

NYC Housing Subsidies Project

An **Equitable Market Systems** (EQM) proposal

New York City currently has over 100,000 shelter residents¹. 10,000+ households were evicted in 2025². It is both ethical and in the city's best interest to house our homeless and at-risk population. In the short-term, it costs more to shelter citizens than to house them³.

The *NYC Housing Subsidies Project* helps CityFHEPS, Homebase, and Supportive Housing applicants obtain housing through three initiatives (below). Successful implementation will help New Yorkers afford to live in NYC, while providing landlords with guaranteed income.

Initiatives

Organizational Efficiency

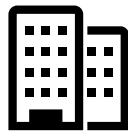
A Human Resources consultant meets with housing agencies to assess needs. Add the necessary team members to understaffed departments.



Update IT systems to better handle load of clients. This will significantly reduce the time for agencies to process housing applications.

Housing Readiness

Matriculate unsheltered citizens to shelters. Prepare them for Single Room Occupancy housing.



Work with shelters and nonprofits to help applicants keep their apartments through training: cooking, budgeting, employment, etc.

Matchmaking Campaign

Create a database to match CityFHEPS & Supportive Housing recipients to vacant properties.



Campaign for landlords to join the housing database. Advertise the new streamlined processing times, guaranteed income, and housing ready applicants.

As the number of shelter residents declines, reduce the amount of hotel shelters.

The Challenge

As long as NYC rent is high, salaries are low, and affordable housing is scarce, there will always be a need for housing subsidies. That said, CityFHEPS is already a billion-dollar program⁴. Unlike temporary shelters, citizens and asylum seekers can stay in city-subsidized apartments for five years or more.

The city needs a combination of urgent action on the housing crisis, and tax revenue from business owners who commit to paying fair taxes and giving workers higher wages.

For now, addressing homelessness will keep New Yorkers from emigrating, languishing in shelters, or continuing to live on the streets.

Our Proposal

If awarded a contract with the city, EQM will assemble a team that can advise agency efficiency, modernize relevant systems, and launch a campaign to match property owners with housing ready applicants.

About EQM

Equitable Market Systems (est. 2023) is a NYC startup that designs and executes economic and political strategy.

Founder Lelio Dalencour is a native New Yorker, NYCDOE substitute teacher, father, shelter resident, & housing lottery recipient.

Sources

1. **100,000 shelter residents:** “Basic Facts About Homelessness: New York City.” *Coalition for the Homeless*, Oct. 2025, <https://www.coalitionforthehomeless.org/basic-facts-about-homelessness-new-york-city/>
2. **10,000+ evictions between Jan 1 and August 15, 2025:** “Monthly evictions in NYC are at their highest rate in years.” *New York Post*, Aug. 2025, <https://nypost.com/2025/08/25/real-estate/monthly-evictions-in-nyc-are-at-their-highest-rate-in-years>
3. **It costs more in the short-term to shelter than to house:** “Cost Comparison: Providing a family of 3 with emergency shelter vs. permanent rental housing for a 2 bedroom unit at Fair Market Rent.” https://rxhome-prod.s3.amazonaws.com/media/documents/For_website_7_27_2021_NYC_Homeless-related_costs_-_RxHome_PwEHhKm.pdf
4. **CityFHEPS is a billion dollar program:** “CityFHEPS Hits \$1 Billion.” *Citizens Budget Commission (CBC)*, Feb. 2025, <https://cbcny.org/research/cityfheps-hits-1-billion>

Terms used

CityFHEPS: a housing voucher program run by the NYC Department of Social Services.
Hotel Shelters: a form of emergency shelter when conventional shelters are over capacity.
Single Room Occupancy (SRO): a room covered by subsidies, less costly than an apartment.
Supportive Housing: serves households at risk of homelessness or with disabling conditions.
Unsheltered: homeless citizens who live on the streets as opposed to in shelters.

Further reading

1. **55% of New Yorkers are rent burdened:** “Our Fast Analysis of the 2021 New York City Housing and Vacancy Survey.” *Community Service Society*, Oct. 2023, <https://www.cssny.org/news/entry/our-fast-analysis-of-the-2021-new-york-city-housing-and-vacancy-survey>
2. **African Americans are disproportionately leaving NYC:** “What’s Driving The African American Exodus from New York City?” *The WNET Group*, Mar. 2023, <https://www.pbs.org/wnet/chasing-the-dream/2023/03/whats-driving-the-african-american-exodus-from-new-york-city>
3. **“Supportive housing is less expensive than high-cost crisis care and emergency systems that homeless individuals frequently use.”** “Supportive Housing: Expanding Affordable Housing Opportunities for New Yorkers.” Jan. 2008, <https://www.nyc.gov/assets/hpd/downloads/pdfs/services/sh-brochure.pdf>

Equitable Market Systems’ future NYC initiatives

Businesses ideas that meet NYC’s objectives of higher wages and significant tax revenue.

Startup incubators that help entrepreneurs launch viable businesses. Participants pledge to pay fair taxes and give employees above market-rate wages.

Domestic manufacturing starting in NYC. Boost small and mid-sized business production capabilities. Build distribution, e-commerce, and store outlets to maximize sales.