

COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITY TO PURCHASE ACT (COPA) OVERVIEW

On May 14, 2026, the New York City Council re-introduced the Community Opportunity to Purchase Act (COPA), Introduction 905-A. Co-sponsored by a strong majority of Council Members, COPA gives communities, tenants, and the City of New York a powerful new tool to stabilize and preserve urgently needed affordable housing. Here are the facts:

COPA restores balance to a housing market under extreme speculative pressure.

COPA gives vetted nonprofit organizations, as well as joint ventures between nonprofit and for-profit developers, a first chance to make competitive offers to buy certain at-risk multifamily properties, when an owner sells. Without COPA, these preservation buyers are often unable to compete with all-cash buyers and other deep-pocketed investors. COPA gives communities an important tool to stabilize and expand the supply of permanently affordable homes that New Yorkers urgently need.

COPA is a sound, broadly supported policy with proven impact.

New York's COPA legislation reflects over six years of careful City Council deliberation, broad public input, and learning from San Francisco—which enacted its own successful COPA policy in 2019—and other cities that have enacted similar policies. COPA is backed by over 200 affordable housing developers, community land trusts, tenant associations, and community development lenders ready to work with the city to ensure COPA's effective implementation. (See list below.)

COPA will protect multifamily buildings in the greatest need of preservation.

COPA applies to buildings with four or more units that are either part of certain HPD-regulated affordable housing programs or have persistently hazardous building conditions that put tenants at risk. COPA fully exempts all buildings with fewer than four rental units; owner-occupied buildings with five or fewer units; vacant lots; buildings sold or transferred among family members; buildings passed to heirs after the owner dies; and buildings transferred to avoid foreclosure, among other exclusions. Owners of covered properties may seek exemption from COPA for undue financial hardship. Based on City data, COPA would have applied to approximately 1% of buildings sold in each of the last two years, a small but strategic subset of buildings most in need of preservation.

COPA provides fair, efficient timeframes and off-ramps for property owners.

Under COPA, Qualified Entities have 20 days to submit a statement of interest in purchasing a building up for sale. If no such statements are received, the owner can sell the building on the open market, exiting COPA completely. If Qualified Entities are interested, they must submit a bona fide offer to purchase within 70 days. Owners are free to reject these offers and sell the building on the open market. The first Qualified Entity that made an offer (if applicable) has 15 days to exercise a right of first refusal, by matching an open market offer the owner wishes to accept.

COPA establishes strict standards for Qualified Entities to ensure accountability.

Under the legislation, NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) will certify Qualified Entities, which must demonstrate financial capacity and a commitment to preserving affordable housing, among other criteria. Qualified Entities may include nonprofits, such as community development corporations and community land trusts, and joint ventures between qualified nonprofits and for-profits, including M/WBEs, where the nonprofit holds a majority interest.

ORGANIZATIONS IN SUPPORT OF COPA

AARP New York
 Alembic Community Development
 89th Street Tenants Unidos Association
 AD—WO
 Affordable Housing is For All (AHIFA)
 Art Against Displacement
 Ascendant Neighborhood Development Corp.
 Asian Americans for Equality
 Association for Neighborhood and Housing Development (ANHD)
 Astoria Not for Sale
 Bailey's Cafe
 Banana Kelly Community Improvement Assoc.
 Belmont Arthur LDC
 Biotech Without Borders
 Bennington Tenant Union
 Black Land Access Community Land Trust
 Black Trans Media
 Blacklining Foundation
 Bronx Community Land Trust
 Brooklyn Cooperative Federal Credit Union
 Brooklyn Level Up
 The Brotherhood Sister Sol
 Brownsville Partnership
 Build Up Justice
 CAMBA Housing Ventures
 Community League of the Heights (CLOTH)
 Caribbean Equality Project
 Carroll Gardens Association
 Catholic Migration Services
 Center for Economic Democracy
 Center for Family Life in Sunset Park
 Center for New York City Neighborhoods
 Chhaya CDC
 Chinatown CLT
 Chinese-American Planning Council
 The Chocolate Factory Theater
 Churches United for Fair Housing
 Citizen Action of New York
 Columbia University White Coats for Black Lives
 Communities Resist
 Community Allies
 Community and Worker Ownership Project, at
 CUNY School of Labor and Urban Studies

