



List of Candidates

2025 Steering Committee Elections

Overview: On Wednesday, November 5th, the NYC Continuum of Care (CoC) hosted the 2025 Steering Committee Elections - Candidate Forum to give the CoC community an opportunity to learn more about the individuals running for the 2026 Steering Committee. This document contains a copy of the speeches presented during the forum and is designed to aid eligible voters in casting their votes.

All ballots are **due Friday, November 21st at 5pm.**

Nine (9) available seats:

- One (1) At-Large seat
- Two (2) Coalition seats
- Two (2) Government seats
- Two (2) Persons with Lived Experience
 - One (1) General seat
 - One (1) Youth seat
- One (2) Non-profit seats

At-Large Seat (page 4)

Definition: An individual or entity that has a demonstrated interest in ending homelessness in NYC and has expertise in a specific area that will be of value to the NYC CoC

Five (5) Candidates:

1. Lauren Velez – Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH) – Entity
2. William Watts – Coalition for the Homeless – Entity
3. Nicole Ruiz – Individual
4. Shanet Dunovant – Individual
5. Dr. Vikki C. Terrile – Individual

Coalition Seat (page 8)

Definition: A group of at least five organizations that has come together with a priority to advocate for services and/or needs of homeless or formerly homeless individuals and families.



Two (2) Candidates:

1. Victoria Leahy – Homeless Services United (HSU)
2. James (Jim) Mutton – Association for Community Living (ACL)

Government Seat (page 10)

Definition: A government agency applicant must have significant oversight with homeless services and housing programs in New York City. They must also be a NYC, NY State or a Federal agency (excluding HUD).

Two (2) Candidates:

1. Anthony (Tony) Lee – NYC Dept. of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH)
2. Tracy Thorne – NYC Dept. of Youth and Community Development (DYCD)

Persons With Lived Experience Seat (page 11)

Definition: An individual who is currently or has formerly experienced homelessness in New York City.

Five (5) Candidates:

1. Cameron Craig
2. Avii Van Praagh
3. William Stanford
4. Doobneek
5. Nedelyn Helena-Diaz

Non-profit Seat (page 14)

Definition: A 501(c)3 organization funded by the CoC that provides housing and/or services to homeless or formerly homeless individuals and families in New York City; serves as a subject matter expert for a specific housing type and/or service model; has a structure for actively engaging persons with lived experience in policy making decisions for the organization.

Thirteen (13) Candidates:

1. Clare Acharya - Anthos | Home
2. Maryum Christie - Praxis Housing Initiatives
3. Joyce Kelly – HousingPlus
4. Martha Kenton - HELP USA



5. Vivian Louie - Community Housing Innovations, Inc. (CHI)
6. Theresa Manuel - CP Unlimited formerly Cerebral Palsy Associations of New York State
7. Molly Mattimore - HSI /Kenmore HDFC
8. Justin Miller - Breaking Ground
9. Jady Sanchez - Restore NYC
10. Pria Sibal - Sakhi for South Asian Survivors
11. Sebastien Vante - Safe Horizon
12. Stephanie Zovich - Care for the Homeless
13. Karen Morian – Harlem United



At-Large

Lauren Velez – Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH) – Entity

I'm grateful to have filled the Member at Large Seat on the NYC CoC Steering Committee. I have 17 years of experience working in housing and homelessness systems, working with CoCs, and advocating for actions that will expand access to housing and services for a variety of populations including families, high utilizers, those impacted by the criminal legal system, and people with severe behavioral health challenges. Most of that time has been spent in direct service, working in child welfare and supportive housing. Since joining CSH in 2021 I've overseen a portfolio of work in NY that includes Moving On, supporting people re-entering communities from carceral settings, developing programs with ACS to support youth aging out of foster care in accessing housing, working with high utilizers of emergency systems, harm reduction and overdose prevention in supportive housing settings, working with high acuity and high need individuals, supporting the affordable housing and service needs of older adults, and other efforts related to helping NYers experiencing homelessness access the safe housing and connect to the resources that will help them thrive. I have gained a wealth of experience working across systems in NYC over the last several years. I am committed to and passionate about this work and not afraid to speak up in an effort to bring forth issues and policies that contribute to or create barriers to housing access.

William Watts – Coalition for the Homeless – Entity

The Coalition for the Homeless is the nation's oldest advocacy and direct service organization helping homeless individuals and families. Since our inception in 1981, the Coalition has engaged in litigation, lobbying, public education, and direct services on behalf of homeless New Yorkers.

