



**Office of Temporary
and Disability Assistance**

Bureau of Housing and Support Services

Regional Provider Meetings

Morning Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Provider Feedback
- OTDA Bureau of Housing and Support Services Updates
- Keynote Speaker, Dennis Culhane, PhD

Afternoon Agenda

Breakout Session 1

- Safe Options and Person-Centered Approaches for Engaging the Unhoused
- Site Selection Considerations

Breakout Session 2

- Innovative Solutions for Medical and Social Care Needs
- Sustaining Success: Tenant Engagement and Staff Retention

Introductions and Provider Feedback

Are there limitations with your current OTDA grants?

Could any of the programs be structured differently to better meet the needs in your community?

Administrative

- Restricted funding categories limit flexibility. Include more flexible funding components that allow agencies to respond to local emerging priorities.
- Short grant cycles: annual funding cycle makes it difficult to plan and sustain long-term initiatives, especially those aimed at systemic change or capacity building.
- Insufficient funding for administrative costs.
- Administrative burden of reporting and compliance requirements, especially for smaller organizations.
- MWBE costs significantly higher than non-MWBEs, limits grant funds.
- Funding formula is insufficient.

Programming and Staffing

- There is a need for expanded case management services to help clients secure and maintain housing, such as developing life skills, budgeting, conflict resolution, and understanding lease agreements.
- Lack of flexibility for case-specific needs (cleaning for hoarding, emergency repairs, short-term rental assistance, etc.).
- Funding does not keep pace with industry-wide competitive salaries.
- More funding needed for safety and security.
- There is a need for additional clinical and therapeutic recreational staff.
- FMR is too low.

Program Participant Needs

- Encourage cross-sector collaboration by funding joint initiatives between housing, health, and social service providers.
- There are more homeless families and larger homeless families in need of housing and services.
- Aging client population unable to maintain daily living activities or housing. Need for home cleaning and/or nursing services.
- Need for medical beds at emergency shelters.
- There is a need to supply furniture, household and hygiene items for individuals.
- Income eligibility (AMI) for STEHP is too low.

Is there a gap in services in your community that can't be met with current funding?

Are there obstacles to addressing underserved needs in your community that aren't related to funding?

- Not enough mental health professionals to meet the demand.
- Need for more mental health resources and better systems to support people with complex needs.
- The intensity of service needs for the formerly homeless is high.
- Limited availability of local providers for specialized services, such as behavioral health and addiction recovery, which forces individuals to travel long distances or go without care.
- Stigma and lack of awareness that discourages people from seeking help.
- Poor coordination between housing and healthcare services.

- Limited flexibility for specialized interventions such as hoarding remediation or furniture replacement for health and safety.
- Funding for household items and hygiene supplies would be very helpful.
- Aging in place services needed – ADL skills, home health aids, and nutrition.
- There is a need for emergency expenses and daily needs for clients – vehicle maintenance, medication, utilities, phones cards, quality food items, Christmas gifts.
- Participants unable to afford in-home broadband internet access limits access to education, telemedicine, and remote work.
- Transportation remains an obstacle for participants to apply for other services, make appointments, job search, job retention, etc.

- Lack of transitional and permanent housing to re-entry population.
- Lack of supportive housing for survivors of domestic violence.
- There is a need for secure and safe housing, specifically for male survivors of trafficking and families affected by trafficking.
- Need for PSH that is not site based.
- Lack of political support for new/expanded shelters and supportive housing programs.
- NIMBY and obtaining municipal approvals are time consuming and challenging.

- Homelessness is severely underreported, due in part to narrow HUD definition (couch-surfing and youth).
- Need for expanded childcare.
- Limited shared housing available.
- Need for a year-round shelter system.
- Lack of funding for eviction prevention.
- Strict eligibility guidelines, lengthy approval processes, and vendor limitations can delay or prevent needed services.
- Police sweeps.

- The new changes to SNAP will put a strain on local food pantries for those individuals who are no longer eligible.
- Agencies are reliant on donations from the community and food pantry distributors due to loss of federal programming.
- Administrative and regulatory constraints.
- Payroll taxes, health insurance, payroll service expenses, administrative expenses associated with processing payroll and preparing reports for grants are rarely covered beyond small fringe amounts. Those expenses are a large financial strain.
- Accommodating emotional support animals.

