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

Legal Aid Statement on the Trump Administration's Proposed 2026 Federal Budget

Cuts to Rental Assistance Programs Will Have Catastrophic Impact on Hundreds of Thousands of New Yorkers

(NEW YORK, NY) - The Legal Aid Society issued the following statement in response to the Trump administration's proposed 2026 federal budget, which includes a drastic \$33 billion – forty four percent less than HUD's current budget – cut to housing assistance programs, posing a severe threat to New York City's most vulnerable residents:

“New York City administers the largest Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program in the nation, serving approximately 400,000 individuals across the five boroughs. Additionally, the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) provides public housing for over 600,000 residents. Together, these programs serve nearly 1 million individuals and are vital lifelines for low-income families in the city.

“The consequences of these funding cuts, together with the budget proposal to impose a two-year cap on rental assistance for low-income households, including families with minor children, would be catastrophic. Congress must reject the proposed budget cuts to federal rental assistance programs.

“If the budget passes as proposed it will devastate working-class families in New York City and across the U.S., leading to increased evictions, homelessness, and housing insecurity. It is imperative that these cuts and proposed changes be rejected to protect the well-being of a million of New Yorkers.”

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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://www.legalaidnyc.org>