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Contact:

Redmond Haskins
The Legal Aid Society
rhaskins@legal-aid.org
929.441.2384

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

Legal Aid Calls on Hochul Administration to Allocate \$2 Billion of the Pandemic Recovery Efforts Announced at Yesterday's Budget Briefing to Fund Critical Homeless Protection Measures

The Housing Access Voucher Program Would Provide Housing Assistance to the Homeless and Those Facing an Imminent Risk of Homelessness

(NEW YORK, NY) – The Legal Aid Society [called](#) on the Hochul Administration to allocate the \$2 billion in pandemic recovery funding announced yesterday at her executive budget proposal briefing to homeless prevention initiatives including passage of the [Homeless Access Voucher Program](#) (HAVP), pending legislation that would provide housing vouchers to the homeless and those facing an imminent risk of homelessness.

“Now that the statewide eviction moratorium has expired, New Yorkers across the state who are behind on their rent face likely homelessness,” said **Judith Goldiner, Attorney-In-Charge of the Civil Law Reform Unit at The Legal Aid Society**. “New York’s homelessness crisis was a crisis prior to the pandemic, and that crisis has only exacerbated since March 2020. The Legal Aid Society calls on Governor Hochul to ensure that these funds are used to secure passage of HAVP to connect homeless New Yorkers to safe, affordable and long term housing.”

This past Saturday, New York’s eviction moratorium expired and Albany lawmakers failed to enact long term, meaningful solutions - including HAVP and [Good Cause eviction legislation](#) - to keep tenants protected in their homes. New Yorkers behind on their rent across the state are now at risk of eviction. HAVP would enable New Yorkers to transition out of shelters or unsustainable housing situations into stable housing. HAVP also enables local housing agencies to avert evictions for non-payment of rent and other causes of displacement.

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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