

**LOCAL LAWS  
OF  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
FOR THE YEAR 2018**

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**No. 83**

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Introduced by Council Members Levin, Menchaca, Kallos, Palma, Johnson and Adams.

**A LOCAL LAW**

**To amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to exits from domestic violence emergency shelters**

*Be it enacted by the Council as follows:*

Section 1. Chapter 1 of title 21 of the administrative code of the City of New York is amended by adding a new section 21-141 to read as follows:

*§ 21-141 Exits from domestic violence shelters. a. Definitions. For the purposes of this section, the following terms have the following meanings:*

*Domestic violence emergency shelter. The term “domestic violence emergency shelter” means time-limited housing for domestic violence survivors managed by or under a contract or similar agreement with the department and subject to section 459-b of the social services law.*

*Domestic violence tier II shelter. The term “domestic violence tier II shelter” means housing for domestic violence survivors managed by or under a contract or similar agreement with the department and subject to the provisions of part 900 of title 18 of the New York codes, rules, and regulations.*

*Exits from domestic violence shelters. The term “exits from domestic violence shelters” means a household or individual leaves a domestic violence emergency shelter.*

*Made own arrangements. The term “made own arrangements” means a household or individual informed the department of a planned exit from domestic violence shelter.*

*Rental subsidy. The term “rental subsidy” means financial assistance provided by the department for the purpose of paying a recipient’s rent on an ongoing basis and includes but is not limited to the public assistance shelter allowance provided by the department as established by section 131-a of the New York social services law, section 159 of the New York social services law, section 349 of the New York social services law, or any codes, rules and regulations, as well as subsidies provided through the living in communities rental assistance program, the city family eviction prevention supplement program and the city family exit plan supplement, the city special exit and prevention supplement, the home tenant-based rental assistance program, and any successor program to the foregoing programs. The term “rental subsidy” also includes federal rental assistance pursuant to the section 8 project based rental assistance program, or any successor program, or any programs under the United States Housing Act of 1937, as amended, providing rental assistance for the purpose of paying a recipient’s rent.*

*Supportive housing. The term “supportive housing” means affordable, permanent housing with support services for residents.*

*Unknown or unable to verify. The term “unknown or unable to verify” means a household or individual voluntarily exits from a domestic violence shelter and does not provide verifiable details about their subsequent living arrangements.*

*b. Not later than March 1, 2019, and on or before March 1 annually thereafter, the department shall submit to the speaker of the council and post on its website annual reports regarding exits from domestic violence emergency shelters. Such reports shall include, but not be limited to, the*

*total number of individuals and the total number of families who exited a domestic violence emergency shelter during the preceding calendar year, disaggregated by the type of housing such individuals and families residing in upon their exit. Such housing types shall include, but not be limited to, the following: (i) a New York city housing authority apartment; (ii) an apartment with a rental subsidy, disaggregated by the type of such subsidy; (iii) a private apartment with no rental subsidy; (iv) supportive housing; (v) shelter operated by or under contract or similar agreement with the department of homeless services; (viii) shelter operated by or under contract or similar agreement with the department, disaggregated by type, where practicable; (ix) made own arrangements or (iix) unknown or unable to validate.*

§ 2. This local law takes effect immediately.

THE CITY OF NEW YORK, OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK, s.s.:

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of a local law of The City of New York, passed by the Council on December 19, 2017 and returned unsigned by the Mayor on January 22, 2018.

MICHAEL M. McSWEENEY, City Clerk, Clerk of the Council.

CERTIFICATION OF CORPORATION COUNSEL

I hereby certify that the form of the enclosed local law (Local Law No. 83 of 2018, Council Int. No. 1739-A of 2017) to be filed with the Secretary of State contains the correct text of the local law passed by the New York City Council, presented to the Mayor and neither approved nor disapproved within thirty days thereafter.

STEVEN LOUIS, Acting Corporation Counsel.



# EMERGENCY & INTERVENTION SERVICES: OFFICE OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Local Law 83 of 2018

**2019 Annual Report on Exits from NYC Domestic  
Violence Shelters**

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## I. Introduction

In 2018, Local Law No. 83 (LL 83) was enacted amending section 21-141<sup>1</sup> of the administrative code of the City of New York, in relation to exits from domestic violence (DV) emergency shelters. LL 83 requires the New York City's Department of Social Services / Human Resources Administration (HRA) to submit an annual report to the speaker of the NYC Council and upload to the council's website, exits from domestic violence emergency shelters.

The provision of shelter services for domestic violence victims is mandated under the NYS Social Services Law and in accordance with NYS Office of Family and Children's Services (OCFS) and Title 18 of the NY Codes, Rules and Regulations Parts 452, 453, 454 and 455 for the purpose of providing emergency shelter, services and care to victims of domestic violence.

