

January 14, 2016 - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Cathy Rought, [cathy.rought@berlinrosen.com](mailto:cathy.rought@berlinrosen.com), 202-263-9097

## ADVOCATES APPLAUD GOVERNOR CUOMO'S PLAN TO CREATE 20,000 NEW STATE FUNDED SUPPORTIVE HOUSING UNITS

*Governor makes historic pledge to creating 20,000 homes for most vulnerable New Yorkers over next 15 years*

**New York**—Following Governor Cuomo's State of the State address on Wednesday, housing advocates are applauding his initiative to create 20,000 new supportive housing units for homeless New Yorkers over the next 15 years.

Homelessness has increased dramatically throughout New York State over the past decade, and for the subset of homeless New Yorkers coping with serious mental and physical health challenges, supportive housing – with its offer of both affordable housing and onsite support services – has proven over the past thirty years to be the most effective long-term solution. Supportive housing not only breaks the cycle of homelessness and institutional care for the most vulnerable – with less than 5% returning to homelessness – it also pays for itself in reduced costs for shelter, hospitals and psychiatric care.

Permanent housing solutions are the only answer to New York's decades old homelessness crisis. The creation of 20,000 new units of supportive housing by the Governor over the next fifteen years will have a tremendous impact on the lives of all New Yorkers.

The Governor's plan adds to New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio's announcement last November to commit funding to 15,000 supportive housing units in the city over the next 15 years, bringing the total to 35,000 units committed statewide.

"The Supportive Housing Network of New York and its 200+ nonprofit member organizations wholeheartedly applaud Governor Cuomo's expansive commitment to supportive housing and especially its expansion statewide," said **Laura Mascuch, Executive Director, Supportive Housing Network of New York**. "As the Governor knows better than anyone else, supportive housing is the most effective and cost effective solution to addressing the housing needs of the State's most vulnerable citizens. The Network looks forward to working with the Governor and the Legislature to ensure that the proposed and final budget fully matches the Governor's commitment today. This is a spectacular win for New York's most vulnerable homeless citizens and we are deeply appreciative for the Governor's leadership."

"The Coalition for the Homeless is heartened that Governor Cuomo recognizes supportive housing as the cornerstone to solving homelessness and yesterday committed funding for 20,000 new units of supportive housing over the next 15 years," offered **Mary Brosnahan, President and CEO of the Coalition for the Homeless**. "We are confirming that this commitment is reflected in his executive budget and look forward to working in partnership to ensure this vital goal is realized."

"Thousands of the most vulnerable New Yorkers, from chronically homeless families and individuals to those struggling with addiction and mental illness, will now have a foundation for stable lives, thanks to Governor Cuomo's record 20,000-unit supportive housing commitment," said **Judi Kende, Vice President and New York Market Leader of Enterprise Community Partners, Inc.** "Supportive housing is not just good social policy—it's good economic policy. It helps people, saves money and creates jobs."

"In my 35 years operating one of the oldest supportive housing developers in the country, I know firsthand the many ways permanent housing can help people reclaim their lives, especially for those who have experienced homelessness, mental health issues, trauma, or incarceration," said **Steve Coe, CEO, Community Access**. "Having a stable home – a community with supports, friends and neighbors – provides a foundation for emotional and financial stability, and restores dignity while supporting the overall health and community integration of individuals and families. Community Access applauds the Governor for announcing 20,000 new statewide bringing the total to 35,000 new supportive housing units to meet the pressing need for the children, women, and men experiencing homelessness in NYC."

"As was confirmed by the Statewide Supportive Housing Need Assessment, over 30,000 more affordable housing units linked to support services are needed throughout New York State," said **Kristin Miller, CSH Director in New York**. "Yesterday, the Governor's announcement of 20,000 new supportive housing units in NY is a direct, bold response to addressing the needs of vulnerable people. We look forward to working with the State to ensure this new commitment to supportive housing is realized. The Governor's plan, coupled with New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio's package for 15,000 more units, makes the total of 35,000 the largest supportive housing initiative in the nation."

