

# 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

<b>SSI</b>	Supplemental Security Income
<b>SSD</b>	Social Security Disability
<b>HOPWA</b>	Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS
<b>HRA</b>	NYC Human Resources Administration
<b>HASA</b>	NYC HIV/AIDS Services Administration
<b>OTDA</b>	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 new state legislation 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 **Charles Long**,  
New York State organizer for Housing Works  
**518-449-4207** or **long2@housingworks.org**



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