET
- PROGRAMS AND SERVICES



**Streamlining Access to
Social Services**

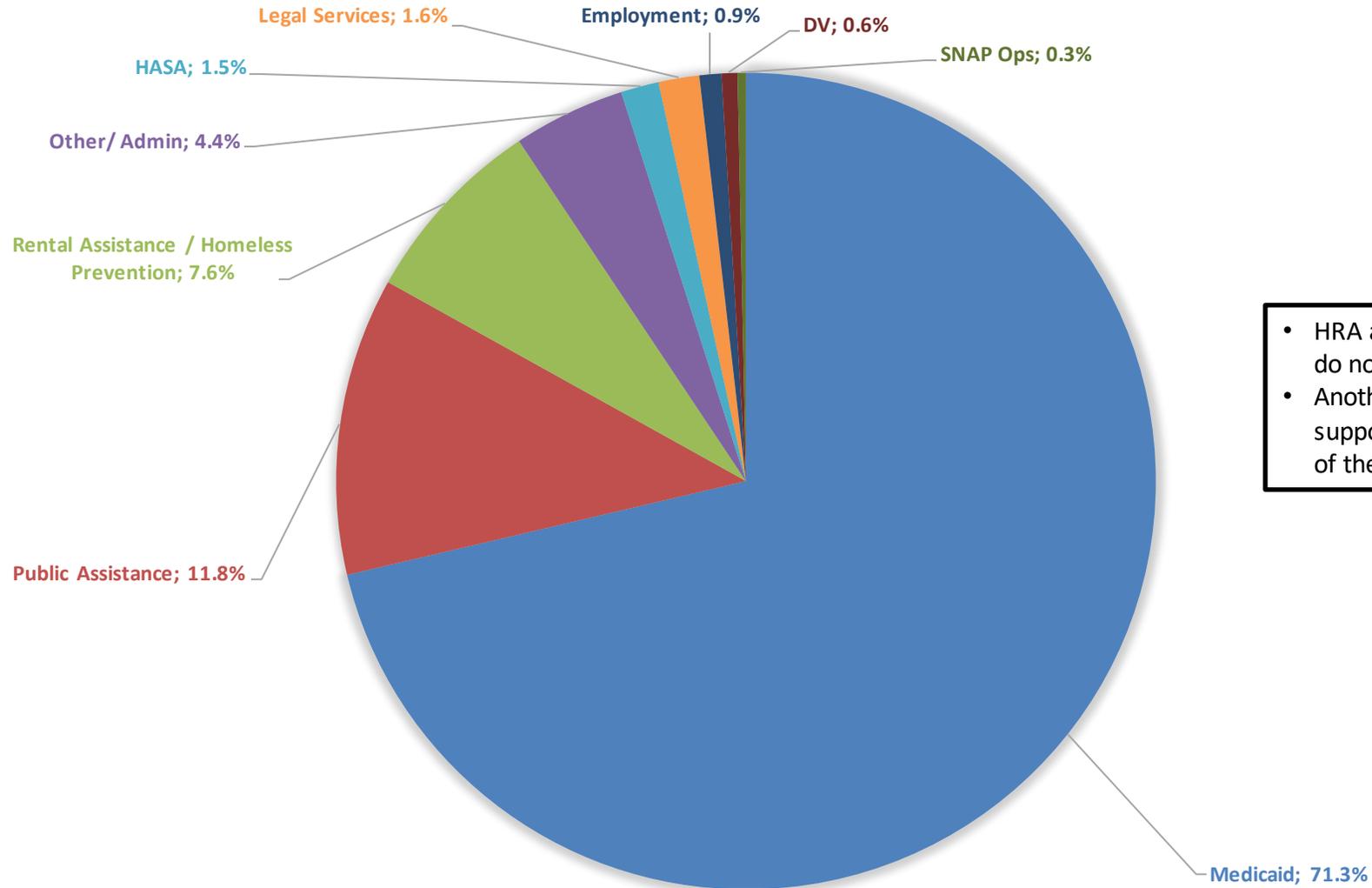
**Addressing Homelessness and
Housing Instability**

**Creating Economic
Stability**



DSS/HRA Budget

DSS/HRA FY25 Budget Overview



- HRA administers ~\$5B in SNAP benefits that do not show up in the City Budget
- Another ~ \$44B in State and federal funds support NYC Medicaid clients but aren't part of the City budget

