FY28 Borough Consultation QA

HRA

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HRA Manhattan Agenda Items

Agenda Item 1: Impact of Measures to Close Budget Gaps and Threatened Funding Cuts on the Budget For FY 2028 and Beyond

Mayor Mamdani's Administration took office while facing a reported $5.4 Billion budget gap for Fiscal Years 2026 and projected FY 2027. While the current Fiscal Year budget gap is reported to have been closed, the Mayor's Administration continues to prioritize finding savings and efficiencies in a variety of agency operations and is convening a charter revision commission to expedite certain efforts to secure and implement those savings and efficiencies.

There are potential severe cuts to or elimination of funding and other resources from the federal government for a host of programs and initiatives. These are exacerbated by actual or virtual elimination of certain federal agencies that supported services for the most underserved.

With these developments in mind, please answer the following questions:

1. Has the funding for any programs or initiatives at your Agency allocated for FY 2026 or projected FY 2027 been cut or reduced as a result of the efforts to close City Budget gaps in FY 2026, FY 2027 or projected FY 2028?

    a. If yes:

        i. Please identify the program or initiative, and

Please provide an estimate of the amount of the funding cut or reduction in both absolute and percentage amounts.

- No, no funding has been eliminated or reduced due to budget gaps. Our agency worked directly with OMB and City Hall to ensure savings proposals were consistent with Executive Order 12, and we evaluated a range of options from procurement to in-sourcing, to program effectiveness. Our charge was to find savings that were achievable and did not cut services, and the collaborative effort achieved the goals of the initial savings exercise.

2. Has the funding for any programs or initiatives at your Agency allocated for FY 2026 or projected FY 2027 been cut or reduced as a result of actual or threatened cuts to or reductions in funding or subsidies directly or indirectly attributable to the federal government for FY 2026, FY 2027 or projected FY 2028?

   a. If yes:

      i. Please identify the program or initiative, and

      ii. Please provide an estimate of the amount of the funding cut or reduction in both absolute and percentage amounts.

         - No, there have been no programs or initiatives cut or reduced due to federal actions. We continue to monitor efforts at the federal level. Although we are making our best efforts to understand federal budgetary and policy consequences, our current understanding is continually being updated and informed by further policy development and the promulgation of rules and directives on the federal and State levels, as well as ongoing litigation.

3. Has any State or federal funding streams previously earmarked or allocated for programs or initiatives at your Agency been redirected or re-allocated to other uses in order to:

   a. Close the City Budget Gap for FY 2026, FY 2027 or projected FY 2028?

i. If yes, please provide an estimate of the funding cut or reduction in both absolute and percentage amounts.

b. Prepare for or respond to actual or threatened cuts to or reductions in funding or subsidies directly or indirectly attributable to the federal government for FY 2026, FY 2027 or projected FY 2028?

i. If yes, please provide an estimate of the funding cut or reduction in both absolute and percentage amounts.

- No state or federal funding streams have been redirected due to federal actions or to close the budget gap. We are continuously monitoring and assessing developments at the federal level and staying in close coordination with our City partners regarding any potential impact on funding. Looking ahead, as federal discussions evolve, we will continue to track those conversations closely.

4. Have any programs or initiatives, including scheduled or planned expansions of existing programs or initiatives, at your Agency been frozen, postponed, suspended or abandoned as a result, directly or indirectly, of measures taken to address either the City Budget Gap or the threats to cut or reduce federal funding in FY 2026, FY 2027 or projected FY 2028?

a. If yes:

i. Please identify such programs or initiatives, and

ii. Please provide an estimate of the funding needed to restore or continue those programs and initiatives as planned.

- No programs or initiatives have been frozen, postponed, suspended or abandoned as a result of federal action or to close the budget gap. As stated above, when federal funding shifts occur, our first step is to work closely with our City partners to evaluate the need and determine the best course of action. In some cases, alternative resources, such as state funding, may be identified. However, both the governor and City Budget Director have made it clear that cuts of this magnitude cannot be fully backfilled with other resources. We will continue to monitor federal actions closely and work closely with our partner agencies.

