



For Immediate Release

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Amida Care Responds to Settlement Requiring NYC to Provide Separate Housing for TGNC People in Homeless Shelters

New York, NY (January 7, 2022) -- Amida Care, New York's largest Medicaid managed care Special Needs Plan serving over 2,200 people of trans experience, released the following statement from President and CEO Doug Wirth in response to the news of a [recent legal settlement](#) between the City of New York and Mariah Lopez, an activist with the Strategic Transgender Alliance for Radical Reform (STARR), that will require the city to provide separate housing as an option for trans and gender non-conforming people experiencing homelessness in city shelters. Under the settlement, the city has agreed to make at least 30 beds for trans people available at locations in Brooklyn, the Bronx, Queens and Manhattan, by December 2022. The beds must have access to single-stall toilets and showers or private bathrooms, and can either be located in new dedicated shelters or in separate units within existing shelter locations:

"This historic agreement between the City of New York and Mariah Lopez of STARR will help to ensure that transgender and gender non-conforming New Yorkers who are experiencing homelessness are treated with dignity and respect in our city's shelter system. We applaud Mariah Lopez and STARR for their courage and dedication in bringing forward the legal action that led to this landmark settlement."

"People of transgender and gender non-conforming experience face discrimination at every turn – in housing, education, employment, health care and more. This discrimination makes them more likely to experience homelessness. According to recent data from the [National Center for Transgender Equality](#), one in five transgender people in the United States have been discriminated against when seeking a home, and more than one in ten have been evicted from their homes because of their gender identity. Additionally, discrimination in education and the workplace means that TGNC people are more likely to face poverty, which contributes to higher rates of homelessness."

"Having a safe, stable place to live is vital to health care. It is exponentially more difficult to make it to doctors' appointments and adhere to a treatment regimen when you don't know where you're going to sleep at night. Ensuring that transgender and gender nonconforming individuals, who are disproportionately impacted by HIV, have access to care is crucial to our efforts to end the HIV epidemic."

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.