

# 1. Advocacy

1. What is an advocate?
  - Someone who speaks out for a cause, or takes action to help themselves or someone else.
  
2. How do I find an advocate?
  - [Department of Homeless Services \(DHS\) Office of Advocacy Hotline \(800\) 994-6494:](#)
    - a. Help clients navigate the homeless services system such as shelter placements, Section 8 vouchers, referrals to other advocates, and other connections to assistance.
    - b. Bring pertinent and systematic issues to the attention of DHS policy makers and providers.
  - [Advocates for Children \(212\) 947-9779 x51](#) provides help in the following areas:
    - a. Difficulty re-enrolling child in school
    - b. Changed residence, but want to stay in current school
    - c. Suspension
    - d. Special Education entitlements
    - e. Concerns about child's education
  - The following agencies can provide assistance in locating the necessary advocate for your needs:
    - [Department for the Aging \(DFTA\)](#)
      - Information and referral line (212) 442-1000
      - TTY/TDD (212) 442-3078 or (212) 442-3079
    - [Administration for Children's Services \(ACS\)](#)
      - (877) KIDS NYC or (877) 543-7692
    - [New York City Business Link](#)
      - (877) 585-JOBS
    - [Commission on Human Rights \(CCHR\)](#)
      - (212) 306-7500
    - [Domestic Violence Hotline](#)
      - (800) 621-HOPE
    - [Office of Immigrant Affairs](#)
      - (212) 788-7654
    - [Department of Youth and Community Development](#)
      - (212) 422-6006