

Most Integrated Setting Coordinating Council-Housing Task Force
Monday, July 7, 2008

1. The Nursing Home Transition and Diversion Waiver (NHTD) housing subsidy. Funded through the New York State Legislature to DOH and suballocated to DHCR at 2.5 million dollars annually is nearing finalization. This rent subsidy, modeled on the section 8/HCV program will be made available through a partnership with our Section 8 Local Administrators. It is anticipated that this program will roll out as a pilot in 12 counties and New York City and then include all other Local Administrators following this pilot phase.
2. The accessible housing registry has greatly expanded its listings and will soon be undergoing a major reconstruction, with a new website host, Socialserve.com, who currently operates affordable housing directories in 25 states. These new enhancements will position the site as the leading housing locator tool for New York State.
3. The Task force has identified three workgroups to focus in on some of our objectives:
 - Rental Subsidies, chaired by Shelly Nortz- Coalition for the Homeless
 - Education Campaign, chaired by Vera Prosper- State Office for the Aging
 - Data, chaired by Harvey Rosenthal- New York Association of Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services

These groups have been slated to report out on their activities and future directions, in our meeting of 7/1/08. Towards these ends we have also engaged Dr. Kathryn Nelson, a former HUD staff person who has extensive experience on researching and writing reports on housing for persons with disabilities, to facilitate our discussion on data as it exists and what is missing to help guide our future directions.

4. In early 2008, DHCR revised the Qualified Allocation Plan, or QAP, which regulates how the agency administers the Federal Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHC) program. LIHC is a very important tool to infuse private sector dollars into affordable housing. The revised QAP identified visitability standards as review criteria. It also included rating criteria for fully accessible and adapted, move-in ready units.
5. The 2008-2009 Executive Budget increased funding to DHCR programs by about \$200 million over traditional levels. On June 30, Governor Paterson announced \$137 million in funding awarded by DHCR that will help build and preserve more than 6,000 units of affordable housing – nearly twice the number of units created and preserved by DHCR last year. These awards include \$87 million in capital projects. All of the units created will meet high energy efficiency standards and provide an unprecedented level of accessibility for people with disabilities. These awards also include \$14 million in Access to Home funds to make accessibility modifications to 917 units and \$6.3 million in RESTORE (Residential Emergency Services to Offer Repairs to the Elderly) to make emergency repairs to 2,066 units.