Every day, the Coalition helps thousands of homeless and at-risk individuals through our programs, monitors NYC's shelter system as the unique court- and City Hall-appointed independent monitor, protects the rights of homeless households, and champions proven strategies to address homelessness. Our 11 direct service programs assist homeless and at-risk households by providing emergency food and clothing, eviction prevention, crisis services, permanent housing, job training, and youth programs. Through these programs and our monitoring activities, we interact with tens of thousands of homeless individuals each year and amass information about the diverse challenges the homeless population is facing. Our services reach all five boroughs.



In our over 40 years of advocacy, the Coalition has obtained significant legal victories for homeless New Yorkers, ranging from establishing the right to shelter for those without homes, securing medically appropriate housing for people living with HIV/AIDS, protecting the right to vote for unhoused Americans, and defending shelter accessibility for people living with disabilities.

A seat on the NYC CoC Steering Committee would allow us to share our knowledge of homeless New Yorkers' service and advocacy needs and highlight critical citywide funding priorities to achieve our mission of implementing humane, cost-effective strategies to end mass homelessness in NYC.

Finally, Coalition staff Will Watts and Jamie Powlovich each have 8 years of experience serving on the CoC Board for Pasadena, California and the NYC CoC Steering Committee, respectively. Other Coalition leaders Tim Campbell and Lindsey Davis have been meeting for roughly 10 years with CAPS leadership (HRA Deputy Commissioner Craig Retchless) to workshop system issues.

Nicole Ruiz – Individual

I am seeking to join the NYC CoC Steering Committee to help strengthen coordination between healthcare systems, city agencies, and community-based organizations in service of individuals experiencing homelessness—particularly those with serious mental illness and complex medical needs.

In my current role as Senior Director for Special Populations Care Management at NYC Health + Hospitals, I oversee the ED Engagement + Navigation (E+N) program, which connects high-risk patients—many of whom are street- or shelter-based—with appropriate community resources, behavioral health care, and supportive housing pathways. I lead implementation and oversight of this work across multiple acute-care sites, including Bellevue, Woodhull, and Lincoln hospitals, and collaborate closely with DHS, community outreach providers, and citywide care coordination partners.

I bring to the table a unique blend of operational leadership and clinical insight, supported by both an LCSW and an MBA in Healthcare Administration. I have led cross-sector initiatives focused on systems navigation, quality improvement, and transitions of care. Previously, I served as Director of Compliance and Quality Improvement at a community mental health clinic and worked in supportive housing, adult homes, and AOT (Assisted Outpatient Treatment) programs.



I believe my perspective—at the intersection of healthcare, behavioral health, and homelessness—can support the CoC’s goals around equity, access, and strategic resource alignment. I am deeply committed to systems-level thinking and would be honored to contribute to the Committee’s mission.

Shanet Dunovant – Individual

Hello, I am Shanet Dunovant and I am running for a seat on the NYC COC Steering Committee as an Individual At-Large member. In 2004, I was a voting member of the NYC CCOC Steering Committee representing DV. While residing in the shelter, and being on the NYC CCOC committee, I earned my Real Estate license. I was then hired by the shelter provider to give lectures on fair housing rights. I was a part of the initial Fair Housing Justice Center.

In 2020 during the pandemic, through a series of unfortunate events, I became homeless and again had to use NYC services. This time was much harsher. With a multi-focused perspective, I was able to see the differences in the system in regard to improvements and challenges of the current system compared to 24 years ago. I paid attention to the state of homelessness and the level of services given to solve the problem.

Has the system gotten better, worse, or stayed the same. I’d like to have an input to help close the gaps that I saw and experienced, and to help improve the system for the future. Because of my experience with being a voting member of the NYC Continuum of Care, being recent but formerly homeless, working for a provider organization, and being a real estate agent, I believe I have a well-rounded perspective on causes, solutions, and the process of permanently ending homelessness.

I see the problems, challenges, and solutions from 4 perspectives that include:

- Clients that need humane, smart, and useful solutions to a variety of issues that may include mental health or substance abuse along with permanent housing needs.
- Providers with organizations that want to help implement and provide those services.
- The Continuum that realistically creates a process to fund the idealistic goal of ending homelessness in New York City permanently

As a Real Estate agent, I see the housing market in regards to fair market rents and costs, dealing with landlords’ perspectives, etc. I have ideas and idealistic yet realistic goals that I



believe can end homelessness, or at the very least be implemented to help streamline the process to be faster, easier, smarter , and more cost effective for all involved.

