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Contact:

Alejandra Lopez  
The Legal Aid Society  
[ailopez@legal-aid.org](mailto:ailopez@legal-aid.org)

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

***Legal Aid Statement on Governor Hochul’s Second Proposal of 2025  
State of the State Affordability Agenda***

(NEW YORK, NY) -- The Legal Aid Society issued the following statement in response to Governor Hochul’s second proposal for the 2025 State of the State Affordability Agenda:

“We commend Governor Hochul for announcing her plans to increase New York’s child tax credit to \$1000 a year per child aged 0-3 and make the credit available to all low-income children in New York State. As the Governor acknowledges, struggling families need more help, and this crucial assistance will help reduce child poverty.

“We urge the Governor to include her Child Poverty Reduction Council’s other key recommendations in her upcoming budget – a long overdue increase in the monthly cash assistance grant for “basic needs,” which assists families to buy diapers, formula, clothes, and shoes. This monthly assistance has not been increased since 2012. Under the current levels, a mother and child receive just \$291.50 a month to meet all their basic needs.

“Additionally, the Governor must enact the [Housing Access Voucher Program](#) (HAVP) to create a state-wide Section 8 program to assist families with housing costs – the most significant affordability challenge for low-income households.

“Failing to enact these measures will disproportionately impact Black and Latinx families and leave the people we serve in a state of deep poverty, perpetually scrambling to make ends meet with the bit of assistance they receive.

“We urge Governor Hochul to enact these measures and include increases for cash assistance in the State Budget to help the lowest-income families move past economic hardship, stabilize financially, and create long-term healthy, thriving communities.”

“We congratulate the Governor on this critical step and look forward to her continuing leadership in reducing poverty in New York State.

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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 nearly 150 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.*

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