



Preventing and Reducing Homelessness Among Older Adults in New York City

Request for Proposals 2025

(Proposals due by 5:00pm on Thursday, May 15, 2025)

Background

The number of single adults aged 65 and older in New York City’s primary shelter system has more than doubled in the last decade¹. The City’s dearth of affordable housing options, coupled with challenges maintaining safe, accessible housing on fixed incomes, contribute to this increase in homelessness among older adults. The City’s shelter policies, which often mandate entry into—and prolonged stays in—overcrowded, mixed-age shelters before accessing assistance with permanent housing compound the problem.

Beyond those in shelters, many older New Yorkers face housing insecurity. More than 60 percent of the City’s older adult renters are rent-burdened, spending more than 30 percent of their incomes on rent². The City has a severe shortage of affordable senior housing, with some waitlists exceeding 300,000 individuals and wait times averaging six years³. Finally, the City’s aging housing stock presents accessibility and safety challenges. A significant percentage of older adults report poor housing conditions and difficulty aging in place.

The New York Community Trust (The Trust) seeks proposals for innovative solutions to prevent homelessness among older adults and facilitate successful transitions from the shelter system into permanent affordable housing.

Since 1924, The Trust has funded the nonprofits that make our city a vital and secure place for all New Yorkers to live and thrive. The Trust makes more than \$60 million in competitive grants annually across three areas— Healthy Lives, Promising Futures, and Thriving Communities. Under its Human Services grantmaking strategy, The Trust supports policy advocacy, service delivery, program development, research, and organizational capacity building to alleviate homelessness in the City. Under its Older Adults grantmaking strategy, The Trust supports advocacy to make the City

¹ LiveOn NY, *Affordable Senior Housing Report*, June 2024, <https://www.liveon-ny.org/affordable-senior-housing-report-2024>

² Office of the New York State Comptroller, *Older Adults in New York City: Demographic and Service Trends*, January 2025, <https://www.osc.ny.gov/press/releases/2025/01/dinapoli-more-older-adults-calling-nyc-home-ever-comptrollers-report-finds>

³ See endnote 1.



accessible and affordable for older adults, programs that improve the quality of life for the most vulnerable, and capacity building for nonprofits that serve these communities.

The Opportunity

This year we request proposals from nonprofits working to prevent or reduce homelessness among older adults in New York City. We will give preference to proposals focused on systemic change, including projects to:

- conduct city- or state-level advocacy for legislative or policy changes to reduce or prevent homelessness among older adults, including increasing public investments in permanent and supportive housing for homeless and low-income older adults;
- build the capacity of nonprofit housing developers to increase the City's supply of affordable permanent and supportive senior housing;
- eliminate or reduce administrative burdens and expedite access to new or existing permanent and supportive housing for older adults;
- improve service coordination to help formerly homeless older adults remain stably housed; and/or
- increase service coordination to help low-income older adults safely and affordably age in place.

The Trust will give priority to projects that:

- ✓ Have clear activities that are well-designed to achieve the project's goals in the grant period.
- ✓ Create systemic change and tangible benefits for older adults.
- ✓ Are inclusive of the needs of marginalized older adults, including:
 - older adults with disabilities;
 - older adults who have been involved in the criminal justice system;
 - older adults with language access needs; and/or
 - older adult households with various compositions (e.g. non-married older adult couples, mixed immigration status families, etc.)

Applicant Eligibility

Eligible nonprofits must:

- ✓ be incorporated in New York State and recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) or a fiscally sponsored program of such a nonprofit; and
- ✓ have a track record of successfully serving and/or advocating on behalf of low-income older adults experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity.



The Trust expects to award no more than 10 grants totaling \$1 million for projects that are likely to contribute to substantial numbers of low-income and homeless older New Yorkers securing or maintaining affordable permanent and supportive housing. The Trust expects to award two-year grants ranging from \$100,000 to \$250,000 (up to \$125,000 per year).

*Grants will **not** be awarded for:*

- Planning and partnership development for a new campaign.
- Research as the primary activity.
- General staff training or professional development.
- Predevelopment or development funds for individual capital projects (brick and mortar).
- Shelter improvements.
- Direct services that are not tied to a broader effort to increase the availability of, or access to, housing for older adults experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

Proposal Materials

A complete proposal includes a narrative, project budget, organizational operating budget, and a board list. Details are below.

□ **Proposal narrative**

Please prepare a narrative of approximately three to five pages responding to the following questions:

1. What is your organization's background (history, mission, main activities) and credentials for the project you are requesting funding for?
2. What programs or services do you provide to, or on behalf of, older New Yorkers experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity?
3. What policy or systemic issue is the project designed to address?
4. What is the proposed project, and what activities are involved? Please be specific and describe concrete actions and timelines.
5. Who will benefit?
6. Does the project have a specific demographic and/or geographic focus, and if so, what is it?
7. Who are partner organizations, if any, and what role will they play in the project?
8. What will be specific, measurable outcomes after two years?
9. What are the longer-term goals for the project? How do you anticipate sustaining the project in the years to come?

- **Project budget**
Include an itemized project budget that reflects the full expenses to carry out the project (as opposed to just the amount requested), as well as the budget sources. Include other received and/or anticipated funding sources.
- **Annual operating budget**
Provide your organization’s current annual operating budget—with income and expenses.
- **List of board of directors, including professional/non-board affiliations**
Provide a list of your board of directors with their professional/non-board affiliations. The Trust requires that a board have at least 4 independent members. All board members should be unrelated, and no more than one board member should be a paid staff member. Submissions that are using a fiscal sponsor should provide a board list for only the fiscal sponsor.

NOTE: The project budget, organization’s operating budget, and list of board of directors do not count toward the suggested five-page maximum for the proposal narrative.

How to Submit

Please gather all proposal materials into a single PDF file (no more than 25 MB) and be ready to upload and submit them before applying online.

1. Complete a cover sheet for the [New York City: Preventing and Reducing Homelessness Among Older Adults RFP](#).
2. Upload your proposal materials (a single PDF no more than 25 MB).
3. Click “Submit” to submit your application materials.

Application Deadline

Proposals must be submitted electronically no later than 5pm EST on Thursday, May 15, 2025 using The New York Community Trust’s [Grantseeker Portal](#). You can also reach the portal using [The Trust’s website](#). Applicants are not guaranteed an award and may not receive the full amount requested in their proposal. The Trust will request additional information to learn more about the proposed project before any grant award.

Award Notification

Notification of award status will be made by email in October 2025. Grant recipients must provide ACH (electronic banking) information via a secure DocuSign process.



Please add noreply@nycommunitytrust.org and noreply@docusign.com to your address book so our communications are not caught in your spam filters.

Questions

Please direct all questions about this RFP to Chantella Mitchell and Rachel Pardoe at cmitchell@thenytrust.org and rpardoe@thenytrust.org.