“On behalf of ACL and its members statewide, we must applaud the Governor for making housing a top priority,” said **Toni Lasicki, Executive Director of the Association for Community Living, Inc.** “It is a step in the right direction for protecting New York’s most vulnerable and disabled citizens, and will provide more access to the most critical and stabilizing factor in recovery – a home. ACL looks forward to the implementation of this housing plan and hope that persons with serious mental illnesses will be prioritized. The Governor’s plan to develop 20k units of supportive housing is exciting and necessary. ACL’s members statewide work tirelessly to keep New York’s most vulnerable citizens with serious mental illnesses in stable housing, as it is a key factor in their recovery. ACL looks forward to the implementation and hope that people with serious mental illnesses will have priority access to many of these units of Supportive Housing.”

“I would like to thank Governor Cuomo for recognizing the needs of the state's most vulnerable citizens. His commitment to ending homelessness is unprecedented,” said **Dale Zuchlewski, Executive Director of Homeless Alliance of WNY.**

“The Coalition of Behavioral Health Agencies is very pleased with the Governor’s commitment to fund 20,000 units of supportive housing,” said **Phillip A. Saperia, The Coalition’s CEO.** “We, as part of the NY/NY 4 Campaign, look forward to working with the Cuomo administration on the implementation of a plan that will begin to address the vast housing needs of people with behavioral health issues.”

“Governor Cuomo has been a champion of supportive housing for decades,” said **Brenda Rosen, President and CEO, Breaking Ground.** “With this announcement, he has made an incredible commitment to supportive housing that will help thousands of the most vulnerable New Yorkers. At Breaking Ground, we see supportive housing transform lives every single day. We thank Governor Cuomo for his leadership and dedication to helping the most vulnerable and at-risk New Yorkers who will now have safe, stable, affordable homes and access to the critical support services they need to succeed.”

“On behalf of the nearly 300 faith leaders of virtually every faith tradition from across New York State, who have urged the Governor to join with the Mayor in committing to provide 35,000 supportive housing units statewide for New York's most vulnerable, we applaud and thank Governor Andrew Cuomo for his historic commitment,” said **Marc Greenberg, Executive Director, Interfaith Assembly on Homelessness and Housing.** “We pray that this unprecedented effort, coupled with the other City and State initiatives now underway, will mark the moment that this crisis, three decades in the making, will finally begin to turn around.”

Ralph Fasano, **Executive Director, Concern for Independent Living** added, “We are thrilled with the Governor’s promise to develop 20,000 units of supportive housing statewide and with his idea for letting localities determine how best to use these precious resources. This is a major milestone for the state’s most vulnerable homeless people and we are overjoyed.”

“The Governor’s \$20 billion homeless plan along with the Mayor’s earlier commitment to create 15,000 units of supportive housing will result in the development of 35,000 new unit over the next 15 years,” said **Fred Shack, Executive Director, Urban Pathways.** “We applaud their collective commitments and look forward to working with them to place these new housing units in service.”

“We have to provide homes to end homelessness, and the state and city’s recent announcements to build tens of thousands more units of supportive housing will go a long way toward our collective goal of ending homelessness among New York’s most vulnerable,” said **Tony Hannigan, Executive Director, Center for Urban Community Services.** “These are extraordinary accomplishments.”

**Catholic Charities Housing Office of Albany and DePaul Housing Management's Executive Director, Deborah Damm O'Brien,** said "We are very happy to see the Governor's commitment to expanding supportive housing throughout New York State. Every day we in Catholic Charities Housing see how having a home with appropriate support can make a tremendous difference in the lives of men, women and families who have been homeless. With the dignity and help supportive housing provides, people have new hope that their future can be different from their past. We look forward to working with the Governor and the Legislature on this budget initiative."

###