

1 **NYSAC 2022 Fall Seminar**
2 **Standing Committee on Medicaid and Human Services**
3 **Resolution #3**

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 Clarify Its Homelessness Prevention Goals 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 expansion of remote work and other factors has led to rising rents in
19 suburban areas at a rate approaching urban centers with the gap in premiums paid
20 between urban centers and suburban areas being cut by more than 53 percent; and

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22 **WHEREAS**, this means rents are higher everywhere, with the northeast region seeing
23 the second highest rent increases nationwide with New York City setting record highs
24 for median rent in 2022; and

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26 **WHEREAS**, Emergency Rental Assistance funding provided by Congress to prevent
27 people from losing their homes and increasing homelessness was an essential strategy
28 as the human hardships would have been far more devastating if we had not kept people
29 housed; and

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

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

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40 **WHEREAS**, the state is implementing new hotel regulations that could reduce the
41 number of units available to homeless families and leaving county officials with very
42 limited options that may be less effective and more expensive in managing local
43 homeless populations; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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20 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the State should pare back or end highly burdensome
21 hotel and motel regulations that end up limiting the supply of rooms available to
22 counties that have little choice but to rely on this method of temporary housing; and

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

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

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

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

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