

CHILD POVERTY SOLUTION: HOUSING VOUCHERS

What are rental assistance vouchers?

Statewide, more than 100,000 New Yorkers experiencing homelessness sleep in a shelter or on the street on any given night, and thousands more sleep doubled up with friends and family in overcrowded units.

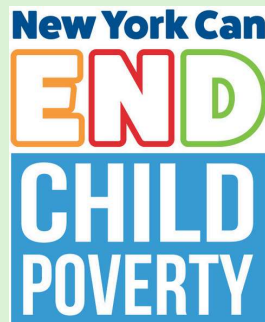


Millions more New Yorkers and their children experience housing instability, including many who live on the brink of homelessness. Across New York State, nearly two in five (approximately 3 million) households are rent-burdened, paying more than 30% of their income on housing, and one in five (approximately 1.5 million) are severely rent-burdened, spending more than 50% of their income on housing each year. High levels of rent burden can push any household into housing instability, but this risk is especially severe for New York's lowest-income families who may be only one missed paycheck or unexpected expense away from falling behind on rent.

Research shows that rental assistance vouchers, which subsidize housing costs for low-income families, reduce homelessness and housing instability,ⁱⁱⁱ improve outcomes for children,^{iv} improve academic performance,^v and promote beneficial outcomes for family well-being, including halving intimate partner violence.^{vi} Federal Housing Choice Vouchers (HCVs) reduce the poverty rate for recipients by 43%^{vii} and provide long-term benefits to households that previously experienced homelessness.^{viii} However, despite the wealth of evidence about the positive and immediate effects of rental assistance for children and families, some households are ineligible for HCVs. Even among HCV-eligible households, only one in four receive HCVs because the program is not an entitlement.

ABOUT NEW YORK CAN END CHILD POVERTY

New York Can End Child Poverty is a coalition of organizations from across New York State working to improve long-term outcomes for children and families from households experiencing economic hardship. We are dedicated to advancing public policies that support children and families while reducing child poverty and inequity across New York State.



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What change is needed to make rental assistance work better for children and families?

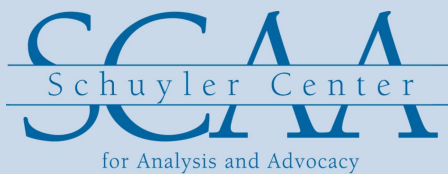
New York should create its own rental assistance program to serve income-eligible renting households (50% AMI) not currently receiving HCVs or other rental vouchers. Like other vouchers, the program would cover the difference between the rent (up to 108% of the Fair Market Rent) and 30% of household income. Unlike other vouchers, the program should be available to households regardless of immigration status.

An effective program should be an entitlement to ensure that all low-income renting households receive the critical housing supports they need.

What will this mean for New York's children?



A statewide rental assistance program available to all unsubsidized renting households below 50% AMI would cut child poverty by nearly 16% statewide (15.7%). **The program would move 250,000 New Yorkers, including 82,000 children out of poverty.**



THE SCHUYLER CENTER

is a non-profit organization advocating for public policies proven to improve health, well-being, and economic security for all New Yorkers, especially children and families experiencing poverty.

www.scaany.org

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- ii. Office of the New York State Comptroller. (2024). New Yorkers in Need: The Housing Insecurity Crisis. <https://www.osc.ny.gov/reports/new-yorkers-need-housing-insecurity-crisis>
- iii. Gould, I.E. (2018). What Do We Know About Housing Choice Vouchers? furmancenter.org/files/fact-sheets/HousingChoiceVouchers_ige.pdf
- iv. American Economic Review. (2016). The Effects of Exposure to Better Neighborhoods on Children: New Evidence from the Moving to Opportunity Experiment. <https://www.aeaweb.org/articles?id=10.1257/aer.20150572>
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- vi. Rice, D. (2015). Major Study: Housing Vouchers Most Effective Tool to End Family Homelessness. www.cbpp.org/blog/major-study-housing-vouchers-most-effective-tool-to-end-family-homelessness
- vii. Collyer, S. et al. (2020) Housing Vouchers and Tax Credits: Pairing the Proposal to Transform Section 8 with Expansions to the EITC and the Child Tax Credit Could Cut the National Poverty Rate by Half. <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/610831a16c95260dbd68934a/t/64cbab387c63027f2f3ec1cb/1691069242904/Housing-Vouchers-and-Tax-Credits-CPSP-08-03-2023.pdf>
- viii. U.S. H.U.D. Office of Policy Development and Research. (2016). Family Options Study: 3-Year Impacts of Housing and Services Interventions for Homeless Families. <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/sites/default/files/pdf/family-options-study-full-report.pdf>.