DSS/HRA Serves Millions of New Yorkers Every Day

1.8M receive SNAP

500K receive CA + support services

40K receive rent arrears and 40K receive utility arrears

40K households supported by CityFHEPS

200K child support orders help families

40K receive free Housing Legal Services (annual)

330K enrolled in Fair Fares

27K households supported by HASA housing

1.6M receive Medicaid public health insurance *

900K receive heating/cooling assistance (annual)



DHS Budget

NEARLY 95% OF THE DHS BUDGET SUPPORTS SHELTER AND STREET OUTREACH SERVICES

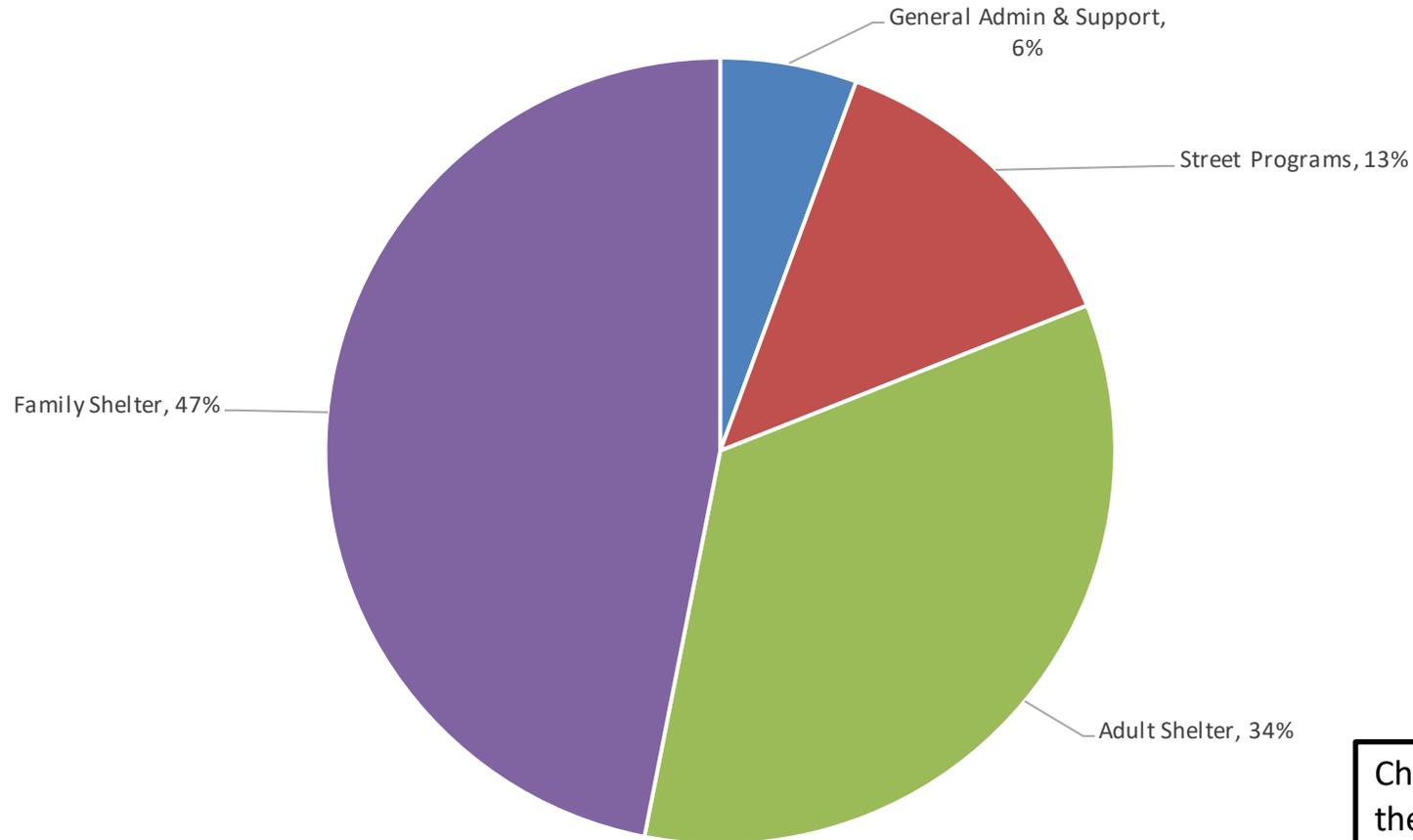
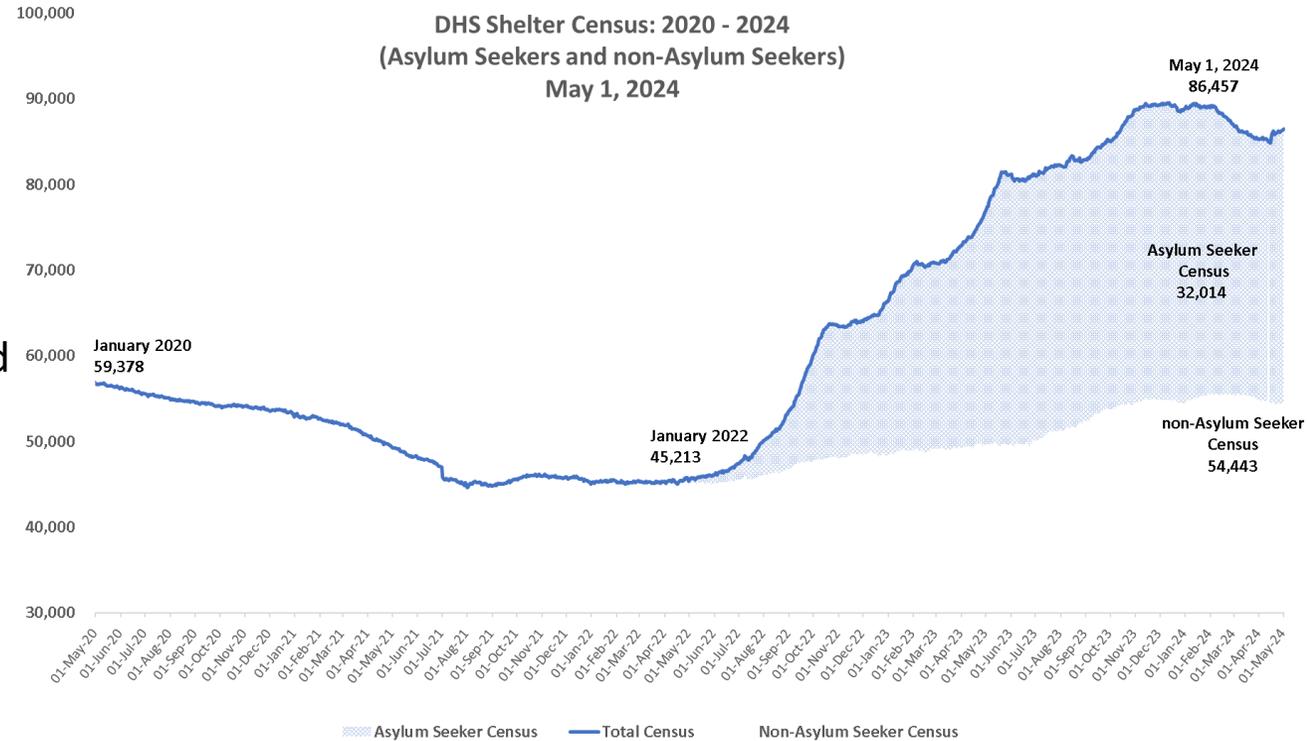


