



April 7, 2021

Contact:

Alejandra Lopez
The Legal Aid Society
917-294-9348
ailopez@legal-aid.org

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

Legal Aid Statement on \$2.1 Billion Fund for Excluded Workers in New York State's Fiscal Year 2022 Budget

(NEW YORK, NY) – The Legal Aid Society issued the following statement in response to the first-in-the-nation \$2.1 billion Fund for Excluded Workers in the New York State Fiscal Year 2022 budget:

“Today we celebrate this momentous victory that will finally deliver much-needed relief to hundreds of thousands of workers across the state who were previously excluded and deprived of any federal or state income support during the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic. Essential workers never stopped working during the pandemic and kept the city and state running while putting their own lives and their families at risk. Despite their incredible sacrifice, they had to fiercely fight for this fund for over a year and overcome attempts from Governor Cuomo to sabotage the fund. Their hard-fought victory came on the heels of a 22-day hunger strike.

We will continue to monitor the fund and its implementation to ensure that our clients and all essential workers receive the relief they deserve and are entitled to. We thank the Fund Excluded Workers Coalition, Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Speaker Carl Heastie, and bill sponsors Senator Jessica Ramos and Assembly Member Carmen De La Rosa, for their leadership.”

###

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 145 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