- There is a need for Permanent Supportive Housing for youth where family reunification is not possible, specifically those between the ages of 16-18 and 18-21. They do not have the ability to sign leases, or property management and landlords do not rent to under 21 without a co-signer. Additionally, youth do not generally have the resources to pay current market rates.
- The demand for family support, youth development, and workforce readiness continues to outpace what current funding can sustain.
- Homeless individuals who have medical issues however do not meet inpatient hospitalization and too medically compromised to be independent in shelter.

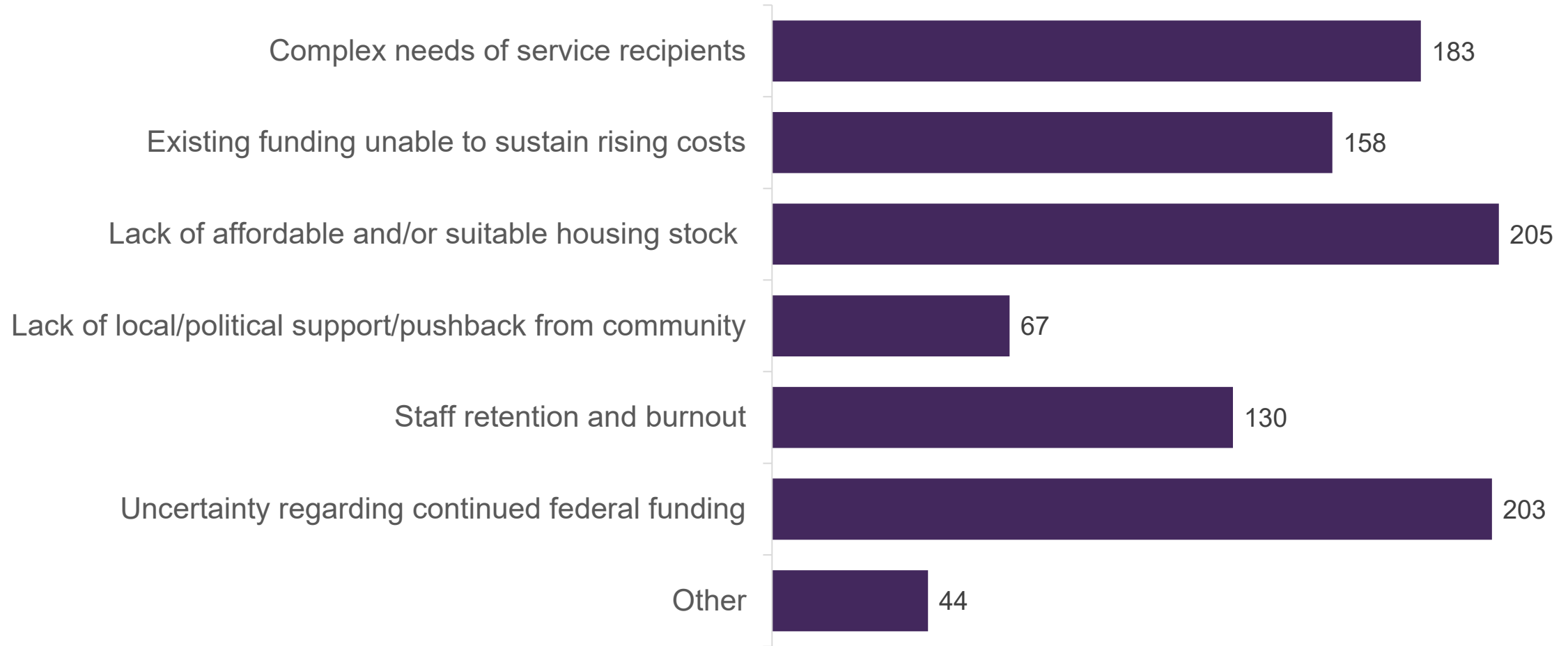
- Landlords not maintaining properties ultimately leading to condemnations, forcing working households out while not being eligible for financial assistance into new housing.
- Exacerbation of housing problems by code officials who condemn property without meaningful standards.
- Fragmented service coordination, where agencies operate in silos, making it difficult to provide holistic support to clients with multiple needs.
- Addressing these challenges requires not only increased funding but also policy changes, community education, and stronger inter-agency collaboration.

