

2023 NEW YORK LEGISLATIVE TOOLKIT

AN OVERVIEW OF POLICY PRIORITIES THIS LEGISLATIVE SESSION



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Background

Local Progress New York members and partners have identified key policy priorities for both local governments and the state government during the 2023 New York legislative session.

Please find the complete 2023 Toolkit below. These are issues that our Organizing Committee has approved and staff have vetted, or are partner priorities within the work we already do that partner organizations would like us to consider as a network. These educational materials include an overview and a list of resources about the topic and fall under one of the five key policy priority areas identified by the Local Progress New York Organizing Committee:

-  [Housing](#)
-  [Economic Justice](#)
-  [Environmental Justice and Climate](#)
-  [Immigrant Protection](#)
-  [Community Safety and Racial Justice](#)

As always, please feel free to reach out to LP staff, including NY Chapter Manager [Mel Carrera-Solano](#) and Northeast Regional Manager [Chad Radock](#), if you have questions or comments.



Housing



Short-Term Rental Regulations

Partners

For the Many, Hotel Trades Council

Overview

Short term rentals (STRs) – housing units that are used for stays of fewer than 30 days and commonly found on websites like AirBnB and VRBO – are actively removing rental stock from our communities. The STR sector has grown exponentially over the last 15 years. Most recently, in light of the pandemic and the increase of remote work, short-term rentals have grown rapidly in small cities and rural areas. Some communities in the Hudson Valley have experienced a 30% increase in the number of STR units. In the Mid-Hudson Valley, [For the Many](#) is working with Local Progress members and their communities on their ‘**Homes are not Hotels**’ campaign to **regulate short-term rentals and protect rental stock**.

Resources

- [The High Cost of Short Term Rentals in NYC, McGill School of Urban Planning, 2018](#)

Articles

- [Long-term housing stock shrinking in Ulster partially because of short-term rentals, report finds – Daily Freeman](#)
- [Hudson Valley officials open to stricter Airbnb vacation rental laws \(timesunion.com\)](#)
- [Municipalities place restrictions on short-term rentals \(spectrumlocalnews.com\)](#)
- [New York Now Has More Airbnbs Than Apartments for Rent, Curbed, May 2022](#)

Good Cause Eviction

Partners

Housing Justice 4 All, Make the Road NY, NY Communities for Change, Churches United for Fair Housing, Citizen Action of NY, For the Many, Community Voices Heard, VOCAL NY

Overview

Good Cause Eviction Protection has been proposed at the State legislature ([A4454/S305](#)), and would **prevent unfair displacement by establishing acceptable reasons for a landlord to evict or not renew a lease with a resident**. Acceptable reasons include unpaid rent, violation of the lease, and the need for the landlord to occupy the rental unit for their own housing. The proposal also creates a pathway for residents to challenge exorbitant rent increases by establishing a rebuttable presumption that the rent is unreasonable if increased by more than 3% or 150% Consumer Price Index, whichever is greater.

Resources

- [Good Cause Talking Points](#)
- [Good Cause One Pager](#)
- [Good Cause Eviction Resources from the Community Service Society \(CSS\)](#)

Right to Counsel (RTC)

Partners

Churches United for Fair Housing, New York City Right To Counsel

Overview

Ensuring tenants' right to an attorney in housing court is one of the most effective strategies to prevent evictions. In NYC (the first U.S. locality to pass RTC, in 2017), 84% of tenants who have a lawyer from RTC have won their cases and have remained in their homes. Total evictions are down in NYC nearly 40%, and landlord eviction filings have dropped 30% since the NYC ordinance went into effect. Instead of just defaulting and not

showing up in court, more renters are coming in with the support of counsel to fight to remain in their current housing.

Nationwide, the seven cities that passed RTC before 2021 have seen a 77% reduction in the number of evictions. In San Francisco, there was a 10% drop in filing rates in just one year, and nearly two-thirds of all represented tenants were able to remain in their homes. In Cleveland, within the first six months of their RTC program, 93% of Tenants with a RTC lawyer avoided eviction or displacement. It's important to note that funding legal services in housing court is an essential component of Right to Counsel legislation and local governments can utilize ARPA funding for tenant legal services.

