

August 12, 2019

Contact:

Redmond Haskins  
The Legal Aid Society  
(929) 441-2384  
[rhaskins@legal-aid.org](mailto:rhaskins@legal-aid.org)

**\*\*\*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE\*\*\***

***NYCHA FOIL DISCLOSURE REVEALS THAT 1,934  
UNPLANNED HEAT/HOT WATER OUTAGES PLAGUED  
OVER 131,000 UNITS – 291,537 PUBLIC HOUSING  
RESIDENTS – DURING 2018-2019 HEAT SEASON***

(NEW YORK, NY) – The Legal Aid Society condemned NYCHA’s failure to provide basic services to its tenants based upon information NYCHA provided in response to a Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) request which revealed that 131,301 of its approximately 175,000 housing units and 291,537 public housing residents were plagued by unplanned heat and/or hot water outages last heat season, which lasted from October 1, 2018 to May 31, 2019.

“This data again demonstrates NYCHA’s daily struggle to ensure that public housing residents have access to working heat and hot water. As the landlord, NYCHA has a legal and moral obligation to ensure that these necessary utilities are functioning properly. New York’s heat season is only a few months away and we hope that the Authority is taking the necessary steps to avoid a reprise of last year’s widespread outages that plagued thousands of tenants in every borough,” said **Lucy Newman, Staff Attorney with the Civil Law Reform Unit at The Legal Aid Society.**

In 2018, The Legal Aid Society filed a [lawsuit](#) demanding rent abatements for tenants who suffered through severe heat and/or hot water outages. The appeal in that lawsuit will be heard sometime this fall in New York State’s Appellate Division, First Department.

###

*The Legal Aid Society exists for one simple yet powerful reason: to ensure that New Yorkers are not denied their right to equal justice because of poverty. For over 140 years, we have protected, defended, and advocated for those who have struggled in silence for far too long. Every day, in every borough, The Legal Aid Society changes the lives of our clients and helps improve our communities. <https://www.legalaidnyc.org>*

**Justice in Every Borough.**