



NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY  
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**LISA BOVA-HIATT**  
INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

[DATE]

ADDRESS  
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Dear [NAME],

The New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) respectfully submits this letter in response to the ongoing issue of pandemic-related rent arrears. NYCHA is requesting that public housing residents no longer be deprioritized and that the State provide an additional \$330 million in funding for New York State's Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP). With these changes, public housing residents will be able to receive the same assistance that was afforded to other New Yorkers.

**In your district, rent arrears across [X] public housing developments have increased.**

- Total rent arrears (as of November 2022): [\$]
- Rent arrears accrued during the pandemic (March 2020-November 2022): [\$]

NYCHA is facing a major crisis. ERAP has been successful in keeping many renters housed during the pandemic. However, NYCHA residents have not been able to reap the full benefits of the program. Many NYCHA residents applied to ERAP with the expectation that they would be given the same consideration as any other renter in the State. Instead, public housing residents were deprioritized in the allocation process and subsequently have not received any ERAP funds.

Because the COVID-19 pandemic caused unprecedented hardships, NYCHA took a proactive approach to ensure that residents knew they could file interim recertifications to lower their monthly rent in the event of a loss of income. Many residents took advantage of this capability. However, many residents did not experience a loss of income, yet saw their daily expenses increase for a variety of reasons, including medical needs, groceries, high-speed internet, gas, and more.

Tenant rental revenue makes up nearly a third of NYCHA's operating budget. NYCHA's operating budget is used for apartment repairs such as plumbing, plastering, and painting, while also making improvements in the required pillar areas: lead, mold, heat, elevators, and pests. As rental revenue diminishes, so will NYCHA's ability to pay for critical repairs, staff, supplies for resident-oriented programming, and other operating expenditures that affect the quality of life of residents. Additionally, this lack of revenue will limit NYCHA's capacity to respond to unforeseen emergencies.

Public housing residents deserve the support that was given to other renters during the uncertainty of the pandemic. NYCHA is grateful for your continued partnership and looks forward to your assistance in providing additional ERAP funding and eliminating the burden placed on occupants of subsidized housing.

Sincerely,

Lisa Bova-Hiatt  
Interim Chief Executive Officer