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United Neighborhood Houses Statement on Governor Kathy Hochul’s Final FY 2023 Executive Budget for New York

New York – April 11, 2022 – In response to Governor Kathy Hochul’s final Fiscal Year 2023 Executive Budget for New York, [United Neighborhood Houses](#) Executive Director Susan Stamler commented:

“Governor Hochul is leading a critical new chapter for New York, and our communities are relying on her to deliver the supports that will enable working families and seniors to thrive. There are exciting bright spots in this year’s budget—investments advocates have fought for years to bring to our state—but also several key programs that remain underfunded.

“We are thrilled that the state has committed new funding to significantly expand childcare access. Providers have stepped up in the past two years to support working families despite the challenges of Covid-19. This funding will also help support staff salaries and ensure quality care for our state’s children, including more than 12,000 children under 5 in settlement house-run programs.

“We’re also excited that our state’s human services workers are receiving a 5.4% cost-of-living increase. To create lasting change, the state must reform the current statute moving forward so that cost-of-living adjustments are truly inclusive. The heroes who’ve kept our neighborhoods afloat deserve financial peace of mind.

“This year’s budget includes an investment to increase the home care worker minimum wage by \$3, a welcome measure of relief but one that falls short in uplifting the home care industry. Lack of sufficient government funding here is unacceptable, leaving behind dire workforce shortages that create unfair working conditions and inadequate care for seniors. Governor Hochul and the state legislature must find a way to institute fair pay for this sector.

“We’re also disappointed to see level funding for the Settlement House Program. Policymakers have once again missed the opportunity to fund the very organizations that carry our communities through emergencies like Covid-19. The myriad resources settlement houses provide—counseling, eviction prevention, food pantries, and more—support more than 765,000 New Yorkers. This is an essential resource the state should not take for granted.”

United Neighborhood Houses (UNH) is a policy and social change organization representing 45 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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