

THE LEGAL AID SOCIETY

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May 11, 2021

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Legal Aid Analysis: New York is One of Only a Handful of States Without an Operational Rent Relief Program

Attorneys Demand that Cuomo Administration Establish New York Rent's Relief Program ASAP

(NEW YORK, NY) – The Legal Aid Society today called on the Cuomo Administration to immediately establish New York's Rent Relief Program, which has been pending since the Legislature passed the Fiscal Year 2022 budget in early April. According to recent [reporting](#), this program will not be operational until the end of May.

Per a recent Legal Aid review of rent relief programs across the country, New York is one of only eight states that does not have a rent relief program operational. Neighboring states including [Vermont](#), [Massachusetts](#), [Connecticut](#), [New Jersey](#) and [Pennsylvania](#) all have programs up and running, issuing funds to families in need.

“Legislation establishing New York's Rent Relief Program was passed along with the Fiscal Year 2022 budget, and that was roughly six weeks ago. To date, families and landlords have not received a single penny of those funds,” said **Judith Goldiner, Attorney-In-Charge of the Civil Law Reform Unit at The Legal Aid Society**. “Albany already has an abysmal track record administering previous rent relief programs that disqualified many struggling tenants outright. We hope that lawmakers have learned some lessons from those mistakes, and we call on Governor Cuomo to establish this program immediately. Our clients and other struggling tenants cannot wait.”

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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. <https://www.legalaidnyc.org>