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

Legal Aid Statement on State, City Distributing \$95 Million In Emergency Rental Assistance Program Funding to NYCHA Residents to Assist with Rent Arrears

(NEW YORK, NY) - The Legal Aid Society issued the following statement in response to an announcement today by Mayor Eric Adams and Governor Kathy Hochul that the New York State Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) has distributed \$95 million in financial relief for New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) residents to assist with rent arrears:

"NYCHA residents should have never been denied critical funds to address back rent made available by New York State's Emergency Rental Assistance Program.

"We welcome the news that NYCHA residents are finally getting the ERAP funds that they deserve and that NYCHA is receiving additional resources to address its operating expenses and needs.

"We urge the government agencies involved in this process to continue to work expeditiously to ensure that the remaining funds are immediately transferred into residents' accounts to help clear outstanding rent balances."

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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. <u>https://www.legalaidnyc.org</u>