

PROJECT HOPE

A 180-day Action Plan for Protecting
Homeless and Low-Income New Yorkers
from Project 2025

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Background

In early 2024, right-wing think tank The Heritage Foundation released the detailed 900-page policy book, [Project 2025](#), to serve as a blueprint for the next conservative presidential administration.¹ The Heritage Foundation's plan includes unprecedented rollbacks to the civil rights and anti-poverty policy gains the United States has made over the past 50 years. It proposes massive rollbacks to social welfare programs critical to families experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity, including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Women, Infant, and Children (WIC) program benefits, a "mass deportation" plan, which will impact tens of thousands of homeless immigrant families, and the eradication of critical evidence-based education programs, like Head Start.

Since the 2024 presidential elections, housing and homeless advocates' concerns about the reactionary policies laid out in Project 2025 have intensified, as several of its contributors have been appointed to the highest ranks of the Trump Administration and will dictate federal policy for the next four years, including Tom Homan as his incoming "border czar" and the architect of Project 2025, himself, Russ Vought, as the White House Office of Management and Budget director.² Vought is also a lead figure in carrying out the fourth pillar of Project 2025, the highly secretive "180-Day Transition Playbook," which includes an action plan of conservative policy changes to each federal agency during the first six months of the Trump Administration.³ Although the contents of the 180-Day Playbook have not been shared with the public, it is likely that the incoming Administration plans to implement many of the policy proposals in Project 2025 and the 180-Day Playbook beginning inauguration day.⁴

Project Hope is a response to the draconian plans laid out in Project 2025, and, more specifically, what we anticipate will be aggressive, fast sweeping policy changes during the first six months of the Trump Administration that would detrimentally impact low-income individuals and families experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity. Endorsed by social service and advocacy organizations committed to ending homelessness for all, Project Hope is a call to action to New York state and local elected officials to combat the violent and inhumane policy proposals in Project 2025 and mitigate some of the immediate impacts of the ultra-conservative policy playbook.

In the wealthiest city on earth, with the highest number of billionaires, more than 130,000 people in New York City slept in a homeless shelter every night last year, the highest level on record.⁵ About 70% of the total NYC shelter population are families with children, due to the significant shortage of affordable housing, spike in post-pandemic evictions, rising costs of raising a family, and increasing rates of domestic violence.^{6, 7} Black and Latinx families experiencing homelessness, approximately 90% of those in NYC shelters,⁸ will face unprecedented challenges under a second Trump term, especially those in undocumented or mixed status households. New Yorkers experiencing unsheltered homelessness—more than 4,000 individuals—⁹ will also face increased criminalization under a new Trump Administration, as he has vowed to ban encampments nationwide and force individuals sleeping on the street, many of whom struggle with mental illness or substance use disorders, to accept treatment and rehabilitation or face arrest.¹⁰

To prepare for and respond to the unique threats that the individuals we serve face under the proposed policy platform of the incoming Trump Administration, New York government officials should utilize Project Hope as an action plan to guide administrative and legislative decisions taken in the next six months. While we believe that federal elected officials should do all that they can to stop the implementation of the harmful policies laid out in Project 2025, it is imperative that New York government officials at the state and local levels act proactively to prevent and mitigate the impact that the proposed policy agenda will have on our most marginalized neighbors.

The following recommendations address ways in which New York City and New York State can act prior to the Trump Administration taking office in January 2025, as well as during the first 180 days of the new administration to ensure the protection of basic human and civil rights for low income and homelessness New Yorkers.

