Rural Housing Coalition
of New York

Working Together to Revitalize Rural New York

2023 Budget Priorities

1. *Full-Funding for the Rural Preservation Program (RPP)* – The Rural Preservation Program has been underfunded for many years (last increase was 2017) and the Rural Preservation Companies (RPCs) are the backbone of the Rural Preservation Program and the main conduit for implementing the state's housing initiatives in the rural parts of the state. **Request: Increase funding from $5.3 million to $7.75 million to fund 60 RPCs ($125,000 each) and restore $250,000 for the Rural Housing Coalition.**

2. *ACCESS to HOME –* The program provides assistance to disabled and senior citizen homeowners who need modifications (like wheelchair ramps) to their homes to accommodate their disability. The funding has not been increased since 2012 and often receives more requests than funding available. **Request: $4 million (increase of $3 million) and increase the admin fee from 7.5% to 10% for providers.**

3. *Main Street Program* – The New York Main Street program plays an important role in revitalizing small communities in rural New York through building renovations, façade improvements and streetscape enhancements. The program has been oversubscribed by $10 million for several years. **Request: $10 million (currently funded at $4.2 million)**

4. *RESTORE* –The RESTORE program provides funding to perform emergency repairs to low-moderate income senior citizen's homes such as fixing leaking roofs, replacing hot water heaters, etc. The Legislature increased funding from $1.4 million to $3.4 million in 2022, unfortunately the Executive Budget removed this additional funding, despite the program receiving $6 million in funding requests in 2022. **Request: Increase funding to $6 million.**

5. *Small Rental Development Initiative* – Continued funding for this initiative to address shortage of affordable rental housing in rural communities. Funding is targeted to small rental construction or rehab projects of up to 20 units in rural areas of the state. **Request: $20 million (currently at $7 million).**

6. *Affordable Housing Corporation (AHC)* – The program supports homeownership through new construction, provides down payment and closing cost assistance and the rehabilitation of owner-occupied housing. The Legislature increased funding in 2022 from $26 million to $36 million, unfortunately the Executive Budget cut this additional funding. **Request: Restore funding to $36 million.**

7. *Home Ownership Opportunities Program (HOPP)* – The program protects homeowners from losing their homes due to financial hardships by providing homeownership counseling and legal assistance. Owner-occupied housing comprises 74% of the housing stock in rural communities. **Request: Restore the $35 million provided in 2022 Budget.**

8. *Operating Aid for Non-Profit Rental Properties* – The state invests millions in developing and constructing affordable rental properties operated by non-profit organizations, but the state provides no annual operating subsidies to support adequate staffing to maintain these properties**. Request: $10 million**

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