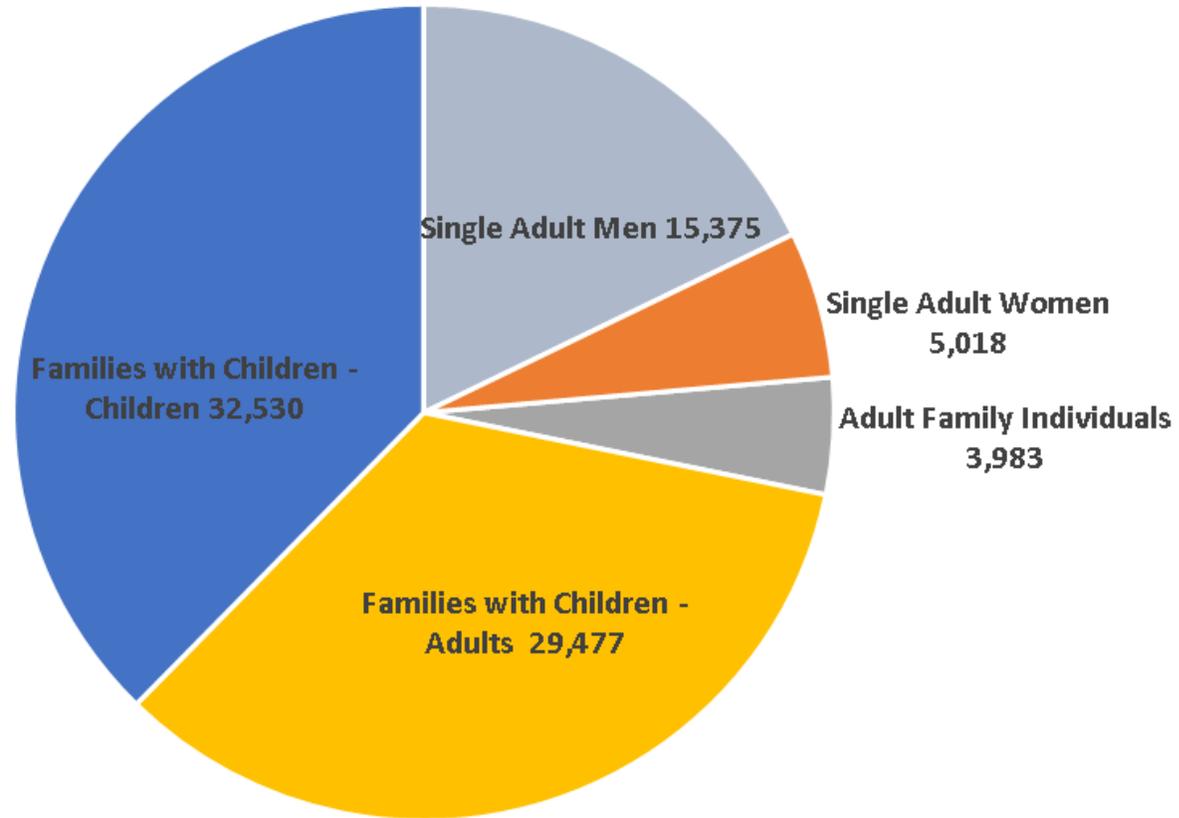
Chart excludes Asylum funds; \$1.7B of the FY25 DHS budget is for asylum seeker services.

