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***Legal Aid Urges Accountability on \$215M CityFHEPS Expansion Funding,
Calls Out Broken Promises Ahead of Budget Hearing***

(NEW YORK, NY) — The Legal Aid Society issued the following statement ahead of today’s City Council General Welfare Budget Hearing calling on the Adams administration to immediately disclose how the \$215 million secured in last year’s budget for CityFHEPS expansion is being used, which was included in the City of Yes/City of All legislation:

“This funding was explicitly intended to keep low-income New Yorkers in their homes and prevent unnecessary displacement. It was a condition of the Council’s approval of the broader zoning package. Yet despite that clear intent, the Adams administration is now reneging on its promise — diverting the \$215 million expansion funds to plug unrelated budget gaps, undermining the Council’s leadership and betraying the trust of the communities this funding was meant to support.

“This is not just a broken promise — it is a bait-and-switch that puts thousands of households at risk of eviction and homelessness. At least 7,490 households — all with seniors, children, or people with disabilities — could avoid eviction at a cost of just \$116 million per year. If the administration follows through on its commitment, nearly 7,500 households could remain housed over two years.

“This is a matter of credibility, compassion, and basic justice. The money was secured. The need is urgent. The path forward is clear. The administration must honor its commitment — and the Council must continue to hold the line.”

The Legal Aid Society is calling for:

- a line-item accounting of the \$215 million in secured CityFHEPS funds;
- a public implementation timeline for the community-based expansion; and
- a commitment that FY25 and FY26 funds will be used as agreed—not diverted to cover shortfalls in unrelated programs.

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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