Housing & Homelessness

Project 2025 calls for systematic cutting of funding and limiting the reach of housing programs that are vital for low-income individuals and families experiencing or at risk of homelessness. Specifically, federal programs that help individuals achieve housing stability—such as the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s (HUD) Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8), Public Housing (NYCHA), Continuum of Care (CoC), and Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) programs—are at great risk of loss of funding under the incoming Trump Administration. Furthermore, Project 2025 calls for draconian legislative reforms to Section 8 vouchers that would increase work requirements, limit the period during which households are eligible for rental subsidies, and “prohibit noncitizens, including all mixed-status families, from living in all federally assisted housing,”¹¹ which will cause many struggling NYC households to lose vital assistance. It also calls for the sale of our current public housing stock to the private market and banning noncitizens and mixed-status households from receiving federally assisted housing.¹²

In his first term, President Donald Trump proposed cutting HUD’s budget by \$9.6 billion.¹³ This included massive cuts to Section 8, which serves 123,000 New York City households,¹⁴ and could have led to a net loss of 10,000 vouchers for NYC residents.^{15, 16} These policy proposals, if successful, will ultimately lead to a loss of benefits that will exacerbate financial insecurity and homelessness for tens of thousands of low-income individuals and families with children in New York City and State.

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To prevent low-income households from losing their housing and to help more individuals gain access to safe, stable, and affordable housing, *New York City government should:*

- **Allocate an additional \$263 million in funding for the CityFHEPS voucher program in the FY26 budget**

Increases in evictions, due to the loss of Section 8 vouchers, would further exacerbate the City's housing and homelessness crisis, currently at an all-time high. By increasing funding for CityFHEPS by \$263 million, the Mayor and the City Council can offset the proposed cuts to the Section 8 program and ensure that the 10,000 households at risk of losing their federal rental subsidy will not fall into homelessness. Failing to prevent these individuals and families from falling into homelessness could cost the city up to \$1 billion in shelter costs per year.

- **Pass legislation to ensure that individuals and families who reach the proposed Section 8 time-limit, under a Trump Administration, can seamlessly transfer to CityFHEPS**

In New York City, approximately 123,000 households rely on Section 8 for permanent housing.¹⁷ Project 2025's proposed time limits for Section 8 would be devastating to the housing stability of those low-income families and individuals who rely on the program. This is particularly true in New York City, where Section 8 households rely on the program for an average of 15 years.¹⁸ For many Section 8 households, the affordability offered by the program is the only thing preventing them from falling into homelessness. If the incoming Administration successfully implements time restrictions on Section 8, City Council should pass a law that would allow any household timing out of Section 8 to transfer to CityFHEPS if all other eligibility requirements are met.

- **Allocate an additional \$900 million in funding for the FY26 budget for NYCHA to address major capital improvements**

Over the past two decades, conservatives in the United States Congress have divested funding for NYCHA, starving the agency of resources needed to preserve public and affordable housing. Disrepair in NYCHA buildings has led to thousands of vacant apartments considered too inhabitable to rent.¹⁹ NYCHA projects that it will cost the agency nearly \$80 billion over the next 20 years (or \$4 billion per year) to preserve our public housing stock.²⁰ However, Congress only provides about \$700 million a year for NYCHA capital improvements,²¹ a slice of what it needs to accomplish comprehensive repair work.

Rather than investing in capital improvements for public housing, Project 2025 proposes prioritizing the sale of Section 9 public housing to private investors, an effort to eliminate public housing altogether.²² The Mayor and City Council should increase annual capital funding for NYCHA by at least \$900 million to meet the increasing capital gaps left behind by the federal government.

- **Repeal the 30/60-day shelter limits on new New Yorkers and other policies that increase homeless immigrants' risk for deportation**

Mayor Eric Adams' administration must end cruel and inhumane policies of 30/60 day shelter limits. These policies needlessly expose immigrants without homes to danger and create obstacles for them in progressing their immigration cases. Shelter placement time limits and reapplication requirements for asylum-seekers and other new arrivals make it difficult for people to receive their mail and subsequently vital notices from the immigration court about their pending cases, increases street homelessness, and increases unsheltered migrants' interaction with the criminal justice system, which can impact their immigration status.

