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

Legal Aid Condemns Hochul Administration for Prematurely Closing New York’s Rent Relief Portal, Denying NYC Residents the Ability to Apply for Needed Funds

(NEW YORK, NY) – **The Legal Aid Society** condemned the Hochul Administration for closing New York’s rent relief application process, the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) portal, denying New York City residents in need of the ability to apply for funds to assist with back rent payments.

Judith Goldiner, Attorney-In-Charge of the Civil Law Reform Unit at The Legal Aid Society, said “This move is premature, and closing the ERAP portal with demand for relief still high will traumatize our clients still in need of these critical funds.

Under U.S Treasury Department eligibility standards, New York will likely qualify for the \$1 billion in additional rent relief resources recently requested, and given ERAP’s botched application launch this past year, we are concerned that any re-launch will encounter the same issues only to further discourage families from applying. Moreover, we expect that any re-launch will occur after the eviction moratorium expires in early 2022, leaving families susceptible to eviction.

The Hochul Administration must reverse course and keep the ERAP portal open so New York City families can continue to apply.”

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