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## **United Neighborhood Houses Statement on the New York City FY2022 Budget**

NEW YORK – June 30, 2021 – In response to the New York City budget agreement, UNH Executive Director Susan Stamler commented:

“New York City’s economy has begun to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. Now is the time for our government leaders to make smart investments to ensure that those who suffered the worst during COVID-19 – namely, people of color, immigrant workers, youth, and older adults – are supported as we rebuild. This budget achieves that in several areas including the expansion of 3-K, greater investments in adult literacy programming, and the restoration of the Indirect Cost Rate Initiative.

“We are pleased the City heard our call to ensure a positive summer for New York City youth. The additional \$24 million for the Summer Rising program will allow CBO providers the stability necessary to offer youth an engaging and safe summer experience. Now, with less than a week until the program is set to begin, we look to our government partners to ensure programs have a smooth and successful start.

“Unfortunately, we are disappointed that there is no additional funding to expand infant and toddler care programs and to extend the hours of early childhood care and education programs. Working families need quality care programs beyond the school day that provide full-day, year-round coverage. Our City leaders must continue to invest in a robust Birth-to-Five system.

“Additionally, we are disappointed that the Mayor and City Council once again chose to forego a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for the human services workforce. The one-time bonus funding in the FY22 budget does not help to promote economic stability for the settlement house workforce. These human service workers served their neighborhoods throughout the darkest days of the pandemic by caring for children of emergency responders, delivering meals to homebound seniors, and offering counselling and support to those in crisis. They deserve greater recognition for their essential work.”

### **About United Neighborhood Houses**

United Neighborhood Houses (UNH) is a policy and social change organization representing 44 neighborhood settlement houses that reach 765,000 New Yorkers from all walks of life. A progressive leader for more than 100 years, UNH is stewarding a new era for New York’s settlement house movement. We mobilize our members and their communities to advocate for good public policies and promote strong organizations and practices that keep neighborhoods resilient and thriving for all New Yorkers. UNH leads

advocacy and partners with our members on a broad range of issues including civic and community engagement, neighborhood affordability, healthy aging, early childhood education, adult literacy, and youth development. We also provide customized professional development and peer learning to build the skills and leadership capabilities of settlement house staff at all levels. For more information, visit <http://www.unhny.org/>.

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