



Human Resources Administration
Department of Social Services
Robert Doar, *Commissioner*

HRA Shares Social Service Stories in New Podcast Series

HRA is launching a new series of podcasts on the good work that social service workers do throughout the city, and the positive effect they've had on New Yorkers' lives. Called **HRACast: Social Services in New York City**, the podcast features stories from real clients and caseworkers who share the challenges they've faced and the positive changes they've achieved with the help of New York City's programs.

"It's important to highlight the good work that HRA staff do across the city," said Connie Ress, HRA's Deputy Commissioner of Communications and Marketing. "The podcast format is perfect for sharing personal stories like these that might otherwise go unnoticed."

As part of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, the first podcast focuses on HRA's Office of Domestic Violence, which provides emergency shelter, temporary housing and support services for victims of domestic violence. In the podcast, Sparkle, a New York City resident and survivor of domestic violence, recounts her story and the ways HRA's Office of Domestic Violence was able to help her escape her situation and rebuild her life.

Examples of future podcasts will detail the experiences of clients of HRA's Adult Protective Services program, which helps physically or mentally impaired adults who cannot care for themselves, and the HIV/AIDS Services Administration, which provides a range of services for New Yorkers with AIDS and clinically symptomatic HIV illness and their families. The podcast series will continue to detail the stories of New Yorkers who have found help through other HRA services, and the dedicated social services staff that have helped them get the assistance they need to improve their lives and work toward self-sufficiency. The podcasts will be available for free on [Soundcloud](#) and [iTunes](#).

"The fact is, City employees make a big difference in New Yorkers' lives," said Deputy Commissioner Ress. "We're thrilled to have the opportunity to share those stories."