

# New York State Housing Resource: Health Center Guide

October 2020

**How to use this resource:** This resource handout provides a condensed list of varying services available for people who are experiencing homelessness or housing instability. This resource can be used to help navigate the multiple state homeless and housing programs. This resource is an interactive PDF. By clicking on the links within the handout, you will be directed to external websites. In order to use this interactive functionality, you will need to open this guide on a device that is connected to the internet. When using a printed guide please visit the respective resource pages by utilizing the URLs enclosed.

**NOTE:** Each housing program on this list has specific eligibility requirements for the population they serve.

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## Navigating the Homeless System



The **Continuum of Care (CoC) Program** is designed to promote communitywide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness; provide funding for efforts by nonprofit providers, and State and local governments to quickly rehouse homeless individuals and families while minimizing the trauma and dislocation caused to homeless individuals, families, and communities by homelessness; promote access to and effect utilization of mainstream programs by homeless individuals and families; and optimize self-sufficiency among individuals and families experiencing homelessness. To access any program through the CoC visit the **HUD exchange** website <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/coc/>

### The Office of Temporary and Disabilities Assurances (OTDA)

Manages programs in upstate NY related to homelessness. Its **Housing and Support Services (HSS)** administers an array of programs to address the problems of homelessness in the State. These programs provide a continuum of services for homeless, at risk and low-income households. HSS programs are designed to prevent homelessness, provide shelter for the homeless, construct supportive housing for the homeless and offer essential services to stabilize housing situations and increase levels of self-sufficiency. Visit the **Housing Services Provider Listing** website <https://otda.ny.gov/programs/housing/providers/>

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## Navigating Affordable and Supportive Housing

Housing is considered affordable if it costs 30% or less of a household's income. A variety of local, state, and federal programs exist to increase housing affordability. The following programs can be accessed via <https://hcr.ny.gov/> site.

**Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Program:** The Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) enables the lowest income households in New York State to rent or purchase decent, safe housing in the private housing market by providing rental and homeownership assistance. The individual must visit their local **Public Housing Agency**.

**Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption Program (SCRIE):** Exempts low-income renters who are 62 or older from some or all rent increases. Accessed through [HCR](#) website.

**Disability Rent Increase Exemption (DRIE):** Offers qualifying tenants with disabilities an exemption from future rent increases. Accessed through [HCR](#) website.

To access all affordable/low-income housing, visit [NYS Homes & Community Renewal](#) - <https://hcr.ny.gov/lotteries>

### **Supportive Housing**

Combines affordable housing with wrap-around services that help people in the community with complex needs like behavioral health, medical, and homelessness.

**Continuums of Care (CoCs)** receive funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to help end homelessness nationwide. Visit **CoC** website <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/coc/>

**Clients with a Mental Illness Single Point of Access (SPOA) housing:** New York has 85 locations for **SPOA Housing** across the state. Search the New York State Office of Mental Health Housing and Services database website <https://omh.ny.gov/> to access providers.

**Clients who are Veterans:** Veterans can access supportive housing through the **HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing** (VASH) program website or call 877-424-3838.

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## **Eviction Prevention**

Resources for individuals facing eviction on a holdover case and non-payment.

**Office of Temporary Disability:** accessed through [Local Departments of Social Service](#) provide eviction prevention resources. <https://otda.ny.gov/workingfamilies/dss.asp>

**Court Help Centers:** Court based [Help Centers](#) provide free information about the law and court procedure, to people who do not have an attorney. Help Center staff do not provide legal advice and are unable to represent you. If you need to start a case or if you received papers telling you that someone has started a case against you, a Help Center can guide you through the court process. For more information, call 800-268-7869.