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## **NYCHA agreement speeds up timetable for major repairs, offers potential jobs for tenants**

By Greg B. Smith



**After hearing complaints about delayed repairs, NYCHA announced a deal Monday that gives \$3.5 billion for major renovations to be completed by 2018.**

A new labor agreement will speed fixups of the Housing Authority's aging buildings and give tenants a shot at well-paying union jobs, NYCHA announced Monday.

The deal with the Building & Construction Trades Council applies to private contractors hired by NYCHA to complete an estimated \$3.5 billion in major renovations through 2018, the authority said.

The unions have also committed to reserving 10% of all new apprenticeship classes for NYCHA tenants, putting hundreds of them on the road to getting union jobs.

Mayor de Blasio praised the deal for "creating quality jobs and much-needed stable employment that could help lift families out of poverty."



**The agreement also includes a deal with the unions that 10% of apprenticeship classes will be reserved for NYCHA tenants.**

About 50% of NYCHA's families have full-time employment, while about 11% rely on public assistance. Nearly 80% of the 334 developments are at least 30 years old.

Gary LaBarbera, president of the Building and Construction Trades Council of Greater New York, said the agreement will "lead to lifelong and middle-class careers" for eligible NYCHA tenants.