We can end and preferably prevent expensive chronic and short term homelessness in New York City

Dr. Vikki C. Terrile – Individual

I have worked with NYC family shelters and other providers for twenty years, doing on-site library and literacy programming for families and adults. I am currently a CUNY professor whose research explores how public libraries can improve services to families experiencing homelessness. I am interested in running for a seat on the CoC Steering Committee because I would like to be able to help bridge the needs of the agencies and organizations serving people experiencing homelessness with the needs of public libraries. Although many NYC public libraries see unhoused and otherwise homeless patrons, libraries are not always at the table when decisions are being made that impact communities and access. As an academic and an educator, I am also interested in being able to help future and current librarians better understand how services to New Yorkers experiencing homelessness are provided. My research has connected me with shelter providers, school district and state-level McKinney- Vento coordinators, and other stakeholders around the country; I would love to be able to leverage that knowledge in meaningful ways in the City where I live and work and teach. As someone who is both knowledgeable about homeless services and an outsider to the social services world, I believe I bring a valuable and unique perspective to the work of the CoC.



Coalition

Victoria Leahy – Homeless Services United (HSU)

Homeless Services United (HSU), founded in 1996, represents 55+ mission driven, nonprofit homeless services providers operating in all five boroughs. Our members' programs touch every aspect of the safety net for homeless and at-risk New Yorkers operating prevention programs (including ESG funded HomeBase programs), Street Outreach, Drop-in and safe haven programs, DHS shelters for families with children, adult families, single adults, specialized DHS shelter programs for mental health, employment and substance abuse as well as faith-based respite and outreach programs, domestic violence and HASA shelters as well as rapid rehousing and permanent supportive housing.

Our approach to organizing and advocating for our membership involves a robust committee structure where we regularly meet with members and provide support and peer learning opportunities for member agency staff to discuss policy changes and identify programmatic needs and share resources. Using this approach, we are able to spot trends and harness the collective wisdom of the folks operating programs citywide to inform best practices and gaps and needs that drive system performance. We work closely with our partners in government at DHS and HRA, OMB, MOCS, MONS, the City Council, OTDA and Comptroller's office as well as allies in sister Coalitions and advocacy groups to ensure our members have the tools, they need to effectively serve homeless New Yorkers. Given our unique role and bird's-eye-view of the homeless services continuum and ability to bring people together to address challenges, HSU is an ideal Coalition partner for the Continuum.

James (Jim) Mutton – Association for Community Living (ACL)

Association for Community Living/ACLAIMH has been a proud coalition member of the NYC CoC since the formation of steering committee. During that time, NYC ACL Coalition members have served on the NYC CoC sub-committees as a chair or co-chair, including Evaluation, PQI/ Grievance, Performance Quality Improvement and currently Data Management. Many of the NYC ACL member agencies serve the homeless population in NYC and are committed to the mission of the NYC CoC. NYC ACL member agencies actively participate in advocacy in an effort to curb, reduce and eliminate homelessness in NYC by supporting not for profit agencies that serve vulnerable and underserved populations throughout NYC, NYC metropolitan area and the entire state of New York. This includes providing permanent supportive housing, street outreach and clinical services. NYC ACL member agencies have and will continue to play an important role in the



continued growth and the improved performance of the NYC CCoC through their active participation in the steering committee. NYC ACL member agencies and through their Coalition representation on the steering committee, provide a valuable resource to the NYC CoC with a proven record demonstrated by their past and present efforts in their participation and commitment throughout the years. The Association for Community Living/ACLAIMH, would like very much to continue these efforts and association by maintaining its current seat on the NYC CoC Steering Committee.



Government

Anthony (Tony) Lee – NYC Dept. of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH)

The NYC Health Dept. has been developing and supporting the development of supportive housing since the first programs were opened more than 30 years ago. Over these years, the Health Dept. portfolio has grown to serve almost 13,000 individuals, families, and young adults who are living in supportive housing. Our partnership with the CoC has supported this growth. The experience gained in providing technical assistance and program monitoring to programs as they have developed over the last decades has enhanced the development of new programs such as NY 15/15. The Health Dept. continues to work with providers on developing programs that are focused on supporting healthy and fully recovered lives for all the individuals, families and young adults they serve. The Health Dept. has managed the NY/NY III evaluation, which showed the major savings that come from supportive housing, and we continue to bring our epidemiology expertise to the evaluation that will be conducted on the new NY 15/15 housing. The Health Dept. and CoC partnership strengthens the development of supportive housing throughout the city.

Tracy Thorne – NYC Dept. of Youth and Community Development (DYCD)

I am honored to be part of this election for a government seat on the CoC Steering Committee. If elected, I would represent DYCD to ensure that youth and young adults experiencing homelessness are supported by all systems aiming to reduce and end homelessness. As a member of the steering committee, I pledge to work collaboratively with government agencies, providers, advocates and people with lived experience to elevate the needs of youth and young adults experiencing homelessness. My role would offer an opportunity to address barriers and create opportunities for youth and young adults to access permanent housing.

