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Contact:

[Press@legal-aid.org](mailto:Press@legal-aid.org)

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

***Statement in Response to NY State’s Plan to Release Some Incarcerated  
Individuals Housed at Understaffed State Prisons***

(NEW YORK, NY) - **The Legal Aid Society** released the following statement in response to the New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision’s (DOCCS) recently issued memo regarding its plan for limited, early release of some incarcerated New Yorkers housed in understaffed prison facilities across the state:

“While we welcome DOCCS’s plan to expedite the release of some incarcerated New Yorkers amid the ongoing staffing crisis impacting prisons across New York State, the eligibility restrictions for this early release program exclude thousands of individuals who can and should be considered for release.

“As an initial matter, this plan only impacts people who are already approaching their release date in the next three months. And according to DOCCS’s memo, this is further limited to incarcerated individuals who can obtain approval by parole officers for a non-shelter residence plan, among other qualifications.

“These restrictions will leave behind far too many New Yorkers at a time when prisons are still reeling from an unauthorized work stoppage by corrections officers that continues to have [profoundly harmful impacts](#) on incarcerated people. DOCCS’s plan does nothing to address the medically vulnerable, the elderly, and countless others who pose no risk to public safety and are still costing the State thousands each week to keep in prison.

“In addition to expanding the early release plan, Governor Kathy Hochul must utilize her executive powers, including clemency, to ensure more New Yorkers can return safely to their families and communities.”

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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. <https://legalaidnyc.org/>*