



NASSAU COUNTY COMPTROLLER
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**Nassau County Comptroller's Office Announces Audit
of the County's Utilization of Motels and Hotels for Emergency Housing**

MINEOLA, NY – The Nassau County Comptroller's office has announced it will commence a review of Nassau County's utilization of local motels and hotels for emergency housing. The notification was made to Nancy Nunziata, LMSW, Commissioner of the Nassau County Department of Social Services on Monday, April 24, 2023.

The Nassau County Department of Social Services (DSS) provides eligible individuals and families assistance with emergency temporary housing. Approved applicants are placed either at an appropriate emergency shelter or a hotel/motel if adequate shelter space is not available. Hotel/motel placements may also be used when an individual or family member requires a medical accommodation or easy access to school or employment which cannot be met by a shelter location.

In 2022, 17 hotel/motels were used by the Nassau County Office of Housing and Community Development for emergency housing placements at a total cost to the County of \$3,053,278.

The scope of the review will include, but not be limited to, the processes, procedures and internal controls and regulatory compliance involved in the selection of motel/hotels for use as emergency shelters, the placement of individuals and families into motels/hotels, and reimbursements/payments to motels/hotels.

Auditors from the Comptroller's Office will:

- Review the controls that exist for qualifying individuals and families for placement in area hotels and motels to meet emergency shelter needs;
- Determine whether appropriate supporting documentation exists for these placements;
- Assess the claim forms for reimbursement to hotels/motels to determine if they are being completed properly and authorizing the correct reimbursement amounts; and
- Evaluate an up-front payment arrangement program whereby select hotels/motels are provided funds in advance for emergency shelter stays.

The audit function is among the top priorities of the Nassau County Comptroller's Office. Audits have the power to help County departments and non-profit agencies that do business with the

County manage government resources efficiently and effectively. Through these audits, the Comptroller's Office provides accountability for the use of tax dollars.

For more information about field audits conducted by the Nassau County Comptroller's Office, visit <https://www.nassaucountyny.gov/2377/Field-Audits>, call (516) 571-2386 or email nccomptroller@nassaucountyny.gov.

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