

7020 Community Partner Presentation Outline

- I. Quote
 - A. “A home is, you know, sort of like air and water; I think it’s just one of those things that you need to survive as a human being...the four walls that you can call your own that no one can take away from you...” – Independent Living Focus Group, Participant #1, [More Than A Home](#)
- II. VIDEO - Reginald T. Brown
 - A. [WHAT VOCAL-NY MEANS TO ME](#) - Reginald T. Brown speaks on what being a VOCAL-NY member means to him and the power of passing the HASA 30% Rent Cap law in 2014. ([VOCAL-NY Members » VOCAL-NY](#))
- III. Origin & Original Name
 - A. “VOCAL-NY, then known as NYCAHN (The New York City AIDS Housing Network), was founded in 1999 by Jennifer Flynn, Joe Bostic and Jose Capestany as a progressive AIDS housing network.”
 - B. “VOCAL-NY was formed to shift attention from treatment to addressing the root causes of the epidemic, like homelessness and incarceration.” ([About VOCAL-NY » VOCAL-NY](#))
- IV. Homelessness
 - A. “When we began in 1999, VOCAL-NY (then the NYC AIDS Housing Network) emerged as one of the leading groups to win quality, stable housing for people living with HIV/AIDS to improve health outcomes, and literal life expectancies of people whose homelessness could have been a death sentence. During these early years we joined coalitions to support the larger fight for affordable housing for all, and to end homelessness. We played a leading role in campaigns to strengthen rent laws, and build more affordable housing.” ([VOCAL Issues » VOCAL-NY](#))
 - B. While our primary focus is to win quality housing for low-income people impacted by the war on drugs, mass incarceration and HIV/AIDS, we are dedicated to the belief that safe, affordable and stable housing is a human right for all.
 - C. Our accomplishments include:
 1. **Secured a commitment from Mayor de Blasio to develop 15,000 units of supportive housing over the next 15 years.** Along with coalition allies, we won this unprecedented, multi-billion commitment to provide housing, along with onsite services for people with physical, mental or behavioral health needs.
 2. **Founded the Homes For Everyone New Yorker coalition** dedicated to building, and winning, a broad vision of ending homelessness in New York City and New York City through a series of policy changes.
 3. **Implementation of the “30% rent cap”** to ensure people living with HIV/AIDS pay no more than 30% of their income towards their rent.
 4. **Expansion of HIV/AIDS Services Administration (HASA) benefits** to all low-income, HIV+ New Yorkers ([Housing & Homelessness » VOCAL-NY](#))
- V. VIDEO - “How To Survive Homelessness”
 - A. [How To Survive Homelessness - YouTube](#)
- VI. Annual Report
 - A. [2016 VOCAL Annual Report](#)
 1. “Alongside our trademark organizing projects working to end AIDS, the war on drugs, and mass incarceration, our work now includes:
 - a) Homelessness Union – to tackle the record-high levels of homelessness across New York State”
 2. This June, New York City HASA benefits were made available to public assistance recipients living with HIV regardless of whether they have ever had an AIDS diagnosis, a key demand of the End AIDS NY 2020 Coalition and one of our most

important campaigns yet. Roughly 7,000 low-income New Yorkers are now eligible to receive lifesaving housing, food and transportation assistance.” ([News/Updates » VOCAL-NY](#))

VII. Staff/Board

A. Staff

1. Andrea Bichan - Communications and Development Director
2. Clifton Garmon - Senior Policy Analyst
3. Angie Milan-Cruz - Hepatitis C Navigator
4. Paula Santiago - Harm Reduction Coordinator
5. Paulette Soltani - Housing Campaign Coordinator
6. Jawanza Williams - Statewide Organizer ([VOCAL-NY Staff » VOCAL-NY](#))

B. Board

1. Wanda Hernandez - Chairperson of the Board
 - a) [As AIDS Threat Changes, Push For Housing Renews | City Limits](#)
 - b) [This Positive Life: An Interview With Wanda Hernandez - Resource Center on Aging With HIV - TheBody.com](#)
2. Hiawatha Collins - Board Member
3. Wayne Starks - Board Member
4. Robert “Bobby” Tolbert - Board Member ([VOCAL-NY Board Members » VOCAL-NY](#))

VIII.VIDEO - “Identifying Homeless Students”

A. [Training Video: Identifying Homeless Students - YouTube](#)

IX. Press

A. Profile

1. [January 2017 | Radix Media - Printing & Publishing](#)
 - a) “We’re doing a lot of work around affordable housing and homelessness which is obviously a major concern for pretty much every New Yorker. We want to make sure that the conversation around “affordability” includes people who are very low-income, as well as people who need supportive services.” -Alyssa Aguilera ([VOCAL-NY Profiled by Radix Media » VOCAL-NY](#))

B. Other Press

1. [AMNY: Homeless youth ‘safety net of shelter’ would be extended under City Council bills](#)
2. [New York Daily News: Advocates pushing Cuomo to boost homelessness initiatives](#)
3. [Spectrum Local News: Advocates Rally for New Homeless Legislation \(In the press » VOCAL-NY\)](#)

X. Publications

- A. [Rising Homelessness in New York State](#)
- B. [New York Needs a 21st Century Homeless Plan](#)
- C. [Ending Homelessness](#)
- D. [More Than A Home \(VOCAL-NY Publications » VOCAL-NY\)](#)

XI. Care Coordination

- A. “We connect people who use drugs to health and wellness services that they deserve. We offer referrals to trustworthy, respectful providers for services: HIV, STI and hepatitis C testing and treatment, **housing placement and assistance**, insurance enrollment, food pantries and soup kitchens, drug treatment including methadone and suboxone, medical services, mental health services, and legal services.” ([VOCAL-NY Care Coordination » VOCAL-NY](#))

XII. VIDEO - “Old Homeless Guy”

- A. [Top Ten City Survival Tips | Old Homeless Guy - YouTube](#)