As a representative of DYCD, I am supporting these key CoC initiatives:

- I serve as a co-chair for the CoC Youth Committee which includes ongoing support for Opportunity Starts with a Home (HUD Youth Homelessness Demonstration program). The work of OSH continues the mission to reduce and end youth homelessness, and centers on youth and young adults with lived experience in the planning and implementation process.
- I am a member of the CAPS subcommittee.
- I support the CoC Team in the HIC/PIT Counts including NYC Youth Count



Persons With Lived Experience (PWLEx)

Cameron Craig

My name is Cameron Craig and I am asking for your vote to be reelected to the steering committee representing the PWLEx committee. I am one of the co-chair of the committee. I have been part of the committee since 2005, before I came to the CoC I was peer educator for people of color in Christ, then I was the first community health outreach workers, I also work as their drop-in manager and also as research associate for citywide harm reduction, I also worked as a Intern organizer for vocal New York. In the faith to end homelessness and for those who maybe at risk I have been in this faith in long time. I plan to help make this CoC score better and the ranking against the other CoCs .

Avii Van Praagh

I aim to join the NYC CoC Steering Committee to strengthen how we measure and maintain accountability across our city's homelessness response system. My homelessness experience in NYC helps me ensure that others won't fall through the same cracks in the system that I did. My experience drives my commitment to building systems rooted in dignity, transparency, and measurable impact.

At The Partnership to End Homelessness, I develop and execute case management processes, collaborating with teams serving families, survivors of domestic violence, LGBTQIA+ individuals, and mixed-status or undocumented households. My focus is on aligning program performance with CoC and other standards, ensuring that data collection and reporting reflect the real experiences of clients rather than just compliance checkboxes. This year, to better understand the context within which my work occurs, I learned Python to access and analyze Census data through API integrations, and applying that data to improve local resource targeting and program evaluation.

As a 2025 National Low Income Housing Coalition Tenant Leader Fellow, I advocate for policy change that merges data integrity with lived expertise—because metrics only matter if they translate into human outcomes. I plan to bring this to the Steering Committee's compliance and performance work to ensure that our evaluations uplift truth, equity, and accountability across all partner agencies.

My combination of lived experience, program management, and technical analysis equips me to help the CoC strengthen its performance framework while staying rooted in compassion and inclusion. My goal is to ensure that every data point represents a person—and that our systems treat them as such.



William Stanford

BEFORE I JOINED THE NYCCCC (NEW YORK CITY CARE CONTINUUM COALITION) IN 5/11 I LIVED IN 4 SHELTERS. BETWEEN 2013 & 2016 I WAS A VOTING MEMBER. IN THE LAST 13 YEARS ALONE, I JOINED THE URBAN JUSTICE CENTER AND VOCAL NEW YORK IN PRESS CONFERENCES AND RALLIES PARTICULARLY AT CITY HALL. IN THE LAST 2 YEARS ALONE, I WAS AN URBAN JUSTICE CENTER SAFETY NET ACTIVIST PROJECT MEMBER. I'M HOPING I'LL GET ELECTED AS A STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBER.

Doobneek

Hello everyone, my name is doobneek, and I'm deeply honored to be considered for the NYC Continuum of Care Steering Committee.

I'm a queer asylum seeker who has experienced homelessness as a youth. As a former client of the Ali Forney Center, I know personally how life-changing safe housing and affirming support can be. That experience didn't just change my life—it ignited my commitment to make sure no young person ever feels invisible in our city.

Professionally, I come from a background in engineering and data science. I currently work as a junior developer and publisher at Streetlives, helping maintain New York City's public social services map—used by over 20,000 people every month to find food, shelter, and healthcare. I believe data is not just numbers—it's people's lives, and how we use that data determines whether systems help or harm.

I'm also the founder of doobneek.org, an open-source nonprofit platform that helps low-income and unhoused youth build resumes, prepare essays, and plan their financial futures in complete privacy. This is at most vital right now with the rise of government surveillance. The idea came from my struggle restarting life from zero without any safety net or supports that fit my situation—I wanted to build tools for the community often overlooked by big and evil corporations.

As a Youth Action Board ambassador, I helped shape New York City's Opportunity Starts with a Home plan. That plan is more than policy—it's a commitment to equity, racial justice, and LGBTQ+ inclusion, ensuring that housing is treated as a human right and that no youth is left behind because of who they are. Our work centered youth leadership and lived expertise, so policies weren't made for us, but with us.

