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

***Legal Aid Files Challenge to Mayor Adams' Motion to Appeal CityFHEPS  
Ruling***

***If Granted, Motion Will Further Delay Critical Relief for Thousands of  
Low-Income New Yorkers Facing Eviction and Homelessness***

***Attorneys Also Ask Court to Vacate Stay Currently Preventing Implementation of  
Reforms***

(NEW YORK, NY) - The Legal Aid Society today [filed](#) a challenge to Mayor Eric Adams' motion for leave to appeal a recent [appellate ruling](#) in [Marie Vincent et al. v. Mayor Eric Adams et al.](#), which ordered the City to implement legislation expanding the CityFHEPS housing voucher program for New Yorkers facing homelessness.

The filing asks the Court to deny the Mayor's motion for leave to appeal, arguing that the court has already addressed the legal questions raised in the motion through its unanimous appellate ruling, which clearly reaffirmed the City Council's role in continuing to define social services policies.

Moreover, to ensure that low-income New Yorkers are not further denied access to these lifesaving vouchers, the filing also asks the Court to vacate an automatic stay of enforcement and require the City to immediately begin the process of submitting a plan to implement the CityFHEPS expansion package to the State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) for approval.

"By requesting permission from the court to appeal this decision, Mayor Adams is once again prioritizing bureaucratic delay over the urgent needs of families facing eviction and homelessness," said **Robert Desir, Staff Attorney in the Civil Law Reform Unit at The Legal Aid Society**. "Every additional day this case is dragged out in court is another day that low-income New Yorkers remain at shelter's mercy, denied the opportunity to stabilize their lives through rental assistance. This appeal is not just a legal detour — it is a direct assault on families who would be able to rely on CityFHEPS to stay housed. The Mayor's motion undermines the urgent need for stable housing and should not be allowed to stand."

**Impacted clients:**

MF is a 57-year-old woman who has lived alone in her rent-stabilized apartment for over 15 years. She receives visits from a home health aide two afternoons a week and receives Social Security Disability and Supplemental Security Income totaling \$967 per month, as well as \$87 in State Supplement Program benefits per month. MF's

rent is \$904 per month, and she currently owes approximately \$11,500 in arrears. MF had to retire last year after becoming physically disabled, and, without access to a CityFHEPS voucher, is at risk of being forced out of her longtime residence.

AJ is a 68-year-old woman who has lived in her rent-stabilized apartment in Flatbush for over 37 years. AJ's sole source of income is Social Security retirement benefits, from which she receives about \$1,100 per month – less than her monthly rent of \$1,298.83. AJ also owes approximately \$45,000 in arrears, which she accumulated while caring for her sick mother who has since passed away. Without swift implementation of the CityFHEPS expansion package, AJ – who is now caring for her sister with stage-four cancer – faces imminent risk of displacement from her home and community.

RL is a 65-year-old man who lives alone in a rent-stabilized apartment. He has several chronic health conditions, including diabetes, and earlier this year he was diagnosed with cancer, for which he underwent surgery. RL's monthly income is \$1,607 and his monthly rent is \$1,597.30, giving him a rent-to-income ratio of approximately 99%. His rent is below the CityFHEPS payment standard limit for his household size, and RL clearly cannot afford the rent on his fixed income. Access to a CityFHEPS housing voucher would ensure RL is able to remain in his current apartment, where he has resided for nearly a decade.

CG is a 50-year-old woman who lives alone in a rent-stabilized apartment in Staten Island, where she has resided for six years. CG previously worked but stopped in 2021 after a major depressive episode. She was diagnosed with bipolar disorder in 2022 and has since been hospitalized multiple times, including four times this year. CG currently receives Public Assistance benefits but is unable to pay her monthly rent of \$1,543.20 because her benefits are insufficient. A CityFHEPS voucher is critical for CG to be able to afford her rent and remain safely and stably housed.

## **Background**

The [class-action lawsuit](#) was initially filed on February 14, 2024, on behalf of New Yorkers who would be eligible for CityFHEPS under the new laws but who were barred from accessing the rent subsidy because the Adams Administration had refused to implement the reforms.

The Court's July 10 order directs the Mayor to submit a plan to State OTDA incorporating the following laws:

- [Local Law 99 of 2023](#), which permits voucher holders to lease apartments for the full voucher amount without having to first deduct utility expenses, placing CityFHEPS families on par with Section 8 vouchers holders;
- [Local Law 100 of 2023](#), which increases income eligibility from 200 percent of the poverty line to 150 percent of area median income to expand access to more New Yorkers in need;
- [Local Law 101 of 2023](#), which expands eligibility for CityFHEPS to any income eligible household at risk of eviction;
- [Local Law 102 of 2023](#), which precludes the City from basing eligibility on employment status.

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*The Legal Aid Society is a nonprofit organization that 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.*

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