User's Guide

On the Map is designed to provide a better understanding of family homelessness from a citywide and neighborhood perspective.

What information does On the Map provide?
On the Map is divided into five sections:

Section 1 provides an overview of family homelessness and the City's shelter system. It examines the growth of family homelessness over time, the types of shelters where families stay, the location of shelters overall and by shelter type, student homelessness by City Council district, and patterns of family shelter use.

Section 2 focuses on understanding the revolving door of New York City's family shelter system by exploring the number of families in shelter who entered during a previous year, the rate at which families are returning to shelter, neighborhoods where families live before they enter shelter, communities where the number of families entering shelter is growing, reasons for shelter entry by community district, and the most common reason families exit shelter.

Section 3 uses U.S. Census, housing, and community resource data to highlight geographic patterns in factors driving housing instability across New York City, as well as patterns in existing resources that present opportunities to increase community stability. Maps are shown at the City Council district level along with figures highlighting either overarching data or where each City Council district ranks in comparison to other districts.

Section 4 provides an in-depth look at family homelessness, risk factors, and resources in each City Council district—information critical to local program planning and priority setting.

The Appendix provides a glossary defining the important terms used in On the Map, provides an overview of the publication's methodology, citations by section and page number, and overarching tables for City Council and community district data.

What are the limitations of the information provided here? Some of the challenges of exploring family homelessness in New York City are the many different ways in which data are collected. Information might be collected at the level of the city as a whole, the community district, or City Council district. The other barriers to a better understanding of the issue are the timeliness and availability of the data. Government officials and community leaders often make decisions affecting today's homeless families based on dated information, though more current administrative data are available and could be made public.

City Council District Pages

Select neighborhoods and New York City Council District representative.

The **number of students who have experienced homelessness in the last five years** is the ratio of students who are currently homeless plus students who are formerly homeless over all students in the district.

Provides a count of the following community resources in each City Council district. **Homebase:** A program that offers resources and referrals such as eviction prevention, mediation, financial counseling, short-term emergency funding, and public benefits for families struggling with poverty. **NYC and NYS Job Centers:** Including both NYC Human Resources Administration and New York State job centers, these sites provide job training and search assistance to residents free of charge. **Adult and Continuing Education:** Tuition-free classes including Adult Basic Education, General Educational Development (GED) Test Preparation, English for Speakers of Other Languages, and Career and Technical Education provided by the New York City Department of Education's Office of Adult and Continuing Education (OACE). **Financial Literacy Programs:** One-on-one financial counseling provided by the New York City Department of Consumer Affairs. Services include advice on debt, credit, banking, and savings.

Sites include the NYC Department of Consumer Affairs' Financial Empowerment Centers. **Community School:** Public schools that collaborate with community-based organizations to provide programs and services to students, their families, and the community. **Health Center & Immunization Facility:**

Clinics run by the New York City Health and Hospitals system that provide sliding scale or no-cost health care services to uninsured and low-income New Yorkers. **Runaway and Homeless Youth Services:** Facilities that provide shelter and/or services to runaway youth or homeless youth who do not live at their

legal residence and lack parental or guardian consent.

Rankings are shown by borough and citywide, with a ranking of 1 indicating the highest number of family shelter units and the highest percentage of students who are homeless.

City Council District 21

Julissa Ferreras-Copeland
Corona / East Elmhurst

Rank by Largest Number of Family Shelter Units

2 out of 15 districts in Queens

16 out of 51 districts in New York City

Rank by Highest Percent of Homeless Students

4 out of 15 districts in Queens

29 out of 51 districts in New York City

Highlights

District 21 is home to more than 500 affordable housing units, but 21% of those are at risk of being lost over the next five years.
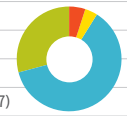
There are no Homebase centers in the district to provide support for families struggling against homelessness.