What are the greatest challenges your program or organization are facing right now?

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- Complex needs of service recipients
- Existing funding unable to sustain rising costs
- Lack of affordable and/or suitable housing stock
- Lack of local/political support/pushback from community
- Staff retention and burnout
- Uncertainty regarding continued federal funding
- Other

What are the greatest challenges your program or organization are facing right now?



Other Challenges

- Difficulty getting individuals to engage in services.
- Property management not in line with the principles of Housing First.
- Lack of knowledge regarding options available in the community.
- Landlord restrictions, such as credit checks.
- Lack of resources due to funding cuts.
- Lack of mental health providers in the community.

OTDA BHSS Updates

- Training Opportunities
- Homeless Housing and Assistance Program (HHAP)
- Empire State Supportive Housing Initiative (ESSHI)
- New York State Supportive Housing Program (NYSSHP)
- Solutions to End Homelessness Program (STEHP)
- Upcoming RFPs

Homeless Services Training Resource System

(HSTRS)

HSTRS

- HSTRS is funded through NYS OTDA and administered by the Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College.
- It is available to all levels of staff that implement homeless and housing services in the community.
- The goal of this project is to enhance the capacity, knowledge, skillset, and effectiveness of professionals serving individuals and families experiencing homelessness.
- Trainings are offered in person, online with an instructor, and online self-directed.

HSTRS Continued

Courses are offered on a rotating basis. Some course topics include:

- ❖ New Worker Institute
- ❖ Conflict management and Crisis prevention
- ❖ Homelessness Mental Illness and Promoting recovery
- ❖ Foundations of Supervision
- ❖ Transitioning from Worker to Supervisor
- ❖ Understanding Hoarding Disorder To Enhance Staff Response
- ❖ Working Effectively with LGBTQ+ Residents
- ❖ Understanding Opioid Use and Effective Shelter Staff Response
- ❖ Motivational Interviewing
- ❖ Working with Trauma
- ❖ Identifying and Working with Strengths of Shelter Residents
- ❖ Self and Community Care for Shelter Community Members

HSTRS Continued

**For full list of current offerings,
additional training resources
visit:**



<https://hstrs.common.gc.cuny.edu>

Additional questions?



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OTDA Bureau of Housing and Support Services Updates

Homeless Housing and Assistance Program (HHAP)

- RFP released May 2025
- Started accepting applications on June 12, 2025
- Suspended acceptance of applications on September 17, 2025
- SFY 2025-26: 45 applications received requesting over \$413 million
- SFY 2024-25: 46 applications received requesting over \$231 million
- Awards made October 8, 2025
 - 13 projects to create or preserve 645 units

From the inception of HHAP in 1983 through 2024, NYS has contributed \$1.856 billion toward the development of 30,834 units of homeless housing.

HHAP Stabilization Funds

- Additional \$25 million for stabilization of HHAP operational projects.
- Targeting the support of the ongoing viability of existing HHAP projects. Funds are available to address critical infrastructure and building system upgrades to ensure compliance with evolving standards and sustain the long-term viability of these essential programs.

Preference will be given to:

- Projects with seven (7) years or less remaining in their HHAP contract term,
- Projects with 30 units or less,
- Projects not originally developed with Low-Income Housing Tax Credits,
- Projects that can demonstrate there are no other financial resources to preserve the units, and
- Projects that rely on the New York State Supportive Housing Program (NYSSHP) as their operating funding source.

Empire State Supportive Housing Initiative (ESSHI)

- Round 9 RFP released June 2025; conditional awards issued September 2025
 - 215 applications received; 200 conditional awards
 - 90 to OTDA
- New target populations
 - Persons living with Hepatitis C
 - Survivors of human trafficking
 - Long-term homelessness replaced chronic homelessness
 - Physical disability that affects daily living activities

New York State Supportive Housing Program (NYSSHP)

- SFY 2025-26 included an increase of \$17.8 million to support enhanced rate
- Intended to target the most vulnerable NYSSHP units, meaning they are at risk of closing or are not sustainable without increased funding
- Vulnerabilities reviewed include: risk of closure, high needs population, high staff caseloads, unmet service needs and expenses, fiscal vulnerability, maximization of current funding, and limited or no other subsidies
- Applications due August 2025; 88 applications received
- Awards pending October 2025 with a contract start date of January 1, 2026