If elected to this Steering Committee, I'll focus on bridging technology, data transparency, and lived expertise. I want our systems to be person-centered, accountable, and driven by



real community insight—not bureaucracy. I'll continue championing innovation, like YourPeer, a youth-designed app connecting people to free local services, and push for tech solutions that empower youth to build independence and stability.

I stand here not only as someone who was once helped, but as someone ready to give back—to build a city where every young person, regardless of their race, immigration status, or identity, has a safe home and a fair chance to thrive.

Thank you for this opportunity—and for believing that youth voice and equity belong at the heart of every decision we make.

Nedelyn Helena-Diaz



Non-profit

Clare Acharya - Anthos | Home

Anthos|Home seeks a seat on the NYC CoC Steering Committee to contribute our unique perspective as an organization pioneering systemic solutions to housing voucher under-utilization and to share our demonstrated expertise in rapid housing placement and housing stability.

Impact and Performance Since launching programs in June 2023, Anthos|Home has moved more than 452 households (775 people) into permanent housing in approximately four months—less than one-third of current average shelter stays of 13+ months. We have achieved 99% housing stability to date. We have built a network of more than 500 housing providers across all five boroughs and consistently maintain a bank of 100+ affordable apartments ready for voucher holders. Our model is working and scaling—we will place 500 households in FY 26 and 700 in FY 27.

Experience and Expertise Anthos|Home brings distinctive expertise to the Steering Committee. We are the only organization in NYC implementing a flex pool model that blends public and private funding to quickly house voucher holders while providing comprehensive aftercare and landlord supports. We have secured contracts with multiple City, State, and federal agencies, including NYC Administration for Children's Services, NYC Department of Social Services, US Department of Housing and Urban Development, and NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance. We have deep experience partnering with government to identify and address systemic barriers in the voucher process.

Value to the CoC Anthos|Home would bring to the Steering Committee: extensive data collection and analysis capabilities through our three-person Data and Evaluation team and customized Salesforce database; proven ability to create efficiencies and reduce costs; innovative use of AI and technology to streamline housing processes; strong relationships across the housing and homelessness ecosystem; and a track record of collaborative problem-solving with government, nonprofits, and housing providers. We are committed to sharing our learnings and expertise to advance the CoC's goals of ending homelessness in NYC.

Maryum Christie - Praxis Housing Initiatives

Praxis Housing is interested in running for a seat on the NYC CoC Steering Committee because it serves formerly homeless consumers who have an HIV/AIDS, mental health and



substance abuse diagnosis. Praxis Housing would be an asset to the Steering Committee because its mission is to "bring about sustainable transformation in the lives of chronically homeless persons with HIV/AIDS, mental health issues, chemical dependency, and other special needs. We do this by providing clean, safe housing, and support services that lead to recovery, stability, and ultimately, independence". Praxis Housing willingness to contribute to shared goals makes Praxis Housing a valuable asset to any team, organization, or group, helping them achieve success through reliability, teamwork, and innovation.

Joyce Kelly – HousingPlus

As a long-time partner in the NYC Continuum of Care, I am pleased and excited to reapply for a nonprofit seat on the Steering Committee as a representative of HousingPlus.

HousingPlus has been deeply engaged in CoC activities for many years, with senior leadership actively participating on several committees and workgroups that advance system improvement and housing equity. For over 23 years HousingPlus has provided supportive housing and critical services to individuals living with serious mental illness, substance use disorders and those returning to the community from incarceration. Our work has always centered on ensuring that those most impacted by homelessness and systemic barriers have a voice in reshaping the policies that affect them. We are proud to partner with advocacy organizations such as the Corporation for Supportive Housing, Supportive Housing Network of New York, and welcome the opportunity to continue contributing our experience and perspective as experts on housing, to the CoC's ongoing work toward a more inclusive and effective housing system for all New Yorkers.

Founded in 2002, HousingPlus has provided community-based housing and comprehensive services with a focus on women, including women with children, to support them in overcoming poverty, homelessness, addiction, trauma, and the effects of incarceration, in order to build lives of stability, and to define and realize goals for themselves and for their families. We currently provide permanent housing to 294 households, including 120 families with a total of 264 children among them. We have the capacity to house 70 justice impacted women through our Rapid Rehousing program and an additional 159 women and their families through Justice Works works, our transitional housing program for justice impacted individuals.

Martha Kenton - HELP USA



Thank you, NYC CoC, I am honored to be selected as a candidate for the non-profit seat to the Steering Committee. I apologize that I am not there in person to make my candidate statement.

I first became involved with the NYC Continuum of Care in October of 2011 while working for CUCS. Back then, Congress had just passed the HEARTH Act; the Federal government had its first shut down in decades; and the HUD CoC Interim Rule was not yet published. I met many of you back in 2016 when I joined NYC DSS to lead the CoC as the Director of Community Engagement. Over the years, I came to know this community well and understand the unique issues the federal funds have on NYC providers.

