



For Immediate Release

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Amida Care Responds to Report Highlighting Housing Insecurity in the LGBTQ Community

New York, NY (September 8, 2021) -- Amida Care, New York's largest Medicaid Special Needs Plan designed for people affected by HIV, released the following statement from President and CEO Doug Wirth, in response to a [report from the Williams Institute](#) that found nearly one-fifth of LGBTQ renters are not caught up on rent, and nearly half of those behind on rent payments fear eviction in the next two months:

"The recent report from the Williams Institute is deeply concerning on a number of levels. We have a looming housing crisis on our hands that disproportionately impacts less-resourced communities, including LGBTQ communities. And this report comes just days after the Supreme Court struck down the moratorium on evictions, an action that could lead to millions of Americans losing their homes."

"LGBTQ Americans have historically faced housing discrimination. Amida Care's report, [Breaking Barriers to Transgender Health Care](#), highlights findings from the National Center for Transgender Equality that found one in three transgender Americans experienced homelessness, and one in four faced housing discrimination."

"Housing instability in the LGBTQ community threatens to undermine the progress we've made in recent years to end the HIV epidemic in New York State and throughout the country. It is nearly impossible for individuals living with HIV to adhere to their treatment regimen when they don't know where they'll sleep at night. [Recent studies](#) demonstrate that housing insecurity is connected to reduced treatment adherence, which in turn puts people living with HIV at risk of HIV-related complications that lead to longer hospital stays and higher health care costs. Housing instability is also linked to increased risk of acquiring HIV and delayed HIV diagnosis. [Recent findings](#) show that gay and bisexual men experiencing housing instability are more than 15 times more likely to delay HIV testing than people who are stably housed.

"Stable and secure housing is vital to health care. While we welcome the emergency action taken by Governor Hochul and the New York State legislature to stop COVID-19 related evictions, the state must do more to provide more permanent solutions to address the needs of LGBTQ populations. We need swift action from our local, state, and federal officials to ensure that everyone has access to safe, stable, affordable housing."

Amida Care Inc. is a not-for-profit health plan that specializes in providing comprehensive health coverage and coordinated care to New Yorkers with complex conditions, including HIV and behavioral health disorders, and

people who are of transgender experience or homeless (regardless of HIV status). Amida Care has a wide network of health care providers throughout New York City and is the largest Medicaid Special Needs Health Plan (SNP) in New York State. For more information, visit www.amidacareny.org.