Resources

- [Right to Counsel NYC Coalition Website](#)
- [FACTSHEET: What is Statewide Right to Counsel?](#)
- [REPORT: The Estimated Cost of a Right to Eviction Counsel Outside of New York City](#) **Estimates cost savings of \$3-6 for every dollar NYS invests in Right to Counsel!*
- [FACTSHEET: The Benefits and Estimated Cost of RTC Outside of NYC](#)
- [FACTSHEET: Why Statewide RTC Must Cover ALL Tenants](#)
- [FACTSHEET: How Would NYC Tenants Benefit from Statewide RTC?](#)
- [2023 Legal Services Providers Support Letter to Governor Hochul, Senate Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins and Speaker Heastie](#)



Economic Justice



Public Banking

Partners

New Economy Project

Overview

This year, the Local Progress New York Organizing Committee has prioritized educating its members about **public banking in New York State**. Local Progress New York has partnered with the New Economy Project to advance this work. Where we deposit our public dollars matters. Currently, by law, local governments must hold all public deposits with the same big banks that have wrecked our economy, redlined our communities, failed to equitably deliver PPP loans to our small businesses, and have continued to pour billions into fossil fuels, gun manufacturing, and other harmful industries. Local public banking – which is commonplace in other countries – offers a **powerful alternative, and a way to leverage public deposits for needed investments in infrastructure and equitable local development**. There is a growing grassroots movement across the State to pass the New York Public Banking Act, which would create the legal framework for local governments to establish and operate public banks.

Resources

- [FAQ on Public Banking in New York State](#)
- [Fact Sheet on Public Banking in New York State](#)
- [NYS Community Equity Agenda's Public Banking Resources for Municipal & County Policymakers in New York State](#)
- [Public Banking Around The World: A Comparative Survey of Seven Models - Cyrus R. Vance Center for International Justice](#)
- [White Paper: Public Banking in the Northeast and Midwest States](#)
- [Profile of The Bank of North Dakota](#)
- [Constructing The Democratic Public Bank: A Governance Proposal for Los Angeles](#)

Local Legislation Examples

- [Int 2099-2020 - Mandates greater transparency and reporting around the City's accounts with commercial banks.](#)
- [Int 2164-2020 - Reforms the City's "Banking Commission" which designates banks eligible to hold municipal deposits](#)

Articles

- [150+ NY Groups Back Public Banking Bill to Declare 'Independence From Wall Street'](#)
- [Why Shouldn't The People Own The Banks](#)
- [An idea New York should invest in: A municipal bank makes great sense - Errol Louis Column in the NY Daily News](#)
- [North Dakota businesses dominated the PPP. Their secret weapon? A century-old bank founded by radical progressives](#)
- [\[NYC\] Council Weighs 'Public Banking' Bills as Advocates Push City to Divest from Corporate Banks](#)
- [Council, advocates push for a publicly-owned Bank of Rochester](#)



NY Coverage for All

Partners

NY Immigration Coalition and Make the Road NY

Overview

The campaign is made up of a broad coalition of community members, community organizations, health care providers, legal service providers, and advocates from the labor, immigration, and health consumer fields. Our objective in enacting [A3020/S2237](#) is to **create a statewide health insurance product for New Yorkers who are excluded from eligibility for coverage because of their immigration status**. The New York Immigration Coalition and Make the Road New York are leading the **#Coverage4All** campaign, which is part of the broader **Health Care for All New York** (HCFANY) campaign.

An estimated 245,000 uninsured New Yorkers between the age 19-65 are excluded from federally funded health insurance (such as Medicaid and the Essential Plan) because of their immigration status. A3020/S2237 would solve this problem by expanding the Essential Plan for all low-income New Yorkers who meet income requirements (up to 250% of the federal poverty level), regardless of immigration status. Enacting A3020/S2237 would immediately provide coverage to the largest remaining uninsured population in New York State. The federally-funded Essential Plan currently covers over 1.1 million other New Yorkers with no enrollee premiums or deductibles.

New York State should **expand the Essential Plan to include ALL income eligible New Yorkers, with income up to 250% of the federal poverty level who are currently excluded because of their immigration status** through the Federal Section 1332 waiver, by enacting. In the absence of a waiver, the same population would be covered through state-funded Medicaid.

