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

***After IRS Extends Deadlines for Applications for Stimulus Payments, Legal Aid Calls on NYC DOC and NYS DOCCS to Assist With Applications From People in Custody***

(NEW YORK, NY) – After the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and a federal judge extended deadlines to apply for stimulus payments under the CARES Act, **The Legal Aid Society** called on the New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS) and the New York City Department of Correction (DOC) to bolster outreach to those in custody to assist with these applications. These efforts to aid in applications became essential in the wake of a federal ruling that the IRS had wrongly denied stimulus payments to persons because they were incarcerated. **Under the new deadlines, paper applications are due October 30, 2020 and online applications are due November 21, 2020.** DOC recently [announced](#) that it had begun to distribute packets that contain information about who is eligible and how to apply for the stimulus payments, the applicable tax forms and other material to assist with mail-in applications, which are now due by October 30, 2020. However, DOC has yet to agree to allow incarcerated New Yorkers to take the more assured route of applying online, or to ensure that their applications are mailed by the mail-in deadline.

New York State, meanwhile, has not publicly agreed to take any action to assist people incarcerated in state prison in submitting their applications.

"A court has found that these New Yorkers are entitled to stimulus payments, and the Department of Correction and DOCCS should employ the full breadth of available resources to help those in its custody apply," said **Tina Luongo, Attorney-in-Charge of the Criminal Defense Practice at The Legal Aid Society.** "Due to the barriers posed by incarceration that hinder our clients' ability to submit mail-in applications before the October 30, 2020 deadline, their access to internet application portals is critical. These funds are especially precious to our clients as New York continues to grapple with economic tumult. We call on DOC and DOCCS to take the necessary steps to give people in custody meaningful access to the financial relief to which they are entitled."

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*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. [www.legalaidnyc.org](http://www.legalaidnyc.org)*