

# THE LEGAL AID SOCIETY

Justice in Every Borough.

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

## ***Legal Aid Statement on Mayor Adams' FY2024 Executive Budget Proposal to Slash Critical Jail Services for Incarcerated New Yorkers***

(NEW YORK, NY) - The Legal Aid Society issued the following statement in response to [reporting](#) on Mayor Eric Adams' Fiscal Year 2024 Executive Budget proposal to slash critical jail services for incarcerated New Yorkers:

“The Mayor’s proposal to trim its \$1.2 billion dollar incarceration budget by cutting civilian programs on Rikers Island will further destabilize the City jails and make them more dangerous.

“It is a bedrock of correctional practice that programming decreases violence. In a jail that has exorbitant use of force and violence rates and cannot manage basic jail functions like getting people access to medical care, the programs provided by outside professional providers need to be expanded, not eliminated.

“DOC has demonstrated that it has neither the culture nor the competence to provide these programs itself, and cannot be trusted to perform this crucial function.”

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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)*