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

Statement from The Legal Aid Society on Mayor Adams' Announcement of Over \$5 Billion in Advance Payments to Nonprofit Providers

(NEW YORK, NY) - The Legal Aid Society issued the following statement in response to New York City Mayor Eric Adams' announcement today that nonprofit providers contracted with the City will receive record-high advance payments—estimated at over \$5 billion—during Fiscal Year (FY) 2026:

“For far too long, nonprofit organizations delivering essential services have been forced to shoulder the burden of delayed payments, operating with limited cash flow while still meeting the urgent needs of New Yorkers. These delays endanger not only services, but also the financial health and stability of the very institutions the City depends on to serve its most vulnerable populations.

“Today’s commitment represents a positive step forward and a long-overdue recognition that timely, predictable funding is essential to a strong and sustainable nonprofit sector.

“We also commend Mayor Eric Adams for acknowledging that nonprofits are not just vendors — we are partners in delivering critical safety-net services. We urge the Adams Administration to pair this step with continued efforts to eliminate payment backlogs and further streamline the City’s contracting and payment processes and make additional investments in the non-profits delivering essential services to the New Yorkers who need it most.

“We look forward to working closely with City Hall and our fellow providers to ensure that these advances are sustained and to explore other avenues to secure lasting, systemic improvements in how New York City funds and supports its nonprofit partners.”

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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. www.legalaidnyc.org