



Budget Priority

ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN OF NEW YORK

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DON'T CUT SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS IN SHELTER

During the 2022–23 school year, 119,320 New York City students experienced homelessness, marking a 14% increase relative to the 2021–22 school year. Of those students, 40,840 (34%) spent time living in City shelters. While the recent increase in the number of immigrant families arriving in the City and entering the shelter system has brought greater public attention to the issue, **student homelessness is not a new phenomenon: 2022–23 was the eighth consecutive year in which more than 100,000 New York City students experienced homelessness.**

Students who are homeless, and especially those living in shelter, face tremendous obstacles to educational success. For example, in the 2021–22 school year (the most recent year for which data are available), of those students living in shelter:

- » 72% were chronically absent, meaning they missed one out of every ten school days.
- » Only 63% graduated in four years, compared to 85% of permanently housed students.
- » Only 22% in grades 3–8 scored proficient on the state English Language Arts exam, less than half the proficiency rate for permanently housed students (51%).

Using temporary funds, during the 2022–23 school year, the City hired 100 NYC Public Schools (NYCPS) coordinators to work in shelters to help address obstacles these students face. These shelter-based community coordinators play a pivotal role in connecting children experiencing homelessness to school and other needed community resources. Their work has ranged from arranging bus service so a young child could attend 3-K and their parent could keep their job to checking in regularly with a 12th grader to keep him on track and ensure he graduated high school after he was moved from one shelter to another.

Since the hiring of the shelter-based community coordinators, the number of students living in shelter has grown, and more than 100 new shelters have opened. As a result, the role of these coordinators has expanded: they have played a critical role as thousands of newly arrived immigrant students have entered our City's shelters needing school placements, bus service, and clothes and supplies for school. **Despite the growing need, the funding for these 100 shelter-based coordinators is set to expire in June 2024, as 75 were hired using temporary federal stimulus funds and 25 were hired with one-year city dollars. The City has not yet committed to providing continued funding for this program.**

The City should restore \$12.3 million to maintain the 100 shelter-based NYCPS Community Coordinators currently funded with expiring city and federal funds.

With student homelessness at a record level, the City should be *increasing* its efforts to ensure students in shelter can access a high-quality education—and certainly not *eliminating* current supports.