



**STATE OF NEW YORK**

April 14, 2020

Senator Chuck Schumer  
Senator Kirsten Gillibrand  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Rep. Anthony Brindisi  
Rep. Yvette Clarke  
Rep. Alexandria Ocasio  
Cortez  
Rep. Antonio Delgado  
Rep. Eliot Engel  
Rep. Adriano Espaillat  
Rep. Brian Higgins  
Rep. Hakeem Jeffries

Rep. John Katko  
Rep. Peter King  
Rep. Nita Lowey  
Rep. Carolyn Maloney  
Rep. Sean Maloney  
Rep. Gregory Meeks  
Rep. Grace Meng  
Rep. Joseph Morelle  
Rep. Jerry Nadler

Rep. Tom Reed  
Rep. Kathleen Rice  
Rep. Max Rose  
Rep. José Serrano  
Rep. Elise Stefanik  
Rep. Thomas Suozzi  
Rep. Paul Tonko  
Rep. Nydia Velázquez  
Rep. Lee Zeldin

United States House of Representatives  
Ford House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Members of the New York Congressional Delegation:

We write to you today first to thank you, on behalf of our constituents and all New Yorkers for your crucially important assistance during the COVID-19 global pandemic. Your votes and advocacy for the recently passed stimulus package—the biggest economic rescue package in American history—will save lives and assist all of the individuals and families we have the privilege of representing. We are indebted to you for your work.

The economic consequences of this pandemic have placed significant burdens on New York State, and our tax revenues for the state and our localities have plummeted as a result. New York State alone now faces a budget deficit of between \$10 and \$15 billion, with local governments experiencing significant shortfalls as well. It is therefore incumbent upon us to ask for your assistance once again.

In order to help our constituents and all New Yorkers weather this pandemic and follow the direction of our Governor, Mayors, County Executives and healthcare experts, we are requesting a substantial infusion of federal funds specifically for rent subsidies.

As you are more than aware, significant measures to require and promote “social distancing,” “self-quarantine” and “flattening the curve” have been put into place to help slow the spread of the virus.

We believe that giving those who are currently homeless an opportunity to obtain and stay in permanent housing must be a primary focus of our response to the pandemic in New York State. It is equally urgent to support all those who are now at risk of displacement from their homes by investing in existing housing, and providing both project- and tenant-based rental assistance for the hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers who can no longer afford the rent.

We have implemented stop gap measures, like the current 3-month moratorium placed on evictions. However, without a significant infusion of federal funding for housing measures—such as the emergency rental assistance program proposed in State bill S8140A/A10248—there will be a dramatic and dangerous increase in the number of New York State residents who lose their housing.

This would compound the current homelessness crisis in New York State, which is already worse than at any time since the Great Depression, with 252,977 individuals including 148,554 children experiencing homelessness in the last full school year. It would also make it far more difficult for New Yorkers who have lost their jobs to get back to work and for the economy to recover after this unprecedented crisis.

The very real prospect of allowing so many New Yorkers to be displaced from their homes and homelessness to grow runs counter to the difficult measures we have put in place to completely halt the spread - the primary goal in fighting an epidemic or pandemic - and also to our efforts to merely slow or mitigate the outbreak. If New York State does not implement a robust program of rental assistance in the next few months, we believe the consequences for our constituents and all New Yorkers will be dire.

We cannot allow this to happen.

We therefore respectfully request that you and all of our colleagues in the federal government use the resources at your disposal to create an additional round of federal stimulus funding that specifically infuses housing and rental assistance into New York State. Estimates are that we need at least \$100 billion in rental assistance for the nation, and we know in New York alone we will need at least ten percent of that just to serve those with the most serious housing cost burdens.

Thank you for your leadership and your incredible efforts to protect all New Yorkers during this global crisis.

Sincerely,

Andrew D. Hevesi, 28<sup>th</sup> AD  
Steven Cymbrowitz, 45<sup>th</sup> AD

Brian Kavanagh, 26<sup>th</sup> SD  
Roxanne Persaud, 19<sup>th</sup> SD

Municipal Elected Officials

New York City Comptroller Scott Stringer  
New York City Public Advocate Jumaane Williams  
Bronx Borough President Rubén Diaz Jr.  
Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams  
Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer  
Queens Borough President Sharon Lee  
Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro  
Rockland County Executive Ed Day  
Monroe County Executive Adam Bello  
Beatriz Lebron, Rochester City School District Commissioner