DHS Shelter Census

- The non-asylum census is approximately 7% below pre-pandemic level and well below the pre-pandemic peak of 61,400 reached in January of 2019
- While working collaboratively with our city partners to support our newest New Yorkers, DSS remains laser-focused on shelter exits for our longer-term clients and has employed various processes to help them successfully transition from shelter into permanent housing.



DHS Shelter by Population (Individuals)
April 30, 2024



Street Homeless Solutions: Services for Unsheltered

Doubling of outreach staff on the ground to over 400 today

Expansion of low barrier beds to nearly 4,000

1,000 permanent placements from low-barrier beds in FY23

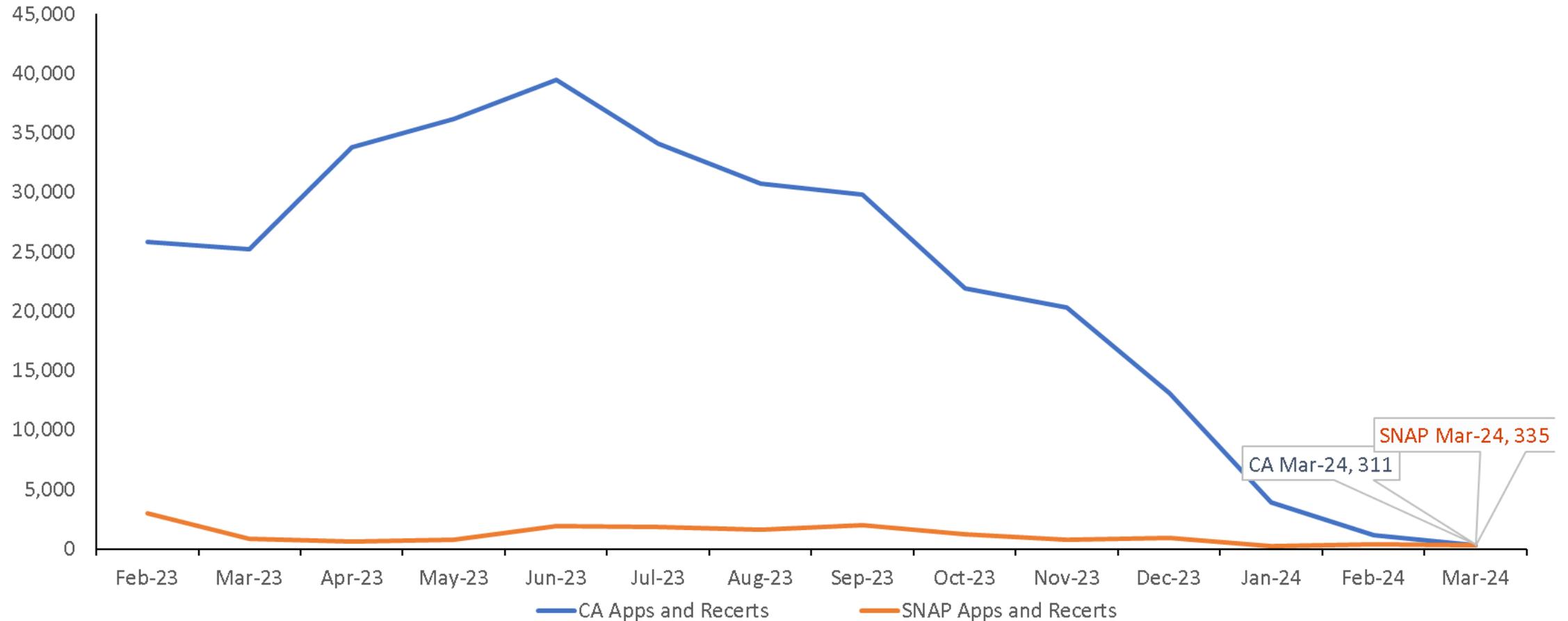
Over 7,000 referrals to low-barrier and shelter beds through the Subway Safety Plan