Moreover, the 60-day shelter placement limits imposed upon families with children further disrupt schooling for students. Every 60 days a family is transferred, they may have to make new arrangements for their child to get to school, disrupting classrooms and the lives of thousands of students. Rather than creating additional barriers to shelter, the City should guarantee New Yorkers and children experiencing homelessness a safe place to sleep every night by adhering to the terms of all legal settlements, consent decrees, local laws and State social service laws that established a legal right to shelter.²³

- **Stop criminalizing homelessness and invest in community-based mental healthcare and low-barrier housing options for individuals and families experiencing homelessness**

Given the likelihood of increased criminalization and fewer resources for unhoused individuals and families under the incoming administration, it is critical that the City take immediate steps to provide the needed housing, shelter, and services for unsheltered individuals, and reduce unnecessary involvement with law enforcement. The City should immediately remove law enforcement and the Department of Sanitation from all homeless outreach functions whether conducted on the streets, subways or elsewhere, and end street sweeps of homeless people and their belongings. Instead, the City should increase outreach from trained workers who can connect people to low-barrier shelters and, ultimately, permanent supportive housing.

Homeless people experiencing mental health crises need care not forced treatment. The City should allocate additional funding in the FY26 budget for community-based mental health and housing for unsheltered homeless people experiencing mental health crises. It should invest in a spectrum of services and ensure coordination between services. This includes better discharge planning and care coordination and expanding the number of Intensive Mobile Treatment (IMT) teams.

New York State Government should:

- **Pass and allocate \$250 million in the FY26 budget for the Housing Access Voucher Program (S72 – Kavanagh /A3701B – Rosenthal)**

The New York State Legislature and Governor Hochul should pass and allocate \$250 million in funding for the Housing Access Voucher Program (HAVP), which would create a flexible and inclusive statewide voucher for people at risk of or experiencing homelessness, regardless of their immigration status or criminal record.

- **Direct all funding from New York’s Rental Supplement Program to rental assistance programs for homeless families traditionally ineligible for public benefits**

In the FY25 budget, the State allocated \$100 million to its Rental Supplement Program (RSP), which was designed to provide rental assistance “to individuals and families, both with and without children, who are experiencing homelessness or are facing an imminent loss of housing, regardless of immigration status.”²⁴ To alleviate shelter capacity, the NYC Department of Social Services developed the SHARE program, which utilizes funding from New York State’s Rental Supplement Program to provide rental assistance to the longest-term stayers, many of whom are undocumented immigrants, in the DHS system who are not eligible for other housing subsidies.²⁵

Despite the purported goals of RSP, in the last budget cycle, the State mandated New York City to use a portion of RSP funding to pay for NYS FEPS increases. The State should ensure that 100% of the \$68 million in RSP funding to New York City goes to the SHARE program, which will begin to support 950 undocumented households experiencing homelessness in 2025 and find another source of funding to pay for FEPS increases. The City needs this funding to immediately implement this program, so more undocumented households and long-term stayers in shelter can access housing resources and exit shelter sooner.

- **Pass legislation to empower New York City to extend housing benefits to New York residents regardless of immigration status (S1631 – Kavanagh / A5513 – Rosenthal)**

Many immigrant households are ineligible for most housing subsidies, due to their immigration status, a denial that is exacerbating the historically high shelter census and trapping noncitizens in shelters for incredibly long periods of time. [S1631/A5513](#) would empower the City to expand housing vouchers, including CityFHEPS, to these households in need, regardless of their immigration status. This expansion could save hundreds of millions of dollars annually, while helping the newest New Yorkers exit shelter, and freeing up space in our homelessness response system.²⁶

- **Allocate an additional \$900 million in funding for the FY26 budget for NYCHA to address major capital improvements**

Federal divestment and disrepair of NYCHA buildings has led to thousands of vacant apartments considered too inhabitable to rent. According to the Community Service Society of New York, it would cost \$4.5 billion over the next 5 years (or \$900 million annually) to preserve 15,000 NYCHA units and 25,000 units of public housing outside of NYC, as well as build 8,000 new units across the state.²⁷ The Governor and State Legislature should increase annual capital funding for NYCHA by at least \$900 million, only 20% of the State's last \$25 billion housing plan, to meet the increasing capital gaps left behind by the federal government.

