

**2019 Policy Position**

**Prevent Abuse by Ensuring Adequate Housing**

Inadequate and unstable housing disproportionately impacts children and women. Over 200,000 children are currently either homeless or on the brink of homelessness.[[1]](#footnote-1) Children who experience abuse and women who experience domestic violence often flee their homes, ending up in ongoing transitional situations. Runaway youth, often abuse survivors, are re-traumatized when they are solicited for sex within 72 hours on the street[[2]](#footnote-2).

Stable housing is also an important factor in ensuring family stability and preventing abuse in the first place. Worries about paying rent or a mortgage can be stressful for families. An example of housing instability and its ensuing stressors negatively impacting families is the foreclosure and delinquent mortgage crisis in 2008, when hospital admissions for child abuse increased.[[3]](#footnote-3)

**PCANY supports creating more stable housing options for families experiencing hardship, runaway and homeless youth, and women and children in crisis.**

New York State should:

* Implement the Home Stability Support (HSS) Plan, keeping people in their homes and saving taxpayer dollars.
* Support the recommendations of the Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC) pertaining to homeless children and families.

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1. www.homestabilitysupport.com [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. “Trafficking and Runaway Youth”. http://ncfy.acf.hhs.gov/book/export/html/573. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Wood, Medina, Feudtner, Luan, Localio, Fieldston, and Rubin. (2012). “Local Macroeconomic Trends and Hospital Admissions for Child Abuse, 2000-2009”. Pediatrics. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)