New York City's Domestic Violence shelter system overseen by HRA is the largest in the country. Emergency shelter services are designed to stabilize clients in a safe environment. Programs are developed to work with families to address the crisis and trauma of domestic violence and enhance client self-sufficiency. Required services include individual counseling, advocacy, psycho-educational groups and trauma focused interventions that address the dynamics of domestic violence and particularly the impact on parenting. All shelter programs are required to provide childcare services, and assist clients with housing, benefit entitlement assistance, financial development services and workforce development/employment readiness services to maximize self-sufficiency.

In 2019, HRA opened two new shelter locations, an emergency shelter and a Tier II shelter respectively, adding additional capacity to the network. The emergency domestic violence shelter system consists of 46 confidential facilities throughout all five boroughs of New York City with a total bed capacity of 2,514 emergency beds.<sup>2</sup> Additionally, there are 9 DV Tier II/transitional shelter facilities totaling 362 Tier II units.<sup>3</sup> In 2019, the HRA domestic violence system served 11,123 individuals, which included 418 single adults and 3,919 families (comprised of adults and children).

In September 2015, Mayor de Blasio announced that the City would develop 400 additional DV Tier II units and 300 emergency beds – an unprecedented addition by the City to address capacity in the domestic violence shelter system. As of December 31, 2019, all 300 emergency beds and all 400 Tier II units have been awarded.

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<sup>1</sup> Section 21-141 specifies the information to be included in the report, as follows:

The total number of individuals and the total number of families who exited a domestic violence emergency shelter during the preceding calendar year, disaggregated by the type of housing such individuals and families residing in upon their exit. Such housing types shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- (i) a New York city housing authority apartment;
- (ii) an apartment with a rental subsidy, disaggregated by the type of such subsidy;
- (iii) a private apartment with no rental subsidy;
- (iv) supportive housing;
- (v) shelter operated by or under contract or similar agreement with the department of homeless services;
- (viii) shelter operated by or under contract or similar agreement with the department, disaggregated by type, where practicable;
- (ix) made own arrangements or;
- (iix) unknown or unable to validate.

<sup>2</sup> There were two errors in the 2018 report: the number for emergency beds and the number for emergency facilities were incorrect. The original numbers reported were 44 emergency facilities and 2,689 bed capacity for emergency beds. The capacity number reported was attributed to a calculation error, a facility capacity was counted twice, the correct bed capacity for 2018 was 2,414. There was also a typographical error in the number of emergency facilities, the correct number should have been 45 not 44. In addition, HRA opened a new Emergency facility which increased the number of facilities to 46.

<sup>3</sup> In 2019, HRA opened a new Tier II Facility, which increased the total number of facilities to 9.

## II. 2019 Domestic Violence Exit Data

### a. Shelter Discharges by Housing Type – Emergency Shelter Only <sup>4</sup>

As specified in State regulation, emergency domestic violence shelters provide temporary housing and supportive services for up to 180 days in a safe environment for survivors of domestic violence and their families. Every provider is expected to develop a housing plan with DV shelter clients, the Office of Domestic Violence (ODV) works closely with providers to support staff and clients during each transition.

In CY 2019, HRA DV shelters served a total of **11,123** adults and children – of which 2,884 households (including families and adult singles) were discharged from domestic violence emergency shelters.

In 2017, HRA and New York City’s Department of Social Services / Department of Homeless Services (DHS) implemented a streamlined process for clients who had reached the State-set 90-day limit in the DV emergency bed system with no options for permanent housing to transfer into the DHS shelter system. This process promotes a safer and more efficient path for DV clients to access DHS resources and simplifies the sharing of information for admissions purposes. In 2019, **4 Single** adult and **384 Families** timing out of DV shelters transitioned over to DHS shelters.

Housing Type	Households <sup>5</sup>	Families	Singles
New York city housing authority apartment	15	13	2
An apartment with a rental subsidy, disaggregated by the type of such subsidy <sup>6</sup>	94	87	7
A private apartment with no rental subsidy	89	67	22
Supportive housing	14	6	8
Shelter operated by or under contract or similar agreement with the department of homeless services <sup>7</sup>	1,003 (388)	915 (384)	88 (4)
Shelter operated by or under contract or similar agreement with the department, disaggregated by type, where practicable <sup>8</sup>	542	529	13
Made own arrangements	435	377	58
Unknown or unable to validate <sup>9</sup>	690	562	128
Other <sup>10</sup>	2	2	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,884</b>	2,558	326

Figure 1

<sup>4</sup> Discharges from DV shelters are self-reported by HRA contracted shelter providers.

<sup>5</sup> Households accounts for both families and singles.

<sup>6</sup> For the disaggregated housing subsidy types, refer to Figure 2.

<sup>7</sup> This category accounts for the 388 households that timed out of DV emergency shelters and were streamlined to DHS as well as clients who were administratively discharged for not complying with DV shelter rules and upon discharge went to DHS on their own.

<sup>8</sup> This category accounts for all households that were discharged from DV emergency shelter to DV Tier II shelter.

<sup>9</sup> “Unknown or Unable to Validate” category reflects those individuals and families that left on their own without disclosing to the DV shelter provider where they were exiting to.

<sup>10</sup> The “Other” category accounts for one client who died, and a removal of a family by ACS.

**b. Apartment with Rental Subsidy Discharge by Subsidy Type**

In 2018, the New York City rental assistance programs were streamlined. The new City Fighting Homelessness & Eviction Prevention Supplement (CityFHEPS) does not eliminate existing rental assistance or rehousing programs, but rather consolidates seven of our current rental assistance programs, including their assessment processes into one, enabling a single, universal assessment for the different types of rental or rehousing assistance eligible New Yorkers in need might qualify for. In CityFHEPS, New York City created a single streamlined program that replaced Living in Communities (LINC) I, II, IV and V programs, the SEPS program (Special Exit and Prevention Supplement), and what remained of the LINC III and CityFEPS (Family Eviction Prevention and Exit Plan Supplements) programs, after many families were transferred from LINC III and CITYFEPS to the new State Family Homelessness & Eviction Prevention Supplement (FHEPS) program in December 2017.

Within ODV the DV Housing Support Services Unit works with DV clients in shelter eligible for HRA housing subsidy programs, issuing housing certifications, approving housing application packages, conducting lease signings and lease renewals. DV Housing Specialists also look for appropriate housing for DV clients and work with landlords, brokers and clients to facilitate linkages to housing.

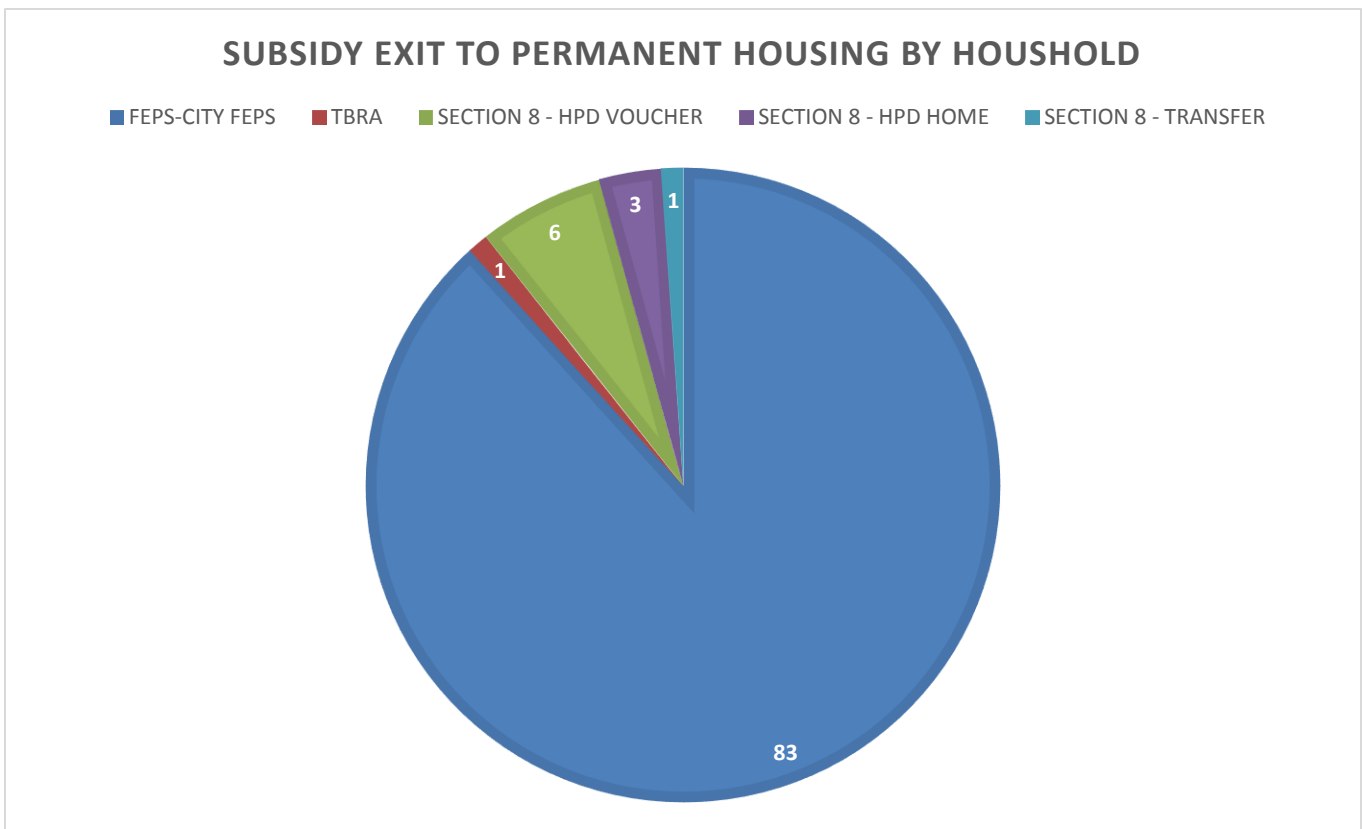


Figure 2