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

Legal Aid Releases 2024 Statewide Civil Legal Services Legislative Priorities
Attorneys Call on Albany to Enact a Sweeping Package of Reforms to Serve Vulnerable New Yorkers

(NEW YORK, NY) - The Legal Aid Society released its [2024 statewide civil legal services](#) legislative priorities today calling on Albany to enact a sweeping package of reforms to serve tenants, low-income individuals, new arrivals and other vulnerable New Yorkers.

Some of the measures include “Good Cause” eviction, which would provide tenants in unregulated units basic protections against unjust evictions and exorbitant rent increases, and the Housing Access Voucher Program to provide homeless New Yorkers a path to permanent and affordable housing

Additional priority legislation includes reforms to make Medicaid more accessible and equitable for all New Yorkers; increased employee benefits and protections; legislation to increase basic needs assistance, a shelter allowance increase, and a personal needs and special needs assistance increase.

Lastly, Legal Aid called on Albany for increased resources to help new arrivals find housing and to assist asylum seekers with temporary protective status and work authorization applications.

“New Yorkers everywhere — but particularly low-income New Yorkers — are facing a litany of obstacles including a historic affordability crisis, citywide housing shortages, delays in receiving critical public benefits, and more,” said **Adriene Holder, Chief Attorney of the Civil Practice at The Legal Aid Society**. “Our leaders in Albany have a responsibility to address these concerns by prioritizing legislative measures that will help improve the lives of all tenants, immigrants, low-income individuals, and other vulnerable New Yorkers. The Legal Aid Society looks forward to working with Governor Kathy Hochul, Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins and Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie to usher these bills into law immediately next session.”

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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