



# HOUSING TOWN HALL RESOURCE BOOK

January 26, 2019  
301 Henry Street



# WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

## **Housing Connect 101: Looking for Affordable Housing?**

Presented by GOLES. 12-1 p.m., Gymnasium

In this workshop, we'll cover the city's process (known as NYC Housing Connect) of applying for new affordable housing and provide tips to put you in the best position to obtain a new affordable housing unit through NYC Housing Connect. There are a few new buildings coming up along Delancey Street at Essex Crossing, and we will discuss new information on those as it becomes available.

## **Tenants' Rights in NYC** Presented by the Metropolitan Council on Housing. 12-1 p.m., First Floor Classroom

In this workshop, we will provide tips and tools to tenants struggling with a wide variety of housing problems to help them protect their homes and better their living conditions. This workshop will include an overview of the various types of housing in NYC and the rights of tenants in these units, including the Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE) and Disability Rent Increase Exemption (DRIE), apartment repairs, landlord harassment, evictions, and tenant actions in housing court (HP Actions).

## **Housing Rights & Housing Court** Presented by Manhattan Legal Services. 1:30-2:30 p.m., Gymnasium

This interactive workshop covers routine housing rights issues (lease renewals, adding individuals to your lease, reading a rent history report from DHCR, succession rights, etc.) that our attorneys typically assist tenants with in court. Participants are encouraged to bring their own general questions for discussion.

## **NYCHA Grievances & Termination Proceedings** Presented by Housing Court Answers. 1:30-2:30 p.m., First Floor Classroom

In this workshop, we will look at the process of filing a grievance for NYCHA residents. We will also discuss termination proceedings, including on what grounds NYCHA can terminate one's tenancy and how to prepare for a termination proceeding. Additionally, we'll cover NYCHA occupancy standards, the proper way to file a remaining family member grievance, how to use a grievance to challenge a rent increase, and how to file a grievance for other NYCHA actions or lack of action.

*Resource Fair will be set up in the Gymnasium from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.*

# CO-SPONSORS

## Henry Street Settlement

Founded in 1893 by social reformer and activist Lillian Wald, Henry Street strives to open doors of opportunity to enrich lives and enhance human progress for Lower East Side residents and New Yorkers through social service, arts, and health care programs. Henry Street operates 17 sites on the Lower East Side and serves more than 50,000 people per year across the following program divisions.



**Health & Wellness:** Comprehensive, accessible, and affordable health services including enrollment in public benefits & health insurance, primary & mental health care services, and a range of programs for our community's seniors.



**Education & Employment:** A wide variety of education and employment programs that support community members of all ages in their academic, social and emotional, and career journeys, from early childhood through college, internships, and stable employment.



**Transitional & Supportive Housing:** Temporary emergency housing for homeless families, homeless women, and homeless female survivors of domestic violence and their children. In addition, the Settlement operates a permanent supportive housing residence with units available to chronically homeless men and women. Each shelter has comprehensive on-site social services that help residents restore and rebuild their lives while managing their housing crises.



**Visual & Performing Arts:** Affordable arts classes for youth, teens, and adults along with exhibitions, performances, and artist residencies at Abrons Arts Center, our historic playhouse and performing arts space.



**Community Engagement & Advocacy:** Henry Street is committed to doing work that reflects and responds to the needs of our community. In addition to hosting Town Halls like this one, Henry Street hosts many events and forums to connect with our neighbors and hear your feedback. We also host monthly Community Advisory Board meetings where neighbors shape our work and make their voices heard. Email [tderogatis@henrystreet.org](mailto:tderogatis@henrystreet.org) for more information.

# CO-SPONSORS

## GOLES

GOLES (Good Old Lower East Side) is a neighborhood housing and preservation organization that has served the Lower East Side of Manhattan since 1977 and is dedicated to tenants' rights, homelessness prevention, economic development, and community revitalization. Long-term, GOLES aims to:

- Build the power of low-income residents to address displacement and gentrification
- Preserve and expand the low-income housing stock
- Assert community self-determination over the use of public space
- Ensure a clean and healthy environment where people live, work, and play

GOLES serves, engages, and empowers low- and moderate-income residents of the LES/Loisaida, specifically people of color, through community organizing, public education, direct services, community-based participatory research, and coalition building. Our work focuses on six interrelated issue areas: housing, land use, disaster preparedness and environmental resiliency, healthy aging, job readiness, and youth.

### Contact

Call us for tenant, senior, and workforce assistance at 212.533.2541

## Henry Street's Neighborhood Resource Center

- Screenings for benefits and financial, health, housing, legal, employment and family consultations, along with on-site SNAP/food stamp enrollment. Our case managers help advocate on clients' behalf when necessary.
- Parenting resources, workshops, and support groups at the Parent Center. Programs are open to mothers, fathers, or other caregivers. Our licensed social work staff is trained in health, child development, and wellness, as well as cultural influences on parenting styles.
- Legal assistance for low-income individuals and families. By appointment only.
- On-site budget and credit counseling services at our Financial Clinic. By appointment only.
- The Health Insurance Enrollment Program helps individuals enroll in NY State's affordable health insurance plans. Our Certified Health Care Navigators explain the options and

answer questions. Enrollment for eligible individuals and families is completed onsite.

