



Memorandum of Support:
A.1620/S.2375 (Hevesi/Krueger)
Home Stability Support Supplement Programs
March 13, 2019

Citizens' Committee for Children of New York (CCC) strongly supports A.1620/S.2375, to create home stability support (HSS) programs that would provide a statewide rental supplement aimed at reducing family homelessness. HSS programs would serve families and individuals who are on public assistance and who may be at risk of homelessness. This state-funded housing subsidy would close the gap between current shelter allowance and real housing costs (85% of the fair market rate defined by HUD). Moreover, localities would have the option to raise the supplement up to 100% of the fair market rent at local expense. HSS will also include a heating differential for homes that do not include heat in the rent recognizing that heating allowances have remain flat for several decades.

Given the homelessness crisis across New York State, HSS represents a policy solution that can truly move the needle in increasing housing stability. Recent data points to several alarming stats:

- There are now over 250,000 homeless people in NYS each year
- Since 2011 the number of school-age homeless students grew 69%
- 3 out of 5 homeless New Yorkers are school-aged children
- In fiscal year 2017, it cost an average \$73,000 to provide emergency shelter to a family and \$38,000 to provide emergency shelter to a single adult in NYC

CCC is a 74-year-old nonprofit, multi-issue child advocacy organization whose mission is to ensure that every New York child is healthy, housed, educated and safe. Our unique approach to child advocacy is fact-based, relies on partnerships between our professional staff and our lay and professional volunteers on CCC's Board and Advocacy Council, and requires the ability to effectively engage elected and appointed government officials, City and State agency leaders, direct service colleagues, philanthropic partners, and New Yorkers at large.



Growing evidence also suggests that rental subsidies are a proven tool at bolstering housing stability. As such, HSS can be a cost-effective measure at tackling this statewide issue by reducing costs to taxpayers through eviction prevention, preventing shelter entry and reduction in other homeless services.

CCC strongly supports legislation to create a statewide rental subsidy with Housing Stability Support Programs. **A.1620(Hevesi)/S.2375(Krueger)** offers long overdue policy solutions to decrease homelessness across the state. The bill would create a new Section 131-bb of the Social Services Law to authorize the provision of rent supplements to households on public assistance who are at risk of facing homelessness as result of several conditions including eviction, hazardous living conditions, and domestic violence among others.

CCC urges New York to pass A.1620/S.2375 to create HSS programs in NY.

For additional information, please contact:

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