

FY 2026 Borough Budget Consultations

Manhattan – Human Resources Administration

Meeting Date:

The purpose of holding the Borough Budget Consultations is to have a straightforward and frank conversation about each agency's budget needs and requests. Unlike other venues, such as City Council Hearings, these consultations are not open to the public nor are they recorded. The information provided assists Community Boards in drafting our own Statement of District Needs and Budget Priorities and it facilitates the opportunity to do so in a way that supports the Agency's goals. Community Board Members often lack expertise about funding sources and the processes within Agencies regarding funding of various programs and initiatives. However, they are very knowledgeable about what local services are needed in their neighborhoods and the effectiveness of Agency programs.

This year's Manhattan agendas have three sections:

I. General overview of current and outyear agency budgets

1. What is the overall budget increase or decrease for the Agency in the FY 25 adopted budget? How does that compare to the FY24 budget? Does the Agency anticipate a budget shortfall for FY 25, FY 26 or further out years?
2. What are your priorities, operational goals, and capital goals for FY25 and projected priorities, operational goals, and capital goals for FY26?
3. What, if any, programs are affected by the end of COVID relief funds?

II. Specific Program Funding.

1. What programs within the Agency will see a significant increase or decrease in funding overall in FY 25 and anticipated FY 26? 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? eliminated entirely?

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

III. 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.

AGENDA ITEM [1]: LEGAL SERVICES AND EVICTION PREVENTION

With respect to the provision of free legal services to eligible residents facing eviction proceedings, we understood that the FY2024 budget to provide those services was \$189M, which represented a \$20M increase from FY2023.

Please provide updates on the provision of free legal services to eligible residents, including without limitation the following:

- What funding is allocated to the provision of these services for FY2025 and projected FY2026?
- Is such funding administered solely through HRA, or are other Agencies involved in retaining such services?
- What agency oversees the outside contractors and service providers for these legal services?
- Have the rules regarding eligibility for free legal services changed in any material way from FY2024 to the present or projected for FY2026?
- How many individual tenants were served in FY2024 and projected for FY2025 and FY2026? Does that represent an increase, maintenance, or decrease from prior years?

In prior years, HRA advised that one limit on the ability to provide these legal services was the inability to hire and retain sufficient numbers of lawyers. Has that problem been solved? Is additional funding necessary to accomplish continuity in individual lawyers as service providers?

AGENCY RESPONSE:

MEETING NOTES:

NEW INFORMATION:

FOLLOW-UP COMMITMENTS:

AGENDA ITEM [2]: SNAP BENEFITS

1. What is the allocation for SNAP benefits for FY2025 and projected FY2026?
 - a. How many individuals / families are able to be served based on those allocations?
 - b. How many otherwise eligible individuals / families are not able to be served based on those allocations?
2. Please estimate the number or percentage of otherwise eligible individuals / families who are / are not registered to receive SNAP Benefits.
3. What portion of the allocation for SNAP benefits (or any other allocation) is directed outreach to eligible individuals / families to solicit them to register for these benefits in FY2025 and projected 20206?
 - a. Is that level of funding for outreach sufficient?
 - b. Are there benchmarks or targets for additional registrations for FY 2025 and projected FY2026?

AGENCY RESPONSE:

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AGENDA ITEM [3]: HASA (HIV/AIDS Services Administration)

1. What funding is allocated to HASA in FY2025 and projected FY2026?
 - a. How many staff are supported by this allocation?
 - b. Has this staffing level changed from the levels in FY 2024 (which was reported to include an increase of 18 FTE for HASA)?
2. Please provide the number of clients served through the HASA program in FY 2024 and projected for FY2025 and FY2026?

- a. Please estimate the number of otherwise eligible individuals not served by the capacity provided through this allocation.
 - b. Are there factors other than funding that affect the ability to reach eligible individuals?
3. In previous years, HRA referred to conducting pilot programs to provide services to eligible HIV/AIDS populations in conjunction with Housing Works.
 - a. Please update the status of all such pilots or joint service provider connections.
 - b. What if any impact do such pilots or joint service provision have on HRA's budget or ability to serve clients?

