

# The New York Times

## New York City's Rising Number of Homeless

NOV. 25, 2015

**To the Editor:**

Re "[Mayor Unveils Plan to Create 15,000 Units of Housing](#)" (news article, Nov. 19):

Mayor Bill de Blasio's plan to expand supportive housing is welcome news, but it fails to recognize the unique plight of the medically homeless — those who are in active treatment for serious health conditions such as cancer, renal disease, heart disease and diabetes.

Some of these people are receiving treatment and living on the streets. Others, such as immune-compromised cancer patients, are stuck in hospitals because they cannot safely be discharged to the existing shelter system. To combat this problem, some cities, such as New Haven, have established medical respite programs to provide housing and care. Such programs reduce health care costs for hospitals and taxpayers.

This is not a simple fix, but a necessary part of any plan to tackle the complex housing crisis we face.

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JULIE BRANDFIELD

New York

*The writers are director and associate director, respectively, of LegalHealth, a division of the New York Legal Assistance Group.*

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