1 out of 11 District 21 students experienced homelessness in the last five years

Community Resources

Homebase: Homelessness Prevention	0
NYC and NYS Job Centers	0
Adult and Continuing Education	3
Financial Literacy Program	1
Community School	0
Health Center and Immunization Facility	2
Runaway and Homeless Youth Services	0

Community Indicators

Homelessness and Poverty Among Students

	CCD21	QN	NYC
■ Homeless (N=904)	5%	4%	8%
■ Formerly Homeless (N=571)	3%	3%	4%
■ Housed, Free Lunch (N=12,138)	72%	62%	60%
■ Housed, No Free Lunch (N=3,177)	19%	30%	28%

Educational Outcomes of Homeless Students

		CCD21	QN	NYC
Chronic Absenteeism Rate		14%	31%	37%
Dropout Rate		–	16%	18%
Graduation Rate		–	62%	52%
Math Proficiency 3–8 Grade		26%	26%	18%
ELA Proficiency 3–8 Grade		18%	20%	14%
Received IEP Late		–	58%	62%

Affordable & Public Housing

2,513 remaining affordable units

522 affordable units could be lost from 2017 to 2022

0 NYCHA units

653 affordable units lost between 2005 and 2016

Family Shelters

268 units
17% of Queens units
2% of NYC units

3 family shelters
– of Queens shelters
1% of NYC shelters

Neighborhood

36% of households are severely rent burdened

7% of people are unemployed

53% of people work in low-wage occupations

37% of people have less than a high school education

36% of single mothers with children under five live in poverty

Affordable units refer to apartments where residents pay a percentage of their income in rent or apartments with other rental limits due to City, State, and federal subsidies. Affordable units that could be lost are those with the option of ending their affordability commitments during the given time frame. Affordable units lost are those that have ended their commitments during the given time frame.

Data specific to **homeless students** attending school within the City Council district, borough, and city. For school year (SY) 2014–15, the proportion of students in the City Council district who were homeless, formerly homeless, housed and eligible to receive free or reduced-price lunch, and housed but not eligible for free or reduced-price lunch. Formerly homeless is defined as all students who were housed in SY 2014–15 who experienced homelessness at some point in the prior four years. Eligibility for free or reduced-price lunch is used as a proxy for student poverty.

Number of shelter units and **shelters** in the district for families with children. The number of units is a rough approximation of the total number of families in shelter in the district.

Neighborhood risk factors for family homelessness are highlighted for each City Council district. **Severe Rent Burden:** Paying 50% or more of income on rent. **Unemployment:** Civilians 16 years or older who were not working, despite actively searching for work and being able to start a job. **Low-Wage Occupations:** Workers employed in occupations with annual median salaries at or below $28,583 in NYC in 2014, 150% of the Federal Poverty Level for a family of three. **Less than High School Education:** Adults age 25 and over who have not completed high school or equivalency. **Single Mothers with Children Under Five Living in Poverty:** A measure of community vulnerability to homelessness, as mothers in poverty with children under five years old are among those most likely to enter shelter.

Some data by district may be **redacted** due to privacy or data accuracy. When data are redacted, the symbol "–" will appear instead.

