

1 **NYSAC 2023 Legislative Conference**
2 **Standing Committee on Medicaid and Human Services**
3 **Resolution #2**

4
5 **Resolution Urging the Governor and New York State Legislature to Become**
6 **a True Partner by Focusing on Rent Allowance and Standard of Need Which**
7 **Must Include the Restoration of 50/50 Cost Sharing for Safety Net**
8 **Programs, and Provide Actual Brick and Mortar Solutions by Making**
9 **Permanent Housing the Central Focus**

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11 **WHEREAS**, homelessness and housing affordability continue to be major concerns
12 across the state; and

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14 **WHEREAS**, the COVID-19 pandemic has made the situation worse through increased
15 rental rates, decreased housing supply and an increased reliance on temporary housing
16 assistance in shelters and motels; and

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18 **WHEREAS**, the provision of additional Code Blue funding is appreciated, many
19 localities still struggle with a lack of shelter resources to meet the needs of the homeless;
20 and

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22 **WHEREAS**, the homeless population is facing new problems as the needs of families
23 have become more complicated; and

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25 **WHEREAS**, regardless of family size and demographics, many of those facing
26 homelessness or seeking emergency shelter can have challenging medical needs, mental
27 health and substance abuse issues, some are registered sex offenders, and still others are
28 state prison parolees or on probation; with some facing several of these challenges at the
29 same time; and

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31 **WHEREAS**, the state requires counties to fund 71 percent of costs for Safety Net
32 individuals and 100 percent of the costs of administering these programs; and

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34 **WHEREAS**, local social service districts focus scarce resources on achieving
35 permanent housing, preventing homelessness and providing temporary placement; and

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37 **WHEREAS**, counties maintain that preventing homelessness in the first place is the
38 best way to keep families safe and secure; and

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40 **WHEREAS**, counties maintain that while it is important to provide help in a crisis, it is
41 better policy to maintain stability and prevent emergencies by providing sufficient
42 resources up front.

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44 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of
45 Counties (NYSAC) calls on the Governor and state legislature to prioritize permanency
46 in housing and to update rental allowances and the standard of need which have not

1 been properly updated in decades to fully address the dramatic growth in housing,
2 energy and food costs; and

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4 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, as part of the effort the state must restore the Safety
5 Net state share to 50 percent; and

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7 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, counties need brick and mortar solutions to existing
8 housing problems; and

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10 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the State should coordinate a timely transition to
11 supportive housing for the highest need individuals with mental health and substance
12 abuse issues in collaboration with OTDA, other state agencies, and local social services
13 districts; especially those that have been repeatedly homeless and in need of supportive
14 placements overseen by OMH, OASAS, OPWDD and DOCCS; and

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16 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the state should target funding to counties that allows
17 them to work with community partners to develop service models that achieve
18 permanency through innovative and flexible approaches that meet local needs; and

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20 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the State should work with counties in developing a
21 public education campaign to ensure people better understand the plight of families and
22 individuals struggling with homelessness and how everyone can benefit by helping them
23 achieve stable housing in our communities; and

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25 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be sent to the counties
26 of New York State encouraging member counties to enact a similar resolution; and

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28 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC shall forward copies of this resolution to
29 Governor Kathy Hochul, the Office for Temporary Disability Assistance and all others
30 deemed necessary and proper.