

Timeline of Prevention and Family Homelessness Policies in New York City, 1980s–Today

1981: *Callahan v. Carey* grants a right to shelter for all single men in New York City.

1986: Service-rich, non-congregate transitional shelters for families with children known as “Tier IIs” begin to open.

1983: *McCain v. Koch* is filed to determine whether homeless families with children have the right to shelter. A preliminary ruling is issued in 1986.

1987: McKinney Homeless Assistance Act is signed. The act is renamed McKinney–Vento Homeless Assistance Act in 2000.

1991–1992: The Cuomo Commission, under Mayor David Dinkins’s administration, is formed and publishes *The Way Home*.

1996: The City shifts from hands-on shelter management to service-rich transitional facilities operated by nonprofit groups.

1996: Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) is enacted.

2004: Mayor Bloomberg’s administration publishes *Uniting for Solutions Beyond Shelter: The Action Plan for NYC*. Prevention Assistance Temporary Housing Center (PATH) family intake center opens in the South Bronx, replacing borough-based Emergency Assistance Units (EAUs). Section 8 priority for homeless families is terminated.

September 2004: HomeBase is established as a pilot program with offices in six community districts.

December 2004: The NYC Department of Homeless Services (DHS) introduces the *Housing Stability Plus (HSP)* rental subsidy program.

2000: “Cluster site” shelter program begins under Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, placing families in apartments with no social support services. The City intended the initiative to be temporary.

2007: The *Housing Stability Plus (HSP)* program is terminated and the *Work Advantage* rental subsidy program is introduced.

2008–2009: The United States experiences a significant economic downturn, which became known as the Great Recession.

2008: DHS commissions several studies to evaluate HomeBase’s effectiveness, including a study conducted by the City University of New York (CUNY) and Abt Associates.

January 2008: HomeBase expands operations to cover the entire city.

2009: HomeBase wins the Opportunity and Empowerment Award from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)* is signed, including funding for the *Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Program (HPRP)*, which doubled the resources available for homelessness prevention in many communities. McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act is amended and reauthorized as the Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act.

2013: Abt Associates releases the final report for the study commissioned by DHS to evaluate HomeBase’s effectiveness. HomeBase now has 14 locations.

2011: New York State cuts funding to *Work Advantage* rental subsidy; the City terminates the subsidy with no replacement, contributing to an increase in the family homelessness census of over 2,000 families in the next three years.

2010: The U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) releases *Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness*, the first comprehensive federal plan developed to prevent and end homelessness.

FY2015 to FY2017: Number of HomeBase locations increases from 14 to 23.

2016: Mayor de Blasio’s administration conducts a 90-day efficiency review of homeless service agencies and programs. The City announces the creation of an overarching Department of Social Services to oversee both DHS and the Human Resources Administration (HRA). HomeBase management transfers from DHS to HRA.

2017: Mayor de Blasio releases *Turning the Tide on Homelessness* plan to reduce homelessness through increased investment in affordable housing and prevention programs.

2018: A series of different rental subsidies launched under Mayor de Blasio are consolidated into City Fighting Homelessness and Eviction Prevention Supplement (CityFHEPS).

2020: COVID-19 pandemic. Beginning of New York State’s Eviction Moratorium. HomeBase now has 26 locations.

2021: Right to Counsel extended to all income-eligible tenants facing eviction in every NYC zip code.

January 2022: End of New York State’s Eviction Moratorium.

May 2023: The NYC DHS Families with Children census surpasses 15,000 families.

June 2023: NYC Councilmember Erik D. Bottcher introduces Int 1064-2023, which would compel DSS to report annually on the outcomes and operations of HomeBase.

2024: 20th anniversary of the HomeBase pilot program.