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

The Legal Aid Society Releases Resource Guide for New Yorkers Regarding Benefits and Immigration Concerns Amid Possible Federal Shutdown

(NEW YORK, NY) – The Legal Aid Society issued a resource guide for New Yorkers concerning benefits and immigration in light of the looming federal government shutdown to help clear up misinformation and answer other potential questions.

Through at least the month of October, Social Security, Medicaid, Cash Assistance, SNAP (Food Stamps), FHEPS, CityFHEPS, and Section 8 benefits will remain unaffected. New Yorkers will continue to receive these benefits without interruption.

Moreover, people who need these categories of benefits should continue to apply as always. Applications are still being accepted and processed, and no one should be discouraged from applying due to the shutdown.

In addition to public benefits, Legal Aid recognizes that many community members are concerned about their immigration cases. For New Yorkers navigating complex immigration systems, clear information is essential to prevent misinformation and to ensure that individuals know what to expect and understand their rights.

“Our communities rely on these lifeline benefits,” said **Adriene Holder, Chief Attorney of the Civil Practice at The Legal Aid Society**. “We want to make clear: despite the federal shutdown, New Yorkers will still receive their benefits, and applications for new benefits are still being accepted. Likewise, many immigration cases — especially for detained individuals — will continue moving forward during this period. It is critical that our communities understand their rights and continue to seek both the benefits and the immigration relief to which they are entitled.”

Information on Benefits and Public Assistance for October 2025

Benefit	What you need to know
Cash Assistance	Your benefits will continue as usual.
SNAP (Food Stamps)	October SNAP benefits are safe.
Medicaid	Your Medicaid coverage will continue.
SSI / Social Security	Payments will continue as usual.

FHEPS, CityFHEPS	These housing subsidies are safe.
Federal Housing (Section 8, Public Housing, 202's)	Rent subsidies are still being paid.

Information on Immigration Matters

Given the current administration's focus on immigration-related matters and deportations, it is possible that many more hearings and appointments will continue during a federal government shutdown as compared to prior shutdowns. This is what we expect currently:

- **Detained Immigration Court Cases:** These hearings will continue.
- **Nondetained Immigration Court Cases:** These may proceed, pending confirmation.
- **BIA Appeals (Detained Cases):** These appeals will continue.
- **BIA Appeals (Nondetained Cases):** These may proceed, pending confirmation.
- **USCIS:** Most applications will be paused.
- **Consular Processing:** Applications will be paused.
- **Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) check-in appointments:** These may proceed, pending confirmation.

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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.

www.legalaidnyc.org