Resources

- [Legislative one pager on NY Coverage 4 All](#)
- [Coverage 4 All: How Community Members can Help](#)

Childcare

Partners

Alliance for Quality Education, Empire State Campaign for Childcare

Overview

Childcare in NYS is expensive. For many, the childcare bill is the most expensive bill in the household, averaging more than \$2,000 a month! For many families across the Empire State, paying for this important necessity for parents is eating up almost half of their average monthly income.

We can do better. To ensure that our workforce can continue to meet demand, we need to ensure that quality childcare is accessible to all corners of the state. Our partners are asking for **\$5 billion in funding for quality childcare that pays a living wage for those day care providers who meet criteria**. This bill would create more child-care options and reduce child-care costs for parents, in part by reducing the barriers of entry for child-care businesses and workers.

Resources

- [Alliance for Quality Education Early Care and Learning fact sheet](#)
- [Empire State Campaign for Child Care 2023 Fact sheet](#)

Environmental Justice and Climate

Public Power

Partners

Public Power NY

Overview

[Public Power NY](#) is a statewide movement of community and advocacy organizations fighting for an **environmentally sustainable energy system that’s also racially, socially, and economically just**. The coalition believes that energy and a habitable planet are human rights, and that we need to avert the climate crisis by eliminating the use of fossil fuels and transitioning to 100 percent renewable energy. The coalition supports legislative solutions at the state level primarily focused on taking over the for-profit energy system and bringing it under public, not-for-profit, local, and democratic ownership and management.

In 2022, Public Power NY led a coalition in support of the Build Public Renewables Act (BPRA). The bill passed the State Senate but was ultimately tabled for a second year. This year, a scaled-back version of the bill, [Senate Bill S4134](#), is being carried by progressives and passed the State Senate in February. Senate Bill S4134 would **expand NY Power Authority’s ability to finance, own and operate renewable energy infrastructure**.

Resources

- [BPRA fact sheet \(2022\), Public Power NY](#)
- [A New Era For Public Power](#), Report by Climate and Community Project, April 2021
- [NYC Comptroller’s Office Testimony in Support of the Build Public Renewables Act, Office of the New York City Comptroller Brad Lander](#)

Articles

- [“Hochul and Senate Clash on Public Power. With Utility Workers on the Sidelines” The American Prospect, 2023](#)
- [Federal Climate Bill Strengthens Demand to Build Public Renewables in New York](#), Gotham Gazette, August 2022

Immigrant Protection

Access to Representation Act

Partners

NY Immigration Coalition

Overview

The Access to Representation Act (ARA) will **establish a right in state law to have a lawyer in removal proceedings**, guaranteeing access to lawyers for immigrants at risk of deportation in New York. Although legal representation alone is not enough to undo decades of systemic injustice, it is an effective method of reducing some of the extreme harm of our current system: In New York City, undocumented individuals obtaining legal support were [ten times less likely to be deported than those without representation](#). Without lawyers, many people who have a right to remain in the United States will instead be deported, separated from their families and homes, and forced to return to the very unsafe conditions from which they fled.

The ARA will promote strong and stable communities by ensuring families remain united, business owners and employees remain on the job, and communities can recover from the pandemic and thrive.

Resources

- [ARA Explainer from NY Immigration Coalition](#)
- [ARA Fact Sheet from NY Immigration Coalition](#)
- [SIGN ON LETTER: Support the ARA](#)
- [Advancing Universal Representation: A Toolkit for Advocates, Organizers, Legal Service Providers, and Policymakers](#)

NY Coverage for All Act ([see above](#))



Community Safety and Racial Justice



Clean Slate Act

Partners

Citizen Action of NY, Make the Road NY, NY Communities for Change

Overview

The Clean Slate NY campaign is fighting for a new law ([S211/A1029](#)) that will **automatically clear a New Yorker's conviction record once they become eligible**. The civil damage a conviction record can inflict is often wide-ranging and enduring — permanently barring many individuals from basic opportunities like stable jobs, licenses to practice trades, and safe, secure housing. Clean Slate NY is about strengthening our communities by ensuring that New Yorkers are not punished beyond their sentences and can be full and fair participants in economic and civic life.

Resources

- [Clean Slate Booklet: Bill Explainer, Opinion pieces, and members of the coalition](#)
- [Clean Slate Bill Fact Sheet](#)