I spent 13 exciting, stressful, sleepless, joyful years working on the inside of the CoC to ensure NYC continued to grow federal funding, focusing on community wide participation, and working on giving a voice to new community members.

In the fall of last year, I took on a new role as Chief of Staff at HELP USA. I am excited to now be on the provider side, where I still support New York City's most vulnerable, ensuring that they find and remain safely housed after experiencing homelessness.

If I am elected to the Non-Profit seat, I will bring a unique combination of deep HUD Continuum of Care knowledge, years of history within the NYC CoC community, and now both a government and non-profit perspective to the NYC CoC Steering Committee.

Vivian Louie - Community Housing Innovations, Inc. (CHI)

CHI provides a full spectrum of housing services with over 100 programs in emergency and temporary shelter, transitional housing, supportive housing, permanent affordable and subsidized housing, market-rate housing, rent assistance, homeownership counseling and assistance, and financial literacy education in 9 NYS counties including the boroughs of NYC. CHI partners with NYS and NYC agencies such as OMH, HCR, OTDA, DSS-DHS, DSS-HRA, and HPD on a variety of housing projects and models. As Chief Housing Officer on behalf of CHI, I offer our creativity and diversity, expertise, and leverage to serve, preserve, and further the mission and values of the Continuum.

Theresa Manuel - CP Unlimited formerly Cerebral Palsy Associations of New York State

Constructive Partnerships Unlimited currently operates two emergency shelters in partnership with the NYC Department of Homeless Services (DHS), serving children,



families, and single adults. These shelters provide safe, supportive environments for individuals experiencing homelessness, with access to essential services and care.

As part of our strategic growth, we plan to expand our housing portfolio by adding 500 DHS beds by 2026, furthering our commitment to addressing homelessness across New York City.

In addition to our shelter operations, we are actively participating in the 1115 Waiver Program across all five boroughs. Through this initiative, we have provided Screening, Navigation, and Health-Related Social Care Network services to over 500 members to date. These services are designed to connect individuals with critical health and social support, improving outcomes and reducing barriers to care.

Looking ahead to 2028, we will launch a supportive housing program for 42 young adults aging out of foster care who are at high risk of homelessness. This initiative will offer stable housing along with wraparound services to help these individuals transition successfully into adulthood.

Constructive Partnerships Unlimited remains committed to expanding access to housing, health, and social services for vulnerable populations throughout New York City.

The organization maintains active memberships with several key networks, including the Supportive Housing Network of New York, the Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD), and LiveOn NY. These affiliations reflect our commitment to collaboration, advocacy, and best practices in housing and human services

Molly Mattimore - HSI /Kenmore HDFO

My name is Molly Mattimore, and I'm here on behalf of Housing and Services, Inc., or HSI — an organization that has been part of New York City's supportive housing landscape for nearly four decades and has added more than 2,000 units to the city's affordable housing stock, both for our own programs and for other mission-driven groups serving historically underserved populations.

HSI has proudly received NYC CoC funding since 2000. I know that because I've been with HSI nearly that long myself — first in fundraising, then in property management, and now as Deputy Executive Director — and I've seen firsthand how being part of this community has strengthened our work and our outcomes. Today, HSI operates 724 units of supportive housing for singles and families across five programs: the Cecil, the Narragansett, the Kenmore, the Bedford, and our 100-unit Scatter Site program. Our CoC-funded project,



Kenmore Hall — with 325 apartments — has received CoC services funding for more than 25 years, and we are now in year one of a new project-based rental assistance award through the recent expansion.

Each of our programs tells part of the story of supportive housing in New York City:

- The Cecil, opened in the 1980s, was one of HPD’s first SRO Loan Program projects — shared kitchens and baths, and a pioneering model for single adults exiting homelessness.
- The Narragansett, opened in 1994 at the height of the AIDS epidemic, served those living with HIV/AIDS — again blending shared and private spaces to meet urgent needs. Our Scatter Site program soon followed.
- The Kenmore, in the Flatiron, opened in 1999, introducing fully equipped studio apartments and setting a new standard for privacy and dignity.
- And most recently, the Bedford, our LEED Platinum-certified building in the Bronx, opened its doors in 2022 and reflects how supportive housing can be both sustainable and deeply humane.

Across all our sites, HSI provides tenants with safe, clean, affordable housing and comprehensive, wraparound, elective services that help people thrive. And the model works — 95% of HSI tenants remain stably housed and do not return to shelter or require transfer to a higher level of care.

