

PROTECT LOW-INCOME TENANTS WITH HIV/AIDS

The AIDS rent hike crisis

- Over 2200 New York City tenants living with AIDS in HRA/HASA-contracted housing face government-imposed rent increases of 50% or more
- There are more people living with AIDS in these apartments (now at risk for eviction and homelessness) than there are people with AIDS in all of New Jersey—or Georgia, or Illinois, or North Carolina or 45 other states
- All tenants receive SSI, SSD or veterans' benefits
- Most tenants hit with the increase and at risk of eviction are African-American or Latino
- All housing units at issue receive HOPWA, McKinney-Vento, Section 8 or other federal housing subsidies
- For people living with HIV/AIDS, housing is a necessary foundation for lifesaving health care and HIV prevention services

State & Federal rent standards should match up

- Federal rent policies are smart and compassionate on disability, rent and household budgeting
- Tenants with HIV/AIDS who must survive on SSI or SSD payments shouldn't pay more than 30% of their income under federal law and regulations

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

ACCOMPLISHED



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