



April 20, 2012

Honorable Christine Quinn  
Speaker of the New York City Council  
250 Broadway, Suite 1856  
New York, NY 10007

Dear Speaker Quinn:

On behalf of the HIV Health and Human Services Planning Council of New York (Planning Council), I write to encourage you to restore the proposed cuts to HIV/AIDS housing, nutrition, and preventive services in Mayor Bloomberg's budget. The requested restoration for supportive housing and food and nutrition is a total of \$6.2 million. The requested restoration for HASA brokers' fees is a total of \$4.8 million. The HIV prevention contract cuts proposed in the NYC DOHMH budget come to a total of \$1.4 million. We encourage you either to negotiate restorations with the Administration for these amounts or to cover the cuts in the discretionary restoration process at the end of the budget season if the Administration does not cover them.

The Planning Council is comprised of service providers, governmental representatives, advocates, and consumers, all of whom are well aware of the powerful impact of housing, food, and preventive care on the health and well-being of People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA). Planning Council members are charged with setting priorities for and allocating \$120 million in federal funding for treatment and care for PLWHA in the New York Eligible Metropolitan Area. Many Planning Council members have committed their entire professional lives to battling this epidemic and know that without these most fundamental resources and services, many PLWHA will cease to adhere to their medication regimens, lose their homes, and fall out of care.

PLWHA who take their medication regularly are 96% less infectious. Staying on the drug regimens benefits not only them but the community as a whole. Housing is crucial to maintenance in care: without it, PLWHA will wind up on the streets, in shelters, and in SROs and will ultimately require more expensive interventions. Finding housing stock in New York City is already challenging, and the Mayor's proposed cuts to the housing budget, coupled with the refusal of many landlords to accept vouchers provided by the

HIV/AIDS Services Administration in place of cash deposits, makes the situation even more challenging. The Planning Council can, if necessary, increase its allocation to housing services for PLWHA, but that means drawing funding away from another service category.

Restoring the proposed cuts averts a bad scenario. New York has carefully constructed a continuum of care, and we strongly urge you not to backtrack on the remarkable progress that we have made as a City in managing an epidemic that threatens our most vulnerable citizens.

Thank you very much for considering this request.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dorella Walters". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Dorella Walters  
Community Co-Chair

cc: Michael Bloomberg, Mayor of the City of New York  
Sharen Duke, Chair, Policy Committee  
Jan Carl Park, Governmental Co-Chair, Planning Council