Solutions to End Homelessness Program (STEHP)

- Contract Term
 - 76 contracts began October 1, 2024
 - No plan to reprocure in 2027
- \$19 million annually in Federal and State funds
- Source of Funding
 - STEHP follows Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) regulations
 - Funding split
 - Unknown Federal landscape

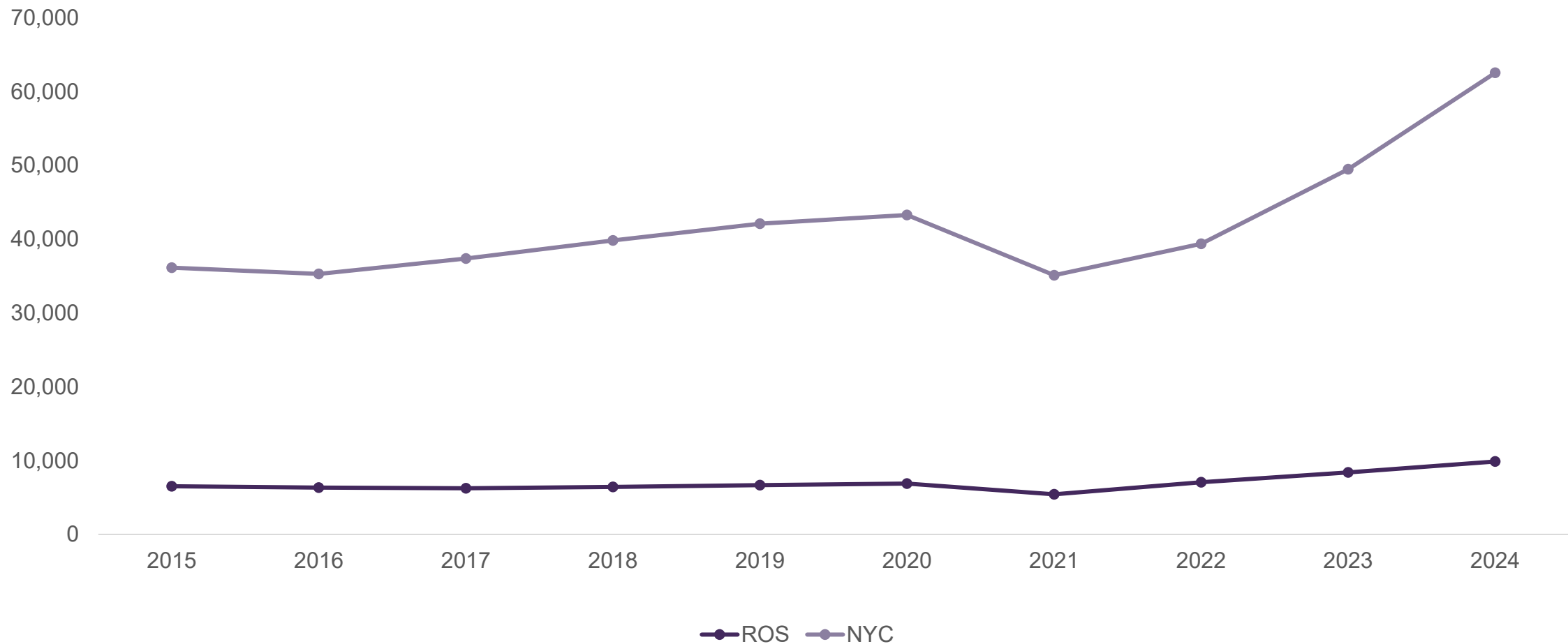
Upcoming RFPs

- HHAC Technical Assistance RFQ – Winter 2026
- Legal Services for Housing Stability Program (LSHSP) – Winter 2026
- New York State Supportive Housing Program (NYSSHP) – Spring 2026