5. What other measures is your Agency taking in connection with:
    a. The calls for greater efficiency in City government operations, or
    b. Actual or threatened cuts to or elimination of federal funding?

    - When new challenges arise, we raise them through the budget process and continue conversations with our City partners to chart the most responsible path forward. As with any changes to federal funding, we carefully monitor potential impacts and remain in close coordination with our partners. We are also focused on ensuring that the funding already in place is implemented effectively, so that New Yorkers continue to see the benefits of these investments.

6. What is the current vacancy rate for positions in your agency?

- As of August 2026, HRA's vacancy rate is 13.6%
- Programs work to interview candidates and onboard staff as quickly as possible.
- Since the hiring freeze has been lifted, over the coming months, we anticipate the vacancy rate will continue to decline.
- Regarding steps being taken to to improve vacancy rate, they include:
    - Civil service list hiring pools and job postings.
    - Targeted flyers are issued to eligible internal candidates to generate interest in promotional opportunities and to widen applicant pools for hard to recruit positions.
    - Hiring halls.
    - Job fairs in coordination with hiring program area and HRA Career Services.

Agenda Item 2: Legal Services for new AmericansEspecially considering the actions of ICE against new New Yorkers (and others across the country), please provide the following information:

a. What funding is available to provide legal services to support undocumented or recent immigrant New Yorkers for FY 2027 and project 2028.

   - As of August 2026, immigration legal services is funded at $173.4M in FY27 and $44.3M in FY28. (Please note, there is a significant amount of discretionary funding that is added during adopted budget negotiations.)

b. To what extent is there additional or separate funding specifically to address the needs of individuals and/or families who are in danger of ICE actions or responses?

   - IOI funding provides full legal representation for individuals who are in danger of ICE actions or responses.

c. Are these legal services provided entirely through contractors or does HRA also have in-house lawyers for immigrant services on staff?

   - These legal services are provided entirely through contractors.

d. What is the pay parity situation between in-house and contract legal services staff?

   - There are no in-house staff doing immigration work.

Agenda Item 3: Anti-eviction legal services

The most common reason for homelessness among families is eviction. Legal representation has shown to greatly decrease the number of successful evictions.

a. What is the status of funding in FY 2026 just ended, FY 2027 and projected for FY 2028 for anti-eviction legal services.

   - As of the FY27 Adopted budget, anti-eviction legal services are funded for $220M in FY26, $248M in FY27 and $271M in FY28. This represents about a $40M increase in funding. (FY26 was decreased to account for funds that were rolled over into the following year.) The funds will be used to allow providers to hire additional attorneys.

b. How successful is HRA in recruiting lawyers (whether in-house or through contractors) to provide these services? What is the retention/turnover rate for these lawyers?

   - Lawyers are recruited by the legal service providers who are contracted to represent tenants in eviction proceedings. When providers bid on these contracts, they commit to a certain number of deliverable and associated attorneys. Many providers are successful with retaining the number of attorneys, but much more attorneys are needed in this field in order to ensure that every eligible and interested client gets full representation.

c. To what extent is the level of pay or compensation (whether salaried, per diem or hourly) a factor in the hiring and retention of lawyers to provide these services? HRA's responses to legal services Budget Consultation questions re FY 2027 noted pay increases in 2024 and 2026 - have those increases been effective in supporting hiring and retention?

Like in any field, increased salaries would result in an increase of workers joining and staying in the field. Salaries are set by the providers and reimbursed by City funds. HRA has been encouraging providers to ensure that funds earmarked for staffing costs are completely used up. Additionally, most providers go through regular union contract negotiations where pay is determined for various positions. We have seen an increase in the number of attorneys working for Right to Counsel but acknowledge that a great supply of attorneys is needed to ensure that every client gets paired with a lawyer.

