

PANEL #2: Improving Shelter Intake for Families

At present, the shelter intake process is grueling, burdensome, and often re-traumatizing for many clients. Win proposes a series of bills to improve the shelter intake and placement process for clients. Bills such as allowing homelessness self-attestation, reducing the housing history from two years to one, creating appointment times, and adding an additional intake site would simplify the process of seeking shelter in NYC. To minimize the disruptiveness of homelessness on children's education, we recommend formalizing DHS's policy that PATH place families in the borough of origin of their youngest child's school into law and requiring training in Trauma Informed Care. Lastly, we include two oversight bills to enable better understanding of the efficacy and impacts of PATH's diversion and placement policies.

Legislative Asks:

Passage of Council Member Hudson's bill Intro 229 to reduce the housing history requirement for shelter eligibility determination from 2 years to 1.

A local law allowing for homelessness self-attestation after one shelter eligibility denial at PATH.

A local law requiring the added option of appointment times at PATH.

Passage of Council Member Ung's bill Intro 453 to add an additional shelter intake site in Brooklyn or Queens.

A local law requiring that families be placed in the nearest possible shelter to the youngest child's school.

A local law to track mediation and diversion outcomes when a family is denied shelter.

A local law to track and report on the zip code of the last address a family lived in before shelter versus the zip code of their shelter placement.

Passage of Council Member Osse's bill Intro 276 requiring every worker, including DHS contracted security firms, to receive training in trauma-informed care.

win