**All NRC services are free of charge.** Our multilingual/multiethnic team offers services in English, Spanish, and Chinese (Mandarin/Cantonese).

### Contact

Call 212.471.2400 to make an appointment. Walk-ins welcome.  
281 East Broadway.

## PARTNERS

### Metropolitan Council on Housing

The Metropolitan Council on Housing is a tenants' rights membership organization made up of New Yorkers who believe in our motto of "housing for people, not profit." Met Council formed over 58 years ago to fight for a city where everyone has access to safe, decent, affordable housing. We organize tenants to stand up not only for their individual rights, but also for changes to city housing policies. We serve the one million NYC households who are rent stabilized or regulated, particularly those working class and low-income New Yorkers who are most vulnerable to displacement.

### Contact

- Tenants' Rights Hotline: 212.979.0611, Mondays 1:30-8 p.m., Wednesdays & Fridays 1:30-5 p.m.
- Tenants' Rights Clinic (English): Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. at the Cooper Sq. Committee (61 East 4th Street between Bowery and 2nd Avenue)

### NYCHA REES

NYCHA's Office of Resident Economic Empowerment & Sustainability (REES) supports residents through a wide variety of programs. REES can help you connect with local economic opportunities, like hiring events and training sessions; access Section 3 and other job opportunities more easily; enroll in adult education programs; take advantage of NYCHA rent incentives programs; improve your credit and manage debt; and learn how to start or grow a business.

### Contact

Visit [opportunitynycha.org](http://opportunitynycha.org)

# PARTNERS

## Housing Court Answers

Housing Court Answers was founded by a group of concerned advocates in 1981, with a goal to help tenants without lawyers as they navigated Bronx and Brooklyn Housing Courts. Through advocacy, research, and outreach in Housing Court lobbies, these advocates were able to expand services to low-income tenants and landlords, and convince the court system to make access to justice for pro se litigants a priority.

Today, the staff of Housing Court Answers works in all five boroughs with tenants and landlords who are unable to afford attorneys and/or are struggling to understand Housing Court procedures. Our staff and Hotline Specialists collaborate with community groups, legal services providers, eviction-prevention specialists, academics, and elected officials to further the goal of justice in Housing Court as a means to reducing homelessness in New York City.

### Contact

Call our hotline at 212.962.4795, Tuesday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## Manhattan Legal Services (MLS)

MLS fights poverty and seeks economic, social, and racial justice for low-income Manhattan residents by providing multilingual services like free legal representation, advocacy, and community education. We focus on people living with HIV or a disability, the elderly, families with children, domestic violence survivors, immigrants, and people who are unemployed.

MLS has a long and successful history of working collaboratively with community-based organizations in neighborhoods such as Chinatown, the Lower East Side, Harlem, East Harlem, West Harlem and Washington Heights/Inwood to address systemic problems like the treatment of mentally ill people by the welfare system, gentrification and loss of affordable housing, language access for non-English speakers, and illegal debt collection.

### Contact

Call our access line at 646.442.3100.

# PARTNERS

## Community Board 3

CB3 is your means of giving input into decision making for your community. Your input as a member of CB3 or as a participant in meetings will help shape the City's policies, priorities, and budget. CB3 plays an important advisory role in local land use and zoning matters—including local housing development. In addition, the Community Board and staff monitor and evaluate city service delivery and help residents and businesses work with city agencies.

Community boards are non-mayoral agencies made up of 50 volunteer members each and supported by staffs, who are all city employees. The board members are appointed by the borough president with input from council members, and all community board meetings are open to the public. The public is encouraged to attend and participate in meetings, and you can access an online meeting calendar at [cb3manhattan.org](http://cb3manhattan.org).

### Contact

E-mail [info@cb3manhattan.org](mailto:info@cb3manhattan.org) for more information or to get involved.

## NYC Emergency Management (NYCEM)

NYCEM is responsible for citywide emergency planning and response for all types and scales of emergencies. **Ready New York** is the agency's public education campaign and can help you learn about the hazards you may face in New York City and prepare for all types of emergencies by writing an emergency plan, choosing a meeting place, gathering supplies for your home and preparing a "go bag" in case you need to leave your home in a hurry. NYCEM also offers volunteer opportunities helping prepare communities for various types of disasters.

### Contact

To learn more, visit our website: [www1.nyc.gov/site/em/about/overview.page](http://www1.nyc.gov/site/em/about/overview.page)



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