Community League of the Heights
 Community Resource Exchange
 Community Service Society of New York
 Community Solutions
 Community Voices Heard
 Cooper Square Committee
 Cooper Square Community Land Trust
 Cooper Square MHA II, HDFC
 Cooperative Economics Alliance of NYC
 Cooperators United for Mitchell-Lama
 Crown Heights Jewish Community Council
 Crown Heights Tenant Union
 Custom Collaborative
 CUNY School of Law Community & Economic Development Clinic
 Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation
 The Doe Fund
 DSA Queens Housing Working Group
 East Harlem/El Barrio Community Land Trust
 East Harlem Preservation
 East New York Community Land Trust
 East New York 4 Gardens
 East River Park Action
 El Puente de Williamsburg
 F.E.A.S.T. Organization
 Fifth Avenue Committee
 Flatbush Tenant Coalition
 The Flatbush Workshop for Design
 For the Many
 Goddard Riverside
 Greater Jamaica Development Corporation
 Green Map System
 Grow Brownsville
 GrowHouse NYC
 The Health & Housing Consortium
 Henry Street Settlement
 Housing Conservation Coordinators
 Housing Court Answers
 Housing Justice for All
 Housing Organizers for People Empowerment of East Brooklyn (HOPE)
 Housing Rights Initiative
 Housing Rights Project at CUNY Law
 Housing Works
 Hudson Valley Justice Center

ORGANIZATIONS IN SUPPORT OF COPA (cont'd)

IMPACCT Brooklyn	ReAL Edgemere Community Land Trust
Inclusiv	Resilient Red Hook
Jackson Heights Indivisible	Right to Counsel NYC Coalition
Jews for Racial and Economic Justice	Riseboro
League of Independent Theater	Riverside Edgecombe Neighborhood Association
Limited Equity and Affordability at Penn South	Save63Tiffany
Livable Future	Settlement Housing Fund
Lower East Side People's Federal Credit Union	Sixth Street Community Center
Malikah	South Bronx Unite
Midtown South Community Council	Southside United HDFC- Los Sures
MinKwon Center for Community Action	Stabilizing NYC
Mitchell-Lama Residents Coalition	St. Nicks Alliance
Mothers on the Move / Madres en Movimiento	Southside United HDFC – Los Sures
The Mothership NYC	STooPS Art & Community
Mott Haven Port Morris Community Land Stewards	Street Vendor Project, Urban Justice Center
Mutual Housing Association of New York	Strycker's Bay Neighborhood Council
Neighborhood Housing Services of Brooklyn CDC, Inc.	The Supportive Housing Network of New York
New Destiny Housing Corp.	TakeBackNYC
New Economy Project	TakeRoot Justice
New Immigrant Community Empowerment	Tenants and Neighbors
New York City Commission on Racial Equity	Tenants Political Action Committee
New York City Community Land Initiative	Theatre of the Oppressed NYC
New York City Environmental Justice Alliance (NYC-EJA)	This Land is Ours Community Land Trust
New York Communities for Change	un:Lab
The NHP Foundation	Union of Legal Workers for Trans Liberation
NYC Youth Sports Podcast Show INC.	United Neighbors Organization
New Yorkers for Culture & Arts	Universe City
NY Muslim Organizing Collective	Urban Homesteading Assistance Board
North American Climate, Conservation and Environment (NACCE)	Urban Justice Center – Safety Net Project
North Queensview Homes Inc.	Village Preservation
North Star Fund	WE ACT for Environmental Justice
Northern Manhattan Community Land Trust	We Are Not Afraid Community Resource Center
Not One More Block	We Stay/Nos Quedamos
NYC Arts in Education Roundtable	Western Queens Community Land Trust
NYC HDFC	WHEDco
Opera House Tenants Union	Woodside on the Move
Our Bronx	Worth Fighting For NYC
Parsons Housing Justice Lab	Youth Ministries for Peace and Justice
Picture the Homeless	YUMYODA
Pratt Center for Community Development	
Public Ceramics	
Q Gardens Community Farm	

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