Over time, HSI’s work has evolved alongside this movement — guided by the leadership and standards of the Continuum of Care. Through CoC collaboration, we’ve deepened our use of evidence-based practices, expanded data-driven evaluation, and strengthened accountability across programs.

But this is also a pivotal moment. As a community, we’re confronting unprecedented challenges — from threats to Housing First and harm reduction principles, to the urgent need to defend values that have made us stronger: diversity, equity, and representation in our leadership and decision-making. That’s why I’m seeking to serve on the Steering Committee — to bring HSI’s decades of experience, our collaborative approach, and my own commitment to pragmatic, equity-driven solutions to the table.

HSI’s story mirrors the story of supportive housing in New York City — adapting, learning,



and persevering. I believe our shared future depends on protecting that legacy while ensuring the next generation of supportive housing is stronger, fairer, and more inclusive than ever before.

Justin Miller - Breaking Ground

Breaking Ground's mission is to strengthen individuals, families, and communities by developing and sustaining exceptional supportive and affordable housing as well as programs for homeless and other vulnerable New Yorkers. Founded in 1990 to address a critical need for permanent supportive housing to serve chronically homeless individuals in NYC, Breaking Ground is now among the most prominent supportive housing developers in the United States and the largest permanent supportive housing provider in New York State. We provide needed social services, transitional housing, and permanent housing to more than 13,000 New Yorkers annually. Our services form a continuum of care that provides a real pathway to long-term homes for New Yorkers exiting homelessness or in need of affordable units.

Breaking Ground is contracted with the NYC Department of Homeless Services (DHS) as the street homeless outreach provider for the above ground geographic majority of NYC, covering all of Brooklyn and Queens as well as Midtown Manhattan via our Street to Home programs. In addition, Breaking Ground currently operates seven DHS-funded Safe Haven transitional sites totaling nearly 750 beds which offer an intensive array of services to prepare homeless individuals for lasting housing stability. Finally, Breaking Ground develops and operates permanent supportive and affordable housing that is attractive, well-managed, and linked to the services people need to rebuild their lives. These residences – approximately 4,500 units across more than 20 buildings (with another 2,000+ units in the pipeline) – provide lasting homes for special needs and formerly homeless individuals, as well as low-income individuals/families.

Breaking Ground undoubtedly has a unique perspective to offer the NYC CoC given the organization's vast experience in housing development, property management, and social service provision. We are committed to continuous improvement in the field and eager to use our decades of experience and considerable expertise to support the CoC.

Jady Sanchez - Restore NYC

Restore NYC is applying for a seat on the NYC CoC Steering Committee to bring a survivor-centered, trauma-informed perspective to citywide housing policy, strategy, and coordination. Our work sits at the intersection of human trafficking, homelessness, and gender-based violence, areas where housing needs are complex, nuanced, and often



overlooked. By joining the Steering Committee, Restore aims to help shape policy priorities, coordinate cross-sector efforts, and strengthen public understanding of effective solutions to prevent and end homelessness.

For over a decade, Restore has provided safe, stable housing and holistic care to survivors of trafficking, many of whom have also experienced homelessness, intimate partner violence, or other forms of exploitation. We established the East Coast’s first transitional home specifically for survivors of trafficking, pioneering a low-barrier model that emphasizes safety, choice, and long-term stability. Our housing portfolio has since expanded to include rapid rehousing services, supporting survivors in securing independent housing across the city through independent living or vouchers and reducing homelessness among this highly vulnerable population.

Restore would be an asset to the Steering Committee through its expertise in trauma-informed care, survivor-centered housing, and systems coordination for marginalized populations. Our programs integrate survivor voice, mental health awareness, and culturally responsive practices to ensure services meet the diverse needs of those we serve. Although smaller than many NYC agencies, Restore is “small but mighty.” In 2024, our work was nationally recognized with the Presidential Award for Combatting Trafficking in Persons, honoring our innovation, measurable impact, and leadership in the anti-trafficking field.

By joining the Steering Committee, Restore will provide data-informed insights, help guide policy and strategic priorities, strengthen collaboration across homelessness, domestic violence, and trafficking service systems, and contribute to public understanding of survivor-centered approaches, supporting NYC’s efforts to prevent and end homelessness for its most vulnerable residents.

Pria Sibal - Sakhi for South Asian Survivors

Sakhi for South Asian Survivors seeks a seat on the NYC Continuum of Care Steering Committee to ensure that the experiences of immigrant survivors of gender-based violence are visible and central in citywide housing strategies. For more than three decades, Sakhi has worked to prevent homelessness among South Asian and Indo-Caribbean survivors, recognizing that stable housing is the foundation from which safety, healing, and self-sufficiency become possible.