AGENCY RESPONSE:

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AGENDA ITEM [4]: EVICTION - VULNERABLE TENANTS

In responses to Budget Consultation questions in previous years, HRA has outlined the Administration's efforts to combat homelessness through a variety of eviction prevention programs and services, including without limitation the Universal Right to Counsel for eligible tenants.

To the extent not covered in HRA's responses to Item 1 above, please provide the following information regarding eviction and homelessness prevention programs:

- Please update on the criteria by which eligibility for these services/programs are determined, and whether those eligibility criteria have changed in FY2024 or projected FY2025 and FY2026.
- Please update on the success of these programs, including without limitation:
 - The metrics used to measure success
 - The number of vulnerable tenants and families served through the programs in FY2024 and projected FY2025 and FY2026
 - In responses provided previously, HRA distinguished between litigation and counseling services - please indicate into which categories the numbers of individuals / families served fall for FY2024 and projected FY2025 and FY2026.
- Please estimate the number of otherwise eligible tenants who did not received services through these programs, and provide
 - a summary of the funding and efforts to reach such tenants to enroll them for services
 - information concerning limitations on the reach of these services other than funding that prevent the programs from reaching all eligible tenants.
- Please also provide the levels of funding in FY2025 and projected FY2026 for the Anti-Harassment and Tenant Protection program, and indicate:
 - The metrics used to measure success of this program

- The number of individuals and families served through the program in FY2024 and projected FY2025 and FY2026

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AGENDA ITEM [5]: CityFHEPS Rent Supplement (Family Housing Eviction Protection Supplement)

In responses to previous years' Budget Consultation Questions, HRA outlined the consolidation of a variety of eviction-prevention stipend programs (LINC I-V, SEPS) with a unified rental assistance program.

- Please provide an update on
 - Whether the unified program remains as the single source of assistance at this level
 - The funding allocated to this program
 - The number of individuals / families supported through that level of funding
 - whether that level of funding is sufficient to meet the needs of eligible potential participants.
- Community Boards receive complaints and anecdotes that certain landlords either do not accept CityFHEPS vouchers or otherwise harass tenants with such stipends. Please update us on the level of acceptance of these supports by landlords.
- How effective have penalties and sanctions been with respect to landlords who do not accept, or who harass tenants who rely on, these supports?

AGENCY RESPONSE:

MEETING NOTES:

NEW INFORMATION:

FOLLOW-UP COMMITMENTS:

AGENDA ITEM [6]: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTERS AND PROGRAMS

With respect to assistance and relief services for victims of Domestic Violence, please provide the following information:

- What is the funding allocated to Domestic Violence services in FY2025 and projected FY2026?
- Was that funding sufficient to provide services to all eligible victims of Domestic Violence that seek assistance in FY2024? Is it expected to meet the need for services for FY2025 or projected FY2026?
- Are there metrics or benchmarks for the success of the program beyond offering a safe space to victims of Domestic Violence? Please provide data relating to these efforts.

AGENCY RESPONSE:

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AGENDA ITEM [7]: SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

To what extent is funding for supportive housing for formerly homeless individuals or other vulnerable and eligible populations provided through funding allocated through HRA? Please distinguish the funding and programs operated for supportive housing under HRA vs HPD or other Agencies.

- What funding was allocated in FY2025 and projected FY2026 for supportive housing overall, and what portion is allocated through HRA?
- Is the funding allocated through HRA and HPD (and any other relevant agency) sufficient to meet current needs projected for FY2025 and FY2026?

AGENCY RESPONSE:

MEETING NOTES:

NEW INFORMATION:

FOLLOW-UP COMMITMENTS:

AGENDA ITEM [8]: FUNDING STREAMS EXPIRING

Please identify any HRA funding streams that are scheduled to expire or be completed in FY2025 or projected FY2026.

How will those funding streams be replaced for future year budgets?

AGENCY RESPONSE:

MEETING NOTES:

NEW INFORMATION:

FOLLOW-UP COMMITMENTS:

AGENDA ITEM [9]: Recommended Priorities for Community Board Advocacy

What programs, initiatives or budget line items would HRA recommend that Community Boards include in their Statements of District Needs and/or Budget Priorities for FY 2026?

AGENCY RESPONSE:

MEETING NOTES:

NEW INFORMATION:

FOLLOW-UP COMMITMENTS: