



**CATHERINE TRAPANI**  
Executive Director  
Homeless Services United  
New York, NY



Catherine has been working in the nonprofit sector for nearly 20 years. She started her nonprofit career providing direct services in a domestic violence shelter and has since played leadership roles developing and directing programs, public policy and system change work all designed to enhance the safety net and promote housing stability. As Executive Director of Homeless Services United she leads a coalition of nearly 50 nonprofit homeless service providers in New York City advocating for a stronger safety net with fair contracts and, provider informed, client centered practice to end the crisis of homelessness.

Catherine successfully advocated for \$146 million to improve shelter conditions and services, the largest investment since the 1990s and successfully advocated for additional funding for frontline staff pay increases and other initiatives. She has also won several legislative victories including raising the value of rental assistance vouchers at the City and State level. Catherine regularly provides expert testimony before the City Council and regulatory and oversight bodies as well as presents to community organizations. She has been a leader in various coalitions advocating on behalf of homeless New Yorkers and has played a key role in monitoring policy developments and their effects on constituents while advocating for improved policies for and greater access to housing assistance for survivors of domestic violence and people experiencing homelessness.

Prior to joining HSU she worked at New Destiny Housing Corporation where she directed citywide service programs and helped design and implement the first rapid rehousing program for survivors of domestic violence in New York City. Prior to that, Catherine was a Senior Client Advocate at a Safe Horizon emergency shelter, providing case management and crisis intervention services.

Catherine Trapani received her BA from McGill University in Sociology specializing in Deviance, Culture and Institutions and graduated with distinction.