Statewide Homelessness Data

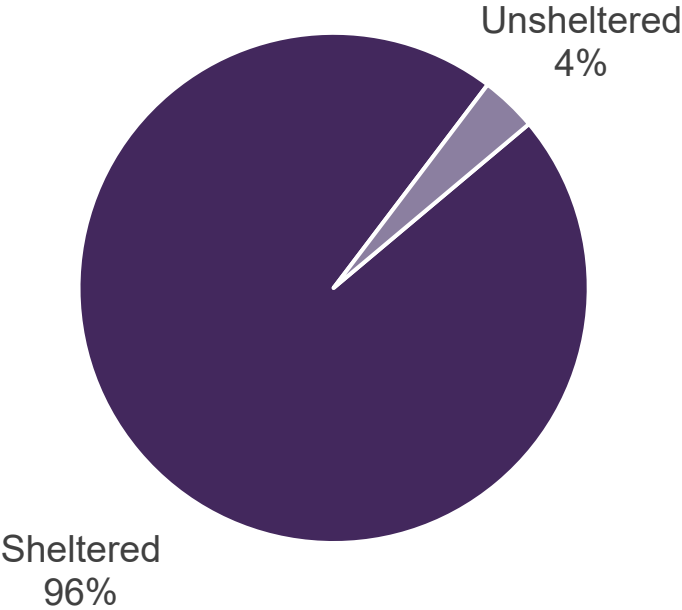
NYS Point-in-Time (PIT) Count Data 2015-2024

