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

***Legal Aid Calls on USDA to Ensure that Low-Income New Yorkers Receive
November SNAP Benefits***

***Attorneys Thank Hochul Administration for Positive First Step to Feed
Households Amid Federal SNAP Funding Halt, Urge Additional State Aid if
Trump Administration Continues Withholding Contingency Funds***

(NEW YORK, NY) — The Legal Aid Society today urged the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to immediately release the federally authorized contingency funds needed to allow states, including New York, to issue November Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits without delay. Legal Aid also thanked the Hochul Administration for allocating more than \$40 million to ensure that low-income households have access to food, and called on the State to sustain and expand this support if the federal government continues to withhold contingency funds.

Adriene Holder, Chief Attorney of the Civil Practice at The Legal Aid Society, said:

“Millions of New Yorkers rely on SNAP each month to keep food on the table and their pantries stocked, including seniors, people with disabilities, children, and working families. SNAP is essential to keeping New Yorkers safe, nourished, and their communities strong.

“The USDA has the authority and resources to prevent this crisis, yet it has refused to act or provide states with a plan. Governor Hochul and her administration have rightly taken an important first step — allocating more than \$40 million to ensure that households do not go hungry — and must be prepared to sustain and expand this support if the federal government continues to deny states contingency funds.

“This moment demands leadership, and no family should go hungry, especially with the holiday season approaching, because of political gridlock in Washington.”

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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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