



Homes and Community Renewal

KATHY HOCHUL
Governor

RUTHANNE VISNAUSKAS
Commissioner/CEO

MEMORANDUM

To: Karen Persichilli Keogh and Elizabeth Fine
From: RuthAnne Visnauskas
Re: Government Transparency Initiative
Date: October 19, 2021

New York State Homes and Community Renewal (HCR) is the State's affordable housing agency, with a mission to build, preserve, and protect affordable housing and increase homeownership throughout New York State. HCR is committed to increasing transparency and has engaged in multiple efforts to promote public access to agency resources, information, and records including:

- Establishing the Office of Rent Administration (ORA) [Case Status Inquiry](#) system to provide the rent stabilized tenants and landlords the opportunity to check on case status for certain case types
- Developing the automated Mitchell-Lama Waitlist to provide transparency to households that are on a waitlist at a specific development
- Launching [NYS Rent Connect](#), a one-stop shop for rent-regulated tenants and landlords to receive assistance with housing issues
- Creating the [HCR Multifamily Asset Map](#), which provides a map that includes information on buildings in HCR's multifamily portfolio

With the aim of furthering transparency HCR proposes to:

- Make the following information available to the public via our website:
 - Posting Petitions for Administrative Review decisions (PARs) from the Office of Rent Administration on the agency's website for public access. By placing the PAR Orders online, ORA will streamline research for tenants, owners, and third parties and provide the public with a better understanding on how the Rent Stabilization Code and the agency's polices are applied and executed in case decisions.
 - An upgraded HCR Multifamily Asset Map. This upgraded version will provide additional information on HCRs multifamily portfolio.
 - Once a new housing plan is approved in the budget process, create a detailed report on progress.
 - A new "procurement corner" with notices of contracts awarded by the agency
 - Reports sent to the State Legislature including:
 - Annual Procurement Report for HTFC and AHC
 - Annual Procurement Report for HFA, SONYMA, MBBA and TSFC
 - Housing Plan Report
 - Statutory Report (SONYMA)

- Administrative Budget and Financial Plans
 - CRF Annual Report
 - Annual Mitchell-Lama report
 - New York State Homes and Community Renewal Legislative Report on Appropriated Housing Program Funds
 - GOSR Legislative Report
 - Property Disposal Report
 - Annual ORA Report
 - Annual Affordable Housing Report
 - Annual Rural & Neighborhood Preservation Company Report
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- Find new opportunities and strategic partnerships with stakeholders to increase the agency's participation in community events and town meetings
 - Ensure all information provided to the public is available in the ten most common non-English languages, in accordance with EO 26.1
 - Establish a quarterly newsletter for members of the public to receive agency news and updates
 - A "FOIL counter" showing the number of requests fulfilled and the number outstanding