Agenda Item 4: SNAP Benefits

HRA's responses to Manhattan Budget Consultation Questions for the FY 2027 budget (Fall 2025) included the following information. Please provide updates based on the most recent available information:

1. The 2023 Program Access Index (PAI) for SNAP was 94.9%, based on NYC administering SNAP benefits to more than 1.73 million New Yorkers out of the 1.83 million below 125% FPL. Please provide the most recent PAI for New York City.
   - As a metric of SNAP's reach, USDA's Program Access Index (PAI) tells us the proportion of people with family income below 125% of the federal poverty line (FPL) who receive SNAP
   - Thanks in part to DSS-HRA's efforts to strengthen accessibility and reach every New Yorker in need:
     - The 2024 Program Access Index (PAI) for SNAP = 95.7% which means we are administering SNAP benefits to more than 1.79 million New Yorkers out of the 1.87 million below 125% FPL. This is the highest PAI since the agency started reporting this index.
   - The 2024 Program Access Index data is the most recent available due to the fact that the 2025 Census data used in the calculation will not be released until the fall.
   - NYC's PAI has historically outpaced that of NYS or the US overall. While the USDA has not released state or national PAI data, the 2023 PAI for the US was 80.0% and for NYS was 85.3%, compared to NYC's 94.9%

2. What program or initiative is addressing the theft or misappropriation of another's SNAP benefits so that the intended recipient is not left without such benefits?

   - The Governors' 30-day amendment to the Executive budget appropriated $1.8 million for costs associated with the implementation of chip enabled cards of which $700,000 was ear marked for New York City. The Senate and Assembly one-house budget bills accepted this proposal.
   - We also want to ensure every EBT card user knows about the ability to lock their card. Once a card is locked, no transactions can occur until it is unlocked. The EBT Edge app allows users to lock and unlock their card from within the app. For the best security against skimming, we encourage clients to utilize this app so they can unlock their card, make their purchase and then relock the card.
   - Based on discussions with OTDA [and as per a Governor Hochul announcement in July 2026, "Governor Hochul Announces New Chip-Based Benefit Cards for SNAP

Recipients to Be Issued in Early 2027"], we anticipate the first quarter of 2027 is the planned launch for chip cards.

3. With respect to addressing the theft or misappropriation of another's SNAP benefits, please advise:
    a. What if any recourse does an individual or family have to recover the lost benefits when the SNAP and CA benefits have been skimmed or misappropriated?

        - New York currently does not accept replacement claims for stolen SNAP benefits, although eligible Cash Assistance replacement claims remain available.

    b. Has the federal authority that allowed for the replacement of skimmed SNAP benefits that ended December 20, 2024, been renewed or replaced?

        - No. Note that, at the direction of the federal government, the authority for restoring skimmed benefits expired on December 21, 2024, and the US Department of Agriculture directed our State oversight body, OTDA, that states must cease accepting applications for the replacement of stolen SNAP benefits. Households are still able to submit applications for the replacement of stolen Cash Assistance (CA) benefits.

    c. HRA previously noted that, to minimize the number of individuals being skimmed, EBT cards must be equipped with chip technology. Has any progress been made toward that necessary upgrade? What additional funding is required for this upgrade and what is its anticipated source?

        - See response to question number two above.

https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-announces-new-chip-based-benefit-cards-snap-recipients-be-issued-early-2027

1. Agenda Item 5: HASA (HIV/AIDS Services Administration) HRA reported a budget allocation for HASA for FY 2026 of $283M, with a projection of $222M for FY 2027. Please provide updated budget allocations for FY 2027 and projected FY 2028.
    a. Please confirm whether any reduction in allocation will result in a reduction in services to otherwise eligible individuals.

        - The HASA budget is $261M for FY27 and $259M for FY28.
        - There will be no reduction in services to otherwise eligible individuals

2. HRA reported a staff of 1,137 HASA City Staff in FY 2025, with additional staff included in contracts with service providers.
    a. Please update the staff figures for City Staff and, to the extent possible, Staff retained through contractors.

        - There are 1,101 HASA City staff budgeted in FY27. Providers carry many more HASA staff through their HRA HASA contracts.

3. Please provide an update on the number of clients served through the HASA program in FY 2026 and projected for FY 2027 and FY 2028.
    a. Last year HRA reported that the number served through the HASA program for FY 2024 was 47,791. Please estimate for the current and next projected Fiscal Years. The FY 2025 number served through the HASA program was 47,645 and for FY 2026 was 48,611.