Total Individuals Experiencing Homelessness in NYS

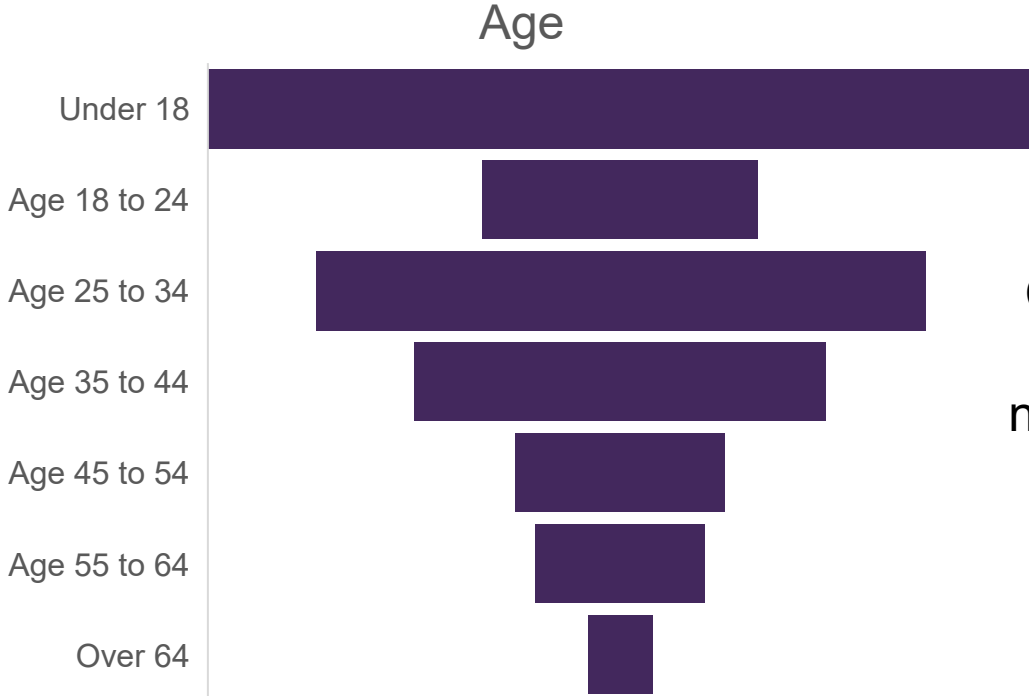


NYS Point-in-Time (PIT) Count Data 2024

Total Homeless 158,019



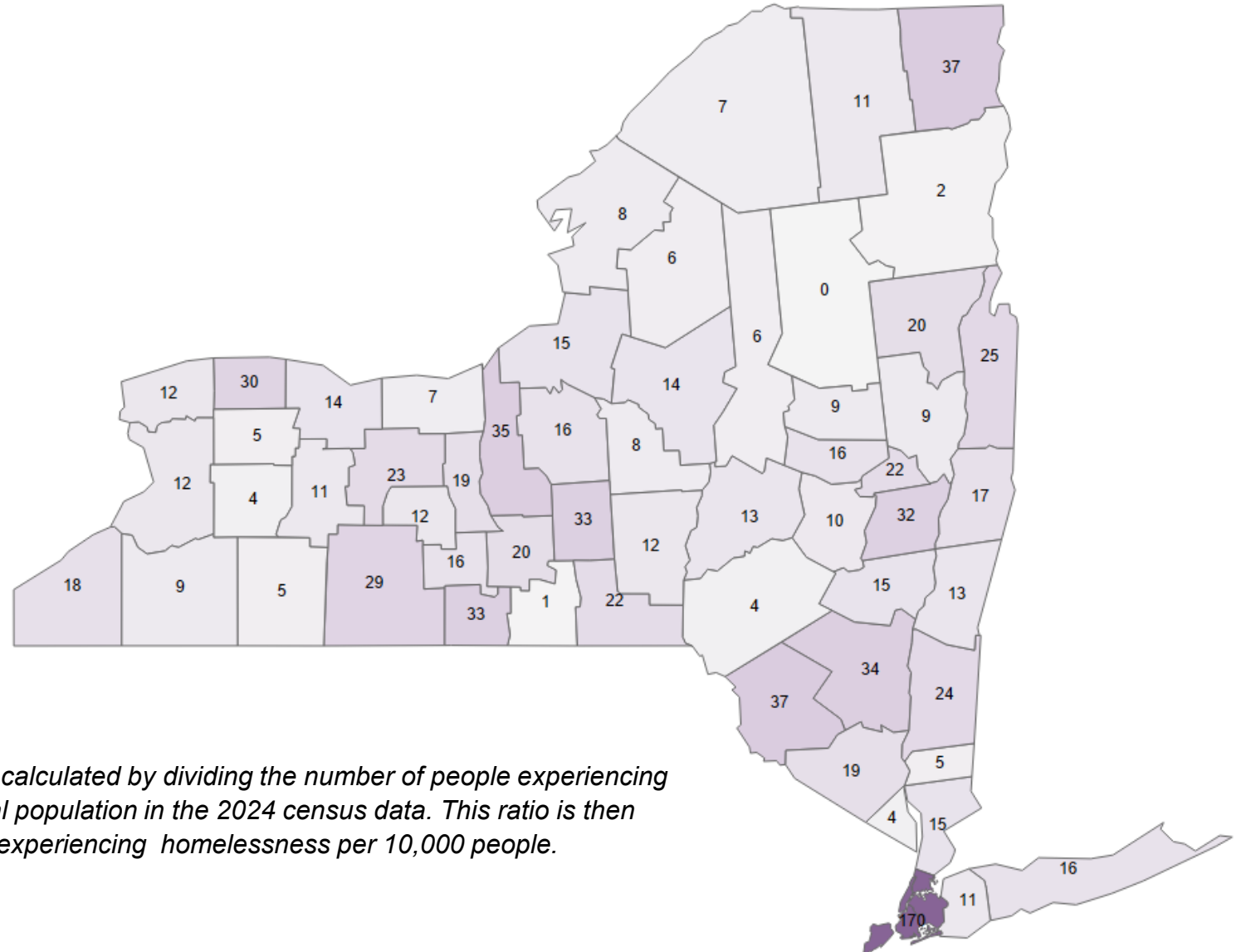
1,180 veterans



Children under 18 account for nearly one third of individuals experiencing homelessness in NYS.

