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Office of the Nassau County Comptroller

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Living Wage Audit Results in Payment of More Than \$30,000 to Employees of County Vendor

Mineola - Nassau County Comptroller Jack Schnirman today announced his office completed a living wage audit that resulted in the payment of more than \$30,000 to 16 employees of a county-contracted emergency shelter provider that had been paying staff members less than the legally-required living wage.

Auditors from the Office of the Nassau County Comptroller conducting a living wage audit on emergency housing provider ADD/ADHD found it had underpaid 16 employees \$30,600 in addition to not granting more than 1,000 hours of paid vacation time to 12 employees, worth \$16,988.

This company has a yearly contract with Nassau County worth \$1.2 million and is required to follow Nassau County's living wage law, which requires most county vendors to pay employees at least a set living wage and provide full-time employees with paid time off. The living wage in Nassau County is currently \$14.27 an hour with benefits and \$16.41 without benefits.

"Our office conducts these audits so that we can ensure employees of county contractors are being treated fairly. If you want to work with Nassau County, you have to make sure your employees are earning a living wage," Nassau County Comptroller Jack Schnirman said. "The purpose of these audits is to get results for the employees, and I am happy to see that already taking place."

The provider has already paid the 16 employees their missing salary and is in the process of paying 12 employees for the missing vacation time.

In addition to the underpaid salary and missing vacation time, auditors found ADD/ADHD:

- Was giving employees a discount on their rent as part of their overall compensation package, but in several instances issued them false IRS 1099 forms instead of including the rental assistance on their W2.

- Didn't include more than \$237,000 in Nassau County funding on their IRS form 990 in 2016.
- At the time of the audit couldn't provide evidence that it had screened all of its employees who have access to emergency housing against the NYS sex offender registry.

"Employees shouldn't have to navigate improperly filed earnings statements just to do their taxes every year. We've directed the provider to stop this practice and to file an amended 990 return with the IRS accounting for the missing \$237,000 of taxpayer dollars they received," Schnirman said. "We can now report that all employees have now been screened against the NYS sex offender registry as a result of our investigation."

As with all audits, the Office of the Nassau County Comptroller will follow-up with the housing provider in six months to ensure the recommendations are being followed. A full copy of this audit can be found online [here](#).