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

Legal Aid Statement on Housing Issues in the FY 2023 New York State Executive Budget

(NEW YORK, NY) –The Legal Aid Society released the following statement on housing issues included in the Fiscal Year 2023 New York State Executive Budget:

“While this budget thankfully includes necessary funding for the Emergency Rental Assistance Program and for public housing, we are disappointed that the Hochul Administration scuttled efforts to fund and create the Housing Access Voucher Program (HAVP), legislation that would thwart evictions and combat New York’s burgeoning homelessness crisis.

Our clients and other struggling tenants throughout the state need and deserve long-term, common-sense solutions, and the HAVP, along with Good Cause legislation, would achieve that goal.

Legal Aid will work with lawmakers post-budget to pass these necessary measures, and ensure that 421-a, the decades-long boondoggle and handout to the real estate industry, finally sunsets, affording New York City the opportunity to re-allocate the resulting savings to proven and already existing housing programs such as CityFHEPS.”

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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