



**Chinese-American Planning Council, Inc.  
Testimony at the New York State Joint Legislative Budget Hearing on Housing  
February 14th, 2024**

Thank you to Senator Krueger, Assemblymember Weinstein, Senator Kavanagh, and Assemblymember Rosenthal for the opportunity to testify today. The mission of the Chinese-American Planning Council, Inc. (CPC) is to promote social and economic empowerment of Chinese American, immigrant, and low-income communities. CPC was founded in 1965 as a grassroots, community-based organization in response to the end of the Chinese Exclusion years and the passing of the Immigration Reform Act of 1965. Our services have expanded to include three key program areas: education, family support, and community and economic empowerment.

CPC is the largest Asian American social service organization in the U.S., providing vital resources to more than 80,000 people per year in all five boroughs through more than 50 programs at over 30 sites. CPC employs over 700 staff whose comprehensive services are linguistically accessible, culturally sensitive, and highly effective in reaching low-income and immigrant individuals and families. With the firm belief that social service can incite social change, CPC strives to empower our constituents as agents of social justice, with the overarching goal of advancing and transforming communities.

CPC serves a large immigrant population and it is crucial that we acknowledge that immigrant New Yorkers face disproportionate housing barriers, even prior to COVID-19. Immigrants are more likely to be increasingly rent-burdened, live in overcrowded spaces, and live in substandard conditions that don't receive regular maintenance. First generation immigrants are more likely to be low income and significantly rent-burdened (more than 50% of income for rent) than second generation immigrants, at 19-35%. AAPI immigrants are also more likely to live in multi-generational households, which are more prone to crowding. In fact, according to 2021 data from the [Asian American Federation Data Center](#), they found that 49.5% of Asian households in New York are rent-burdened and 12.2% of Asian households are overcrowded. Additionally, AAPI immigrants face significant language barriers and access to public housing and assisted living. In combination with the long waiting lists of NYCHA and Section-8 Housing, AAPI immigrants are left with fewer opportunities to find truly affordable housing.

In addition, [studies](#) have continuously shown that housing shortages cause rent and homelessness to rise. In fact, rent growth is higher in areas that add less housing. With the rise in cost of living, affording rent has become more troublesome for families. Therefore, we need to meaningfully and strategically invest our resources in developing more affordable housing. We urge the State to create a [Social Housing Development Authority \(SHDA\)](#), a statewide authority with the power to build and preserve high-quality, affordable housing all across New York State (**S8494/A9088**).

During the pandemic, we conducted wellness checks and we have heard from community members that they have fallen behind on rent, threatened by landlords, and have been illegally evicted. This remains to be an issue and it is unconscionable that in the midst of a health, economic, and housing crisis, the State legislature has yet to pass the [Good Cause Eviction bill \(S305/A4454\)](#), which would protect tenants from unjust evictions and from predatory rent hikes.

We also ask the State legislature to consider the following measures to ensure that every New Yorker is afforded a basic human right:

- Create a statewide rental assistance program through the **Housing Access Voucher Program** that includes undocumented New Yorkers ([S568/A4021](#)).
- Fully fund the **Housing Our Neighbors with Dignity Act (HONDA)**
- Investing \$10 million to **provide service coordination in senior affordable housing services**

We thank you for the opportunity to testify and we look forward to working with the State legislature and the Governor to achieve these goals in the upcoming budget.

If there are any questions, please reach out to Ashley Chen, Policy Analyst at [achen9@cpc-nyc.org](mailto:achen9@cpc-nyc.org).