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

Statement on Senate Passing Legislation to Ensure that New Yorkers, Especially Those Facing Housing Insecurity, Have Access to Clear and Timely Shelter and Rental Assistance Info

(ALBANY, NY) – The Legal Aid Society released the following statement in response to the New York State Senate passing [legislation](#) that ensures New Yorkers, especially those facing housing instability, have access to clear and timely information about shelter and rental assistance programs:

“This essential legislation ensures that New Yorkers, including those facing housing instability, have access to clear and timely information about shelter and rental assistance programs—an especially critical step given New York’s housing crisis and ongoing economic uncertainty.

“The bill addresses a gap in public access to critical information about waivers, rental supplement plans, and shelter supplement programs administered by the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA). Too often, communities, service providers, and even local governments are left in the dark about which supports are available, how waivers have modified existing rules, and whether proposed plans for expanded assistance have been approved or denied.

“In times of crisis, like the COVID-19 pandemic, flexibility in public assistance rules has helped prevent widespread harm. But without public visibility into those rule changes, confusion and inequity can persist.

“We thank Senator Persaud for her leadership on this issue and call on the Assembly to pass companion legislation without delay.”

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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