

Elizabeth Connolly  
Commissioner  
NJ Department of Human Services (DHS)  
PO Box 700  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0700

Re: Recommendation for the 2017 DHS Budget

Dear Commissioner Connolly:

As you know, there are many thousands of NJ residents living on very low incomes with disabilities but without access to independent housing because they cannot afford rent on an SSI check of less than \$800 monthly. We urge the Department to add new rental vouchers to its budget this coming year so that 1,000 more people will have the opportunity to move out of their family homes or move from substandard housing into safe, decent housing, or move out of homelessness. Persons living in stable housing are less likely to overuse emergency rooms and other high cost centers and can become a productive part of their local communities.

We ask that you work with Commissioner Chuck Richman of the Department of Community Affairs to make this happen. Every additional rental voucher offers individuals the opportunity to live as independently as possible in communities of their choice.

***(Please add your personal or professional story as a family, consumer, service provider or developer).***

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Name and Address