

Tightening the Front Door: Shelter Application and Eligibility

Within three months of de Blasio's entry into office, the percentage of families found eligible for shelter rose from 39% to 57%. This brief rise in eligibility during de Blasio's first year in office as mayor, however, dropped back down to an eligibility rate that was similar to that of the last two years of his predecessor, Mayor Bloomberg.

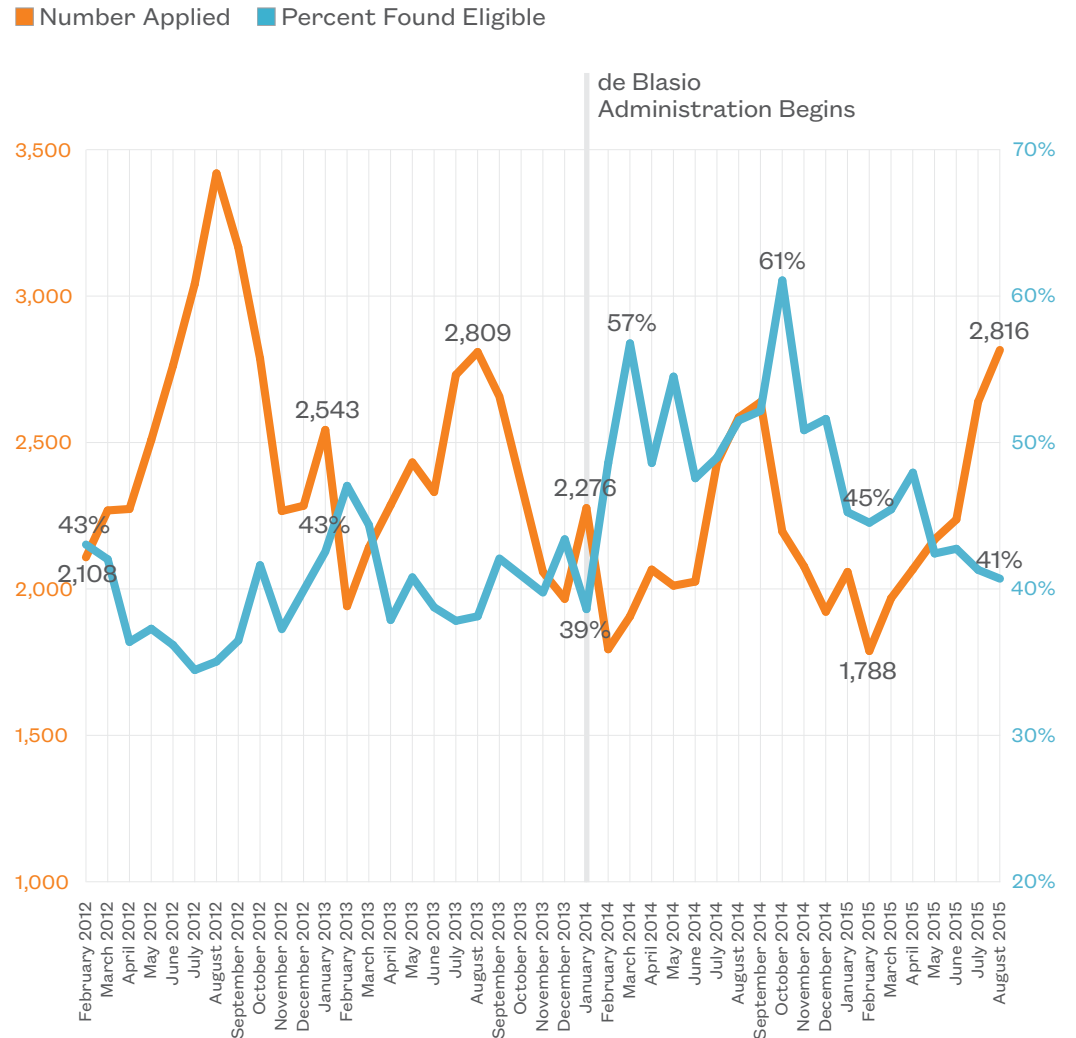
As of August 2015, the monthly eligibility rate for family shelter was 41%. This is much lower than the six-month rate of 60% from July–December 2014 (page 25).

In August 2015 over 2,800 families applied for shelter in New York City. This is the largest number of applicants since September 2012, when over 3,100 families applied.

The more than 20 percentage-point fluctuation in eligibility rate that is seen between January 2014 and August 2015 highlights how eligibility criteria can significantly affect the number of families entering shelter.

Family Shelter Applicants and Eligibility in New York City

Number of Families with Children Applying for Shelter and Percent of Applications Found Eligible 2012–2015, by Month



Source: New York City Department of Homeless Services, *Local Law 37 Report*, 2012–2015.