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Contact:

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

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

Legal Aid Calls on Governor Hochul to Allocate Additional Tax Relief and Funding to Foster Economic Stability in Communities of Color in the FY23 Executive Budget

(New York, NY) – Shervon Small, Supervising Attorney of the Tax and Economic Justice Unit at The Legal Aid Society, issued the following statement today in response to Governor Kathy Hochul’s proposed tax relief for small businesses and the middle class in the Fiscal Year 2023 Executive Budget:

“We commend Governor Hochul’s budget proposal to invest in property and small business tax relief, but Albany must invest more in economically disadvantaged New Yorkers, many of whom are Black and Latinx, who do not own homes and/or are not business owners.

The homeownership [rate](#) for white households in New York is 64 percent; at least twice that of Black and Latinx households whose rates are only 31 percent and 26 percent, respectively. On the other hand, the poverty [rates](#) for Black and Latinx households are 20 percent and 18.8 percent, respectively, which is at least twice that of white households rates.

More funding is needed for programs known to increase the economic stability and security for millions of families living near the poverty line, such as the [Earned Income Tax Credit](#), COVID-19 rental assistance, and aid for undocumented workers, among other programs.”

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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