        - The number of persons served by the HASA program for FY 2026 was 48,756. It is too early to project FY27 figures.

    b. Please estimate the number of otherwise eligible individuals not served by the capacity provided through this allocation.

        - The HASA program is open to all persons living with HIV who are residing in the City of New York. There are no persons who are not served due to capacity issues

Agenda Item 6: Services for Vulnerable Tenants Facing Eviction

Please provide updates of the following categories of information regarding eviction and homelessness prevention programs:

a. Has there been any change since Local Law 20 of 2023 to expand representation eligibility for individuals at or below 200% of the federal poverty line, or who are 60+ regardless of income? Yes, as of August 2026, OCJ has implemented a blanket income waiver for households with an older adult age 60 years or older to provide legal services for affirmative tenant matters to address issues such as repairs and harassment, not just eviction cases.

b. Please provide an update on the number of vulnerable tenants and families served through the programs in FY 2026 and projected for FY 2027 and FY 2028.

- In FY 2025 110,478 individuals from 51,336 households received administration-funded housing legal assistance, of which 37,722 households received legal services specifically for eviction proceedings in housing court and NYCHA termination of tenancy proceedings; 22,738 received full representation and 14,725 received brief legal assistance.
- FY2026 data has not been finalized yet.

c. Please estimate the number of otherwise eligible tenants who did not receive services through these programs in FY 2026 and projected for FY 2027 and FY 2028.

- While the data stream about housing court cases does not list income or age, making it difficult to estimate the number of eligible tenants, we know that at least 7,000 tenants were screened by the program and not able to be assigned due to capacity issues.
- OCJ continues to refine its intake operations and work with providers to increase representation of eligible tenants in FY 2027 and beyond.

d. Last year HRA estimated a budget allocation of $46M for FY 2026 and projected an allocation of $30M for FY 2027. Please provide updated levels of funding for FY 2027 and projected FY 2028 for the Anti-Harassment and Tenant Protection program. Please also describe the reason for and import of the apparent reduction in funding from FY 2026 to successive years and indicate whether such funding changes will lead to reductions in services to vulnerable tenants.

- The anti-harassment tenant protection program is funded at $50M for FY27 and $49M for FY28 as of the FY27 Adopted budget. There is not a reduction in funding and we do not expect reductions in services to clients.

Agenda Item 7: CityFHEPS Rent Support

1. The FY27 adopted budget announcements indicate the creation of a new, sustainable CityFHEPS program. Please explain why the new program is more sustainable. Are there any plans to unify the parallel CityFHEPS programs? What budget efficiencies are associated with keeping the programs separate or merging them?

    - City Housing Assistance Program (CHAP) will be managed by HPD and we defer to them to provide the program specifics.

2. In responses to Budget Consultation questions from previous years, HRA reported allocated funding of $713M for FY 2026. Please provide an update on the amount of funding for FY 2027 and projected for FY 2028.

    - As of FY27 Adopted, CityFHEPS is funded at $2.041B for FY27 and $2.472B for FY28.

3. Please tell us whether that level of funding is sufficient to meet the needs of all eligible potential participants.

    - We expect that the budgeted funding is sufficient to meet the program spending obligations, and we constantly monitor and evaluate our budget to ensure that funding is available to meet the program need.

4. Please provide an update on efforts to address complaints and anecdotes that certain landlords either do not accept CityFHEPS vouchers or otherwise harass tenants with such stipends.

    - We work closely with our partners at the NYC Commission on Human Rights (CCHR) when there are allegations of sources of income discrimination.
    - Vouchers are an instrumental to moving DSS/DHS clients into stable permanent housing. DSS vigorously makes referrals to our sister agency NYC Commission on Human Rights (CCHR) of any alleged instance of sources income discrimination for investigation.
    - You can report lawful source of income discrimination to the NYC Commission on Human Rights by dialing 311 and asking for "Human Rights," calling 212-416-0197, or by using an online Report Discrimination form found at https://www.nyc.gov/site/cchr/about/report-discrimination.page.