- **Pass legislation to prohibit arbitrary shelter limits ([S8493](#) - Hoylman-Sigal / [A9129](#) - Cruz), or the Governor should end shelter limits through executive order**

Mayor Adams' harmful 30- and 60-day shelter limits for new arrivals are a direct threat to homeless immigrant households' safety and survival. If Mayor Adams does not repeal the harmful 30- and 60-day shelter limits, the New York State Legislature and Governor must move forward with a policy that prevents arbitrary shelter limits. The legislature can do this through the passage of [S8493/A9129](#), which would end the harms of arbitrary time limits in shelter and allow persons to receive shelter and related services in the system best suited to their individual needs. In addition, if Mayor Adams refuses to repeal the shelter limits, the Governor should also end shelter limits through executive order, mandating OTDA's compliance with all legal settlements, consent decrees, local laws and State social service laws that established the legal right to shelter for New Yorkers experiencing homelessness.²⁸

- **Stop criminalizing homelessness and invest in community-based mental healthcare and low-barrier housing options for individuals and families experiencing homelessness**

The State should immediately remove law enforcement and the National Guard from all functions involving homeless people, whether conducted on the streets, subways or elsewhere. Instead, the State should allocate funding to increase outreach from trained workers who can connect people to low-barrier shelters.

The State should also take immediate steps to provide the needed housing and supportive services for unsheltered individuals and reduce unnecessary involvement with law enforcement. Homeless people experiencing mental health crises need care and community-based services, not forced treatment. The State must invest in a spectrum of services and ensure coordination between services. This includes increasing the number of inpatient psychiatric hospital beds, better discharge planning and care coordination, and expanding the number of Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) teams.

Social Welfare

Project 2025 calls for significantly more rigid eligibility and work requirements, as well as making cuts to federal social welfare programs, including the US. Department of Agriculture's SNAP and WIC programs. For instance, Project 2025 proposes reversing changes made to the SNAP funding calculation under the Biden Administration that resulted in a permanent 23% increase in SNAP benefits.²⁹ Approximately 1.73 million New York City residents receive \$5 billion in SNAP benefits each year,³⁰ and a 23% reduction would result in a loss of \$1.15 billion in SNAP benefits to low income New Yorkers. Cuts to these vital programs will result in millions of New Yorkers going to bed hungry each night, especially people experiencing homelessness.

To offset these potential losses and support individuals and families currently struggling to meet the high cost of living in New York, the City and State Legislature should expand direct cash transfer programs, as well as increase funding to supplement anticipated SNAP cuts by enacting the following recommendations.

Approximately 1.73 million New York City residents receive \$5 billion in SNAP benefits each year, and a 23% reduction would result in a loss of \$1.15 billion in SNAP benefits to low income New Yorkers.

New York City Government should:

- **Allocate funding in the FY26 budget to supplement the SNAP program**
Project 2025 calls for a 23% cut to the SNAP program, a vital lifeline for millions of low-income New Yorkers. Currently over one million households in NYC receive SNAP benefits.³¹ To offset these cuts at the federal level, it's imperative that the City dedicate additional resources to fund the critical SNAP program.

- **Allocate \$10 million in additional funding in the FY26 budget for targeted direct cash transfer programs serving high risk populations**

In the FY2025 budget, the City Council allocated \$1.5 million to expand the Bridge Project's efforts to provide cash payments to expecting mothers experiencing housing instability.³² The City should go further and increase its funding of direct cash transfer programs to \$10 million in FY26 to fund programs that target families with children at risk of eviction as well as in shelter, single adults experiencing homelessness, and youth experiencing homelessness.

New York State Government should:

- **Allocate at least \$1.15 billion in FY26 to supplement the SNAP program**

Project 2025 calls for a 23% cut to the SNAP program. In 2022, nearly three million families across New York State, including millions of children, were food insecure, as a result of limited financial resources.³³ To offset these cuts at the federal level, the State should dedicate additional resources to fund the critical SNAP program.

- **Pass the Working Families Tax Credit (S277C - Gounardes /A4022 - Hevesi)**

The Working Families Tax Credit (WFTC) would improve and expand the State's refundable tax credit by combining the Empire State Child Credit (ESCC), the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), and the dependent exemption (DE) into one. It would also provide the credit to families quarterly on a sliding scale based on income.

