



EMERGENCY & INTERVENTION SERVICES: OFFICE OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Local Law 83 of 2018

**2020 Annual Report on Exits from NYC Domestic
Violence Shelters**

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I. Introduction

In 2018, Local Law No. 83 (LL 83) was enacted amending section 21-141¹ of the administrative code of the City of New York, in relation to exits from domestic violence (DV) emergency shelters. LL 83 requires the New York City's Department of Social Services / Human Resources Administration (HRA) to submit an annual report to the Speaker of the NYC Council and upload to the Council's website, exits from domestic violence emergency shelters.

The provision of shelter services for survivors of domestic violence is mandated under the NYS Social Services Law and in accordance with NYS Office of Family and Children's Services (OCFS) and Title 18 of the NY Codes, Rules and Regulations Parts 452, 453, 454 and 455 for the purpose of providing emergency shelter, services and care to survivors of domestic violence.

New York City's Domestic Violence shelter system overseen by HRA is the largest in the country. Emergency shelter services are designed to stabilize clients in a safe environment. Programs are developed to work with families to address the crisis and trauma of domestic violence and enhance client self-sufficiency. Required services include individual counseling, advocacy, psycho-educational groups and trauma-focused interventions that address the dynamics of domestic violence and particularly the impact on parenting. All domestic violence shelters are required to provide childcare services and assist clients with housing, benefit entitlement assistance, financial development services and workforce development/employment readiness services to maximize self-sufficiency.

In 2020, HRA added 11 new emergency beds to the network, increasing overall capacity to the domestic violence shelter network. The emergency domestic violence shelter system consists of 46 confidential facilities throughout all five boroughs of New York City with a total bed capacity of 2,525 emergency beds. Additionally, there are 8 DV Tier II/transitional shelter facilities totaling 333 Tier II units.² In 2020, the HRA domestic violence system served 9,439 individuals, which included 472 single adults and 3,626 families (comprised of adults and children).

In September 2015, Mayor de Blasio announced that the City would develop 400 additional DV Tier II units and 300 emergency beds – an unprecedented addition by the City to address capacity in the domestic violence shelter system. As of December 31, 2020, all 300 emergency beds and all 400 Tier II units have been awarded.

¹ Section 21-141 specifies the information to be included in the report, as follows:

The total number of individuals and the total number of families who exited a domestic violence emergency shelter during the preceding calendar year, disaggregated by the type of housing such individuals and families residing in upon their exit. Such housing types shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- (i) a New York city housing authority apartment;
- (ii) an apartment with a rental subsidy, disaggregated by the type of such subsidy;
- (iii) a private apartment with no rental subsidy;
- (iv) supportive housing;
- (v) shelter operated by or under contract or similar agreement with the department of homeless services;
- (viii) shelter operated by or under contract or similar agreement with the department, disaggregated by type, where practicable;
- (ix) made own arrangements or;
- (iix) unknown or unable to validate.

² In 2020, HRA closed a Tier II Facility, bringing the total number of facilities to 8.

II. 2020 Domestic Violence Exit Data

a. Shelter Discharges by Housing Type – Emergency Shelter Only ³

As specified in State regulation, emergency domestic violence shelters provide temporary housing and supportive services for up to 180 days in a safe environment for survivors of domestic violence and their families. Every provider is expected to develop a housing plan with DV shelter clients, the Office of Domestic Violence (ODV) works closely with providers to support staff and clients during each transition.

In CY 2020, HRA DV shelters served a total of 9,439 adults and children – of which 2,727 households (including families and single adults) were discharged from domestic violence emergency shelters.

In 2017, HRA and New York City’s Department of Social Services / Department of Homeless Services (DHS) implemented a streamlined process for clients who had reached the State-set 90-day limit in the DV emergency bed system with no options for permanent housing to transfer into the DHS shelter system. This process promotes a safer and more efficient path for DV clients to access DHS resources and simplifies the sharing of information for admissions purposes. In 2020, 3 Single adult and 446 Families timing out of DV shelters transitioned over to DHS shelters.

Housing Type	Households ⁴	Families	Single Adults
New York city housing authority apartment	14	13	1
An apartment with a rental subsidy, disaggregated by the type of such subsidy ⁵	64	57	7
A private apartment with no rental subsidy	91	76	15
Supportive housing	3	2	1
Shelter operated by or under contract or similar agreement with the department of homeless services ⁶	1,007 (449)	889 (446)	118 (3)
Shelter operated by or under contract or similar agreement with the department, disaggregated by type, where practicable ⁷	364	352	12
Made own arrangements	414	345	69
Unknown or unable to validate ⁸	762	601	161
Other ⁹	8	6	2
TOTAL	2,727	2341	386

³ Discharges from DV shelters are self-reported by HRA contracted shelter providers.

⁴ Households accounts for both families and singles.

⁵ For the disaggregated housing subsidy types, refer to Figure 1.