Streamlining Access to Social Services

SINCE SUMMER 2023 HRA HAS FUNCTIONALLY ELIMINATED CA AND SNAP BACKLOGS

NYC Cash Assistance and SNAP Backlog



Accomplishments: Streamlining Access and Eliminating Barriers

- ✓ CurRent NYC, the DSS landlord, provider and client housing portal became operational this fiscal year and began enrolling landlords and providers to expedite housing placement and rent payments.
- ✓ We expanded childcare assistance for another 12 months for families exiting CA to provide continuity to families.
- ✓ We raised the income limit for Fair Fares eligibility to 120% of Federal Poverty Level. As of the end of April 2024, we have 331,000 people enrolled.
- ✓ HRA provided over 900,000 Heating and Cooling assistance grants in 2023-2024 season.

Looking Ahead to 2025

- ✓ New RFPs for Legal Services strengthening support for clients at risk of eviction.
- ✓ Enhancements to the AccessHRA Provider Portal will make it easier than ever for CBO partners to help NY'ers enroll in DSS benefits.
- ✓ Collaboration with new social care networks under the NYS Medicaid waiver will provide many Medicaid members (and DSS clients) with extra services, including nutrition and housing supports, to improve long-term health outcomes.
- ✓ Over 30 NYC Benefits CBOs contracts transfer to DSS and will provide NY'ers with help accessing HRA and other benefits and services.