- **Pass legislative package that would increase state funding for Public Assistance and direct cash assistance**

The Governor and State Legislature should pass Cash Assistance Reform, a package of bills that would improve current cash assistance programs, including increasing the benefit amount (S5270A -Persaud/A5500 - Rosenthal), establishing parity for homeless recipients (S113 - Cleare) /A108 - Rosenthal) and helping working recipients to save more (S182 - Persaud).

- **Pass legislation to establish the Mothers and Infants Lasting Change ("MILC") Allowance (S4578A - Ramos/A6197A - Clark)**

The MILC Allowance would provide direct cash assistance to income-eligible parents, for the last three months of pregnancy and the first 18 months of a child's life.

Immigration

President-elect Trump has made the issue of immigration one of his core policy priorities over the past decade, separating hundreds of families at the U.S.-Mexico border during his first term and making mass deportations a central component of his most recent presidential campaign. Project 2025 calls for significantly increasing the enforcement of harmful and draconian immigration policies throughout the United States, including the expansion of tents and detention centers; enhancing U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) authority to expedite removals; repealing designations for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for hundreds of thousands of immigrants; and cutting federal funding to states and localities that do not honor all immigration detainees.³⁴ If the proposed mass deportation plan laid out in Project 2025 is realized, tens of thousands of New Yorkers experiencing homelessness could face deportation and family separation, as well as lose crucial public benefits.

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A significant portion of households in shelters are led by immigrants, including mixed status families, recent arrivals legally seeking asylum, and undocumented families. Project 2025's calls for "total information-sharing in the context of both federal law enforcement and immigration enforcement,"³⁵ of state and local databases to the U.S. government in exchange for federal grants. This is particularly concerning given the amount of sensitive information that the City and State have collected from our most recent arrivals and the Playbook's proposals to mandate and empower local and state law enforcement agencies to engage in immigration enforcement on behalf of ICE, violating NYC's sanctuary laws.³⁶

The following recommendations offer actions the City and State must take to resist Project 2025's violent and dehumanizing immigration policies that will disproportionately impact-low income and homeless New Yorkers.

New York City Government should:

- **Defend and strengthen New York City’s sanctuary laws passed under the first Trump Administration to protect immigrant New Yorkers**

Mayor Adams’ recent rhetoric and actions on immigration issues, including an incorrect statement about undocumented immigrants not being entitled to due process, a meeting with incoming “border czar” Tom Holman, and an announcement to amend NYC’s sanctuary laws via executive order to make it easier for local law enforcement to conspire with the incoming Trump Administration,³⁷ is of grave concern. The City Council should pass the following bills that would restrict City officials from conspiring with ICE in the detention and deportation of individuals and families in our communities:

- **Intro 396 – Powers:** Would limit communication between the NYC Department of Correction (DOC) and ICE regarding any person in DOC custody for purposes of immigration enforcement unless a person is convicted of a violent or serious crime or there is a warrant signed by a federal judge.
- **Intro 395 – Powers:** Would limit the New York Police Department’s (NYPD) ability to hold people on immigration detainers without a judicial warrant, in compliance with New York State [law](#).
- **Intro 214 – Hanif:** Would create a private right of action in the City’s civil immigration detainer laws, enabling immigrant New Yorkers harmed by NYPD, DOC, and Department of Probation (DOP)’s violation of current detainer laws to seek justice.³⁸

- **Develop new data security protocols for shelter and social service providers who collect sensitive information on homeless immigrants in programs like CARES, IDNYC, and Host NYC**

Ensure that any record of an individual’s immigration status being collected or stored by the City on CARES, IDNYC, and Host NYC is not retained in any form, electronic or otherwise, beyond the period necessary to complete the service requested by such individual. As the Trump Administration begins its mass deportation efforts, the data the City has collected on immigration status, specifically clients’ Alien (A) number, is now a dangerous liability. The City must take immediate action within the next 30 days to ensure that the data collected is fully secured and remove clients’ A numbers from all electronic documents to prevent them from being used in ICE’s mass deportation efforts.