Rates of Homelessness in NYS

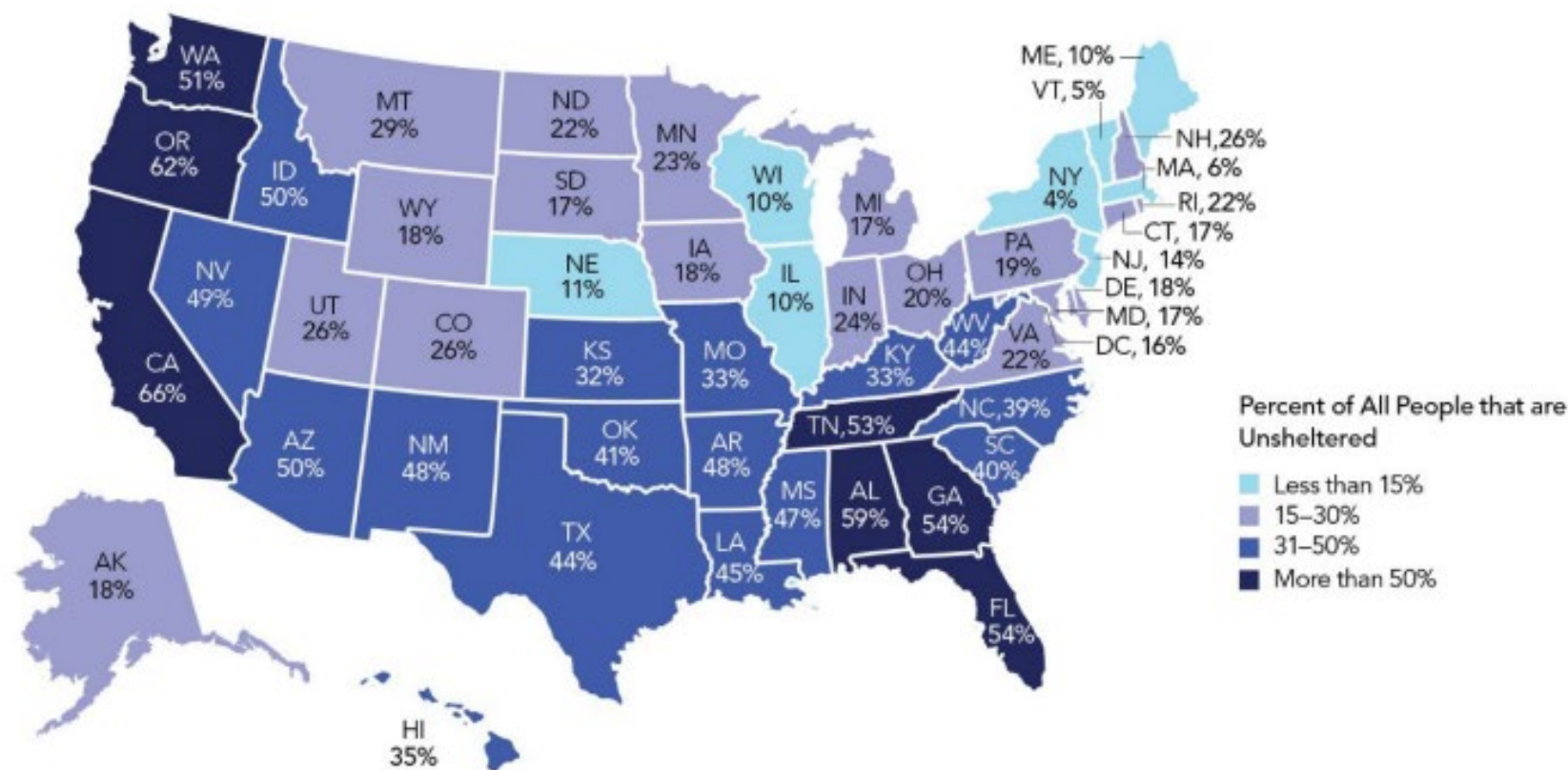
Location	Rate
Clinton	37
Sullivan	37
Cayuga	35
Ulster	34
Chemung	33
Cortland	33
Albany	32
Orleans	30
U.S.	23
NYS	80
New York City	170
Rest of State	15



Note: The rates of homelessness per 10,000 people is calculated by dividing the number of people experiencing homelessness on the night of the PIT Count by the total population in the 2024 census data. This ratio is then multiplied by 10,000 to calculate the number of people experiencing homelessness per 10,000 people.

Annual Homelessness Assessment Report (AHAR)

Exhibit 1-10: Percentages of People Experiencing Homelessness Who Are Unsheltered by State, 2024



NYS has the lowest percentage of people experiencing homelessness who are unsheltered (4%)

Keynote Speaker
Dennis Culhane, PhD

About Dennis Culhane

Dennis P. Culhane is a professor at the University of Pennsylvania School of Social Policy & Practice, focusing on housing policy, homelessness, and social service research.

