

Stop the Mayor Adams Rent Hike

What's being proposed:

- The Adams Administrations Department of Social Services (DSS) is proposing a rule change that would raise the household contribution for CityFHEPS families with earned income from **30% to 40% of their income** when renewing beyond Year 5 for “good cause.”

Why This Policy Is Harmful

- **Imposes Rent Burden by Design:**
This rule would make it *City policy* to force rent burden on low-income households—reversing the core principle that no family should have to pay more than 30% of their income toward rent.
- **Punishes Families for Working:**
Households with earned income are affected. Households who have followed the rules, maintained housing, and secured work would now face a *10% rent hike*.
- **Undermines Stability and Self-Sufficiency:**
The current 30% cap allows families to stabilize, build savings, attend school, and maintain jobs. A 40% rent burden will push families to the brink, undermining their long-term stability.
- **Threatens Housing Stability and Increases Homelessness Risk:**
Most households surviving under the current formula will be unable to afford a sudden 10% increase in rent, risking eviction and re-entry into the shelter system.

Fiscal Impact: Penny Wise, Pound Foolish

- **Projected “Savings” Are Misleading:**
The City says this policy will save \$11 million—a mere **0.01% of the City budget**—but it ignores downstream costs like:
 - One-shot deals from HRA

- Legal costs under Right to Counsel
 - Emergency shelter placements
 - **If just 1% of the families impacted by this policy fall back into homelessness, the expected savings being touted by the city disappear entirely.**
 - **Increased Homelessness Costs More:**
Shelter stays can cost **\$6,000/month per family**, vastly outweighing any savings from higher rent contributions.
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Families Can't Afford This

- **CityFHEPS households are already deeply low-income:**
 - Must earn **less than 200% of the federal poverty line to originally qualify for the program** (e.g., **\$51,636/year for a family of 3**).
 - Can earn up to 80% AML once on the program
 - **According to the Robin Hood Foundation**, families in NYC at this income level already struggle to afford:
 - Food
 - Childcare
 - Healthcare
 - Transportation
 - A 10% increase in rent will leave families choosing between rent and basic survival
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What We're Asking For

- **Withdraw the proposed rule.**
- **Maintain the 30% income cap for all CityFHEPS households, including those with earned income beyond Year 5.**
- **Invest in stability—not instability.**