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

***Legal Aid Condemns Governor Hochul, Legislature for Failing to
Include Needed Housing Measures in New York’s Fiscal Year 2024
Budget***

(NEW YORK, NY) – The Legal Aid Society released the following statement condemning Governor Kathy Hochul and the Legislature for failing to include needed housing measures in New York’s Fiscal Year 2024 budget:

“Amid an unprecedented statewide housing crisis, and with a possible recession months away, it’s unconscionable that this budget failed to include measures to combat skyrocketing evictions and sprawling homelessness, such as ‘[Good Cause](#)’ and the [Housing Access Voucher Program](#) (HAVP).

“These common-sense solutions are especially critical and would protect struggling tenants from unwarranted evictions and exorbitant rents increases, and those who are on the brink of losing their homes or already experiencing homelessness.

“Over the past few months, families throughout the boroughs who are facing unwarranted evictions have shared their harrowing stories that underscore the need for ‘Good Cause’ and other critical measures. These New Yorkers include a hardworking [single mom](#) who cares for her daughter and elderly, disabled mother who has lived in her Brooklyn home for nearly 15 years; two [formerly homeless](#) families who are fighting to stay in their homes in the Bronx to avoid being forced back into the shelter system; a family of [eight](#) in Queens whose landlord is retaliating against them; among so many others.

“Lawmakers’ decision to ignore these tenants, and so many others enduring similar experiences, represents a colossal failure on their parts as elected officials duly sworn to advance policies that secure the well-being of their constituents.

“However, we do welcome the inclusion of funding to finally provide residents of public and subsidized housing access to Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) relief to address back rental arrears, which the initial ERAP legislation failed to contemplate.

“When the Legislature reconvenes following the budget adoption, Legal Aid will continue to work with fellow civil legal service providers, advocates and impacted communities to finally ensure the passage of ‘Good Cause’ and HAVP.”

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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 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