

Join Us to Support the Equal Access to Housing Services Act

The Problem: Families Live in Danger Because of Lack of Language Assistance

- Over 40% of New York City residents were born outside of the U.S. and nearly half (47%) of all New Yorkers speak a language other than English.
- One survey conducted in 2005-2006 showed that 60% of survey respondents reported living with one or more critical housing code violations. Yet, only 18% of the respondents reported their housing problems to HPD.
- Immigrant and limited English proficient tenants are marginalized from accessing critical housing related services because of language barriers.

The Solution: The Equal Access to Housing Services Act

- Requires HPD to translate all application forms, correspondence, notices issued by the agency into the top nine languages spoken by people living in New York City.
- Mandates HPD to provide qualified language assistance in all telephone and in-person interactions with the agency, its neighborhood offices, and code enforcement offices.
- Requires HPD to hire additional bilingual housing inspectors to ensure that the communication between tenants and housing inspectors are done in the tenants' primary languages.
- Requires HPD to provide translation services at meetings, trainings, or events.

The Impact: Safe and Healthy Communities

- Immigrant and limited English proficient tenants will be able to access a range of housing related services to hold their negligent landlords accountable.
- Families and Communities can live in safe and healthy living conditions.

Communities for Housing Equity

For more information about the legislation, please call:
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