NYCHA is a critical part of our public infrastructure, and its residents make significant contributions to New York City. We are currently at a crossroads — either we rapidly bring NYCHA back to a state of good repair, or face the loss of our public housing through demolition by neglect. Here are some of the consequences of not turning the situation around.

1. A dent in our workforce
NYCHA residents are a critical part of the workforce for many industries in New York, including disproportionate representation in the health, education, and manufacturing sectors. The healthcare industry alone relies on more than 30,000 NYCHA residents as employees.

NYCHA residents are a critical component of the workforce in certain industries.

2. Overwhelming the shelter system
While capital needs are great, NYCHA is significantly less expensive to New York City than other very low-income housing or shelter — it would cost the city 14 times more money to house people with vouchers in private housing, and 47 times as much to provide emergency shelter.

Alternatives to public housing are far more costly for New York.

3. Loss of critical neighborhood pillars
The value of NYCHA goes beyond just housing to provide many benefits to the surrounding neighborhood as well:

- Almost half of all NYC senior centers are in NYCHA housing.
- NYCHA provides 126 childcare facilities including 96 preschools.
- There are 189 acres of recreational open space in NYCHA developments, including almost 10% of the handball and basketball courts in the NYC Parks Department portfolio.

4. A Hit to Local and Regional Economic Vitality
Contributions by NYCHA residents to New York’s economy are both substantial and widespread: NYCHA residents spend over $2 billion per year, much of it supporting businesses in their local neighborhoods. And NYCHA residents are also entrepreneurs, owning over 650 local businesses themselves.

For more information, visit rpa.org