

PROTECT LOW-INCOME TENANTS WITH HIV/AIDS

Fixing AIDS rent discrimination

- More than 10,000 poor New Yorkers who receive rental assistance from New York's HIV/AIDS Services Administration (HASA) for permanent housing also receive benefits such as Social Security Disability (SSD) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI).
- However, HASA's current policy allows them to keep only \$330/month, with the rest going to rent.
- That means HASA recipients must survive on \$11 per day without the help available in supportive housing: meals, case-workers, supplemented utility payments and more.
- HASA is the only rental assistance program in the state that doesn't cap recipient rent shares at 30 percent of one's income.
- That means poor people with AIDS are the only New Yorkers on public assistance forced to bear the burden of living on \$11 per day.
- HASA's rental assistance policy threatens the very stability that such assistance programs were intended to create.
- Studies show that people who don't have stable housing are less likely to adhere to complicated treatment regimens and remain in care and more likely to engage in HIV risk behaviors.

State & Federal rent standards should match up

- Federal rent policies are smart and compassionate on disability, rent and household budgeting
- Federal law says that tenants with HIV/AIDS who must survive on SSI or SSD payments shouldn't pay more than 30 percent of their income toward rent. New York State law should do the same.

SSI	Supplemental Security Income
SSD	Social Security Disability
HOPWA	Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS
HRA	NYC Human Resources Administration
HASA	NYC HIV/AIDS Services Administration
OTDA	Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

Executive and legislative action needed

- Spitzer administration officials and OTDA should abide by federal law and cap rents for tenants with disabilities like HIV/AIDS whose housing is federally supported
- Legislators should pass A. 5473 (Glick) S. 2890 (Duane) to cap rent for ALL low-income tenants who receive HIV/AIDS rent assistance or disability benefits at 30% of income
- New York should lead the nation with comprehensive legal protections and funding: it's good housing policy, good public health policy, and good HIV/AIDS policy



For more information: contact **Dennis Weakley**,
New York State organizer for Housing Works
518-449-4207 or d.weakley@housingworks.org



57 WILLOUGHBY STREET, BROOKLYN, NY 11201 347-473-7400
247 LARK STREET, ALBANY, NY 12210 518-449-4207
925 15TH STREET NW, WASHINGTON DC 20005 202-408-0305
HOUSINGWORKS.org