



COMMITTEE ON GENERAL WELFARE

April 24, 2018

OVERSIGHT: UPDATE ON THE NYC 15/15 INITIATIVE

Good afternoon. I am Kristin Miller, Director of the Metro team for CSH, a New York City-based nonprofit that finances, provides expertise and advocates for supportive housing.

As everyone in this chamber is aware, developers scale considerable hurdles to build supportive housing for people facing homelessness in New York City. They must locate available and affordable properties, cobble together financing from the City, State and myriad other sources, woo the community, and line up the special services needed by residents.

Given these considerable challenges, it is imperative for each member of this Council to become a champion of supportive housing in your districts and neighborhoods, helping us to educate our fellow New Yorkers on the value that quality supportive housing brings to everyone who lives, works and visits in this City.

It is not easy being a proponent. There are a great number of myths surrounding affordable, supportive housing and NIMBYism is a strong current to swim against. But the evidence is on our side. It has been proven time and again the only way to truly address the needs of homeless individuals and families is with strategic efforts to create more affordable, supportive housing throughout the City.

Given the labyrinth developers must navigate, supportive housing creation does not always happen as quickly as we would like it to unfold. All the more reason why your support and community buy-in becomes important.

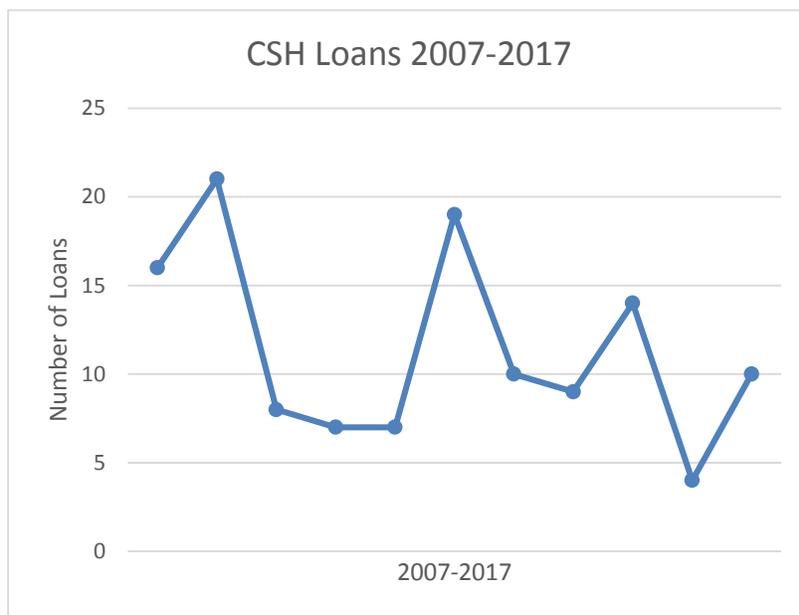
When unfounded fears and biases add months – and in some cases years – to an already time-consuming process, whole projects and the chance to move more New Yorkers off the streets can be lost forever.

Mayor de Blasio has earmarked additional and substantial resources to create supportive housing because he understands the challenges and solution.

Timing is becoming more of a consideration as new avenues for the development of supportive housing open up. As NY/NY III has wound down, we are seeing greater and greater interest in accessing the additional resources committed by the de Blasio Administration.

In the years 2012-2015 as NY/NYIII was at its height, CSH closed an average of 13 loans per year (\$17.7 million). Then, as the initiative was ending in 2016, we had a dramatic decrease

and closed only 4 loans (\$11.8 million). Once the NY4 initiative was agreed upon, we once again saw a great uptick, closing 10 loans (\$21.6 million) in 2017. So far this year at CSH, for example, we have 30 NYC supportive housing projects at various stages of our loan process. This translates to the creation of up to 1,500 new supportive housing units and 3,000 new units in our pipeline for individuals and families desperately in need of affordable housing with supports.



And the strategic elements are falling into place as well. As co-chair of the New York City Continuum of Care Coordinated Assessment & Placement System or CAPS Steering Committee, I can share with you the progress to better match those in need directly to supportive housing.

CAPS is a system that will streamline the process by which people access housing in NYC. The system is being designed by a dedicated group of public sector agencies and non-profit organizations collaborating to develop the scope and strategy for implementing HUD-mandated coordinated entry for homeless persons in New York City. Coordinated entry is an approach to ending homelessness that requires comprehensive coordination of all housing and service resources in a community to ensure people experiencing homelessness are matched with the appropriate permanent placements, thereby leveraging efficiently and effectively available supportive housing. Analysis of CAPS activities will provide the city with more information on our housing placement process and the gaps and needs for housing in NYC.

As we work together to push out more resources and ensure they are used to house as many as possible, we, more than ever, need your voices of support to be loud and decisive. Help us dispel the concerns, answer the questions, and move supportive housing forward in every borough of the City.