

1 **NYSAC 2023 Fall Seminar**
2 **Standing Committee on Medicaid and Human Services**
3 **Resolution #1**

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 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 influx of over 100,000 migrant asylum seekers over the last 18 months
19 has pushed the already overburden statewide shelter system beyond the brink; and

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21 **WHEREAS**, many areas of the state are seeing increases in homelessness even without
22 the addition of asylum seekers due to shortages in affordable housing and increases in
23 evictions; and

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25 **WHEREAS**, the state's unprecedented reduction in fiscal support implemented over a
26 decade ago when the state reduced its Safety Net program support from 50 percent to 29
27 percent has only made the situation worse; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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5 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of
6 Counties (NYSAC) calls on the Governor and state legislature to prioritize permanency
7 in housing and to update rental allowances and the standard of need which have not
8 been properly updated in decades to fully address the dramatic growth in housing,
9 energy, and food costs; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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