

Public Hearing on the NYS Budget
City Hall, Common Council
Syracuse, NY

November 26, 2007

My name is Darryl Storie, I am a Peer Advocate from ARISE, a Center for independent living. I am here to strongly encourage you to support the development of the Statewide Housing Trust fund, which is needed to assist with the housing shortage, increase the number of affordable housing for people with low incomes and people with disabilities.

I have worked for ARISE for over 11 year. Each year we have more people with disabilities that are in need of assistance with finding affordable and accessible housing. Having little or no income makes it impossible for consumers to find decent housing, especially when people do not have Section 8 rental vouchers.

Many people with disabilities we work with have no or limited income, no place to live, no job experience and they people can't afford their own apartment. The only choice these people have is to go to a homeless shelter. Public assistance is necessary for people to get an apartment and become more independent.

Yet the amount of money for rent vouchers allowed under Public Assistance is not enough to meet the basic needs. There has not been an increase in the Public Assistance in seventeen years to keep up with the inflation.

I strongly encourage you to support the development of the Statewide Affordable Housing Trust fund to assist people who have disabilities and low income people so they can get a decent place to live.

Thank you,

Darryl Storie