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## ***Ahead of NYS Budget Deadline, Legal Aid Calls on Albany to Prioritize Tenants Over Politics***

**(NEW YORK, NY) - The Legal Aid Society**, ahead of New York State’s budget deadline, called on Albany to prioritize key measures to serve struggling tenants including creating the [Housing Access Voucher Program](#) (HAVP), replenishing the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) to prevent evictions, allocating at least \$1 billion to the New York City Housing Authority to address existing capital needs, and allowing [421-A to sunset](#):

“Albany is at a crossroads, and lawmakers have a genuine opportunity to build on the successes achieved in recent years that truly serve tenants statewide.

To protect against imminent evictions and homelessness, the final budget must create the Housing Access Voucher Program which would connect tenants with the resources to secure long-term, affordable housing. Moreover, to aid households still struggling financially from the pandemic, Albany must allocate at least \$1 billion to replenish ERAP to satisfy owed rent and to keep tenants housed.

For too long, Albany has deprived NYCHA of funds to address longstanding capital needs and this budget must include at least \$1 billion to address those existing demands.

Lastly, no budget should reauthorize 421-A, a costly and ineffective tax break that has never generated housing for low-income New Yorkers.

A budget that fails to incorporate these critical measures is one that New Yorkers must wholly reject. Keeping our neighbors safely housed must remain top-of-mind for lawmakers.”

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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](http://www.legalaidnyc.org)*