- **Increase City funding for immigration legal services to \$80 million, including consultation, pro-se assistance, full representation, and application fees and direct funds to nonprofit immigration legal service providers**

Despite an influx of more than 210,000 new immigrants to NYC since 2022, City allocation toward immigration legal services, under the Office of Civil Justice, has remained relatively stagnant at \$53–54 million per year.³⁹ In FY2025, New York State allocated \$38 million towards immigration legal services, to better support new arrivals and asylum seekers. The City should increase its share of funding to at least \$80 million to better enable nonprofit immigration legal service providers and support staff to meet the ever-growing demand of legal aid for New York’s most recent arrivals and maintain a strong City workforce of legal service providers. Additional City funding should go to support the Immigrant Opportunity Initiative (IOI), the New York Immigrant Family Unity Project (NYIFUP), and the other programs that help low wage workers and unaccompanied minors.

New York State Government should:

- **Pass the New York for All Act ([S987](#) – Gounardes / [A5686](#) – Reyes)**

The Governor and New York State Legislature should pass the New York For All Act, making New York a sanctuary state. This bill would enable immigrant New Yorkers to lead more open lives and take care of family, despite the incoming Administration’s cruel immigration agenda. The legislation would strengthen protections created under Governor Cuomo’s 2017 [Executive Order 170](#) (extended by Governor Hochul in [2021](#)) by prohibiting New York’s state and local government agencies, including police, sheriffs, school safety officers, and probation officers from questioning individuals regarding their citizenship or immigration status and regulate the disclosure of information relating to immigration status to federal immigration enforcement officers, or ICE.

- **Amend Protect Our Courts Act to include schools, hospitals, and homeless shelters that receive state funding ([S425A](#) – Hoylman-Sigal / [A2176A](#) – Solages)**

In 2020, in response to a 1,700% increased ICE arrests in or around New York courthouses under President Trump’s first term,⁴⁰ the New York State Legislature passed the Protect Our Courts Act ([S425A/A2176A](#)), which protects immigrants from civil arrest by federal immigration authorities when attending court proceedings. Media reports have indicated that a longstanding federal rule designating certain sites as sensitive areas, where ICE is not currently allowed to make arrests, will be repealed under the incoming Administration as early as day one.⁴¹ State lawmakers should expand these protections, so children and families are not targeted by ICE and other immigration enforcement officials in places of sanctuary, including homeless shelters, schools, and hospitals, that receive state funding.

- **Pass the Access to Representation Act (S141 - Hoylman /A270 - Cruz) and invest \$165 million in the FY26 budget for immigration legal services**

The Governor and New York State Legislature should pass the Access to Representation Act, which would establish the right to legal counsel in immigration court proceedings. In addition, the State should allocate \$165 million in the FY26 budget for immigration legal services and infrastructure, including funding for the NYS Office of New Americans and for the education, accreditation, recruitment, and retention of talented and experienced immigration attorneys and support staff providing such services.⁴²

Early Childhood & K-12 Education

Project 2025 proposes an aggressive attack on public education that would have significant implications for students who are experiencing homelessness. It calls for the eradication of the Department of Education, funding cuts to education programs for low-income students, and the elimination of Head Start.⁴³ Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act provides financial assistance to school districts for children from low-income families.⁴⁴ It is the largest source of funding that the New York City Department of Education (NYC DOE) and New York State Education Department (NYSED) receive from the federal government. If enacted, the education policies proposed by Project 2025 could result in a loss of \$1.4 billion in federal funding for low income and homeless students in New York public schools.⁴⁵

Furthermore, the Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program (EHCY) established under the U.S. McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act of 1987, is a critical program that provides funding to school districts across the U.S. to support the educational continuity and success of homeless children, by supporting the costs of school transportation, students in temporary housing liaisons, and other needs of students experiencing homelessness.⁴⁶ State funding for the program relies on the Title I federal allocation. Eliminating the \$10 million per year in McKinney-Vento funding that the state receives would detrimentally impact the education of New York City's 146,000 students experiencing homelessness.^{47, 48} Project 2025's proposal to eliminate Head Start and Early Head Start could prevent 19,000 low-income children in NYC from accessing high quality early childhood education and care.⁴⁹ An estimated 153 Head Start and Early Head Start grantees across New York State will lose over \$835 million in funding.⁵⁰

Project 2025's proposal to eliminate Head Start and Early Head Start could prevent 19,000 low-income children in NYC from accessing high quality early childhood education and care. An estimated 153 Head Start and Early Head Start grantees across New York State will lose over \$835 million in funding.