<https://dennisculhane.com/>

Breakout Sessions

Breakout Session 1

- Safe Options and Person-Centered Approaches for Engaging the Unhoused
- Site Selection Considerations

Breakout Session 2

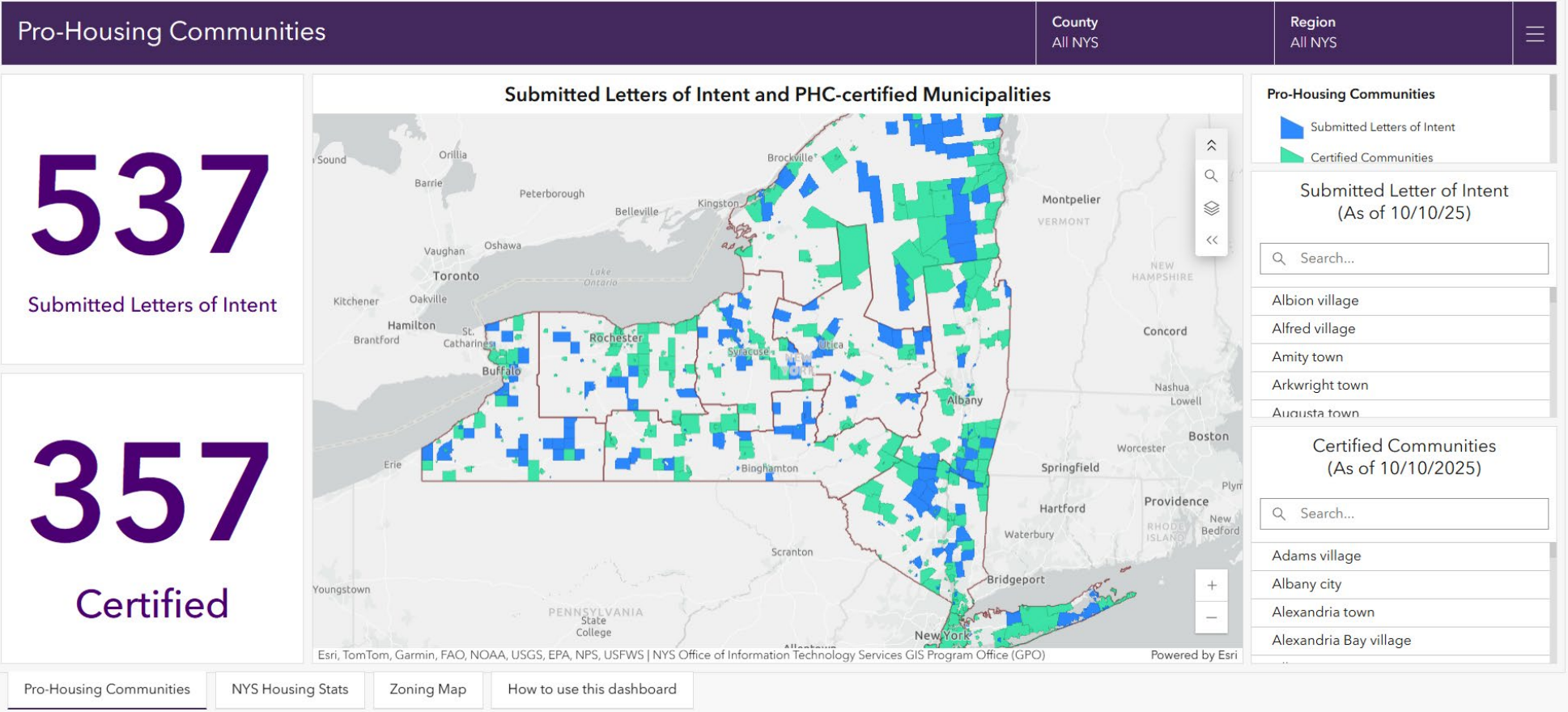
- Innovative Solutions for Medical and Social Care Needs
- Sustaining Success: Tenant Engagement and Staff Retention

Breakout Session 1: Site Selection Considerations

NYS Homes and Community Renewal Pro-Housing Community Program

- Pro-Housing Community Program certification required for municipalities applying to certain discretionary funding programs.
- Municipalities can apply for certification based on successful support for housing growth in the past and/or stating a commitment to addressing slow housing growth moving forward.
- [NYS HCR Pro-Housing Community Program](#)

Pro-Housing Communities Dashboard





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