



**Media Contact:**

Marykate Cary

[mcary@grouppgordon.com](mailto:mcary@grouppgordon.com)

(212) 784-5708

**United Neighborhood Houses Statement on the Mayor’s Preliminary Budget**  
*Mayor must work with providers on renewed Summer Youth Employment Program*

NEW YORK – January 15, 2021 – In response to Mayor Bill de Blasio’s Preliminary Budget, UNH Executive Director Susan Stamler commented:

“We applaud Mayor de Blasio for committing to restore the **Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP)** to pre-pandemic levels. COVID-19’s disproportionate impact on low-income communities and communities of color means the program will be more vital than ever to the young people who rely on it for economic support and workforce training.

“The Summer Bridge program was ultimately successful last year, but to avoid repeating missteps and ensure SYEP runs smoothly, we urge the Mayor and the City Council to move forward in collaboration with community-based providers and the youth they serve.

“The Preliminary Budget does not address the **Indirect Cost Rate (ICR) Funding Initiative** crisis created by this administration. Human service providers are working day and night to keep New York neighborhoods afloat and, still, they do not know how much they will be reimbursed for their services. It is essential that Mayor de Blasio honor his commitment to fully fund human service organizations to keep them stable as we enter into a critical vaccination and recovery period.

“Settlement house staff have served on the frontlines of this pandemic for nearly a full year -- creating food pantries and meal delivery programs, caring for older adults who face significant health risks, and providing support to children and families whose school routines have been entirely upended. As a vaccine starts to move us into a recovery phase, it will be crucial for New York City to invest in essential services, like child care, workforce development, and mental health counseling. To ensure New Yorkers of all ages have access to the information and services they need to recover, the Mayor will need to further invest in and work closely with New York’s settlement houses.”

**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/>.

###