

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Minority Leader of the U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

July 17, 2020

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader McCarthy and Minority Leader Schumer:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we call on Congress to fund **\$100 billion** in rental assistance for households impacted by COVID-19 and **\$915 billion** to keep state and local governments funded, in order to continue critical public programs.

With widespread job loss and more than 30,000 dead in our state, the virus has taken a devastating toll on New York State's communities and its economy, with low-income communities and Black and Latino households bearing a disproportionate share of the health and economic harms. Prior to this health crisis, one out of every three renter households were already paying more than 30% of their income on housing in New York. While enhanced unemployment assistance and eviction moratoriums have aided many renters, these households are facing risk of eviction when benefits end before the economy has even partially recovered.

This pandemic has underscored the importance of housing to the safety and well-being of Americans. Families and individuals have been asked to socially distance to prevent the spread of the virus, and they can only do that with safe and stable housing. This is why rental assistance should be viewed as a critical component of the public health response to fighting this deadly virus. Without it, families will be forced to double up in overcrowded conditions or face homelessness. These outcomes will impede efforts to control COVID-19.

But because of this crisis, many Americans are at risk of losing their housing. As businesses have shuttered to prevent the spread of the Coronavirus, millions of Americans have lost their jobs or seen their hours cut. NYU Furman Center estimates that nearly 1.2 million renter households in NY State have suffered COVID-19 related job loss and that half of these households are low-income. Assuming 25% job recovery, they project that in August (once enhanced benefits expire), the rental assistance need among low-income households in New York State will be approximately \$391 million per month. Without government assistance, many will be unable to afford their rent.

However, revenues have declined dramatically for city and state governments, and they will be unable to provide the needed housing assistance. At risk are also a wide array of programs such as education, social services and affordable housing.

As leaders of the House and Senate, it is in your power to take action. Together, the following organizations and elected officials call on you to act with urgency to include critical funding for rental assistance and aid to state and local governments in the next federal funding package.

Sincerely,



Rachel Fee  
Executive Director  
New York Housing Conference

**In partnership, the following 51 New York elected officials, 5 former housing agency leaders and 98 organizations jointly sign this letter:**

**Elected Officials**

Jumaane Williams, New York City Public Advocate  
Eric Adams, Brooklyn Borough President  
Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President  
Ruben Diaz Jr., Bronx Borough President  
New York State Senator Monica Martinez, SD 3  
New York State Senator James Gaughran, SD 5  
New York State Senator Kevin Thomas, SD 6  
New York State Senator Anna Kaplan, SD 7  
New York State Senator John Liu, SD 11  
New York State Senator Michael Gianaris, SD 12  
New York State Senator Leroy Comrie, SD 14  
New York State Senator Julia Salazar, SD 18  
New York State Senator Kevin Parker, SD 21  
New York State Senator Andrew Gounardes, SD 22  
New York State Senator Diane Savino, SD 23  
New York State Senator Velmanette Montgomery, SD 25  
New York State Senator Brian Kavanagh, SD 26  
New York State Senator Brad Hoylman, SD 27  
New York State Senator Liz Krueger, SD 28  
New York State Senator Brian Benjamin, SD 30  
New York State Senator Luis Sepúlveda, SD 32  
New York State Senator Gustavo Rivera, SD 33  
New York State Senator Alessandra Biaggi, SD 34

New York State Senator Shelly Mayer, SD 37  
New York State Senator David Carlucci, SD 38  
New York State Senator James Skoufis, SD 39  
New York State Senator Rachel May, SD 53  
New York State Senator Timothy Kennedy, SD 63  
New York State Assembly Member Andrew Hevesi, District 28  
New York State Assembly Member Brian Barnwell, District 30  
New York State Assembly Member Aravella Simotas, District 36  
New York State Assembly Member Steven Cymbrowitz, District 45  
New York State Assembly Member Mathylde Frontus, District 46  
New York State Assembly Member Walter Mosley, District 57  
New York State Assembly Member Richard Gottfried, District 75  
New York State Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright, District 76  
New York State Assembly Member Karines Reyes, District 87  
New York State Assembly Member Donna Lupardo, District 123  
New York State Assembly Member Pamela Hunter, District 128  
New York State Assembly Member Harry Bronson, District 138  
New York City Council Speaker Corey Johnson, District 3  
New York City Council Member Carlina Rivera, District 2  
New York City Council Member Keith Powers, District 4  
New York City Council Member Diana Ayala, District 8  
New York City Council Member Barry Grodenchik, District 23  
New York City Council Member Antonio Reynoso, District 34  
New York City Council Member Robert E. Cornegy, Jr., District 36  
New York City Council Member Carlos Menchaca, District 38  
New York City Council Member Brad Lander, District 39  
New York City Council Member Kalman Yager, District 44  
New York City Council Member Debi Rose, District 49