Agenda Item 8: Domestic Violence Shelters and Programs

1. Please provide an update on the funding allocated to domestic violence services in FY 2027 and projected FY 2028?

    a. HRA responses to Budget Consultations Questions for FY 2027 noted funding in FY 2026 of $219M and FY 2027 of $173. How have those allocations changed, and what is the allocation projected for FY 2028?

    - The HRA DV budget is $176M for FY27 and $182M in FY28.

    b. Please advise whether the reduction in allocation noted above will result in a change or reduction in services to this vulnerable population.

    - The FY 2026 amount of $219 million reflected combined HRA Domestic Violence Services and Mayor's Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence (ENDGBV) funding. The HRA Domestic Violence Services budget is $176 million in FY 2027 and is projected to increase to $182 million in FY 2028. The change in the FY 2027 allocation does not reflect a reduction in HRA Domestic Violence Services or a planned reduction in services. There will be no change or reduction in services for survivors of domestic violence and their children.

2. Please provide an update on whether funding at the current and projected levels will be sufficient to provide services to all eligible victims of domestic violence that seek assistance in FY 2027 and projected FY 2028?

    - Current FY 2027 funding and projected FY 2028 funding are expected to support the continued provision of core domestic violence shelter and supportive services for eligible survivors and their children who seek assistance. HRA will continue to monitor demand, capacity, service utilization, and emerging needs to ensure resources are deployed effectively and to identify any future funding or service needs.
    - Note that
        - We are always monitoring and evaluating our budgets and expenditures and making adjustments as necessary.
        - 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), respectively, sets/approves the

per diem rate for the cost of providing DV shelter and DV services in New York State.

Agenda Item 9: Community Food Programs

1. Please provide an update on the funding for and selection of sites for Community Food Programs. What is the budget allocation for CFP for FY 2027 and projected for FY 2028? Please indicate the number of sites and estimated number of individuals and families served through that allocation.

    - The CFC budget as of FY27 Adopted is $84.5M for FY27 and $78.2M for FY28. These include our food distribution contract.
    - Note that
        - We have an open application for CFC. The application does not close.
        - Pantries are welcome to apply on a rolling basis. CFC does not actively solicit new providers but has a simple form available online (www.nyc.gov/assets/hra/downloads/pdf/services/efap/CFCApplication.pdf) that interested pantries and soup kitchens can use to apply for CFC funding consideration.
        - Interested pantries should also review the requirements to become a CFC provider, available online (https://www.nyc.gov/site/hra/help/community-food-connection.page).
        - Since CFC is considering a supplemental funding source, applicants need to demonstrate other sources of funding and food.

    https://www.nyc.gov/assets/hra/downloads/pdf/services/efap/CFCApplication.pdf

2. Are there plans to increase the number of sites to areas not currently served through the existing funding? No. We take applications as they come but do not recruit sites. What additional sites in Manhattan are in any phase of consideration?

    - Regarding plans to increase the number of sites: No. We take applications as they come but do not recruit sites.
    - Regarding what additional sites in Manhattan are in any phase of consideration: We have two pending applications in Manhattan in the zip codes 10009 and 10029.

3. To what extent is the expansion of sites to previously underserved communities limited by the current and projected funding allocations?

    - The expansion is not limited by funding as we spread the available funds to the pantries.

Agenda Item 10: Wish List

For community board advocacy, we need to know which important programs or projects are most in need of funding. If your agency were given a large amount of money, to which staffing need, program, or capital project would you assign it?

- We are in constant conversation with our partners at OMB to make sure our operational needs are met.
- We recognize the difficult fiscal climate the city faces.
- The Administration has made great strides in making the city budget more predictable and transparent and is investing in programs that make New York City more affordable and more equitable.
- We are pleased that the Mayor has addressed chronically underbudgeted agency needs in our shelter, cash assistance and rental assistance programs.
- In addition, we are making public transit more affordable for low-income New Yorkers by increasing the baseline for Fair Fares by $54M and expanding the program to 200% FPL as of the FY27 Adopted budget.