



NYCHA Healthy Homes Campaign Platform

Building Maintenance

Broken elevators and boilers, impaired surveillance cameras and intercoms, and other maintenance issues significantly impact residents' daily activities. These issues can severely impact health as well. Broken elevators can cause older residents to stay isolated in their units, or can trigger respiratory illness on a hot day from overexertion. New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) building maintenance is as fundamental to climate resiliency as energy efficiency, access to adequate heating and cooling, and retrofitting are key to ensuring that resident health is prioritized in a changing climate. Living in a healthy environment is key to gaining social capital and strengthening resident physical and mental health.

1. We believe in having transparency between management and residents by working with tenant associations, issuing monthly maintenance reports, and assigning a maintenance person in each building to be accountable for issues. This should be included as a strategy in the 2025 NYCHA Sustainability Agenda by the beginning of 2022.
2. We believe that building maintenance is also key to making NYCHA communities more resilient in the face of climate change, including deep retrofits, timely heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) maintenance, and expanding energy efficiency efforts through increased WAP (weatherization assistance program) funding. NYCHA should prioritize funds for deepening the retrofitting of buildings to protect resident health and well-being.
3. We believe that mold should be treated correctly the first time that residents report issues by cutting out lines correctly, providing proper remediation, and providing proper ventilation, which includes cleaning vents and dampers (Federal Monitor Report 6). This should be communicated directly to residents on a monthly basis to increase transparency between residents and management. Tenant communication should be consistent, and come in various forms, such as flyers, forums, and other forms of outreach.

Building Safety & Security

By ensuring the safety and accountability within the resident environment, there will be more opportunity to positively influence behaviors/patterns and interactions amongst residents. Therefore, home environments will feel safer, preventing or reducing the health effects of chronic stress and preserving environmental health. According to the NYCHA federal monitor, improvements on safety and security are a much-needed addition to addressing NYCHA operations issues as well. We believe the next mayor of New York City should commit to addressing the following demands by incorporating them into the NYCHA Next Generation Sustainability Agenda under goal number two.

4. We believe that all NYCHA buildings should have a security unit with adequate resources, including fully functioning surveillance devices, cameras, and intercoms to maintain security for residents across their developments, community centers, and mailrooms.
5. We believe that a strong and connected community contributes to better security for residents. More opportunities for relationship-building between residents should be provided during the new resident onboarding processes.
6. We believe that community-based programs in NYCHA offer unique opportunities to connect with at-risk youth and adults to build connections between residents. We recommend that NYCHA commit to increasing these programs, and support existing programs.

Resident Input & Decision Making

Allowing residents to govern the operations in NYCHA living environments that directly affect their day-to-day lives will be empowering and an effective method to create a more nurturing environment. Empowering residents to lead the housing operations that directly impact them will make their living environment more predictable and non-threatening. By creating a more nurturing environment which is predictable and non-threatening will prevent or reduce the health effects of chronic stress.

7. We believe resident input is necessary for NYCHA reform and that an input and feedback process must be codified into municipal and state law before any reforms can take place. Any NYCHA reform must also increase residents' power and protect their right to advocate for themselves and their families through multiple town hall meetings and extended feedback sessions for residents.
8. We believe that strengthening residential decision-making power, along with a strong resident council, will advocate for tenant needs and resources. NYCHA needs to provide (and support existing) training prior to being elected to the resident council.