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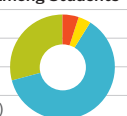
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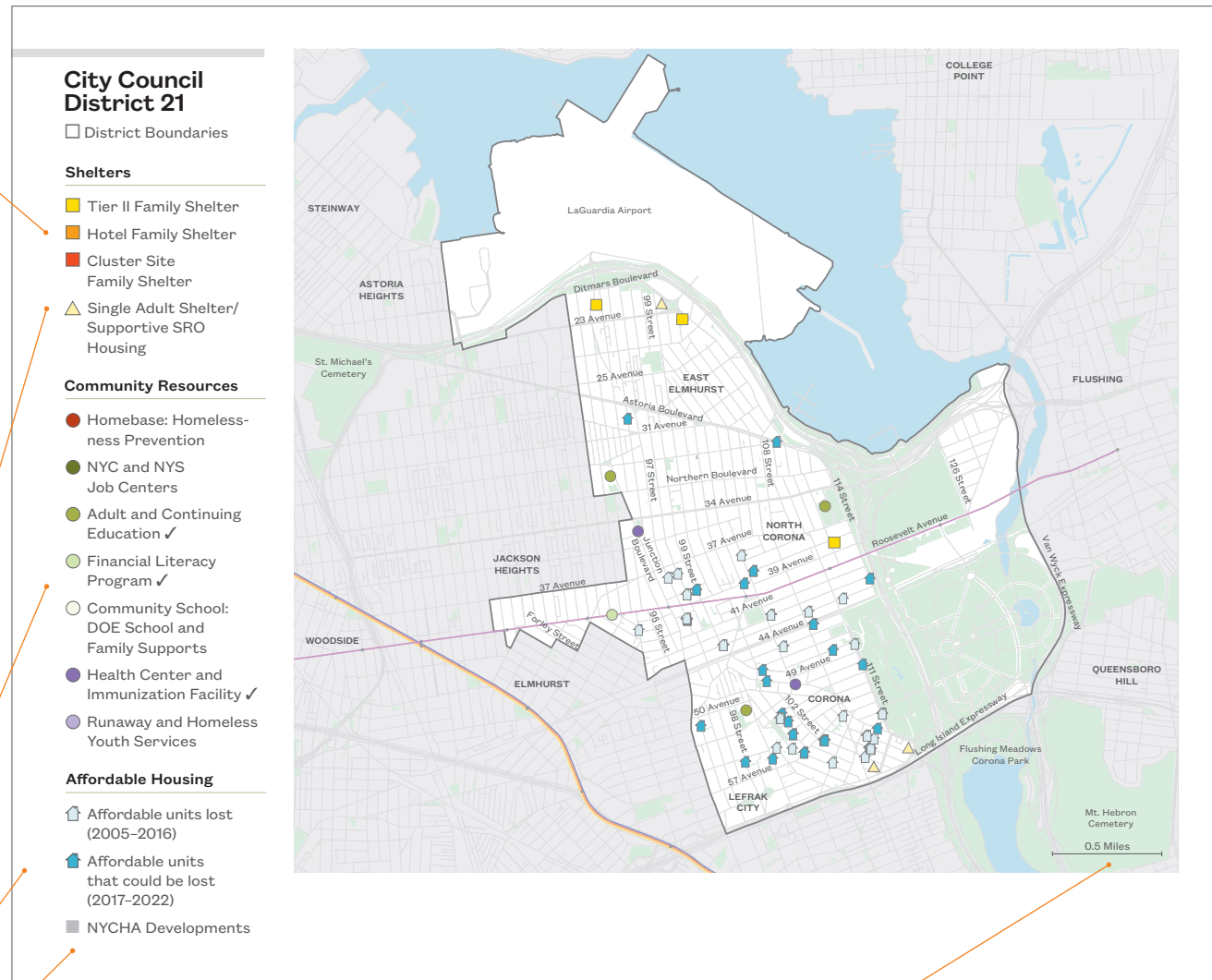**36%** of single mothers with children under five live in poverty

City Council District Pages

Squares indicate the three categories of shelters for families with children. **Tier II Family Shelter:** Shelter operators provide private rooms for homeless families, along with cafeteria meals or kitchen facilities. **Hotel Family Shelter:** Rooms in private hotels that the City pays for per night in order to house homeless families. **Cluster Site Family Shelter:** Private apartments that the City leases through non-profit and for-profit groups for the purpose of housing homeless families. Hotel shelters and cluster sites are more likely to operate as non-contracted emergency shelters on a per diem basis with the City. City inspections have highlighted more health and safety violations in cluster site and hotel shelters than in Tier II facilities.[1]

Single Adult Shelters/Supportive SRO Housing include residential adult care facilities, shelters for singles, and permanent supportive housing.

See definitions of community resources on left-hand page. **Check marks** indicate whether a community resource is located in the district.

Affordable units refer to apartments with rent limits due to City, State, and federal subsidies.

City Council District 21

☐ District Boundaries

Shelters

🟨 Tier II Family Shelter

🟧 Hotel Family Shelter

🟥 Cluster Site Family Shelter

△ Single Adult Shelter/ Supportive SRO Housing

Community Resources

🔴 Homebase: Homelessness Prevention

🟢 NYC and NYS Job Centers

🟢 Adult and Continuing Education ✓

🟢 Financial Literacy Program ✓

⚪ Community School: DOE School and Family Supports

🟣 Health Center and Immunization Facility ✓

🟣 Runaway and Homeless Youth Services

Affordable Housing

⌂ Affordable units lost (2005–2016)

⌂ Affordable units that could be lost (2017–2022)

◻ NYCHA Developments

The map displays all New York City Housing Authority (**NYCHA**) developments, including Federal Housing Administration (FHA) repossessed houses and developments that border more than one City Council district.

Because of the large degree of variation in City Council district sizes, district maps are displayed at eight different zoom levels. **Scales** are included in all maps to show relative distance.

[1] New York City Department of Investigation, *DOI Investigation of 25 City-Run Homeless Shelters for Families Finds Serious Deficiencies,* March 12, 2015. See Methodology on page 188 for further notes about the shelters included in this publication.