Addressing Homelessness and Housing Instability

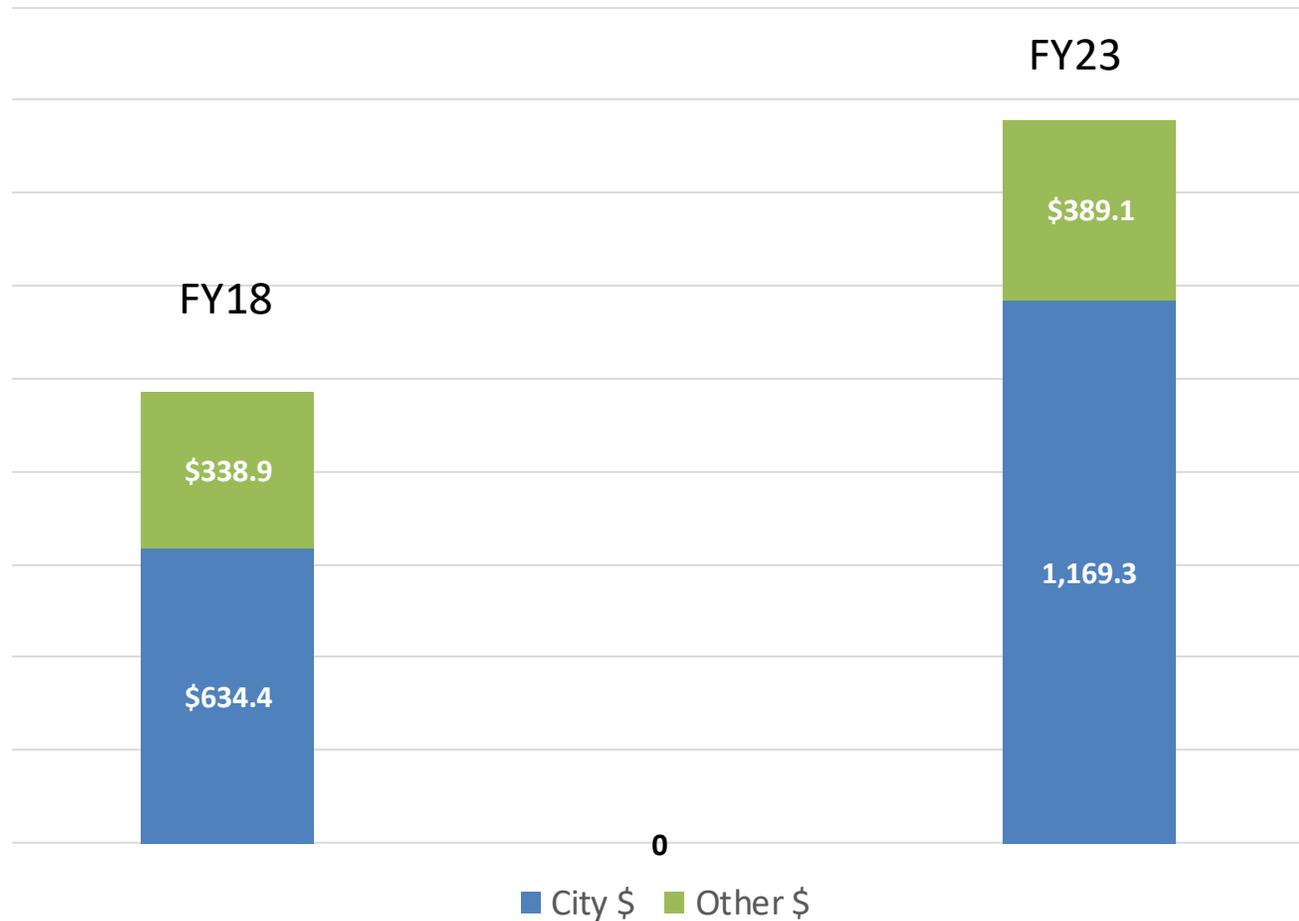
Affordable and Supportive Housing Accomplishments

- In FY23, DSS saw a 17% increase in the number of households exiting shelter for permanent housing. To date in FY24 there has been a 16% additional housing placement increase.
 - 46% more New Yorkers were connected to permanent supportive housing in 2023 than in the preceding fiscal year.
- DSS has taken steps to strengthen rental assistance programs:
 - Made CityFHEPS easier to use by reducing work requirements and eliminating the 90-day rule;
 - Allowed for use of CityFHEPS statewide;
 - Launched the Affordable Housing Services initiative to use social service dollars to create affordable housing.