⁶ This category accounts for households that timed out of DV emergency shelters and were streamlined to DHS [in parentheses] as well as clients who were administratively discharged for not complying with DV shelter rules and upon discharge eventually went to DHS on their own.

⁷ This category accounts for all households that were discharged from DV emergency shelter to DV Tier II shelter.

⁸ “Unknown or Unable to Validate” category reflects those individuals and families that left on their own without disclosing to the DV shelter provider where they were exiting to.

⁹ The “Other” category accounts unique discharges, for example, death of a client or removal of a child by ACS.

b. Apartment with Rental Subsidy Discharge by Subsidy Type

In 2019, the New York City rental assistance programs were streamlined. The new City Fighting Homelessness & Eviction Prevention Supplement (CityFHEPS) does not eliminate existing rental assistance or rehousing programs, but rather consolidated seven of our rental assistance programs, including their assessment processes into one, enabling a single, universal assessment for the different types of rental or rehousing assistance eligible New Yorkers in need might qualify for.

Within ODV the DV Housing Support Services Unit works with DV clients in shelter eligible for HRA housing subsidy programs, issuing housing certifications, approving housing application packages, conducting lease signings and lease renewals. DV Housing Specialists also look for appropriate housing for DV clients and work with landlords, brokers and clients to facilitate linkages to housing.

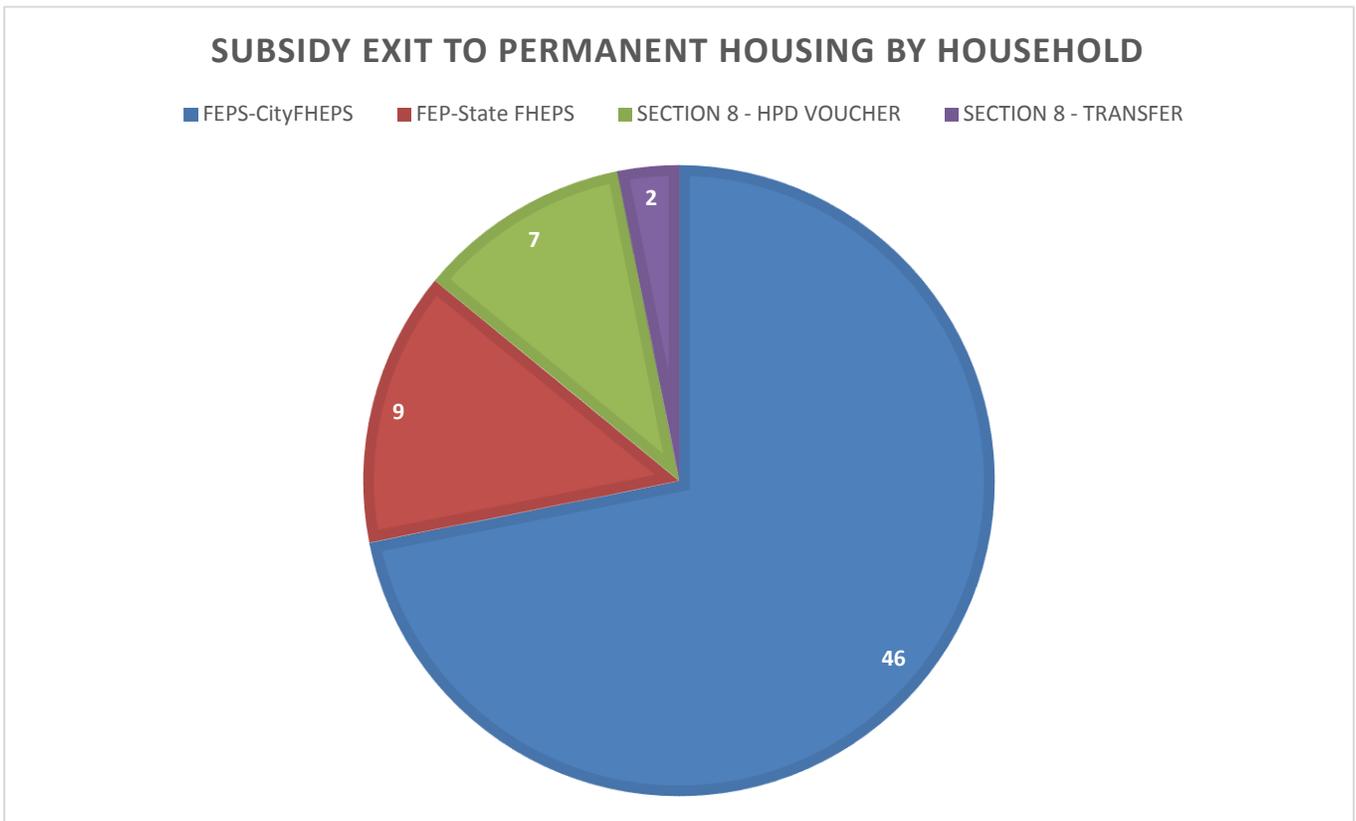


Figure 1