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

***Statement Responding to Governor Cuomo's Announcement
Relaxing Eligibility Standards for New York's Rent Relief
Program***

(NEW YORK, NY) – **Judith Goldiner, Attorney-in-Charge of the Civil Law Reform Unit at The Legal Aid Society**, released the below statement responding to an [announcement](#) by New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo that he will relax eligibility standards for New York's rent relief program so more tenants in need of relief can qualify:

“We welcome the news from Governor Cuomo that he will amend New York's rent relief program to benefit more families in desperate need of housing assistance. However, the devil is in the details, and Albany has just weeks to recalibrate this program to ensure that \$60 million in resources reaches New Yorkers facing eviction and homelessness. This crisis was wholly self-made, the result of Albany waiting until the last second to act and then doing so only in the face of headlines and public pressure. We await the exact language of the executive order and will continue to monitor this situation on behalf of our clients and the communities we serve.”

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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