Our Housing Justice Program is built on the understanding that survivors face intersecting barriers—language, immigration status, stigma, and systemic bias—that keep them from



accessing traditional housing systems. Through a multilingual, trauma-responsive model, Sakhi provides survivors with safe, stable homes and the support necessary to sustain them. This includes rental subsidies of up to 24 months, housing navigation and placement, and intensive case management that connects survivors to employment, benefits, and counseling.

In 2024 alone, Sakhi supported 230 survivors in securing or maintaining housing, far exceeding program goals. Ninety-six received rental assistance through various programs and 64 were supported with voucher navigation, demonstrating both the scale and efficiency of our approach. The success of our model has been recognized through strong HUD performance evaluations and continued funding to expand housing stabilization efforts.

Sebastien Vante - Safe Horizon

Safe Horizon is seeking a seat on the NYC CoC Steering Committee to bring the voices, experiences, and needs of homeless youth and young adults into citywide decision-making. As the nation's largest victim services agency, Safe Horizon has a deep and longstanding commitment to serving vulnerable New Yorkers. For more than 40 years, Streetwork has been at the forefront of youth homelessness services, offering a comprehensive portfolio that combines immediate crisis response with long-term stabilization and empowerment.

Each year, Streetwork reaches thousands of young people across our Lower East Side and Uptown Drop-In Centers, Overnight Crisis Shelter, and through citywide street outreach. Our harm reduction and trauma-informed approach ensures that youth find safety, dignity, and community while also accessing pathways to housing, health care, education, employment, and healing. We provide essentials such as meals, showers, medical care, and clothing, while also offering HIV/HCV testing, harm reduction supplies, holistic wellness practices, counseling, and case management. Through our Housing Navigation program, we have successfully connected countless youth to supportive housing and long-term housing opportunities.

Streetwork's impact is amplified through our commitment to youth voice and leadership. Our Peer Navigators, paid internship opportunities, and Survivor Leadership Project elevate the expertise of young people with lived experience, ensuring our services are informed by those most directly affected. We have also adapted rapidly to meet emerging needs, including supporting newly arrived migrant youth seeking housing, education, and legal assistance.



As a Steering Committee member, Safe Horizon and Streetwork would bring decades of proven performance, strong partnerships with city and state funders, and expertise in youth-centered, harm reduction-driven models. We offer not only programmatic innovation but also data-driven evaluation, systems-level advocacy, and authentic youth engagement. We are confident that our experience and perspective would be an asset to the NYC CoC as it continues to shape policies and allocate resources to end homelessness in New York City.

Stephanie Zovich - Care for the Homeless

For over 40 years, Care for the Homeless (CFH) has provided comprehensive medical, behavioral health, and social services to people experiencing homelessness in New York City. CFH is applying for an entity seat on the NYC Continuum of Care Steering Committee to contribute our integrated health and housing expertise to the city's coordinated efforts to prevent and end homelessness.

At 22 Federally Qualified Health Centers sites across all five boroughs, CFH provides primary care, pediatric services, dental care, mental health support, and substance use treatment – regardless of a patient's ability to pay. CFH also operates five transitional housing sites (four shelters and one safe haven), with more on the way.

CFH operates as the city's original Health Care for the Homeless (HCH) under the federal Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). Our approach is rooted in the belief that the connection between health care and housing is vital and transformative. CFH is a leader in this type of integrated care that addresses the complex and intersecting needs of people experiencing homelessness. Beyond direct service, CFH actively advocates for policies that expand access to safe and affordable housing, ensure healthcare systems are responsive to the needs of those we serve, and advance social justice and equity.

As a Steering Committee member, CFH would bring long-standing experience with health-housing integration and a deep commitment to collaboration across providers and sectors. Our perspective would help strengthen the CoC's collective impact by ensuring that policies and initiatives reflect both the experience and holistic needs of the people we serve.

Karen Morian – Harlem United

As an administrator, I have been working with Harlem United for over seventeen (17) years and continue to participate with Continuum of Care (CoC) while in my position. I have decided after much consideration and the eagerness to be more involved with the



homeless population in my community. Having the ability to make a difference with valuable knowledge, I applied to be on the steering committee. I know there is always room for improvement, but I bring to the table experience, working directly with the homeless population coupled with a sense of giving back to society. This opportunity would allow me to be actively present in addressing homelessness in our community.

With the limited resources available to our homeless population, I feel I can make a difference with my voice and input. It is my humble desire to be at the forefront of bringing homelessness to an end with adequate funding. My ability to analyze project performance using the HMIS and clientInsight tool, understanding the importance of providing adequate training would also bring about some resolution when addressing the homeless population during advocacy.