



Media Contact:

James Seaton

jseaton@groupgordon.com

212-784-5705

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

New York – January 20, 2022 – In response to Governor Kathy Hochul’s Fiscal Year 2023 Executive Budget for New York, [United Neighborhood Houses](#) Executive Director Susan Stamler commented:

“United Neighborhood Houses is a staunch advocate for building strong communities where all New Yorkers, from children to older adults, can reach their full potential. We commend Governor Hochul for devoting \$500 million to cost of living salary adjustments for our often overworked and underpaid human service workers in the state’s Fiscal Year 2023 budget. We also applaud her for committing to rebuilding and growing the healthcare workforce by 20 percent over the next five years and reviving the Nonprofit Infrastructure Capital Investment Program (NICIP), which we helped to develop and advocate for during the previous administration.

“Lastly, we commend the Governor for taking steps to increase access to childcare, but we know much more is needed to ensure these resources are affordable, high-quality, and available to all families who need it.

“Though we are pleased with these measures, we are greatly disappointed that the Executive Budget omits \$2.45 million for the Settlement House Program. Settlement houses are community pillars that serve over 765,000 people statewide, including vital support through the worst disasters and health crises like Covid-19. To deny these organizations critical funding at such a dire time is to deny vulnerable New Yorkers access to robust food pantries, eviction prevention counseling, youth job readiness programs, and other resources that keep neighborhoods afloat. We strongly urge Governor Hochul to reinstate these funds.

“We agree that this is a ‘[moment of great possibility](#).’ Let’s unlock our state’s potential by giving settlement houses the resources they need to support New York’s communities.”

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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