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

FOIL: NYCHA Utility Outages Still Plague Residents Citywide

Housing Advocates Call on Washington, Albany and City Hall to Appropriate Significant Funding to Address Longstanding Public Housing Capital Needs

(NEW YORK, NY) – The Legal Aid Society released documents obtained via a Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) request today which [reveals](#) that utility outages - heat, hot water and water - continue to plague New York City Public Housing Authority (NYCHA) residents citywide.

For the last heat season, which lasted from October 1, 2020 to May 31, 2021, utility outages totaled 2,903 compared to 3,014 from the previous heat season, which stretched from October 1, 2019 to May 31, 2021 - hardly a meaningful improvement.

Outages	2019 - 2020	2020 - 2021
No Heat	820	563
No Hot Water	1,481	1,697
No Water	713	643
Total	3,014	2,903

FOIL Results for 2019 - 2020 Heat Season: <https://tinyurl.com/2p9yfs9z>.

FOIL Results for 2020 - 2021 Heat Season: <https://tinyurl.com/nhenth2e>.

“While NYCHA has made some improvements to mitigate utility outages, residents still [suffer](#) lapses in service on a daily basis,” said **Lucy Newman, Staff Attorney with the Civil Law Reform Unit at The Legal Aid Society**. “This moment demands greater attention from Washington, Albany, and City Hall, and we call on President Biden, Governor Hochul and Mayor Adams to allocate significant funding to address NYCHA’s capital needs, which is now tens of billions of dollars. Our neighbors in public housing should not have to continue to suffer these conditions, especially in the dead of winter.”

Background

Per New York City and State law, NYCHA, serving as the landlord, is [obligated](#) to establish and maintain certain housing standards. In particular, under the City’s Housing Maintenance Code (HMC), heat must be provided

between October 1 and May 31 when temperatures fall below certain degrees. Moreover, the New York State Multiple Dwelling Law requires owners to provide both hot and cold water 24 hours a day.

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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. www.legalaidnyc.org