

# BREAKING THE CYCLE

## A Plan to Address NYC's Behavioral Health Crisis



A mental health crisis is playing out on the streets of New York City. Decades of disinvestment have left a behavioral health system with insufficient resources and inadequate capacity at almost every level. The result: We are failing New Yorkers with serious mental illness. They are relegated to a horrible cycle of inadequate psychiatric care, a scarcity of community support services, and homelessness.

Our city has a moral obligation to build a system that better serves New Yorkers with serious mental illness. If we don't act boldly and quickly, a human tragedy will continue to play out on our streets.

### 1. CREATE 600 NEW IN-PATIENT AND EXTENDED CARE PSYCHIATRIC BEDS IN NYC

- a. Create 600 new beds in the transition to home program.
- b. Create 240 new Health+Hospitals Extended Care Unit beds.

### 2. ADDRESS STAFFING SHORTAGES IN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

- a. Expand student loan debt forgiveness for behavioral health providers in Health + Hospitals facilities.
- b. Create a CUNY rotation for social work and psychology students at "Clubhouses."
- c. Keep up with the cost of living for behavioral health service providers.

### 3. CREATE AND IMPROVE ACCESS TO HOUSING

- a. Get major supportive housing projects across the finish line.
- b. Pass zoning text amendments that would allow for the creation of more affordable and supportive housing.
- c. Ensure New Yorkers are placed in housing that best suits their needs.
- d. Ensure highest need New Yorkers are prioritized for supportive housing.
- e. Expand family care housing opportunities and peer support programs.

### 4. INVEST IN AND EXPAND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TREATMENT

- a. Double the number of Intensive Mobile Treatment teams and expand capacity to support 1,500 New Yorkers in need.
- b. Rapidly expand the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic model in New York State.

### 5. IMPROVE ACCESS TO SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER TREATMENT

- a. Give EMS workers the ability to provide buprenorphine.



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