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Independent Budget Office (IBO) Unveils Explainer on the CityFHEPS Program

January 8, 2024 – Today, the Independent Budget Office (IBO) announces the publication of its City Fighting Homelessness & Eviction Prevention Supplement Program (CityFHEPS) explainer, which provides an overview and analysis of the program. CityFHEPS is a rental assistance program that is designed to help families and individuals find and keep housing. The program is administered by the Department of Social Services (DSS).

IBO's analysis breaks down and explains the assumptions made in three different estimates released by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), the City Council, and the Office of the State Comptroller (OSC). For a breakdown of these estimates please reference fig. 6 on pg. 7 of IBO's explainer below.

To read IBO's explainer, [please click here](#).

IBO's explainer highlights the following:

- The City's historical budgeting approach for the CityFHEPS program makes it difficult to appropriately assess the overall size and cost of the program. The City adds funding one year at a time, without budgeting future years at current spending. For a breakdown of these figures please reference fig. 1 on pg. 2.
 - The cost estimates from OMB, the City Council, and OSC vary due to uncertainty over the new eligibility requirements passed by the City Council in 2023, including whether new requirements would cover households who would otherwise enter shelter or a newly eligible population. For a breakdown of these figures please reference fig. 5 on pg. 5.
 - All three estimates referenced in the report assume that the program can expand but would require the City to address challenges stemming from outdated payment methods and workforce vacancies.
 - The program is also impacted by various workforce vacancies in multiple areas. For example, one of the main positions associated with CityFHEPS at DSS, Job Opportunity Specialists, declined 24 percent between June 2019 and June 2023, with a net loss of 50 positions in 2023.
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New York City Independent Budget Office

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