



2018 SCAP Advocacy Agenda

Homelessness

While the rate of homelessness in the US in 2015 was 17.7 per 10,000 people, New York's rate of homelessness was 44.7, among the highest in the Nation with only Hawaii and Washington D.C. coming in higher (53.7 and 110.8 respectively). The good news is that in NY the number of unsheltered homeless fell by 2%. This means there is an increase in the number of available supported housing options for people in New York. Housing is vital and studies have shown that preventing homelessness reduces trauma in children as well as the lasting impact of poverty on children and adults. According to Talk Poverty Project of the Center for American Progress, New York is ranked 44th in the Nation in housing affordability. Without a stable home, it is difficult for families to maintain employment and provide for their young children. It is challenging for people to address health, mental health, and addiction issues. People who are homeless are frequently victims of crimes".

- The most recent Point in Time Count, a count of homeless people conducted each year on a pre-selected day, Schenectady identified 23 unsheltered individuals and 251 sheltered individuals.
- SCAP's 2016 updated Community Needs Assessment, "Close to one third (32.4%) of all households in Schenectady County are cost-burdened, defined as over 30% of income expended on housing related costs."

SCAP supports the Supportive Housing Network of NYS and the Capital Region Coalition to End Homelessness

- SCAP supports increasing the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) Shelter allowance to 50% of HUD Fair Market Rent and doubling the fuel allowance, which has not been increased in 28 years.
- \$3.4 million Increase for the NYS Supportive Housing Program – This includes NYSSHP and STEPH which remain under funded, but this will go to restoring prior year cuts.

<https://endhomelessness.org/>

<https://shnny.org/>

Questions can be addressed to: Debra L. Schimpf, Executive Director @ dschimpf@scapny.org

There are over 2.8 million NY residents living in poverty or 15.7%. In Schenectady County the rate is 12.6% and in the City of Schenectady it is 22%. The Child Poverty Rate in Schenectady County is 20.9% and in the City of Schenectady it is 40.1%.