Throughout New York State, far too many people are homeless or precariously housed. As a faith community, we urge congregations to promote policies to alleviate homelessness in their communities. Among the most cost effective and immediate remedies to this crisis is to help those in shelters or in unsafe or unstable housing to bridge the difference between government housing allowances and the actual rents that people need to pay for their housing. Rent subsidies offer immediate relief and cost far less in comparison to the shelter system which can cost up to $71,000 per family, per average shelter stay.

The New York State Legislature is now on the precipice of passing Home Stability Support. With a bi-partisan majority support for HSS, sponsored by 129 members of the Assembly and 39 State Senators, support from the faith community this crucial proposal become New York State law. On the weekend of March 13, 14 and 15 we invite religious leaders to raise up the homeless crisis in their pulpits in light of their faith tradition and invite their parishioners to call on the Governor Cuomo to support this profoundly humane and prudent legislation to reduce homelessness as part of the state budget which must be approved on April 1.

Public assistance housing allowances average about $300 per month for a family of three with children statewide ($400 per month in NYC) – only a fraction of the cost of affordable apartments in every housing market in the state.

HSS would require New York State to supplement these inadequate shelter allowances up to 85 percent of the Fair Market Rent. Localities would have the option to cover the additional amount needed to bring maximum rents up to 100 percent of Fair Market Rents as may be needed given local market conditions.

NYC Comptroller Scott M. Stringer projected in 2017, HSS could reduce New York City’s shelter population by 80 percent among families with children and 40 percent among single adults in a decade, saving New York City about $316 million in its tenth year through foregone shelter costs. By redirecting State and Federal shelter funds to rent subsidies, the State’s investment in HSS would represent a long-overdue course correction. All levels of government must work together to tackle homelessness.

Please go [https://sayvestohss.org](https://sayvestohss.org) to send a letter to the Governor and Post on Facebook and Twitter in support of HSS.