

## **PANEL #1: Housing More New Yorkers**

CityFHEPS, New York City's rental assistance voucher, is the most effective tool New York City has to combat the City's homelessness crisis. Unfortunately, a litany of administrative issues have undermined the CityFHEPS voucher program, making it far less effective than it can and should be. In particular, delays during the crucial steps in the process after an apartment has been identified needlessly prevent moveouts for weeks and sometimes months. Win is proposing a series of legislative solutions to streamline CityFHEPS moveouts. The bills would create concrete timeframes for application review, inspections, and payments as well as streamlining the inspection process. Additionally, Win is pushing for improvements to CityFHEPS reporting and passage of a resolution supporting state efforts to pave the way for CityFHEPS expansion to undocumented people. The City Council has the ability to eliminate these substantial barriers, making the process easier for both potential tenants and landlords — and we urge them to do so.

### **Legislative Asks:**

A local law requiring that upon submission of a complete tenant-based rental assistance application, the department shall inform the applicant of the determination of approval no more than fifteen (15) days after submission.

A local law requiring that after a household locates a housing unit, a preclearance and walkthrough must be conducted to ensure that the building and housing unit is safe and habitable within seven (7) days.

A local law requiring the department to provide landlords with rental assistance payments within five (5) days of the scheduled payment date including an electronic payment option.

A local law to require window guards, light bulbs, light/ outlet plates and other low-cost inspection fixes to be carried by city inspectors and provided to the landlord or landlord representative at cost to allow for immediate violation fixes.

A local law to establish a hierarchy of issues in inspections to establish a process for resolving minor issues without requiring reinspection.

A local law that would add lease up times for all vouchers to the MMR.

Pass resolution 255 calling upon the New York state legislature to pass, and the Governor to sign, S.1631, which would support the expansion of eligibility for the CityFHEPS program to undocumented New Yorkers in New York City.

**win**

