



SAFETY NET ACTIVISTS

Supported by the Safety Net Project at the Urban Justice Center

FOR THE RECORD

FOR THE RECORD

City of New York
Committee on Housing and Buildings
Int 0601-2018

**A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York,
in relation to requiring certain reporting on an affordable housing plan
Tuesday, June 26, 2018**

My name is Wendy O'Shields I am testifying as a Housing and Homeless Rights Advocate and a member of the Urban Justice Safety Net Activists.

City of New York Department of Homeless Services Single Adult shelter residents require an extensive vetting through the mandatory New York State Housing Plan for Homeless. By implementing the housing plan at all DHS and DHS Nonprofit vendor shelters a comprehensive housing plan can be designed per shelter resident.

HUD's Family Re- Unification allows for the natural patterns of temporary separation of families with the expectation of reuniting as the goal. During these times of the family member's temporary separation due to Homelessness the Single Adult shelter resident is incorrectly deemed as one individual. Often there are minor children, disabled children adult or minors, elderly parent/s, a spouse, a family member with a disability, and other family variables. These family members are in the care of other family, friends, or ambulatory care facilities. A traumatized Homeless family presents with an array of housing, health, economic, and other issues. To properly house and prevent multiple returns to the DHS Shelter the Single Adult shelter resident requires a non-hostile New York State Housing Plan assessment accounting for all family members which they are responsible.

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act As amended by S. 896 The Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act of 2009 page 6.

States

(15) PERMANENT HOUSING.—The term 'permanent housing' means community-based housing without a designated length of stay, and includes **both permanent supportive housing and permanent housing without supportive services.**

The City of New York Department of Homeless Services and their DHS Nonprofit vendor shelters are not screening the DHS Single Adult shelter residents for independent permanent housing as outlined by HUD McKinney Vento. This is a direct violation to HUD's condition on receiving federal dollars for Homeless New Yorkers.

I thank you for considering my suggestions in ensuring that the DHS Single Adult Shelter Residents are assessed for Independent Permanent Housing and to correctly assess their family composition.

 (Shelter's Name)

HOUSING PLAN

 (Housing Specialist)

Resident Name:	Rm #:	Admission Date:
Telephone:		Caseworker:
I.M./LDSS:		Boro/County:
P.A. Caseworker:		Telephone:
Social Security #:		P.A. Identification #:
Date you became homeless:		Reason for homelessness:
Marital Status:		

List the head of household's last four places of residence:

Address	County/Borough	Date moved in	Date moved out	Reason for move
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				

List all persons who live with the family in the shelter:

Name	Relationship	Age	Citizenship	Income Amount	List School Attending
1. HOH					
2.					
3.					
4.					

1. Does the family have any children in foster care? Yes No

Explain the need for foster care: _____

2. Does the family anticipate additional individuals residing with them in permanent housing? If yes, please list below.

NAME	AGE	SEX	RELATIONSHIP	FAMILY REUNIFICATION PLANS:

General Health:

Parent(s): _____ Child(ren): _____

Special problems: _____

1. Is any member of the family pregnant? Yes No
If yes, when is the baby expected? _____

2. Is any member of the family disabled? Yes No
If yes, enter the name and disability _____

3. Are any family members currently involved in a special program? Yes No

Who: _____

Substance Abuse: _____ Alcoholism Counseling: _____ Mental Health: _____ Other: _____

4. Explain any reason why the family may be disqualified for permanent housing: _____

5. Has any member of the family been convicted of a crime? Yes No Who? _____
Explain. _____

6. Has any member of the family ever been on probation or parole? Yes No Who? _____
Explain. _____

INCOME:

Current Sources of Income (all that apply)	Monthly
Public Assistance/Family Assistance Safety Net Assistance	\$
Supplemental Security Income (SSI)	\$
Social Security	\$
Employment	\$
Other (please specify):	\$

Entitlement	Mandated?	Amount Mandated	Amount Currently Received
WIC	Yes () No ()		
Home Emergency	Yes () No ()		
Food Stamps	Yes () No ()		
Car fare (apt. search)	Yes () No ()		
Car fare (school)	Yes () No ()		
Pregnancy	Yes () No ()		
Other (Specify):	Yes () No ()		

1. Are any family members currently enrolled in a training program or attending school? Yes No

2. Name and address of program or school: _____

Date started: _____ Expected date of completion: _____

3. How many bedrooms needed? _____

4. List other housing applications filed?

- a. _____ Date Applied: _____
- b. _____ Date Applied: _____
- c. _____ Date Applied: _____
- d. _____ Date Applied: _____

5. Does the family have furniture? _____ Where? _____

6. Date placed in storage. _____

Housing Specialist: _____

Date of Survey: _____

New York State Housing Plan
Shelter Homeless Residents by Borough
<http://otda.ny.gov/programs/shelter/documents/C-FORMS/C16-Housing-Plan.rtf>

**The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act
As amended by S. 896 The Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to
Housing (HEARTH) Act of 2009**

(10) LEGAL ENTITY.—The term `legal entity' means—

(A) an entity described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. 501(c)(3)) and exempt from tax under section 501(a) of such Code;

(B) an instrumentality of State or local government; or

(C) a consortium of instrumentalities of State or local governments that has constituted itself as an entity.

(11) METROPOLITAN CITY; URBAN COUNTY; NONENTITLEMENT AREA.—The terms `metropolitan city', `urban county', and `nonentitlement area' have the meanings given such terms in section 102(a) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5302(a)).

(12) NEW.—The term `new' means, with respect to housing, that no assistance has been provided under this title for the housing.

(13) OPERATING COSTS.—The term `operating costs' means expenses incurred by a project sponsor operating transitional housing or permanent housing under this title with respect to—

(A) the administration, maintenance, repair, and security of such housing;

(B) utilities, fuel, furnishings, and equipment for such housing; or

(C) coordination of services as needed to ensure long-term housing stability.

(14) OUTPATIENT HEALTH SERVICES.—The term `outpatient health services' means outpatient health care services, mental health services, and outpatient substance abuse services.

(15) PERMANENT HOUSING.—The term `permanent housing' means community-based housing without a designated length of stay, and includes both permanent supportive housing and permanent housing without supportive services.

(16) PERSONALLY IDENTIFYING INFORMATION.—The term `personally identifying information' means individually identifying information for or about an individual, including information likely to disclose the location of a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, including—

(A) a first and last name;

(B) a home or other physical address;

(C) contact information (including a postal, e-mail or Internet protocol address, or telephone or facsimile number);

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act As amended by S. 896 The Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act of 2009
Page 6

<https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/HomelessAssistanceActAmendedbyHEARTH.pdf>

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 0601-2018 Res. No. _____
 in favor in opposition

Date: 6/26/18

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Wendy O'Shields

Address: 123 William Street

I represent: SafeNet Activists For Affordable

Address: Housing for Homeless New Yorkers

◆ Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms ◆