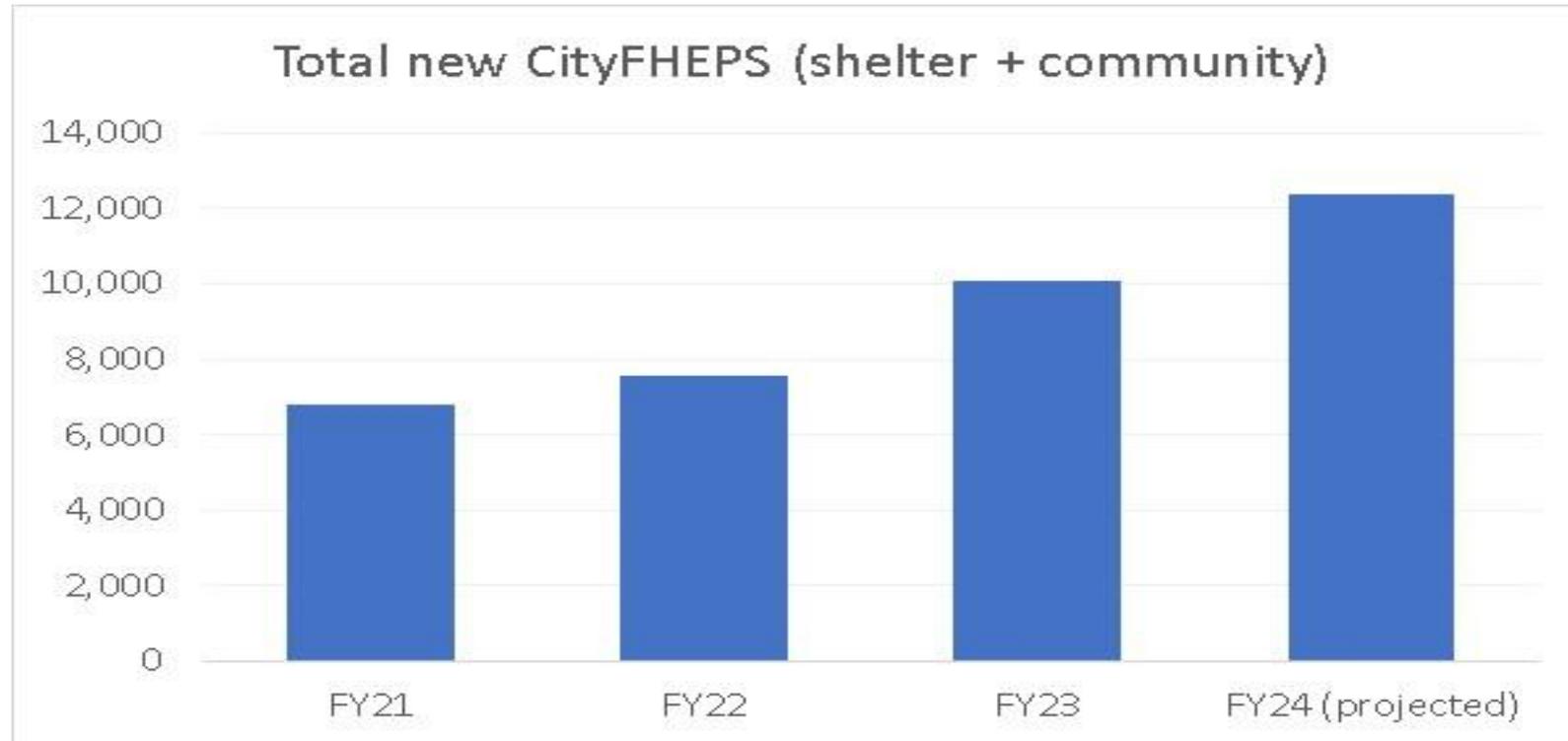
City Spending on Housing Stability Services Increases Year Over Year While Others Divest (*\$\$ in millions*)

From FY18 to FY23
overall spending grew by
~ \$600M to **\$1.6B**

***85% of the increase was
in City funds***



Looking Ahead: DHS is Currently on pace to place over 12,000 Households through CityFHEPS in FY24, a 20% Increase Compared to FY23.



