

ELIMINATE THE 90-DAY RULE

Move Families Out of Shelter Now

The New York City shelter census is growing at an alarming rate, and too many New Yorkers remain stuck in shelter due to solvable administrative issues and illogical rules related to New York City's rental assistance voucher, CityFHEPS. In particular, the archaic and cruel "90-day rule," which requires families to remain in shelter for an arbitrary 90 days before they can even apply for rental assistance forces families to stay in shelter months longer than they need to, unnecessarily costing the city thousands of dollars per family per month, while prolonging an already traumatic experience.

Why eliminating the 90-day rule is necessary

Mayor Adams recently stated that due to an influx of asylum seekers, the city's shelter systems is "nearing its breaking point".ⁱ Yet, the 90-day rule remains in place, blocking a critical path out of shelter for New Yorkers for months, needlessly exacerbating this capacity crisis. Eliminating this illogical rule would allow providers to start helping homeless New Yorkers apply for—and find—permanent housing faster.

As the city grapples with an ever-growing influx of immigrants, many of whom are wrongly ineligible for any form of rental assistance, it is even more critical to prioritize moving families who are eligible for vouchers out of the system. By repealing the 90-day rule, the city can immediately help increase shelter capacity.

Win along with more than 40 other groups is calling for this senseless rule to be eliminated.

Benefits of eliminating the 90-day rule

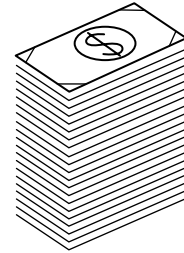
The sooner families can start looking for housing, the sooner they can move out of shelter, which is especially true in New York City's extremely competitive housing market. For families at Win, who typically have young children under the age of 6, the average length of stay in shelter is 16 months. By eliminating the 90-day rule, families in shelter could start looking for housing on Day One, rather than waiting months to even begin their search. Although some have argued that eliminating the 90-day rule will lead to an influx of families seeking shelter to get a voucher, the same argument was proven false when the CityFHEPS voucher amounts were increased under Intro 146. Ensuring that families can move out of shelter as quickly as possible will both help alleviate the shelter capacity crisis and save the city money.

In fact, moving families out of shelter and into permanent housing is much more cost effective for the city—even when vouchers are involved. The average daily cost to house a family in New York City Shelter is \$188, while CityFHEPS vouchers cost just \$72 daily, a savings of \$116 per day or nearly 62 percent.ⁱⁱ For every week that a CityFHEPS eligible family remains in shelter as opposed to moving into an apartment, it costs the city \$814. By forcing families to stay in shelter three months longer than necessary, the arbitrary 90-day rule, costs the city at least \$10,500 per homeless family.

Eliminating the 90-day rule is a commonsense reform that will help families move out of shelter faster, while also saving the city a substantial amount of money.

\$10,500

The wait period imposed by the 90-day rule is costing the city more than **\$10,500** per family.



**AVERAGE
DAILY COST
OF SHELTER**



**AVERAGE
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The average daily cost to house a family in New York City Shelter is **\$188**, while CityFHEPS vouchers cost just **\$72** daily.

\$116

Housing a family with CityFHEPS, as opposed to in a shelter, saves the city **\$116** per day.

- i. Newman, Andy. (2022) Adams Wants to Reassess a Shelter System 'Nearing Its Breaking Point.' *The New York Times*. <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/09/14/nyregion/homeless-shelters-nyc-adams.html>
- ii. Ceron, Ella. (2022) NYC Mayor Urged to Abolish 90-Day Shelter Rule Amid Migrant Influx. *Bloomberg* <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2022-09-20/new-york-mayor-eric-adams-is-pressured-to-abolish-homeless-shelter-rule?leadSource=uverify%20wall>