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

***Legal Aid Commends Governor Hochul for Signing Bill
Raising the NYS FHEPS Housing Voucher Amount To Keep
New York Families in their Homes***

(NEW YORK, NY) – Adriene Holder, Attorney-in-Charge of the Civil Practice at The Legal Aid Society, today issued the following statement commending Governor Kathy Hochul for signing bill [S6573/A8009](#), which will increase the maximum amount available under the Family Homelessness and Eviction Prevention (FHEPS) program to HUD's [Fair Market Rent](#) (FMR) level:

“With the statewide eviction moratorium set to expire in January, raising the state’s FHEPS assistance level will keep [many of our clients](#) and countless New York families in their homes and safe from eviction amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. A long-term housing solution to help thwart the growing homelessness crisis by reducing evictions, this bill could also result in a net savings of \$10.1 million for the state, according to a new Legal Aid [budget analysis](#).

Legal Aid is proud of our advocacy efforts on behalf of our clients and all New Yorkers in need of housing assistance. Thanks to Senator Brian Kavanagh and Assemblymember Linda

Rosenthal for their leadership and we commend Governor Hochul for enacting this critical legislation to prevent families who are struggling from entering the shelter system.”

BACKGROUND:

The New York State FHEPS Program was created as a result of litigation challenging the shelter assistance levels as inadequate to keep children housed. In a groundbreaking case brought by The Legal Aid Society, *Jiggetts v. Grinker*, 75 N.Y. 2d 411, 554 N.Y.S.2d 92 (1990), the Court of Appeals held that the public assistance "shelter allowance" for families with minor children in New York City must bear a reasonable relation to the actual cost of housing. [S6573/A8009](#) was passed because the current FHEPS Program no longer bears a reasonable relation to the cost of housing in New York City and is meant to remedy this issue.

FHEPS is the only State-funded subsidy that helps families with minor children on public assistance stay in their homes. Without an increase in the subsidy, 2,300 families in New York City will lose their homes once the eviction moratorium is lifted.

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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 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