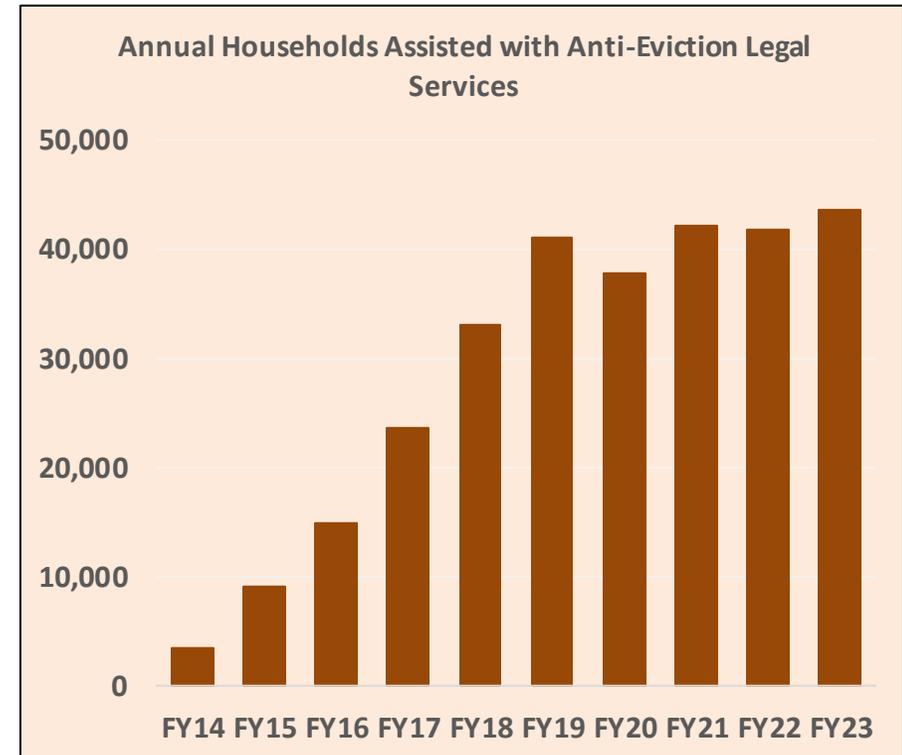
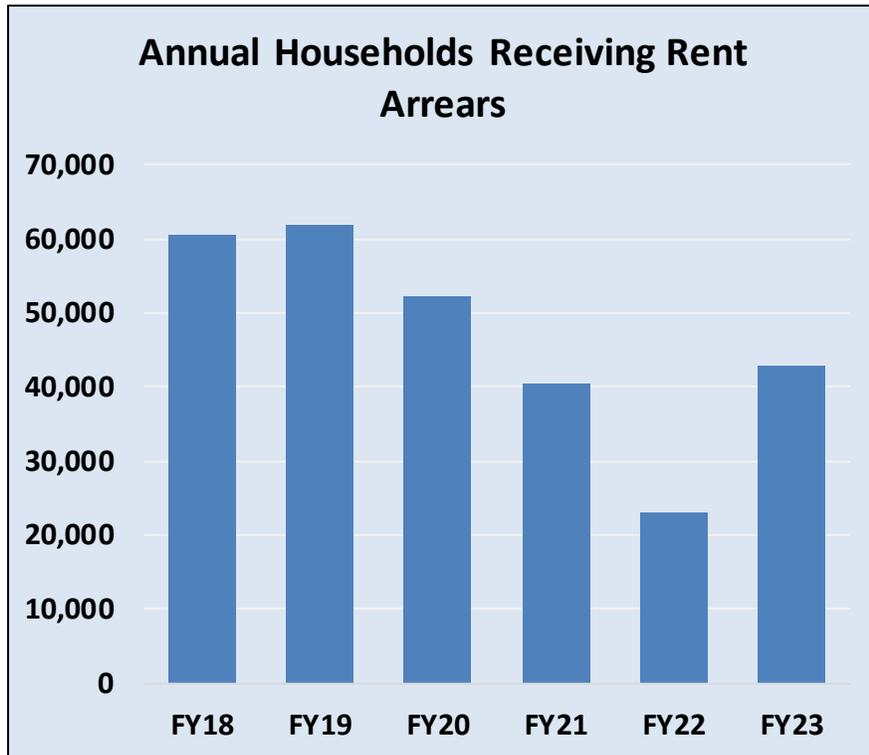
Affordable and Supportive Housing: Looking Ahead

- ✓ 1500 new affordable units for households exiting shelter.
- ✓ We will start the SHARE program – a new State funded subsidy that will move long-term stayers, without other subsidy options, out of shelter.
- ✓ We are piloting a Housing Navigator program to help Domestic Violence Survivors safely move from shelter

Emergency Assistance and Eviction Prevention

- In FY23 DSS issued over \$300M in emergency rent payments to 43,000 households

- In FY23 DSS assisted over 40,000 households with housing related legal services.





Creating Economic Stability

DSS/HRA/DHS WORK TOGETHER TO OFFER SERVICES THAT MOVE NEW YORKERS TO SUSTAINABLE FUTURES

- DSS launched the PINCC program to connect clients to construction and industrial jobs, trainings and wrap around supports.
- Implemented new income disregards to support clients' economic growth:
 - Training/subsidized work
 - One-time disregard for any employment income
- Maximizing “win/win” hiring of clients into human services jobs:
 - In FY24 as of May 1, 2024, human service providers hired 5,687 Public Assistance clients
- Joined forces with the Mayor's Office of Talent on the *Jobs NYC* initiative to provide support for 10 Hiring Halls to date.

LOOKING FORWARD: DSS/HRA/DHS WORK TOGETHER TO OFFER SERVICES THAT MOVE NEW YORKERS TO SUSTAINABLE FUTURES

- New RFPs for Career Services that will focus on building pathways to sustainable careers.
 - ***Pathways for Access to Careers and Employment (PACE)***
Workforce Development Program will be released in FY25
- Launched the OMNY Pilot. The pilot includes 50 volunteer Fair Fares enrollees who are testing the use of the Fair Fares discount with the OMNY Card. The pilot is the first step to transitioning the Fair Fares program to the MTA OMNY fare payment system.



THANK YOU