

## ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATIVE NEWS

ULSTER COUNTY NEWS INFORMATION OFFICE OF THE COUNTY LEGISLAUTRE 244 FAIR STREET, 6TH FLOOR KINGSTON, NY 12401 MEDIA CONTACT INFORMATION

- PHONE 845-340-3900
- \* EMAIL LegislativeNews@co.ulster.ny.us
- FAX 845-340-3651

Legislature.UlsterCountyNY.gov

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## Ulster County Legislature Invests in Eviction Defense

(*Kingston, NY*) – In its July 16, 2024 Session the Ulster County Legislature unanimously approved Resolution No. 371, increasing funding for eviction defense services by \$567,621 for Ulster County renters at risk of or facing eviction from their homes.

""The Eviction Defense Services Program has proven its success in providing needed counsel to those facing eviction. Our investment in this program is a crucial part of our multifaceted approach to tackling the ongoing housing crisis, providing representation and legal advice to our neighbors facing the loss of the a place to live. This program is a game-changer when it comes to supporting those in need, and I look forward to seeing it continue to expand," said Majority Leader Abe Uchitelle (District 5, City of Kingston), Chair of the Health, Human Services & Housing Committee, who sponsored the Resolution.

First established via Resolution No. 498 of 2022, the Eviction Defense Services Program has been operated under contract by Legal Services of the Hudson Valley (LSHV). Through this contract, LHSV has been able to hire a staff attorney, a housing counselor and assist over 50 families in staying in their home through legal counseling, budget counseling and assisting with small arrears. This contract expired on December 31, 2023, and LHSV has continued to find support for their clients first onboarded through the program.

"This has long been a goal of mine, to help families in temporary need. This is a win-win for tenants but for landlords as well. The EDP will act as a springboard for tenants who have fallen behind on their rent due to unforeseen crisis. I will be looking forward to their success stories.," said Minority Leader Roberts (District 12, Plattekill), co-sponsor of Resolution No. 371.

Full text of the Resolution can be found here.

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