

1 **NYSAC 2024 Fall Seminar**  
2 **Standing Committee on Medicaid and Human Services**  
3 **Resolution #1**

4  
5 **Resolution Urging the Governor and Legislature to Become True Partners**  
6 **in Addressing Homelessness by Focusing on Rent Allowance and Standard**  
7 **of Need Which Must Include the Restoration of 50/50 Cost Sharing for**  
8 **Safety Net Programs, and Provide Actual Brick and Mortar Solutions by**  
9 **Making Permanent Housing the Central Focus**

10  
11 **WHEREAS**, homelessness and housing affordability continue to be major concerns  
12 across the state; and

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14 **WHEREAS**, the COVID-19 pandemic made the situation worse through increased  
15 rental rates, decreased housing supply and an increased reliance on temporary housing  
16 assistance provided in shelters and motels; and

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18 **WHEREAS**, in the post pandemic era, counties are experiencing a decline in the  
19 number of landlords that will rent to the clientele local social service districts serve;  
20 and

21  
22 **WHEREAS**, the influx of over 205,000 migrant asylum seekers since the Spring of  
23 2022 has pushed the already overburdened statewide shelter system beyond the brink;  
24 and

25  
26 **WHEREAS**, many areas of the state are seeing increases in homelessness even without  
27 the addition of asylum seekers due to shortages in affordable housing, increases in  
28 evictions, and fewer landlords willing to rent their properties to social service districts;  
29 and

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31 **WHEREAS**, the state's unprecedented reduction in fiscal support implemented over a  
32 decade ago when the state reduced its Safety Net program support from 50 percent to 29  
33 percent has only made the situation worse; and

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35 **WHEREAS**, state shelter allowances provided by the state are so low today that  
36 homeless clients cannot compete in the current housing market; and

37  
38 **WHEREAS**, the net effect of low shelter rates for individuals and families that have  
39 been displaced and are residing in temporary housing is that current shelter allowances  
40 serve as a barrier to moving to permanent housing; and

41  
42 **WHEREAS**, the homeless population is facing new problems as the needs of families  
43 have become more complicated; and

1    **WHEREAS**, regardless of family size and demographics, many of those facing  
2 homelessness or seeking emergency shelter can have challenging medical needs, mental  
3 health and substance abuse issues, some are registered sex offenders, and still others are  
4 state prison parolees or on probation; with some facing several of these challenges at the  
5 same time; and  
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7    **WHEREAS**, the state requires counties to fund 71 percent of costs for Safety Net  
8 individuals and 100 percent of the costs of administering these programs; and  
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10   **WHEREAS**, local social service districts focus scarce resources on achieving  
11 permanent housing, preventing homelessness and providing temporary placement; and  
12  
13   **WHEREAS**, counties maintain that preventing homelessness in the first place is the  
14 best way to keep families safe and secure; and  
15  
16   **WHEREAS**, counties maintain that while it is important to provide help in a crisis, it is  
17 better policy to maintain stability and prevent emergencies by providing sufficient  
18 resources up front.  
19  
20   **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of  
21 Counties (NYSAC) calls on the Governor and State Legislature to prioritize permanency  
22 in housing and to update rental allowances and the standard of need which have not  
23 been properly updated in decades to fully address the dramatic growth in housing,  
24 energy, and food costs; and  
25  
26   **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, as part of the effort, the State must restore the Safety  
27 Net state share to 50 percent; and  
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29   **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, counties need brick and mortar solutions to existing  
30 housing problems; and  
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32   **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the State should coordinate a timely transition to  
33 supportive housing for the highest need individuals with mental health and substance  
34 abuse issues in collaboration with OTDA, other state agencies, and local social services  
35 districts; especially those that have been repeatedly homeless and in need of supportive  
36 placements overseen by OMH, OASAS, OPWDD and DOCCS; and  
37  
38   **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the State should work with counties in developing a  
39 public education campaign to ensure people better understand the plight of families and  
40 individuals struggling with homelessness and how everyone can benefit by helping them  
41 achieve stable housing in our communities; and  
42  
43   **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, copies of this resolution be sent to the counties of  
44 New York State encouraging member counties to enact a similar resolution; and

1 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NYSAC shall forward copies of this resolution to  
2 Governor Kathy Hochul, the Office for Temporary Disability Assistance and all others  
3 deemed necessary and proper.  
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