

The First Capital Region Workgroup meeting was held June 25th to discuss education and advocacy efforts for potential cuts and policy changes for homeless housing programs, including the Continuum of Care (CoC) and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) programs. There was a review of the two goals of the work group as well as reiterating key concerns:

Workgroup Goals:

- 1) Leveraging your existing relationships with Federal representatives to assist CoC efforts to educate and advocate for proposed structural changes to CoC and ESG programs;
- 2) Develop strategies to limit impact if funding and policy changes were enacted.

Key Concerns:

- 1) **24-month limit on rental assistance** will result in restructuring or
- 2) **Consolidation and change in distribution of funds, block granting to states or local governments**
- 3) **Reduction of funding for Homeless Assistance Grants by \$532 million or 15%**

By the Numbers:

- On the most recent **Point-in-Time Count, 1,647 people** were experiencing homelessness in the Capital Region alone.
- On the night of 2025 **Point in Time Count there were 836 people in overflow shelter beds (hotels and motels)** so the system is already over capacity before cuts and restructuring
- There **are currently 1,374 Permanent Supportive housing beds in the Capital Region.** If the 24-month limitation is enacted the majority of those in those beds will be terminated and may return to the emergency shelter system.

What We're Doing About It:

As a group, we came up with several next steps to advocate against the proposed funding cuts:

- Identifying whether workgroup members have relationships with Federal Reps
- Drafting letters to Rep. Tonko and Rep. Riley outlining our concerns
- Creating a one-pager that summarizes how the cuts would impact our counties
- Request success stories from participants who've been helped by CoC and ESG programs
- Identify local landlords to speak up about how these programs work in real life
- Developing a joint sign-on letter for local agencies and government officials

- Connect with New York State Association for Counties (NYSAC) for potential collaboration and broader reach
- Identify individuals who have experienced homelessness and invite them to share how housing programs have made a positive difference in their lives.

Next Steps (Who's Doing What):

- **CARES Team:** Draft letters and the one-pager, distribute within 2–3 weeks before July 23
- **Tracy:** Contact Assemblyman Ashby's office
- **Cameron:** Link CARES with NYSAC
- **Ricki:** Prep to share her story as part of our advocacy push
- **CARES Team:** Update web materials and keep everyone posted