To support students experiencing housing instability and homelessness and preserve the quality of their education, New York City government should:

- **Allocate an additional \$17 million in funding for FY26 for the NYC DOE Office of Students in Temporary Housing**

The City should allocate an additional \$17 million to the budget of NYC DOE Students in Temporary Housing, to increase the number of shelter-based community coordinators, who help students in shelter enroll in school, set up transportation, and request additional resources (IEPs and comparable service plans, if necessary). In FY25, the City appropriated \$17 million to pay for 100 community coordinators across the city. While they play a critical role in combating chronic absenteeism among students experiencing homelessness, these coordinators' efficacy is stymied by their challenging caseloads. Currently, each coordinator can work with up to 300 children. The past school year had the largest number of students experiencing homelessness in the City's history, over 146,000.⁵¹ It is critical that additional resources are allocated to support NYC DOE students in the greatest need.

- **Improve and invest additional resources in school transportation for students in temporary housing**

Students in temporary housing often face long delays in getting buses to school because of a complicated, overburdened school transportation system. This leads to unnecessary mid-year school transfers and school absences. The City should promptly implement the recommendations of [Students in Temporary Housing Transportation Taskforce](#), established by [Local Law 158 of 2021](#), to ensure school stability and full participation in school for students in temporary housing.

- **Provide continued funding for early childhood education and prioritize outreach for children who are homeless**

In the face of threats to Head Start and Early Head Start, which serve approximately 19,000 children in NYC,⁵² the City should double down on its commitment to early childhood education, with a focus on ensuring children who are homeless have access. More than \$200 million in early childhood funding in NYC is set to expire in June unless extended in the upcoming City budget. This includes funding for 3-K; preschool special education, Promise NYC, which helps children access childcare regardless of immigration status, and early childhood outreach. The City should extend, baseline, and increase this funding, launch a targeted outreach plan to help children who are homeless enroll, and commit to covering the cost of any seats lost due to actions taken by the Trump Administration.

New York State government should:

- **Add per-pupil weights for students in temporary housing to the State Foundation Aid Formula**

The Foundation Aid per pupil funding formula was intended to distribute state education funding to school districts in an equitable manner based on student needs. However, the current formula includes no added funding for students who are homeless. Reforming the Foundation Aid formula to include weights for students in temporary housing can help ensure that school districts have the resources to provide quality education to students in temporary housing, including hiring non-instructional staff to offer support to students to overcome barriers to education. These weights are especially important in the face of potential cuts to the EHCY program.

Conclusion

New York's individuals and families experiencing homelessness, particularly Black, Latinx, immigrant, LGBTQ+, and low-income households, will face a plethora of challenges if the proposed policy recommendations in Project 2025 are enacted under the second Trump Administration. New York's State and City governments must proactively craft policy solutions that will ensure the protection of our most vulnerable neighbors, especially families with children.

Without City and State action during the first 180 days of the Trump Administration, New York's most marginalized communities will suffer profound irreversible damage. While these recommendations require significant investments from City and State government, as one of the largest economies in the world, New York has the ability and a moral obligation to protect homeless and low-income New Yorkers from some of the most harmful proposals of Project 2025 and the incoming Trump Administration. By implementing the proposals of Project Hope, New York government officials can prevent the shelter system from growing even larger, which is far more expensive than keeping New Yorkers safely and stably housed, and help individuals and families experiencing homelessness, including the newest New Yorkers, regain their independence, thrive in permanent housing, and inspire children to look forward to a brighter future.

Appendix

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About Win

Win is a 501c3 nonprofit organization and the largest provider of family shelter and supportive housing in New York City and the nation. Win offers transitional housing and permanent supportive housing to current and formerly homeless families alongside programs and services that promote long-term housing stability. Each night, nearly 7,000 people call Win “home,” including 3,800 children.





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