New York State Assembly Members

Fred Thiele, 1<sup>st</sup> AD  
Anthony Palumbo, 2<sup>nd</sup> AD  
Steven Englebright, 4<sup>th</sup> AD  
Philip Ramos, 6<sup>th</sup> AD  
Steve Stern, 10<sup>th</sup> AD  
Kimberley Jean-Pierre, 11<sup>th</sup> AD  
Charles Lavine, 13<sup>th</sup> AD  
Anthony D’Urso, 16<sup>th</sup> AD  
Michaëlle Solages, 22<sup>nd</sup> AD  
David Weprin, 24<sup>th</sup> AD  
Nily Rozic, 25<sup>th</sup> AD  
Edward Braunstein, 26<sup>th</sup> AD  
Daniel Rosenthal, 27<sup>th</sup> AD  
Alicia Hyndman, 29<sup>th</sup> AD  
Brian Barnwell, 30<sup>th</sup> AD  
Clyde Vanel, 33<sup>rd</sup> AD  
Michael DenDekker, 34<sup>th</sup> AD  
Jeffrion Aubry, 35<sup>th</sup> AD

New York State Senators

Anna Kaplan, 7<sup>th</sup> SD  
John Brooks, 8<sup>th</sup> SD  
John Liu, 11<sup>th</sup> SD  
Jessica Ramos, 13<sup>th</sup> SD  
Leroy Comrie, 14<sup>th</sup> SD  
Joseph Addabbo Jr, 15<sup>th</sup> SD  
Toby Ann Stavisky, 16<sup>th</sup> SD  
Julia Salazar, 20<sup>th</sup> SD  
Kevin Parker, 21<sup>st</sup> SD  
Andrew Gounardes, 22<sup>nd</sup> SD  
Diane Savino, 23<sup>rd</sup> SD  
Brad Hoylman, 27<sup>th</sup> SD  
Liz Krueger, 28<sup>th</sup> SD  
Jose Serrano, 29<sup>th</sup> SD  
Brian Benjamin, 30<sup>th</sup> SD  
Robert Jackson, 31<sup>st</sup> SD  
Luis Sepúlveda, 32<sup>nd</sup> SD  
Gustavo Rivera, 33<sup>rd</sup> SD  
Alessandra Biaggi, 34<sup>th</sup> SD  
Shelley Mayer, 37<sup>th</sup> SD  
James Skoufis, 39<sup>th</sup> SD  
Neil Breslin, 44<sup>th</sup> SD  
Rachel May, 53<sup>rd</sup> SD  
Timothy Kennedy, 63<sup>rd</sup> SD

New York City Council Members

Margaret Chin, 1<sup>st</sup> CD  
Carlina Rivera, 2<sup>nd</sup> CD  
Keith Powers, 4<sup>th</sup> CD  
Ben Kallos, 5<sup>th</sup> CD  
Helen Rosenthal, 6<sup>th</sup> CD  
Diana Ayala, 8<sup>th</sup> CD  
Andy King, 12<sup>th</sup> CD  
Mark Gjonaj, 13<sup>th</sup> CD  
Fernando Cabrera, 14<sup>th</sup> CD  
Ritchie Torres, 15<sup>th</sup> CD  
Vanessa Gibson, 16<sup>th</sup> CD  
Paul Vallone, 19<sup>th</sup> CD  
Peter Koo, 20<sup>th</sup> CD

Aravella Simotas, 36<sup>th</sup> AD  
Catherine Nolan, 37<sup>th</sup> AD  
Michael Miller, 38<sup>th</sup> AD  
Catalina Cruz, 39<sup>th</sup> AD  
Ron Kim, 40<sup>th</sup> AD  
Rodneyse Bichotte, 42<sup>nd</sup> AD  
Diana Richardson, 43<sup>rd</sup> AD  
Robert Carroll, 44<sup>th</sup> AD  
Mathlyde Frontus, 46<sup>th</sup> AD  
Simcha Eichstein, 48<sup>th</sup> AD  
Joseph Lentol, 50 AD<sup>th</sup>  
Félix Ortiz, 51<sup>st</sup> AD  
Jo Ann Simon, 52<sup>nd</sup> AD  
Maritza Davila, 53<sup>rd</sup> AD  
Tremaine Wright, 56<sup>th</sup> AD  
Walter Mosley, 57<sup>th</sup> AD  
N. Nick Perry, 58<sup>th</sup> AD  
Charles Barron, 60<sup>th</sup> AD  
Charles Fall, 61<sup>st</sup> AD  
Yuh-Line Niou, 65<sup>th</sup> AD  
Deborah Glick, 66<sup>th</sup> AD  
Linda Rosenthal, 67<sup>th</sup> AD  
Daniel O'Donnell, 69<sup>th</sup> AD  
Inez Dickens, 70<sup>th</sup> AD  
Al Taylor, 71<sup>st</sup> AD  
Carmen De La Rosa, 72<sup>nd</sup> AD  
Dan Quart, 73<sup>rd</sup> AD  
Harvey Epstein, 74<sup>th</sup> AD  
Richard Gottfried, 75<sup>th</sup> AD  
Rebecca Seawright, 76<sup>th</sup> AD  
Latoya Joyner, 77<sup>th</sup> AD  
Michael Blake, 79<sup>th</sup> AD  
Nathalia Fernandez, 80<sup>th</sup> AD  
Jeffrey Dinowitz, 81<sup>st</sup> AD  
Marcos Crespo, 85<sup>th</sup> AD  
Karines Reyes, 87<sup>th</sup> AD  
Nader Sayegh, 90<sup>th</sup> AD  
Steven Otis, 91<sup>st</sup> AD  
Tom Abinanti, 92<sup>nd</sup> AD  
Ellen Jaffee, 97<sup>th</sup> AD

