

Podcaster Andy Slavitt is passionate about finding solutions to homelessness through affordable housing. You can learn more by listening to "[**Why You Need to Say Yes to Affordable Housing**](#)." As you read, it's essential to know that "extremely low income" in Monroe County is less than \$16,000 a year for one person, or about half the rate in California.

The good news is we are already working on two suggested solutions with the Zoning Alignment Plan for the City of Rochester. The new code includes up-zoning many areas of the City and provides the option for Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU). The [**Release of 1st Batch of the Draft Code \(1-31-22\)**](#) outlines these changes, which will make it possible to increase housing availability in our land-locked city that has a shortage of over 15,000 affordable units for people with extremely low incomes.

New York State is now paying homeowners up to \$125,000 to build an ADU in their backyard to help ease the nation's housing shortage. However, Rochester is not taking advantage of this funding. You can read the article [**here**](#). Then contact your [**City Councilmember**](#) and the At-Large Councilmembers and ask them to bring this opportunity to our backyards.