### **Former Housing Agency Leaders**

Shaun Donovan, Former HUD Secretary & OMB Director  
Marc Jahr, Former New York City Housing Development Corporation President  
Gary Rodney, Former New York City Housing Development Corporation President  
Mathew Wambua, Former New York City Dept of Housing Preservation & Development Commissioner  
Rafael Cestero, Former New York City Dept of Housing Preservation & Development Commissioner

### **Organizations**

334 East 92nd Street Tenant Association  
The Actors Fund  
American Academy of Housing and Communities  
The Arker Companies

Ascendant Neighborhood Development Corporation  
Association for Neighborhood and Housing Development  
Benchmark Title Agency LLC  
Bernheimer Architecture  
Breaking Ground  
Bright Power  
Brownsville Partnership  
CAMBA, Inc.  
Carroll Gardens Association, Inc.  
Center for New York City Neighborhoods  
Central Park Gardens Tenants' Association  
Chhaya Community Development Corporation  
Citizens' Committee for Children of New York  
Citizens Housing and Planning Council  
Coalition for the Homeless  
Community League of the Heights. Inc  
The Community Preservation Corporation  
Community Service Society of NY  
CREA, LLC  
CSH  
Curtis + Ginsberg Architects LLP  
Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation  
Dattner Architects  
Douglaston Development  
Dunn Development Corp.  
Enterprise Community Partners  
Federal Home Loan Bank of NY  
Fifth Avenue Committee  
Fordham Bedford Housing Corporation  
FPWA  
Gateway Housing  
Goddard Riverside  
Goldstein Hall PLLC  
Gotham  
Greater Syracuse Tenants Network  
Habitat for Humanity New York City  
Highbridge Community Development Corp.  
Housing Justice for All  
Housing Rights Initiative  
The Hudson Companies Inc  
Hudson River Housing

Human Services Council  
IMPACCT Brooklyn  
Interfaith Assembly on Homelessness and Housing  
JOE NYC Corp.  
Kinetic Communities Consulting  
LeadingAge New York  
Legal Aid Society  
LISC NYC  
LiveOn NY  
Low Income Investment Fund  
Magnusson Architecture & Planning  
MBD Community Housing Corp.  
Mega Contracting  
Merchants Capital  
Metro Futures  
MHANY Management Inc.  
MLappin & Associates LLC  
Mount Vernon United Tenants, Inc.  
National Housing Conference  
National Panhellenic Council of NYC, INC  
Neighbors Helping Neighbors  
New Destiny Housing  
New York City Housing Partnership  
New York Land Bank Association  
New York State Association for Affordable Housing  
New York State Council of Churches  
New York State Rural Housing Coalition, Inc.  
Northwest Bronx Community & Clergy Coalition  
The NRP Group  
Pennrose, LLC  
Phipps Houses  
Power of Two, Project of the Fund for the City of New York  
Real Estate Board of New York (REBNY)  
Red Hook Initiative  
Red Stone Equity Partners  
Regional Plan Association  
Regions Affordable Housing  
Related  
RiseBoro Community Partnership  
Rockabill  
Selfhelp Realty Group

Settlement Housing Fund  
SKA Marin  
Slate Property Group  
St. Catherine's Center for Children  
St. Nicks Alliance  
Supportive Housing Network of New York  
UAI  
Urban Builders Collaborative LLC  
University Neighborhood Housing Program  
Wavecrest Management  
Win  
YWCA BROOKLYN