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**HOUSING VOUCHERS FOR HOMELESS FAMILIES: ANALYSIS FINDS ENDING RULE THAT FORCES HOMELESS FAMILIES TO WAIT THREE MONTHS TO APPLY FOR HOUSING VOUCHERS COULD SAVE NYC UP TO \$27,990 PER FAMILY**

*Win Analysis Finds the 90-Day Rule Costs New York City Between \$10,500 and \$27,990 Per Family*

*Currently, the Vacancy Rate for Shelters for Families with Children is Less Than 1% — But Repealing the 90-Day Rule Could Dramatically Increase Capacity*

**New York, NY** — Win, the largest provider of shelter and supportive services for homeless families with children in New York City and the nation, today released a new analysis that shows the City could save up to \$27,990 per homeless family with children if it repeals the “90-Day Rule,” which arbitrarily forces homeless families to live in shelter for three months before they can even apply for a CityFHEPS housing voucher.

"For decades, the 90-Day Rule has arbitrarily kept New Yorkers in shelter far longer than they should be — but right now, the City has a chance to end this illogical barrier. Repealing this rule could save the City up to \$27,990 per family with children, while helping them leave shelter sooner. It's the definition of a win-win," said **Christine C. Quinn, President & CEO of Win**. "As we continue to rise to the challenge of supporting asylum seekers and caring for all homeless New Yorkers, getting rid of the 90-Day Rule could be key to increasing shelter capacity and reducing the strain on New York City's budget. There is no good reason to keep this rule in place — but we think City Hall will agree there are plenty of reasons to repeal it."

Under the 90-Day Rule, New Yorkers experiencing homelessness cannot even begin applying for CityFHEPS housing vouchers until they have been living in a homeless shelter for three months. This long standing rule forces New York City to needlessly spend nearly a thousand dollars per family per day. According to an analysis by Win, for a typical family of three, housing vouchers (\$72/night) are substantially cheaper than traditional shelters (\$188/night) or emergency hotel shelter (\$383/night). That means the 90-Day Rule costs the City \$10,500 per family in Tier II shelter and \$27,990 per family in emergency hotel shelter. Shockingly, housing a family in an emergency hotel shelter for one year costs **more** than housing that family in a two-bedroom apartment for **five years** with a CityFHEPS voucher.

By arbitrarily delaying homeless New Yorkers' housing search, the 90-Day Rule also decreases shelter capacity at a time when the shelter vacancy rate for families with children is less than 1

percent — and southern Governors have indicated they will begin busing migrants to New York again. In fact, up to 20 percent of the average shelter stay for families with children is attributable to the 90-Day Rule. Repealing this rule will increase capacity in shelters, making it easier and less expensive for New York to care for new homeless families.

While this administrative rule can be repealed by Mayor Adams, Win is also working with the City Council to pass Intro 878, [legislation](#) — already sponsored by half of Council Members — that would end the 90-Day Rule once and for all.

"Repealing the 90-day rule is not only good for the city financially, it's the right thing to do. Families entering shelter should not have to wait 90 days to begin applying for vouchers that take months to process. If we intend to solve the bottlenecks within our shelter system, then we must take a look at all the policies in place that are contributing to that bottleneck, including the 90-day rule," said **Deputy Speaker Diana Ayala, prime sponsor of Intro 878.**

"I am a proud co-sponsor of Introduction 878, led by Deputy Speaker Diana Ayala, to prohibit the Department of Social Services from requiring individuals to reside in a shelter to be eligible for a CityFHEPS voucher, " **said Council Member Amanda Farías.** "This arbitrary rule is stopping us from assisting homeless New Yorkers and from ending the longstanding crisis of homelessness in our City. Thank you to Win NYC and my Council colleagues for your leadership on this issue."

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### **About Win**

Win is the largest provider of family shelter and supportive housing in the nation, operating 14 family shelters and 9 supportive housing facilities across New York City as well as more than 100 supportive housing units in the Bronx and Brooklyn. In the past year, Win served nearly 9,200 homeless people – including more than 5,000 children – helping them to break the cycle of homelessness. Housing instability can stymie a child's healthy socio-emotional and cognitive development, with implications for mental health, behavioral health, and success in life. Through Camp Win, an immersive summer-long program, and other programming, Win works to provide a safe, engaging environment for children in shelter.