RESPONDING TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC
ANNUAL REPORT 2020 SUMMARY

89,160 adults & children impacted by NYLAG’s services

3,250 tenants represented by NYLAG who were facing eviction, displacement, and homelessness

220 family offense petitions filed by NYLAG during COVID-19 for domestic violence survivors*

4,570 public benefits cases handled so seniors, families, and children could access food and resources to survive

4,800 people helped by our two COVID-19 hotlines*

IN TIMES OF CRISIS, ACT.

“MANY DESPERATE CALLERS REACH NYLAG’S COVID HOTLINE AT THE END OF THEIR ROPE. WE OFFER REAL HELP AND CALLERS MENTION FEELING HOPE AGAIN.”

SIRRAH HARRIS, SUPERVISING ATTORNEY

All numbers are from July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020, unless otherwise noted. *As of September 2020
NYLAG STEPS IN TO PROTECT PEOPLE IN HOMELESS SHELTERS

Our vigorous advocacy on behalf of people in shelters resulted in an agreement by the NYC Department of Homeless Service to move vulnerable adults in the adult shelter system who are not yet ill to isolation beds as a preventative measure.

NYLAG ADVOCATES FOR TENANTS DURING EVER-CHANGING LANDSCAPE

Since the start of the pandemic, there have been many complicated and confusing changes in regard to tenants’ rights and options. We were steadfast in our commitment to ensuring tenants had the most accurate information and answering their legal questions through virtual Q&As, hotlines, and various online events with community leaders. We also represented clients in many virtual hearings in housing court on numerous post-eviction orders to prevent evictions.

NYLAG ADVANCES VA POLICIES TO SAFEGUARD VULNERABLE VETERANS

Thanks in part to NYLAG’s advocacy with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), the VA extended financial, benefits, and claims relief to veterans impacted by COVID. The VA has adopted numerous new policies addressing the issues highlighted by NYLAG, including extensions of claim deadlines and suspension of any debt-collection activity.

NYLAG PROTECTS CHILDREN OF HOSPITAL AND FRONTLINE WORKERS

We drafted, together with pro bono partner Greenberg Traurig, LLP, an Executive Order that ensures that any parent, legal caretaker who works in a health care facility, or anyone who believes they may be exposed to COVID-19, may designate a standby guardian for their child should something happen to them.

NYLAG HELPS TO RELEASE IMMIGRANTS IN ICE DETENTION WHO WERE INFECTED WITH COVID-19 OR HAVE MEDICAL VULNERABILITIES

NYLAG undertook rigorous advocacy efforts to seek release of detained immigrants with COVID-19 or at risk because of medical vulnerabilities, including by filing habeas petitions in courts in NY and NJ and other emergency applications.

NYLAG LAUNCHES ONLINE COVID-19 RESOURCE CENTER:

- Housing up-to-date information on court procedures, policies, and COVID-related benefits.
- Creating unique legal resources on tenants’ rights, employee protections, foreclosure prevention, advance planning, financial counseling, and other issue areas.
- Hosting live video Q&As on housing issues, immigration, public benefits, domestic violence, foreclosure, homeless services, among others.

THANK YOU. BECAUSE OF YOUR SUPPORT, LAST YEAR NYLAG WAS ABLE TO HELP 89,160 PEOPLE MOVE CLOSER TO ECONOMIC STABILITY AND SAFETY.