



Memo in Support of A1620 and S2375

A1620 Sponsor: Assemblyman Andrew Hevesi

S2375 Sponsor: Senator Liz Krueger

About the Bill

Women In Need (“WIN”) has been on the front lines combatting homelessness in New York since its inception in 1983. WIN operates 11 shelters and more than 330 supportive housing units New York City. Each night, 4,600 people are housed by WIN, including 2,700 children. WIN also successfully placed 740 families in permanent housing in the last year.¹ It is with this deep understanding of the homelessness and housing crisis in New York that WIN supports the passage of The Home Stability Support Program A1620/S2375 (“HSS”). This legislation will improve the lives of thousands of New Yorkers by replacing the current patchwork of inadequate rental assistance programs with one statewide program that better meets the needs of families and individuals eligible for public assistance who face eviction, homelessness, or loss of housing due to domestic violence. HSS will provide assistance for up to 85 percent of the fair market rent determined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (“HUD”). By fully funding HSS through state and federal funds, local municipalities can use their resources to fully tackle the homelessness crisis by then funding the gap to 100 percent of the fair market rent. The legislation is intended to support stable housing for families in danger of or already experiencing homelessness, while also providing a one-year transitional benefit for households that have increased their earnings enough to no longer qualify for the program.

Background on New York State’s Homelessness and Housing Crisis

New York State is facing a historic housing crisis the likes of which our generation has never seen. Over 150,000 children in New York State are homeless and an additional 80,000 families are on the brink of homelessness.² Developing tools to meaningfully combat homelessness is an urgent need for families and children who are at risk and the taxpayers who spend billions of dollars for homeless services every year. This crisis touches every part of the state. A severe shortage of housing that is affordable for the lowest-income New Yorkers is one of the major drivers of this crisis. A rental assistance voucher that bridges the gap between the cost of housing and what New Yorkers can afford

¹ WIN, winnyc.org/what-we-do/.

² Home Stability Support, www.homestabilitysupport.com.



is paramount for stabilizing families on the brink of homelessness and for helping those in shelter leave for permanent, stable homes. The passage of HSS will provide immediate assistance to families and individuals who are homeless or on the brink of homelessness. This is one of the most immediately impactful things the state can do to meaningfully move the needle in the fight to end homelessness.

About Win

Win was founded in 1983 as a shelter for women and their children, and has risen to become New York City's largest provider of shelter and services for homeless families with children. Win serves more than 10,000 people each year, including more than 6,000 children and youth, across its family shelters and supportive housing. Fifty one percent of people living in Win shelters are employed, and 86 percent of Win mothers raising families have a high school diploma or lower accreditation. Win supports families who on average earn significantly less than the threshold of low income, defined as earning 30 percent or less than \$24,500, the area median income for a family of three in New York City.³ Win provides safe housing and innovative programs and services that homeless families need to break the cycle of homelessness so that their children can look forward to a brighter future. Win's CEO is Christine Quinn, who previously served as New York City Council Speaker from 2006 to 2013.

³ Women In Need, Inc., Forgotten Face of Homelessness Report, October 2016, https://winnyc.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Forgotten_faceFINAL1-1.pdf