

January 16, 2025

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

In Response to City Budget Unveiling, New York's Leading Civil Legal Service Providers Call on Mayor Adams to Fix City's Broken Contract and Payment Process

Payment Delays Jeopardize Non-Profits' Ability to Deliver on Mayor's Stated Goals of Helping Tenants, Low-Income People, New Arrivals

(NEW YORK, NY) - The Legal Aid Society, Lawyers For Children, Human Services Council, Mobilization for Justice, The Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem, the New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG), TakeRoot Justice, The Bronx Defenders, Legal Services NYC, Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A, CAMBA Legal Services, New York Lawyers for the Public Interest, and The New York Immigration Coalition, in response to Mayor Eric Adams today unveiling his proposed Fiscal Year 2026 Preliminary Budget, released the following statement calling on City Hall to immediately fix the longstanding payment issues and delays currently threatening non-profits' ability to provide critical housing and immigration services to New Yorkers in need:

“Like Mayor Adams’ State of the City address, his Fiscal Year 2026 Preliminary Budget announced today includes various initiatives that are dependent on non-profit contractors to implement.

“Mayor Adams’ clear reliance on non-profits — the organizations essential to carrying out the work — reveals a problem of the Mayor’s own making that will delay his agenda from moving forward: the City’s broken payment and contracting process.

“Non-profits either cannot submit or still have not received payment on current invoices for payment on any approved baseline contract with the Human Resources Administration - the department responsible for the majority of the City’s social services programs, which includes critical housing and immigration-related programming.

“The current egregious payment delays have some providers on the brink of bankruptcy, soon unable to carry out the Administration's priorities, ultimately harming New Yorkers who desperately need these services.

“Mayor Adams needs to recognize that his agenda and priorities are being stymied by his refusal to fix a failed process he campaigned on reforming. Many of the proposals he announced last week and today are necessary and

will benefit many of the communities we serve, but they will fall flat if the City persists in its failures to pay the non-profits tasked with implementing them.”

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