Franciso Moya, 21<sup>st</sup> CD  
Costa Constantinides, 22<sup>nd</sup> CD  
Barry Grodenchik 23<sup>rd</sup> CD  
Adrienne Adams, 28<sup>th</sup> CD  
Karen Koslowitz, 29<sup>th</sup> CD  
Robert Holden, 30<sup>th</sup> CD  
Donovan Richards, 31<sup>st</sup> CD  
Stephen Levin, 33<sup>rd</sup> CD  
Antonio Reynoso, 34<sup>th</sup> CD  
Laurie Cumbo, 35<sup>th</sup> CD  
Robert Cornegy Jr., 36<sup>th</sup> CD  
Brad Lander, 39<sup>th</sup> CD  
Alicka Ampry-Samuel, 41<sup>st</sup> CD  
Inez Barron, 42<sup>nd</sup> CD  
Justin Brannan, 43<sup>rd</sup> CD  
Farah Louis, 45<sup>th</sup> CD  
Alan Maisel, 46<sup>th</sup> CD  
Deborah Rose, 49<sup>th</sup> CD

#### Rochester City Council Members

Loretta Scott, President  
Willie Lightfoot, Vice President  
Mary Lupien, East District  
Jose Peo, Northwest District  
Michael Patterson, Northeast District  
LaShay Harris, South District  
Mitch Gruber, Council At Large  
Malik Evans, Council At Large  
Jacklyn Ortiz, Council At Large

#### Organizations

Access to Independence of Cortland  
County  
ACT UP NY  
AIM Independent Living Center  
Association for a Better Long Island  
Association of New York State  
Barrier Free Living Family of  
Companies  
Care for the Homeless

Kenneth Zebrowski Jr, 96<sup>th</sup> AD  
Aileen Gunther, 100<sup>th</sup> AD  
Kevin Cahill, 103<sup>rd</sup> AD  
Jonathan Jacobson, 104<sup>th</sup> AD  
John T. McDonald III, 108<sup>th</sup> AD  
Patricia Fahy, 109<sup>th</sup> AD  
Carrie Woerner, 113<sup>th</sup> AD  
Marianne Buttenschon, 119<sup>th</sup> AD  
Donna Lupardo, 123<sup>rd</sup> AD  
Barbara Lifton, 125<sup>th</sup> AD  
Al Stirpe, 127<sup>th</sup> AD  
Pamela Hunter, 128<sup>th</sup> AD  
Harry Bronson, 138<sup>th</sup> AD  
Pat Burke, 142<sup>nd</sup> AD  
Sean Ryan, 149<sup>th</sup> AD

Center for Disability Rights  
Center for Independence of the  
Disabled NY (CIDNY)  
Chinese-American Planning Council  
Citizen Action of New York  
Citizens' Committee for Children  
COFFCA  
Community Preservation  
Corporation  
Consumer Directed Personal  
Assistance  
Empire State Indivisible  
Greater NY Labor-Religion Coalition  
Greater NYC for Change  
Greater Syracuse Tenant's Network  
Homeless Services United (HSU)  
Housing Court Answers  
Housing Works  
Human Services Council  
Independent Living  
Interfaith Assembly on  
Homelessness and Housing  
Legal Aid Society  
Long Island Builders Institute  
Long Island Center for Independent  
Living  
Long Island Coalition for the  
Homeless  
Morningside Heights Resistance  
Neighbors Together  
New Destiny Housing  
New York Housing Conference  
New York Legal Assistance Group  
(NYLAG)  
New York State Catholic Conference  
New York State Coalition Against  
Domestic Violence (NYSCADV)  
Northern Regional Center for  
Independence

NYC Democratic Socialists of  
America  
NYS Association for Affordable  
Housing  
NYS Council of Churches  
Prevent Child Abuse NY  
Rent Stabilization Association (RSA)  
Resource Center for Accessible  
Living, Inc  
Schuyler Center for Analysis and  
Advocacy  
Settlement Housing Fund, Inc  
Southern Tier Independence Center  
Strong Economy for All  
Supportive Housing Network of N  
Tenants PAC  
The Building & Realty Institute  
The Coalition for the Homeless  
The Real Estate Board of NY  
(REBNY)  
The South Bronx Community  
Congress  
Treatment Action Group  
United Neighborhood Housing  
Urban Justice Center Safety Net  
Project  
VOCAL-NY  
Welfare Rights Initiative  
Westchester & the Mid-Hudson  
Region Institute  
Western NY Independent Living, Inc